

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

What's new with THEN/HiER?

* **Summit Award for Best Emerging Media Website**

Ideéclic has won a Summit Emerging Media Award for developing THEN/HiER's interactive website, www.thenhier.ca. Read the press release.

* **Small Projects Grants Program**

THEN/HiER has awarded the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society a Small Projects Grant for *Saskatchewan's Archaeology Caravan Curriculum Development*. THEN/HiER funds will go towards the development of 'archo-kits' for a travelling workshop that will engage students and educators and introduce them to the lifeways of Canada's earliest peoples.

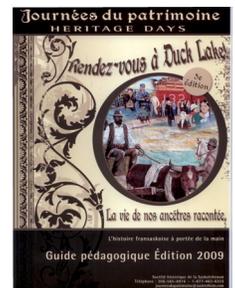
La Société historique de la Saskatchewan successfully completed its project *L'histoire fransaskoise à portée de la main*. THEN/HiER funds were used to develop a teacher's guide for the *Journées du patrimoine/Heritage Days* held in the historical town of Duck Lake. Read the final report.

* **NEW! Large Projects Grants Program**

THEN/HiER is implementing a new grant program for collaborative projects in history education requesting between \$2,500 and \$15,000. This program will complement the existing Small Grants Program for projects requesting up to \$2,500. Read the details here.

The Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre is the first recipient of a Large Projects Grant for its project *More Than Just Games: A Model for Developing Historical Thinking*. THEN/HiER funds will be used to develop a website that will bring the contents of VHEC exhibits on the 1936 Olympics in Germany and a teaching guide to a wider, online audience, as an educational opportunity for students of Canadian history, and a model for developing historical thinking.

To see what's new with some of THEN/HiER's partners, see page 2.



What's new with our partners?

*** Begbie Canadian History Contest**

In November 2009 the Canadian history awards ceremony at Rideau Hall which confers the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History was expanded to include winners of The Begbie Canadian History Contest as well as the Pierre Berton Award, the Sir John A. Macdonald Prize, the Kayak Kids' Illustrated History of Canada Challenge, and the Great Questions in Canadian History Contest. The students pictured with Governor General Michaëlle Jean are Mathieu Sasseville (Ottawa) and Amy Wu (Burnaby), Begbie contest winners in French and English respectively.



*** Canadian Museums Association**

Registration is now open for the CMA's 2010 conference, *Evolving Boundaries: Linking People, Place and Meaning*, May 10 to 15, St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador. Read more details.

*** Museum of Anthropology, UBC**

After an extensive period of renovations, MOA is holding *Celebration of Creativity* to launch its re-opening on January 23, 24, and 26. This is a free, all-ages event. Learn more.

*** Ojibwe Cultural Foundation**

The OCF will hold a multidisciplinary culture conference, *Anishinaabewin: Modes of Knowledge, Ways of Life*, February 26 to 27 in Sudbury Ontario. Speakers from all over Canada will talk about various aspects of Anishinaabe culture. Read more.

*** Parks Canada**

Parks Canada is pleased to announce that the Government of Canada will be making major investments in the restoration of Fortifications of Québec National Historic Site in Old Québec. Read more.

*** Graduate Student Outreach**

In the coming months THEN/HiER Graduate Coordinator Jennifer Bonnell will be expanding outreach to graduate students in history education and related fields. One of her first activities will be the development of a graduate students' committee with representation from diverse regions to encourage broader graduate student involvement in THEN/HiER activities and to spearhead initiatives to enhance student experience in history education in Canada.



A column on graduate student outreach will soon be a regular feature of the THEN/HiER *Newsletter* and *e-Bulletin*. We'd like to hear from graduate students about the ways that THEN/HiER can help you. To share ideas and for further information about the committee and related opportunities for graduate students, please contact Jennifer at jennifer.bonnell@utoronto.ca.

Research Snapshots

This is a new section of our monthly e-Bulletin that highlights our members' research projects. If you would like to submit a snapshot of your research, please contact annemarie.goodfellow@ubc.ca.

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RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

HISTORICAL THINKING FREESTYLE: COMPLEXIFYING REGIONAL IDENTITIES AT THE MUSEUM

This study derives from my doctoral research and examines how historical thinking is implicated in the production and reception of two historical exhibitions. Central to my analysis is qualitative case study research based on these two exhibitions produced by Canadian institutions: *The Unnatural History of Stanley Park* at the Museum of Vancouver (MOV) presented in 2008-2009, and *Being Irish O'Québec* at the McCord Museum of Canadian History in Montreal until April 2010.

Although these two cases vary widely in topic and museographic approaches, both exhibitions aspire to confront their audience with certain cultural assumptions. The MOV, by emphasizing the constructed nature of Stanley Park, Vancouver, aimed at destabilizing particular beliefs about the unspoiled nature of Vancouverites' beloved park. By demonstrating the ubiquity of Irish culture in Quebec's cultural and genetic make-up, the McCord attempted to complexify the notion of "Québécois Pure Laine." Both discourses deliberately engaged with larger debates shaping their respective regions, i.e., Vancouver's urban development, and Québécois identity in a post Taylor-Bouchard Commission era.

Employing a phenomenographic methodology, I conducted in-depth interviews with exhibition team members and visitors (exit and post-visit interviews) to examine how these complexified identities were articulated and understood by the various exhibitionary performers. The study will focus on two points: (a) the impact of exhibition team members' understanding of historical epistemology on the exhibition's development process, and (b) the articulation of historical thinking in visitors' meaning-making. The first point is analyzed in relation to the institution's conception of the museum as a site of lifelong learning about the collective past. The second point is explored in relation to an analysis of the *Canadians and their Pasts* pan-Canadian survey results.

The results of this study will be shared at "Taking Stock: Museums and Museum Practices in Canada," April 22-24, 2010, at the University of Toronto.

*** MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!**