

MARCH-APRIL 2014 E-RESOURCE NEWS

Greetings! I hope you have been coping well with winter weather and won't mind my inclusion of a few Arctic resources among others intended to provide you with new ways to connect to Canada in your classroom. A few quick comments here will supplement the rest... Best wishes teaching Canada! Tina Storer

- Although social studies educators are the primary target audience of this newsletter, you will notice from now on that there will be at least one resource/event directed to French language teachers. The item may be written in English or in French (or both). Since French teachers often teach about Canada and can benefit from the many Canadian resources available in French, please forward my message this month to colleagues in your school and let them know that they can join this listserv themselves simply by emailing the request to me.
- I have been asked if it is worth watching the Discovery Channel's 3-part mini-series *Klondike*, despite its many liberties with historical fact and the book on which it is based, Charlotte Grey's *Gold Diggers: Striking it Rich in the Klondike*. My response is yes, but do caution students that the mini-series over-romanticizes Dawson City as a "lawless frontier" and I recommend that you task them with identifying at least five historical discrepancies...perhaps by reading Grey's book first or by first researching Sam Steele and Dawson's history. It's still fascinating to watch how, starting in 1896, tens of thousands of Americans and Canadians alike flocked to the city with the ambition of prospecting for gold in the wild Yukon. The 6-hour series aired in early February and can still be accessed via "On Demand" services of your cable provider.
- Finally, I wanted to share a final reminder to register for **STUDY CANADA 2014**. Please register soon to assure your spot. Although the official end-date is May 1, I expect the class will fill by the end of this month. It is worth noting that the program--to be held in Ottawa and Montreal from June 26 to July 1, 2014--will change to a new location next year. The current theme, "A Capital View of Canada: Nations within a Nation", has provided an excellent lens for learning about Canada so I hope you decide to join us! Also, there are ten \$200 travel awards available to educators paying their costs out of pocket. Details, including the downloadable registration form and draft agenda, are at <http://www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.html>. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please 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-funded National Resource Center for Canada in the US.

1. MLA CONVENTION 2015 TO BE HELD IN VANCOUVER, B.C.

The Modern Language Association (MLA) will hold its annual convention in the beautiful city of Vancouver, British Columbia from January 8-11, 2015. Start planning now if you are an English or World Languages teacher and/or share this news with colleagues at your school. If interested in presenting, calls for papers can be viewed through this month (March 2014) at <http://e2.ma/click/iya2f/unya2h/qw637b>. If you have not renewed your membership for 2014 or wish to be a new member, you may do so now at <http://e2.ma/click/iya2f/unya2h/mh837b> so that you can take advantage of the registration benefits for members, including early access to convention registration and hotels and substantial discounts on registration fees. Learn more about the MLA, its convention, its online resources and its advocacy support for educators at <http://www.mla.org>.

2. CANADIAN STAMPS CELEBRATE AFRICAN-CANADIAN COMMUNITIES

Canada Post issued two new stamps featuring two African-Canadian communities – and the people who called them home – to celebrate Black History Month in Canada last month. Though located on opposite ends of the country, the communities shared similarities beyond their composition. Both date back to the 18th and 19th centuries and both were dismantled in the name of urban renewal. Both stamps pair real photographs with photo-inspired watercolor illustrations by artist Janice Kun.

- **Africville**, one of Nova Scotia's oldest black communities, has become an important symbol of the struggle against racism. The town never received proper roads, health services, water, street lamps or electricity. After

neglecting the community for years, the City of Halifax razed Africville in the 1960s. It evicted residents and ordered its dwellings destroyed. Africville remains an enduring symbol of the need for vigilance in defense of African-Canadian communities and institutions. This stamp features photographs of seven girls, all members of the community, set against an illustrated background of the neighborhood.

- **Hogan's Alley** was the unofficial local name for a four-block dirt lane in Vancouver, located close to the city's modern-day Chinatown. It was the first concentrated community of people of African descent in Vancouver and, while geographically small, it was culturally significant. It was a vibrant destination for food and nightlife and a hotbed of jazz and blues. The Hogan's Alley stamp depicts Nora Hendrix, grandmother of rock legend Jimi Hendrix, and Fielding William Spotts Jr. Both were neighborhood residents.

The 2014 Black History Month issue is the sixth installment in the series, which began in 2009. Until this year, it has focused on people. Nine Canadians have been commemorated, including Montreal-born jazz legend Oliver Jones (2013); National Baseball Hall of Famer Fergie Jenkins (2011); and Rosemary Brown, the first black woman elected to a provincial legislature (2009). According to a January 29th news release, Deepak Chopra, Canada Post President and CEO said, "Our stamps feature people who lived there and continue to share memories from that period. We hope to help tell those stories through our stamps."

3. CANADA'S CONFEDERATION IN KAYAK MAGAZINE (GR 3-7)

With NHL playoffs on the way, take advantage of hockey fever in your classroom to teach about Canada, particularly the largest "goal" in Canadian history – **Confederation!** That was the theme of the January issue of *Kayak Magazine*. Read the feature story, "They Shoot, They Score", online at <http://canadashistory.ca/Kids/Kayak/In-this-Issue#biggame> and learn about the key players who came together in 1867 for the most important game of their lives. The coach? Sir John A. Macdonald, of course. Visit www.canadashistory.ca/Kids/Kayak/In-this-Issue#andthenwhat to find out what happened after 1867 and how other provinces and territories joined Canada later.

Explore the online content or visit <https://secure.canadashistory.ca/kayak> if, like me, you'd like to subscribe to the mini-magazine. Published by Canada's History Society, each issue of *Kayak* is designed to catch the imagination of children from ages 8 to 13 and bring a theme from Canada's past to life through engaging writing, creative design, original comics and fiction, lively illustrations, games, jokes and more. Young readers will devour details about the people and events that have shaped Canada.

4. CANADA STAKES CLAIM FOR NORTH POLE

Canada announced last December that it hopes to extend its territory to include the North Pole. According to Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq, the Government of Canada, by filing a formal scientific submission to the *United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf* for territorial claims in the Atlantic Ocean, it is attempting to "define Canada's last frontier". Canada also filed a preliminary claim—pending further mapping of the Continental Shelf—in the Arctic Ocean (including the North Pole). The undersea Lomonosov Ridge that runs from Canada's Ellesmere Island under the magnetic pole would be the geological basis for the Canadian territorial claim.

The U.N. submissions do not lead to a binding decision but lay the groundwork for future country-to-country negotiations over competing territorial claims in the Arctic that could take years to resolve. As most of you on this listserv already know, the Arctic is growing increasingly important as a global "hot spot" for a variety of reasons. See http://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2013/12/09/canada_makes_territorial_claim_for_north_pole.html and stay tuned...

5. FIVE MYTHS ABOUT THE NORTH POLE

As noted above, Canada hopes to extend its territory to include the North Pole. Their action acts on an old debate over who owns this Arctic area, about 1.3 times the size of the United States. In response to the news, Rob Huebert, Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary, wrote an article that debunks some long-held

myths about the region. Discover the truth about the statements below—and share the news with your students—by reading the full article at http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-the-north-pole/2013/12/20/22267a62-6694-11e3-8b5b-a77187b716a3_story.html.

1. *The North Pole is just like the South Pole.*
2. *Canada, Russia, and Denmark are each attempting a North Pole land grab.*
3. *There is no international law governing the North Pole.*
4. *There is no military presence at the North Pole.*
5. *The only thing changing at the North Pole is the climate.*

6. GOOGLE TRACKS CANADA’S POLAR BEAR HABITAT

Thursday, February 27 was International Polar Bear Day and, according to an article at [thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com), an online Canadian newspaper, Google has extended its hallmark street views off the beaten path by capturing images of Canada’s northern tundra in Churchill, Manitoba, the “polar bear capital of the world.” What a great way to celebrate the natural habitat of these magnificent animals.

Last fall, Google’s panoramic Trekker cameras were mounted on a Tundra Buggy from Polar Bears International, a conservation group dedicated to protecting the animals, to capture views of the region. Aaron Brindle, Google Canada’s mapping expert, says that the visual imagery now allows people all over the world to experience an area that even few Canadians have the chance to experience in person. As well, the views provide a visual baseline for Polar Bears International and will help the organization assess and respond to the single biggest issue affecting polar bears—climate change. While there are many shots of polar bears that are fascinating, the images also show how their natural habitat—sea ice—is sadly disappearing. I encourage all to visit the Google site at <http://www.google.com/maps/about/behind-the-scenes/streetview/treks/churchill-canada> and to learn more from Polar Bears International at <http://www.polarbearsinternational.org> so that your classrooms can connect with Canada, the plight of polar bears, and other global issues taking place in the Far North. [Read the full article at http://www.thestar.com/life/technology/2014/02/27/google_tracks_canadas_polar_bear_habitat.html].

7. WAR OR 1812 - ELECTRONIC FIELD TRIP

When teaching The War of 1812, wouldn’t it be nice to travel back in time so that students could safely witness nation-building in North America? That can ALMOST happen with “electronic field trips” offered by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Next month, in April, they will feature a segment on the War of 1812 that will bring classrooms back in time through live, interactive video podcasts that reenact and consider important historical events related to the War of 1812. Designed for use in Grades 4-8, each field trip includes a teacher’s guide and activities to do while watching the broadcast. To find out more and watch a preview of The War of 1812 episode, visit www.history.org/history/teaching/eft/eft_current.cfm#apr.

8. PRIX TD DE LITTÉRATURE CANADIENNE POUR L’ENFANCE ET LA JEUNESSE / TD CANADIAN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE AWARD

Depuis 2004, le Centre du livre jeunesse canadien (The Canadian Children’s Book Centre) et le Groupe Banque TD ont mis sur pied le Prix TD de littérature canadienne pour l’enfance et la jeunesse, pour le livre le plus remarquable de l’année. L’œuvre doit se démarquer par sa contribution générale à la littérature et l’excellence de son apport aux jeunes lecteurs. Chaque année, deux prix de 30 000 \$ chacun sont attribués aux œuvres de langues française et anglaise s’étant le plus distinguées dans la production de l’année précédente. Les livres de tous les genres littéraires sont admissibles. Ils doivent avoir été écrits à l’intention des enfants âgés de 0 à 12 ans, être d’une édition originale canadienne et l’auteur et l’illustrateur, s’il y a lieu, doivent être canadiens ou avoir le statut de résidents permanents. S’ensuit une liste de lauréats.

Since 2004, the Canadian Children’s Book Centre and the TD Bank Group established a new annual children’s book award, the TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award for the most distinguished book of the year. “Distinguished” is

defined as marked by conspicuous excellence and/or eminence, individually distinct and noted for significant achievement with excellence in quality. The grand prize is \$30,000 for the most distinguished book written in English and \$30,000 for the most distinguished book written in French. All books, in any genre, written by a Canadian and for children ages 1 through 12 are eligible. In the case of a picture book, both the author and the illustrator must be Canadian. A list of award recipients follows. Adapted from www.bookcentre.ca

Année/Year	Langue/ Language	Lauréats / Award Recipients
2013	Langue française	Michel Noël, <i>À la recherche du bout du monde</i> . Montréal: Éditions Hurtubise, 2012.
2013	English Language	Polly Horvath, <i>One Year in Coal Harbour</i> . Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2012.
2012	Langue française	Mario Brassard, <i>La saison des pluies</i> . Illustré par S. Verelst. St-Lambert, QC: Soulières éditeur, 2011.
2012	English Language	Trilby Kent, <i>Stones for My Father</i> . Toronto: Tundra Books, 2011.
2011	Langue française	Linda Amyot, <i>La fille d'en face</i> . Montreal: Leméac éditeur, 2010.
2011	English Language	Erin Bow, <i>Plain Kate</i> . Toronto: Scholastic Canada, 2010.
2010	Langue française	Mélanie Tellier, <i>Le géranium</i> . Illustré par Melinda Josie. Montréal: Éditions Marchand de feuilles.
2010	English Language	Arthur Slade, <i>The Hunchback Assignments</i> . Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers, 2009.
2009	Langue française	Anne Villeneuve, <i>Chère Traudi</i> . Montréal: Éditions Les 400 coups, 2008.
2009	English Language	Nicola I. Campbell, <i>Shin-chi's Canoe</i> . Illustré par Kim LaFave. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2008.
2008	Langue française	Gilles Vigneault, <i>Un cadeau pour Sophie</i> . Illustré par Stéphane Jorisch. Montréal: Éditions La montagne secrète, 2007.
2008	English Language	Christopher Paul Curtis, <i>Elijah of Buxton</i> . Toronto: Scholastic Canada, 2007.
2007	Langue française	André Leblanc, <i>L'Envers de la chanson: des enfants au travail 1850-1950</i> . Montréal: Éditions Les 400 coups, 2006.
2007	English Language	Sarah Ellis, <i>Odd Man Out</i> . Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2006.
2006	Langue française	François Gravel, <i>David et le salon funéraire</i> . Illustré par Pierre Pratt. St-Lambert, QC: Éditions Dominique et compagnie, 2005.
2006	English Language	Pamela Porter, <i>The Crazy Man</i> . Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2005.
2005	Langue française	François Barcelo, <i>Le nul et la chipie</i> . Illustré par A. Villeneuve. St-Lambert, QC: Soulières Éditeur, 2004.
2005	English Language	Marthe Jocelyn, <i>Mable Riley: A Reliable Record of Humdrum, Peril, and Romance</i> . Toronto: Tundra Books, 2004.

9. **CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH: BANNOCK**

Adapted from *The Laura Secord Canadian Cookbook* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 6th Printing 1973), Page 27.

This month's recipe is for bannock (unleavened bread that is best served hot with butter). This dish was a favorite of northern fur trappers and was originally made to be very heavy bread. It has since become a little lighter because modern recipes now call for baking powder. This recipe makes 1 loaf

Ingredients: 2 ¾ cups all-purpose flour; 2 tsp baking powder; 1 tsp salt; 3 tablespoons lard; 2/3 cup water

Method: (Preheat oven to 450° F or use a greased heavy cast-iron frying pan on stovetop)

- Sift together flour, baking powder, salt. Use pastry blender or two knives to cut in lard. Gradually stir in water.
- Stir with a fork to make soft, slightly sticky dough. Turn dough out on a lightly floured surface and knead gently 8 to 10 times. Roll out until ½ inch thick.
- Cook in frying pan, turning bannock to brown both sides, OR on lightly greased baking sheet for 12-15 minutes.

10. RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

Woodsmen of the West by M. Allerdale Grainger. (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1996.) ISBN 0-7710-3461

I recently taught a university student who was interested in the lumber industry of Canada and needed to find a book of fiction for an assignment. We ordered the novel *Woodsmen of the West*, originally published in 1908, and were both pleasantly surprised to discover the depth of understanding that the author conveys to the reader about this staple Canadian industry.

M. Allerdale Grainger wrote the novel in a relatively new style at the time—local realism—so that that it could authentically portray lifestyles of the Canadian West during that period. The novel is set in British Columbia and is based on his own experience as a logger in northern British Columbia. It graphically describes the various jobs typical of the lumber industry such as “timber cruisers” and “hand loggers” and brings logging camps to life for readers. Modern audiences will still appreciate some of the unfamiliar phrases that nonetheless transfer meaning more than a century later. I noted with humor, for example, the description of the drunken logger who was “coughing his toenails up in pangs of whiskey sickness.”

Although the tale covers a period of less than a year, Grainger packs a logger’s lifetime of work in the book’s pages. Throughout *Woodsmen of the West*, the story of strong and conflicting personalities rings out like the sound of the giant trees falling. Stories of corruption, greed, and the culture of camp life transcends time and is completely compelling to read about. As a former teacher of Michigan history with its role in the lumbering story, I enjoyed reading Grainger’s work on specific lumbering jobs existing long after the white pine all but disappeared from my state.

Even in the twenty first century, the lifestyle of “lumberjacks” piques the interest of many people. I witnessed this myself on a recent visit to British Columbia, especially on Vancouver Island where Grainger sets his story. Countless logging trucks still carry their loads for processing at lumber yards across the island. One can’t help but wish for more old growth forests when standing in “Cathedral Grove”, a group of giant Douglas fir trees more than 800 years old near Port Alberni, BC. The logging industry has been a vital resource for island communities and is celebrated in exhibits at a Port Campbell museum and on murals in Chemainus that provide homage to more than a century of logging in the area. Woodcarvers using chain saws display their skills at an annual festival on the island as well. The competition draws a surprising number of tourists. One only needs to watch the series “Ax Men” on the History Channel or “American Loggers” on the Discovery Channel to understand this truth.

McClelland & Stewart re-published this timeless novel as one in its special *New Canadian Library* collection. I recommend reading ***Woodsmen of the West*** to anyone interested in learning about the early history of British Columbia, lumbering, and the rough edges of transient life over a hundred years ago.



[Photos taken by Ruth Writer on Vancouver Island in June 2013 – Photos 2 and 3 were taken of exhibits at the Museum of Campbell River in Campbell River, B.C. See <http://www.crmuseum.ca/logging-jungles>.]