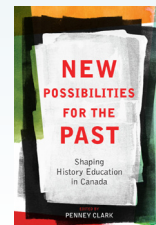


Our monthly e-Bulletin provides quick updates on activities of THEN/HiER and its partners.



What's new with THEN/HiER?

* **New THEN/HiER Publication!** We are very pleased to announce the publication of our first book in the THEN/HiER series. *New Possibilities for the Past: Shaping History Education in Canada*, edited by THEN/HiER director Penney Clark and published by UBC Press, will be available in June 2011.



* **Executive Board Member Stéphane Lévesque** was invited as international guest speaker at a national Swedish Conference on Social Sciences and History Didactics organized by the Centre for Social Science (CSS) Didactics at Karlstad University, Karlstad, held from November 29 to December 1. He presented two lectures on "Thinking History: Development of Didactics of History Education in Canada," and "Citizen Education and Didactics of Social Science in Canada." During his stay at Karlstad University, he also led workshops with local teacher educators on teaching and learning with digital history. A dedicated hockey fan and minor hockey league coach, he also welcomed the opportunity to play a friendly game with Swedish colleagues on an outdoor hockey rink!

* **Executive Board Member Jocelyn Létourneau**, principal investigator in the CURA-funded project on how Canadians engage their pasts in their everyday lives, spoke about the challenge of teaching history to young people at a symposium on January 20 at the Université de Moncton. The topic of the symposium, hosted by the Musée acadien in collaboration with the *Canadians and Their Pasts* research alliance, was the role of museums in teaching Acadian students about their history. In their presentation, Jeanne-Mance Cormier, Curator at the Musée acadien, and her research assistant Hélène Savoie discussed their research project which convincingly demonstrated the value of a well-planned museum visit on students' understanding of their past. This research and the intense interest that it generated among those attending the symposium underscored the value of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research program to encourage academic and community collaborations.



* **Executive Board Member Margaret Conrad**, in association with the Electronic Text Centre at the University of New Brunswick, has launched a new website. *Contested Terrain: Aboriginal Land Petitions in New Brunswick, 1786-1878* features a digital collection of petitions, written between 1786 and 1878, relating to land grants in colonial New Brunswick, in which either Aboriginal people are the petitioners or their land is the subject of attention. It also includes teacher and student resources for Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Contested Terrain
Aboriginal Land Petitions in New Brunswick, 1786-1878

* **Executive Board member Viviane Gosselin** was in Ottawa this month to review submissions for the Canadian Museum Association's annual *Awards of Outstanding Achievement*. She and four other museum professionals decided on the best Canadian museum projects of 2010. Names of winners will appear on the CMA website, and awards presented on April 13 at the *CMA National Conference*, April 11 to 14 in London, Ontario.



* **Executive Board Member Alan Sears** gave a presentation titled "Reimagining Communities: The Challenge of Fostering National Belonging in a Globalized World" on January 24 at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario. His talk focused on employing new approaches to history teaching to bring history and citizenship education together in ways that can foster an inclusive national history and promote engaged and critical citizenship. He also gave a workshop to about 120 elementary education students titled "Teaching the Contested and Controversial Nature of Democratic Ideas."

* **Approaching the Past series.** The next workshop in this Toronto-based series will be on February 24 at the Duke of York pub, 39 Prince Arthur Ave. The topic is *Bridging the Gap between History Student and History Teacher* with speakers Peter Flaherty, Ph.D., York University Faculty of Education and Rose Fine-Meyer, Ph.D. Candidate, OISE/UT.

What's new with our partners?

* **The BC Historical Federation** now has a website book store featuring books not available in commercial book stores on many aspects of BC history. BCHF member societies or individual members who have BC history publications can now promote and sell their books to a much larger reading audience.



A.C. Taylor & Co., Kamloops, books and stationery, circa 1914.
Collection of Kamloops Museum & Archives

* **Museums Association of Saskatchewan's Winter-Spring 2011 Education and Professional Development Calendar** is now available. This guide includes relevant and practical education and professional development learning opportunities for volunteers, staff, board members, or individuals interested in learning more about museums.

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

**Education & Professional
Development Calendar**



Highlights this spring include:

Certificate in Community Museum Studies: A "Museums 101" care of collections course.

Creative Collaborations Symposium: With speakers Dr. Candace Matelic and Flo Frank.

Special topics workshops: Brought to you by MAS and special interest groups.



* **New publication from the Association for Canadian Studies.** *Canada's Diverse Histories*, the theme of the joint ACS/ OHASSTA (Ontario History and Social Sciences Teachers' Association) conference in November 2010, is now available on the ACS website. It includes contributions by THEN/HiER Executive Board members Jan Haskings-Winner, Alan Sears, and Stéphane Lévesque; and THEN/HiER's representative on the Alberta Teachers' Association Social Studies Council, Carla Peck.

Graduate Student Committee

Jennifer Bonnell, Program Coordinator

The graduate student committee is at work on a number of initiatives in this first month of the new year, including a repository of activities and pedagogical resources for tutorial leaders in undergraduate history courses, synopses of important academic articles on key subjects in teaching Canadian history, and ongoing work creating podcasts and commentary for the THEN/HiER website.



We recently launched, in collaboration with Tom Peace of Active History, a new blog titled *Teaching the Past: A Blog about Teaching History in Canada*. Graduate student committee members will be using the blog to share commentary, resources, and op-ed style pieces each week (events and other opportunities will continue to be posted on the THEN/HiER main site). We welcome additional contributors; please contact Jennifer Bonnell if you are interested in joining our roster. In the meantime, consider subscribing to the blog to receive notifications of new posts, and don't hesitate to share your comments on existing and future posts.

Visiting Doctoral Student Program

The deadline for this funding program is coming up next month. Applications are due Monday, February 28. For more information and application instructions, visit our website.

Research Snapshots

This section of our monthly e-Bulletin highlights our members' research projects.

Ruth Sandwell
Associate Professor
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)
University of Toronto



Canada's History Wars

Intense debates have erupted about the nature and purpose of history and history education within a number of countries in recent years, accompanied by more and less political and social vitriol and educational change. Debates about history education, which typically manifest themselves in national and indeed nationalistic frameworks, promise to bring fresh perspectives and insights to our understanding of just what history education does, what it means and why it matters. I was, therefore, pleased to be invited by Tony Taylor (Monash University, Melbourne, Australia) and Robert Guyver (University College Plymouth, UK) to contribute the Canadian chapter to an international collection of essays that they are editing, *History Wars in the Classroom: A Global Perspective*. Based on interviews with a variety of professionals closely involved in history education in Canada, my chapter draws on oral history to explore the visions and goals that have informed those professionals working to change history education in Canada, as well as their evaluations of just what has been accomplished in Canada's "History Wars."



By Ben & Katherine Sinclair
(Water-Buffalo fight) [CC-BY-2.0
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via Wikimedia Commons

As the editors explained to potential contributors, the purpose of this collection is to examine a range of issues that have manifested themselves in History Wars in various countries – inclusion and identity (especially of indigenous groups as well as other ethnicities), guilt, blame, patriotic grand narratives, neoconservatism, etc. – and explore their relation to the history curriculum. "The idea is to look not only at 'wars' (as in 'debates'), but also the outcomes or solutions (even compromises) that followed (and the rationales behind them), with sections on political, ideological, pedagogical and even historiographical factors that have influenced developments." Essays about Britain, the United States, Germany, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, South Africa, and Russia will be included, along with Canada.

Rather than attempt to provide a scholarly description and analysis of Canadian History Wars (Penney Clark has recently done a fine job of this in her introduction to a forthcoming collection of essays about Canadian history education, *New Possibilities for the Past: Shaping History Education in Canada*), I proposed to the editors that my chapter instead be based on a series of interviews with a variety of Canadian history educators, historians, history teachers and public historians who have been closely involved with Canada's History Wars over the past twenty years. Drawing on interviews conducted in the summer of 2010 with fourteen professionals who were participants in and close observers of the Canadian debates, the chapter explores their reflections on their role in these discussions and also their impressions of the larger debates about history education in Canada that have informed their work – what were the nature, the purpose, and outcome of recent discussions on the subject? The chapter also includes comments and reflections of two anonymous reviewers. All but one voice – my own – remain anonymous.

"'We were allowed to disagree, because we couldn't agree on anything': Seventeen Voices in the Canadian Debates Over History Education," in Tony Taylor and Robert Guyver, eds., *History Wars in the Classroom: a Global Perspective* (Information Age, forthcoming 2011).

*** MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!**