

MARCH-APRIL 2013 E-RESOURCE NEWS

Greetings! Spring is around the corner and that means now is the time to explore professional development opportunities for the summer. Although *STUDY CANADA* has been postponed until next year, mark your calendars now for June 26-July 1, 2014 when we will spend 3 nights in Ottawa and 2 nights in Montreal using the educational lens: *A Capital View of Canada – Nations within a Nation*. This June, instead, I am organizing two special professional development workshops:

1. The first is a 2-1/2 day invitation-only workshop being held in Denver, CO called ***Archives on the Arctic: Connecting to Global Issues with Primary Sources***. Our NRC was recently awarded grant support from the Library of Congress' Teaching with Primary Sources Program - Western Regional Center to invite twenty social studies and science educators with an outstanding record of regional outreach to participate (with the majority of costs, including travel, covered by the grant). The NRC will provide attendees with core knowledge for teaching about cultural and environmental challenges faced today in the circumpolar north and instruction by TPS Program staff will introduce participants to Library of Congress and World Digital Library archival material as well as best-practice methods of instruction that focus on historical inquiry.
2. The second is a 1-day workshop being held at North Seattle Community College called ***From Coal Trains to Classrooms: Cross-Border Trade, Energy and Environmental Issues in the PNW***. The 6-clock hour workshop is open to anyone able to attend. The focus will be regional cross-border issues and participation will help both educators and their students make sense of headline-making news. Note: If you teach CWP in WA and are interested in facilitating the workshop, please contact me soon. See Item #1 below for additional details.

On perhaps a more entertaining note—and for those, like me, who watch the Oscars annually—I have some trivia to share (though the awards, of course, are not trivial). There were indeed some Canadians among the winners: Guillaume Rocheron took home an Oscar for Best Visual Effects (*Life of Pi*), Mychael Danna took home an Oscar for Best Original Score (*Life of Pi*), and set decorator Jim Erickson won an Oscar for Best Production Design (*Lincoln*).

Finally, because March is Women's History Month and April celebrates fools, I have integrated some resources relating to both among the ten items below. I hope you find several of the news items suitable for use in your classroom as you enter this busiest season of the year! Best wishes teaching Canada.

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

1. NEW 1-DAY WORKSHOP FOR WASHINGTON STATE TEACHERS

From Coal Trains to Classrooms: Cross-Border Trade, Energy and Environmental Issues in the PNW

What are the real-world implications of shipping coal through ports in Washington? How will re-negotiation of the Columbia River Treaty affect salmon, flood control, and electricity supplies in Cascadia? Why are Alberta oil sands and expanded Northwest pipelines important issues for Washington State? This 1-day workshop offers Current World Problems (CWP), Geography, AP and regular U.S. and World History teachers the opportunity to learn about vital regional concerns that make headlines in our state. These are the issues that today's students and tomorrow's decision-makers need to understand.

WWU faculty will reveal how integrally "connected" energy resources and energy products are on both sides of the border. Specific issues such as coal ports, pipeline politics, and hydro-development will be explored. Rationales and opposing viewpoints will be reviewed with particular attention paid to Aboriginal voices that are helping shape

debates and possible outcomes. Speakers include Paul Storer (Chair and Professor at WWU's Department of Economics), and David Rossiter (Associate Professor at WWU's Huxley College of the Environment). Tina Storer (Ed. and Curriculum Specialist at WWU's Center for Canadian-American Studies) and a classroom teacher (TBA) will guide classroom applications of content to align with state EALRs, CBAs and Common Core literacy standards. Registration is now open. Lunch and 6 clock hours included.

Date: Thursday 27 June 2013 (9am-3:30 pm)

Location: North Seattle Community College - map/directions: <https://northseattle.edu/locator>

Registration: Details/downloadable mail-in form: www.k12studycanada.org/workshops.html#RegionalWorkshops

Online registration: <https://west.wvu.edu/eesp/35/ConferenceServices/Registration.aspx?e=2589&z=d0s0>

Registration Fee: \$50 (instruction, lunch and 6 clock hours certificate). Free parking at NSCC.

Teacher Awards: \$50 awards to all who submit a lesson plan based on the workshop (due 9/1/13).

2. CANADA IN PICTURES

Steve Benjamins, the founder of "Canada in Pictures" -- <http://www.canadainpictures.com> – is a world traveler and has always appreciated "curated photo tours" before setting out to discover new destinations. Fortunately for all of us, he has created one for Canada. It is a great armchair travel tool and I recommend sharing the outstanding high-definition photos with students in your classroom when teaching about Canada. All photos are appropriately attributed and there are no advertisements. I respect the rules of usage made clear on the website and echo Benjamins' reasoning for development of the site: "I'm (a proud) Canadian. I love Canada. You could spend your entire life travelling Canada and it would sustain your curiosity. From Iqaluit to Toronto to Victoria to Newfoundland-- Canada is vast, varied and full of surprises."

3. TOP 20 CANADIAN WOMEN OF 2012

Many Canadian women made newspaper headlines across the nation and around the world in 2012. For example, Ontarian Annaleise Carr became the youngest person to swim across Lake Ontario at just 14 years of age. Pauline Marois was sworn in as Quebec's first female Premier. At the 2012 London Olympic Games, the Canadian women's soccer team won the bronze medal. Check out www.heroines.ca/news/latest.html to see other strong, clever, and determined women who stood out in 2012. This website is a wonderful resource to bookmark for its information on women in Canadian history.

4. CANADA AT WAR - THE MEMORY PROJECT

Since the beginning of the last century, Canada has been a vital military ally of the United States. What better way to include Canada's role when studying global wars than to listen to the first-hand accounts of Canadian war veterans in your classroom? Capture students' interest and imagination with the help of *The Memory Project* which, to honor their service, has documented and archived as many Canadian veterans' stories as possible.

Visit www.thememoryproject.com to hear hundreds of audio clips of Canadian veterans involved in WWII and the Korean War. You can search by subject (combat, camaraderie, home front, etc.) or check out the featured 'story of the week'. The site is frequently updated with new photos and primary source artifacts that can be incorporated with the audio for historical inquiry. Of special interest will be the lesson plans available for use and the ability to order *The Memory Project* DVD.

5. ON THIS DAY...

Did you know that on March 18, 1998 a northern Minnesota town discussed seceding from the U.S. and becoming a part of Canada? Did you know that on April 20, 1989, the last \$1 bill was printed on paper in Canada, forcing Canadians to use dollar coins instead?

These examples show how fun it can be to motivate study of Canada by making daily connections...and the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC) has made it easy for us to do! CBC's interactive calendar at www.cbc.ca/archives/onthisday/january.html boasts an impressive list of little known Canadian facts—from pop culture, to politics, to economics and more—so that there's something of interest for each day of the year. The site includes summaries of what happened “on this day,” along with more in-depth information (as well as video or audio clips) taken from archived CBC News reports. While some may not be a vital historical event, there are certainly many interesting, entertaining, and important connections that, at the very least, give students a snapshot of history and, at best, enhance lesson plans, lead to classroom discussions, and motivate further study of Canada.

6. APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Let's be honest. This day can strike fear in teachers' hearts if not approached with humor. Countries and classrooms all across the world celebrate April Fools' Day, each in their own way. A French tradition, for example, is to secretly tape paper fish onto one another's backs while, in Portugal, it is common to throw flour at your friends. In Scotland, the pranks may extend for two days! In Canada, as in the United States, the pranks are more individual. What is typical about Canadian humor is that it is very tongue-in-cheek so I was impressed to learn about a prank played on the entire country last year by one of its national airlines, WestJet. They advertised new “child-free” cabins for customers' comfort and enjoyment and the clever ad was a hit in Canada. I bet WestJet scored well with ticket sales just for showing a good sense of humor. Canadians love that. Check it out online to get a taste!

http://todaytravel.today.com/_news/2012/04/02/10983621-child-free-flying-canadian-airline-pulls-an-april-fools-prank?lite

7. NO MORE PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS IN CANADA!

Yes, it's true! Canada will soon be penniless. On February 4, 2012, the Royal Canadian Mint rolled the last pennies to be made off its presses. Canada's Economic Plan of 2012 determined that making the nickel Canada's smallest coin would save money for taxpayers. Canadians will save more than \$11 million dollars a year as a result. Would the U.S. consider such a change, too? According to the U.S. Mint, it costs us 2.41 cents to make each penny. Could we accept such news as easily and adjust to the change? We did not readily accept \$1 and \$2 coins while Canadians are quite fond of their “loonies” and “two-nies”. These are interesting topics to discuss with students, *eh?*

Teachers can also use the penny's exit as a way of entering into the world of Canadian currency. Visit www.mint.ca/store/template/default/pennyinfo.html#.URAs0_lkRrs to learn more about what will happen as the penny exits circulation and what that means for businesses and customers. It also has an “infographic” visual history of the penny, dating back to 1797. The site also has a lot of information about how Canadian currency has changed over time, videos on the process of making the coins, and even the story of a record breaking 10 kilogram gold coin! If you would like more resources for teaching on Canadian currency, the Currency Museum at the Bank of Canada (Canada's central bank) offers pamphlets and classroom teaching kits that exploring Canada's banknotes. Visit www.bankofcanada.ca/banknotes/materials-download-order/schools.

8. WAR OF 1812 DOCUMENTARY: A DESERT BETWEEN US & THEM

Last year dozens of new resources for teachers appeared focusing on the War of 1812 in North America. After all, 2012 did mark the bicentennial of the war's start. Now, as we celebrate 201 years of peace between the US and Canada, a new resource has been announced. *A Desert Between Us and Them* is a historical documentary about the War of 1812 through the lens of Southwestern Ontario. Created by the Ontario Visual Heritage Project, this 3-part series focuses on American raids of the rural Upper Canadian peninsula. The project is well underway and you can watch the trailer here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOq48y-Y8CY&feature=player_embedded. It should be finished this year and I will provide an update when it has been completed.

9. **CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH - RHUBARB CRUMBLE**

http://newfoundland.ws/Newfoundland_Recipes_Cookbook.asp?Recipe_ID=Rhubarb_Crumble

As the dreary winter months give way to springtime sun, celebrate with this tart and popular dessert. Although berries still need a few more months to reach their seasonal prime, gorgeous red stalks of rhubarb are ripe in the spring. When served warm and partnered with some vanilla ice cream, these tasty tarts are pretty hard to beat...and they are quick and easy to make!

Ingredients:

- ½ Cup melted butter
- ½ Cup flour
- 1 ½ Cups rolled oats
- 1 ½ Tbsp flour
- 2/3 Cup brown sugar
- 3 Cups raw rhubarb
- ½ Cup sugar

Method:

- Combine melted butter, rolled oats, first amount of flour and brown sugar. Firmly press 3/4 of mixture into a 9 inch pie plate. Cover with rhubarb.
- Combine sugar and second amount of flour. Sprinkle over rhubarb. Cover with remaining crumb mixture. Bake at 350 ° for 30 - 40 minutes and serve warm.

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

Maria Chapdelaine by Louis Hémon. (New York: Dodo Press, 2005.) ISBN 978-1406500172

Originally published in 1921, Louis Hémon's novel of rural Quebec is a Canadian classic and should be read by anyone interested in Canadian history. For decades, *Maria Chapdelaine* was required school reading in schools across Canada, and especially Quebec, since it so eloquently depicts the spirit of French Canada as well as its rural and Roman Catholic roots. It is sometimes compared to such iconic American novels as Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, which is required reading in many U.S. classrooms, as well as popular novels like Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate* and Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. I would also add to this list the classic works of Laura Ingalls Wilder and Ole Rolvaag.

Maria Chapdelaine relates the story of a young French-Canadian woman living in a newly cleared wilderness in the Lac St. Jean region of Quebec. In so doing, the novel recounts the typical daily routines of so many rural Quebecers during the early twentieth century. For the "Quebecois", in the early 1900s, life revolved around faith, family and farm. Marie's father and mother worked hard to create a home for their children while also dealing with difficulties posed by Quebec's landscape and climate.

Hémon vividly describes seasonal activities and, in particular, shows how winters can seem insurmountable at times. Since some of the activities may not be familiar to urban readers of the twenty-first century, it might prove to be a bit confusing; yet, Hémon's translated work provides a fascinating view of life in rural communities regardless of the region or era so any confusion is worth it.

At its heart, the novel is a love story and, as Maria approaches adulthood, she faces a dilemma about which suitor shall win her hand in marriage. As a strong woman from a strong family during formidable times, she has turned the heads of many men. Three men are interested in winning her hand in marriage: Francois Paradis [Frankie Paradise], a James Dean-type fur trapper who visits only sporadically; Eutrope Gagnon, a regional farmer like her father; and Lorenzo Suprenant, who returns from the seductive urban United States to the Lac St. Jean region to sell his family farm. Who will Maria marry? Will she uphold the traditional values of rural French Canada or be tempted by the American dream?

I read this novel at the same time I read some of my own family journals from the early 1900s. These journals recount a land first cultivated in Michigan fifty years earlier than that of Maria's family. Thus the hardships

described were distant memories for the farm wife, my great-great aunt, when writing about her daily thoughts and activities. Yet, many of the routines and hardships proved to be hauntingly similar.

It is worth noting that the novel has inspired not one but *three* film versions (1934, 1950 and 1983), the latter being an acclaimed mini-series that was aired on Canadian television. Tina Storer, I know, fell in love with the story herself through the hugely popular TV version....Given the fact that ***Maria Chapdelaine*** is not only still in publication but also available online for free in both English and the original French, there is every reason to read it. Be sure to visit: http://books.google.ca/books?id=9WHE-xYdQsAC&source=gbs_navlinks_s.

Happy reading!