

Greetings Teachers! I'm pleased to introduce a new feature to this month's resource update: Ruth's Reviews. Ruth Writer, a Michigan social studies teacher who is actively involved in the National Consortium for Teaching Canada (NCTC), will introduce you each month to Canadian popular fiction that is worth reading. I value her opinions and I'm sure you will, too. Please be sure to scroll down to the final item to read her review of Rush Home Road. Thanks for your interest in teaching Canada—have a great spring!

- **ARTS, MUSIC AND CULTURE** - What's Canada's most popular sport? How much time do Canadian children spend watching TV? What percentage of Canadians read a newspaper? What type of radio station do teenagers prefer? Primary and Intermediate students can find the answers under *Culture, Leisure and Travel* by clicking on *Leisure Activities & Sports* at www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/cultur.htm#fi.

The *Guide to Culture Statistics* is a useful secondary-level reference that links to more detailed data tables and articles. "Culture themes" include the culture workforce, and consumer participation and spending. For example, did you know that the time spent watching TV viewing has been declining in the last 15 years, while attendance at movies made a comeback and increased throughout the 1990s? "Culture sectors" include film and video production, movie theatres, TV viewing and radio listening, sound recordings, the performing arts, book and periodical publishing and heritage institutions. See <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/87-008-GIE/about.htm>. Or, from the *Learning Resources Home Page*, select "Teachers", "Resources by Subject", then "Arts", then click on the tab for "Articles"/"Data".

- **NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS** – I recently discovered the following titles, available through www.chapters.ca, that you may also be interested in purchasing for your classrooms:

The Nor'Westers: The Fight for the Fur Trade by M.J. Campbell (Allston, MA: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2002) 134 pages - ISBN 1-894004-97-3 – *Juv Lit 6+*

Four Pictures by Emily Carr by N. Debon (Berkeley: Greenwood Books, 2003) 32 pages – ISBN 0-88899-532-6 – *Juv Lit 5+*

Let's Call It Canada: Amazing Stories of Canadian Place Names by S. Hughes (Toronto: Maple Tree Press, 2003) 96 pages – ISBN 894379-50-0 – *All*

Meet Canadian Authors & Illustrators by A. Gertridge (New York: Scholastic, 2002) 144 pages – ISBN 0-439-98780-6-0 *Ref*

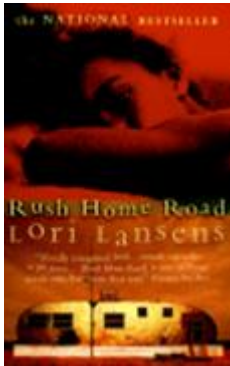
Dancing Elephants & Floating Continents: The Story of Canada Beneath Your Feet by J. Wilson (Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2003) 47 pages – ISBN 1-55263-200-8 *Non-Fic 5+*

- **NEW NFB FILM - AN IDEA OF CANADA** – Journey to Canada's three seacoasts with Governor General Adrienne Clarkson—it's not just another vice-regal tour. The group travels by boat, small plane, snowmobile, pickup truck and canoe to visit western Nunavut, Newfoundland, Labrador and Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands). This is a meditation on the rugged landscape that symbolizes Canada for most people - yet which few ever see. Price: \$39.95 US (Personal); \$195 US (School) www.nfb.ca/nfbstore/ibeCZzdMinisites.jsp?language=US .
- **FREE FROM THE CHOICES PROGRAM** – As social studies teachers, you may also be interested to know that curriculum to accompany the Academy Award-nominated documentary film, *The Fog of War* is available for free. You can download copies of *The Fog of War Teacher's Guide* from www.choices.edu/fogofwar . Primary sources and additional curriculum resources to accompany the Teacher's Guide are available online at no cost. Visit *Choices for the 21st Century Education Program* (Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University) on the web at: www.choices.edu .
- **ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP ON WATER ISSUES FOR PUGET SOUND TEACHERS** – Thursday, April 15, 2004 (3:30-7:00 pm) - Seattle Asian Art Museum - 1400 E. Prospect St., Seattle, WA 98112 (206) 654-3100 Registration: \$15 (includes clock hours, curriculum resources, & a light dinner) Information: (206) 441-5910 / www.world-affairs.org/calendar.cfm?eventID=287&action=eventDetails. Please register by April 12.
Co-Sponsored and presented by: Facing the Future: People and the Planet; Pacific Village Institute; World Affairs Council; YES! Magazine; and the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

Water is our lifeblood. Yet by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population may live in countries with severe water shortages. How can nations develop their common water resources in a sustainable and equitable

way? How can we support these efforts locally? UW Professor Rick Lorenz, an expert in international water law and the "Euphrates Triangle" in the Middle East, will address these issues. Teachers will also interact with a panel of local organizations that offer service opportunities for youth and participate in hands-on curriculum exercises. Find out how Canada fits in the picture since water is one of its greatest resources.

- **FREE CHAPTER PREVIEW** – Northern Blue Publishing, the developers of *The History of Canada Online* (HCO) is offering history and social studies teachers the chance to freely preview one single chapter - *New France* - with searchable content and full resource sets. To take the trial today, go to this Web address: <http://www.ottres.ca/HCOtrial/> . Type in one of this series of UserIDs and Passwords:
UserID: hcotrial_112 Password: hundredb **UserID: hcotrial_113 Password: hundredz**
UserID: hcotrial_114 Password: hundredb **UserID: hcotrial_115 Password: hundredz**
For more details about the benefits of *HCO, Civics Canada Online*, and special price offers, contact info@northernblue.ca .
- **CANADIAN NEWS “FYI”** – On March 24, the Canadian government announced that it will sell its 19% stake in Petro-Canada this fiscal year, a transaction that could bring it \$2.25-billion. Ottawa has said for several years that it intends to sell its Petrocan shares when the price is good and the timing for the federal government is convenient. A brief statement on the Department of Finance website announced the sale of the integrated oil and gas producer. Most notably, the money from the sale of Petrocan is expected to go towards environmental technology. Source:
<http://www.globeandmail.com>, Tuesday, March 23, 2004.
- **RUTH’S REVIEWS (#1)**



Rush Home Road - This Canadian bestseller is an outstanding first novel by Ms. Lansens, who grew up in Chatham, Ontario, near Buxton. Buxton is a black community founded by Rev. King, a white minister posted to Canada in the mid 1800s. One of the early black settlers was Mary Ann Shadd, a well known educator and activist who published *The Provincial Freeman*, an abolitionist newspaper. During the Civil War she recruited for the Union Army and later became a lawyer in Washington. Part of *Rush Home Road* is the story of early settlers like her but the novel goes beyond the history.

Buxton becomes Rusholme, the setting for this story. Addy Shadd, (whom Lansens named after Mary Ann Shadd) was born and raised in the early 1900s in Rusholme, only to be forced to leave her birthplace amid scandal and disgrace. Readers learn of the bootlegging connections between southwestern Ontario and Detroit when Addy flees to the U.S. Addy returns to Canada to learn about segregation, racism, love and loss. Decades later, Addy becomes the “foster mum” to an abandoned trailer park child, Sharla Cody. Raising this bi-racial child, Addy is able to come to terms with her past, her present, and the future of young Sharla.

This is a story of the culture of African Canadians and rural poverty of southwestern Ontario. Even though the author is white, she captures the voices and points of view of a frequently forgotten minority. According to the *Toronto Star*, Whoopie Goldberg has purchased the movie rights to this must-read fictional account of what, at times, seems to be an actual biography. I highly recommend this poignant novel.

Lansens, Lori. *Rush Home Road* (Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2002) 547 pages.

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