



# Chalk Talk

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**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!****Letter from the Editor**

Dear Educators:



EXHIBIT FROM JOHN MCCRAE MUSEUM IN GUELPH, ON

As Veterans' Week comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to consider the life of [Lt. Col. John McCrae](#), the author of the poem, *In Flanders Fields*. Born in Guelph, Ontario in 1872, notably just 5 years after Confederation, McCrae went on to study at The University of Toronto, where he also joined The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada militia. Forced to take a year off due his recurring asthma, he returned to university in 1894 to finish his B.A., publish his first poems, and then study medicine on a scholarship. A true Renaissance man, McCrae combined several vocations -- doctor, military man, pathologist, and poet, and in 1910 he even did a stint in the Second Boer War.

Already over 40 when The Great War started, Dr. McCrae was appointed field surgeon in the Canadian artillery. While stationed overseas at a hospital on the front lines during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915, he experienced the death of a friend and student, Lt. Alexis Helmer. The next day, May 3, he wrote *In Flanders Fields*. In 1918, while in charge of a hospital in N. France, McCrae contracted pneumonia, died and was buried near Flanders fields, north of Boulogne, never to return home again.

Published in PUNCH in 1915, this 3 stanza poem, which contains just 97 words, has become a seminal symbol of remembrance and speaks volumes about life and loss. This week's issue features an essay competition that will inspire junior and senior students to write about people who have made an impact. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing access to free classroom resources and programs. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca).

[Your feed-back is welcome!](#)

Mary Kovack

**A&E Classroom 2010 Essay Contest**

A&E Canadian Classroom's 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST' challenges students in grades 5-12 to write an original 300 word essay on the life of a person they believe made the biggest difference on Canadian society in the past year. Students can win cash prizes for themselves and teachers can win cash prizes for their classrooms.

*Bring Great Ideas into Your Classroom*

Enter A&E Network's 2010  
"LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE"  
Essay Contest  
Deadline December 15, 2010

The submissions will be judged by a national panel of education experts and A&E representatives. The essays will be judged based on the following criteria: persuasiveness (33 per cent), creativity (33 per cent) and relevancy (33 per cent). Two winners from each grade level — 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade — will be selected.

**2 GRAND PRIZES:** 1 prize for each of Grades 5-8 & 9-12

- Student: **\$3,000** Cash Prize
- Department/Classroom of Teacher: **\$1,000** Cash for use in the classroom.

**2 FIRST PLACE PRIZES:** 1 prize for each of Grades 5-8 & 9-12

- Student: **\$2,000** Cash Prize
- Department/Classroom of Teacher: **\$1,000** Cash for use in the classroom.

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

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, 95 King Street East, 4th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1G4.

Educators are encouraged to set aside time in their social studies, current events, civics, literacy and history curriculum to have their students participate in this year's contest. **Deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

For more information and contest rules, please visit <http://www.aetv.com/classroom/canadian/>. Read more about last year's winning entries, *below*.



# A&E Network's 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

## 2009 ESSAY CONTEST — WINNERS!

### Be Inspired — Read the Winning Essays

Last Spring, A&E Television Networks awarded cash prizes to the winners of its **2009 Lives That Make a Difference Essay Contest**. Selected from over 1,800 entries, the Grand Prize winners are **David Edgar**, a grade 8 student from Burnaby South Secondary in Burnaby, BC for his essay on former VANOC Chair Jack Poole and **Alisha Sawhney** from Streetsville Secondary School in Mississauga, ON for her essay on Free the Children founder Craig Kielburger. First place winners are **Charles Pallett**, a Grade 7 student from Fisher Park Public School in Ottawa, ON who wrote about Corporal Jody Mitic, a heroic Canadian soldier injured in Afghanistan and **Kaitlyn Vleming**, a Grade 12 student from MacLachlan College in Oakville, ON for her essay on human rights advocate Somaly Mam. "It is refreshing to see that our children draw such inspiration from the people and issues, both triumphant and trying, that dominate our headlines," said Dr. Libby O'Connell, Chief Historian, Senior V.P., Corporate Outreach AETN. "The [winning essays](#) demonstrate that today's youth are informed and insightful about the stories shaping Canada."



Jack Poole ([Canadian Olympic Committee photo](#))

#### Grand Prize, Gr. 5-8:

**David Edgar**, grade 8  
Burnaby South S.S.  
Burnaby, BC

The Legacy of Jack Poole — "Why will we remember 2009? In the years to come, what would have

been so significant? As a Canadian, I'll remember it as the year of the torch relay. The Olympic torch, blazing a trail across Canada, for all to see. When Jack Poole decided to head the bid for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, he lit that torch, that burning flame, in all our hearts. He united Canada by that simple action that would affect the whole country. Jack Poole was chairman of the VANOC committee and a community leader. His tireless leadership eventually led us to 2009, the year leading up to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics." [Read more](#)

#### First Place, Gr. 5-8:

**Charles Pallett**, grade 7  
Fisher Park Public School  
Ottawa, ON

Corporal Jodi Mitic Soldier On —

"This year the actions of one man, Master Corporal Jodi Mitic, have helped to change Canadian perceptions concerning the war in Afghanistan and the sacrifices made by our Armed Forces personnel. In addition to this, he has also raised awareness about the urgent need for specialized rehab services for veterans of the war in Afghanistan. Corporal Mitic is an inspirational role model for all Canadians. Corporal Mitic, a sniper from CFB Petawa, lost both legs when he stepped on a landmine. After seven months of rehabilitation, Mitic attracted national media attention when he completed the half marathon at the Canada Army Run using prosthetic legs." [Read more](#)



Master Cpl. Jody Mitic  
Soldier, double amputee



#### Grand Prize, Gr. 9-12:

**Alisha Sawhney**, grade 11  
Streetsville S.S.  
Mississauga, ON

The message: Me to We — "It can be said that a nation's energy and vision are measured by the actions of its youth. Awakening

the social conscience of youth and igniting adolescents to take a proactive approach in making the world a better place is precisely what Craig Kielburger (*shown*) has accomplished. The founder of Free the Children is living proof of the enormous power of a single individual to goad a generation into action. Thirty thousand people in three cities with one common purpose, stirred by a sense of social responsibility have come together, bound by the belief that the power of youth can make a difference. His inspiration is what brings a renewed passion to teens in wanting to help the deprived children of the developing world." [Read more](#)

#### First Place, Gr. 9-12:

**Kaitlyn Vleming**, grade 12  
McLachlan College  
Oakville, ON

Soft Hands, Kind Heart — "What does it mean to impact a society? Some would say that politicians

are influential; other would name entrepreneurs, celebrities, scientists. But true influence — lasting influence — extends beyond policies and laws, beyond making money or being published in a peer-reviewed journal. Often the people who have the most impact are those who work not because they expect money or fame, but because they are passionate about creating change. Somaly Mam is one such individual. Born into extreme poverty in Cambodia, Somaly Mam (*shown*) had to endure an extremely difficult childhood. As a young girl, she was sold into sexual slavery and forced to work in a brothel where she suffered physical, emotional and sexual abuse..." [Read more](#)



**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, go to [www.biography.com/class/canadianclassroom/index.html](http://www.biography.com/class/canadianclassroom/index.html).

A&E 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](#).



Bring Great Ideas Into Your Classroom!

## Veterans' Week -- November 5 to 11 -- How did you remember?

[I had given up remembrance](#) --Larry Matthews, Facts & Arguments Essay, Globe and Mail, Nov. 10/2010

"For five decades I have missed the point of Remembrance Day. This year the Dutch provoked me to say "thanks." Remembrance Day was momentous when I was a child. School was cancelled. We drove into the city, even though it was not a weekend. We shivered, striving to obey my mother's stern orders to "Be still" as the wintry cold seeped through our thin Sunday clothes. I made a game of guessing which of the interminable supply of dignitaries and officials would speak next. I waited for that thrill down my spine when the Last Post pierced the air. Rows of medalled men and women marching somberly along the frozen path mesmerized us, with the occasional oddity of recognizing a relative or neighbour in their number. Each wreath laid joined the others, poppy-laden sentries keeping watch. Poppies, of course, seemed mandatory, and all of us children could recite In Flanders Fields. Occasionally, my grandmother took her turn as Silver Cross Mother, placing a wreath on behalf of all mothers robbed of their sons by war. Gravely, alone, she walked those few paces, and set in place the symbol of the losses she never discussed. On the trip home, her silence underlined that this was no ordinary day. Yet any curiosity I felt never materialized in questions. Gradually we forget. Or at least I forgot. For decades I only occasionally observed Remembrance Day. Even the time or two I accompanied my father to ceremonies in more recent years seemed, to me, a concession to the old ways. But the Dutch challenged my thoughtlessness. In May, I travelled to the Netherlands with my wife, her mother and our two grown children. We took my mother-in-law to the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten. There we visited the grave marker for her brother, Ernie. Like many of his peers, Ernie persists in family memory as the young and vital older brother who went off to serve in the Second World War, never to return." [To read the entire essay, [click here](#).]

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