

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



What's new with THEN/HiER?



The July 2013 Teachers Tour with the Falaise Gap in the background.

* **Alan Sears** participated as a faculty member in the *War and the Canadian Experience* teacher professional development tour held in France and Belgium, July 6 to 19. In this annual tour, jointly sponsored by the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick and the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, participants improve their understanding of history *in situ* in places such as Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Amiens, Dieppe and Normandy.

* **Stéphane Lévesque** contributed an article to the July 9 online issue of *Le Devoir* in which he discusses teaching the history of French Canada. Titled "Enseignement de l'histoire : conserver la pensée narrative chez les élèves," the article focuses on **Jocelyn Létourneau's** investigation of Quebec history in the consciousness of its youth.



* **Heather McGregor**, doctoral candidate at the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, UBC, has accepted the position of THEN/HiER Anglophone Graduate Student Committee Coordinator as of August 1. **Kate Zankowicz**, the current coordinator, will be defending her dissertation in August and then moving on. THEN/HiER would like to thank Kate for all her hard work, and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours!

Approaching the Past (ATP)

Starting this fall, the organization of the Toronto *Approaching the Past* series will pass from **Kate Zankowicz** to **Mary Chaktsiris**, doctoral candidate at Queen's University and Anglophone Graduate Student Committee member. We look forward to another exciting season of events focused on historical sites in Hogtown! Planning is underway for the 2014-15 Vancouver *Approaching the Past* series, and details of both will appear in the September *e-Bulletin*.



Mary Chaktsiris

Funding Programs

The next deadline for THEN/HiER's Graduate Student Projects Program is September 1. This program supports projects related to teaching and learning in Canada initiated, organized, and carried out by graduate students in history and history education.

What's new with our partners?

* **The British Columbia Historical Federation** has announced a Call for Papers for its Spring 2015 special issue on francophones in BC. It will accept feature-length articles as well as documentary selections, essays, pictorial essays, memoirs, and reviews.



* **The Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN)** is showcasing some of the exhibits recently promoted as part of Canada History Week, July 1 to July 7. Developed in partnership with the Virtual Museum of Canada, each exhibit provides a piece of Canada's vast and rich heritage. View the list of exhibits.

* **Canada's History** has two award deadlines coming up in August. The *Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Community Programming*, deadline August 14, is presented to a volunteer-led community organization for innovative heritage programming. The *Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Museums: The History Alive! Award*, deadline August 16, honours significant achievements and standards of excellence in the presentation, preservation, and interpretation of history. More information.



Graduate Student Committees

Happy summer everyone! Even though we're not blogging on *Teaching the Past* or tweeting, we're hatching plans for September. As you read on page one, I will be defending my dissertation in August after which I will be catapulted into that wonderful but terrifying world of post-grad school! I am very much looking forward to what the future has in store. As of August 1, I am passing the Anglophone Graduate Student Committee Coordinator torch to Heather McGregor. Please extend a hearty welcome to Heather! I would like to thank THEN/HiER for the wonderful opportunity to be part of making history education better. And thanks to all the fabulous history educators with whom I've had the pleasure of working over the last few years. Contact Kate Zankowicz or Heather McGregor.



Kate Zankowicz

We are very happy to welcome a new member to the Francophone Graduate Student Committee, Catherine Déry, a Master's student in history education at the Université de Montréal and secondary school teacher. Please read her bio on our website. On our blog *Enseigner l'histoire*, you can read the first contribution from Philippe Denis, doctoral student in museology at the Université du Québec à Montréal, where he discusses a little known Montréal heritage site, the Ravenscrag Residence. Also be sure to read an article by Vincent Boutonnet who muses about the possibilities of really "doing history" using popular video games such as *Assassin's Creed*. This past month Catherine Déry and Frédéric Yelle participated in the Historical Thinking Summer Institute in Vancouver. Be sure to follow the blog since we will soon be posting about their experience there. Contact Marie-Hélène Brunet.



Marie-Hélène Brunet

Research Snapshots

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

Lyle Dick, PhD
Research Director
The Franklin Mystery



The Franklin Mystery: Life and Death in the Arctic

Few mysteries in Canadian history have so captivated scholars and the general public alike as the mystery of what really happened to the 128 members of the missing last expedition of Sir John Franklin who sailed into the Canadian Arctic in 1845 and were never heard from again. Innumerable debates have since taken place regarding the ill-fated expedition, represented in a proliferation of books, articles, and other commentaries offering further evidence and interpretations, but many questions remain regarding what actually happened to Franklin and his compatriots.

The Franklin Mystery: Life and Death in the Arctic is the latest installment in the highly successful Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History (GUMICH) project, the remarkably successful web based series devoted to posing historical mysteries and providing primary documents, curriculum, and other materials to students and teachers concerning major events in Canadian history. It presents a rare opportunity to examine and re-evaluate the diverse strains of Franklin historiography. Of particular interest are two very distinctive approaches bearing upon the principal and secondary questions arising from the Franklin story, including the contrasting roles of participants and witnesses of two very different cultures and knowledge systems – Inuit and European. Through the assemblage of extensive evidence generated by numerous Inuit and European witnesses, students will be challenged not only to try to solve the mystery of Franklin's fate but also to evaluate our notions of historiographical methods, authority, and truth. The Franklin Mystery website will be formally launched in Ottawa in June 2015 following its complete translation into both official languages. The site will be subsequently available in Inuktitut.

The Franklin Mystery meets the Mystery Projects' three main criteria for a great history education website. First, the original story of the Franklin expedition to the Canadian Arctic is filled with the kind of adventure and danger that is intrinsically and immediately interesting to young people – the first criterion in selecting each of the mysteries on the website. While the original mystery is intriguing, more recent attempts to find out “what really happened” – and particularly Parks Canada's search for the lost ships – add another layer of immediate interest by providing intriguing details on the work of historical detectives. We are adding the voices and the experiences of Arctic historians and some of the scientists working on the Parks Canada project as part of the website.



“Captain McClintock's First Interview with the Eskimaux at Cape Victoria,” *Illustrated London News*, Oct 8 1859.

Second, the Franklin Expedition is an episode of considerable significance in Canadian history. It embodies two major, intersecting stories – the European search for the Northwest Passage, primarily post-1818, and Inuit life and adaptation in the Arctic over many hundreds of years. Further, extensive British exploration during the search confirmed the United Kingdom's claim to sovereignty over most of the Arctic Islands and the search set the stage for the subsequent transfer of title of the Arctic archipelago to Canada in 1880, thereby enabling its incorporation

as one of this country's major regions. Of considerable significance in itself, the Franklin Mystery provides insight into several themes of critical importance to the history of Canada as a whole, including:

- History of First Peoples in the Canadian North
- History of first contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples
- Environmental History, by illuminating the importance of climate and geography
- History of Arctic and northern exploration
- British colonial attitudes toward the North
- Arctic exploration and scientific investigation
- The place of the North in Canadian history

Third, there is a rich evidential base relating to the mystery of the Franklin Expedition. Research in repositories in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States has resulted in the collection of a wide array of archival documents relating to Franklin's expedition and those who later set out to find it. The primary resources include correspondence between Sir John and Lady Franklin and senior members of the British Admiralty, ships' log books, and expedition records; oral histories of Inuit interviewed in the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries; and accounts of material evidence, autopsies, period newspapers, and many other textual sources. Visual evidence includes European and Inuit maps, historical photographs, drawings, and paintings. The research materials also comprise numerous secondary sources, including books, articles, a variety of scientific reports, and aerial and other modern-day photographs. The Mystery also incorporates a wealth of materials relating to Parks Canada's current search for the missing ships *M.S. Erebus* and *Terror*. By providing a rich assemblage of research materials, and contextualizing them, the Franklin Mystery will make this enduring historical mystery accessible to students and the public alike while fostering the serious study of Canadian history through direct encounters with the tangible evidence of our past.

*** MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!**