

October 2008 E-Resource Notice

Greetings! I hope all of you are experiencing crisp fall weather and educational journeys in your classroom that lead students to learn more about Canada. The resources identified below will hopefully assist many of you and inspire others. I intended to send out a survey last month about K-12 STUDY CANADA resources but have postponed doing so until a less busy time for us all!

It is a busy time of year for conferences across the country as well and Canada will be represented at several of them: **WSCSS** (Edmonds, WA) on October 11; **NCGE** (Dearborn, MI) on October 10-12; **NCSS** (Houston, TX) on November 14-16 to name a few. I haven't listed them all so keep an eye out for Canadian cultural events and learning opportunities in your own community...they do exist! If not, perhaps you can create the event by encouraging your local repertory cinema to show a film about Canada. I was able to bring *The Singing Revolution*, a small budget documentary about Estonia, to Bellingham simply by making the request. You might want to do the same for *Project Canada* (Item 1 below). We are working to bring both the film and filmmaker to both Western Washington University and the University of Washington! In the meantime, I hope you find something among the 7 items below useful for your own interest or for your classroom. Tina Storer

Reply with 'Please remove from the Canada Listserv' to end direct notification to your inbox.

Resource notices are also available under 'K-12 News' at www.k12studycanada.org.

Western Washington University and University of Washington jointly perform K-12 STUDY CANADA outreach as a US Department of Education-funded National Resource Center for Canada in the US. Annual Embassy of Canada grants also provide support.

1) PROJECT CANADA

"17,000 miles, 60 interviews, 4 Americans, 1 small van." That's what director Johnathan McFarlane undertook with some pals to better understand our neighbor to the north in his documentary film, *Project Canada*. When in production, the epic road trip was an underground hit on Myspace and it premiered last May as a feature-length film in Denver, McFarlane's hometown. Getting to know Canada better was the motivation behind the film and it speaks directly to American educators and students alike about the need to study Canada. As the DVD states, it's "a story of Canadian discovery the way it should be told -- by four guys in a van...[and] through their comical misadventures paints a picture of the greatest country you probably know nothing about." I'm thrilled to have an unwitting ally in Canadian Studies outreach who so effectively interests young adults in exploring Canada, too!

I've copied the young filmmakers into this email so that they know there's a small but mighty contingent of teachers in the US who make regular connections to Canada in the curriculum (and that it's even part of the Colorado Grade 6 core content). I encourage all teachers on this listserv to view the Fox News story about the project at <http://www.projectcanada.org/video.cfm> and to consider purchasing the DVD for about \$22.50 at the online store <http://www.projectcanada.org/store.htm> if not recruiting your local cinema to show it on the big screen.

Best of all, you can draw students' interest—and perhaps surprise them with your knowledge--by sharing the Myspace URL with them to view/download free clips from the film: <http://www.myspace.com/projectcanada>.

2) 2010 OLYMPICS - ON SALE!

The Games are on! Starting **October 3** through **November 7, 2008**, there will be 1.6 million tickets for the Olympic Winter Games available for request. More than 100,000 tickets will be available for only \$25 and half of all event tickets will be priced at \$100 or less! For further information about the ticket sales program, visit www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/SpectatorInformation/Tickets.

3) VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

This is an opportunity directed at **Puget Sound area teachers** to experience and enjoy two world premieres and a total of ten interesting films. Although VIFF already started on September 25, it runs through October 10...it's not too late to head north! The film that caught my eye was *Indigenous Plant Diva*, directed by Kamala Todd, described as "a lyrical short film about a young woman from the Squamish Nation who becomes a herbalist and healer on the streets of downtown Vancouver." To better see what might catch your own interest, visit www.viff.org/home.html.

4) WSCSS EDMONDS-WOODWAY IN-SERVICE

The Washington State Council for the Social Studies is hosting its annual in-service conference at Edmonds-Woodway High School on **October 11**. Martha Dietz, K-12 STUDY CANADA Teacher-Associate, will be one of the presenters. Her session, "The Great Arctic Air Adventure: A Tool for Teaching about Canada" will be held in E104 (11:30 AM - 12:45 PM). She'll have several K-12 STUDY CANADA resources on hand to share with teachers!

5) NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

The NFB recently premiered a number of interesting new films that you might be interested in. Brief descriptions of six NFB productions are offered below and you can learn more at: www.nfb.ca/newsletters/20080910. If you're a media/library specialist, you may want to sign up for the NFB newsletter like me.

THE SACRED SUNDANCE (Dir: Brian J. Francis) The Sacred Sundance documents the Mi'kmaq ceremony in which participants go four days without food and water and then pierce the flesh of their chests in an offering to the Creator. The film offers a look at Aboriginal people reclaiming their heritage and embracing tradition.

THE TRAP (Dir: Lina Verchery) This documentary tells an unusual story from Cape Breton Island of a group of lobstermen and Buddhist monks. Every year they join forces in a rite to release lobsters intended for the pot.

GOOD MORNING KANDAHAR (Dir: Ariel Nasr) This documentary looks into the heart of Canada's Afghan communities to explore how young Afghan-Canadians feel about their adopted country fighting in their homeland.

PASSAGE (Dir: John Walker) Called "one of the great triumphs in Canadian documentary film history" by The Toronto Star, ***Passage*** tells the story of Lord Franklin's doomed mission to find the Northwest Passage and the controversy about his missing ships and crew.

CARTS of DARKNESS (Dir: Murray Siple) In North Vancouver, local bottle pickers have turned the act of binning into a thriving subculture of shopping-cart racing. Murray Siple, a former sport film director who was injured in a serious car accident 10 years ago, returns to capture their story in this acclaimed documentary.

HA'AKI (Dir: Iriz Pääbo) A dazzling abstract-impressionist short film inspired by hockey muse Eric Nesterenko, HA'AKI is an unorthodox interpretation of hockey as played in the mind of an artist.

6) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH: McIntosh Apple Ice [with a spicy Mexican twist!]

from *The Canadian Cookbook: History, Folklore & Recipes with a Twist* (Edmonton: Lone Pine Publishing, 2006)

In 1811, Josh McIntosh (1777-1845) discovered about 20 apple trees growing in a wooded area of his farm, near what is now Prescott, Ontario. He transplanted some of them, and one of the transplants produced a fruit he considered superior. His son Allen was instrumental in the apple's spread, through teaching many surrounding farmers how to reproduce the delicious fruit trees using grafting and budding techniques. The original McIntosh apple tree lived for over 90 years and was left standing to commemorate the hard work and dedication of the McIntosh family. Apples are Canada's largest fruit crop and the McIntosh- the only variety grown in all apple-growing regions of Canada-makes up half of all Canadian apple production. Macs are excellent raw or in pies, cakes, crisps, butters and ciders-one a day to keep the doctor away!

Ingredients:

1 cup (250ml) apple juice or water
5 cups (1.25 L) McIntosh apple slices, cored
1 cup (250ml) honey
1 tsp (5ml) lime zest
3 Tbsp (45ml) tequila

Directions:

Bring Juice, apples, honey and zest to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 5 to 7 minutes or until apples are tender. Pour into a processor fitted with blade attachment and purée, adding tequila. Pour purée into a shallow baking dish and freeze until firm, about 3 hours. Return mixture to processor and pulse until chunks are shipped and fluffy. Store frozen in an airtight container for up to 5 days. Re-pulse before serving if ice becomes too hard.

7) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

Giles Blunt. *Blackfly Season*. (Toronto: Seal Books, 2005). ISBN 0-7704-2933-5.

Imagine a novel combining the wilds of Algonquin Bay, a couple of biker gangs, murder, drugs, and then throw in a dash of Cuban voodoo! Giles Blunt did just that to create an intense murder mystery, which is hard to put down once started. This thrilling crime story has as many twists and turns as the back roads in the Ontario north woods. The reader, treated to some vivid passages right out of CSI mode, will even find a description of a "pet" tapeworm. Of course, readers learn of the personal baggage of the investigators, the victims and the evil murderous villains.

Blunt wrote award-winning books in the past as well as scripts for popular television series. *Blackfly Season* could easily become a popular film or script as well. If you want to read a crime novel with a multicultural twist, this is a gem of a book.