

# Chalk Talk

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**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

There are places I remember  
 All my life though some have changed  
 Some forever not for better  
 Some have gone and some remain  
 All these places have their moments  
 With lover and friends I still can recall  
 Some are dead and some are living  
 In my life, I've loved them all  
 — The Beatles, 'In My Life'

Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, Toronto's Poet Laureate, once said, [I paraphrase], 'that in the end, the only things that are real to us about our lives are our memories'. Perhaps that's why diseases that rob us of our memory or occurrences that destroy memories, such as fire, flood, earthquakes, are so devastating. A toaster, a chair, a kitchen sink can be replaced, but photographs of cherished loved ones, mementos, reminders of places we've been and experiences we've shared, once lost, live on only in our minds and hearts.



Sometimes I worry about my generation, blessed and burdened with so much stuff, living lives that are so full, yet at a pace that is so hectic, focused always on the 'next'

thing. Barely able to enjoy today, tomorrow is our recurring collective obsession. What time have we devoted to understanding the past and to learning from those who lived it?

This spring the NFB launches two new collections — **On All Fronts: World War II and the NFB**, and, **Footprints** — that offer wonderful educational opportunities for students to learn more about Canada's war history and to explore uniquely Canadian viewpoints on our environment. We're pleased to feature these much-anticipated collections in **Chalk Talk** this week and next.

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](http://www.4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

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

Mary Kovack

## NFB — Focus on World War II



Since its inception, defining our nation and telling our stories is what the [National Film Board of Canada \(NFB\)](#) does best. Last year, the NFB introduced the [Across Cultures](#) and [Focus on Animation](#) collections on their Web site, making it easier than ever to find and view films, classroom resources and archival material. The NFB's newest educational Web site collection, [On All Fronts: World War II and the NFB](#) (*downloadable poster, below*) draws upon the NFB's legendary film collection to bring the Canadian experience of WWII into vibrant focus for a new generation.

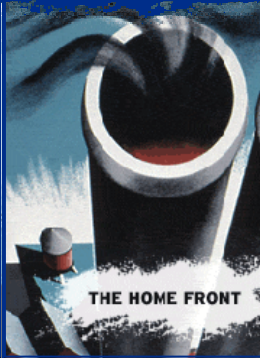
Ideal for Grades 7-12, the site features over 130 films — from wartime productions to contemporary titles — offering engaging and multifaceted resources on this pivotal chapter in our history. The content serves to bring to life the experiences of the men and women who risked their lives for peace, freedom and security. The result is a broad and human picture of Canada's efforts and contribution during the WWII years, both on the battlefield and at home.

The **On All Fronts** website offers [teachers guides and supplementary materials](#) to help educators present the issues in a dynamic and easy-to-understand way. Lesson plans are designed to align with Canadian Studies, French, History, Language Arts, Media Studies, Social Studies curricula.



**FOR TEACHERS**  
 Find teaching ideas for using the films available on this site with high school students.

For more information on the **On All Fronts** collection see the *Website of the Week* feature below.



## ON ALL FRONTS WORLD WAR II AND THE NFB

### Films, excerpts, archival artefacts plus much more!

The [On All Fronts: World War II and the NFB](#) Web site features 136 films from the NFB collection (67 in English, 3 without words and 66 in French in the French part of the site). Of those, 44 films (20 in English, 3 without words and 21 in French) include described video for the vision-impaired; 27 films (18 in English, 9 in French) are available with closed captioning for the hearing-impaired viewers. Users will also find 114 film excerpts (57 in English, 57 in French). The site is complemented by more than 60 items from the NFB archives and from partners (audio material, stock shots, photos, etc.), as well as several interview clips.

These 136 films are only a fraction of NFB titles on World War II. However, they are a representative sample of the NFB's output during and after the Second World War. They include propaganda films as well as more critical or personal works, painting a fascinating picture of the many facets of the War and how Canadians participated in it.

### How the site is organized

*On All Fronts* is divided into 7 sections: an introduction, 3 main thematic sections, as well as the **See Everything, Hear Everything** and **For teachers** sections. The brief introduction, **WWII: An Overview in Moving Pictures**, features films that give an overview of the war. The three main sections/



A Canadian Soldier Showing Snapshots from Home to a Dutch Woman (Archival Photo—NFB)

themes are **Many Voices, Many Stories**; **The Home Front**; and **Critical Perspectives**. Each one is further divided into several sub-themes, each featuring a filmed interview or a written text by a specialist. Some of the sections offer a **Vox Populi** element where ordinary Canadians are invited to voice their opinions on the various aspects of World War II. These sub-themes also include excerpts from the NFB films, as well as other artefacts—photos (*left*), posters (*right*), sound excerpts, stock shots and drawings) and access to the complete films. The [See Everything, Hear Everything](#) gives users quick access to all of the Web site's films, archival artefacts and other audiovisual and textual contents. The **For teachers** section contains 8 lesson plans: 1 lesson will discuss issues around wartime propaganda and refer to NFB



'Buy the New Victory Bonds' (WWII Poster)

film excerpts; the 7 other lesson plans refer to specific films on the Web site.

[Source: NFB — 'On All Fronts']

## NFB Free Online Films — World War II — Suggested Viewing



Propoganda: The Battle for Hearts and Minds

### [Propaganda: The Battle for Hearts and Minds](#) — 2008, Éric Barbeau [The Home Front]

Mobilizing the population to contribute to the war effort was a battle in itself requiring a special weapon: propoganda. An interview with film specialist, Harry Campbell, talks about the distribution of propoganda films produced by the NFB during WWII.

### [Savage Christmas: Hong Kong 1941](#)— 2008, Donald Brittain [Critical Perspectives]

Veteran Robert Clayton recounts the Japanese attack of December 1941 in which 290 Canadians were killed and talks about how a





Fields of Sacrifice

comrade saved his life.

**Fields of Sacrifice — 1964, Donald Brittain [Many Voices, Many Stories]**

A film of dignity and beauty, a memorable tribute to the more than 100,000 Canadians who gave their lives in the service of their country on foreign battlegrounds.

**The Pacifist Who Went To War — 2002, David Neufeld [Many Voices, Many Stories]**

About 8,000 Canadian Mennonites, dedicated to Pacifism, were active in Canada's armed forces during wartime.

**Rosies of the North — 2006, Kelly Saxberg [The Home Front]**

Sixty years ago, thousands of women from Thunder Bay and the Prairies donned trousers, packed lunch pails and took up rivet guns to participate in the greatest industrial war effort in Canadian history.

[\[Source: NFB: On All Fronts\]](#)



Rosies of the North

Savage Christmas:  
Hong Kong 1941



The Pacifist Who Went To War

## News and Related Links

[Stories of the most brave: Three books, three varied but effective reminders of the courage it took in World War II to defy hate and intolerance – and still does](#) – Deirdre Baker, *TheStar.com*, May 11, 2008

“There are plenty of children’s books about the Holocaust and World War II, and three new ones are welcome for their stories of heroism. Let’s hope they inspire a respect for heroes of the past while also sparking a sober hope that such courage, dignity and action can be exercised where it is still sadly needed today.”

[Ceremonies mark WWII Battle of North Atlantic](#) – THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, *TheStar.com*, May 4, 2008

“Canadians are paying tribute to those who fell in the Battle of the North Atlantic, in ceremonies across the country marking the confrontation that’s remembered as a turning point in World War II. In Halifax, more than 100 people, including many World War II veterans, attended a service aboard H.M.C.S Sackville, the only remaining corvette from the Battle of the Atlantic.”

[Body of WWII Canadian soldier found in France](#) – Steve Lambert, THE CANADIAN PRESS, *TheStar.com*, May 7, 2008

“Sixty-four years after he died in a bloody battle with German forces in northern France, a Canadian soldier’s body has been found, identified and is being prepared for a military funeral. The young private died in the battle of the Falaise gap in August 1944, two months after Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy and started making their way south, suffering heavy losses.”

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