

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

On this, the first day of Spring, I find myself praying for rain. Across Canada, this record breaking winter and the associated relentless shoveling, high snow banks, bitter cold and dead car batteries has been exhausting. And, as I look at the



snow flurries falling outside of my window, it looks like Mother Nature has more of the white stuff in store for us. I guess it's payback time for all of those years that my son complained that our winters were becoming so mild that there wasn't enough snow for tobogganing, let alone, for building snow forts! I recall how thrilled we were, about six years ago, to wake up to a 'freak' storm in April which dumped so much snow all at once that the whole family raced outside for an opportunity to make the year's only snowman. We had just enough time to take a picture of my 6-year-old son proudly standing next to it before it began melting. By dinner it was just a memory. You've got to love the Canadian weather experience!

No matter the weather, this time of the year is always highly anticipated. Crocuses push their way out of the dirt, forsythia bushes add an early burst of colour, gardeners emerge from hibernation and children look forward to hunting for eggs. For younger students, the end of March Break signals one last push before a final report card, school trip, and carefree summer vacation. For older students this is a time for decision making and planning as they receive acceptance notices to post-secondary education and try to nail down the 'all important' summer job.



Like most parents and teachers looking for interesting vacations and class trips, I know I can rely on our country's great museums to combine learning with fun. This week's **Chalk Talk** provides information about a wonderful 'not-to-be-missed' museum for teachers and students who may be planning to visit Ottawa this year.

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 www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada



Although money can't buy happiness, a little knowledge of the history of money and an understanding of how it works may buy future financial security and a whole lot of peace of mind.

The [Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/currencymuseum) offers teaching tools to help students connect to "real world" economic issues. Whether you are trying to teach elementary students about money as a concept of exchange, second language students about the impact of counterfeiting on public confidence in currency, or high school students about how inflation influences what they can buy, the Museum offers products and services that teach students of all ages about money, the central bank, and the economy in English or in French...while having fun too!

With advice from teachers and bank note experts, and with today's curricula and interactive learning methods in mind, the Currency Museum offers the a variety of **FREE** teaching tools for use in the classroom.

Off-Site Products and Services:

- **Counterfeit Detectors** school curriculum module for teaching about good citizenship, as well as how to tell a real bank note from a fake.
- **Inflation Busters** interactive DVD for learning about the Bank of Canada, monetary policy and inflation.
- **What is Money?** teacher's kit for teaching students about money as a concept.
- **The Currency Museum website**, online access at www.bankofcanada.ca/currencymuseum, offers on-line selections from the National Currency Collection, virtual Museum tour and other interactive programs.

See the **Website of the Week** below to find out more about the Museum's **on-site** programs available free

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

Mary Kovack

Mary Kovack

for school groups. [Click here to learn more](#) about all that the Currency Museum has to offer. Educators who wish to order classroom resources may contact museum-musee@bankofcanada.ca by email, or if you prefer, call 613-782-8914.



Website of the week

FREE Museum-based School Programs Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada

Looking for something that will engage and challenge your students, but won't challenge your patience? Why not plan a class trip to Ottawa's Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada to participate in the museum's many free museum-based school programs.

The Great Counterfeit Detective Scavenger Hunt — May, 2008

The hunt encourages group work, problem solving, and competition — there is something in it for every student! What will they learn? How to tell the difference between a fake and a real bill, a little about the history of money, and a lot about cooperation. The program can easily be paired with a customized guided tour of the Museum. And it's all **free!** Program begins in May, 2008. **This activity is appropriate for grades 7 and 8. The scavenger hunt takes an average of 30–40 minutes to complete.**



Bank of Canada Headquarters, from Wellington Street.

MORE on-site Museum Programs — for K-12

- **Currency Museum Education Tours:** Counterfeiting, Economics, the Bank of Canada and more.
- **Inflation Busters simulation game sessions:** Learn about the Bank of Canada, Monetary Policy and inflation.
- **Pre-school and School Programs:** Help students of all ages learn about money. **Curious Currency Chests** for children aged three to six; **Dig It!** for the eight to 14 age group; **Money Matters** for students aged 10 to 14; and **Second Language Programs** for students of all ages.

Contact Educational Program Reservations to book your FREE school visit today!

• Phone: (613) 782-8852

• Fax: (613) 782-7761

• E-mail: museum-musee@bankofcanada.ca

[Minimum 12 students required]

[The Museum is located in the Bank of Canada building at 245 Sparks Street in downtown Ottawa.]

Did you know that — March is Fraud Prevention Month?

Money—The Genuine Article



The Bank of Canada has great tips to help you check your currency to ensure that it is genuine.

- **FEEL the note** — Touch the raised surfaces and you'll find that the ink feels thicker on the large denomination numeral, the words *Bank of Canada/Banque du Canada*, the Coat of Arms and the Portrait.

- **LOOK AT and LOOK THROUGH** the note — In the case of the current 'Canadian Journey' series, you can hold the notes to the light to see a watermark, a windowed security thread, and the see-through number.

- **TILT the note** — Look for the changing colours and images of the holographic stripe and windowed security thread on all the notes or of the iridescent maple leaves on the original \$5 and \$10 notes.



SECURITY FEATURES ON CANADA'S BANK NOTES

Secure paper money. It's in your hands!

<p>Canadian Journey series notes</p>	<p>Features found on Canadian Journey series bank notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holographic Stripe Watermark Portrait Windowed Colour-Shifting Thread See-Through Number Iridescent Maple Leaves 	<p>Features found on all bank notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised Print (Intaglio) Fine-Line Printing Fluorescence
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For more counterfeit detection information, [click here](#).

To download a pdf version of the poster (shown right), [click here](#). To order a print-copy of this poster for use in your classroom, [click here](#).



NEW! The Good, the Bad, and the Fake Exhibit at the Currency Museum Runs to June 15, 2008!

Is your class planning a school trip to Ottawa? Don't miss The *Good, the Bad, and the Fake* Exhibit now on view at the Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada. Counterfeiting is a crime that affects all of us. Not only does it mean that people who accept a fake bill are out-of-pocket for the value of that bill, but it can also lead to a loss of confidence in Canada's money. The *Good, the Bad, and the Fake* is an exciting interactive exhibit that will show visitors how to avoid getting stuck with a counterfeit note by teaching how to tell the difference between the good, and the bad. Admission is free. Exhibit closes 15 June 2008.

Education News & Related Articles

[Early brain development shapes K–12, postsecondary outcomes: Mustard](#) — Shelley Svidal, *ATA News*, Volume 42, Number 11, February 12, 2008

"How the brain is sculpted in the early years of life has a lifelong effect on learning, behaviour and health. That's what Fraser Mustard, an internationally renowned expert on early childhood development, told the *ATA News* when he stopped by Barnett House January 31... While nature, or genetics, partially drives brain architecture, nurture is also a significant driver, Mustard says. The brain has 80 billion neurons, all of which have the same genetic coding. The signals they receive switch on the gene machinery, and the neurons communicate with each other through biological pathways. At the top of the hierarchy are the pathways created during the early years of life, which determine learning, behaviour and health."

[Modest budget finds funds for postsecondary sector; Restructured student grants program, international graduate scholarships, slight research boost among budget items.](#)— Leo Charbonneau, *University Affairs*, April 2008

"The federal budget delivered in February was described as modest by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, and the postsecondary education community appeared modestly pleased with what was in it. The budget sent a "relatively positive message" about the role of postsecondary education in the country's future, said Tom Traves, president of Dalhousie University and chairman of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. While some of the budget items were not funded to the level that the association would have liked, "it's clear that universities do have a central place in this government's agenda," he said."

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