

JANUARY 2009 K-12 STUDY CANADA RESOURCE NOTICE

Greetings and Happy New Year! January is always a busy month in K-12 classrooms so I hope you've all returned feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. The new year also brings professional development decisions and I hope that many of you will consider attending the **2009 Annual STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators** in Vancouver and Whistler, BC (June 21-26). The program receives the highest marks possible from K-16 educators and media specialists from across the USA who have taken the 40 clock hour/3 quarter credit course. It is simply the **BEST** way to gain a strong foundation for teaching about Canada! Registration is now open so I hope you will visit www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.asp to learn more about the program and download the registration forms needed.

Since consideration of Canada is so important when teaching about the US in a North American context, I have focused on some terrific history resources in today's issue. Most are fully bilingual, too. Included among the eight items below are some key websites to bookmark as well as some Canadian history magazines for you to be aware of. I learned about so many new Internet resources from the Canadian educators who attended NCSS that I will have much to share with you over the next year. In addition, Ruth Writer recommends a book below by Merna Forster that will be a classroom treasure, I'm sure! My apologies for not enlivening the news with images but too many bouncebacks result from their inclusion.

Best wishes to all in 2009! Tina Storer

Please ensure your server accepts group messages and notify me if you are receiving duplicate notices in error.

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

Western Washington University & University of Washington perform K-12 STUDY CANADA outreach jointly as a USDOE-funded National Resource Center on Canada. Annual Embassy of Canada grants also provide support.

1) A RECOMMENDED SECONDARY LEVEL TEXTBOOK

Availability of good classroom resources are always important to ensure that subjects like "Canada" are taught and taught well. **Canada Our Century, Our Story** by John Fielding & Rosemary Evans (Toronto: Nelson Thompson Learning, 2001) was recommended by Mike Clare and Brian McClean, two outstanding historian-educators from Ontario, as a useful overview text for high school classrooms. I know that many high school teachers have been seeking this news. The textbook is available from www.nelson.com and offers excellent web resource support for teachers and activities for students [see <http://socialstudies.nelson.com/history/default.html>]. The posted web material corresponds with each chapter of the textbook so it also provides some insight into the text itself. I recommend--at the very least-- taking a look to see the range of content, topics for curricula, and classroom activity ideas. I hope others will go beyond and arrange for a copy of it in their school if not their own classroom.

2) HISTORICA

Take note, social studies, history, geography *and* FRENCH language teachers... www.histori.ca is an outstanding bilingual website designed to promote the teaching of Canada and its history. I have mentioned the website in past resource notices because it is a rare "motherlode" resource about Canada. As such, it merits annual mention. If you haven't explored it before, let me tempt you with the news that you can view **HISTORICA Heritage Minutes** (in English or French) with your class online and access a wealth of historical information and teaching ideas.

Thanks to Dr. Craig Harding, a middle school social studies teacher in Calgary, AB (as well as senior author of the Alberta directive on student resources for Grades 5, 6 and 11 and a contributing author for student resources in Grades 8 and 12), I was reminded that **HISTORICA** also serves as a gateway to other excellent teaching tools. His particular interest was the "Benchmarks Project" available at www.histori.ca/benchmarks. This project has heavily influenced curriculum development in Canada, in general, and you'll understand why once you explore it further. The project combines the research of historians and educators with the experience and skills of classroom teachers to create practical ways of encouraging historical thinking in realistic classroom settings.

As if that was not enough, the **HISTORICA** site is also home to the following outstanding teaching tools:

- **The Canadian Encyclopedia** [www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com] Canada's most authoritative and comprehensive reference tool
- **Encyclopedia of Music in Canada** A celebration of Canada's rich musical heritage at www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=EMCSubjects&Params=A1.

- **Black History Canada Portal** [<http://blackhistorycanada.ca>] A very important site to consider connecting students to for Black History Month in February. The site is a terrific gateway to authoritative online resources about Canada's Black history, thematically organized and annotated.
- **History by the Minute** ("Heritage Minutes") [www.histori.ca/minutes/default.do?page=index] Many of Canada's defining moments and personalities are captured in these one-minute film dramas.
- **Access.ca** [www.access.ca] A special search engine that helps social studies teachers find lesson plans, articles, visual and multimedia resources. You can use "Find Resources" to search through the collections of *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, HISTOR!CA, Library and Archives Canada, and the McCord Museum (and customize your search, browsing through broad categories or focusing on a particular topic and time period, reading level, province and grade, and even type of resource). I loved that the sidebar had a "Try this Lesson" feature that suggests a lesson plan to consider, such as the following lesson on British Columbia's Cariboo Trail (suitable for Gr. 9-12 classrooms) at www.histori.ca/prodev/lp.do?id=17997. [I hope you'll uncover many others of interest to you and your students!]
- **Professional Development** [www.histori.ca/prodev/default.do?page=index] Resources and activities to support teachers in their continuing education efforts. This is another great cache of curriculum!
- **Voices** [www.histori.ca/voices/index.do] The Voices website examines questions within a historical context like "Is Canada's democracy in crisis?" and "Why are youth not voting?"
- **The Prime Ministers of Canada** [www.primeministers.ca] Intimate portraits of the Nation's Leaders are offered here.
- **Champlain in Acadia** [www.histori.ca/champlain/index.do] Explore the Life & Times of this early explorer.
- **Asia/Canada** [www.histori.ca/asia-canada/index.do] A website that explores the history and issues that define the Asian experience in Canada.
- **Peace and Conflict** [www.histori.ca/peace/index.do] Five chapters lead students through the history of Canada at peace and at war.
- **FYI Canada** [<http://fyicanada.ca/index.do;jsessionid=7B17E2182C377AEB6FEE6962E7088F16.tomcat1>] An online community where Canadian teens express their opinions and concerns.
- **History Wire (HW)** [<http://historywire.ca/en/index>] A new interactive website engaging Canadians in a dialogue with their past.
- **Encounters with Canada** [www.encounters-rencontres.ca/en/home.html] Teenagers from across Canada gather in Ottawa to learn about their country, its institutions, and each other.
- **HISTOR!CA Fairs** [www.histori.ca/fairs/default.do?page=index] Students research Canadian heroes, legends, milestones, and achievements - and proudly present their stories at a public exhibition.

3) **CANADA'S NATIONAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The CNHS site at www.historyociety.ca includes articles on Canadian History, teaching strategies, and lesson plans from the Governor General Award Winning history teachers. Yes, more free curricula that can be searched by grade level, by themes and by eras. Most plans are presented in the language that they were submitted [another plus for French-language teachers] and plans may appear in more than one category. The CNHS is host to a book club as well for those among us who love reading about history. The group recently inaugurated a newsletter for Canadian history book lovers called the *History Society Reading Den*. It is published electronically once every two months with features that complement what you'll find in Beaver and Kayak Magazines [see Items 4 and 5 below for more info on both magazines] and online at the History Society Book Club at www.historyociety.ca/boo.asp. Subscribe to their electronic newsletter for free to keep up with new and interesting titles for personal and classroom reading.

4) **THE BEAVER : Canada's History Magazine**

As mentioned above, CNHS is also home to *The Beaver*, Canada's premier mainstream history publication. The magazine's website at www.historyociety.ca/bea.asp is also an excellent resource for lesson-planning. Open www.historyociety.ca/content/en/pdfs/Brune4.pdf to see, for example, how Ontario historian/educator Nick Brune based his lesson plan "Dilemmas" on Christopher Moore's article "Redressing History's Horrors" (April/May 2003). Although this particular lesson is intended for senior level classrooms, many others are also available for free and categorized by Grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6 and so on. All lessons are downloadable with Adobe Acrobat. My own subscription is long overdue and it's one of my resolutions to sign up!

5) **KAYAK: Canada's History Magazine for Kids**

Kayak is a magazine published 6 times a year and targeted to elementary students. A hard copy subscription is great from families and classrooms but its Internet home at www.historyociety.ca/kayak is worth exploring,

too. The site is very child-friendly and invites children to learn more about Canada and its history through fun and games like "History Mystery", quizzes and puzzles. The current issue, not surprisingly, focuses on winter in Canada and activities and inventions created to make the weather more enjoyable. Teachers and homeschoolers are invited to sign up for free "KIT" (Kayak Teacher Information) newsletters that include lesson plans that relate to the latest issue of **Kayak**. The newsletters also provide links to useful websites and background information related to the topic, including past articles from **The Beaver**.

6) FUR TRADE STORIES

While exploring the online content of **The Beaver** recently, I stumbled upon www.furtradestories.ca, a fabulous historical website hosted by Heritage Canada that offers a unique presentation of primary and secondary resources found in the collections of Canada's National History Society, HBCA - Archives of Manitoba, The Manitoba Museum, Parks Canada and several First Nations communities. To journey through the thoughts and hearts of the brave people who explored and survived Canada's wilderness, the site directs all Internet "explorers" to choose one of the three key eras in Canadian history: 1) Pre-Contact with Europeans to 1600; 2) 1600 to 1867; and 3) 1867 to Present Day. Although the first era is still under-construction, the DBQ opportunities for teaching and the information available from 1600 forward is impressive! This is a wonderful site for middle-high school students. Of course, teaching tips and cross-curricular lesson plans are offered, too!

7) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

Merna Forster. **100 Canadian Heroines: Famous and Forgotten Faces**. Toronto: The Dundurn Group, 2004.

At the recent National Council for the Social Studies annual conference in Houston, I had the pleasure of meeting Canadian author, Merna Forster. I immediately recalled having obtained and read her work **100 Canadian Heroines: Famous and Forgotten Faces**. Upon my return to the classroom, I re-read her biographies of vital women of Canadian history. Several of the stories of these women became historical works or novels reviewed previously in this newsletter. Marie-Joseph Angelique's role as a victim or arsonist became quite famous in Afua Cooper's **Hanging of Angelique** reviewed in September of 2007. Another was the trek of Mina Hubbard clearing her husband's name while racing across Labrador reviewed in January 2006. [Randall Silvis. **Heart So Hungry: The Extraordinary Expedition of Mina Hubbard into the Labrador Wilderness**. Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004]

Other women noted for their infamous roles in New France come alive in Forster's pages. Marguerite Bourgeoys taught the youth, Marie de la Tour defended her Acadia and Jeanne Mance founded a hospital to aid the ill. These three heroines of Canadian history join Forster's other great women living and contributing to our northern neighbor's rich and vibrant history. It is a rich source of information from all geographic regions and ethnic groups.

100 Canadian Heroines: Famous and Forgotten Faces is a must-read for teachers focusing on more than the dates and encounters with Canada. One classroom use could be as part of an "Order of Good Cheer" as was instituted in early Acadia. A different student could read and summarize one of the heroines each day. Since Forster's work spans history, science, arts and entertainment, students will eagerly discover a lady's life to share with the class. Enjoy!

8) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH

The recipe below for "Canuck Chili" was originally submitted by Mike Purl and modified by Kaboose.com. [See <http://recipes.kaboose.com/canuck-chili.html>] Quintessentially Canadian with its hearty mix of baked beans and beef, a host of harvest vegetables, barbecue sauce and beer to round out the flavors, this slow cooker chili is a delicious way to take the edge off winter's chill.

Ingredients

2 pounds lean ground beef
1/2 large onion, diced
1 tablespoon crushed red pepper
3 tablespoons garlic powder
1 tablespoon seasoned pepper
2 (4 ounce) cans mushroom pieces, drained
1 (28 ounce) can baked beans
2 (15.25 ounce) cans kidney beans with liquid
2 (6 ounce) cans tomato paste
1/4 cup sugar

Cooking Instructions

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, brown ground beef together with onion, crushed red pepper, garlic powder, and seasoned pepper. Drain off the fat, and place the mixture into a slow cooker.
2. Stir mushrooms, baked beans, kidney beans with liquid, tomato paste, sugar, carrots, celery, peppers, beer, and barbecue sauce into the slow cooker. Season with hot sauce and more crushed red pepper.
3. Cover, and cook on Low for 4 to 5 hours.

3 carrots, sliced
3 stalks celery, sliced
1 green bell pepper, diced
1 red bell pepper, diced
2 jalapeno chile peppers, diced
1/4 cup Canadian beer
1/4 cup barbeque sauce
2 tablespoons crushed red pepper hot sauce

Nutrition Facts (Amount Per Serving)

Calories: 420	Total Fat: 12.7g
Fiber: 13.7g	Protein: 28.7g
Cholesterol: 60mg	Carbohydrates: 52.1g
Total Servings: 10	
Preparation Time: 30 min	Cooking Time: 5 hours
Ready In: 5 hours 30 min	

Tina Storer, Education and Curriculum Specialist
Center for Canadian-American Studies
Western Washington University
Canada House, Rm. #202, 516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-9110
Phone: (360) 650-7370
Fax: (360) 650-3995
Email: tina.storer@wwu.edu
Web: www.k12studycanada.org