



# Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | HBC - Online and Interactive

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

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

“A canoeing expedition, which demands much more... is also much more rewarding. It involves a starting rather than a parting. Although it assumes the breaking of ties, its purpose is not to destroy the past, but to lay a foundation for the future.” -- [Pierre Elliot Trudeau, 1944](#)

In 2007, during a visit to the Royal Ontario Museum, I enjoyed a wonderful exhibit entitled, *Canada Collects - Treasures from Across the Nation*, which featured an array of 70 iconic artifacts, ranging from an original manuscript of ‘Anne of Green Gables’ to landing gear from the Avro Arrow to the first maple leaf Canadian flag. All of the pieces, borrowed from



museums and private collections, were infused with historical significance, many of which represented events that I had personally lived through.

In some ways each item touched me but none was more moving than the famous birch bark canoe belonging to Pierre Elliot

Trudeau. Fittingly, it was placed next to a case displaying the Repatriation of the Constitution document, bearing his signature and that of the Queen Elizabeth II. The empty canoe, positioned towards the viewer as if Trudeau had just stepped out of it and pulled its tip onto the shore, set against a large screen backdrop depicting what could have been the edge of a lake in Temagami or Algonquin Park, was accompanied by the sound of the waves lapping onto the shore and a recording of Trudeau’s voice.

The 1994 documentary, *Memoirs*, showed footage of the avid canoeist navigating a northern waterway in his buckskin jacket. I was reminded of my own amateur attempts at canoeing in the Algonquin. Gliding on water as smooth as glass, the surface rhythmically pierced by my paddle, leaving a gentle ripple in my wake. This quiet experience, broken only by the occasional call of a loon, engulfed in the timeless beauty of our natural landscape, is an experience that is evocative of our national character.

This week’s issue of **Chalk Talk** features the introduction of new online resources that deal with Canada’s early history of trading and settlement. 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.

[Your feedback is welcome.](#)

Mary Kovack

## Hudson’s Bay Company - Our Story

It can be said that the history of the Hudson’s Bay Company is entwined inextricably with the history of Canada. In 1995, HBC’s commitment to making its heritage accessible and relevant to teachers began with the publication of its well-known comic book *Tales from the Bay*. Its debut, which coincided with the celebration of the Company’s 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary, resulted in the distribution of over 100,000 print copies to schools across the country. In 2008, by popular demand, HBC reprinted *Tales*, introducing a whole new generation of students to the fascinating history of the early fur trade and the opening up and settlement of Central and Western Canada.



In 2000, *Adventurers – Hudson’s Bay Company – The Epic Story* joined *Tales* in bringing HBC history to life. Both of these resources, with their accompanying Teachers’ Guides, distributed in class sets, have become cherished, standard classroom resources. From forts to First Nations, portaging to pemmican, baggage to blankets, these resources engage students in learning hundreds of years of Canadian history.

In 2004, HBC followed up the print pieces with a new heritage website, [www.hbcheritage.ca](http://www.hbcheritage.ca), which offered more articles on HBC history and artifact collections, as well as, introducing the [LEARNING CENTRE](#), which provides a wealth of resources targeted to students and teachers.

This month, the [HBC History Foundation](#), is pleased to announce HBC Heritage 3.1: the launch of new interactive content that has been added to the online LEARNING CENTRE. Three new features enable teachers and students to explore HBC history together:

**New!**

**TIMELINE:** Our new timeline delivers historical information both chronologically and thematically, tied to specific curriculum. In coming years more and more curriculum specific views will be added making this an increasingly valuable tool.

**CANOE POSTER:** A picture is worth a thousand words and few do that as well as the online image of a *canot du maître*. Provided by our partners at the [Canadian Canoe Museum](#), this image enables a visual exploration of the workhorse of the fur trade.

**VIDEOS:** Introducing a new digital way to enjoy the renowned *Tales from The Bay!* Do not miss the opportunity to play this new multimedia version of the comic book in your classroom. Animated and acted out with voice-overs, it brings to life the enchanting characters and adds dimension to these beloved stories!

For more details, see features below.

[Source: [Hbcheritage.ca](http://Hbcheritage.ca)]

- OUR HISTORY
- CORPORATE COLLECTIONS
- OUTREACH
- PRODUCTS



## LEARNING CENTRE

### LEARNING CENTRE

Educational Programs

Bibliography

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E-Books

Image Gallery

Canoe Poster

Timeline

Videos

Map

Young Explorers

### HBC Heritage website LEARNING CENTRE

– your portal to content of direct value to you and your students.

The wealth of HBC history awaits you: more than 340 years of Canadian history and culture at the click of a mouse. E-books, bibliography, map, Image Gallery, videos, interactive features – you'll find them all here. It's also your point of entry to rest of the content on the HBC Heritage site. Highlights include:

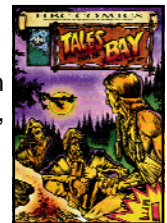
**Canoe Poster:** Zoom in to see everything that went into a **canot du maître**. Mouse over to identify individual items and click on them to learn more. Imagine all this necessary gear – plus the crew – making the voyage from Montreal to Thunder Bay, a journey of more than 2,900 km and 35 portages! [See below for larger image]



**Map:** The interactive map illustrates the growth and expansion of HBC across the Canadian landscape. From the early fur trade on the shores of Hudson Bay to today's footprint as a national retailer, follow our progress.

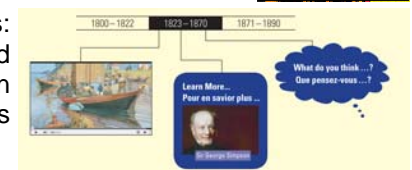
**E-Books:** Find all of our available titles online. Read, download or order copies for you class.

**Videos:** The stories from our perennially popular *Tales from the Bay* are now available in video format. Watch Thanadelthur, the Dene slave woman, make peace between her people and the Cree. See George Simpson, the Birch Bark Emperor, put his stamp on the Company and the country.



**Coming Soon!** William Wales and the Transit of Venus.

**Timeline:** First up in a planned series of curriculum specific HBC timeline views: **Business Studies**. This new feature looks at significant events in HBC's history related to its growth and development as a business. Mouse-over to identify key dates; click on them to learn more. Drill down for links to additional content, critical thinking questions and Teacher Resources.



**AND THERE'S MORE!** Take a minute to check out the rest of the site. Investigate [OUR HISTORY](#) to find articles on HBC people, places, acquisitions, transportation and technology, social history and that most iconic of products: the HBC point blanket. Check out the [CORPORATE COLLECTIONS](#) section to learn about our art, archives, reference and artifact collections, including our most significant item, the HBC Royal Charter.

Visit the Learning Centre online at  
[www.hbcheritage.ca/hbcheritage/learning/](http://www.hbcheritage.ca/hbcheritage/learning/)



HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY  
*Compagnie de la Baie d'Hudson*  
ESTABLISHED 1670 / CONSTITUÉE EN 1670

**DID YOU KNOW ...** that you can visit two of Pierre Elliot Trudeau's famous canoes, on long-term loan from the Trudeau family, at The Canadian Canoe Museum located in Peterborough, Ontario? The birch bark canoe was made by Patrick Maranda of Lac Barrière, QC and was given as a wedding gift to Pierre and Margaret Trudeau. Maranda inscribed the wedding date on one of the canoe's thwarts. The second canoe, very much loved by Trudeau (based upon the extent of repairs and multiple coats of paint), is an early Chestnut 15-foot "Bob Special". Its name is "Ça Ira" which means "It'll get there". For Trudeau, canoeing was a freeing experience. In his 1944 essay, [Exhaustion and Fulfillment: The Ascetic in a Canoe](#), quoted in this issue's *Letter from the Editor*, he concludes that "what sets a canoeing expedition apart is that it purifies you more rapidly and inescapably than any other ... paddle a hundred [miles] in a canoe and you are already a child."



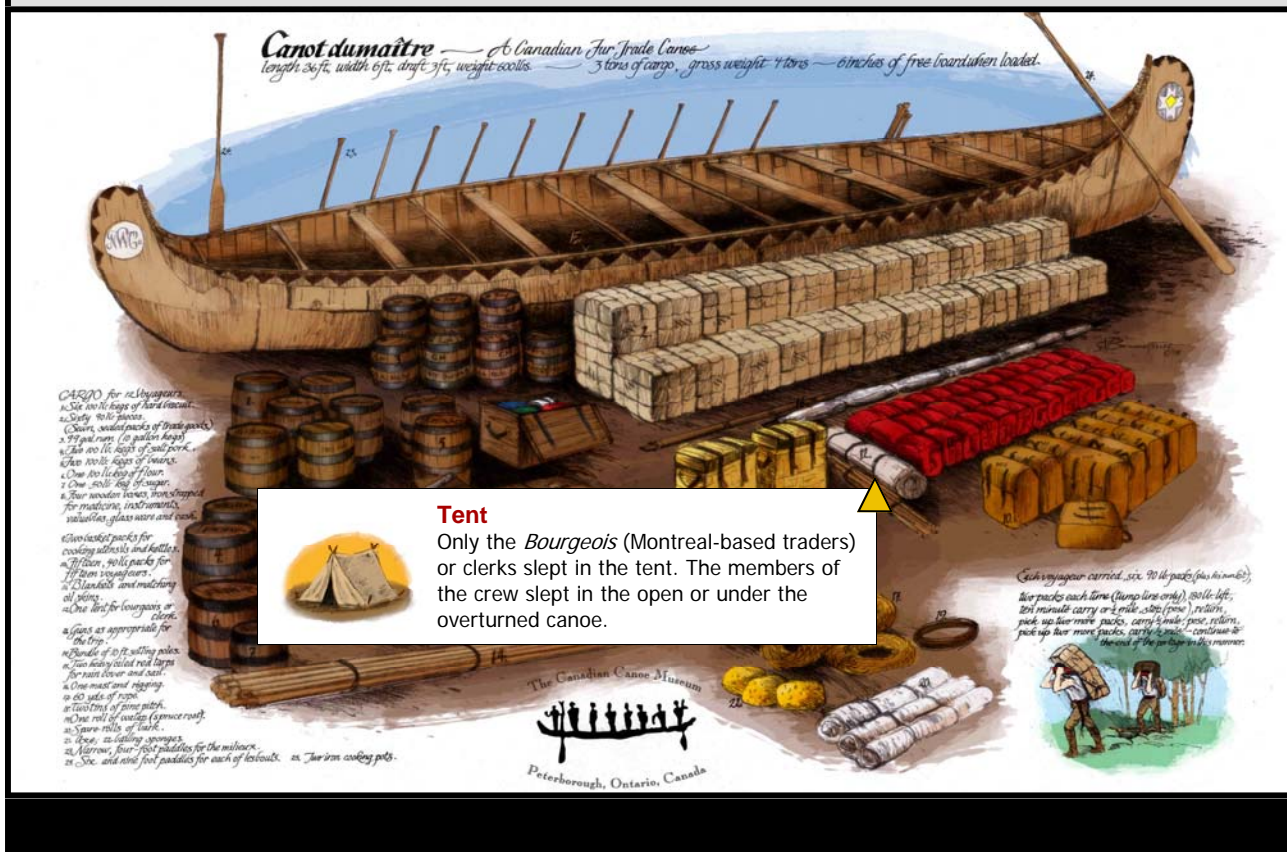
The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM  
Le MUSÉE CANADIEN DU CANOT

## More about the *canot du maître*

The voyageurs travelled in large canoes called **canots du maître** on their fur trading expeditions to Lake Superior. Discover how efficiently the voyageur's canoe was packed.

The interactive poster, (pictured below) based on original artwork provided to HBC by the [Canadian Canoe Museum](#), will spark curiosity and promote critical thinking as students learn about the contents of the canoe, using the mouse to scroll over the different items. (see below)

The entire journey took many months and the voyageurs met numerous challenges along the way. The canoe contained mostly everything they needed for trading for furs and for their long expedition.



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416.955.9526  
416.955.0815

THE COMPANY FOR EDUCATION COMMUNICATIONS INC.

66 George St., 3rd floor • Toronto, ON, Canada, M5A 4K8 • [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca) • [info@4edu.ca](mailto:info@4edu.ca)