



Pukaskwa National Park of Canada. © Parks Canada

What Is THEN|HiER?

The History Education Network/Histoire et Éducation en Réseau (THEN/HiER) is the first pan-Canadian organization devoted to promoting—and improving—history teaching and learning by bringing together the multiple and varied constituencies involved in history education: academic historians; public historians in museums, archives and historic sites; practicing teachers; researchers based in faculties of education; and curriculum policy makers. Our goal is to create more research-informed practice (from kindergarten to graduate school) and more practice-informed research through dialogue among these various communities. THEN/HiER was conceived in 2005, but became firmly established in April 2008, when it received funding from a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Strategic Knowledge Clusters grant.

Director

Penney Clark, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia

Executive Board

Jennifer Bonnell, Program Coordinator, Doctoral Candidate, OISE/UT

Margaret Conrad, Professor and CRC, University of New Brunswick

Anne Marie Goodfellow, PhD, Network Manager

Viviane Gosselin, Doctoral Candidate, UBC

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Kevin Kee, Associate Professor and CRC, Brock University

Jocelyn Létourneau, Professor and CRC, Université Laval

Stéphane Lévesque, Associate Professor, University of Ottawa

Ruth Sandwell, Associate Professor, OISE/University of Toronto

Peter Seixas, Professor and CRC, University of British Columbia

Amy von Heyking, Associate Professor, University of Lethbridge

Welcome to the second issue of The History Education Network / Histoire et Éducation en Réseau's (THEN/HiER) bi-annual newsletter. We are very excited about the year ahead, and the possibilities it brings for collaboration among the diverse constituencies involved in history education in Canada.

Inuit string game
Richard Harrington
National Archives of Canada / PA-114713

What Has THEN/HiER Been Doing Lately?



Website Launch

Last month THEN/HiER's new interactive website was launched. You can:

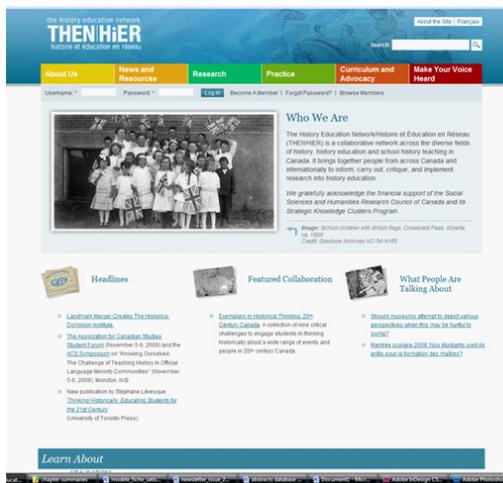
- access current news and resources in history education in “News and Resources”
- access an ongoing database of article and chapter abstracts, book and report summaries, and thesis and dissertation summaries; learn how to conduct your own research project; and access a database of journals related to history education in “Research”
- learn about best practices in history education, and access primary source and literature databases in “Practice”
- access curriculum and education policy documents in “Curriculum and Advocacy”

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In addition, if you become a member you can “Make Your Voice Heard” through

- participating in and initiating discussions on research, practice and assessment, and curriculum and advocacy
- uploading your own videos and podcasts related to history education
- share information about your collaborative project with others
- participate in poll questions

Please visit the site (www.thenhier.ca) and become a member! (<http://www.thenhier.ca/en/user/register>)



Small Projects Grants

Société historique de la Saskatchewan

<http://www.societehisto.com/>

THEN/HiER provided funding to produce a Teacher’s Guide, *L’histoire fransaskoise à portée de la main (Fransaskois History At Your Fingertips)*, which coincided with Journées du patrimoine/Heritage Days, designed for 4th-12th grade students. The Teacher’s Guide gives detailed information on the themes present in the sketches that were performed during the event. Students thus have a better understanding and interest in the history of the Fransaskois.

THEN/HiER Symposium 2010 – “Playful Technology in History”

The theme for THEN/HiER’s annual symposium in 2010 is “Playful Technology in History.” Organized by executive committee member Kevin Kee, it will focus on the use of interactive technologies in history teaching and learning. Invited participants are experts in such fields as Games and Learning, Data Mining and Visualization, Game Mods, Augmented Reality Games, Mobile Computing, Physical Computing, History and Technology, History Texts, and Oral History.

In this “unconference,” participants will work in creative teams to develop a tool or artifact for history teaching and learning, and will have the option of working in different contexts. They might, for example, develop a history game mod using a game engine (e.g., a modification of Civilization IV), or build an exhibit for history learning using software and hardware (e.g., using an Arduino board and plastic tubing to show arterial flow as understood in the Early Modern Period). The results of the symposium will form the basis of an edited volume with contributions from the participants which will include the following topic areas:

- * The Big Picture
- * Playing with Text
- * Gaming
- * Playing with Primary Sources
- * Beyond the Desktop
- * Classroom Perspectives

The anticipated publication date for *Playful Technology in History* is 2012.

Dr. Kevin Kee



Executive Board Member Activities

Viviane Gosselin, doctoral candidate at the UBC Faculty of Education, is currently conducting a study examining the nature of historical thinking stimulated through the production and public reception of museum exhibitions. Central to her analysis is the temporary exhibition entitled “Being Irish O’Quebec” produced by the McCord Museum of Canadian History in



Montreal, one of THEN/HiER’s partner organizations. The exhibition explores the integration of Irish immigrants and their contribution to the social, cultural, political and economic fabric of Quebec from the era of New France to today. Ms Gosselin is carrying out a series of in-depth interviews with key members of the exhibition team and with visitors, both immediately following and several weeks after their



visits. This empirical enquiry employs an interdisciplinary approach, drawing from the work of museum scholars as well as from a conceptual framework used in history education. Museum staff members will be discussing the

preliminary results of the study with Ms Gosselin at a meeting in Montreal in November.

<http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/>

Kevin Kee (Brock University) and **Stéphane Lévesque** (University of Ottawa) participated in a Workshop on Application Programming Interfaces for the Digital Humanities sponsored by NiCHE (Network in Canadian History and Environment) on October 16-17, 2009. This workshop brought together researchers and programmers from various online projects in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom to discuss the benefits of and possibilities provided by application programming interfaces (APIs) for the digital humanities.

<http://niche-canada.org/digital-infrastructure/apiworkshop>

Executive board members **Margaret Conrad** (University of New Brunswick) and **Jocelyn Létourneau** (Université Laval), along with David Northrup (York University), have recently published “Canadians and Their Pasts: An Exploration in Historical Consciousness,” *The Public Historian* 31(1) (2009): 15-34.

“In March 2006 a group of Canadian researchers formally embarked on a collaborative project to explore how ordinary Canadians engage the past in their everyday lives. The *Canadians and Their Pasts* project was inspired by previous studies undertaken in Europe, the United States, and Australia that used survey data to probe people’s historical consciousness. This paper will briefly summarize the findings of the earlier studies, offer preliminary results from the Canadian survey, and, where possible, reflect on similarities and differences in the consumption of the past across national boundaries.”

(abstract from journal)



Jocelyn Létourneau has received a Fullbright research grant, and a John A. Sproul Research Fellowship in Canadian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, in order to spend five months (January to May 2010) at Stanford University and UC Berkeley. At Stanford he will be working with the Stanford History Education Group, directed by Sam Wineburg. At Berkeley he will be associated with the Canadian Studies Program. In both venues he will continue his research on the historical consciousness of young Quebecers.

Peter Seixas (UBC) will co-present with Carla Peck (University of Alberta) and Lindsay Gibson (doctoral student UBC) at the Association for Canadian Studies Symposium, “Knowing Ourselves: The Challenge of Teaching History in Canadian Official Language Minority Communities.” The title of their session, chaired by **Penney Clark**, is *Introducing Students to Historical Thinking: The Benchmarks Project*.

“Pondering the Past” by **Peter Seixas** was published in a special issue of *The Beaver* entitled *Teaching Canada’s History* (October 2009). In the same issue there is an interview with **Penney Clark** entitled “Making Connections: THEN/HiER Removing Barriers between Ivory Tower and Classrooms.”

New THEN/HiER Partners

Three organizations have recently joined our list of partner organizations:

Saskatchewan Council of Social Sciences

The SCSS is an organization made up of teachers and consultants in the social sciences in Saskatchewan. <http://ssc.stf.sk.ca/scss/index.html>



Saskatchewan Council of Social Sciences

Museum of Vancouver

The Museum of Vancouver's exhibitions and programs focus on Vancouver and stimulate discussions about the past, present, and future of Vancouver. <http://www.museumofvancouver.ca/>



Museums Association of Saskatchewan

MAS has over 200 members including museums, art galleries, and heritage sites. It provides its members with advisory, educational, and financial support. <http://www.saskmuseums.org/>



***We look forward to working
collaboratively with them and our
existing partners!***

News from Our Partners

NEW! From the Begbie Contest Society

Canadian History Primary Sources on CD-ROM

The Begbie Contest Society has been sponsoring a national history contest for senior high school students for the last sixteen years. The contest requires the students to use their critical thinking skills to analyze a wide variety of primary source documents, most republished for the first time. The first fifteen contests are available in print form in English and in French, and as a newly-released CD-ROM containing additional material. These resources should be in all faculty of education and university libraries. For further information see the Begbie Contest Society web site. <http://www.begbiecontestsociety.org/>

*The Begbie Canadian History Contest: The First Ten Years. 2004. \$45.00

*The Begbie Canadian History Contest: Years Eleven to Fifteen. 2008. \$35.00

*Le Concours Begbie d'histoire du Canada : les dix premières années. 2004. 45,00 \$.

*Le Concours Begbie d'histoire du Canada : de la onzième à la quinzième année. 2004. 35,00 \$

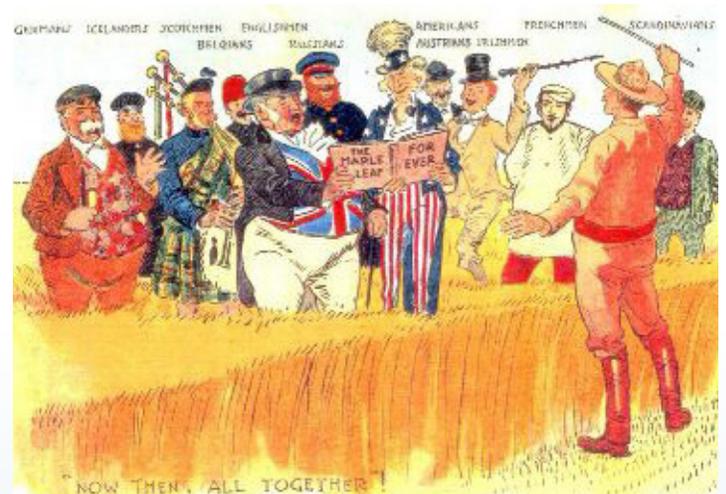
*The Begbie Canadian History Contest: The First Fifteen Years [electronic resource]: test bank using primary source documents from 1850 to the present. 2009. \$39.95

Orders

Please send an authorized purchase order or cheque to:

The Begbie Contest Society
c/o Charles Hou
3378 West 39th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V6N 3A2.

***Prepaid orders will be
shipped free of charge.***



News from Our Partners

News from the Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Project

<http://historybenchmarks.ca>

Jill Colyer Project Coordinator



The Benchmarks Project is currently working on a number of major initiatives. These include plans for our invitational national meeting in Toronto (Feb 2010), a summer institute in Ottawa (July 2010), the creation of historical thinking worksheets for use with the CBC, and redevelopment of the Benchmarks website. Also, historical thinking concepts and language have been incorporated into curriculum documents in some provinces and territories.

National Meeting, Toronto, February 2010
“A Big Step Forward: Historical Thinking in Provincial Curricula, Assessments and Professional Development” will explore the ways in which historical thinking concepts and language have been incorporated into curricula, assessments, professional development, and student resources. Ministries of education representatives, leading history scholars, presidents of professional teachers’ associations, senior management of the major educational publishing houses, Benchmarks Project lead teachers, and the heads of our various partners have been invited to this meeting.
We thank THEN/HIER for providing funding for this meeting.

Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Summer Institute, Ottawa, July 5 to 10, 2010

The Benchmarks Project has entered into an exciting partnership with Library and Archives Canada (LAC). As part of this partnership, LAC has agreed to host the Benchmarks Summer Institute at their Ottawa facilities. The choice of Ottawa as the institute site will provide extraordinary access to primary documents from Canadian history, in both Library and Archives Canada and other major institutions of the capital city. This bilingual, national institute will provide an immersion experience for history curriculum leaders, history teachers, and educators in history museums and historic sites. The Benchmarks of Historical Thinking will provide the methodological core of the institute’s work on curriculum, and lesson and exhibit design and development.

Participants who complete 36 hours of instruction, course readings, and a post-institute assignment will earn graduate, undergraduate, or unclassified credit from the Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia.

THEN/HIER has generously agreed to offer five bursaries of up to \$2,500 each for participants, covering tuition, travel, meals, and accommodation.
See <http://thenhier.ca/en/node/370>

Development of Historical Thinking Worksheets for the CBC Program News in Review

We are pleased to announce that beginning in November 2009, the CBC current events and educational program *News in Review* will incorporate the use of historical thinking student worksheets. *News in Review* is an audio-visual, educational resource designed to inform and teach Canadians about important current events and themes in Canada and the world. It is prepared by a team of CBC news specialists and is shaped and supported by a group of experienced Canadian teachers.

The *News in Review* historical thinking worksheets will allow students to consider aspects of historical significance, continuity and change, and cause and consequence. The worksheets will be referenced in *News in Review Teacher Resource Guides*, and will be available for downloading on its website.
<http://newsinreview.cbclearning.ca/>

Redevelopment of the Benchmarks Website

Work has begun with 7th Floor Media of Vancouver on the redevelopment of the Benchmarks website. Our goal is to launch the new site before the national meeting in February 2010.

Adoption of Historical Thinking Concepts and Language

Historical thinking concepts and language have been incorporated into curriculum documents in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador; and in student resources published by Pearson, Nelson, and McGraw-Hill Ryerson. We hope that other provinces and territories will follow suit!

The Benchmarks Project team is looking forward to ongoing collaborations with our partners!

News from Our Partners

Association for Canadian Studies Symposium: “Knowing Ourselves: The Challenge of Teaching History in Canadian Official Language Minority Communities”

Ramada Plaza Crystal Palace Hotel
Dieppe (Moncton), New Brunswick
November 5-6, 2009
<http://www.acs-aec.ca/>

Session titles include:

- Acadians and Their Pasts
- Does Knowledge of Canadian History Reinforce National Identity?
- Media, Literacy, Diversity and Our History
- Resources from Archives and Museums
- Current Debates in Canadian History
- Introducing Students to Historical Thinking: The Benchmarks Project

Museums Association of Saskatchewan

<http://www.saskmuseums.org/>
MAS is seeking expressions of interest to participate in their “**Museums and Sustainability Initiative: ‘Greening the Museum’ Working Group.**”

Education and Professional Development

MAS offers a variety of programs and workshops for professionals working in museums:

- Certificate in Community Museum Studies Program
- The Coaching Program
- Community Trainers
- Special Interest Groups
- Special Interest Program
- Standards for Boards

Canadian Historical Association

<http://www.cha-shc.ca/>
Call for papers: The Canadian Historical Association is accepting proposals of 250-350 words for its 2010 Annual Conference to be held at Concordia University, Montreal, from May 30 to June 1, 2010. The theme is “**Telling Stories/Storytelling.**”

Multicultural History Society of Ontario

<http://www.mhso.ca/>
The MHSO is conducting a two-year project, *Chinese Canadian Women 1923-1967: Inspiration-Innovation-Ingenuity*. This project will draw materials from various sources, including oral history interviews from across Canada. At the conclusion of the project these materials will be made available to the public through an online portal.

British Columbia Social Studies Teachers’ Association Conference “Media, Mass Culture, and Historical Thinking”

Riverside Secondary School
Coquitlam, BC
October 23, 2009
<http://bctf.ca/BCSSTA/>

The keynote speaker for this year’s conference, Dr. Stuart Poyntz, is Assistant Professor in the Media, Technology and Production School of Communication at Simon Fraser University. Holding a PhD from the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at UBC, Dr. Poyntz has worked for many years in the areas of children and media, theories of the public sphere, history of media literacy, and historical thinking in children. Sessions include presentations on the teaching of history, geography, law, civics, and social justice.

British Columbia Historical Federation Annual Conference

“It’s All About Transportation!”

Plaza 500 Hotel
Vancouver, BC
May 6-8, 2010
<http://www.bchistory.ca/>

This conference includes workshops, a book fair, lectures and presentations, and tours of significant historical places. THEN/HiER Director, Dr. Penney Clark, will address the annual general meeting on the topic of the place of BC history in the social studies curriculum.

Museum of Vancouver

<http://www.museumofvancouver.ca/>
Attention teachers! Bring your students to an “**Animating History**” program at the Museum of Vancouver. Professional animators will guide your students through the development of a one- to two-minute animated story about an aspect of Vancouver history such as the Vancouver Fire, Mummy Panechates, Gold Rush, and the 1907 Anti-Asian Riots.

Is there something you’d like to share about history education?

THEN/HiER’s newsletter comes out bi-annually, in April and October. We also have a monthly e-bulletin to keep you up-to-date on the latest news in history education. If you have something you would like to share with others involved in history education, please contact the Network Manager, Anne Marie Goodfellow, at annemarie.goodfellow@ubc.ca.

For more information about THEN/HiER, please visit our website at www.thenhier.ca, or contact the Network Manager.