

Chalk Talk

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators:

“Well, there's a question as to what sort of information is important in the world, what sort of information can achieve reform. And there's a lot of information.” -- Julian Assange, Editor, *Wikileaks*

The release of a mind-boggling quarter-million classified cables that began a couple of weeks ago by *Wikileaks* has been met with both criticism and trepidation. Though Mr. Assange claims that he “vets” all leaked documents sent to him from a variety of secret sources, it is hard to believe that there has been time to read even a fraction of the 250,000 documents, let alone to have applied any critical thinking. The event has caused a global sensation though, fed the gossip machine and harmed many diplomatic relationships. There will be resignations, embarrassments, and heightened suspicions, while spinmeisters try to make political hay while they can.

It seems premature to compare this to the release of the Pentagon Papers in 1971 by Daniel Ellsberg, a military analyst for Rand Corp., which revealed the truth about U.S. involvement in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. As I recall, the impact of this ‘information’ shook the world, led to the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War and changed the way Americans viewed their government and, to some extent, themselves. As journalists around the world work through the daunting task of reviewing the massive amount of information, the fall-out is beginning to be felt. While some have tried to minimize the impact, others predict that much more damaging, even de-stabilizing, information is yet to be unleashed.

Until we know more, it's difficult not to be ambivalent about the release of sensitive information. We all seek transparency and truth, but where is the rigour and the accountability? This same information in the hands of serious historians would provide valuable perspective and context.

This week's issue features educators who grapple with teaching history everyday to Canada's youth. 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 www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

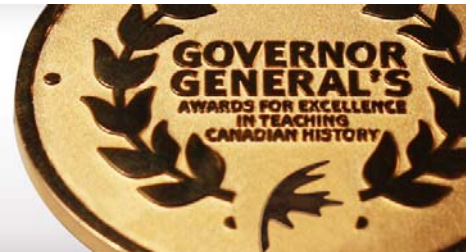
[Your thoughts are welcome.](#)

Mary Kovack

Top history teachers earn national recognition

Winners Revealed!

Canada's History announces the winners of the 2010 Governor General's Awards.



Eight educators from across the country have been selected by **Canada's History Society** as recipients of the **2010 Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History**.

Now in its 15th year, the award recognizes their efforts to bring Canadian history to life for their students, as well as their innovative and interactive teaching concepts. Among the teachers from British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec are some who encouraged their students to uncover historical Inuit artifacts, recreate Nellie McClung's mock Parliament, or retrace the roots of democracy from ancient Athens. This year's winners are:

- [Adrian Charles French](#), Mount Douglas Secondary, Victoria, B.C.
- [Daniel Conner](#), Rockridge Secondary School, West Vancouver, B.C.
- [Darcie McDonald](#), St. Patrick's Community School, Red Deer, Alta.
- [Amy Park](#), Heritage Heights School, DeWinton, Alta.
- [Diane Vautour](#), Loretto College, Toronto
- [Lucie Labbé, Paule Labbé & Marcelle Thibodeau](#), Ecole Monseigneur Fortier, St. Georges, Que.

Governor General David Johnston presented the awards on November 19, 2010 at Rideau Hall and a celebration dinner was hosted by Canada's History Society at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

The eight recipients each received \$2,500 and a gold medal, while their respective schools will receive a cash gift of \$1,000. The awards are supported by the TD Bank Financial Group. The winning educators are shown **below**. Detailed biographical information and submission descriptions for each of the winners and all of the finalists can be downloaded from CanadasHistory.ca.

Do you know a history or social studies teacher who deserves to be considered for the 2011 Awards? Nomination forms will be available in January at CanadasHistory.ca.

[Source: Canada's History Society]

CANADA'S
HISTORY

2010 Recipients of the Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History



Adrian Charles French
Mount Douglas Secondary School, Grade 11
Victoria, BC

Covering 99 years of Canadian History is a feat no teacher can accomplish in the span of a school year. In the case of Mr. French's grade 11 class, they studied some of the more remarkable and relevant examples of that rich period and as a result had a well rounded and thought provoking year. [More ...](#)



Daniel Conner
Rockridge Secondary School, Grade 9, 10
West Vancouver, BC

Students in Mr. Conner's classes take on subjects that are very much at the heart of Canada's identity and ones that remain as controversial as ever. Examining such issues as fair trade in the fur trade, French and English responses to the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and immigrant adjustment to Canadian society ... [More](#)



Darcie McDonald
St. Patrick's Community School, Grade 6
Red Deer, AB

From writing a story for a painting depicting the past and using arts and crafts to create a visual representation of their own culture, to writing a poem based on historical research and using technology to create trading cards of historical figures, Mrs. McDonald's class is guided on a cross-curricular trip through time ... [More](#)



Amy Park
Heritage Heights School,
Grade 2
DeWinton, AB

Seven-year-old historians and archaeologists uncovered the stories behind an array of Inuit artifacts and art pieces borrowed from the Glenbow Museum. With a strong emphasis on inquiry-based learning, the young archaeologists in Mrs. Park's class carefully examined and researched the cultural significance ... [More](#)



Diane Vautour
Loretto College,
Grade 10, 12
Toronto, ON

Students in Ms. Vautour's grade 10 & 12 classes at an all female highschool are engaged in an Historical Role Play that illustrates the use of effective historical inquiry and communication skills. Students are required to step into the shoes of Canada's suffragists, pioneer newspaper women and politicians ... [More](#)

**Congratulations
to all of this
year's award
recipients!**

CANADA'S
HISTORY



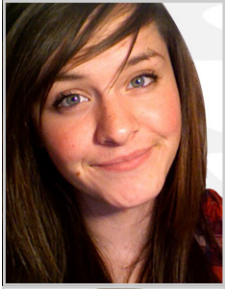
Lucie Labbé, Paule Labbé & Marcelle Thibodeau [Team Labbé, shown - / to r]
Ecole Monseigneur Fortier
St. Georges, Que.

Over a 5-month period, Lucie Labbé, Paule Labbé and Marcelle Thibodeau taught their students a series of lessons on the period before contact with Europeans, when the cultural landscape was dominated by the culture of the Iroquois culture and the culture of other First Nations. [More ...](#)



From Left to Right: **First Row (sitting):** GG Recipient Daniel Conner, GG Recipient Adrian Charles French, President and CEO, Canada's History Society, Deborah Morrison, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, GG Recipient Marcelle Thibodeau, GG Recipient Paule Labbé, GG Recipient Lucie Labbé; **Second Row (standing):** Sir John A Macdonald Prize Recipient Béatrice Craig, GG Recipient Darcie McDonald, GG Recipient Amy Park, GG Recipient Diane Vautour, Kayak Kids Illustrated History Challenge Recipient Billy Parrell, Kayak Kids Illustrated History Challenge Recipient Chanelle Albert, Begbie Contest Winner Eden Nzeyimana, Begbie Contest Winner Gregory Bailey, Historica Dominion Institute's Great Canadian Questions Essay Winner Jesse Shulman, Historica Dominion Institute's Great Canadian Questions Essay Winner Carolyn Nakagawa, Pierre Berton Award Recipient Desmond Morton.

Kayak Kids Illustrated History Challenge -- 2010 Winners



Billy Parrell, of Central Technical School in Toronto, Ontario -- Winner [English language] -- “A Silent Letter.”

Billy Parrell from Central Technical School in Toronto, Ontario was selected as the English award winner for her story “A Silent Letter” which sheds light on the tremendous contributions of William Gray and George Tait, founders of the first English School for the Deaf in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Parrell was awarded her prize of a \$1,000 RESP by the Governor General at an awards ceremony in Ottawa on November 19, 2010.



Chanelle Albert, École Jeunesse Active in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario -- Winner [French language]: “Le Grand Dérangement d’Élise.”

Chanelle Albert from École Jeunesse Active in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario was chosen the French award winner. She imagined the heartache and hardship of a young Acadian forced to flee her home in “Le Grand Dérangement d’Élise.” Albert was awarded her prize of a \$1,000 RESP by the Governor General at an awards ceremony in Ottawa on November 19, 2010.



CanadasHistory.ca is home to a variety of history-based [educational resources](#), [outreach programs](#), activities and contests for all ages. In addition to administering the Governor General’s Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History, the History Society offers classroom ready lesson plans and web resources. [Lesson plans](#) can be sourced by grade level, by themes and by eras. Download articles from current and past issues of the Society’s publications — [Canada’s History](#) magazine and [Kayak](#), for kids.

Related Articles - Louis Riel

[Putting history in a noose](#) -- Jean Teillet, OPINION, Globe and Mail, Nov. 16, 2010

“We hanged Louis Riel on Nov. 16, 1885. It was 125 years ago, and his hanging remains a topic of debate. To pardon or not to pardon: That’s the question regularly put to Parliament. A statue on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature, a television re-enactment of his trial, and a T-shirt cartoon of Riel with a noose around his neck all generated front-page press. Why? Why are we still talking about this man?”. [The life and times of Louis Riel-- Jill Mahoney, Globe & Mail, Nov. 16/10.](#)

[Cree win war of words over ‘siege’ of Fort Battleford 125 years ago](#) -- Bob Weber, The Canadian Press, [Globe & Mail] Oct. 21, 2010

“The Cree have finally won the “siege” of Fort Battleford – 125 years after the battle was fought. Parks Canada has agreed to stop using the word “siege” in its posters and programming to describe the sometimes violent, sometimes tragic events at the frontier community during the Northwest Rebellion. An aboriginal historian had pointed out that while settlers gathered in the fort in fear, no attack ever came and there was no siege.”

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