

September 2008 Resource E-Notice

Welcome back from what was, I hope, a wonderful summer of renewal for all! I am certain that many of you spent at least a few hours in August armchair-traveling to Beijing for the 2008 Summer Olympics. *Isn't it amazing to see the world come together to behold such athletic discipline, skill and prowess and to learn more about China and its people?* Now that the Olympic torch is officially on its way to Canada, and ticket sales for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games are set to go on sale next month, get ready for exciting opportunities to learn more about Canada! Now is a great time for me to share the news with you -- and I hope you'll encourage colleagues to sign-up, too. Nadine Fabbi, my outreach colleague at the University of Washington's Canadian Studies Center, and I are always happy to hear from new teachers wanting to join the "Canada Listserv". By providing us with their postal addresses, your colleagues will also receive the biannual resource flyer by mail each fall and spring.

Today's e-notice includes some exciting opportunities and resources that will help you teach about Canada at any level of K-12 education. The compilation starts with opportunities to volunteer at the 2010 Olympics and extends to Ruth Writer's review that marks the anniversary of Canada's beloved classic, *Anne of Green Gables*. The "in-betweens" include major educational conferences that uniquely profile Canada where I hope to meet many of you this fall! I particularly look forward to introducing you to the exceptional group of Canadian educators who are part of the **Canada is Coming to NCSS!** effort at the 2008 conference in Houston. The Government of Canada has sponsored their attendance to build stronger educational networks between the two nations. I guarantee, this "Team Canada" is one you can relate to!

Of course, some "meaty" curriculum is included below as well. In truth, some of the tips could help you develop a full-year Canada course quite easily. If you do, be sure to let me know! If not motivated to go that far, I nonetheless hope you find the items beneficial for your classroom. **I also want to give a "heads up" that I will be sending a brief e-survey soon (to educators only) that aims to assess the impact of K-12 STUDY CANADA's outreach efforts. When you receive the survey, please know that I greatly appreciate the time you spend in response. Your feedback guides our efforts and will be reported to the US Department of Education.**

Welcome back for the 2008-2009 scholastic year! Tina Storer

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) VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

Since ticket sales for the 2010 Olympics begin *next month* and will be difficult to get as the games draw closer, I thought it appropriate to lead off with the URL link that reveals all you need to know: <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/SpectatorInformation>. It will be the experience of a lifetime, I'm sure! If you live in the Puget Sound area and would like to be part of the 2010 Winter Olympics by serving as one of the 25,000 expected volunteers, please look at the following pages, too:

Volunteer Opportunities <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/VolunteerOpportunities>
Pre-Games Volunteers <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/VolunteerOpportunities/PreGamesVolunteers>
Games Time Volunteers <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/VolunteerOpportunities/GamesTimeVolunteers>
Sport Event Volunteers <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/VolunteerOpportunities/SportEventVolunteers>
Volunteer Registration & Other Info <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/Participation/VolunteerOpportunities/VolunteeringFAQs>

2) 2008 STUDY CANADA LESSON PLANS

A *fabulous* group of 24 teachers participated in the 2008 STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators and the lesson plans that they developed as part of the credit-earning workshop are now posted on our website for you! I think you'll be very impressed by their efforts. Regional Consulates of Canada across the US assisted with travel costs to Vancouver, British Columbia--support that was much appreciated by all teachers! The lesson plans created by them--as well as by other recent STUDY CANADA participants--are posted at http://k12studycanada.org/resources_lesson_plans.asp. The lessons are categorized by over a dozen topics and identify grade levels to ease your search for suitable curricula. Enjoy!

3) CANADA IS COMING TO NCSS!

Expect 10 x more Canadian-content than at any other K-12 conference in the US, *network* with Canadian teachers who are leaders in social studies education, *experience* Canadian culture in Houston & *access* many resources about Canada! *That's* what is meant by "Canada is Coming to NCSS!" Separate handouts describing the program, listing the sessions, and sharing the biographies of Canadian educators who will be at the conference are all available from the homepage of www.k12studycanada.org and/or www.umaine.edu/canam/teachingcanada.htm.

2008 is a timely year for NCSS to offer such a spotlight on Canada since it marks the 400th anniversary of French settlement in North America and--just between you and I--I've heard that Samuel de Champlain himself will be there! I wonder if he'll drop by the session "Québec: Embracing the Future on its 400th Birthday"? Be sure to go to that session and to sign-up for the "Teaching a Unit of Study on Canadian-American Relations" pre-conference clinic on Thursday, Nov. 13, if able. A wealth of free video resources and curricula will be provided at the clinic, including the DVD *The Canadian History Series: 1939-2000* (9 half-hour episodes!!!). That session will kick-start the conference's series of classroom and poster sessions taught by outstanding educators from across Canada that explore a variety of topics suitable for teaching in K-12 classrooms. Feel free to contact me for more information about what will be happening in Houston!

NB: Sponsorship from the Government of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (International Education Division) is very much appreciated as is additional support from the Consulates of Canada in Houston/Dallas and the Québec Government Office in Atlanta.

4) FOR HOUSTON-AREA GRADE 9 WORLD GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS

A professional development clinic about **Teaching Canadian Geography** is being offered to Houston-area Grade 9 World Geography teachers on **November 7-8, 2008**. Betsy Arntzen, Outreach Coordinator at the Canadian-American Center - University of Maine, will lead the Friday (evening) - Saturday (day) sessions and use a variety of primary and secondary source material such as contemporary and historic maps, photos, graphs, sketches, and diagrams to provide participants with a wealth of background information. In addition, curriculum that relates directly to the World Geography TEKS and adheres to best practices in teaching geography will be distributed (along with several resource publications). Houston-area ISDs and Region 4 will arrange to award participants professional development credits and contact hour certificates. The program is being sponsored by the Region 4 Education Service Center; Houston-area Friends of Geography; National Resource Centers for Canada; Consulate of Canada, Houston. **To reserve a spot and learn more, please email Tom Wurst of Region 4 at twurst@esc4.net.**

Additional professional development and/or curriculum writing sessions will be offered as after-school workshops on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons, November 10-12, 2008 to supplement this clinic. School locations will vary based on sign-ups.

5) NCGE CONFERENCE & FIELD TRIP TO CANADA!

The National Council for Geographic Education's annual conference is being held October 10-12 and will include a session called "**Canada in the Classroom**" presented by classroom teacher Meghan Hoyer, Vice-President of the Washington Geographic Alliance (and K-12 STUDY CANADA Teacher Associate). The location at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, MI offers wonderful opportunities for learning because of its close proximity to the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village and Canada as well as its connections to a wide variety of cultural communities.

Details about registering for the conference are at <http://www.ncge.org/events/meetings/currAMdetails.cfm>. If you plan to attend, be sure to stop by the National Resource Centers for Canada exhibit to pick up some materials from Betsy Arntzen and me! We look forward to meeting you.

Pre-conference field trips are being offered on Friday, October 9 that will interest physical geographers, social geographers, and historians alike. I will be going on the "Historic Connections with our Canadian Neighbors" tour myself but would love to go on some of the others as well! Please take a look at the options yourself at http://store.ncge.net/merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=N&Category_Code=ft.

6) POWERPOINTS - CURRICULUM - FUN FOR KIDS & MORE!

Get ready to bookmark <http://countries.pppst.com/canada.html>. I was so excited when I first visited this website because it has so much to offer K-12 teachers--especially those who haven't accumulated many resources yet! Even "old hands" at teaching Canada will want to explore "Mr. Donn's" materials. Though it lacks a professional look, the site nonetheless offers one-stop access to PowerPoints, curriculum, information, and fun materials for

students. It is one of those "mother-lode" sites that are shared between educators and it's my "tip of the month" as you prepare for the year ahead. This site alone may fill your resource needs for the year. I will be explore the site myself each month and report on the best-of-the-best.

7) ROYAL CANADIAN MINT [Thank you, Cynthia Carlisle, for pointing me in this direction.]

The story and art of Canada's money is an interesting one to explore at <http://www.mint.ca>. The historical timeline allows students to see how Canadian currency commemorates its history and celebrates its culture. A student born in 1996, for example, is sure to notice that a bi-metallic two-dollar coin was introduced that year and quickly became affectionately known as a "toonie". Even more fun are the opportunities to play virtual Olympic winter sports! Say what? Yes, the RCM has minted special coins for Vancouver 2010 and, to attract more interest from the younger generation, there are fun opportunities to "virtual freeride" on snowboards as well as play a "Quarter Pipe Big Air" game. Now, how cool is that? Those who've earned such a treat can click on the "Vancouver 2010" hyperlink at right on the site.

8) OLYMPIC INSPIRATION

The following story is *not* related to Canada at all but I have included it because Michael Phelps' story offers a wonderful way to motivate students at the start of the year and to connect them to the spirit of the Olympics. It also serves to remind us as educators to never limit and always encourage students to reach for the stars!

From A.D.H.D. to 8 Gold Medals [From: teachermagazine.org as reported in newsletters@edweek.org]

In a recent interview with the *New York Times*, Deborah Phelps, middle school principal and mother of Michael, the most medaled Olympian in history, remembers how her son's elementary school teacher once told her, "Your son will never be able to focus on anything." Michael Phelps was big when he was born (9 pounds, 6 ounces), awkward as a kid, and bullied by his classmates. In preschool, his teachers complained that he couldn't sit still. When Michael was in 5th grade, his mother and family doctor discussed whether Michael might have A.D.H.D.

His parents, now divorced, introduced him and his sisters to competitive swimming early. By age 10, Michael was nationally ranked. Deborah Phelps watched her son, who couldn't sit still at school, wait patiently for hours at a meet to swim a five-minute race. At 11, Michael was off Ritalin by his own choice and his coach, Bob Bowman, was already predicting greatness. Bowman, who still coaches Michael, told the family then that Michael would make the 2004 Olympics and break world records by the 2008 games.

Phelps made it to the 2000 Olympics, four years ahead of Bowman's prediction. The rest, as we have witnessed, is history. Today, the Phelps name is an adjective, as in "phelpsian," meaning "dominating in competition." A gift, most would agree, that requires laser-like focus.

9) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH: CRÊPES!

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

A crêpe by any other name--well, is still a crêpe. Crêpes originated in Brittany, but they can be found in many other cuisines. In Hungary, they are known as palacsinta, in Italy as cresoelle and in Russia as blinchiki, but they are always paper thin and made with an egg-based batter. How crêpes are folded and the fillings they contain reflect the local customs and traditions of the countries in which they are served. They are sometimes even cut into thin strips and served like a fresh pasta in soups. This versatility was best described by a Polish chef who said that nalesniki are like envelopes- you can fill them with anything. In France, it is customary to make a wish holding a coin while touching the handle of the crêpe pan and turning the crêpe, although we recommend a great deal of crêpe-making practice before attempting this trick! Crêperies are now found pretty well across Canada, with two of the most renowned ones in Québec City and Montréal.

Ingredients:

2 cups (500 ml) all purpose flour
½ tsp (2ml) sea salt
12 whole eggs lightly beaten
3 cups (750 ml) whole milk
1/3 cup (75ml) vegetable oil,
plus additional for cooking

Directions:

Sift flour and slat into a large bowl. Add eggs and start whisking. Gradually add milk, whisking continuously to make a smooth batter. Whisk again & refrigerate for up to 24 hrs, until ready to use.

Preheat a crêpe pan over medium-high heat and pour batter into it, swirling to coat bottom (for a 9" (23 cm) crêpe pan, use about ¼ cup (60 ml) of batter. Cook until barley-browned, turn and cook an additional 10 seconds.

Transfer crêpe to plate and continue cooking remaining batter, stacking cooked crêpes on top of each other. Add filling as desired, fold and serve.

Filling Ideas: For sweet dessert crêpes, try your favorite fresh fruit, jams, spreads, Nutella or grated chocolate. For a "savory" version, try Swiss or a favorite cheese on its own or mixed with finely chopped vegetables. [Hint: Don't be disappointed if the first "batch" are less than perfect. These take practice!]

10) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE: The Centennial of a Canadian Icon

One hundred years ago this summer, Lucy Maud Montgomery captured the hearts of millions of readers with her novel ***Anne of Green Gables***. Since then, "Anne" has become big business on Prince Edward Island and the book (and subsequent titles in Montgomery's series) have become requisite reading for the majority of young girls around the globe. Seven additional books by Montgomery, many films, and even recently-written prequels follow the initial story penned by Montgomery about the orphan, Anne Shirley.

Montgomery herself was born in 1874 on the northern shore of P.E.I., losing her mother less than two years later. She was raised by her grandparents in a traditional island farmhouse with a green gabled roof and married at the old age of thirty-seven. By the time of her marriage to Ewan Macdonald, she had been well-educated and taught others in addition to authoring the bestseller. Several sequels and another dozen or so novels followed her marriage. Montgomery and her husband relocated to Ontario where they raised two children prior to her death in 1942.

Hundreds of thousands of tourists visit "Green Gables", the home of Montgomery's relatives, in Cavendish on Prince Edward Island each year. There, visitors can tour the home, trails, and farmland captured so vividly in Montgomery's novels of the little girl with red hair. Because ***Anne of Green Gables*** has become requisite reading in many schools throughout the world, those who fell in love with little Anne feel compelled to visit "her" when visiting Canada.

If you or your students have not yet read and met ***Anne***, now would be a great time to get acquainted with one of the most famous females in Canada!

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