

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



What's new with THEN/HiER?

* **Penney Clark, THEN/HiER Director**, is guest editing a theme issue of *BC History* on education. The publication of the British Columbia Historical Federation will appear in spring 2011. Submissions are due December 1st. Read the call for papers.

British Columbia **HISTORY**

* **THEN/HiER Website**. The Instructional Resources and Repertory of Primary Source Databases sections of the THEN/HiER website have been revamped to make them more user-friendly for teachers and researchers. They are now categorized by general and specific topics, major events, and useful resources in Canadian history.

***THEN/HiER member, Dr. Brenda Trofanenko**, has been named a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Education, Culture, and Community at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. A former high school teacher, she completed her MEd in Curriculum Studies at the University of New Brunswick and her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of British Columbia. She also holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in history. Her research program spans the disciplines of education, museum studies, and curriculum studies.

Ruth Sandwell of Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), and Jan Haskings-Winner, President of Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association (OHASSTA), both THEN/HiER Executive Board members, with Scott Pollock of St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School in Oakville, Ontario, will hold a panel titled "Teaching Teachers: The Case of History and Social Studies Education" at the joint Association for Canadian Studies (ACS)/OHASSTA conference in Toronto, *Canada's Diverse Histories*, November 5-6. Read the program.



***THEN/HiER member, Lindsay Gibson**, will be presenting at the upcoming British Columbia Social Studies Teachers' Association conference, *Building a More Civil Society; Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities in the 21st Century*. The title of his presentation is "The Governor's Letters: Using Primary Sources to Engage Students in the History of British Columbia." In his talk, Mr. Gibson will refer to THEN/HiER's online Repertory of Primary Source Databases which he worked on this past summer.



THEN/HiER Network Manager, Anne Marie Goodfellow, will be presenting at the Alberta Social Studies Conference, *Social Justice in a Digital Age* (October 15-17), and the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers' Association Conference, *Understanding Each Other* (October 22). In her presentations she will talk about some of the benefits of and opportunities afforded by membership in THEN/HiER, and conduct a workshop on types of collaborative projects teachers can get involved in.

Small Projects Grants

THEN/HiER has awarded two Small Projects Grants this month. In one of the projects, *Connecting Northern British Columbia Youth to Canada's History through the BC Heritage Fair Program*, The British Columbia Heritage Fairs Society will offer a series of workshops for teachers and community-based educators in northern and eastern British Columbia, regions that have been underrepresented in the heritage fairs program. Another grant went to members of the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa for *Making History-Faire de l'Histoire Oral History Speaker Series*. This series of interactive workshops will produce educational material to support the increased use of oral history in elementary, secondary and university classrooms across Canada, and promote a local historical network in order to facilitate dialogue between students, educators and researchers.

What's new with our partners?

* **Parks Canada** has declared the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre a place of national historic significance based on their project, *Telling the Story of the Nikkei: A Partnership Between Schools, Educators, Universities, Museums, Arts Organizations, and the Nikkei of New Denver*. As reported in last month's e-Bulletin, THEN/HiER awarded the Nikkei Centre a Large Projects Grant to support this project to produce student documentary films about the Japanese internment in New Denver. Read more on the Parks Canada website.

* **The Multicultural History Society of Ontario** recently launched *The Ties that Bind: Building the CPR, Building a Place in Canada*, a project that creates a more inclusive understanding of the building of Canada through recognizing the contributions of the Chinese Canadian community. The project website has a Learning Resources section which includes a Teacher's Guide, Lesson Plans, Image and Audio Galleries, and Resource Material.

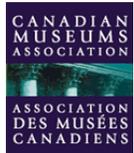
The Ties That Bind



The MHSO has also partnered with Athabasca University to digitize some of its ethnic newspaper collection, available on the *Connecting Canadians: Canada's Multicultural Newspapers* website.

* **British Columbia Historical Federation** is holding a contest to find new logo, and the deadline for submissions, November 1, is approaching fast!

* **Canadian Museums Association** presents seven annual awards that recognize excellence within the museum community. Deadline for submissions is November 15 of each year. Read about the different awards.



Graduate Student Corner

Graduate Student Coordinator **Jennifer Bonnell**

Upcoming activities for graduate students and the general public include the second workshop in the *Approaching the Past* series in Toronto, scheduled to take place September 30th at Montgomery's Inn, an historical tavern in the city's west end. Sponsored by THEN/HiER, Active History, and Montgomery's Inn, the evening will feature University of Waterloo historian Julia Roberts on the topic of "Tavern Tales and Tavern Spaces: Teaching History from inside the Colonial Taverns of Upper Canada."

More details and to RSVP.

Read a review of Dr. Roberts' book *In Mixed Company: Taverns and Public Life in Upper Canada*.

In November, graduate students from across the country are invited to attend a one-day workshop sponsored by THEN/HiER, the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS), and Active History. *Teaching History in Diverse Venues: A Workshop Linking Historians and Educators in Bettering History Education Practice* will bring together graduate students and faculty from History, Education, and related disciplines, together with practicing teachers and public history professionals, to discuss new directions in teaching history in public school and university classrooms, museums and historic sites, and virtual locations. The workshop will take place November 4th in Toronto, immediately before the ACS/OHASSTA conference November 5th and 6th. Limited travel funding exists to support the participation of graduate students from different parts the country. Find out more about the event and how to attend.

In Québec, francophone graduate student coordinator Sabrina Moisan is working in conjunction with three professional associations of history and geography teachers, curriculum developers, and teacher-educators to organize a one-day "mini-conference" for graduate students in history education and related fields. Representatives of the three associations, the Groupe de responsables en univers social (GRUS), the Association Québécoise pour la didactique de l'histoire et de la géographie (AQDHG), and the Association Québécoise pour l'enseignement en univers social (AQEUS), will also attend the conference. Sponsored by THEN/HiER and AQEUS, the event will take place October 21st as a lead-up to the AQEUS association meetings on the 22nd and 23rd. We invite graduate students to take part in discussions about the kinds of links that should exist between different actors in the fields of history teaching and history education research. For more information about the event, contact Sabrina Moisan.

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.

Jennifer Bonnell, PhD
Graduate of the History & Philosophy of Education Program
Department of Theory and Policy Studies
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto



Histories of Environments, Histories of Place

I came to the study of history belatedly, following a long-standing interest in connections between land use, place, and memory. While completing my master's degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria in the late 1990s, I had the opportunity to explore oral histories of migration and resource use among First Nations of B.C.'s northwest coast, and the ways these very place-specific stories were being mobilized in land claims cases and GIS mapping initiatives. I moved to Toronto several years later, and took up a position with the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, conducting oral history interviews with the great diversity of residents, new and established, of the Scarborough community of Agincourt. The resulting community exhibition attempted to capture the disorientation of these residents, from those who had seen the area transform from a small and close-knit farming community to sprawling suburb, to those who had recently arrived from places as far-flung as Sri Lanka and Egypt to a place unimaginably unfamiliar. Listening to people speak about their experiences, and the pasts they carried with them, sparked what has been an ongoing passion for histories of place.

Returning to graduate school in 2004, I sought to take these interests in people's connections with place and bolster them with a deeper understanding of the practice of "doing history." At OISE I found an opportunity to build upon my academic background in English and Environmental Studies by channelling my research interests into studies of public memory and environmental history. The presence of such widely-respected historians as Ruth Sandwell and Cecilia Morgan, access to faculty members in the neighbouring history department, and support from a creative and open-minded committee enabled me to reinvent myself, over the space of six years, as a historian of Canadian social and environmental history.

My dissertation research on the history of Toronto's Don River Valley emerged out of my own experience as a newcomer to the city, and my attempts to familiarize myself with what felt like a foreign and at times incomprehensible urban landscape. Cycling the pathways along the Lower Don River on weekends, I wondered how the place had come to look the way it did: a neglected urban waterway channelled in concrete and criss-crossed, in its lower reaches, with highway overpasses and exit ramps. What did the place once look like, when European settlers first arrived on the northern shore of Lake Ontario? How had perceptions of the place changed over time? What was the relationship between the way the place was perceived, and the uses to which it was put over time? How was it that this neglected and polluted place was at once a recreation destination for Torontonians, and a refuge for homeless people? *Why here?*



Lower Don River

What I first thought would be an oral history project documenting people's memories of the valley quickly became something different. Early visits to the City of Toronto Archives and other collections soon made it clear that my challenge would be navigating through the great plethora of sources available on the Don, rather than producing new sources of my own. Maps, photographs, illustrations and textual material on a diverse range of subjects, including the early settlement history of the river, the rise of river-side industry, and a long line of studies and plans to improve what had become, by the late 19th century, little more than an open sewer, provided rich information to draw from over the course of the project.



D.C. Grose, Taylor Brothers
Paper Mill on the Don River,
c. 1860. Toronto Public Library,
Historical Pictures Collection,
B 3-27c.

I defended the dissertation, titled "Imagined Futures and Unintended Consequences: An Environmental History of Toronto's Don River Valley," last spring. From the beginning, the project was blessed with good timing (however accidental), and consistent public interest: as I wrote about the river's past, the city and its waterfront development agency, Waterfront Toronto, were embarking on ambitious plans to "re-naturalize" the mouth of the Don (and to replace a derelict industrial district with revenue-generating condominiums). Public interest in the area's past continues to bring opportunities to speak at libraries, professional associations and historical societies around the city – what have been really rewarding ways to share my research with people deeply interested in the city's past.



Currently, I'm working on revising the manuscript for publication with the University of Toronto Press. My next project will explore the environmental history of beekeeping in 20th-century Ontario and New York State.

*** MORE TO COME IN OUR NEWSLETTER NEXT MONTH!**