

November 2007 Resource Notice

Greetings! I will be out of the office for a few weeks so am sending out this notice a few days earlier than usual. Keep an eye out this for the Fall 2007 edition of the *K-12 STUDY CANADA Resource Flyer* to be mailed (and posted online under K-12 News). Our topic is the National Anthem and resources for teaching about Canada with national symbols and music! If you'd like to receive a hard copy but aren't on our mailing list, please email Nadine Fabbi (nfabbi@u.washington.edu). I hope you'll find some great ideas in the resource flyer and among the film selections and resource ideas below.

I also hope to meet some of you at the upcoming 2007 National Council for the Social Studies conference in San Diego. The theme this year is *Crossing Borders, Building Bridges* and there will be some excellent opportunities to gather resources and learn more about Canada:

- 1) Visit the National Resource Centers for Canada resource table on International Alley in the exhibit hall on Nov. 30-Dec. 1;
- 2) Attend the screening of 8 short documentary and fiction films from Quebec (including *The Sweater*) at the International Film Festival on Dec. 1;
- 3) Participate in the 2-hour workshop *Two Borders, Three Nations: Learning About Our North American Neighbors* on Dec. 2 (8-10am).

Thank you for your efforts to teach Canada in classrooms across the country...and Happy Thanksgiving! Tina Storer

Reply with "Please remove my name from the Canada Listserv" should you no longer wish to receive notices. Resource notices are available at www.k12studycanada.org under *K-12 News*.

K-12 STUDY CANADA represents shared outreach by WWU's Center for Canadian-American Studies & UW's Canadian Studies Center that jointly form the Pacific Northwest National Resource Center for Canada, funded by the US Department of Education (Title VI). The Government of Canada provides additional outreach support.

1) FREE! 100+ NFB FILMS ABOUT CANADA'S CULTURAL MOSAIC

The National Film Board of Canada has created a new website called *Across Canada* at <http://nfb.ca/duneculturealautre/index.php?lg=en&en20071003> that allows you to discover, through the lens of a camera, some of the contribution made to Canada by different ethnocultural communities. This new educational site showcases over 100 NFB films that explore Canada, one of the most multicultural societies on earth, to reveal its ever-evolving mosaic. From animated shorts to documentaries, the free Internet resource draws on the NFB's celebrated collection to open a window onto Canada's cultural diversity.

2) THE RANT

The Rant, a commercial released a few years ago by Molson Breweries and shown each year at the STUDY CANADA Summer Institute, is a wonderful opener for class discussion of "who are Canadians?" It can be used comfortably at most schools because beer doesn't play a role in the content or images. It is interesting that the commercial was very successful at not only selling Molson's Canadian brand but also at reinvigorating national pride. Check it out on our website at: http://www.coolcanuckaward.ca/joe_canadian.htm

3) THE UNDEFENDED BORDER (3 Part Series)

The interest in teaching about border issues has grown as more states develop global issues curricula. The border with Canada is an interesting contrast and comparison to the border with Mexico, in particular, and the cost of the series (each part is 1 hour) is \$150.00 VHS/DVD (single school). The series allows students to "stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Immigration and RCMP officers whose job it is to question, evaluate, detain, incarcerate or admit people into Canada."

Toughening Up (1) - How do immigration officials filter the good from the bad?

Immigration Task Force (2) - The Immigration Task Force was created in 1994 after a Toronto police officer and a cafe patron were shot to death by illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds.

End of the Line, The (3) - *The End of the Line* brings into perspective the bureaucratic machinery that is the immigration system and the level of frustration of the officers who must enforce policies and tackle conflicting priorities.

4) CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: 100 GREATEST EVENTS IN CANADIAN HISTORY

http://www.proquestk12.com/bulletins/07SEP/eLibCA_Actt.shtml The following activity is from Proquest's K-12 e-library. Proquest offers some wonderful tools and services for schools and districts that teach Canada and I hope you'll support continued development of curriculum materials like this! [Thanks, Ruth Writer, for sharing this activity with me.]

Activity: Teachers should assign students to select 3 of the 10 events below and write a summary of approximately 100 words on each event. Each summary should address the following essential questions for critical thinking: 1) What are some important facts about this event that make it significant? 2) Who are some famous people who were involved? 3) How can you justify that this event is considered one of the top 100 in Canadian history? [These essential questions are models suggested for student to integrate into their reports. Teachers can modify or create additional questions. Without essential questions to guide them, most student reports will focus on factual information only. This is a leading cause of copy/paste plagiarism because it doesn't require students to generate original thought and critical thinking. Essential questions generally include the words: "how, why, why not, or which is better?"]

Among the greatest events in Canadian history, there are 10 with anniversaries in 2007:

1. **John Cabot Claims Atlantic Coast** - 610th Anniversary - **June 24, 1497:** John Cabot landed on the Atlantic coast of North America, claiming it for England.
2. **Insurrection in Lower Canada** - 170th Anniversary - **November 16, 1837:** Governor Gosford issued warrants for the arrest of 26 Patriote leaders on charges of high treason, initiating the events of the Lower Canada Rebellion.
3. **Ryerson Publishes Report on Education** - 160th Anniversary - **1847:** Egerton Ryerson published his report on a system of public elementary instruction for Upper Canada that would be a model for English-speaking Canada.
4. **British North America Act Passed** - 140th Anniversary - **March 8, 1867:** The British North America Act was passed by the British Parliament and given royal assent by Queen Victoria. It went into effect on July 1 joining the colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in one federal union.
5. **Charles Saunders Develops Marquis Wheat** - 100th Anniversary - **1907:** Charles Edward Saunders completed the development of Marquis wheat, a fast-maturing variety and greatly extended the area in which wheat could be grown.
6. **Halifax Explosion** - 90th Anniversary - **December 6, 1917:** At Halifax, the French munitions ship Mont Blanc collided with the Belgian relief ship Imo resulting in an explosion that killed more than 1600 people - the largest in the world prior to the atomic bomb.
7. **Battle of Vimy Ridge** - 90th Anniversary - **April 9, 1917:** On Easter Monday, four Canadian divisions and one British brigade captured Vimy Ridge, near Arras, France in a brilliant victory for Canadians in World War I.
8. **PM Robert Borden Announces Conscription** - 90th Anniversary - **May 18, 1917:** Sir Robert Borden announced his decision in Parliament to implement Conscription that bitterly divided the country along French-English lines.
9. **Canada's First Nuclear Reactors** - 60th Anniversary - **July 22, 1947:** The NRX reactor, the ancestor of Canada's unique CANDU reactors, "went critical" at Chalk River, Ontario.
10. **Hunter Strikes Oil at Leduc** - 60th Anniversary - **February 13, 1947:** Vern "Dry Hole" Hunter struck oil near Leduc, Alberta. The discovery began an era of prosperity for the province and spared Canada dependence on foreign oil.

5) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH – A Canadian twist on an American favorite for the upcoming holiday...

Rum 'n' Pumpkin Pie [from *The Canadian Cookbook: History, Folklore and Recipes with a Twist* (Edmonton, AB: Lone Pine Publishing, 2006)]

Pumpkins and other Squashes are New World plants (Cucurbita genus) that humans have cultivated as food crops for at least 7000 years. Through trade, species originating in Mexico and Central America spread northward to Canada, becoming important crops for many First Nations; the flesh was consumed raw or roasted, the flowers

and seeds were sometimes eaten and the skins could be cut into strips, dried and made into mats. In the 17th century, the English name for the squash was “pompion,” which eventually became “pumpkin.” British immigrants soon discovered that pumpkins were much easier for carving jack-o-lanterns than the turnips or potatoes used back in Ireland and Scotland or the beets used in England. As one of many ways of using pumpkins, colonists filled whole ones with milk and spices then baked in fire pits; transferred to a pastry crust, these ingredients became pumpkin pie as we know it today.

6) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

Coghlan, Eileen. **Grizzly Lies**. (Toronto: Sumach Press, 2005). [297 pages—ISBN 1-894549-41-4]

Coghlan's mystery novel has a focus on the beauty of the Banff area. She has captured the daily routine in the village, which guards the eastern entrance to the oldest national park in Canada. What makes Grizzly Lies a page turning mystery is the death of Hellie MacConnell's landlord, who has just returned from a trip to Africa. The landlord who was also Hellie's uncle had been in eastern Africa as a physician. Just prior to his departure, she arrived in Banff as a runaway bride from Toronto. She was not the only resident with secrets, however.

Hellie, escaping a marriage that would be doomed, agreed to house sit but with the job came a bear loving naturalist living on the property as well. She was to watch over Arthur, Doc's eccentric friend from Africa.

The night her uncle returned much earlier than originally expected, Doc died. Arthur's cabin contained fresh cut bear paws but Arthur was not to be found, and there were some other strange occurrences in the spectacular beauty of the surrounding area. Was the death a murder?

What did all of these events have to do with the visit of a Texas big game hunter? He had outbid others for the right to hunt big horn sheep at the tune of over a million dollars. Hellie, a journalist, was to interview him for possibly her big break on a national scale. He was elusive in answering some key questions. Readers soon learn there was a history between the Texan, his guide, Arthur and Doc. It would take several days for the locals to sort out the entire sordid details. This CIS type mystery took Hellie to the steamy life of back alleys in Calgary, a hike in the wilds of Banff only to confront a grizzly and her cubs, and on the neighborhood streets of Banff. Readers also got to journey to elephant hunting in Africa.

Although some might say the novel was predictable, it is an excellent read. After having the pleasure of visiting Banff several times, the descriptive passages brought back many fine memories. I remember seeing a tour bus with foreign visitors stopped along the back road into the park. The tourists with their cameras were snapping away at a young grizzly, calmly eating berries off a bush. Little did they realize the danger they were in at that moment. Little did Hellie realize the danger she was in while investigating the strange and unexpected death of her uncle.