

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



What's new with THEN/HiER?

* **Canada at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) 2012 Conference.** In addition to the poster presentations highlighted in last month's *e-Bulletin*, the following THEN/HiER partners and members had sessions during the conference:

- **Mike Clare** - "History is a Verb: The American Revolution & the War of 1812"
- **Roland Case** - "Putting Bloom's Taxonomy to Rest"
- **Merna Forster and John Lutz** - "History Mysteries: Students Become Historians Using Cold Case Crimes"
- **John Myers** - "When Canada Said No: Anatomy of an Event"
- **Alan Sears (Featured Speaker)** - "Reimagining Communities: Meeting the Challenge of Fostering National Belonging in a Globalized World"

See all "Canada at NCSS 2012" presentations.



* **Peter Seixas, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member**, was a keynote speaker at the joint Association for Canadian Studies (ACS)/Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association (OHASSTA) 2012 Conference. His address, "The Historical Thinking Project," was given on Friday, November 23, 2012.



* **Congratulations to THEN/HiER member Janet Thompson**, who has received the 2012 Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching. Janet teaches at Gladstone Secondary School in Vancouver, BC. Read more and watch an interview of Janet.

* **Contest!** THEN/HiER is offering 25 free one-year subscriptions to The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC²) *Source Docs*, an online resource that contains two collections of source documents organized around a wide range of historical and contemporary topics. To enter, tell us **IN 10 WORDS OR LESS** why you think you deserve to win a subscription (value \$30). More information and how to enter.



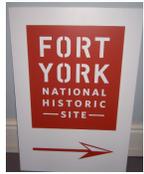
THEN/HiER Funding Opportunities

The **Graduate Student Projects Program** supports projects related to history teaching and learning in Canada initiated, organized, and carried out by graduate students in history and history education. The next deadline for applications is January 2, 2013.

The **Visiting Doctoral Student Program** allows doctoral students to interact on a daily basis with students and faculty members in programs at other universities. The next deadline for applications is March 4, 2013.

Bursaries for the 2013 Historical Thinking Summer Institutes (Halifax and Toronto) are offered to ten participants to cover airfare to a maximum of \$750 each to attend one of the Institutes. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2013. (See next page for more information about the Institutes.)

Approaching the Past



The most recent *Approaching the Past* event, "Life at the Fort," was held at Fort York on December 4. Richard Haynes, Museum Site Coordinator, provided an introduction and welcomed everyone to the fort. In honour of the War of 1812 and the bi-centennial of the City of Toronto, historian and curator Kelly Nesbitt spoke about fort life during this period. James Jenkins, Coordinator of the Walpole Island Community Cultural Centre and doctoral student at the University of Texas, spoke about the formation of Walpole Island in the aftermath of the War of 1812 and provided an important perspective of how Anishinaabe and other First Nations peoples experienced the war as well as the challenges of settlement during the period 1777-1815. The purpose of the talks was to provide alternative narratives about the war to counter many historical accounts told in history classrooms. The next *Approaching the Past* event, "Stories of Mackenzie House," will be held February 27, 2013, and will include presentations by Janet Schwartz, Museum Site Coordinator of Mackenzie House, and other Mackenzie House staff. For further information please see the *Approaching the Past* website.

What's new with our partners?

* **The Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) and Parks Canada** are pleased to announce the availability of an electronic file containing the terminology from the *Parks Canada Descriptive and Visual Dictionary of Objects*. It is available to CHIN members and Museum Studies Programs in Canada. Contact service@chin.gc.ca if you wish to receive the file.

* **The Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness** is offering two *Historical Thinking Project Summer Institutes* in 2013. These intensive six-day courses will be facilitated by Professor Peter Seixas, Director of the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, and Jill Colyer, National Coordinator of the Historical Thinking Project.

- July 8 to 13 in Halifax at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
- July 15 to 20 in Toronto at the Westin Harbour Castle

Travel bursaries provided by THEN/HiER are available to attend either of the Institutes. (See previous page for more information.)

Graduate Student Committees

As this year comes to an end, and I graduate with my PhD, I will be stepping down as the Anglophone Graduate Student Committee Coordinator. I want to thank everyone on the committee, as well as the THEN/HiER

Executive Board, for all their support. It has been a privilege to be part of such a professional and vibrant organization. Filling my shoes is Kate Zankowicz, who I know will do an exceptional job. Kate has been orchestrating the blog for most of this year, and as such, is well known in the history education community across the country. I wish her all the best. I am also pleased that I will still be active in the *Approaching the Past* series. This year we have added several new bloggers on *Teaching the Past* who are at different stages in their graduate degrees and with various teaching experiences, from historical site interpreters to history TAs. Two new bloggers are David Scott (University of Calgary) and Neal Adolph (Simon Fraser University).

David will be blogging about historical inquiry exercises he's performed in the classroom, and Neal will be blogging for our "Diary of a History TA" feature. These posts will explore the art of being a history TA, and provide a forum to share pedagogical tips. This year's blog also included new voices from museum studies and we look forward to more stimulating posts next year. Contact Rose Fine-Meyer or Kate Zankowicz. Happy New Year!

December was an opportunity for the Francophone Graduate Student Committee to prepare for the coming year. The list of items for 2013 includes more active participation in the *Enseigner l'histoire* blog, and a French language *Let's Talk History (Parlons histoire)* event in Montréal in February. Recent articles on the blog include Chantal Rivard who explains how she has a true sense of empathy with her students when teaching about WWII. Bruno-Pierre Guillette has initiated a series of three articles on the concept of heritage presented through the work of William Morris. We are also very pleased with the participation of Stéphane Lévesque, Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa, and THEN/HiER Executive Board member, who describes his research with grade 12 students in Ontario on the War of 1812. Happy reading, and happy holidays! Contact Marie-Hélène Brunet.



Rose Fine-Meyer



Kate Zankowicz



Marie-Hélène Brunet

Research Snapshots

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

Margaret Conrad, Professor Emerita
History Department
University of New Brunswick

My Scholarly Passions



Like many women of my generation, I fell into a career in history. Only one of my university professors was a woman – she taught French language classes – so I never imagined myself in such a position. After achieving an MA in history at the University of Toronto, I entered the paid labour force in 1968 as a textbook editor for Clarke Irwin. With universities expanding at an unprecedented rate, I received an unsolicited invitation in the summer of 1969 to teach history at Acadia University where I had pursued my undergraduate degree. After a rough fall term lecturing on Canadian, Western Civilization, and British Empire and Commonwealth history to large numbers of students, I discovered that I had a knack for teaching. I soon embraced two scholarly passions: Atlantic Canada history and Women's Studies, fields that developed in response to political movements in which I was deeply engaged.

For me and other young academics caught up in what was called "the new social history," our research was intensely relevant and often of great interest to the general public. One collaborative project resulted in the book (co-authored with Toni Laidlaw and Donna Smyth) *No Place Like Home: The Diaries and Letters of Nova Scotia Women, 1771-1938* (Formac, 1988), which sold more than 8,000 copies, a best-seller in Canadian terms. As an academic with editorial experience, I became a co-founder in 1975 of *Atlantis*, a journal devoted to the new interdisciplinary scholarship on women. The collaborative approach typical of Women's Studies was mirrored by Atlantic Canada specialists, who founded the journal *Acadiensis* in 1971. Since established journals were inclined to discount "regional" history, *Acadiensis* and Acadiensis Press served as the major outlets for my research on the political economy of the Annapolis Valley, political cartoonists, and several edited volumes on New England Planters, a group of 8,000 forgotten immigrants who settled in the Maritimes before the American Revolution.



Margaret Conrad with Gregory Kealey,
November 2012, at the launch of
A Concise History of Canada,
University of New Brunswick.

By the early 1990s, I was keen to bring the new academic research on women and Atlantic Canada to university textbooks. Counting the various editions of *History of the Canadian Peoples* (with Alvin Finkel and now Donald Fyson), I have co-authored 16 versions of Canada's story, clear testimony, if any were needed, that history is an ever-changing narrative. The appearance in 2012 of *A Concise History of Canada* (Cambridge University Press), is the culmination of my textbook writing career, which also included three editions of *Atlantic Canada: A History* (Oxford University Press), co-authored with James Hiller.

When I was awarded a Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Studies at the University of New Brunswick in 2002, my research took dramatically new directions. I used some of my funding to bring together the *Canadians and Their Pasts* collective (principal investigator Jocelyn Létourneau), which secured SSHRC funding to conduct a survey on how Canadians engage the past in their everyday lives. A book based on this research is forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press. I also worked with technicians associated with UNB's Electronic Text Centre and a great many student assistants to explore the potential of humanities computing through the Atlantic Canada Portal and the Atlantic Canada Virtual Archives.

Riding two very ambitious research horses was exhilarating but also exhausting, prompting me to take early retirement in 2009 to devote more time to writing. I am currently working on a history of Nova Scotia and involved in another humanities computing project, this one comparing the vocabularies of identity in anglophone and francophone New Brunswick.

As the foregoing attests, old historians never give up doing research, they just find new projects to inspire their energies.



Happy Holidays, everyone!