



# Chalk Talk

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

Recently, I found myself sitting at a coffee shop in 'Old Town Toronto'. From my window seat, I had a unique view of the city as it is and as it once was. Nestled in the foothills of the downtown skyscrapers, this neighbourhood enjoys a peaceful coexistence of the old and the new. Across the street I could see the historic and lavish St. Lawrence Hall with its slate roof which supports a colonnade-style tower, crowned by a copper domed bell and clock tower. In the mid-1800's it dominated the landscape, originally built as the place for grand balls and social gatherings, and was the regular meeting place of the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada. In this Hall in 1859, a historic convention of 500 Reformers led by George Brown debated how to achieve a new federal union for the two Canadas. By the Second World War it was being used as a men's hostel by the Salvation Army during the winter months. Later, in 1951 it became the home of the National Ballet. Saved from demolition in 1961, it's been given a new lease on life. Beautifully restored, it is a popular 'venue' for events, movie shoots, and home to both Heritage Toronto and Opera Atelier.

The Hall has been witness to a wealth of history. Anchoring one corner of the well-documented King and Jarvis intersection, it has seen the horse and buggy, the rise of steam powered vehicles, the automobile, and ever-updated versions of the streetcar. Looking south from this location stands the flourishing St. Lawrence Market, built at the same time as the Hall, and just a block northeast in the other direction stand two buildings—plaques identify one as the original 'Bank of Upper Canada' and the one next to it as the 'York Post Office', Toronto's 1st post office.

Historical buildings, bridges, roads, plaques, monuments, and sculptures exist in every community in Canada. Our Heritage is comprised of the things that one generation has inherited from its ancestors and it is important that we learn how these architectural and cultural landmarks relate to our present. School trips, whether to visit museums or to immerse ourselves in nature, are explorations of our world—then and now. Today, many elementary teachers have their students map out their communities. What a wonderful way to learn about local history!

## Heritage Day—February 20, 2006!

**Heritage Day** is an opportunity to celebrate the architectural heritage and historic places of Canada. The Heritage Canada Foundation promotes the third Monday in February each year as Heritage Day and has long advocated adopting this date as a national holiday. Its annual Heritage Day theme posters and teachers' kits are distributed through the various school boards across the country.

Canada has a wealth of cultural heritage places, including First Nations longhouses, concert halls, opera houses, bandstands, cinemas, community halls, museums and art galleries. Many of these heritage places are still being used today, and create their own magic for audiences.

For more information on Heritage Day check out the Heritage Canada Foundation website at [heritagecanada.org](http://heritagecanada.org).

[Source: Heritage Canada Foundation]

A copy of the bilingual ***Heritage 2006: Our Cultural Heritage Places*** Guidebook can be downloaded at [Learning Heritage Guidebook \(pdf\)](#). (Hard copies may be available.)

To order a Heritage Day 2006 poster, [click here](#)



Canada is rich in stories and there are countless ways to tell them. Canada's National History Society invites educators from elementary, middle, and senior levels to share how they explore Canadian history with their students, through the Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History. Teachers can present themselves or a group, or be nominated by a student, parent or colleague. **The application deadline is April 29, 2006.**

**Six Recipients Awarded \$2 500!**

to learn about local history!

If you know an educator who is doing inspiring things with Canadian heritage, why not nominate him/her for a Governor General's Award. Nomination Information is found in this issue.

This week's issue offers a host of sites where educators can find both lesson plans and other free educational resources to help students to develop an appreciation for their heritage.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at [4edu.ca](http://4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

As always, your feedback is important to us. [Let us know your thoughts.](#)



Mary Kovack

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### **Six Recipients Awarded \$2,500!**

Six recipients will be awarded \$2,500, a medal and a trip to Ottawa for two, to attend the Awards ceremony and presentation by Her Excellency.

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### **Recommended Links — Heritage Day, Lesson Plans, Historic Sites**

#### **[Our Town: Presenting Personal Research & Observations](#) — CNHS [Cindy Hanson, Manitoba]**

Senior Level Canadian history — Students will look at how the local heritage and history of a community affects their lives, and develop skills in community-based research and mapping.

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#### **[Time Passages: A Comparative Photo Study of Heritage Buildings](#) — CNHS [Susan Anderson and Susan Earles, British Columbia]**

Grades 4/5 History, Geography, Social Studies, Language Arts and Visual Arts; could possibly be adapted for Grade 3 — Students will compare and contrast archival and modern day photographs of local heritage buildings in order to better understand the impact early settlers had on their community and gain an appreciation for the preservation of local heritage sites.

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#### **[Your Place in History — Teaching & Learning](#) — HISTORICA**

Bringing history to life, Historica's School Programs and Lesson Plans are an asset to any classroom.

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#### **[National Historic Sites of Canada](#) — Parks Canada**

The national historic sites component of Parks Canada is responsible for Canada's program of historical commemoration, which recognizes nationally significant places, persons and events.

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