

# Chalk Talk

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**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

Welcome back! The start of this new school year has me thinking about autumnal Canada, with its crimson, orange and golden hues, marking the end of baseball and the beginning of hockey season, and renewed speculation about a possible Fall election.



As symbols go, is there anything more Canadian than the iconic maple leaf? In this wired world, do kids still gather leaves at this time of the year and press them between two sheets of wax paper? I used to have scrapbooks full of carefully labelled leaves when I was in elementary school. Willow, oak, elm, birch, and chestnut leaves were great but my favourite had to be the maple leaf because there were so many varieties, some wider, some narrower, but all of them turned colour in the Fall.

I distinctly remember the debate over the design of the New Flag in the years preceding Canada's Centennial celebrations. Most of the discussion, as I recall it, centred around whether there would be three maple leaves in the centre or just a single leaf and whether the borders would be red or blue. In 1965, the red and white flag replaced the Red Ensign as our national flag and the lapel pin version worn proudly by Canadians travelling abroad became a popular and easily recognizable symbol worldwide.



It is interesting to note how the new flag design signaled a new way of seeing Canada and how Canadians defined themselves. Design matters. This week's issue of **Chalk Talk** features an exciting design competition for high school students. As well, the last full week of September is National Forest Week, a great time to celebrate Canada's abundant and diverse forests, and maybe, collect a few leaves to add to the scrapbook.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Your feedback is welcome!](#)

Mary Kovack

## 15th Annual Sears High School Design Competition!

The **Design Exchange (DX)** is proud to announce the **15th Annual Sears Canadian High School Design Competition** which promotes the study and awareness of various design disciplines in schools across Canada. The competition is open to all high school students, at the junior (grades 10 and below) and senior (grades 11 and above) levels.

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) will award the George J. Klein Medal to the overall winning entry of this competition. All winning and honourable mention entries will receive certificates.



Cash awards are presented for first, second, and third placements at both the senior and junior levels, in each of this year's four **eco-themed** categories:

### INDUSTRIAL DESIGN: DELIVERY VEHICLE

The challenge: Design a human-powered, delivery vehicle that addresses some of the concerns faced by traditional bike couriers.



### FASHION DESIGN: CASUAL SHOE

The challenge: Design a casual or 'street' shoe that is not only pleasing aesthetically, but also considers the planet in its use of materials.

### ARCHITECTURE/INTERIOR DESIGN: BUS SHELTER

The challenge: Design a bus shelter of no more than 15 square meters (160 square feet) in size, to be used as an arrival/departure point for visitors and community members, a location for posting community information, as well as an area for shipping and receiving.

### GRAPHIC DESIGN: 2011 COMPETITION LOGO

The challenge: Design the 2011 Canadian High School Design Competition logo, considering the target audience and the cross discipline approach of the competition. [Last year's winning logo, *see right*, was designed by Jordan VanOs, Holy Cross Catholic SS, Kingston, Ontario.]



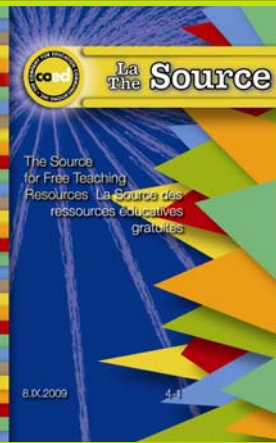
Design Brief and entry guidelines [English and French] for the 2010 Competition are now available.

For complete contest and prize details, visit the DX website [www.dx.org](http://www.dx.org), or contact Katie Weber, Director of Youth Programs, at, phone: 416.216.2138; fax: 416.368.0684; email: [katie@dx.org](mailto:katie@dx.org).

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## BE INSPIRED!

To view the winners of the 14th Annual Canadian High School Design Competition, click below.



## Website of the week



The **Design Exchange (DX)** creates and hosts innovative and thought-provoking exhibitions about Canadian and international design. These exhibitions, related publications, lectures and education programs serve to inspire and inform Canadians about the role design plays in Canada and around the world.

In addition to the **15th Annual Sears Canadian High School Design Competition** (see main feature above), the DX delivers exhibit tours, workshops, competitions and outreach programs to support the primary and secondary school curriculum in the area of design and technology. In all of its education programs, the Design Exchange supports a holistic, inter-disciplinary, collaborative and inclusive approach to design by facilitating cross collaboration among the design disciplines.

### Designers in the Classroom

Launched in Fall 2003, this program brings professional designers into primary and secondary school classrooms to develop design projects that enrich the current curriculum and broaden the roles of designers in their communities. To participate, contact [education@dx.org](mailto:education@dx.org) or call 416. 216.2138.

### Design Traveller

This virtual exhibit of objects from the Design Exchange Collection of industrial design from the 50's to the present, offers teachers resources and classroom activities that will inspire budding young designers (ages 8 and up). Go to [www.designtraveller.com](http://www.designtraveller.com). [Source: Design Exchange]

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## Canada's Forests: Strong Roots, Green Shoots

Worldwide there are unprecedented paradigm shifts and fundamental restructuring within many industry sectors. In Canada, the forest industry and forest communities are inextricably linked and are in a state of change like never before. The Canadian Forestry Association, as Canada's oldest conservation organization, encourages all Canadians to support our forest communities' strong roots, and innovation in the forest sector that will lead to green shoots of environmental and economic renewal.

**National Forest Week** [formerly *Forest Fire Prevention Week*], is a great time for students to learn about our forests and how they can participate in activities to protect and preserve them for future generations. For more information about National Forest Week visit: [www.canadianforestry.com](http://www.canadianforestry.com).

[Click here](#) to check out all of the Canadian Forestry Association's excellent classroom resources.

## Education News and Related Articles

[Most students tuning out](#)—Kristin Rushowy, Education Reporter, ParentCentral.ca, TheStar.com, Aug. 13/09

Only about one-third of Canadian students say they are interested in class, or motivated to do well, reports a new study of more than 32,000 children and teens from Grades 5 to 12. Although two-thirds of the students surveyed participate in at least one extracurricular club or sport, and 69 per cent have good attendance records, just 37 per cent feel they were "intellectually engaged" in math and language arts, says the study by the Canadian Education Association (CEA), a non-profit research and policy group. "Across Canada, many students have told CEA that classrooms and learning as they are currently organized are not working," says the report. "They are not working for students who can keep up with the pace set by the lectures, textbooks and tests, and they are not working for those who cannot ... the message has been clear: students do not want learning made easy, they want it to mean something."

[Indy archaeology: Amateur explorers unearth Acadian history; 100 amateur archaeologists descend on a public dig in northern Nova Scotia](#) -- OLIVER MOORE, Globe and Mail, Aug. 28, 2009

They couldn't keep what they found, and carrying a bullwhip in the style of Indiana Jones would have been frowned on, but that didn't stop more than 100 amateur archeologists from descending this summer on a public dig in northern Nova Scotia. The Beaubassin site, close to the boundary with New Brunswick, was home to an Acadian village settled in 1672 and was recently declared a National Historic Site. The digs have been open occasionally to volunteers willing to pay a small fee. The spot has yielded a trove of artifacts, including a coin depicting King George III and what appears to be a decorative clasp for clothing, both found by amateurs. The silver clasp was unearthed last week by Fredericton resident Jim Estey at the end of the final day of this summer's public digging.

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