

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**, would like to announce that Making History, an educational research unit at the University of Ottawa, which is under his leadership, has started a pan-Canadian initiative called "Teachers and History" which aims to study and survey current historical knowledge and practices of student teachers in faculties of education across Canada. Participate in the survey.

* **Peter Seixas, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member**, will be a keynote speaker at the October 19, 2012 conference of the British Columbia Social Studies Teachers' Association, a THEN/HiER partner. Learn more.



* **Kevin Kee, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member**, is organizing an Augmented Reality Conference to be held on October 5, 2012 in Toronto. Dr. Kee heads the Ontario Augmented Reality Network which is dedicated to building and expanding the Augmented Reality sector.

THEN/HiER Visiting Doctoral Student Program

Reports of three Visiting Doctoral Students funded this year through THEN/HiER are now available on our website:

- Vincent Boutonnet, Université de Montréal, with Dr. Penney Clark, Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, University of British Columbia: The Uses and Functions of Textbooks in Secondary History Classes
- Lindsay Gibson, University of British Columbia, with Dr. Per Eliasson, Faculty of Education and Society, Malmö University: Historical Thinking in Schools in Sweden and Canada
- Eric Poitras, McGill University, with Dr. Kevin Kee, Centre for Digital Humanities, Brock University: Augmented Reality Applications for the MetaHistoReasoning Tool

Featured Projects

THEN/HiER has funded many important projects over the past few years which are highlighted on our website. We invite you to view them at:

<http://thenhier.ca/en/content/featured-projects> (English)
<http://thenhier.ca/fr/content/projets-%C3%A0-l'affiche> (French)

Enjoy!



Approaching the Past – Upcoming Events for 2012-2013

Join us for four evenings that will explore and question Order and Disorder in four locations in Toronto. Come and learn about key moments in Toronto's history and take home history teaching resources to enrich your classroom lessons. Check out our website for details about speakers and events.

- October 10: St. James Cathedral: *Meetings with the Monarchy*
- December 4: Fort York: *Life at the Fort*
- February 27: *Stories from Mackenzie House*
- May 1: *City of Toronto Archives and Casa Loma: Multiple Voices, Multiple Lives*

Please contact Rose Fine-Meyer for further information.

What's new with our partners?

THEN/HiER is pleased to announce that we have two new partners! We welcome the **Archives of Ontario** and the **Canadian History of Education Association (CHEA)** to our roster of partner organizations involved in history education.

* **The Canadian History of Education Association (CHEA)** invites everyone to attend *Brokering Belonging or Contesting White Supremacy: Controversies in Chinese and Asian Canadian Educational Histories and their Implications*, on October 19 in Vancouver, BC. Speakers for this free public event are Lisa Mar (University of Maryland), John Price (University of Victoria), Timothy Stanley (University of Ottawa), and Henry Yu (University of British Columbia). This event is held as part of CHEA's conference *Rising to the Challenge: History of Education and the Pursuit of Relevance*, which will take place in Vancouver from October 18 to 21, 2012 at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel.



* **The Canadian Historical Association (CHA)** is holding its 2013 Annual Conference, *Intersections and Edges*, in Victoria, BC from June 3 to 5. The deadline for submission of proposals is October 15, 2012.

* From November 1 to 3, the University of Winnipeg Collegiate, in partnership with the **Manitoba Social Studies Teachers' Association** and **Canada's History**, will hold a *TeachMEET* on the War of 1812 using student work that incorporates historical thinking concepts through various forms of art. The project involves a month-long research study with history students, a *TeachMEET* evening where Manitoba teachers will come together to learn about the project and share ideas, and finally an evening exhibition of the students' art projects.

* **The British Columbia Historical Federation** has made some recent additions to its online book store. *Gateway to Promise: Canada's First Japanese Community* by Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer has over 200 historic photos. *Dead Horse on the Tulameen: Settler Verse from BC's Similkameen Valley* by Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat contains poems, archival photographs and a historical narrative which paint a vivid picture of pioneer life in BC's Similkameen valley. Eighty-seven historical books and CDs on diverse subjects about different regions of British Columbia are now available through the online bookstore.

* **The Canadian Museums Association (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. The award is jointly conferred by the CMA and the Canadian Teachers' Federation. The deadline for next year's award is November 15, 2012.



Graduate Student Committees

The Anglophone Graduate Student Committee has focused attention this month on supporting the fall conference in the city of Québec and on expanding our online community. Check out the first submissions to our Artifact of the Month and Monthly Trivia on Facebook – we are still looking for contributions of fave objects and facts. We will soon be adding a new blog series, *Diary of a History TA*, where history teaching assistants can reflect on their teaching practice, share resources and swap tutorial teaching tips. And we will be adding new posts to the *Read-Review-Respond* blog series on *New Possibilities for the Past*, edited by Penney Clark. Please contact Kate Zankowicz to make suggestions for or contribute to the *Teaching the Past* blog. Contact Rose Fine-Meyer.



Rose Fine-Meyer

The new academic year has been busy for all Francophone Graduate Student Committee members! The popularity of our Regional Annual Conference that will take place on October 25, 2012 in the city of Québec continues to grow. Interest in the conference expressed by people from very diverse areas (students, teachers, curriculum consultants, museum specialists) promises a colourful day rich in history and emotion. Spaces are filling up quickly, so please contact me as soon as possible if you wish to participate. On our blog, *Enseigner l'histoire*, we invite you to read three posts by Marc-André Lauzon on historical empathy, the theme of our conference. There is also an article I published about the recent provincial election in Québec, and another by Vincent Boutonnet that discusses the relationship between citizenship education and *greenwashing*. Happy reading! Contact Marie-Hélène Brunet.



Marie-Hélène Brunet

Research Snapshots

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

Alan MacEachern

Department of History, The University of Western Ontario

Director, NiCHE

(Network in Canadian History & Environment / Nouvelle initiative canadienne en histoire de l'environnement)



Finding My NiCHE

I had a crush on my grade four teacher. So when in grade eight her husband taught me History, I had every reason not to like him or it. But I did. Maybe we choose some things because of their proximity to love.

Thirty years on, my work as a historian pulls in two directions. In 2004, I cofounded NiCHE: Network in Canadian History & Environment / Nouvelle initiative canadienne en histoire de l'environnement – a “sister-Cluster” to THEN/HiER – and have been its director ever since. I probably didn't realize

going in that NiCHE would become a part of every day of my working life, but it has been a tremendous opportunity to participate in the development of the field of environmental history/historical geography in Canada, to assist researchers in getting their work to the public, and to encourage collaboration across the university and between academics and government departments, public history organizations, and others. The most gratifying thing has been working with young scholars who get the value of NiCHE to the field and to their personal professional development, and who are intent on seeing it thrive.

And yet while working to develop the Canadian environmental history field nationally and internationally, my own historical research and writing has paradoxically often steered to the precise, the local, the biographical. An 1825 forest fire, a nature writer turned science writer, Prince Edward Island's response to the 1970s oil crisis, and so on. Topics offering the possibility of a narrative that can help us get at how people of the past have felt about and acted towards nature.

What these two facets of my work share is a love of experimentation, particularly in how history is expressed. We too easily fall into the habit of thinking that history exists naturally as a 20 or 50 minute talk or as a 750, 7,500, or 75,000 word text. Especially now that digital media has utterly transformed who communicates, to whom, and how, especially now that we're better able to access and display 100 years of film, almost 200 years of photographs, and more than 500 years of textual sources, especially now that we can share tools and methodologies with geographers, archaeologists, environmental scientists, and scholars in other disciplines, historians should be constantly searching for what feels to be the right way of telling each history they tell. In NiCHE, it has been a pleasure to encourage and facilitate blogging, podcasting, museum and web exhibit curation, media outreach, and so on. I've done the same experimenting in my own research. Maybe tenure gives me the flexibility to experiment, but it also gives me the responsibility to experiment. This is where history's future starts.

I love what I do. My grade eight and grade four teachers should be proud.

*** MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!**

