

Our monthly e-Bulletin provides quick updates on activities of THEN/HiER and its partners.

What's new with THEN/HiER?

*** Small Projects Grants**

Four projects funded through THEN/HiER's Small Projects Grants Program have been completed and their final reports are available on our website.

Exemplary History Teaching Videos Using Historical Thinking Concepts



This project entailed the production of four short videos of social studies classes at Gladstone Secondary School in Vancouver, BC. THEN/HiER funds were used for materials and production costs.



Alberta Social Studies Teacher Education Resource Online

The ASTERO website offers both a conceptual framework and classroom planning resources served by several feeder projects enacted with practicing and pre-service teachers. THEN/HiER funds were used for costs associated with website construction.

Developing Topics on Atlantic Canada for the Begbie Canadian History Contest

Begbie Canadian History Contest developers visited a number of archives, universities, museums, historical sites, art galleries and libraries in Atlantic Canada to search for primary source materials suitable for future contests. THEN/HiER funds were used for travel expenses.



MedSTEP (Medieval Students' Teaching Experience Program)

MedSTEP 2010 was a teaching and recruitment event for high school students held at Wilfrid Laurier University. THEN/HiER funds were used for student travel and food.

*** Large Projects Grants**



THEN/HiER has awarded a Large Projects Grant to the Canadian Letters and Images Project based at Vancouver Island University for the creation, publication, and promotion of online teacher resources based on the primary documents found in the project database.

*** Executive Board Member, Viviane Gosselin**, has begun a position as Curator of Contemporary Issues at the Museum of Vancouver, one of THEN/HiER's partners. Congratulations, Viviane!



What's new with our partners?

* Ojibwe Cultural Foundation

Alan Corbiere, Executive Director of the OCF, will be speaking at Algoma University's conference *Engaging Indigenous Communities: Resources, Rebellions, and Resurgence* which takes place from August 10 to 13, 2010, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The title of his talk is "'You would make a large road': Boundaries, Borders, and Ownership in Anishinaabe Political Discourse." Conference website.

* British Columbia Historical Federation

British Columbia HISTORY

Andrea Lister is the new editor of *British Columbia History*, the journal of the BC Historical Federation. Ms. Lister has a B.A. in History from UBC (1994) complemented by a Certificate in Technical Communications (2003) from Simon Fraser University.



Logo contest - deadline November 1, 2010

The BC Historical Federation is looking for a new logo that will reflect its commitment to preserve and promote BC history. Read more.

* Parks Canada

Experiences Newsletter

In this edition:

- Parks Canada Celebrates!
- Banff National Park turns 125!
- How They Came To Be
- Canada's Greatest Summer Job!



Maligne Lake, one of the most beautiful glacier-fed lakes in the Canadian Rockies, received protection when Jasper National Park was established in 1907. © Parks Canada Agency

* Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness

The CSHC held the Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Summer Institute from July 5 to 10 at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa for people involved in history education. The event was very successful!

THEN/HiER provided bursaries of up to \$2,500 to the following people to attend the Institute:

- **Alan Corbiere**, Executive Director, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (a THEN/HiER partner)
- **Shannon Hodge**, Archivist, Jewish Public Library Archives, Montréal
- **Robert Jardine**, President, Saskatchewan Council of Social Sciences (a THEN/HiER partner), and teacher at Blaine Lake Composite School
- **Janet Thompson**, teacher at Gladstone Secondary School, Vancouver
- **Brent Toles**, Social Sciences Consultant, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
- **Robyn Young**, teacher at Villanova Junior High, Newfoundland

See next month's *e-Bulletin* for an in-depth report on the Institute!

* Canada's History

A participant at the Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Summer Institute, **Jennifer Janzen** of University of Winnipeg Collegiate, has started a blog on Canada's History website.

Read the blog.

[Benchmarks of Historical Thinking: Summer Institute Blog](#)

History House-call



Jennifer Janzen

A live blog from the Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Summer Institute written by University of Winnipeg Collegiate educator Jennifer Janzen.

Graduate Student Corner

Graduate Student Coordinator **Jennifer Bonnell**

As reported in last month's *e-Bulletin*, the inaugural *Approaching the Past* event at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto, sponsored by THEN/HiER and Active History, was a great success. For those who were unable to attend, **Tom Peace**, of Active History, has created a virtual workshop, *History is a Verb Activity*, based on the evening's activities. Go to the workshop.

Research Snapshots

This section of our monthly e-Bulletin highlights our members' research projects. If you would like to submit a snapshot of your research, please contact annemarie.goodfellow@ubc.ca.

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Colonial Despatches and Teaching Canadian History

What is a Despatch? Nothing less than the lifeline by which Britain governed its vast empire. Colonial Despatches are the correspondence through which the Colonial Office in London instructed its colonial governors all over the world, and by which the governors reported back. The Despatches are not the dry, guarded and politically-correct documents which characterize much of today's government correspondence. Here are adventures and exploration, financial windfalls and disasters, conflicts, smuggling, murder, and diplomacy pushed to the verge of war. So the Despatches offer a rich source of primary documents and an engaging opportunity to draw students into that lost world.

A recent project involving the Library and the Humanities Computing and Media Centre at the University of Victoria (UVic) has embarked on a digital publication of the Despatches between the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island and the Colonial Office. At the moment the *Colonial Despatches* from 1846 to the 1858 gold rush are available online and we plan to complete the series to when BC joined Confederation in 1871.

Taking advantage of the new on-line availability of these Despatches, UVic approached the BC Treaty Commission to support the creation of four curriculum challenges for grades 5 to 10 across Canada.

Combining the premise of UVic's *Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History* project – that everyone likes to solve a puzzle – with the critical thinking models devised by The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC²), who took charge of the lesson plans, we have created and are launching “ready to use” curriculum challenges, complete with lesson plans and support material for teachers, in both French and English, on *The Governor's Letters* website.

The support material has much broader use. The three skill sets – *Reading Around a Document*, *Judging the Credibility of Primary Accounts*, and *Exploring the Author's Mindset* – can be applied to any historical documents and are supported with stand-alone exercises.

Each of the four challenges is posed as a puzzle to solve, and is designed to engage students in historical thinking based on the analysis of evidence. For example, one challenge asks about the fairness of treaty making and compares the BC “Douglas” treaties with the numbered treaties on the prairies. Teachers can easily add in comparisons to treaties or pacts of friendship signed in other parts of Canada. The other three challenges focus on British Columbia but in ways designed to fit into curricula in all provinces. The four challenges are:

- What Were the Real Reasons for Creating the Colony of British Columbia?
- Were the Douglas Treaties and the Numbered Treaties Fairly Negotiated?
- Did the Gold Rush Radically Change Daily Life in Victoria?
- Did Governor James Douglas Deserve to be Knighted?

Using the Despatches, as well as other primary sources including maps, paintings, and photographs, students are invited to solve these and related puzzles while building their historical thinking skills.

Teachers who wish to up the challenge level can explore the full set of Despatches as well as over 200 maps from the Colonial Archives in London relating to BC. If they like posing problems to their students they should also explore the *Mysteryquests* website which takes a similar approach to the historical documents in the *Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History* series but in bite size pieces linked to grades 5 to 12 curriculum.

Such a rich project depends on a team to create it. The teacher support material was written by Lindsay Gibson, and edited by Roland Case, both of TC², and myself, with research help from Jenny Clayton and translation by Françoise McNeil. Funding came from the British Columbia Treaty Commission and the National Archives of Canada using funds provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage. The Despatches project built on the transcription work of Dr. James Hendrickson and involved a much larger team who can all be found on the *Colonial Despatches* website.

*** MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!**



John Lutz with BC Lieutenant Governor Steven Point and UVic Librarian Marnie Swanson at the *Despatches* launch.



John Lutz with “Queen Victoria”