



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators:

Soldiers are very unusual people. On the outside, they are the hardest, most demanding, severe people, but underneath that, they are the most human, the most feeling, the most emotionally attached people who exist.

— Lt-Gen. (ret.) and Senator, Roméo Dallaire, from *'Shake Hands With The Devil'*

When I was growing up, [Profiles in Courage](#), the Pulitzer-prize winning book written by John F. Kennedy while he was serving as a U.S. Senator, was a popular and important book. It was about historical political figures who had demonstrated the courage to stand up for what was right in defiance of partisanship, opposing public opinion, criticism or possible loss of popularity. *Courage* came to be defined as something that had bravery, integrity, conscience, and conviction at its nexus.

In his Governor General's Literary Award-winning book ['Shake Hands with the Devil'](#), Lt-Gen. Roméo Dallaire, arguably our most famous living Canadian soldier, recounts his story as head of the Canadian peacekeeping forces in

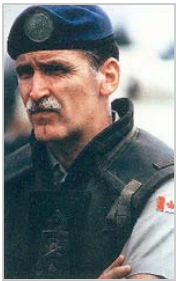


Photo from romeodallaire.com

Rwanda. He thought his mission was to bring peace and the possibility of democracy to a war torn, poverty stricken African country. That, in itself, presented a huge challenge, but he was to discover that the situation in Rwanda was more grave than he could have imagined and that the events that were about to take place would test his courage, his fortitude, his leadership, and his humanity. From this hell, Dallaire emerges a changed man, a damaged man, an extraordinary man. Having witnessed incomprehensible evil, he is haunted by his experiences and questions the existence of goodness. In his book, which he describes as a 'cri de coeur', this soldier accepts a permanent call of duty, inextricably tying himself to the people of Rwanda and to the fight against genocide — pledging, 'Never Again'.

No one has a choice about when, where or into what circumstances they are born. Yet, each of us can choose to have an extra-ordinary life — to have the courage to make the right decisions and to pursue actions that will make a difference to our families, our communities and our world.

A&E Classroom's Essay Writing Contest!!

Attention all teachers, students, school principals and librarians! A&E's 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST' [formerly 'Biography® of the Year Essay Contest'] invites students in grades 5-12 to write an essay based on someone they think has made an important impact on Canadian Society. Students can win cash prizes and audio-visual equipment for themselves and their schools.

Students in grades 5-12 may enter [A&E Canadian Classroom's](#) 'Lives That Make A Difference' essay



contest by writing and submitting **an original essay in 300 words or less on who they think made the greatest impact on Canadian society in 2008.** Each entry must include the student's name, complete address, postal code, telephone number, age, grade, name of teacher, school, school address, and local cable system (if known). Send entries to: LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST, c/o Temple Scott Associates, 250 The Esplanade, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1J2. **Contest runs September 1, 2008 to December 15, 2008.** [Click here](#) for full contest information.

This essay writing challenge can be incorporated into social studies, current events, civics, literacy and history curriculum. Judging is based on the following criteria: persuasiveness (33%), creativity (33%) and relevancy (33%). **Two winners from each grade level — 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade — will be selected.**

5th-8th Grade level

GRAND PRIZE (1): Student: \$5,000 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn.) for use in the classroom.
- School: A&E Television Networks Video Library. (Includes 25" Colour TV, DVD Player, and 3 Classic DVD Box Sets - Est. Retail Value: \$800 Cdn.)

FIRST PRIZE (1): Student: \$2,500 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn.) for use in the classroom.
- School: A&E Television Networks Video Library. (Includes 25" Colour TV, DVD Player, and 3 Classic DVD Box Sets - Est. Retail Value: \$800 Cdn.)

9th-12th Grade level

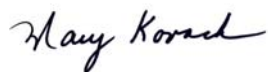
GRAND PRIZE (1): Student: \$5,000 Cash Prize

- Department/Classroom of Teacher: \$1,000 Cash (Cdn.) for use in the classroom.

This week's issue of **Chalk Talk** features an excellent contest that invites students to write about people who have had an impact on Canadian society, as well as, a special Remembrance Day school activity.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing information 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 and programs on offer.

[Your thoughts are appreciated.](#)



Mary Kovack

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[Note: Due to Provincial restrictions the contest is void in Quebec.]

NEW for 2008 — The contest deadline has been extended to **December 15, 2008**. Go to [A&E Canadian Classroom](#) for complete contest rules. [Links to 2007 winning essays, below.]

[Source: [A&E Canada website](#)]

A&E's CANADIAN 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST'

Educators: Your Students will be Inspired by the **2007 Winning Essays!**

Grand Prize, Grade 5-8

[Zachary Langille](#) — Grade 8 student, T.R. McEwen Public School, Oshawa, Ontario — wrote passionately about 80-year-old Holocaust survivor, Eva Olsson, and her tireless 50 year campaign to bring the message of hope, tolerance and peace to school children across Canada.

First Prize, Grade 5-8

[Kirsten McVey-MacMillan](#) — Grade 8 student, Highland Park Junior High School, Halifax, Nova Scotia — documented the courage of students, David Shepherd and Travis Price, who stood up for a student bullied for wearing a *pink* polo shirt, using the Internet to raise awareness.

Grand Prize, Grade 9-12

[Geneva McSheffery](#) — Grade 12 student, Riverview High School, Riverview, New Brunswick — recognized the importance of political satirist, Rick Mercer, whose keen observations about our large and diverse country not only entertain us but help to define our national identity.

First Prize, Grade 9-12

[Keerat Sidhu](#) — Grade 12 student, Seaquam Secondary School, Delta, British Columbia — examined the controversy created by former U.S. Vice President, Al Gore, and his award-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and its impact on Canadian environmental policy.



Bring Great Ideas into Your Classroom

A&E Canadian Classroom offers a commercial free and copyright cleared block of programming designed for classroom use. A&E Classroom airs Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 9:30am NT/ 8 to 9am AT/ 6 to 7am CT/ 5 to 6 am MT and 4 to 5am PT.



Twice each year, **A&E** develops support materials to help you incorporate A&E Classroom into your history, literature, performing arts, science and social studies curricula. The **A&E Classroom Calendar** provides six months of scheduling information and program descriptions. **A&E Study Guides** include classroom activities and discussion questions for select programs. Additional Study Guides are available online. For more information about A&E Canadian Classroom, [click here](#).

A&E Canadian Classroom and the support materials have been developed as a classroom resource for Canadian educators to use **free of charge**. For additional information, please call 1-800-722-6146.

A schedule of upcoming program air-dates is available in A&E Classroom's "**Idea Book for Educators**". This free resource guide is printed twice a year and offers educators a six month programming calendar, program descriptions, and lesson plans to accompany some of the programs. To order your copy of "The Idea Book for Educators" [click here](#).



VIGILE 1914 - 1918 VIGIL

Remember Canada's veterans this November! Take part in **Vigile 1914-1918 Vigil** ceremonies marking the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Every night from sunset on November 4th through to sunrise on November 11th, the names of the 68,000 war dead will be projected onto the National War Memorial in Ottawa and at sites across Canada.

Canada's National History Society (CNHS) invites your school to participate at the national ceremony in Ottawa and at regional ceremonies taking place in [Halifax](#), [Fredericton](#), [Toronto](#), [Regina](#), and [Edmonton](#). The Society encourages you to host your own local Vigil project by broadcasting the live feed from Ottawa which will be available through www.1914-1918.ca. Students can search for the names of their own descendents at www.1914-1918.ca to discover the exact moment their ancestor's name will be projected.



Please visit the [CNHS website](#) for more information. Educators who are interested in having their classroom participate in one of the sunset or sunrise ceremonies, or if you have any questions, please contact [Joel Ralph](#), Manager Education and Outreach Programs, Canada's National History Society at (204) 988-9300 ext.21 or by email jralph@historysociety.ca.

The CNHS also offers [lesson plans](#) on topics ranging from WWI, WWII, and the Korean War to nationhood and black history, created by winners and finalists for the [Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History](#), that will compliment your Vigil Project classroom activities.

Educational Resources and Related Articles



The Memorial Wall of Names Foundation — “The Memorial Wall of Names will serve as a proper memorial for the next of kin, family and friends who are unable to travel abroad to **visit the graves of the Fallen**. They will be able to visit and experience the gratefulness of Canada. Before 1970 by Canadian Law our Fallen were buried in the countries where they died. These brave men and women volunteered unconditionally, showed their love for country and made the greatest sacrifice. There are **over 116,000 names** of our Fallen, to date, which would be included on this Memorial. Since 1885, their bodies have been buried in many seas, in seventy-three countries around the world, in over one hundred CWGC War Cemeteries, and 5,800 church graveyards. There are thousands with no identified graves, with the simple inscription "Known only to God".” For more information, www.memorialwall.ca.



Veterans' Week, November 5-11, 2008 'CANADA REMEMBERS' — Educational Resources offered by Veterans' Affairs include Teachers' Guides, Posters, activities, and information on the commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the End of the First World War. To download educational materials online, go to www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers

[The most democratic language; With the influence of foreign tongues and now the Internet, English will never stop changing](#) — George Galt, *University Affairs*, August 05, 2008

“Anyone who has ever felt anxious about the rapid evolution of the English language over the past two decades or who has ever wondered where our changing language will be in another 10 years will find Mark Abley's new book therapeutic, sage and enormously informative... His new book, *The Prodigal Tongue: Dispatches from the Future of English*, is devoted to exploring the reciprocal dynamic of the English language's global power and the worldwide pressures that are in turn transforming the language.” [More ...](#)

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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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