



Dr. Penney Clark, THEN/HiER Director, at Benchmarks of Historical Thinking National Meeting Toronto, February 2011

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The History Education Network / Histoire et Éducation en Réseau's (THEN/HiER) Annual Review which highlights major activities, initiatives and other news over the past year.

THEN/HiER Events

Inuit string game
Richard Harrington
National Archives of Canada / PA-114713



What Is THEN/HiER?

The History Education Network/Histoire et Éducation en Réseau (THEN/HiER) is the first pan-Canadian organization devoted to promoting—and improving—history teaching and learning by bringing together the multiple and varied constituencies involved in history education: academic historians; public historians in museums, archives and historic sites; practicing teachers; researchers based in faculties of education; and curriculum policy makers. Our goal is to create more research-informed practice (from kindergarten to graduate school) and more practice-informed research through dialogue among these various communities. THEN/HiER was conceived in 2005, but became firmly established in April 2008, when it received funding from a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Strategic Knowledge Clusters grant.

Director

Penney Clark, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia

Executive Board

Margaret Conrad, Professor and CRC, University of New Brunswick

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Ruth Sandwell, Associate Professor, OISE/University of Toronto

Alan Sears, Professor, University of New Brunswick

Peter Seixas, Professor and CRC, University of British Columbia

Amy von Heyking, Associate Professor, University of Lethbridge

Playing with Technology in History

This THEN/HiER symposium held on April 29 and 30, 2010 in Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario organized by Executive Board Member Kevin Kee was a great success! The purpose of this “unconference” was to explore using technology in history education. Comments



Mills Kelly

from some of the participants include: “I spent a fair amount of time wondering how all the ‘play’ we talked about can be connected to the serious purposes of teaching and learning about the past. ... At a minimum, however, it seems to me that if historians are willing to be a little more playful, we are more likely to engage a wider audience for our work” (Mills Kelly, Associate Professor, Department of History and Art History and Associate Director, Center for History and New Media at George Mason University); and, “the particular combination of playful openness and then focused productive work was really appealing and invigorating. Best of both worlds” (Josh Greenberg, Director of Digital Strategy and Scholarship, New York Public Library).



www.playingwithhistory.com

Approaching the Past Series

A series organized by THEN/HiER and Active History approachingthepast.wordpress.com

On the evening of June 16, 2010, 21 historians, graduate students and public history professionals gathered at

Toronto's Black Creek Pioneer Village for the inaugural event in THEN/HiER and Active History's new series, *Approaching the Past: A Series Connecting People Teaching History*. Guest workshop coordinator Ruth Sandwell began the evening with a brief

presentation on the state of history research and teaching in Canada. Participants then stepped out into a blustery Toronto evening to partake in a tour of several 19th-century buildings, led by Wendy Romney, Black Creek's Supervisor of Historic Programs. They then split into groups to examine selected artefacts in two of the historic buildings, and surmise what these artefacts could tell us about the nature of their initial creation and use, the social relationships that surrounded that use, and the priorities and values of the mid-20th-century museum curators who used them to tell particular stories about the past.

The evening concluded with a lively discussion about reading artefacts as evidence of the wider societies within which they were created and preserved. Thanks to Black Creek Pioneer Village for hosting the event.

The second *Approaching the Past* workshop was also very successful. Twenty-six graduate students and faculty, teachers-in-training, and public history professionals turned out for an evening of discussion and historical fare at Montgomery's Inn Community Museum, a historic tavern in the Toronto suburb of Etobicoke, on Thursday September 30, 2010. The evening began with a tour of the inn's historical rooms, restored to their heyday in the 1840s and 50s. Museum interpreters Iona Rose MacKay and Dienye Waboso led two groups on lively tours of the

building's history, highlights being the large 19th-century kitchen and the restored tavern room. Participants then reconvened for a presentation by University of Waterloo historian Julia Roberts, appropriately titled "Tavern Tales and Tavern Spaces: Teaching History from inside the Colonial Taverns of Upper Canada." Drawing from her recent book, *In Mixed*

Company: Taverns and Public Life in Upper Canada (UBC Press 2009), Dr. Roberts talked about the wide range of tavern spaces in pre-Confederation Upper Canada, and their significant function as fundamentally public spaces that attracted a surprisingly diverse clientele. History was made delicious with a beautiful spread of historically-appropriate foods prepared and curated by museum staff, including rice pudding, apple cider, spice cake, and a selection of artisanal cheeses from a local dairy. The event received support from Montgomery's Inn which donated staff time and museum space to make the evening a success.



At *Experiencing History* with Bob Henderson, January 27, 2011, 31 Toronto-area teacher candidates; graduate students in history, education, and museum studies; and museum and non-profit sector professionals attended this workshop at High Park's Grenadier Café. Experiential educator Bob Henderson, recently retired from the Department of Kinesiology at McMaster University, led a hands-on workshop focused on experiential methods of teaching and learning history. Activities included a mock trial, scripted by former students, based on the journals of explorer Leonidas Hubbard and his fateful expedition to Labrador's Ungava Peninsula. Other activities focused on attaching narrative elements to geographical representations. Participants worked together (in the small space created between restaurant tables—Bob usually works with a space the size of a volleyball court!) to create an outline of the boundaries of Canada and its seven largest rivers using a length of climbing rope. Participants then built in narrative elements with brief readings outlining the nature and excerpts from the histories of these rivers. A similar activity mapped out the *Toronto Carrying Place Trail*, an aboriginal portage route, and significant places and stories along its length. Bob Henderson has authored and edited three books: *Every Trail has a Story: Heritage Travel in Canada*; *Nature First: Outdoor Life in the Friluftsliv Way*; and *Pike's Portage: Stories of a Distinguished Place*. A smaller group of workshop participants took advantage of a free guided tour of Colborne Lodge, a city museum in High Park. The lodge tells the story of the creation of High Park and the original 19th-century land holders Jemima and John Howard. Thanks to museum program officer Philip Cheong and director Cheryl Hart for adding this opportunity to our evening program.

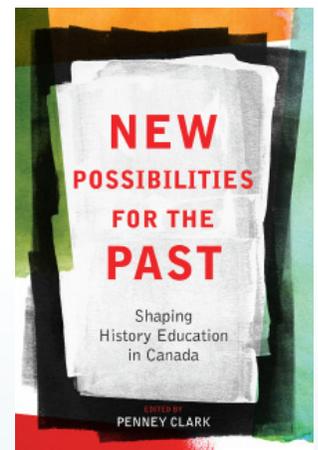


First THEN/HiER Publication!

We are very pleased to announce the publication of our first book in the THEN/HiER series.

New Possibilities for the Past: Shaping History Education in Canada, edited by THEN/HiER director Penney Clark and published by UBC Press, will be available in July 2011. Contributors explore and articulate the landscape of history education research and implications for practice at the end of the first decade of the 21st century.

thenhier.ca/sites/default/files/book-blurb.pdf



Small Projects Grants Completed

Read project reports at thenhier.ca/en/content/small-projects-grants-program-reports

Developing Topics on Atlantic Canada for the Begbie Canadian History Contest (British Columbia)

Alberta Social Studies Teacher Education Resource Online

MedSTEP (Medieval Students' Teaching Experience Program) (Ontario)



Exemplary History Teaching Videos Using Historical Thinking Concepts (British Columbia)

Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair 2010 (British Columbia)



Saskatchewan's Archaeology Caravan Curriculum Development



Understanding Power, Appreciating Difference: Building Historical Understandings of Mental Health through E-Learning (Ontario and British Columbia)

Reaching a Popular Audience Graduate Student Workshop (British Columbia)

Black History Theatre Project (Prince Edward Island)

Cafés historiques (Québec)



History, Identity, and Diversity in the Secondary Social Studies Classroom (Alberta)

Curriculum Connections (British Columbia)

Where the Archive Ends: A Graduate Conference on History and Its Uses (Ontario)

Let's Talk History! A Dialogue about Doing History (New Brunswick)

Small Projects Grants Awarded

Connecting Northern British Columbia Youth to Canada's History through the BC Heritage Fair Program (British Columbia)

Making History-Faire de l'histoire, Oral History Speaker Series (Ontario)

History Matters (Ontario)

Herstories Café (Ontario)

Eat Your History: Student Enquiry Project (British Columbia)

Large Projects Grants

Read project reports at thenhier.ca/en/content/large-projects-grants-program-reports



THEN/HiER awarded a Large Projects Grant to the **Canadian Letters and Images Project** (www.canadianletters.ca) at Vancouver Island University for the creation, publication, and promotion of online teacher resources based on the primary documents found in the project database.

THEN/HiER also awarded a Large Projects Grant for **Telling the Story of the Nikkei: A Partnership Between Schools, Educators, Universities, Museums, Arts Organizations, and the Nikkei of New Denver**. For this project, students will develop documentary films about the WWII Japanese internment in New Denver, BC.

Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Summer Institute 2010 Bursaries

THEN/HiER provided bursaries of up to \$2,500 to the following people to attend the Institute:



- **Alan Corbiere**, Executive Director, Ojibway Cultural Foundation (a THEN/HiER partner)
- **Shannon Hodge**, Archivist, Jewish Public Library Archives, Montréal
- **Robert Jardine**, President, Saskatchewan Council of Social Sciences (a THEN/HiER partner), and teacher at Blaine Lake Composite School
- **Janet Thompson**, teacher at Gladstone Secondary School, Vancouver
- **Brent Toles**, Social Sciences Consultant, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
- **Robyn Young**, teacher at Villanova Junior High, Newfoundland

Visiting Doctoral Student Program

thenhier.ca/en/content/thenhier-funding-programs

Two doctoral students were awarded Visiting Doctoral Student Program funding for 2010, both of whom studied with Dr. Peter Seixas, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member, at the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, UBC.

Alexandre Lanoix is researching the relationship between history education and the development of a Québec national identity in light of the new Québec history courses that began in 2007. Alexandre is studying under Dr. Marc-André Éthier at the Université de Montréal.

Cynthia Wallace-Casey is exploring how middle school students draw personal meaning from the past through their interplay with individual, social and cultural spheres of learning. Cynthia is studying under Dr. Alan Sears at the University of New Brunswick.

Research Snapshots 2010/11

See thenhier.ca/en/content/research-snapshots

Learning by Playing - Interview with Stéphane Lévesque on The Virtual History Lab©
University of Ottawa (April 2010)

Research in Practice: Doing History at Fox Creek School, Alberta
Carla Peck, University of Alberta (May 2010)

Teaching History in an Age of Pervasive Computing: The Case for Games
Kevin Kee and Shawn Graham, Brock University (June 2010)

Colonial Despatches and Teaching Canadian History
John Lutz, University of Victoria (July 2010)

Using Historical Thinking in the Classroom
Lindsay Gibson, UBC (August 2010)

Histories of Environments, Histories of Place
Jennifer Bonnell, OISE/UT (September 2010)

Including Women: The Establishment and Integration of Canadian Women's History Narratives into Toronto, Ontario Classrooms and Historic Sites 1966-1996
Rose Fine-Meyer, OISE/UT (October 2010)

The Pedagogical Imperative of Cultural Heritage Institutions; or, How I Came to Love Dorothy's Ruby Red Shoes
Brenda Trofanenko, Acadia University (November 2010)

Textbooks as Mediators in the Intellectual Project of History Education
Katalin Morgan, University of Johannesburg (December 2010)

Canada's History Wars
Ruth Sandwell, OISE/UT (January 2011)

History of Education in British Columbia
Eric Damer, Independent Scholar (February 2011)

Historical Thinking in Quebec History Education
Sabrina Moisan, Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (March 2011)

News from Our Partners

Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness (CSHC)

Benchmarks of Historical Thinking National Meeting

Sixty participants attended the national meeting of the Benchmarks Project from February 10 to 12, 2011 in Toronto. Participants heard from a variety of presenters from different education sectors who shared how historical thinking has been incorporated into their particular area of work. This included Brock University Professor



Carla Peck, Peter Seixas, and Penney Clark

Kevin Kee's work on historical thinking and computer gaming, Toronto District School Board teachers Myra Partridge and Janice Slaght's student work for Heritage Fairs, and Calgary Board of Education representative



Dr. Craig Harding's research on historical thinking and interpretive maps. Recommendations from the meeting will help to inform the major priorities for the Benchmarks Project over the next two years. As well, a set of 12 classroom posters was unveiled at the meeting.

Six posters in English and six in French explore the six historical thinking concepts in a provocative, thoughtful manner. The posters are available for purchase for a nominal charge of \$5 per set, plus shipping and handling.

www.historybenchmarks.ca/resources

Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Summer Institute a Huge Success!

The CSHC held the Benchmarks of Historical Thinking Summer Institute from July 5 to 10, 2010 at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. Thirty-two educators participated in this intensive week of lectures, field trips, guest speakers, and a resource fair. The week culminated in the creation, and sharing, of lessons, units, and teaching strategies involving historical thinking. Some of these projects will be further developed for posting on the Benchmarks website. Many thanks to Library and Archives Canada for hosting this year's Summer Institute. And a special thank-you to all the participants for their enthusiasm and hard work!



Canadian Museums Association (CMA)

Canadian Museums Association Awards 2010

Each year the CMA presents Awards of Outstanding Achievement to museums for exceptional projects.

Among this year's recipients are three THEN/HiER partners:



- The McCord Museum for *Nomadic Adventures*, a bilingual educational program for recent immigrant students.
- The Museum of Vancouver as a striking example of effective innovation to meet the challenging economic times.
- The Glenbow Museum for *Vistas: Artists on the Canadian Pacific Railway* as a visual and critical record of the growing popularity of mountain scenes in Canadian landscape painting of the post-confederation period, and as a record of the exploration of Western Canada.

Read about the different awards at www.museums.ca/Awards/?n=16

Canada's History

Say goodbye to *The Beaver!* (Or at least its name!) After 90 years, *The Beaver*, the flagship magazine of the society, has changed its name to *Canada's History*. According to Deborah Morrison, Executive Director: "This rebranding will give Canada's History Society the tools to bring history to life for new audiences while at the same time providing even more opportunities to engage our loyal readers, teachers, and members of the history community."



www.canadashistory.ca/?subsection=new/abo.asp

Parks Canada turns 100

in 2011! On May 19, 1911, the Government of Canada created the Dominion Parks Branch, known today as Parks Canada, the very first national parks service in the world. To celebrate Parks Canada is adopting "theme months," and various activities kicked off on May 19. www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/celebrations/index.aspx



New THEN/HiER Partners in 2010/11

We welcomed four new partners in 2010/11:

- Active History
- Alberta Teachers' Association Social Studies Council
- Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN)
- Société des professeurs d'histoire du Québec (SPHQ)

We look forward to working with these organizations in the coming years to improve the teaching and learning of history in Canada in both official languages.

Website Highlights

thenhier.ca

May 2010 Doctoral students **Mary Chaktsiris** (Queen's University) and **Samantha Cutrara** (York University) have been busy developing materials related to history education for our website. Mary has been summarizing recent theses and dissertations; Samantha has been writing abstracts of journal articles and book chapters.

June 2010 **Repertory of Primary Source Databases** **Lindsay Gibson**, doctoral student (UBC) and BC Social Studies teacher, has updated this page on our website to make it more useful to people looking for online primary source documents related to history, especially social studies and history teachers looking for materials on a particular subject in history. He has sorted the sources into three categories:

- Repertory of General Databases for Canadian History
- Repertory of Regional and Provincial Databases for Canadian History
- Repertory of Online Collections of Primary Sources: Specific Topics in Canadian History

October 2010 A reflective interview with **Margaret Conrad** has been posted on our website by **Cynthia Wallace-Casey**, member of THEN/HiER's Graduate Student Committee. Margaret Conrad, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of New Brunswick, is a member of the *Canadians and Their Pasts* research team and THEN/HiER Executive Board member. Trained as a political historian, Dr. Conrad has focused her scholarly attention upon Planter Studies, Atlantic Canada and Women's Studies. In the Spring 2010 issue of *Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal*, she is heralded as researcher and practitioner in women's history, political history, public history and textbook writing. Her most notable work in this regard has been the survey textbook of Canadian national history, *History of the Canadian Peoples*, co-authored with Alvin Finkel. Listen to Dr. Conrad sharing



Margaret Conrad



Cynthia Wallace-Casey

her thoughts on Atlantic Canadians and their pasts at thenhier.ca/en/content/interview-margaret-conrad-oc-frsc-august-31-2010

February 2011 We have recently posted new videos and podcasts related to history and history education on our website. They include videos of a panel on using historical thinking concepts in the classroom, *New Opportunities for Encouraging Historical Thinking in Canadian Classrooms*, and of a workshop titled *The Personal Side of a Country at War*, on new curriculum materials being developed to complement *The Canadian Letters and Images Project*, both from the November 2010 ACS/OHASSTA conference; videos of a talk given by Executive Board member Jocelyn Létourneau on the *Canadians and Their Pasts* project, *Histoire et vivre-ensemble*, and of two commentators (in French); and a podcast of Executive Board member Peter Seixas talking about the *Benchmarks of Historical Thinking* project.

Graduate Student Committees

Jennifer Bonnell, THEN/HiER Graduate Student Coordinator, facilitated a workshop titled “Teaching History in Diverse Venues: A Workshop Linking Historians and Educators in Bettering History Education Practice” at the Holiday Inn, Toronto International Airport on November 4, 2010. The workshop, organized by THEN/HiER in partnership with Active History and in conjunction with the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) and the Ontario History and Social Sciences Teachers’ Association (OHASSTA) joint conference “Canada’s Diverse Histories,” was attended by 36 historians, educators, museum



Jennifer Bonnell

professionals and graduate students from across the country. The day began with a keynote presentation by Trent University assistant professor **Christopher Dummitt**, “After Inclusiveness: The Future of Canadian History.” The afternoon was spent at the



Christopher Dummitt

Claireville Conservation Area, where staff of the Toronto District School Board welcomed the group to the Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre and introduced them to a series of activities aimed at teaching aspects of Canadian history to school groups in outdoor environments. The day concluded by sharing individual reflections on what participants would take away from the day and how it might influence their individual teaching practices. We look forward to bringing people together again next year in a different part of the country to focus on another aspect of theory and practice in the field of history education.



thenhier.ca/sites/default/files/Workshop-Report.pdf

Sabrina Moisan and Catherine Duquette, francophone coordinators of the THEN/HiER Graduate Student Committee, organized and participated in various conferences in Montréal to introduce graduate students and educators in Québec to THEN/HiER. On October 21, 2010, six graduate students attended a workshop co-organized by THEN/HiER and GRUS (Groupe des responsables en univers social) at the Sheraton Centre.



Catherine Duquette

Sabrina did a presentation about THEN/HiER to members of GRUS and representatives of the ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec. In the afternoon the participants discussed establishing connections between the various actors involved in history and citizenship education in Québec. At the Association québécoise pour l’enseignement en univers social (AQEUS) conference, October 22 and 23, and the Société des professeurs d’histoire du Québec conference November 5, 2010, Sabrina and Catherine distributed information about THEN/HiER to participants and described benefits of membership in our organization.



Sabrina Moisan

thenhier.ca/sites/default/files/Report-on-THEN.pdf

In January 2011 the committee launched, in collaboration with **Tom Peace of Active History**, a new blog titled *Teaching the Past: A Blog about Teaching History in Canada*. Graduate student committee members use the blog to share commentary, resources, and op-ed style pieces each week. Consider subscribing to the blog to receive notifications of new posts, and don’t hesitate to share your comments on existing and future posts. canadianhistoryeducation.wordpress.com

The new Francophone Graduate Student Committee has initiated a series of podcast interviews that have been completed and will be available soon on the THEN/HiER website. Guests include Stéphanie Lanthier, historian and documentary film producer for the National Film Board, and Pauline Beaudin, coordinator of the Centre muséopédagogique at the Musée de la civilisation de Québec. Our current committee members are the coordinator Catherine Duquette, Université Laval; Viateur Karwera, Université de Montréal; Ariane Bigras, University of Ottawa; and Julie Ratté, Université de Sherbrooke.



Rose Fine-Meyer

In March 2011, the Anglophone Graduate Student Committee Coordinator Jennifer Bonnell accepted a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Guelph, and left her work with THEN/HiER to focus on her research. We’d like to extend a warm welcome to **Rose Fine-Meyer**, an award-winning history teacher and doctoral



Samantha Cutrara

candidate at OISE/UT, and **Samantha Cutrara**, a doctoral candidate at York’s Faculty of Education, who are working jointly to coordinate a growing number of initiatives of interest to graduate students.

There are posts on our *Teaching the Past* blog by Laurence Abbott on looking for outcomes in undergraduate history courses, by Samantha Cutrara on useful articles in history education research, and by Active History contributor Tom Peace on whether or not Canadian universities are academically adrift.

As well, a new collection of resources for teaching assistants of undergraduate history courses is now available on the THEN/HiER website. The goal for this collection is to build a “one-stop-shop” for useful articles on pedagogy, ideas for group activities, multimedia demonstrations of teaching strategies, and websites containing useful teaching resources for the undergraduate classroom. We’d like to continue to expand this collection with suggestions from current and former history TAs.

In March 2011 the francophone Graduate Student Committee welcomed a new member, **Marie-Hélène Brunet**, a doctoral student at the Université de Montréal. Marie-Hélène’s research interests focus on the areas of training and teaching in women’s history. We are delighted that she has joined us!

The committee is also very pleased to announce the launch of a new French-language blog on history teaching, *Enseigner l’histoire*, where bloggers discuss research, methods, and issues related to the teaching of history. We hope to attract a large readership! enseignerlhistoire.wordpress.com

For more information about THEN/HiER, please visit our website at thenhier.ca, or contact the Network Manager at AnneMarie.Goodfellow@ubc.ca.