



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | New Resource!

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

In [Guy Vanderhaeghe's](#) novel, *The Last Crossing*, mention is made of a 'shipment of berry pemmican' arriving at the Fort Edmonton outpost in the late 1800's. Ever since Grade 5 social studies when I learned about this miracle, high-energy, naturally preserved food, I've wanted to taste it. Invented by our native peoples, pemmican, made of dried buffalo meat, fat and berries, [Mmmm— don't know about the buffalo meat and the fat but the berries sound delicious!] warded off the dreaded 'scurvy' and sustained the lives of those involved in the fur trade.

Trade in consumer goods — as described by Vanderhaeghe — "a constant procession of natives arrive at the fort to barter their goods for European manufacturers", exchanging pelts for cloth, steel, knives, and beads — forms the basis of Canada's early history. The couriers de bois relied heavily on the knowledge and the experience of native people to open up the West as they canoed, portaged and trekked the uncharted waterways and densely forested trails, crossing thousands of kilometres of our vast, wild land of opportunity. The stories I learned about these brave, adventurous 'Voyageurs' have stayed with me for a lifetime.

This week's issue of *Chalk Talk* features the exciting re-release of a comic book and teacher's guide about these early traders and the company that played an important role in the founding of many of Canada's western towns and cities.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing classroom resources on a range of topics. We invite you to visit our website at www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

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

Mary Kovack

Hbc — 'Our History is Canada's History'



Founded in 1670, **The Hudson's Bay Company (Hbc)** is Canada's oldest company. The fur trade initially provided quality furs to make felt for the [hat industry](#). The company's commercial activities played a central role in the [exploration and subsequent settlement](#) of the west and north of Canada.

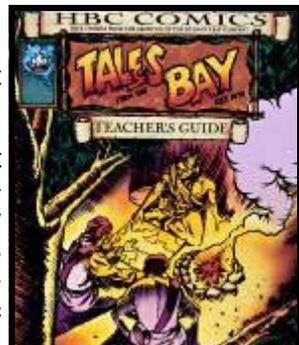
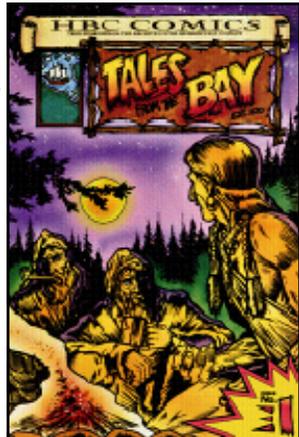
The history of **Hbc** is a part of the school curriculum right across the country. The company takes their unique position in Canadian history seriously and has committed to ensuring that they participate in the telling of their story by providing a variety of quality educational resources, free of charge, to Canadian classrooms, appropriate for students of all ages and grade levels.

Back by Popular Demand: Comic Brings Hbc History to Canadian Classrooms

Hudson's Bay Company is pleased to announce the re-launch of a cherished educational resource for Canadian students. Long out of print, *Tales from the Bay* is a comic book featuring three stories drawn from the Company's rich history. Originally published in 1995 to help celebrate Hbc's 325th anniversary, *Tales from the Bay* has remained a favourite of teachers and students.

Tales from the Bay uses the universally appealing comic-book style to make history accessible to students. A detailed Teacher's Guide, created by teachers for teachers, helps integrate the content into lesson plans. And best of all — it's **free!** Educators can order the teacher's guide and class set of comic books at www.4edu.ca/tors/hbctales.

Tales from the Bay is just one of a number of free educational resources offered by Hbc. Please see this week's **Website of the Week** feature, below, for more Hbc



Canada Day Poster Challenge 2008 Reminder — Deadline is February 28!!!



Each year, students ages 5 to 18 are invited to take part in the Canada Day Poster Challenge by designing a theme-based poster that illustrates their pride in Canada and in



being Canadian. This year's theme is **My Canada Today!**

For more details on **Celebrate Canada!** Poster Challenge and related events, [click here](#). Deadline is February 28, 2008! [Source: Canadian Heritage Canada]

'Exploring Our History'

program, print and online heritage resources, including its cornerstone publication, **Adventurers – Hudson's Bay Company – The Epic Story**, of which more than 60,000 copies have been distributed since 2000.



[Source: Hbheritage.ca]

Website of the week



Ressources bilingues accessibles en ligne
Bilingual Resources Available Online

In 1780, when Hudson's Bay Company first introduced its emblematic, multi-striped "point" blanket, Hbc had already been in business for almost 130 years, its story woven into the fabric of Canada's earliest history. From York Factory to James Bay, Fort Garry to Vancouver Island, Hbc traders were busy exploring the country that was to become the Canada we know today and building outposts that developed into settlements. If you've ever wondered about the origins of many of the towns, cities, public spaces and historical properties that Canadians live in and enjoy today, check out [Hbc's Heritage website](#) and these **free** educational publications.

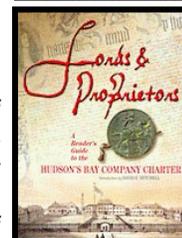
Adventurers — Hudson's Bay Company — The Epic Story, 2000

Hbc's hallmark publication, introduced in 2000, is a lavishly illustrated book, by noted Canadian historian Christopher Moore which provides an overview of the company's history from the first voyage of the **Nonsuch** in 1668 to modern day. Students can experience the lives of the hardy trappers and traders, the bitter rivalries of the Baymen and the Nor'Westers, the settlement of the West and the Company's expansion into the far North. The cast of real-life characters includes Radisson, des Groseilliers, Prince Rupert, Samuel Hearne, John Rae and Lord Strathcona.



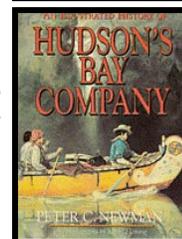
Lords & Proprietors — A Reader's Guide to the Hudson's Bay Company Charter, 2004

Intended for senior students, this colourful and well-crafted book features an updated text of the Hudson's Bay Company Royal Charter including its provisions of incorporation and historical significance. Timely issues such as corporate governance, reporting and shareholder rights can be viewed in their historical context. In-depth features include the Coat of Arms, the original investors and the Deed of Surrender. Each copy includes a full colour poster of the Charter's first page.



The Illustrated History of Hudson's Bay Company, by Peter C. Newman, 2002

Available free of charge to school libraries only while supplies last! Originally published as *Empire of the Bay*, this book is a single-volume edition of Newman's famous *Company of Adventurers* trilogy. This beautifully illustrated softcover edition includes a revised final chapter.



To order these wonderful publications and to learn more about Hbc Heritage resources, [click here](#). [Source: Hbheritage.ca]

Hbc Local History Grant Program — 1st Submission Deadline February 1, 2008



Planning a history project or trip with your classroom in 2008? Canada's National History Society is proud to announce they are now accepting applications for the **2008 Hbc Local History Grant Program**. In 2007, program grants supported interesting classroom projects from schools across Canada including Winlaw Elementary School in British Columbia, Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate in Winnipeg, École Christ-Roi in Northern Ontario,



Sir Charles Tupper Elementary School in Halifax.

Your classroom is eligible for a grant of up to \$1000 to help with the costs of travel and material for local history projects. Grants will be awarded over four review periods in 2008. The first submission deadline for review is February 1st, 2008. Grants will also be reviewed as of May 1st, August 1st, and October 31st. [NOTE: Due to the heavy demand for grants, we ask each school to submit only one application per calendar year after carefully considering their programs.]



If you would like to find out more about the program and to download an application form, go to www.hbchistoryfoundation.ca, [send us an email](#), or call at 1-800-816-6777 ext. 21.

[Source: Canada's National History Society]

Education News & Related Articles

[The new librarians; Meet the risk-taking scholars who are shaking things up while they build tomorrow's academic library](#) -- Tim Johnson, *University Affairs*, December 2007

"A new class of librarians is emerging: forward-thinking men and women, attuned to the revolutionary trends affecting academic libraries, are leading the charge for change. These tech-savvy librarians are plugged into the needs of a new generation and adapting their services to keep libraries relevant and valuable. This world is in large part digital. "The generation of students that are entering university now is really the first to have never known life without the Internet."

[Great War still source for great inspiration](#) – Richard Ouzounian, THEATRE CRITIC, *TheStar.com*, January 3, 2008

"It may be known as "the war to end all wars," but recently, the First World War has proved the start of creativity for many Canadian playwrights and filmmakers...There is something about Canada's participation in that military conflict that resonates strongly to this day. To many historians, that "something" is the fact that it was during those blood-drenched years that our nation began to emerge fully from the shadow of colonialism and looked to take its place as an individual entity on the great world stage. And while Canada entered the war with a single division of citizen soldiers originally led by British generals like Alderson and Byng, we wound up with a valorous corps led by the Canadian General Arthur Currie. Military expert Norman Leach told the *Calgary Herald* last summer that "We made a difference to the war. Some say we made the difference. When they were in trouble, they'd call in the Canadians." At the time, the population of Canada was 8 million, but 620,000 men and women served in the war effort: nearly eight per cent of the total citizenry. And of that figure, nearly 240,000 died or were wounded."

[Staff approval opens way to black-focused school](#) – Kristin Rushowy, Daniel Girard, Education Reporters, *TheStar.com*, January 24, 2008

"Toronto should open its first black-focused public school in the fall of 2009, says a staff report aimed at improving academic achievement among students of colour. But the board should also launch Africentric programs in three schools by this fall, as well as invest in a new centre for research and staff development at York University, urges the report made public yesterday."

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We are the Company for Education Communications. We specialize in developing, producing and evaluating school resources and award programs. Working in conjunction with Departments/Ministries of Education, school district/boards, associations, teachers and subject specialists across the country; we provide free, curriculum-based educational resources to Canadian classrooms.

The opinions, conclusions and other information expressed in the preceding content do not necessarily reflect the views of and are not endorsed by CoEd Communications.

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