

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



What's new with THEN/HiER?



* **Stéphane Lévesque, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member**, recently published the chapter "Thinking History: Development of Didactics of History Education in Canada" in the book *Patterns of Research in Civics, History, Geography and Religious Education*, edited by Bengt Schüllerqvist and published by Karlstad University Press, Sweden (2011). The book is comprised of key speeches and comments from an international conference at Karlstad University in 2010.

* **THEN/HiER's Regional Annual Conference in history education, *Imagining Gateways***, will take place in Halifax from October 27 to 29, 2011. We have an engaging three days of events, panels and discussions planned for the conference including a talk and tour at the Nova Scotia Archives, and panels at the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers' Association's Annual Conference and the Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 which will include historians, educators, and researchers. Some funding is available for graduate and teacher education students as well as non-students to attend. For details see the registration form.

The History Education Network/Histoire et Éducation en Réseau presents
Imagining Gateways: Collaboration & innovation in teaching and learning history
 October 27-29, 2011
 Halifax, Nova Scotia

In collaboration with the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers' Association & The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, THEN/HiER invites you to participate in three days of discussion with historians, history educators, museum staff, and community members interested in pedagogy and practice related to history teaching and learning, especially through narratives of migration.

More details will be announced closer to the date. Please check www.thenhier.ca or email scutrar@yorku.ca for specifics.

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Approaching the Past presents
Toronto and the First World War: Local Stories, National Narratives
 An evening for teachers
 October 5th, 5-8pm

Our first *Approaching the Past* event involves visits to two Toronto sites and examinations of archival documents to understand the ways in which the First World War had an impact on the citizens of Toronto.

The October 5th event is open to history teachers, historians and students.

We will begin at the *City of Toronto Archives* and examine the collection of Anna Durie's World War One Diaries and The Number 2 Construction Battalion: The story of Canada's only all-black battalion. 255 Spadina Road, feel free to arrive at 4:30

We will then head to *Spadina Museum* to examine the estate of Percy Austin and Maggie Austin, the family's eldest son and daughter who both went to France and returned alive, but with shell shock. 285 Spadina Road

The evening is free, includes refreshments in both venues and a folder of First World War educational materials.

Visit www.approachingthepast.toronto.com for more information. Please RSVP by this event or email for more information.

Approaching the Past is a workshop series in Toronto, Ontario that is focused on bringing together teachers working in middle and high schools, universities, and museums to discuss teaching history as a social practice. Workshops offer the opportunity to connect with colleagues, meet people teaching history in unique and engaging ways, and to challenge to teach history in ways that connect more deeply with our students.

Approaching the Past is sponsored by The History Education Network (THEN/HiER).

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* ***Approaching the Past* is fast approaching!** On October 5 the first event of the season in this Toronto-area series, *World War I and the Archives*, will begin at the Toronto Archives with an examination of Anna Durie's World War One Diaries and The Number 2 Construction Battalion: the story of Canada's only all-African Canadian battalion. Participants will then move next door to the Spadina Museum where they will hear narratives about Percy, the Austin family's eldest son who went to France as a gunner, and his sister Maggie, the family's youngest child, who went to work in a hospital in England while still a teenager and returned transformed. Both came back from the war shelled shocked.

Small Projects Grants

THEN/HiER has awarded a Small Projects Grant to Scott Murray and Jennifer Pettit, both history professors in the Department of Humanities at Mount Royal University in Calgary, to help fund their second annual one-day History/Social Studies Teaching Workshop titled *Perspectives, Past and Present, in the Social Studies Classroom*. The conference is being held in conjunction with the Calgary City Teachers' Convention on February 16, 2012, and is open to secondary school teachers from the Calgary area, as well as faculty from Mount Royal University. Speakers include Amy von Heyking, University of Lethbridge, as the keynote speaker, and professors from Humanities, Education and Schooling, Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies at Mount Royal University.

What's new with our partners?

* Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness.

2012 Historical Thinking Project Annual Meeting and Conference

The Historical Thinking Project of the CSHC will be holding its 4th Annual Meeting and Conference from January 18 to 20, 2012 at the Toronto Airport Hilton Hotel. The theme of the conference is "How do we best assess historical thinking in the classroom?" Assessment experts will address the meeting, and share the stage with consultants from different ministries of education who have developed tools for assessing historical thinking. Attendance at this meeting is by invitation only.



* **Canadian Museums Association.** The CMA is accepting submissions for its *Museums and Schools Partnership Award* which recognizes excellence in collaboration between Canadian museums and schools in developing educational programming to enrich and expand students' understanding of and appreciation for Canada's cultural and natural heritage. The award is a collaboration between the Canadian Museums Association and the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and is open to any Canadian school or school board in collaboration with any Canadian public non-profit museum (including closely related institutions such as zoos and science centres) or museum group. The deadline for submissions is November 15. More details and nomination instructions are on the CMA website.

* **Critical Thinking Consortium.** TC² is offering an array of online learning opportunities to support teachers in making meaningful educational change. Registration is now open for its 2011/2012 Spotlight Sessions. Offerings of online professional learning sessions have been expanded to provide greater opportunity for access, increased ongoing support for professional learning programs, and a wider range of topics.

Graduate Student Committees

Welcome to a new school year! The Anglophone Graduate Student Committee is excited about the busy year ahead. We are currently working on a panel session for the 2012 Canadian Society for the Study of Education



Rose Fine-Meyer

(CSSE) Annual Conference, as well as identifying other priorities and projects for the 2011/2012 academic year. We are happy that our *Teaching the Past* blog has found a new home on our redesigned THEN/HiER website where graduate committee members and others will be blogging throughout the year. Check out the post *History Has Left the Building* by Katherine Joyce, as well as Mary Chaktsiris's reflection of speaking with Ian McKay in *Warrior Nation vs. Peaceable Kingdom? Ian McKay on Understandings of History in Canada*. You can also listen to this interview as a podcast on our site.



Samantha Cutrara

We are also looking to expand! In particular we are looking for representatives from Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut. If you are interested in being involved or learning more about what we do, contact the Graduate Student Committee Co-Chairs Samantha Cutrara or Rose Fine-Meyer.

The Francophone Graduate Student Committee has returned from a well-deserved summer break and is preparing for a busy fall. In addition to participating in several conferences (as mentioned in the August *e-Bulletin*), committee members are becoming involved in various projects. For example, we are submitting a proposal for a session on history teaching for the Acfas Conference in Montreal in May 2012. We are also launching a project to summarize articles that will be useful to both academics and teachers. As for our blog, *Enseigner l'histoire*, we are in the process of transferring material from the old Wordpress site to the new address on the THEN/HiER website. Even though the blog has changed locations, it remains active thanks to the many postings by our bloggers. The francophone committee will also be participating in THEN/HiER's annual conference in Halifax from October 27 to 29, 2011, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers' Association and the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. We hope that many of you will register and participate in our discussions. For more information, please contact Catherine Duquette.



Catherine Duquette

Research Snapshots

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

Steven High
Department of History, Concordia University
Canada Research Chair in Oral History

Oral History at Concordia University

New forms of media are quickly changing the ways that we think about and do oral and public history; historians are now using a variety of digital technologies to record, organize, catalogue, interpret, share, and exhibit the stories that we collect. In oral history, we are in a transformative moment, especially when it comes to thinking about what happens after the interview. This is an important point: oral historians have been so focused on the making of the interview that we have spent remarkably little time thinking about what to do with the audio or video recordings. As Michael Frisch has noted, "[the] Deep Dark Secret of oral history is that nobody spends much time listening to or watching recorded and collected interview[s]." New digital technologies have made the intangible much more tangible in recent years. The result, according to Université Laval folklorist Laurier Turgeon, is a "new era of heritage." People are seeking a heritage that is interactive, participatory, and living. These trends have important ramifications for the history classroom.

Concordia University's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling is home to over 200 faculty, students, educators, new media practitioners, activists, heritage and history organizations, and other community groups. This diverse community of practice is exploring the intersections between oral history, new media and the arts. The results are often inspiring.



Rwandan Montrealer Rupert Bazambanza's graphic novel *Smile Through the Tears* on the Rwandan genocide. Photo David Ward.

The Montreal Life Stories Project, a large-scale Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) project, now entering its final year, is recording the life stories of Montrealers displaced by war, genocide and other human rights violations. These interviews are then integrated into online digital stories, audio tours, performances, art installations, exhibitions, radio programming and pedagogical resources. We have worked with two Grade 11 classes where students developed a year-long oral history project around this theme, producing a documentary film and exhibition. These projects won an award from the Oral History Association (USA) for the best example of oral history teaching in North America and Quebec's *Force Avenir* award for student engagement. You can view the *Life In the Open Prison* documentary on the Citizen Shift website. Another student, Paul Tom, won the animation prize from the Montreal World Film Festival in 2010. The Citizen Shift and Parole citoyenne sites also host our digital stories, co-produced with survivors themselves, and the podcasts of over 26 radio documentaries produced by our radio production team.

This past year I was invited to co-author a report and web portal on Oral History and New Media for SSHRC (available for download on our Oral Historian's Digital Toolbox site) that examines how digital tools are letting us access, share, locate, and archive stories like never before. This is a useful resource for teachers (as is our tips page). Meanwhile, our COHDS software development team recently released a new version of *Stories Matter*, a free open source oral history software developed in-house as an alternative to transcription. We have applied for funding to develop a new mapping memories tool that will enable us to geo-locate interview clips, thereby producing life memory mappings.

There are dozens of other projects, large and small, underway at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling. Here are five inspiring examples from the past year:

- Affiliated film-maker Liz Miller and the YWCA worked with a group of 8 refugee youth on a "memoryscape" bus tour of Montreal. They used the bus itself as an immersive storytelling space where these young people explored their stories of migration and displacement. Watch the video *Life Stories/Going Places* bus tour.
- A group of James Lyng High School students, working with Say It Loud, Say it Proud!, produced a Black History hip-hop song about their neighbourhood. *Burgundy Dreams* was the result.
- I worked with the Centre d'Histoire de Montreal to develop the *Quartiers Disparus* (Lost Neighbourhoods) oral history exhibition that explores the politics and memory of the demolition of three working-class neighbourhoods in the 1950s and 1960s. The exhibition continues until March 2012.
- An exhibition on oral history and fine art, entitled *In-tur-pri-tey-shunz*, was curated by Pohanna Pyne Feinberg at the FoFa Gallery. Listen to our podcasted radio interview *My Little Voice Can't Lie* with artist Khadija Baker.
- COHDS and the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network undertook the Spoken Heritage Online Multimedia Initiative-database. We digitized 400 hours of existing audio-taped interviews (conducted since the 1960s) and transformed them into a searchable database.

The student-based work on our Memoryscapes Website is just as exciting. My oral history syllabi are also available on our website.

*** MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!**