

Honouring our nation's rich heritage relies on those devoted to its preservation. Here are some of the many Canadians making a difference.

Oh, Canada! A past

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING CANADIAN HISTORY

Innovative teaching practices bring history to life

Six teachers, from six different schools, each with six unique approaches to Canadian History.

One thing they have in common is their innovative willingness to bring Canada's history to life for their students. And the 2010 Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History recognize Canada's most talented History and Social Studies teachers.

This year's recipients received \$2,500, a trip for two to the award ceremony at Rideau Hall and \$1,000 for their school. The teaching awards are generously supported by TD Bank Group.

"The perceived challenge is that History is boring and that kids don't buy into it because it is not relevant to them," says award recipient Amy Park, a teacher at Heritage Heights School in De Winton, Alberta.

Last year, Ms. Park helped her Grade 2 students "get their hands on history" by bringing Inuit artefacts in from Calgary's Glenbow Museum. "The ability to touch real arte-

facts used by the Inuit people and hold history in their fingers, helped students connect with those objects in a way that was much more powerful than seeing them in books or on the Internet," she says.

With an emphasis on inquiry-based learning, Ms. Park's students identified themselves as young archaeologists, carefully examining and researching the cultural significance of these pieces in an effort to discover the stories behind them.

"Students don't just regurgitate facts," she says. "They seek out the

background and facts needed to paint the whole picture, rather than receive it from a teacher."



Award recipient Adrian Charles French won for his work with the Grade 11 students at Mount Douglas Secondary School in Victoria, B.C.

"My program encompassed five projects, all designed to accommodate multiple intelligences," says Mr. French. "Some kids are natural writers; others demonstrate their understanding better through poetry, visual arts, songs and even dances."

With projects ranging from traditional essays and the creation of a mosaic Cree star blanket to



Teachers Daniel Conner (top) of Rockridge Secondary School in West Vancouver, B.C.; Adrian Charles French (above left) of Mount Douglas Secondary School in Victoria, B.C.; and Amy Park (right) of Heritage Heights School in De Winton, Alberta, were among the recipients of a 2010 Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



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History is happening right now

Canada's History Society is a charitable organization devoted to promoting popular interest in Canadian history.

Its mission is to make our nation's past relevant, engaging and accessible to all Canadians.

Best known for its publications, *Canada's History* (formerly *The Beaver*) and *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, the organization delivers programs that support the classroom teachers, academic researchers, museums and local history organizations that bring our past to life.

As well, Canada's History Awards celebrate the exemplary efforts of those working to preserve, promote and popularize Canadian history.

The society's new web portal - canadashistory.ca - aggregates information about history in the news, special exhibits and upcoming events, classroom resources, travel tips and the business of history - profiling new research and careers in history and local causes that need public support.

the creation of works of art that represent the students' personal context, Mr. French's students were highly engaged.

"Their original works of art represent them in their current context. We have had everything from self-portraits made out of bike parts to a veggie patty," he says, adding that his students call the project "a rite of passage."

Rockridge Secondary School Grade 9 teacher Daniel Conner, from West Vancouver, says teaching junior high makes teaching interesting. "To try to engage kids that age, it is not what you are teaching them, as much as it's about how you are doing it," he says.

His students examined issues such as fair trade in the fur trade, French versus English reflections on the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and immigrant adjustment to Canadian society.

Mr. Conner used a history text book from Quebec to show his students there is more than one perspective in telling history's stories. He also had them apply for a job as a tour guide at the Plains of Abraham and write a support letter about what they would tell tourists from the French Canadian perspective.

"It gives them buy-in," he says. "They aren't just telling history, they make it personal. History then becomes about a sense of identity and realizing the complexity of Canada's defining moments."

Lucie Labbé, Paule Labbé and Marcelle Thibodeau of St. Georges, Quebec; Darcie McDonald of Red Deer, Alberta; and Diane Vautour of Toronto were also rewarded for their exemplary teaching innovations.

online? Visit canadashistory.ca for more information.

AWARD WINNERS

Young award winners meet Canada's Governor General

Six students, ages ranging from 13 to 25, were honoured at Rideau Hall for their participation in three Canadian history contests.

The opportunity to receive their awards from Governor General David Johnston on November 19 was an added bonus to the prizes they received, ranging from \$500 cash and \$1,000 RESP's up to \$2,000 cash.

Toronto's Jesse Shulman, winner of the Historica-Dominion Institute Great Questions Essay Competition, was joined in Ottawa by first-runner-up Carolyn Nakagawa of Coquitlam, B.C.

"The contest had six questions to choose from. Immediately, the question of 'who is Canadian' stood out for me," says Mr. Shulman, a 17-year-old, Grade 12 student at Upper Canada College. "In accepting so many cultures, Canada has defined its own: an oasis in which immigrants are welcome and may retain their

own customs while integrating with ours."

Mr. Shulman says competing in the essay contest enabled him to develop different thoughts on multiculturalism. "You understand the present by looking at where it came from."

Eden Nzeyimana, a 16-year-old, Grade 12 student from Riverside Secondary in Coquitlam, B.C., won the French 2010 Begbie Canadian History Contest, a two-hour contest involving 25 multiple-choice questions, a one-

paragraph response and a longer essay. Gregory Bailey of Gander Collegiate in Newfoundland was the English Begbie contest winner.

"The short essay was a comparison of the Canadian and American propaganda posters used to attract women to help the war effort by working in factories," says Ms. Nzeyimana. "The longer one was about the Canada-Russia hockey series, looking at whether it took place for sport, for political reasons or a combi-

nation. A story written by a reporter who was there described the hostility between the fans. Even the fans could tell it was not just about hockey."

Two other students won the French and English versions of the 2010 Kayak Kids' Illustrated History Challenge, in which kids aged seven to 14 create their own illustrated stories based on an interesting element of Canada's past.

Billy Parrell, from Central Technical School in Toronto, and

Chanelle Albert, from Ecole Jeunesse Active in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, are the 2010 winners.

Ms. Parrell's story, "A Silent Letter," sheds light on the contributions of the founders of the first school for the deaf in Halifax.

"I enjoy drawing and writing, so it was a fun contest," she says. "I was looking at The Canadian Encyclopedia online and came across an article that referenced deaf schools in Canada. I was surprised there were any at all...and decided to write about that."



From left: Canadian student Jesse Shulman was presented the Historica-Dominion Institute Great Questions Essay Competition award from Governor General David Johnston at a ceremony at Rideau Hall on November 19. The Governor General also presented awards to students Eden Nzeyimana, Billy Parrell and Chanelle Albert recognizing their academic achievements in Canadian history. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Thanks for helping us to make history.



We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partner organizations involved with this year's awards program.

