

Greetings! This month offers a special opportunity for educators to include Canada in the curriculum since November is **National Native American Heritage Month** and the week of November 14 -18 is **International Education Week**. I'd like to extend a special thanks to Mark Collins of Ottawa who regularly draws my attention to new websites of interest to teachers of Canada as well as to Ruth Writer and Dean June, who, as *K-12 STUDY CANADA* Teacher-Associates, will attend NCSS in Kansas City this month. If you plan to be there, too, be sure to say hello to them and to visit the joint *National Resource Centers for Canada* exhibit (Booth 360) at the Convention Center. There will be lots of free resources on Canada available to teachers!

PS HELP! There is an educator in **Berrien Springs, MI**, who hopes to receive both *K-12 STUDY CANADA* Teacher Loan-kits in January. Unfortunately, his/her email was deleted and I have no contact/shipping information. I am hoping you are on my listserv and will *contact me* when you read this. Thanks! Tina Storer

Should you no longer wish to receive this email, simply reply with "Please remove my name from the Canada Listserv." These resource notices and the K-12 Resource Flyer are also available on the [K-12 STUDY CANADA](http://www.k12studycanada.com) website under K-12 News. K-12 STUDY CANADA represents shared outreach by WWU's Center for Canadian-American Studies & UW's Canadian Studies Center which jointly form the Pacific Northwest National Resource Center for Canada, funded by the USDOE (Title VI). Additional support is given by the Government of Canada.

- **SESSIONS ON CANADA AT NCSS IN KANSAS CITY** - Jeff Passe, President of NCSS, recently offered me a 4-year appointment to the NCSS International Activities Committee. I look forward to Canada having a stronger voice and presence with the organization and will update you on any future activities.

Friday, November 18 (9:15- 10:15 am) *Teaching About Canada* Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting **2203**

Saturday, November 19 (9:15 - 10:15 am) *Acadia to Cajun: The 250th Anniversary of the Expulsion* **1203A**
(1:45 - 2:45 pm) *Congress, Huh? Or Parliament, Eh!* **1201**

- **NEW CANADA QUIZ (Statistics Canada)** - So you think you know a lot about Canada, eh? The Quiz at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/canquiz/cquiz1.htm> will test your knowledge! The answers to all of the questions can be found in Canadian Statistics, on the top bar of the page. The questions cover a variety of Statistics Canada's subjects. In order to receive a score and to review your answers from the Canada Quiz, you must answer at least one question correctly. You can do it! The hint in each question will assist you in your search for the correct answer. Why not challenge your students or colleagues to beat your own score? About every three months a new set of questions will appear. You may wish to visit the Canada Quiz regularly, to update and test your Canadian knowledge.
- **FRAMING CANADA - A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY (Library and Archives Canada)** - Be sure to visit <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/framingcanada/index-e.html> to access the photographic collections at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) that contain more than 22 million images. These photographic collections are an invaluable resource for the visual history of Canada and Canadians. A searchable database of digitized photographic images from 1843 to the mid-20th century is offered, featuring photographs from various public and private collections. These images tell the fascinating and ever-changing story of how Canadians see themselves and their world.

"Photographic Collections," a history of LAC's photo collections, as well as the following thematic essays: "Nation Building," "The Canadian Mosaic," "Portraiture," "Aboriginal Peoples," "Amateur Photography," "Photojournalism," "The Evolution of Photography," "Commercial Photography," "War and Conflict" and "A Sense of Space." Other sections of the website are a glossary of photographic terms, photographic albums, the weird and wacky photographs in the collection, and educational resources.
- **CANADA WORLD VIEW** - No more waiting for the latest edition in the mail! To request that your email address be added to the Canadian Embassy's listserv, just contact magazine@international.gc.ca. You will then receive their *Canada World View* publication electronically!

- **NOVA SCOTIA & THE SEA @ NSARM ONLINE!** - This website offers first "the most comprehensive collection of Nova Scotia historical evidence anywhere." Student Activities have recently been developed by master teachers like Allan King to go with the section called *Nova Scotia and the Sea*. Its an excellent site for appreciating a "culture shaped by the sea" and learning about its history with wonderful archival images and documents. Go to <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/> and then the *Nova Scotia and the Sea* link, and then to "Educational Resources."
- **WONDERFUL NEW MUSIC CD AVAILABLE** - Visit <http://www.michael-mitchell.ca> (*Songs and Stories of Canada's Heritage*) to order the newly pressed *Canada is for Kids - Volume 3* music CD by Michael Mitchell. I use Volumes 1 and 2 in the K-12 STUDY CANADA Resource Valises and listening to the Canadian favorites are a hit with the teachers who use them. These CDs are great for making Canada come alive in elementary classrooms.
- **Be Sure to Watch MYSTIC VOICES: THE STORY OF THE PEQUOT WAR** - To recognize **National Native American Heritage Month**, several PBS stations are airing this 2004 Emmy Award-winning program. The Pequot War of 1636-1637 was the first declared war in American history and a pivotal event in our early history. Although it was a small conflict by today's standards, the Puritans' religious rhetoric made their victory over the "heathens" an almost mythical influence in the formulation of all Colonial/American Indian policy for the next three centuries across the continent. The documentary explores the underlying religious, social, and economic issues that led to this early clash of European and Native American cultures. Perhaps more importantly, it also provides insight into how the voices of our ancestors help us understand who we are as a nation today. Check www.pbs.org to see if it's playing in your area (use the "station finder:"). If not, please call your station to request it be aired--even if you only leave a message for the programmer this can make a difference.
- **CANADIAN RECIPE FOR NOVEMBER: Cranberry - Maple Chutney** - I thought that some of you may want to try a Canadian twist to your Thanksgiving dinner based on this recipe from Rory Golden, Executive Chef, Deerhurst Resort (Huntsville, ON) From <http://www.foodtv.ca/recipes/recipe%5F4919.asp>. It is important to let the cranberries cook so that the natural sugars turn to starch. Do not overcook or all sugars will become starch and make the chutney become too thick as it cools.
 - **Ingredients:** 1 lb. cranberries, fresh or frozen (454 g); 3 oz white vinegar (90 ml); 1 x small onion, diced; juice of 1 orange; zest of 1 orange 2 tbsp canola oil (30 ml); 1 tsp cinnamon (5 ml); 1/2 tsp nutmeg (2 ml); 1/2 tsp dry mustard (2 ml); 3 oz pure Canadian maple syrup, or to taste (90 ml)
 - **Directions:** 1. Heat the canola oil, add the diced onions and let sweat until soft & transparent (about 4 or 5 minutes). 2. Add the white vinegar. Then cranberries, orange juice and zest, cinnamon, nutmeg & dry mustard. 3. Let simmer until the first cranberries start to pop, about 5 minutes. 4. Add the maple syrup and let cool to room temperature (then refrigerate until serving). **Note that the chutney will thicken as it cools. If the chutney, when cool, becomes too thick adjust with orange juice or maple syrup depending on the sweetness required. Bon Appetit!**
- **RUTH WRITER'S RECOMMENDED READING - 'Curse of the Narrows': Disaster in Slow Motion** (Reviewed by Neil Genzinger, Staff Editor, *The New York Times*) Thanks, Ruth!

It's the lesson of New Orleans today, and 88 years ago it was the lesson of Halifax, Nova Scotia: Give fate the right ingredients and, eventually, the worst thing that can possibly happen will.

In New Orleans, the equation was so obvious that people had been warning about it for years: low-lying city plus questionable levees plus hurricane zone equals catastrophe. In Halifax in December 1917, the components were different but the result was the same: send a ship packed with explosives into a busy harbor and some accident will set off a blast that kills hundreds and destroys a large portion of the city.

Laura M. Mac Donald, who grew up across Halifax Harbor in Dartmouth, gives a detailed, often wrenching account of this calamity in "Curse of the Narrows," a book full of ordinary people overwhelmed by a disaster. "To this day it remains the biggest conventional explosion to detonate in the midst of a civilian population," Mac Donald writes. How big? J. Robert Oppenheimer, she says, used data from the accident to try to calculate what effect an atomic bomb might have.

In early December a ship named the Mont Blanc called at Halifax, carrying a cargo of high explosives scheduled for an Atlantic crossing. Halifax is blessed with a natural sanctuary: the outer harbor, opening off the Atlantic, funnels into a slender but navigable channel - the Narrows - and through the Narrows is Bedford Basin. In the basin, ships can hide from both storms and enemies; in December 1917, it seemed the perfect place for the Mont Blanc to go to meet its convoy for the ocean crossing.

Instead, though, small imperfections accumulated as the Mont Blanc sailed into the Narrows and another ship, the Imo, sailed out. Mac Donald relates them with exquisite patience: the language barriers among crewmen; the wartime policy change that made the flying of a red flag by ships with hazardous cargo optional (the theory being that the flags could attract Germans); and, above all, a few bad seamanship decisions - just enough to turn nightmare to reality.

The disaster unfolded in slow motion. "Come and watch the strike," the commander of another ship had time to call to his crew. "There's going to be a beautiful strike here." And there was, the Imo smashing into the Mont Blanc in the Narrows. But the explosion was not instantaneous: first the munitions ship, on fire, drifted toward the Halifax shore.

"The Mont Blanc, with 2,925 tons of explosives in barrels and kegs, packed in hermetically sealed holds inside a superheated hull, was now the most powerful bomb the war and the world had ever produced," Mac Donald writes. It waited to explode long enough for residents to come to the harbor or their windows to witness the spectacle (voyeurism that, because of flying glass, would cost many survivors their eyesight).

The destruction wrought by the explosion and resulting sound wave, tsunami and chemical rain killed more than 1,950 people and injured thousands, but fate wasn't through with Halifax yet: even while survivors were wandering dazed through the rubble, a snowstorm struck that complicated rescue efforts. Those efforts make up the second half of Mac Donald's book, with a special focus on the heroic gesture by volunteers from Massachusetts who somehow made it through the snow.

Reading "Curse of the Narrows" is not unlike following coverage of Hurricane Katrina: the account of the initial disaster holds us riveted; the aftermath, full of so many tales of woe, becomes numbing after a while. But, by sheer accident of timing, there is a present-day resonance to all parts of this tale - the human failures, the confusion and panic, the heartening generosity. And, of course, there is the inescapable conclusion that if the wrong stars aligned in 1917 and in 2005, they will again, someplace where a city is built on an earthquake fault or in a tornado alley or beside a nuclear power plant.

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