

## September-October 2012 – E-Resource News

**Greetings!** Hopefully all of you had an enjoyable summer and are now comfortably settled in your classrooms for the 2012-13 school year. Below are some outstanding events to participate in as well as some resources for your classroom. I am particularly excited about the cross-border learning opportunities in B.C. and the upcoming National Council for the Social Studies' Annual Conference. This conference will feature exceptional learning opportunities for teachers...and especially to learn more about Canada, network with Canadian educators, and understand educational and political issues that affect us on both sides of the border. Some additional details are below as well as other resources to consider while making connections to Canada in your curricula. 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.**

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### **1. NCSS 2012 – SEATTLE, WA (NOV. 16-18) – OPENING WINDOWS TO THE WORLD**

Join thousands of your social studies colleagues in the Emerald City this fall for the world's largest and most comprehensive professional development conference. With more than 500 content-rich sessions [descriptions available at <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference>] covering all subjects and grade levels [including 30+ opportunities to learn more about Canada!], a lineup of renowned speakers and education experts, more than 150 exhibiting organizations displaying the latest in educational resources, and the opportunity to share the most current knowledge, ideas, research, and expertise in social studies education, the 92nd NCSS Annual Conference in Seattle is where all social studies educators should be. If you're an NCSS "first-timer", you can apply for a scholarship to cover your registration cost. It's time to make your plans and register! Visit the URL provided above to learn more ... and I very much look forward to meeting you there!

### **2. NCSS 2012 - PRE-CONFERENCE CLINCS (Thursday, November 15, 2012)**

Did you know that the outstanding pre-conference clinics are offered as part of the NCSS annual conference? Plan to arrive in Seattle *at least* a day early to participate in these special learning opportunities. Below are two outstanding options on Thursday, November 15. Visit <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference/clinics> to see other clinics being offered and register at <http://www.socialstudies.org/conference/registration> to attend.

**A) "Window to the Circumpolar World: Global Interdependence in the Arctic" 8:30AM-12:00PM** Followed immediately by a hosted lunch. Off-Site Host: Consulate General of Canada, 1501 4th Avenue, #600, Seattle. The Arctic is receiving increased attention as a result of climate change, natural resource exploitation, and sovereignty issues. If there is a "bright side" to these issues, it is that Arctic indigenous peoples have a greater involvement and more influential voice in international affairs than ever before. Educators who attend this session will gain an understanding of global change in the Arctic, Inuit contemporary views relating to identity and interdependence, self-determination, population dynamics, language, modernization, cultural transition, social problems, and environmental matters. Nadine Fabbi, Canadian Studies Center, University of Washington, will provide an overview of the issues in the Arctic and focus on how Arctic indigenous groups are writing policy and remapping the Arctic to further their interests potentially altering how we view global relations. Amy Sotherden, Center for the Study of Canada/Institute on Québec Studies, State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, and Betsy Arntzen, Canadian-American Center, University of Maine, will draw on personal experiences with elders and community leaders to provide Inuit perspectives from the Inuit region in northern Québec – Nunavik. A brief documentary, Perspectives From the Land, will be screened to serve as a basis for discussion. Tina Storer, Center for Canadian-American Studies, Western Washington University, will also provide an overview of available resources so that teachers can apply what they've learned to classroom teaching.

This clinic is supported by the U.S. Department of Education National Resource Centers on Canada (Pacific Northwest and Northeast National Resource Centers on Canada); the Consul General of Canada, Seattle; and the Government of Québec. Fee: \$15 for NCSS members, \$25 for non-NCSS members.

**B) "Teaching Relevant Chinese Histories: Canada, the United States and Mexico" 8:30AM-4:00PM**

Off-Site Host: Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience

This clinic will address historic issues and make contemporary connections to Chinese experiences in the Americas. Speakers will provide perspectives on U.S. and diasporic histories, multicultural education, civil rights, race relations, voting rights, law, and Chinese culture.

Teaching strategies--using the Concepts of Historical Thinking--will be presented. An educational package will be provided, including classroom-ready lessons, a list of resources, and primary document. There will also be book giveaways.

John Jung will talk about Chinese in the Deep South and how they preserved traditions and customs despite their cultural isolation. Judy Lam Maxwell, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver BC, will focus on the Chinese in Canada. Rebeca Lau will discuss her book, *Mami*, her paternal Chinese grandmother's journey from southern China to her married life in Tapachula, Mexico in the early 20th-century. Bettie Luke, The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, Seattle, WA, will report on the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project organized to mark the 125th anniversary of the Chinese being driven out of Seattle. Sharyne Shiu Thornton will discuss her mother, the only Chinese American woman to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War II. Charles Wong, Dr. Sun Yat Sen Foundation of Peace & Education, Honolulu, HI, will talk about the life of his great-grandfather, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen.

A bus will bring you to The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience in Seattle's Chinatown-International District. The clinic will include presentations, discussion, lesson plans, break-out groups, a historical tour of Chinatown, a dim sum lunch, and a Chinese lion dance. Fee: \$40 for NCSS members, \$45 for non-NCSS members. See <http://chinatowngirl.ca/events-4/> to learn more!

**3. [VANCOUVER WRITERS FEST 2012 \(October 16-21 - Granville Island, Vancouver, BC\)](#)**

I hope that teachers in Washington State consider attending this fabulous regional festival that has celebrated reading and writing, books and writers for the past 25 years. It's eclectic, exciting, entertaining and thought-provoking. *Spreading the Word*, the Vancouver Writers Fest school program, offers K-12 students and teachers the rare opportunity to engage with internationally renowned writers at the Festival and in the classroom. It involves four days of events with writers for children of all ages (including *La Joie de Lire* events in French). There are 34 great events for grades K-12, in both French and English. Festival events that are geared toward student groups have a link with study guides, resources, and lesson plans. School group tickets to *Spreading the Word* school events are \$8.50 each.

***"I am writing to express my appreciation for the work of the Vancouver Writers Fest. I have worked for a few years with a dedicated group of students in a 'Writer's Workshop'. This year we were inspired by our visit to the festival where we saw John Burns and Carrie Mac. After the festival we had a chance to talk about writing with both writers, and then we invited Carrie to our school as a guest in our workshop. The festival built enthusiasm and was a catalyst for some great student writing. I very much support the work you do to encourage contact between students and real writers by having student programming integral to the Writers Festival."*** –V. Rolfe, Teacher, Windsor House School

Sign up for their teacher newsletter and view resources suitable for classroom teaching at: <http://www.writersfest.bc.ca/content/spreading-word-0>. A selection of links for and about young readers and writers can be viewed at: <http://www.writersfest.bc.ca/teachers/youth-resources>.

#### **4. BCSSTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 19, 2012**

Washington State teachers/students should also consider crossing the border to participate in the BC Social Studies Teachers Association Conference being held at Vancouver Technical School (2600 E. Broadway, Vancouver BC). You do not need to be a BCTF or PSA member to attend (however, a 1-year BCSSTA membership is included in your conference fee). Learn more about the conference at <http://bcssta.wordpress.com/10-2/> and visit <http://bit.ly/REaEKe> to register today!

*Rights and Responsibilities – Thinking and Acting Locally and Globally* is the conference theme and the three keynote speakers (see below) will impress you!

- A) **Peter Seixas** is a Professor and the Canada Research Chair for the Center for the Study of Historical Consciousness/Dept. of Curriculum Pedagogy at UBC. He has recently written a new book, *The Big Six: Historical Thinking Concepts in Your Classroom* and does work on the ethical dimension of history. He is also completing an amazing chapter tailored towards classroom teachers on *The Book of Negroes* and ethical considerations in the study of history.
- B) **Amy Burvall** is well-known for her work on the History Teachers Channel on Youtube in which music videos are created to help engage our students in learning about history. You can learn more about Amy by checking out her website at [www.amyburvall.com](http://www.amyburvall.com).
- C) **Honourable Romeo Dallaire**. Dallaire is the author of both *Shake Hands with the Devil* and *They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children*. He formerly served as Force Commander of UNAMIR, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda and was an eyewitness to the genocide that occurred there in 1994. Dallaire's keynote presentation will be followed by a question and answer session, in addition to a book signing.

#### **5. NFB DOCUMENTARY: LOYALTIES – A TRIP DOWN SLAVERY LANE: FROM NOVA SCOTIA TO SOUTH CAROLINA**

Like me, you can subscribe to the National Film Board of Canada's newsletter and learn about the many wonderful films and film-makers they support (and often make available for free online!) Visit <http://www.nfb.ca> to sign up.

Although a \$4.95 fee is charged to download the documentary, *Loyalties*, it is well worth the small cost. For those teaching in the South or looking to connect the present with the past regarding the topic of slavery, this film uncovers some fascinating and uncomfortable truths.

*"This documentary follows 2 women whose meeting pieces together both halves of a story: that of slave and slave owner. When Dr. Ruth Whitehead meets graduate student Carmelita Robertson, who had come to do research at the Museum of Natural History in Halifax, the women realize both their ancestors come from South Carolina, and that their names sound shudderingly familiar. Embarking on a journey to Charleston in search of their connection, Ruth and Carmelita encounter a modern South where the Klan is on trial for burning black churches and where they must come to terms with the thunderous cruelty of the past."* --

[http://www.nfb.ca/film/loyalties/?ec=en20120906&utm\\_campaign=112787 NFB Films 2012-09-06&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=NFB-All Recipients](http://www.nfb.ca/film/loyalties/?ec=en20120906&utm_campaign=112787_NFB_Films_2012-09-06&utm_medium=email&utm_source=NFB-All_Recipients)

#### **6. THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AND THE WAR OF 1812**

The War of 1812, most well-known as the war which produced "The Star-Spangled Banner," is sometimes neglected in elementary and middle-school textbooks. The National History Education Clearinghouse recognizes this gap and has provided teachers with resources to include this important and unique aspect of Canadian-American history into curricula across the nation. Among these resources are links to:

- The U.S. Navy's bicentennial commemoration at [www.ourflagwasstillthere.org](http://www.ourflagwasstillthere.org),
- History.com's eight video clips of "The War of 1812" at [www.history.com/topics/war-of-1812](http://www.history.com/topics/war-of-1812), and

- “A History of the War of 1812 and The Star-Spangled Banner” lesson plan for grades 3-8 at [www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/pdf/SSB\\_History\\_Overview.pdf](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/pdf/SSB_History_Overview.pdf).

For more learning and teaching resources from the National History Education Clearinghouse, visit <http://teachinghistory.org/spotlight/war-of-1812>.

## **7. TRAVEL TO CANADA NOW WITH 360**

If you're thinking of joining the millions of Americans who visit Canada each year, take a quick and easy preview of your destination by viewing the panoramic photographs of Canadian destinations on the 360 Cities website, [www.360cities.net/area/canada](http://www.360cities.net/area/canada). Take your pick from locations all over Canada, from coast to coast. The high quality pictures beckon the viewer to visit in person. This is a great way to illustrate the physical characteristics of Canada for geography lessons and to students unable to travel there in person.

## **8. OPEN CANADA'S RICH MUSIC BOX**

When most people think about Canadian music, artists such as Justin Bieber, Avril Lavigne, k.d. lang, and Celine Dion come to mind. But what about musicians such as Tanya Tagaq (an innovative Northern performer), La Bottine Souriante (an inventive Québécois group), and Corneille (a Rwandan artist living in Montréal) who call Canada home but haven't crossed over into the U.S.? Canada's musical profile is much larger than many of us realize. From the fiddle music of the East to the folk music across the country, the rich multicultural populations of Canada produce music with an international flare. The National Geographic website [http://worldmusic.nationalgeographic.com/view/page.basic/country/content.country/canada\\_24](http://worldmusic.nationalgeographic.com/view/page.basic/country/content.country/canada_24) offers an overview of the wide variety of music that Canada boasts and highlights several of her musicians. Recognizing Canada as a whole and separate nation rather than as an extension of the U.S. helps students to develop an appreciation for other cultures.

## **9. A TASTE OF HISTORY: FRIED MUSKRAT**

Okay, okay. I know this recipe will not be attempted by many of us (not me, anyway) but I nonetheless thought you might find it an interesting one to read about for its historical value. It was popular even on the West Coast among the fur traders. Although they usually ate a diet that consisted mainly of salmon and fish, once that grew tiresome, they trapped small game such as muskrat and beaver. This recipe for fried muskrat, found at [www.pc.gc.ca/media/gourmand-gourmet/recettes-recipes/sec\\_04/recette-recipe35.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/media/gourmand-gourmet/recettes-recipes/sec_04/recette-recipe35.aspx), comes from Fort St. James, also known as the “Siberia of the Fur Trade” because of its cold and isolation. If interested in trying it out, please note that rabbit may be substituted for muskrat, making this recipe suitable to spice up the modern diet just as it did for the early fur traders!

### **Ingredients:**

- 1 muskrat or rabbit
- 2 tsp. (10 ml) salt
- 3 cups (750 ml) water
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 cup (250 ml) milk
- 1 tsp. (5 ml) salt
- 2 cups (250 g) flour
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooking fat for shallow frying

### **Method:**

- For muskrat only: Remove the fat, scent glands and white tissue inside each let. Soak the muskrat overnight in 1 tablespoon of salt to 1 quart water.
- Cut the muskrat or rabbit into desired pieces. Simmer the meat for 60 minutes in water or stock with a mirepoix [?]. The water should be 1-2" above the meat. Drain, cool and dry the meat with a clean cloth.
- Make a smooth batter by beating the egg yolks with the milk. Then add the salt and flour. Chef's note: a tempura batter would also work for a lighter batter.

- Heat the fat in a heavy frying pan (fat should be ½" deep). Dip the meat in the batter, then fry in the hot fat until brown and crispy. When brown, reduce the heat, cover and cook slowly until thermometer inserted in thickest part of muskrat or rabbit reads 160°F (70°C). You could also remove the browned rabbit from the pan, drain and finish in the oven at 375°F (190°C).

#### 10. **RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE:**

***The Captain and the Girl* by Earl Pilgrim. (St. John's, NL: Flanker Press, 2001.) ISBN—9781894463188**

In the summer of 2011, I enjoyed a two week visit to Newfoundland. While on the island I notice many books by Newfoundland author, Earl Pilgrim. At one B & B, I started reading *The Captain and the Girl* and discovered an amazing story. It proved to be a novel I could not put down until I had read the final page—well after midnight.

*The Captain and the Girl* not only recounted the life of fishing crews on the shores of Labrador more than a century ago, it detailed the story of the first doctor for Newfoundland's many outports, Sir Wilfred Grenfell. He journeyed to Newfoundland and Labrador in 1892 and found this special area of North America not only remote but also repressed with appalling medical, social, emotional and psychological conditions. Dr. Grenfell, considered a great medical missionary, returned to the area the next year with a small medical team. "In recognition of his medical, educational and social work on the Labrador coast and the northern tip of Newfoundland", he was honored with a knighthood July 25, 1927.

According to <http://www.christianbeliefs.org/biographies/grenfell.html>, "the honors he received for his social service were certainly deserved. Dr. Grenfell made very great contributions in the areas of medicine, education and labor-management relations. The Cooperatives, for which he was largely responsible, aided in breaking the traders monopolies which were often greedy, ruthless and merciless. The people of northern Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador owe him a great debt of gratitude."

The Grenfell Historic Properties in St. Anthony [<http://www.grenfell-properties.com>] demonstrate the work of this doctor. I visited the site on my trip after having read the novel and met a retired man who was born in St. Anthony to a nurse for the cooperatives. Named after the good doctor, this man became a Newfoundland doctor himself yet never had returned to his birthplace. That alone indicates just how remote St. Anthony and other outports in Newfoundland are.

When Grenfell first went to the easternmost area of Canada, many young women from isolated outports journeyed along with seasonal fishing crews to the shores of Labrador for the summer months. *The Captain and the Girl* tells the true story of one such teenage woman. As the only female on the trip, that year, the uneducated and socially unaware girl was victimized by two of the men on the ship. The ensuing pregnancy was kept secret with tragic results. The captain attempted to assist the distressed and bedridden woman after a miscarriage but was truly ill-equipped to understand the real dilemma.

Dr. Grenfell discovered the tragic situation while making routine calls. What he found became anything but routine and resulted in a tragedy that impacted the rest of his long career. Using century-old medical records and details left by Grenfell, Pilgrim uses starkly graphic descriptions that are not easily forgotten.

As I discovered during my visit, many of these isolated outports along the coast were not even connected by highways or roads to the rest of the island until the mid-1960s. In fact, the government relocated entire outport villages as recently as the late twentieth century because conditions there were so disconcerting. Although some of you may never have the good fortune to visit Newfoundland, I think you'll find that Earl Pilgrim's novel will transport you there. It's a literal journey that I highly recommend.