

## **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2013 E-RESOURCE NEWS**

**Greetings** - I am sure many of you are already looking ahead to the holiday season but I hope you will also consider resources I discovered in October which was *Women's History Month* in Canada. Two of the ten items below offer some excellent resources focused on Canadian women... including one specifically for French language teachers. Of course, there are several other resources that will intrigue and interest everyone. Forgive me for also jumping ahead to the future by mentioning the *2014 STUDY CANADA Summer Institute* in Ottawa and Montreal next June but I wanted to remind all that registration for the program is now open. Please visit [www.k12studycanada.html](http://www.k12studycanada.html) to get all the details. My hope is that the remainder of 2013 is truly a wonderful experience in your classrooms. Tina Storer

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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.**

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### **1. CANADIAN ATLAS ONLINE LEARNING CENTER**

You can make geography and history come alive in your classroom like never before with the Canadian Atlas Online (CAOL) Learning Centre. It offers terrific resources for classrooms. I was delighted to see that teacher-members of the Canadian Council for Geographic Education (CCGE) prepared the free resources that are posted there. Many lessons cross over from geography into other aspects of the social studies so they are suitable to a wide variety of classrooms. In fact, you can select the resources by province, grade level, and topic. All curricula meets Canadian curriculum learning objectives and I am confident they meet U.S. state and national standards (as well as the new C3 frameworks). The lesson plans and classroom activities are available to download in several formats to help both teachers and students engage more fully with this site's content. Please see for yourself at: <http://www.magazine.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/learningtools.aspx?lang=En>.

### **2. CANADA'S ALICE MUNRO WINS NOBEL LITERATURE PRIZE**

*Adapted from an AP article by Karl Ritter and Malin Rising and AP National Writer Hillel Italie in New York.*

Short story master Alice Munro, who captured everyday lives and epiphanies in rural Canada with elegant and precise prose in her short stories won the Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday, October 9. Munro is the first Canadian writer and 13th woman in the 112-year history of the Nobel Prize to receive the prestigious \$1.2 million award since Saul Bellow, who left for the U.S. as a boy, won in 1976.

Seen as a contemporary Chekhov for her warmth, insight and compassion, she delves into a wide range of lives and personalities without passing judgment on her characters, often girls and women. Her stories are acclaimed for their unique and piercing insight into the ordinary personal dramas in the towns and farming communities of her home region of southwestern Ontario.

Unusually for Nobel winners, Munro's work consists almost entirely of short stories. "Lives of Girls and Women" is her only novel, and even that is often described as a collection of linked stories.

In announcing the Nobel Prize, the Swedish Academy called her a "master of the contemporary short story" whose work is characterized by "clarity and psychological realism." The academy's permanent secretary, Peter Englund... said "She has taken an art form, the short story, which has tended to come a little bit in the shadow behind the novel, and she has cultivated it almost to perfection," Englund said. "If you read Alice Munro sooner or later you will stand face to face with yourself and you will go from that meeting a different person."

Some have called her "the greatest author in North America and, yes, I tend to agree with that," said the academy's Englund. "We're not saying just that she can say a lot in just 20 pages — more than an average novel writer can — but also that she can cover ground. She can have a single short story that covers decades and it works."

### **3. VANCOUVER ART GALLERY**

If you're looking for resources when talking about art in Canada, the Vancouver Art Gallery is a great place to start. There are many resources concerning Canadian artists, different forms and techniques of art, and themes throughout different periods of time. Although created to be paired with different exhibits at the Vancouver Art Gallery, many would work just fine without the field trip. If you do have an opportunity to take your class to the Gallery, they offer both guided and self-guided tours with information to go along with the exhibits. Take a look at the lesson plans, exhibits, and tours they offer at: [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events\\_and\\_programs/school\\_education.html#study](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events_and_programs/school_education.html#study).

#### **4. INCLUDING HERSTORY (AND CANADA) IN HISTORY CLASSROOMS**

The article below was originally published in NCHE's January 2011 issue of *History Matters!*

*I am not a historian. I'm a teacher helping other teachers learn about our northern neighbor on behalf of the Center for Canadian-American Studies at Western Washington University—a National Resource Center on Canada in the U.S. (in partnership with the University of Washington's Canadian Studies Center). When invited by NCHE executive director, Peter Seibert, to regularly contribute to this newsletter, I was both elated and, admittedly, a little intimidated. After all, at the Idaho Council for History Education conference last October, I witnessed a breadth of knowledge and deep interest in historical thought that was impressive. I wondered how I could possibly inaugurate a column that drew similar interest. Then I listened to Carol Berkin discuss her latest publication, *Civil War Wives: The Lives and Time of Angelina Grimke Weld, Varina Howell Davis, and Julia Dent Grant (2009)*, and she unwittingly provided the perfect segue....*

[NB: To read the article in its entirety and learn about resources for teaching about women and Canada, visit: [www.k12studycanada.org/files/lesson\\_plans/NCHE/2011\\_Jan-Including\\_Herstory\\_and\\_Canada\\_in\\_History.pdf](http://www.k12studycanada.org/files/lesson_plans/NCHE/2011_Jan-Including_Herstory_and_Canada_in_History.pdf). To view other articles that have appeared in Tina's "Connecting History Classrooms to Canada" column, see: [www.k12studycanada.org/resources\\_teaching\\_modules.html](http://www.k12studycanada.org/resources_teaching_modules.html).]

#### **5. FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES: MOIS DE L'HISTOIRE DES FEMMES**

*En 1992, le gouvernement du Canada a désigné le mois d'octobre "Mois de l'histoire des femmes au Canada" (<http://swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/index-fra.html>), afin de célébrer l'apport des femmes d'hier et d'aujourd'hui au Canada.*

*Cette année, le mois a pour thème "Les pionnières canadiennes : toujours en tête du changement". Tout au long du mois d'octobre, le gouvernement du Canada soulignera la participation et le leadership des femmes dans différents domaines, dont les suivants: science et technologie, génie et métiers spécialisés, affaires et entrepreneuriat, ressources naturelles ainsi que médecine et recherche médicale.*

#### **6. THE ULTIMATE CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY QUIZ**

Team Canada recently placed second at the 2013 National Geography World Championship held in St. Petersburg, Russia. Beating India in a heart-stopping tie breaker, these young teens brought home a silver medal. Put your students (or your own) geographic knowledge to the test with "The Ultimate Canadian Geography Quiz!" Produced by *Canadian Geography*, this 50-question multiple-category quiz tests you on everything from recognizing lakes to cultural knowledge at: [www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/oct13/ultimate\\_quiz/ultimate1.asp](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/oct13/ultimate_quiz/ultimate1.asp).

#### **7. EXPLORING CANADA THROUGH A LENS**

Experiencing Canada's wilderness is important for tourism in Canada. Places that are off the beaten path—like Cochrane, Ontario or Churchill, Manitoba—are growing more and more popular. Photography tours, in particular, are taking off so that tours can learn how to take phenomenal pictures while being surrounded by the impressive landscapes of Canada. Get inspired by reading one photographer's experiences on Lake Superior and seeing photos at: [http://travelclub.canadiangeographic.ca/blogs/feature\\_articles/archive/2013/08/19/superior-views.aspx](http://travelclub.canadiangeographic.ca/blogs/feature_articles/archive/2013/08/19/superior-views.aspx).

#### **8. COMPARING THANKSGIVINGS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES**

Let me first say that there's a lot to be grateful for this Thanksgiving for everyone in both countries: fun with friends and family, enjoying turkey dinner and its leftovers as well as a long weekend away from work and worry (I hope). Thanksgiving is a special holiday celebrated in both countries and the four points of comparison below come from an article at: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/13143/4-big-differences-between-canadian-and-american-thanksgiving>.

1. Despite frequent citations of the first Thanksgiving occurring in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1621, Thanksgiving was actually celebrated first in Canada 43 years earlier when English explorer Sir Martin Frobisher and his crew first began a North American tradition of thanks in Newfoundland in 1578. [*This is news to me, too!*]
2. Canada still celebrates it first. Since 1957, Canadian Thanksgiving—which is simply called Thanksgiving there as it is here—has occurred on the second Monday of October. It wasn't always that way though. Years after the first celebration, the holiday occurred sporadically to coincide with larger events, differing by region. It was no big deal if these events didn't even occur in autumn. In 1816, the end of the war between Great Britain and France inspired Thanksgiving in both Lower and Upper Canada in May and June, respectively. Back in the U.S., President Lincoln first declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, and was given the power to choose the date of the holiday each year, but the last Thursday of November became the standard. Because many businesses in the U.S. worried that most Americans wouldn't spend money Christmas shopping during the Great Depression, President Roosevelt moved the holiday one week earlier than usual (to the fourth Thursday of November) and ruffled many American feathers. By 1941, Congress officially declared that date to remain as Thanksgiving each year.
3. Holiday, Legislate! Thanksgiving is a statutory holiday in most of Canada but it is legislated provincially, not federally. In New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Labrador and Newfoundland, Thanksgiving is "optional". Most Canadians still get the day off but others get paid overtime for working. Thanksgiving is a federal holiday in the U.S., so most Americans get a day off to stuff themselves—and then a long weekend to reheat leftovers. Folks who work that day in either country deserve a warm and hearty thank you!
4. There hasn't really been a Black Friday tradition in the Great White North. Historically, Canada's biggest shopping day of the year is Boxing Day, the day after Christmas, but its prices are not as significantly "slashed" as in the US. Some Canadian retailers recently jumped on the "BF" bandwagon to keep border town residents from traveling to the US for holiday shopping. Hands down, there is no comparison according to this transplanted Canadian. The day after Thanksgiving, and the much less ominous-sounding Cyber Monday that follows, are some of the biggest shopping days of the year. The prices--and crowds--can be crazy!

## **9. CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH: ACADIAN SHEPHERD'S PIE**

This month's recipe comes from Jennifer Ogle's compilation of recipes called *The Canadian Cookbook*. Each recipe is perfect for inclusion here since all offer short explanations about how they relate to Canada or Canadian culture.

Although Shepherd's Pie is more commonly associated with the U.K., it is also a popular dinner dish for those whose ancestors hailed from Acadia, established in 1605 as a colony of New France (in what is now eastern Québec, the Maritime provinces, and Maine). In 1710, Acadians were exiled from the region so many people with Acadian roots now live in more southerly parts of the U.S., and particularly Louisiana (think "Cajun"). No matter your roots, this Shepard's Pie would be delicious on a chilly November evening. Serves 6.

### **Ingredients:**

2 medium yellow onions, minced	½ Cup (125 ml) rich beef stock
½ Cup (125 ml) unsalted butter, plus 3 Tbsp more	2 Cups (500 ml) creamed corn
1 ½ lbs (750 g) ground beef	2 eggs, separated
1 Tbsp (15 ml) Worcestershire sauce	½ Cup (125 ml) heavy cream (32%)
1 Cup (250 ml) diced red bell pepper	6 large potatoes, boiled and mashed
1 Tbsp (15 ml) minced garlic	

### **Procedures:**

- Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C).
- In a pan on stove, sauté onions in 3 Tbsp butter until golden. Add beef and brown well.
- Add Worcestershire sauce, bell pepper, garlic and stock, stirring to combine. Remove from heat.
- Butter a 9 X 11 inch (23 X 28 cm) casserole dish and spread beef in it. Top with creamed corn.
- Stir ½ cup butter, egg yolks and cream into mashed potatoes.
- Whip egg whites to soft peak and fold into potato mixture. Spread potato mixture over creamed corn layer and dot with butter.
- Bake for 25 to 30 minutes to heat through. Then broil until potatoes brown, 2 to 3 minutes.

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

***Gold Diggers: Striking it Rich in the Klondike*** by Charlotte Gray (Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., 2010)

The Klondike, the Yukon, Dawson—all of these names evoke the long-ago gold rush that made men rich amid the hardships of the North. The Klondike Gold Rush began with an initial strike in 1896 and, only three years later, it was over. By 1899, the great city of Dawson, in Canada's Yukon Territory, became a ghost town with only a handful of people with a lot of stories to be told left behind.

Charlotte Gray's ***Gold Diggers*** was named the best book of the year by ***The Globe and Mail*** when it was first published. Gray seems to have become the new Pierre Berton as Canada's most notable historian with biographies she has written on great Canadians such as Alexander Graham Bell, Nellie McClung, E. Pauline Johnson, sisters Susanna Moodie and Catherine Parr Trail, plus Isabel Mackenzie King, mother of Prime Minister King. With ***Gold Diggers***, Gray's focus expands to include numerous personalities who loomed large during the Klondike Gold Rush rather than focusing on a single individual (or only on a Canadian for that matter).

In 2008, the same year Gray visited the region for three months to research her book, I spent several days in the Yukon Territory and Dawson in particular. What an amazing slice of history and the gold rush era! The town has changed very little in a century. It still has a rustic feel and now cashes-in on tourism focused on revival of the historical period. Gray captures well the rise and fall of this wild community in her book. As she points out, "In the 1890s, gold was as important as oil is today: it made the world turn."

Gray describes how two of the first whites to explore the region were Bill Haskell and his friend Joe Meeker, both familiar with earlier gold rushes in the West. They discovered how to mine when creeks and rivers were solid ice for at least six months. What began as "a collection of fifty dirty white tents" quickly became a crude town with streets, saloons, and quickly-built log buildings. The town teemed with bartenders, shopkeepers, gamblers and prostitutes. All non-miners got wealthy by fleecing the miners. Bill and Joe arrived early and became rich, taking in about \$50,000 [\$2 million by today's standards] in a short time. Most left Dawson empty-handed as a result and left to try their luck afterwards in Nome, Alaska.

Gray's section on "mining the miners" piqued my interest more than the sections describing the actual mining. Descriptions of the daily life and the difficult routine portrayed an existence far more problematic than my own stay in a motor home. Gray focuses on Haskell, Father William Judge, Belinda Mulroney, who ditched the more feminine clothing and donned more practical clothes for mining in the permafrost, legendary Mountie Sam Steele, the face of the law, and the well-known writer from Jack London.

Within that three-year span, tens of thousands flocked to and then left the Klondike. The routes to the Arctic gold fields were perilous especially over Alaska's Chilkoot Pass to the Yukon and then back down the raging Yukon River racing to the Pacific far to the north and west. Gray describes the journey with vivid detail based on

extensive research. One quickly appreciates how the modern day trip to the store for groceries pales in comparison to the trek over the two dozen steep, rocky, ice-covered miles which climbed vertically upwards.

Both the people and the journey were rough and wild and fascinating. Gray captures all of the glory and the greed and the hardscrabble existence of those who trekked north in the hope of striking it rich.

According to Gray's website, "*Scott Free Productions began shooting in Alberta a six hour television mini-series for the Discovery Channel. Klondike, based on Charlotte's best-seller **Gold Diggers** about the 1896-1899 Klondike Gold Rush, is a \$25 million production and stars Sam Shepard, Abbie Cornish, Tim Roth and Richard Madden. Klondike will be broadcast in early 2014.*" If the mini-series adheres to the outline set forth by Gray, it will be on my must-watch list.

**Side note from Tina:** Participants of the 2011 STUDY CANADA Summer Institute had the good fortune to meet Ms. Gray who participated in our program that year. Her publisher generously shared copies of **Gold Diggers: Striking it Rich in the Klondike** with everyone. It was a very special occasion and we appreciated the author's humor as she regaled us with stories from her book and described Dawson, for example, as a place that drew women-seeking-men because the odds were good...though the goods were odd! I am sure that every one of us agrees with Ruth's review and looks forward to seeing the movie when it is released. That's exciting news.