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Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

2006 is truly shaping up to be the year of the extraordinary global sporting event. The year began with the Olympics and the Paralympics, followed by the 1st World Baseball Classic. This past weekend the 18th Commonwealth Games wrapped up in Melbourne, Australia and coming up in June, Germany will host Soccer's World Cup.

For Canadians, the Commonwealth Games bring together history and sport in a unique way. When Canada became a country at Confederation in 1867, it remained a part of what was then considered The British Empire and now referred to as the Commonwealth. Our system of government is a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy, and as such, Queen Elizabeth II is Queen of Canada and head of State. Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, the 27th governor general since Confederation, represents the Crown in Canada and carries out the duties of head of State.

The shared heritage celebrated through sport at the Commonwealth Games serves to strengthen the ties that bind the 71 disparate countries that comprise the Commonwealth. The role of the Games is stated as endeavouring to "improve society and the general well being of people in member nations".

This week's issue of *Chalk Talk* provides information on the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Games, with links to companion classroom resources, and features a reminder to get your nominations in for the Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History .

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 to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

Mary Kovach

Humanity, Equality and Destiny—Melbourne 2006



Educators interested in learning more about the history and heritage of the Games are invited to take a look at the [Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Education Program](#). [Starting Blocks](#) includes 180 teaching and learning activities for all year levels. [CommPass Passport](#) is a resource for primary students that enables them to take a virtual trip around the Commonwealth. For final medal standings, check out the [Commonwealth Games Canada](#) website. To learn more about the Commonwealth, students will enjoy the [Youth Commonwealth](#) website. For more about the role of the Governor General, [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. **Please note that the application deadline has been extended to May 5, 2006.**

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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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Mary Kovack

Mary Kovack

Is the shared history of being a member of the Commonwealth a part of the consciousness of your students? If so, how and what do they have to say about it? Send your comments to maryk@coedcomm.com and we may feature your class in an upcoming issue of *Chalk Talk*.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Commonwealth Games are very special because they are the first major Games in history that have fully integrated Paralympic events in the program, and to me that's very important. I've been fighting for that for years."

— Chantal Petitclerc, the most accomplished wheelchair racer in the sport, carried Canada's flag at the Melbourne 2006 opening ceremony.



The tradition continues ... The Story of the Queen's Relay Baton

The **Queen's Baton Relay**, one of the great traditions of the Commonwealth Games, has been part of the games since Cardiff, Wales, in 1958. The relay traditionally is kicked off by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, during London's Commonwealth Day festivities. There, The Queen entrusts the baton containing Her 'message to the athletes' to the first honorary relay runner. The relay concludes at the Opening Ceremony, as the final relay runner hands the baton back to Her Majesty, or Her representative, and the message is read aloud. At that moment the relay ends and the Games begin. Over the years, the Queen's Baton Relay has evolved into a powerful symbol of the unity and diversity of the Commonwealth of Nations. With each Games, the tradition grows in scale and significance – including more nations, involving more participants and generating more excitement than ever before. The Kuala Lumpur 1998 Queen's Baton Relay was the first to deliver the relay to other nations of the Commonwealth, besides England and the host country. The **Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton** travelled an epic journey of more than 180,000 kilometres in a year and a day, and **visited all 71 nations of the Commonwealth** – home to almost one third of the world's population. The elegant, curved form of the Melbourne baton took its inspiration from the physical form of athletes arching forward as they strive for success. It featured 71 lights representing the 71 nations of the Commonwealth that the Queen's Baton visited on its journey to the Games. These progressively lit up as the baton arrived in each Commonwealth country.

[Source: [Melbourne 2006 Online](#)]



Facts & Figures — The History of the Commonwealth Games



Canadian Women's Field Hockey beat Barbados

- Held every four years, the first Commonwealth Games, originally known as the British Empire Games, took place in **Hamilton, Ontario, Canada** in 1930. Bobby Robinson, a key force within Athletics in Canada, finally implemented the event that had been talked about among Commonwealth nations for over 30 years. Eleven nations boasting 400 athletes in total participated in the first Games.
- While other Games around the globe have been founded on geographic or climatic factors such as the Asian, Pan Am, African Games and Winter Olympics, the Commonwealth Games has been founded on history.
- Unique characteristics of the Commonwealth Games include being the only Games which share a common language. All athletes and officials can converse with each other in English, creating an atmosphere that has led to the Commonwealth Games being long known as the "**Friendly Games**".
- In an effort to keep the Games vibrant and relevant, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) allowed Kuala Lumpur in 1998 to include team sports for the first time, a decision which proved an outstanding success. Melbourne's challenge was to perpetuate the evolution of the Games so as to maintain its historical position of strength on the world event stage.

[Source: [Melbourne 2006 Online](#)]

Education News

[Ontario colleges to resume classes after bitter strike](#) — Martin Mittelstaedt, Globe & Mail, March 27, 2006

[Ontario colleges to resume classes after bitter strike](#) — Martin Mittelstaedt, Globe & Mail, March 27, 2006

“Faculty members will return today to begin preparing for classes, and colleges have been working on plans that are supposed to allow most students to finish their semesters within their originally scheduled timelines.”

[Who gets student loans?](#) — 2000 Study by Statistics Canada, Friday, March 24, 2006

“Over half (52%) of the full-time post-secondary students aged 18 to 24 with parental income below \$40,000 received a loan from the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) in 2000, compared with 14% of students with parental income of \$80,000 or more, according to a new study.”

[What New York did for Canlit](#) — Book Review by George Galt, University Affairs, February, 2006

“How and where was Canadian literature in English born? Nick Mount’s study of late-19th-century Canadian writers living in Manhattan gives some startling answers to these questions. His book, *When Canadian Literature Moved to New York*, makes a persuasive argument in favour of reshaping how we think of our post-Confederation writers and their impact on the making of Canadian culture.”

[Education For All](#) — Editorial, ATA News, Volume 40, Number 13, March 14, 2006

“Society benefits most by educating the greatest number of people in an adequately and publicly funded education system, not by offering discounts, private funds or awards to a select few.”

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