

Discovery, Settlement and Struggle: Canada-United States Bi-national Planning Forum on Teaching and Learning History and Geography

February 24-25, 2009

**McCord Museum of Canadian History
Montréal, Québec, Canada**

In 2008, Canadians marked the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Québec City by Samuel de Champlain. The year 2009 will also mark the 400th anniversary of the voyages of Samuel de Champlain along with Henry Hudson in what eventually laid the foundations for the northeastern parts of the continent (notably upstate New York and Vermont). To mark this important occasion, the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) will be holding a forum entitled "Discovery, Settlement and Struggle: Canada-United States Bi-National Forum on Teaching and Learning Geography and History" on February 24-25, 2009 at the McCord Museum in Montréal to explore the ways in which our geographies have defined the relationship between Canada and the United States and have influenced our respective historic narratives. It will also explore the role of discovery and settlement in the construction of our national and regional histories.

An important dimension of the discussion will be to look at how we can expand awareness of our geography and history amongst the broader population. Ultimately our objective is to begin a dialogue focused on the themes of discovery and settlement that will start in 2009 and continue until 2012, the year that will mark the 200th anniversary of the war of 1812. It will start on February 24-25 at the McCord Museum of Canadian History in Montréal, Québec where we have invited leading geographers, historians, educators and researchers to discuss the following issues:

- The Role of GIS and Remote Sensing to Tell Alternative Histories
- Mapping and Communicating the Discovery and Settlement
- Representing Canada and United States in Our Histories
- Representing the Role of Founding Communities in History and Geography
- Understanding Our Geographies and Their Relevance – Constructing Regional Histories
- Expanding Knowledge of Our History and Geography – Representing and Communicating the Story Inside and Outside the Classroom

Some of the individuals on the program include:

- John Grigsby Geiger, author and journalist
- Professor Serge Courville, Université Laval
- Professor Susan Harwick, University of Oregon / National Council for Geographic Education
- Richard Jensen, University of Illinois
- Professor Catherine Desbarats, McGill University
- Garret Livermore, Vice President for Education, New York State Historical Association
- Louise Maffett, Royal Canadian Geographic Society
- Professor Chris Kirkey, Director, Center for the Study of Canada, Plattsburgh State University

For more Information and to register contact the Association for Canadian studies at
Tel (514) 925-3097 or e-mail: james.ondrick@acs-aec.ca

Preliminary Program
(updated January 26, 2009)

9:00 - 9:15 am Welcome and Opening remarks

- Lee McClenny, Consul General, the United States Consulate General Montreal (invited)
- The Right Honourable Herb Grey, Canadian Chair, International Joint Commission of Canada and the United States (invited)

9:15 – 9:45 am Opening Keynote Speaker

- John Grigsby Geiger, author and journalist

Session 1 Mapping Our Origins/Defining Our Borders: understanding our geographies and their relevance

9:45 – 11:00 am

- *Chair: Louise Maffett, Royal Canadian Geographic Society*
- Professor Serge Courville, Université Laval (invited)
- Professor Susan W. Hardwick, University of Oregon / President, National Council for Geographic Education
- Professor Chris Kirkey, Plattsburgh State University, Director, Center for the Study of Canada

11:00 – 11:15 am Break

Session 2 Representing the Role of Founding Communities in History and Geography (i.e., amongst others, Aboriginal peoples, the French, British, Dutch and German influences)

11:15 – 12:30 pm

- *Chair: Professor Raymond Pelletier, Executive Director, American Council on Québec Studies / University of Maine*
- Professor Richard Jensen, University of Illinois
- Maurice Basque, Études acadiennes, Université de Moncton

12:30 – 1:45 pm Lunch

Session 3 Constructing Regional Histories

1:45 – 3:00 pm

- Garet Livermore, Vice President for Education, New York State Historical Association
- Professor Sylvie Beaudreau, Plattsburgh State University
- Professor Scott See, University of Maine
- Professor J.I. Little, Simon Fraser University

3:00 – 3:15 pm Break

Session 4 **Representing and Teaching about Conflicts in Our History**
3:15 – 4:45 pm

Chair: Professor Peter Gossage, Université de Sherbrooke

- Professor Catherine Desbarats, McGill University
- Professor James Loewen, University of Vermont (invited)
- Hector Mackenzie, Senior Departmental Historian and Academic Outreach Advisor, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada Policy Research Division

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Session 5 **Representing and Communicating the Story Inside and Outside the Class**
9:00 – 10:30 am

- Paul Ellis Graham, Monroe-Woodbury H.S., Central Valley, New York
- Robert N. Wilkins, History Teacher, English Montréal School Board, Retired
- Randy Boswell, The Ottawa Citizen / Can West News Services
- A representative from Library and Archives Canada

Session 6 **Planning Forum: Bi-National Cooperation on the Teaching of History and Geography in Canada and the United States**
10:30 – 12:00 noon

- Jack Jedwab, Association for Canadian Studies
- Professor Donald Cuccioletta, Université du Québec à Outaouais