

MAY-JUNE 2014 E-RESOURCE NEWSLETTER

Greetings! Another school year is reaching its end – an often bittersweet experience for many teachers and students. I hope the contents of this newsletter and the featured resources prove helpful while finishing up course work and/or pre-planning next year’s curricula.

I will keep this note short but want to pass along an inspiring bit of news first. Ruth Writer, now retired from Buchanan High School in Michigan, informed me that her former school recently won a national award as the “nicest school” in America because of their anti-bullying efforts. It’s nice [no pun intended] to see students and school staff take a strong stand on such a pervasive social issue and make positive change. If inspired to do the same, see: www.southbendtribune.com/news/community/buchanan-earns-nicest-school-distinction-in-nationwide-contest/article_ed8caee4-acf6-11e3-8ccc-0017a43b2370.html#.UyWxw_LGCpw.email.

I hope that the last weeks of school go well for you and your classrooms. Have a wonderful summer. Tina Storer

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. TIME FOR A CANADIAN CLUB?

Canadian expats in the USA have a wide network of social clubs that would welcome non-Canadians interested in learning more about Canada. Being a member of their listserv is the first step to learning about a variety of cultural events and activities that may be closer to you than you realized as shown below. A few club events are listed below to show you what I mean. To find a club event near you, view a more complete list of Canadian clubs around the US at: www.canadianexpatnetwork.com/public/departement36.cfm

Coyotes Curling Club

www.coyotescurling.com/index.html

Learn How to Curl
Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 6:00 pm
Register online
2202 W Medtronic Way
Tempe, AZ, 85281

CanSouth

www.cansouth.info

Raleigh-Durham/Chapel Hill, NC
Victoria Day Celebration:
Sunday, May 19th, 2014
Canada Day Celebration:
Sunday, June 29, 2014

Canadian Association of NY

www.canadanyc.com

Toronto Blue Jays vs NY Yankees
Wednesday, June 18, 2014
Bronx, NY

All Canadian University Event in DC

<http://dcanadianalumni.com>

Dinner at Ella’s Wood Fired Pizza
Thursday, May 22, 2014, 4:00 pm
Ella’s Wood-Fired Pizza
610 9th St NW
Washington, DC 20004

2. CELEBRATE CANADA DAY IN YOUR CLASSROOM

July 1, 1867 was the date that Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Province of Canada (eventually Ontario and Quebec) joined politically in confederation and the event is celebrated as Canada Day. Although this holiday lands in the summer, teaching about this special day can help students make stronger connection to North American history—perhaps even celebrate by having a combined July 1/July 4 party. The Teacher Planet website offers ideas for celebrating Canada Day and includes other resources that might be of interest, including crafts, lesson plans, worksheets, clip art, and more. See: www.teacherplanet.com/resource/canada.php.

3. INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS - HISTORICA CANADA

Historica Canada offers virtual exhibits on Canadian history that you and your students can walk through without going on a field trip to Canada. There are five different timeline-style exhibits that include pictures and videos along with a lot of historical information. From *Women in Sports* to *The Korean War*, these exhibits offer an interesting opportunity for students to experience Canada’s past and present. www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/exhibits#

4. TORONTO IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST ITS MAYOR...AND THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT

Toronto, the capital of Ontario and the most populous city in Canada, has grown a tremendous amount since its humble settlement in the late 18th century by Brit. It has grown exponentially in the last fifty years and is now

considered the most diverse city in the world. The Canadian Encyclopedia and partners have produced **Toronto in Time**, a free mobile app for iOS and Android that highlights the history of Toronto through "then and now" photos, slideshows, trails, and historical stories from more than 150 sites. An interactive map allows you to select locations all over Toronto and glimpse the past while comparing it to the city today. You can also select by themes like "arts and entertainment" or "roots of urban Toronto." This app brings armchair exploration to a new level. For more information, visit: <http://www.citiesintime.ca/toronto>. There's a "Vancouver in Time" app, too.

5. **HISTORICA CANADA'S WAR OF 1812 PORTAL**

Historica Canada has created a great web portal for teachers and students about the War of 1812. Like many of the other resources recently developed that commemorate the 200th anniversary of the war, there are teacher's guides, a timeline, links to other useful resources, and a quiz, but what makes this site particularly useful and unique is the way it directly links to some of the Heritage Minutes segments. These short video on Laura Second, Queenston Heights, and Richard Pierpoint are quick and informative, great tools to reinforce history lessons. To see all that the site has to offer, explore it at <https://www.historicacanada.ca/1812>

6. **DEFINING CANADA – A NATIONAL DILEMMA?**

As Canada approaches its 150th anniversary in 2017, Canadians are preparing to define themselves. However, as Jack Jedwab, Executive Vice-President of the Association for Canadian Studies and the Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration, notes in a January 6 *Globe and Mail* article, "...It is no simple task to establish an official or common narrative....Canadians hold multiple versions of the historic narrative, diverse interest and varying interpretation in a country where history education is a provincial matter." Jedwab points to a September 2012 Leger survey that provides "valuable insights into those events and institutions that the population considers fundamental in building the Canadian nation and by consequence essential to constructing the narrative." Canadians rank the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the foremost nation-building event (68%) with Confederation in 1867 next (50% though Francophone voters ranked the Official Languages Policy higher). It is interesting to see that the War of 1812 (32%), Multiculturalism (30%) and the Official Languages Act (26%) rank higher than the Monarchy for nation-building (which only just beat out Tim Horton's donut business at 13%).

To learn more about the survey results and read Jedwab's article in its entirety, visit: www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/when-tims-is-more-popular-than-the-queen-how-to-tell-canadas-story/article16204272/?cmpid=rss1

7. **NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE - IMPORTANT NEW NON-FICTION BOOKS**

Thomas King was recently recognized with two of Canada's top non-fiction awards for ***The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America***. In February, King won the BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction and, in March, won the Charles Taylor Prize. As described at <http://www.chapters.indigo.ca>: "Rich with dark and light, pain and magic, *The Inconvenient Indian* distills the insights gleaned from Thomas King's critical and personal meditation on what it means to be "Indian" in North America, weaving the curiously circular tale of the relationship between non-Natives and Natives in the centuries since the two first encountered each other. In the process, King refashions old stories about historical events and figures, takes a sideways look at film and pop culture, relates his own complex experiences with activism, and articulates a deep and revolutionary understanding of the cumulative effects of ever-shifting laws and treaties on Native peoples and lands. This is a book both timeless and timely, burnished with anger but tempered by wit, and ultimately a hard-won offering of hope--a sometimes inconvenient but nonetheless indispensable account for all of us, Indian and non-Indian alike, seeking to understand how we might tell a new story for the future."

Although the winner of the 2014 Sir John A. Macdonald Prize for the best scholarly Canadian history book has not yet been announced, James Daschuk's book ***Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics, Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*** has been shortlisted for the prize (also known as the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research). According to the book jacket "James Daschuk examines the roles that Old World diseases,

climate, and, most disturbingly, Canadian politics-the politics of ethnocide-played in the deaths and subjugation of thousands of aboriginal people in the realization of Sir John A. Macdonald's 'National Dream.'" According to a *Globe & Mail* review, "James Daschuk's *Clearing the Plains* is colossal. This is excavation of an authentically Canadian past from under layers of colonial myth, performed with a scalpel, and illuminated by searing prose."

8. RESSOURCES SUR L'ACADIE EN FRANCAIS / RESOURCES ON ACADIA IN ENGLISH

La Fondation culturelle du patrimoine acadien, un organisme à but non lucratif qui fonctionne grâce au bénévolat des Acadiens et de leurs amis a travers le monde, est vouée à préserver l'histoire et la culture Acadienne. Visitez <http://www.acadianmuseum.com/francais.html>. / The Acadian Museum, located in the heart of Cajun country in Erath, Louisiana, commemorates and honors the Acadian heritage and Cajun people of Louisiana. Visit <http://www.acadianmuseum.com/museum.html>.

[NB: I learned from *La Parole*, the museum's newsletter, that a new documentary, *The Story Of The Cajuns Part I*, premiered on April 19 which may interest you, too. The film explores the hardships Cajuns have faced and reveals how they survived and thrived in a climate so different from their ancestral Acadie. The stories of Cajuns from all walks of life - from a shrimp fisherman to a college professor and from a cowboy to an Acadian artist - are woven together with narrative links from a well-loved Cajun musician and storyteller, David Greely, whose lyrical fiddle tunes also grace the sound track of the film. Footage was shot in Canada, France and Louisiana by award-winning filmmaker, Brenda Jepson and her husband Alan in collaboration with Dr. Francoise Paradis, who coaxed amazing stories from Cajuns. Keep an eye out for it.]

9. CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH: APPLE CRISP NORTHERN STYLE

Adapted from *The Laura Secord Canadian Cookbook* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Ltd., 1973), Pages 110, 115.

In Canada's Northwest Territories, fresh fruit can be hard to come by so apple crisp made from dehydrated apples was a popular treat. This recipe has been altered so fresh apples may be used, but other traditional ingredients like honey remain. This recipe makes one apple crisp.

Ingredients

Filling

- 4 ½ Cups peeled, cored, slices apples
- ½ Cup honey
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 Tablespoons water

Topping 1

- ½ Cup brown sugar
- ½ Cup flour
- ½ Cup rolled oats
- 3 Tablespoons butter

Topping 2

- 1 ¼ Cup lightly packed brown sugar
- ¾ Cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 Cup butter

Method

- Place the apples in a greased, 6-cup deep baking dish. Drizzle with honey, lemon juice, and water. Sprinkle with either Topping 1 **or** Topping 2.
- Topping 1: Crumble brown sugar, flour, rolled oats, and butter together over apples.
- Topping 2: Cream together butter and brown sugar, then stir in flour, salt, and cinnamon until crumbly.
- Bake in a 375° oven for 35 minutes, until apples are tender. Allow to cool and enjoy.

10. RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

Merger of the Century: Why Canada and America Should Become One Country by Diane Francis. (Toronto: HarperCollins Publisher, Ltd., 2013).

I usually review non-fiction but lately have been intrigued, as you know, by non-fiction accounts of Canada's history and industry. The title alone—*Merger of the Century: Why Canada and America Should Become One Country*—proved irresistible to me. I wondered why Diane Francis would propose that Canada and the United States should reunite after such success in developing as separate nations since the American Revolution. Born in Chicago, Francis is a noted professor, columnist, broadcaster and businesswoman who now spends most of her time in Toronto and New York. Her experience living in both countries has led her to consider the benefits of unifying the two nations.

She believes that since both countries share an integrated economy and culture, political integration is the logical next step. Although not an expert on the geographic, environmental, historic, economic, diplomatic, and cultural background of the North American continent, she discusses each with sufficient knowledge that her unique and highly controversial proposal merits consideration by those who do know more. I couldn't resist finding out more myself.

In her introduction, Francis explains that the two nations are "more like fraternal twins: we are both multicultural and live in countries based on the same organizing principles of democracy, free enterprise, the rule of law and pluralism, but we have different attitudes and political systems."

Francis describes Canada as "Scandinavia economically smaller and more stable." At the same time, she compares the U.S. as "Germany on steroids." She does not mince words.

She explores the striking cultural differences in the two nations such as the French culture of Quebec and the now-dated melting pot concept of cultural assimilation in the U.S. Francis also explores the issue of the First Nations [Natives], who have due citizenship as a result of the 1794 *Jay Treaty* but who also have major issues confronting their members. One fact that she points to involves the dramatically aging population of Canada, which will mean slow economic growth and perhaps insurmountable problems.

Francis explores international global issues and threats to North America. She points out that China, Russia, Middle Eastern interests and other nations covet untapped Canadian resources especially the oil sands. [Note that she does not call them "tar sands" to reflect an enviro-friendly position.] She points out that agricultural production and fresh water will loom large in the future, too, as global issues. She writes of Putin and the Ukraine, which certainly looms larger now than it did a year ago. Finally she points to Canada's Arctic position and potential as possibly "the mother of all wars."

Francis also notes bilateral threats such as terrorism, immigration, and smuggling. While illegal activities cross the border, new solutions would be possible with the harmonization of the two nations' laws and law enforcement. The post 9/11 North America needs a better, modern infrastructure between the two nations. I more fully understand the issues surrounding the Keystone Pipeline as a result of reading Francis' work.

Francis also provides a fascinating assessment of concerns about the Ambassador Bridge and the necessity of a new bridge linking Detroit, MI with Windsor, ON and the Canadian auto industry, for example. As a Michigander who has been following this controversial new bridge from the outset, I found this investigation especially interesting.

Next she explores the reasons why such a merger makes sense and the major benefits of such a union. Each nation possesses advantages which would benefit the other. Canada's vast unsettled landscape would provide incredible development opportunities especially in mineral and energy resources for Americans. Of course, issues such as health care, taxation, trade, and gun control would need to be addressed since national policy and public opinion in both countries are different. Notwithstanding, Francis affirms that "if they merged, Canada and the U.S. would become an energy and economic powerhouse."

Francis also affirms that problems with North American perimeter security and economic competition can be overcome with unification. "The only foolproof way to fix the border—as well as avert conflict—is to eliminate the border." Although Francis mentions Mexico in passing throughout her book, she states in her conclusion that "perhaps this grand partnership would also eventually force Mexico to get its act together or face isolation."

Francis also explores the politics of such a fusion and how this union might be structured. She points to the synergy of the unification with their ability to "cherry-pick the best policies and practices from each" as an economic boom. Since the two already merge many areas, this new nation would be the world's technological, energy, agricultural and economic superpower. Francis points to the German model of reunification, which occurred in a very short time span after the fall of the Berlin Wall as one of several the North American nations could follow.

Finally, Francis explains the future of these two nations, if such a dramatic unification does not occur soon. As she explains neither nation can "...afford to miss the miss the opportunity to pull off what would become the 'Merger of the Century.'"

After all, the border between these two nations is merely a line created in the 18th Century. It leaves you thinking, doesn't it? Are you ready for the UNA--United North America?