

## JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014 E-RESOURCE NEWS

### Greetings and Happy New Year!

It bodes well that 2014 offers many exciting learning opportunities for students and teachers alike. I hope the resources and workshops mentioned below inspire and encourage all to improve knowledge about Canada and explore new aspects history shared with our northern neighbor. The 2014 Winter Olympic Games, Black History Month, and an NEH Summer Institute on Acadia are some highlights included below. Although not mentioned separately, registration is still ongoing for the 2014 STUDY CANADA Summer Institute (June 26-July 1, 2014 in Ottawa and Montreal), too. Please contact me directly to indicate interest and get my personal response to questions. Details and documents are available at <http://www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.html>. Best wishes for healthy and happy classrooms this winter! Tina Storer

**Please notify me if you receive duplicate notices or wish to be removed from the Listserv.**

**The information is also posted online at: [http://www.k12studycanada.org/news\\_resource\\_notices.html](http://www.k12studycanada.org/news_resource_notices.html).**

**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 BLACK HISTORY VIRTUAL MUSEUM**

Celebrate Black History Month in February using the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/black/index.asp>. The site offers unique and interesting opportunities to learn about key historic events in Black Canadian history as well as about prominent Black Canadians. This virtual museum allows you to download posters for your classroom and to explore different “rooms”, each filled with portraits, artifacts, and videos. The exploration culminates in a quiz to test you’ve learned about Canada’s history and the African-Canadians that contributed to it. It a unique way to learn about history without having to leave the classroom! The games and quizzes can be found at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/games/museum/flash/index.asp>. Have fun learning!

### **2. A CULTURAL READER ON ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVES IN CANADA**

Teaching about Canada’s three primary Aboriginal groups (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) and the hundreds of tribal cultures within those groups can seem daunting but there are numerous helpful resources available online! Of particular interest will be a reader developed by Education Canada that offers wonderful support if teaching a unit about Canada’s First Nations. A downloadable book is available for students. It is filled with activities fit for various grade levels and includes 95 pages of worksheets and activities that address important themes and topics. There are also very detailed teacher’s notes that can be downloaded separately with answers to the activities in the students’ readers, useful websites, and additional lesson plan suggestions. Find both of these resources at: <http://www.education-canada.de/newsevents/new-publications/index.html#04a4e29bae0f68701>

### **3. TOTEM - CIRQUE DU SOLEIL’S NEW SHOW PLAYING NEAR YOU?**

Canadians—and Quebeckers in particular—could not be more proud than they are of the internationally acclaimed cultural phenomenon known as Cirque du Soleil which began in Montréal during the early 1980’s. Its performances elevate traditional circus acts to a level of performance art that can only be described as “a multifaceted creative force”. A new show called TOTEM will be touring across North America in 2014. The performance is described as “tracing the fascinating journey of the human species from its original amphibian state to its ultimate desire to fly. The characters evolve on a stage evoking a giant turtle, the symbol of origin for many ancient civilizations. Inspired by many founding myths, TOTEM illustrates, through a visual and acrobatic language, the evolutionary progress of species. Somewhere between science and legend TOTEM explores the ties that bind Man to other species, his dreams and his infinite potential.”

Check to see if the troupe’s signature blue and yellow Grand Chapiteau (Big Tent) will set up in your town or a city near you! Preview the show and learn more at: <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows/totem/default.aspx>

#### 4. THE BEST OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN CANADA (2013 AWARDS)

At the end of October 2013, the Canadian Children's Book Centre announced the winners of the 2013 Canadian Children's Literature Awards. New this year, was a TD Bank Group and CBC Books sponsored **Fan Choice Award**. Young readers were asked to pick their favorite book from the shortlisted TD Award titles in an online poll. In total \$87,500 in prize money was awarded to Canadian children's authors and illustrators. Each of these award-winning books was chosen because it exemplifies the best in its field. Readers of all ages are sure to be captivated by these stories that will undoubtedly become classics adorning bookshelves across Canada. I am sure that many of us in the U.S. will also appreciate these books for use in classrooms and schools. Enjoy!

- **TD Canadian Children's Literature Award** (\$30,000) - *One Year in Coal Harbour* by Polly Horvath. Published by Groundwood Books. (Ages 9-13)
- **Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award** (\$20,000) - *Mr. Zinger's Hat* by Cary Fagan; Illustrated by Dušan Petričić. Published by Tundra Books. (Ages 4-8)
- **Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction** (\$10,000) - *Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-Ending War* by Deborah Ellis. Published by Groundwood Books. (Ages 11 and up)
- **Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction For Young People** (\$5,000) - *The Lynching of Louie Sam* by Elizabeth Stewart. Published by Annick Press. (Ages 12 and up)
- **John Spray Mystery Award** (\$5,000) - *The Lynching of Louie Sam* by Elizabeth Stewart. Published by Annick Press. (Ages 12 and up)
- **Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy** (\$5,000) *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman. Published by Doubleday Canada. (Ages 14 and up)
- **Fan Choice Award** - *One Year in Coal Harbour* by Polly Horvath. Published by Groundwood Books. (Ages 9-13).

#### 5. ANTI-BULYING COMIC CONTEST

GreenZone Movement, a company in Ontario dedicated to helping people live relaxed and peaceful lives, recently launched its first "Zoned Comic Book Contest" in an effort to stop bullying in schools. The contest is open to anyone *worldwide* who is aged 13 or over. Adult/teacher consent to the rules is required for anyone under 13 who competes. Individuals, groups, classrooms, companies and organizations are also welcome to submit an entry which consists of a comic book story pitch that proposes a solution to the problem of bullying in schools. The winning pitch will have their comic drawn and produced by Marvel Entertainment and the author will be featured as a key character. [WOW!] The new Marvel comic will be released at the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair 2014 in Toronto.

The entry deadline is April 15, 2014. For more information, please see the contest rules at: <http://www.greenzonemovement.com/contests/zoned>. Updates on the contest are also regularly posted on their Facebook page: [facebook.com/greenzoned](https://www.facebook.com/greenzoned)

#### 6. 3-WEEK NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE ABOUT ACADIA!

This summer, the National Endowment for the Humanities is offering a unique 3-week professional development opportunity for K-12 educators called "*Borders and Borderlands: the Acadian Experience in Maine and New Brunswick*" (July 20-August 10, 2014). Applications for this competitive tuition-free opportunity are due by March 4 (with notification of accepted applications by March 31). Complete details are posted at: [www.mainehumanities.org/borderlands](http://www.mainehumanities.org/borderlands)

Drawing on history, literature, culture and language studies, borderland and Acadian scholars from Maine and New Brunswick will guide participants in examining borderland theory as applied in the American Northeast; the history of the Acadian people; cultural phenomena such as Acadian folk music, local foodways, architecture and crafts; and ways in which the language and lifeways of the Acadians have enriched literature and influenced cultural identity on both sides of the border. You'll gain knowledge through immersive lectures, site visits, and cultural experiences; gain transferable training in oral history collecting as well as have opportunities to contribute new material to

existing archives; travel to, through, and within the Maine/New Brunswick borderlands; receive a generous NEH stipend to put towards expenses, including texts.

The final days of the Institute coincide with the Congrès Mondial Acadien 2014 (World Acadian Congress), a unique "gathering-in" of Acadian families from many countries that takes place every five years. In 2014, the event will be co-hosted by the borderland communities of Maine, Québec and New Brunswick and it is a unique opportunity for NEH program participants to attend.

## **7. FEBRUARY 15 IS NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA DAY**

The Canadian flag as we know it today was first raised in 1965 over Parliament Hill in Ottawa. To celebrate and remember the event, February 15<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as National Flag of Canada Day. This anniversary is a great time to teach students about the history of the Canadian flag and what it means to the country. For resources and activities, explore the Canadian Heritage Flag Day site at: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/eng/1359734222181>

## **8. THE 2014 WINTER OLYMPICS**

Has it already been four years since the Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games were held in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia? It was an exciting time in the Pacific Northwest and a fabulous learning opportunity for classrooms that I had not fully appreciated before the games were played so close to home. I encourage teachers to take advantage of the international education learning opportunities inherent in the XXII Winter Olympic Games being held in Sochi, Russia in February. Learn more about what's in store in Sochi at <http://www.sochi2014.com/en>. You can learn more about Team Canada at <http://olympic.ca> and, of course, about Team USA at <http://www.teamusa.org>.

## **9. CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH: KITCHENER KAROFFEL KLOESSE**

Adapted from *The Laura Secord Canadian Cookbook* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1973), Page 146.

This year each Canadian Recipe of the Month is going to be adapted from *The Laura Secord Canadian Cookbook*. Produced by Laura Secord Candy Shops and the Canadian Home Economics Association, this collection is filled with historical recipes, some brought over from Europe and transformed in a uniquely Canadian way, while others originate in Canada and border regions of the United States. If the name "Laura Secord" rings a bell, that's because she is a remarkable figure in Canadian history. Laura Secord lived in Upper Canada during the War of 1812 and is known for making a 20 mile trek to warn British and Canadian forces of an impending attack launched by American soldiers. Her status in Canada is akin to Paul Revere's in the U.S.A. Although there is controversy over some of the details and facts about Laura Secord's role in history, she is commonly regarded as a Canadian heroine and a symbol of loyalty and bravery. To learn more about her, visit: <https://www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/laura-secord>.

Now regarding the recipe...German settlers brought potato dumplings to Canada, but Acadians have made the recipe their own. Called *poutine râpée*, this dish is traditionally served with sugar and molasses during New Year's festivities. Although the recipe commonly calls for being served wrapped around diced salt pork, the recipe below makes this meal vegetarian friendly. This recipe makes 6-8 dumplings.

### **Ingredients**

- 4 medium potatoes
- 1 cooked mashed potato
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 medium Spanish onions, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup milk plus ¼ teaspoon salt
- Sugar and Molasses (as needed, if desired)

### **Method**

- Peel, wash, and finely grate 4 medium potatoes, then wrap in a clean tea towel and press to extract as much water as possible.

- Combine grated potatoes with the 1 cooked mashed potato, flour, teaspoon salt, and egg. Form into dumplings about 2 inches in diameter and drop into 2 quarts boiling salted water. Cover and cook for 20 to 25 minutes.

**Onion Sauce:** Melt butter in saucepan and sauté onions until transparent. Stir in milk and ¼ teaspoon salt. Simmer until onion is soft and spoon over dumplings and enjoy.

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

**February** by Lisa Moore. (Toronto: Anansi Press, 2009).

Although I normally review something for Black History Month at this time of year, Lisa Moore's novel **February** is not about black history but a catastrophe that occurred off the coast of Newfoundland on February 14, 1982. During a violent night storm, all 84 men aboard the *Ocean Ranger* oil rig died that Valentine's Day.

Based on the tragedy, Lisa Moore developed a fictional work both heartbreaking and uplifting. Through flashbacks, Moore deftly explores the marriage of Helen O'Mara, the novel's protagonist, and her husband Cal. They had been married a mere decade before the oil rig collapsed in the Hibernia Oil Field. At age thirty, Helen was left to raise their son and two daughters on her own.



Map Source: [www.heritage.nf.ca](http://www.heritage.nf.ca)

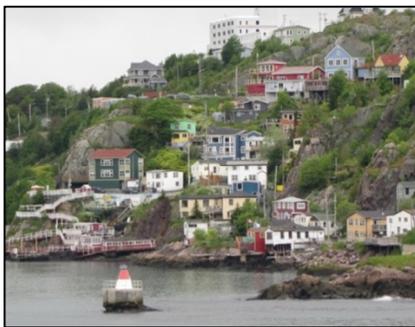


Photo Source: Ruth Writer



Photo Source: Ruth Writer

How do you think a wife might react when receiving a Valentine's Day card from her husband only days after his funeral? How might a woman handle her husband's death knowing that the birth of another daughter would follow in only a few short months? How does someone cope with such sadness and loneliness? How could a young widow with children continue her daily routines while feeling great despair? Moore answers these questions and much more in a way that's inspiring to all, especially those who understand the loss of a loved one.

While reading her novel, the reader becomes keenly aware of the lives of those who work far from shore on oil rigs in the North Atlantic. Her descriptions of the events three decades ago transport the reader to the *Ocean Ranger* that was destroyed that night. It is alarming to discover that what occurred on the rig should never have happened. A portal broke with a wave of ice hitting it. Water rushed in and the electrical panel short circuited. The men should have operated the ballast doors manually but they didn't have the training. It should have been a routine little scare but, instead, 84 men died senselessly.

Moore's novel probes into the lives and lifestyles of those left behind in St. John's, particularly Helen's life and those of her children and grandchildren for the next quarter century. After Cal's death, Helen tries to support her family in many ways. For example, she tries working at a bar but with little experience and too many memories, she is quickly forced to change jobs. She nearly loses their home because distribution of settlement money from the accident takes so long. Because Moore tells the story in a way that deftly interweaves the past and the present, the reader becomes a part of the family and someone who knows the streets of St. John's, Newfoundland.

Later in the novel, in the first decade of the twenty-first century, Helen tries dating again but feels like "a hunk of meat hanging on a hook, waiting for a buyer." Things do not go well at all, needless to say. However, by the fall of 2008, Helen is financially stable enough to renovate her home and she soon finds that her life is about to dramatically change directions again. One can only imagine what the next decade will bring to Helen's life—the third decade after the oil rig disaster.

Moore won the 2013 Canada Reads Award for this her second novel. Her prior works made her a finalist for the *Giller Prize* and the *Commonwealth Fiction Prize*. I find her work riveting and can hardly wait to buy her first novel **Alligator** or her most recent work—**Caught**—published in the summer of 2013. My best hope is that you enjoy her novels as well.

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