

# Chalk Talk

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

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators:

Pretty soon you'll be closing the books for another school year and looking for ways to relax and get away from it all. If you're like most Canadians you'll be looking for green space and heading into one of our many provincial parks, or maybe to a cottage by a lake. For the most part we take our forests, a defining characteristic of our country, for granted. Earlier this year, I recounted the story of my family's arrival to Canada. From the moment we boarded the train in Halifax bound for Ontario, my mother marvelled at seeing nothing but trees for two whole days from her window seat. Coming



from Italy, where a two day train ride in any direction to the northeast or west would take you clear across the entire European continent, her first and most lasting impressions of Canada have been its enormity and its abundance of trees.

If you wanted to devise a country that would support a good life for its people with plentiful natural resources that provide not only sustenance and raw materials but incredible beauty and the opportunity to experience nature, could you imagine a country more perfect than Canada? How fortunate we are to have bounteous forests, mountains, fresh water lakes, beaches, oceans, wildlife, plains, fertile valleys and more!

The strength of our nation, our people and our economy is rooted in the health of our country's forests. This week's issue — the last **Chalk Talk** for the current school year — features classroom materials that will help students learn about and celebrate the importance of our forests.

Before I sign off for this school year, I'd like to say what a privilege it is to be involved in bringing many of Canada's top producers of quality, free, curriculum-based classroom resources to the attention of Canada's dedicated educators. Please, take a close look at this issue of **Chalk Talk** which previews programs that will launch, or will already be underway, at the beginning of the upcoming school year. **Chalk Talk** will resume in early September. Til then check out [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca).

**On behalf of all of us at CoEd have a safe and wonderful summer!**

[Your feedback is appreciated.](#)

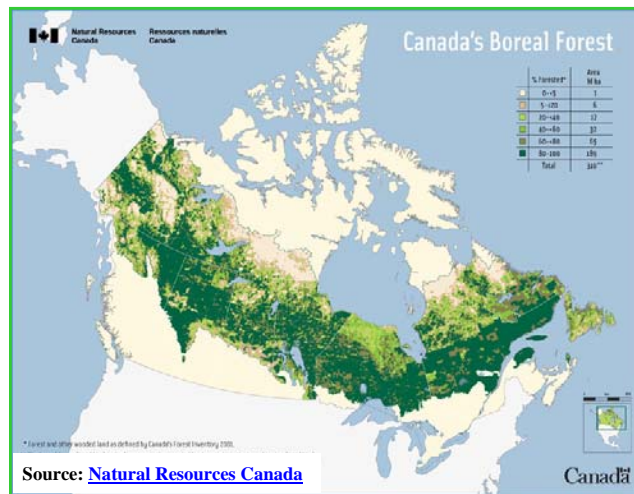
*Mary Kovack*

Mary Kovack



## Celebrate National Forest Week 2009!

The theme of this year's National Forest Week, from September 21-26, is both apt and timely — **"Canada's Forests: Strong Roots, Green Shoots"**. This slogan speaks to the legacy of our forests, the longstanding investment and the infrastructure that is the backbone of the sector - a sector of our economy that largely built this country and supported our growth and place in the world. While Canada faces challenges from all fronts, including the economic woes of today, the ongoing rising Canadian dollar over the past 6 years, the housing decline in the USA, the emergence of the new supply of faster-growing fibre from South America and fast-paced harvesting regimes in Russia, India and Asia, which may not be happening with the same ecological approach that Canada ascribes, our forests will continue to support our economy. The fact, too, that Canada is strongly committed to and in compliance with independent third-party certification of our forest practices attests to our 'strong roots'.



'Green shoots' is a term currently used to describe signs of progress stemming from the stimulus efforts in both the USA and Canada. The emergence of new growth, as the greening of our forests, gardens and parks in the spring can be applied to the renewal of our forests as well as to the industry as a whole. As the automobile industry is gearing up for new approaches to transportation, so too is the forest sector, reacting and adapting to what nature throws at us in a changing world.

Did you know that we lose more forest each year to the ravages of fire, insects and disease than we do to harvesting? This year, let's celebrate Canada's foresters - the professionals who manage, protect and renew the resource — whose impressive track record in dealing with these issues dates back over a century! For more information on how you can take part, [click here](#).

## Educators: Get a jump on September — check out these wonderful educational resources and programs before you begin a well-deserved summer break!



This Fall, Investor Education Fund's acclaimed **Funny Money** Program will be on tour visiting high schools in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia. Funny Money is a fun, interactive presentation, hosted by Canadian comedian, James Cunningham, which will motivate and entertain grade 11 & 12 students while they learn critical money management tips including debt management, cash flow and long-term savings. Book your free presentation today! Contact Lisa Durocher, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce at 519-622-2670 or at [lisadurocher@cambridgechamber.com](mailto:lisadurocher@cambridgechamber.com). Complementary activities are available for the Funny Money for High School presentation — Download the Funny Money Tool Kit at [www.investorED.ca](http://www.investorED.ca) — Teachers' Corner.



Students in grades 5-12 are invited to 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 an important person who they think made a significant impact on Canadian society in 2009. 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 begins September 1, 2009 and ends December 15, 2009. Entries must be received no later than December 15, 2009. Two winners from each grade level — 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade — will be selected. [Click here](#) for contest details.



Educators: Watch for your copy of Statistic Canada's **Census at School — Canada!** classroom poster which will arrive with the September issue of **The Source for Free Teaching Resources** (Cover of Spring 09 issue shown, below). This bilingual poster will provide details on how your students can participate in this interesting and fun international classroom project for students aged 8 to 18. For more info, [click here](#). To link to StatCan's **Learning Resources**, [click here](#).



**NOTE: If you are not already on our mailing list, [click here](#) to order your own FREE copy of The Source before Aug. 1st!**

Also, now available [online](#), **Canada Year Book (CYB) 2008 and CYB Historical Collection (1867-1967)** provide intermediate and high school teachers with fabulous reference materials on Canada's society and economy, written in accessible, plain language. CYB 2008 articles, include links to charts and tables and describe the latest trends in [31 current topics](#), including population, children and youth, families, energy, government, health, as well as ethnic diversity and immigration.

Stay up to date, [subscribe](#) for free to **Statistic Canada's** bimonthly newsletter for teachers, the **Learning Resources E-bulletin**.



October not only marks Stamp Collecting Month in Canada and around the world—it also provides the perfect opportunity to introduce kids to the fun and exciting world of stamps. **Canada Post** makes it easy for teachers and fun for students of all ages to learn about stamps as part of planned curriculum around a variety of educational themes — history, art, geography, language and the environment. Lesson plans are also available promoting literacy, letter-writing skills as well as an understanding of the postal system. Link to downloadable activity sheets and reference material at [www.postalplanet.ca](http://www.postalplanet.ca). Learn even more by subscribing to Canada Post's free stamp collecting publications — **Details** and **Collections**. [Click here to download](#).



**NEW! Canada's National History Society (CNHS)** invites students, ages 7-14, to participate in "Kayak Kids Illustrated History Challenge" by writing, illustrating and designing their own history story or comic. From all the submissions, 25 stories will be selected to appear in a special digital edition of Kayak magazine and published on the CNHS website at [www.Kayakmag.ca](http://www.Kayakmag.ca). One French and one English submission will be selected as the best story. The authors will receive a special \$1000 RESP and a trip for two to Rideau Hall in Ottawa to attend the National History Awards Ceremony hosted by Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada. For complete details, click [here](#). Educators are encouraged to get your students to start thinking about their story and illustrations over the summer and then plan classroom time to execute their ideas in the Fall. The challenge runs from **June 10 to October 9, 2009**.





The rest of your CoEd Team (l-r): Ernie Ling, Jeffrey Mitchell, Lisa Kelly, David Benn, Jane Whittington, Jairo Arango

## News & Related Articles

[What is the Boreal Forest?](#) – The Atlas of Canada, Learning Resources, Natural Resources Canada

Draped like a green scarf across the shoulders of North America, the boreal or "northern" forest is Canada's largest biome or environmental community. It occupies 35% of the total Canadian land area and 77% of Canada's total forest land, stretching between northern tundra and southern grassland and mixed hardwood trees. The boreal forest's animals, plants and products affect each Canadian every day, from paper products, to the jack pine railway ties, through to the air we breathe. This northern forest, named after Boreas, the Greek god of the North Wind, is an inevitable and unavoidable part of who we are. [More](#)

[Financial literacy. With the boom gone bust, Canadians are scrambling to learn what they were never taught: Money 101](#) -- CARLY WEEKS, *Globe and Mail*, April 10, 2009

Do you know the difference between a GIC and a mutual fund? Can you calculate the cost of paying interest on a car loan? Do you know how to set a proper budget? If you don't, you're not alone. Last week, Toronto District School Board trustee Josh Matlow proposed curriculum changes to arm elementary and high-school students with a knowledge of economic issues and money management. Perhaps that education should be directed at adults too, according to financial experts who say that the majority of Canadians coast through life without basic financial literacy. "It's a significant problem that primarily stems from the fact that there is no systematic way for people to learn about this topic in schools," said Tom Hamza, president of the Toronto-based Investor Education Fund, which was established by the Ontario Securities Commission and provides information about financial and investment issues."

[We can't afford to discount math](#) -- Katherine Laidlaw, Education, *GlobeCampus.ca*, *Globe and Mail*, May 07, 2009

As a society, we don't have alarm bells going off that many people can't do math beyond a Grade 6 level, says professor Arvind Gupta. Yet, math is increasingly a part of everyday life. On a recent visit to Toronto, Dr. Gupta spoke with *GlobeCampus.ca* about why it's important to engage students in math, and how stronger math skills will help Canada prosper in the future. [To read the interview with Dr. Arvind Gupta, [click here](#).]

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