



# Chalk Talk

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers:

This past June, I was very fortunate to be able to travel to Italy with my husband and my son. Within hours of our arrival we were standing in front of the Coliseum. My son, who had done a school project on it last year, was surprised that it was even larger and more impressive than it looks in pictures. We spent the better part of the afternoon learning its story of greatness and horror. Its impact was palpable. Even today, I can close my eyes and sense its enormity, smell its antiquity, and feel the crumbling rock and smooth marble columns in my hands.



That inscrutable ability to make history come alive for our children is exactly what the recipients of this year's Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History have in spades. Last week on the occasion of the presentation of the Awards at Rideau Hall, Her Excellency, the Right Honourable, Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, remarked:

*History explains events; it gives us the context that is the cornerstone of a deeper understanding of the world we live in. It helps us relate to each other, and go forward toward new goals, higher goals.*

*How can young people get some sense of what is true and what is not? How can they hope to understand where they come from, and where their communities come from? How can they hope to discover what is important, and what is ephemeral? It is through the study of history.*

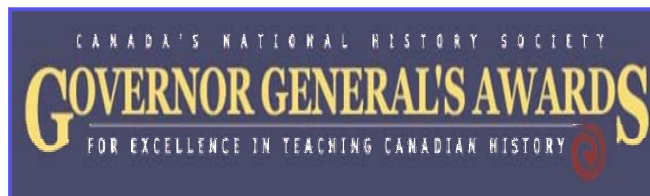
What our children learn about the past in and out of the classroom will inspire them to understand their world and find their place within it.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. Visit us at [4edu.ca](http://4edu.ca).

[Your thoughts are welcome.](#)

Mary Kovack

## Making History Come Alive



On Thursday, September 28, 2006, Her Excellency, the Right Honourable, Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, presented the 2006 Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History to seven exceptional teachers at Rideau Hall. The Awards, which were established in 1996 by Canada's National History Society (CNHS), recognize teachers from elementary and secondary schools who have inspired and challenged students to learn about their country's remarkable past.

Winning Teaching Submissions included involving students in :

- learning traditional skills from Treaty 7 Elders — **Jennifer Johnson-George**, Prince of Wales Elementary, Calgary Alberta,
- acting as secret agents for John A. MacDonald — **Antony Caruso**, Holy Spirit Elementary, Aurora, Ontario,
- discovering the history found in local street names and parks — **Julie-Catherine Mercadier**, Terres-jeunes, LaSalle, Quebec,
- erecting an historical "Wall of Fame" — **Kim Chagnon & Mary Scott**, St. Gabriel School, Regina, Saskatchewan,
- uncovering a turn-of-the-century soldier's past — **Blake Seward**, Smith Falls DCI, Smith Falls, Ontario, and
- getting up close and personal with Japanese internment survivors — **Greg Miyanaga**, Pine Tree Elementary, Coquitlam, British Columbia.

In addition to being awarded \$2,500 and a gold medal, each recipient's school received a \$1,000 cash award. For submission details, biographies and description of the Awards' events, click [here](#).

[Source: [Governor General of Canada](#) and [CNHS online](#)]



**2006 Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History** — Front row (l to r): Jennifer Johnson-George; Deborah Morrison, President and CEO, CNHS; Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean; J. Douglas Barrington, Chairman, CNHS; Antony Caruso. Back row (l to r): Blake Seward; Julie-Catherine Mercadier; Kim Chagnon; Mary Scott; Greg Miyanaga

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### Facts & Figures — Rideau Hall — Playing an Historic Role

- Located at 1 Sussex Drive in Ottawa, Rideau Hall is the official residence of the governor general of Canada, Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean. In Canada's parliamentary democracy, the governor general represents Queen Elizabeth II as head of state.
- Since Confederation in 1867, all governors general have lived at Rideau Hall. The 32-hectare estate features the residence, service buildings, a visitor centre and extensive grounds and gardens.
- Unless an official function is taking place, visitors are welcome on the Rideau Hall grounds year-round to tour the grounds and public rooms. Depending on the time of the year, visitors can also enjoy special events like the Governor General's Garden Party or Summer Concert Series or go ice skating.
- Rideau Hall is an historic estate built in 1838 for Thomas Mackay, a prominent mill owner who helped the Rideau Canal. In 1867, it was acquired by the newly formed Government of Canada as the official residence for Governor General Monck.
- After an election, the prime minister and other cabinet ministers take the oath of office at Rideau Hall. Before foreign diplomats can work in Canada, they must present their credentials to the governor general in a formal ceremony in the ballroom of Rideau Hall.

[Source: [National Capital Commission](#)]



Rideau Hall  
Top—exterior  
Bottom—The Ballroom

### Now Available — THE SOURCE FOR FREE TEACHING RESOURCES



Introducing **The Source for free teaching resources** — a new, semi-annual, bilingual, printed reference guide to free, quality, curriculum-based resources for Canadian educators, produced by CoEd Communications, the same people who bring you **Chalk Talk** every week. **Free** copies have been distributed to schools across Canada, so look for it at your school office or library! We hope that this handy guide will make it easier for busy and dedicated educators to identify and order free supplemental classroom resources to assist in the preparation of lesson plans.

A limited number of extra printed copies of **The Source** will be made available to **Chalk Talk** subscribers shortly through our newly re-



free supplemental classroom resources to assist in the preparation of lesson plans.

A limited number of extra printed copies of **The Source** will be made available to **Chalk Talk** subscribers shortly through our newly revamped website, **4edu.ca**, to be launched in the coming days. In addition to a variety of excellent free teaching resources, **4edu.ca** will feature a downloadable version of **The Source** and past issues of **Chalk Talk**, for your convenience. Upcoming newsletters will provide more information on these and other free CoEd offerings.

## Education News

[Teachers are the world's unsung heroes](#) – Craig and Marc Kielburger, “Global Voices”, *The Toronto Star*, Oct. 5, 2006.

“We know from experience the impact teachers can have on a child's life. We've all had teachers who have had a positive influence over us. Whether it was the person who refused to give up on us, who motivated us, or who lent us an ear when we needed it, everyone has been touched by a teacher. **As we celebrate World Teachers' Day today**, it is important to remember who the real heroes are. UNESCO, which sponsors World Teachers' Day, encourages everyone to say “thank you” to a teacher who made a difference in their lives.”

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[Did you know that October is Women's History Month in Canada?](#) — Status of Women Canada

“The Government of Canada established this special month in 1992. It provides an opportunity to learn more about women's history and their contributions to Canadian society.”

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[Secrets to a satisfying life](#) — Léo Charbonneau, *University Affairs*, August/September 2006

“Recent studies show clearly that contacts with family, friends and neighbours are strongly associated with people's sense of well-being, or happiness.”

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**T 416.955.9526**  
**F 416.955.0815**

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • [www.coedcomm.com](http://www.coedcomm.com) • [info@coedcomm.com](mailto:info@coedcomm.com)