

November-December 2012 E-Resource News

Greetings! Though November skies may be grey, I am filled with excitement about upcoming opportunities for learning about Canada this month. I hope you feel the same about teaching Canada in your classroom. Below are ten announcements and resources that I hope will encourage and inspire your efforts. In particular, I look forward to meeting many of you at NCSS in Seattle next month.... and, to one and all, I am sending early best wishes for the holiday season! Tina Storer

Please ensure your server accepts messages and notify me if you receive duplicate notices or wish to be removed from the Listserv.

Western Washington University and University of Washington jointly perform K-12 STUDY CANADA outreach as a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center on Canada in the US.

1. CANADA AT NCSS 2012

The 92nd Annual National Council for the Social Studies Conference is being held in Seattle next month and this year's conference will stand out above others because of its increased attention to Canada. That has been a primary goal for me while serving as a conference planning committee co-chair as well as for my outreach colleagues at both consortia Title VI National Resource Centers on Canada.

NCSS—the largest organization of social studies educators in the world—has always supported our efforts to bring greater attention to Canada in American social studies classrooms and the “Canada at NCSS 2012” document at <http://www.k12studycanada.org/calendar.html#> (under November 2012) identifies thirty-two opportunities for educators to learn about Canada formally at the conference – or informally by having our NRC or Canada Community representatives at meetings that help determine future directions of social studies education. There will be 20 Canadian residents participating actively within the conference program and 3 “expats” like me, as well as 8 Americans are presenting sessions on topics directly focused on Canada. An attachment is included in the emailed version of this newsletter.

Of course, there will also be untold additional opportunities for discussion and network-building since many more Canadians will attend the conference as general registrants. I hope you are registered to attend and that we'll get a chance to meet in person at the pre-conference clinic being held at the Consulate General of Canada's office in Seattle and/or other opportunities for learning about Canada at the conference.

2. A FESTIVE FORT

As Niagara Parks continues to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, the year is drawing to a close. December is nearly upon us, along with the holiday season. Join in the celebration of 200 years of peace between the US and Canada and acquire a little seasonal spirit by visiting Fort Erie on the first weekend in December. Just across the Canadian border, Old Fort Erie contributed to defending Canada in the War of 1812. However, now the fort opens its doors on the 1st and 2nd of December to invite visitors to catch a glimpse at what a soldier's Christmas would be like. Crafts, treats, and Santa Claus insure this weekend to be an enjoyable one for the whole family.

3. CANADIAN GIRLS!

October was Women's History Month in Canada and, although I missed the opportunity to bring the fact to your attention in my last e-resource notice, please know that you can always find suggestions for adding *herstory* to your classroom year-round. Visit <http://www.heroines.ca/celebrate/historymonth.html>, a website by Merna Forster (University of Victoria), the author of *100 Canadian Heroines* (with a foreword by former Prime Minister of Canada, Kim Campbell) and its “sequel”, *100 More Canadian Heroines* (with a foreword by Canadian astronaut, Julie Payette). Having these books in your school's library will ensure you always have resources about Canadian women, too!

On this website you will also find a Youtube link to a fun new song called by Dean Brody called “Canadian Girls” on the <http://www.heroines.ca> homepage. The song did very well at The Canadian Country Music Awards. To learn more about that, see <http://www.cbc.ca/news/arts/story/2012/09/09/ccma-gala.html>.

4. LEARN YOUR CANADIAN-ISMS

With two official languages, English and French, and a vocabulary unique to the North, Americans would be remiss to assume that “American” and “Canadian” forms of English are identical. To navigate the differences in speech, check out the Language Portal of Canada at www.noslangues-ourlangues.gc.ca/index-eng.php for some interesting resources to educate yourself on Canadian vocabulary. Try glancing through “Canadianisms” in Carleton County Colloquialisms (www.dooryard.ca/index0.html), take the Canadian Buff-n-Bluff quizzes (www.noslangues-ourlangues.gc.ca/quiz/index-eng.html), or simply learn more about Canada’s bilingual history (www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/lo-ol/bllng/hist-eng.cfm).

5. YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR US HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

As you know, education that looks beyond our borders, especially to Canada, is something I regularly encourage. A recent announcement about U.S. Department of State scholarships for American high school students to study abroad presents some remarkable opportunities for students to gain international experiences. Please share this news with high school counselors and encourage interested students to apply.

- **The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)** offers merit-based scholarships to U. S. high-school aged students for overseas study of seven critical foreign languages: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Persian (Tajik), Russian and Turkish. The NSLI-Y program is designed to immerse participants in the cultural life of the host country, giving them invaluable formal and informal language practice and sparking a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures. Applications for summer 2013 and academic year 2013-2014 programs are due November 1, 2012. Visit www.nsliforyouth.org for more information.
- **The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad Program** offers scholarships to American high school students to spend the 2013-14 academic year in countries that may include Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali (semester), Morocco, Oman, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, and Turkey. This post 9/11 program focuses on increasing understanding between people in the U.S. and countries with significant Muslim populations. The application deadline is January 10, 2013. Visit the YES Program’s website for more information.
- **The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX)** was established in 1983 to celebrate German-American friendship based on common values of democracy. Secondary school students live with host families, attend local schools, and participate in community life in Germany. Young professionals (undergraduates) and high school graduates of vocational studies ages 18-24 study and participate in practical training. Scholarships are now available for academic year 2013-14; application deadlines vary by U.S. region and range from September 2012 to January 2013. For more information and application deadlines, visit the organization in charge of recruitment for your state at USAGermanyScholarship.org.
- **The American Youth Leadership Program** offers opportunities for American high students and educators to travel abroad on a three- to four-week-long exchange program to gain first-hand knowledge of foreign cultures and to collaborate on solving global issues. Several different organizations implement this program, and each has organized an academic and experiential educational exchange focused on dialogue and debate, leadership development, and community service. Recruitment areas and application deadlines

6. “ENEMY ALIENS” EXHIBIT AT THE VHEC

Because some teachers on this listserv reside in or have easy access to Vancouver, B.C., I wanted to bring to your attention an exhibit (and school program) offered at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Center (VHEC), October 3, 2012-June 14, 2013,. *“Enemy Aliens”: The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-1943* is a new teaching exhibit that explores Canada’s wartime internment of approximately 2,300 civilian refugees of Nazism, most of them Jewish. The internees’ journey – from Nazi Germany and Austria to asylum in England, imprisonment by Britain, then Canada, and eventual release – is a bittersweet tale of survival during the Holocaust. The 90-minute interactive school program, recommended for Grades 6-12, includes a guided tour of the exhibit, followed by a hands-on workshop where students use artifacts and testimony to engage in a discussion about this little-known chapter of Canadian history. Program support is by the Lutsky Mendelson Family Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver.

7. “ARGO”: HAVE YOU SEEN IT YET?

Now playing at theaters nationwide is Ben Affleck’s film “Argo”. The film recounts how six American hostages escaped from Iran during the 1979 hostage crisis by hiding at the home of Ken Taylor, the former Canadian Ambassador to Iran, and later escaping from Iran by posing as a Canadian film crew with the help of a CIA agent, Tony Mendez. Affleck’s original postscript

to the film didn't quite give credit where it was due but, being a good diplomat himself, Affleck changed the postscript to read: *'The involvement of the CIA complemented efforts of the Canadian embassy to free the six held in Tehran. To this day the story stands as an enduring model of international co-operation between governments.'*

I highly recommend seeing "Argo" and have not been surprised by the early Oscar buzz surrounding it. The film reveals our strong defense alliance around the world and an important time in our shared history. I hope you get a chance to see it, too.

8. VANCOUVER WRITER'S FESTIVAL

The world of Canadian literature is limitless in value and compliments social studies classroom learning. Thousands of Canadian short stories, novels and poems are just waiting to be discovered in order to enrich your lesson plans. Paulette Thompson, a K-12 STUDY CANADA Teacher associate and classroom teacher at Ida B. Wells School for Social Justice at the University of Washington, has been expanding her knowledge about Canadian literature by going to the Vancouver International Writers and Readers Festival for many years. Read about her experience as featured on the homepage of <http://www.k12studycanada.org> and in the UW Canadian Studies Center's "October 2012 Report" at: <http://www.jsis.washington.edu/canada/newsletter/2012oct/center.shtml#thompson>.

9. RECIPE OF THE MONTH: KING'S FAMILY FRUIT CAKE

As the holidays approach it isn't uncommon for families in the US and Canada alike to whip up renditions of a winter time favorite: fruit cake. Also known as a "Christmas Cake" in Canada, many families have their own recipes to create this fruity delicacy as Christmas draws near. The recipe here comes from the Parks Canada website at http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/media/gourmand-gourmet/recettes-recipes/sec_03/recette-recipe87.aspx though the original recipe was found among the written archives of the King family. Former Prime Minister of Canada, William Lyon Mackenzie King, loved the cake so much that it was served year round! Even if you aren't a fan of fruit cake, this version brags that it may change your mind.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 ml) butter
- 1½ cups (375 ml) granulated white sugar
- 6 egg whites
- ½ cup (125 ml) of white wine
- ½ lb (125 ml) of citron peel
- ½ lb (125 ml) of chopped almonds
- ½ cup (125 ml) of unsweetened flaked coconut
- 3 cups (750 ml) sifted all-purpose flour
- 3 tsp (15 ml) baking powder

Method:

- Grease two loaf pans. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
- Cream the butter and sugar together. Add wine to the mixture.
- In a separate bowl sift flour and baking powder together. Add citron, almonds and coconut to flour and stir.
- Gradually add flour mixture to the other bowl.
- In a separate bowl beat egg whites until stiff. Gently fold the beaten egg whites into the rest of the ingredients.
- Pour mixture into loaf pans and smooth top. Bake for approximately 1 hour.

Note: Citron (a lemon-like fruit) peel can be difficult to find. This is the slightly greenish peel often available in November and December. Try a bulk food store at other times. Avoid dried out sugary peel. Peel that is very "syrupy" should be rinsed. Peel from other citrus fruit could be used but the result is not quite the same.

10. RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

Eirisdottir by Joan Clark. (Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, NL: Boulder Publications, 2009.) ISBN 978-0-9809144-5-0

[Photos from the personal collection of Ruth Writer]



Over a thousand years ago Viking settlers abandoned L'Anse aux Meadows on the isolated northern peninsula of Newfoundland. A likely story based on this final departure from "Vinland, the Good" is well captured by Joan Clark in her novel *Eirisdottir*. I found Clark's description about the unique, stark region to be accurate having visited L'Anse aux Meadows in 2011 and learning that the settlement had only been discovered by archeologists in 1961.



What may have been the final Viking journey to this new found land became the source of myths and legends and serves the author well in this book. Freydis, the daughter of Erik the Red [hence the title] is the central character. She feels lured to the land that had briefly been settled by her brother, Leif Erikson. Freydis negotiates with two Icelandic brothers who winter near her settlement to take her there since she is dissatisfied with her married, simple life in Greenland. She is confident that she can find both fame and fortune in the western lands explored by her brother.



Their journey across the North Atlantic proves to be difficult. While reading, one can almost feel the nausea and trepidation felt by those on board her Viking ship.

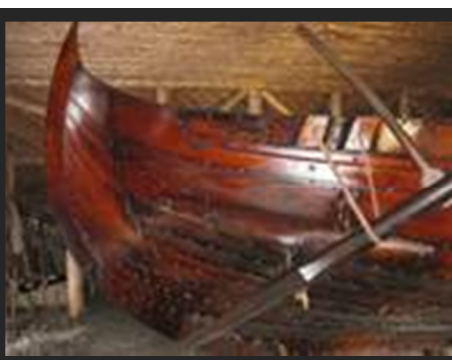
Clark's frank and sometimes "adult only" language indicates the primitive nature of the settlement. Several events in the book involve interactions with Natives on the island of Newfoundland, called *skraelings* by the Vikings. At one point, Freydis Eiriksdottir, dressed in man's clothing, encounters a *skraeling* and exposes her breast to scare off the intruder.

This story is a part of the historic lore of the Vikings' settlement. In fact, although Clark bases her fictional work on historical and archeological facts, she mixes it with a healthy dose from these Icelandic sagas. English translations of the original *skalds* about Freydis are an interesting read, too. See <http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/nda/nda21.htm>.

Clark's vivid and eloquent portrayal of daily routines in the homes of this settlement comes to life for readers. Inside their primitive sod houses during the first months, both the Greenlanders and Icelanders fare well. They explore the region, find ample timber for building another ship, and enjoy themselves. During the winter months however, hostility grows between the two ethnic groups, they are faced with starvation and struggles that, at times, are too difficult to bear. By the end of this long harsh winter, the Greenlanders and Icelanders find themselves at odds and eventually results in tragedy.

When warmer weather returns, some of the Icelanders journey even farther south, never to return. The remaining Icelanders meet a fate Freydis and the Greenlanders feared to tell when they finally return to Greenland themselves. For whatever reason [harsh winters, *skraeling* encounters, isolation, loneliness, or violence within the community], the struggle was simply not worth the effort. The Vikings never make Newfoundland a permanent settlement though *skalds* recount the memory of the adventure.

Clark's entertaining novel provides a unique interpretation about the lives of those who lived in Newfoundland over a thousand years ago. I highly recommend *Eiriksdottir* to anyone interested in Viking history and their experience in the new found land.



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