

Notable & Upcoming

2008 School Trustee Election Procedures in British Columbia

The 2008 edition of the *School Trustee Election Procedures in British Columbia* is being distributed to school districts and educational stakeholders by mail.

It is also available at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/legislation/trustee_election/

June 16- 17, 2008

The Achievement Gap Initiative (AGI), 2008 Research Conference Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps in Whole School Systems: Recent Advances in Research and Practice in Cambridge, MA

June 27, 2008

Last day of school

2007- 08 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence



Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the recipients of the 2007/2008 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education.

A total of 95 Prime Minister's Awards have been given to educators from across Canada. The recipients represent Canadian teaching excellence in a wide range of subjects at all grade levels, from preschool through secondary school. All are recognized as having developed innovative ways to teach – including groundbreaking uses of information and communication technologies– to enhance their teaching practices.

This year, 16 teachers received the Certificate of Excellence and 51 received the Certificate of Achievement. Early childhood educators were also recognized: 10 have received the Certificate of Excellence and 18 have received the Certificate of Achievement.

Five teachers from British Columbia were honoured with Certificates of Excellence: Murray Bulger, John Harris, Angela Magon, Devon Ross, and Terence Young.

Certificates of Achievement were also presented to eight teachers from B.C.: Lynne Block, Evan Bueckert, Allen Halverson, Don Homan, Stephen Lane, Eric Munshaw, Regan Ross, and Remigio Vicente.

In addition, the award winners received special recognition from the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, at a national awards ceremony in Ottawa.

“Every Canadian has a special memory of a teacher who helped or inspired them to realize their potential,” said the Prime Minister. “This award honours the talented and caring teachers in this country whose contribution to the lives of individual Canadians, and to Canada as a whole, is truly priceless.”



Top photo: the Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole – read the full story on page 2!

Southridge Elementary Earth Day



Education Minister Shirley Bond participated in a walking school bus demonstration at Southridge Elementary's Second Annual Earth Day Challenge in Prince George.

As part of the demonstration, Minister Bond helped with crossing guard duties during the traffic safety demonstration.

Add Your Stories to B.C. History: Royal BC Museum's The People's History Project

BE PART OF BC HISTORY

Share your story about arriving, growing up, working or living in BC through *The People's History*, a component of *Free Spirit*, a project presented by the Royal BC Museum.

Filled with photographs, text, audio and video submissions, *The People's History Project* will accept story submissions until Jan. 11, 2009. Then it will live on in the BC Archives as an electronic time capsule of BC history as seen through the eyes of British Columbians in 2008 – the province's 150th anniversary year.

Add your story to *The People's History Project* at www.freespiritbc.ca/peopleshistory Or record your story in your own voice at 250-381-4305.

FREE SPIRIT
WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE PRESENT

ROYAL BC MUSEUM
Where the past lives.

Want to be part of B.C. history? Share your memories of our province on the Royal BC Museum's *The People's History Project* website, where you can read interesting stories and learn

more about the lives of other British Columbians as well.

The People's History Project is a website launched by the Royal BC Museum that aims to bring B.C. history to life from a personal perspective, as part of the province's 150th anniversary year celebration. The website is filled with photographs, stories, audio and video contributions as participants share their unique experiences arriving, growing up, working or living in BC.

The Royal BC Museum welcomes submissions from everyone including students and educators. The submission deadline is January 11, 2009. After the deadline, stories will be recorded in the BC Archives as an electronic time capsule of BC history through the eyes of British Columbians in 2008. Submissions may be selected for inclusion in the *Spirit: Stories of You, Me and BC* Exhibition at the museum.

For more details, please visit [The People's History Project](http://www.freespiritbc.ca/peopleshistory) website.

Carve Your Mark in History: The Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole Tour



If you have ever wanted to carve a moment in history, this is your chance!

BC150 is helping to celebrate the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games by sponsoring a very special, province-wide event.

The Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole tour will take place over 13 weeks, beginning in May 2008. A 20-foot red cedar log will be transformed into a ceremonial Spirit Pole as it tours the province. Under the guidance of master carver Carey Newman, people in 50 communities will be invited to carve a section of the pole. Participants will also learn about traditional carving methods, the significance of the pole and the history of BC's First Nations.

Teachers are invited to bring individual classes to participate in carving the Spirit Pole and take part in other educational activities that will take place at this event. Students also have the opportunity to visit the education exhibition that highlights BC First Nations diversity and history. Teachers who would like to make arrangements to bring their class to the Spirit Pole Tour can contact Angie Mallhi by email: Angie.Mallhi@gov.bc.ca or by phone at (250) 356-0440.

On July 28, the NAIG Tribal Journeys Canoe participants will deliver the completed Spirit Pole to Cowichan Bay. The pole will be presented to Aboriginal Team BC at the opening ceremonies on August 3 and will remain in the Cowichan Valley after the Games are completed.

For more details about this event and other events related to BC150, please visit the [BC150 Years](http://www.bc150years.com) website. To find out more about the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games, visit: <http://www.cowichan2008.com/>

Discover Your Community: History in Art Poster Contest



Group photo of winners: (left to right)
Lisa Xie, Hon. Bill Barisoff, Eric Kim, Derrick Van Viegen, Hon. Stan Hagen, and Tessa Warhurst

Have you seen the winning and runner-up posters of the *Discover Your Community: History in Art* poster contest? On May 12, an awards ceremony was held at the Parliament Buildings where contest winners were recognized in the House for their great artworks. The winning and runner-up submissions are displayed in the reception hall of the Parliament Buildings from April to June.

The contest was one of the ongoing events that commemorate BC's 150th crown colony anniversary. Children and youth were encouraged to learn about the local history of our province by submitting an artwork that showcased a historical event in their community in the past 150 years. They also prepared a written description of their work. More than 350 entries were received from students ranging from kindergarten to grade 12. One winner and three runner-up entries were selected from each of the four categories by the Honourable Bill Barisoff, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The four winners were invited to spend a "BC150 Discover Your Capital" day in the provincial capital with their families and attend the awards ceremony at the Parliament Buildings, where they

met their MLA and the Honourable Bill Barisoff, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners-up of the contest, and thank you to all the participants for sending your creations.

To find out a list of the winners and runners-up and their posters, please visit [Legislative Assembly of British Columbia- Discover Your Community: History in Art Poster Contest.](#)

Daily Physical Activity Pilot Program a Success



Active, healthy students are happier and learn better; their good habits may also bring better chances of longer, healthier lives in the future.

The Province of British Columbia is committed to improving the health and well-being of the citizens of B.C. To this end, the Ministry of Education has announced the introduction of Daily Physical Activity (DPA) to help students develop healthy daily physical activity habits. Starting in September 2008, schools will provide 30 minutes of daily physical activity up to Grade 9; students in Grades 10 to 12 will

perform an average of 150 minutes a week of daily physical activity as part of their graduation requirements.

Earlier this month the BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association hosted a meeting of representatives from the thirteen early leader schools around the province involved in piloting the DPA initiative. The feedback they provided is promising. Here's what one representative had to say:

Student, teacher and parent feedback on our initial work with DPA has been overwhelmingly positive. Parents are overjoyed to have physical activity starting to take back some precedence in elementary school. Students are consistently saying how much they love being able to look forward to at least 30 minutes of PA everyday. Teachers are also noticing positive results with their classes, while their main concern is still just trying to find enough hours in the day to make sure that they can fit in the 30 minutes. We are currently in the process of measuring student performance in terms of DPA, and are really looking forward to seeing those results.

Others reported that teachers are finding that taking a break in the middle of class is a good way to get students refocused, while others like to do the DPA at the end of the block as it creates less distraction. Teachers doing DPA at the beginning of a block (especially first thing in the morning) are finding that it shakes the cobwebs out and wakes students up.

Next on the DPA implementation agenda is a province-wide meeting of all BC school districts to discuss the program roll-out. Look out for a report on the meeting in the next edition of EdInfo!

Making a Difference: the Quantum Shift TV “Be the Change! Share the Story!” Video Contest

Students from McTavish Elementary School on the Saanich Peninsula, British Columbia are making an environmental statement through Quantum Shift TV’s “Be the Change! Share the Story!” video contest. The Canadian school team, led by teacher Maria St. Amand, is one of the top three finalists in the contest, and it may win \$5,000 to \$50,000 in prizes for their school! With the online voting deadline closing on June 3, the school team hopes to become one of the winners with their plastics recycling project.

The contest, held by Quantum Shift TV in September 2007, was designed to increase student awareness and their involvement in the community. Public and independent schools were invited to plan and execute a social or environmental project, and record their progress. More than five thousand American and Canadian school teams tapped into their audio–production skills to create short videos that illustrated their efforts. Their videos were then uploaded on Quantum Shift TV’s website and judged on the following criteria: community involvement, environmental impact, social impact, student involvement and learning, video story telling. In addition to their video submissions, the teams must complete a puzzle game after watching a school video. The first place winner will receive \$50,000 in cash and prizes, and the second and third place winners will receive \$10,000 and \$5,000 in prizes respectively.

The McTavish Elementary School students will be moving to the new Kelset Elementary School in North Saanich as their former facility closes at the end of June. If the team wins, their contest reward will help provide equipment for their new school.

To view the contest videos, please visit the [Quantum Shift TV](#) website.

2007/2008 Winners of the Red Cedar Book Award Announced at Gala



The 2007/2008 winners of the Red Cedar Book Award Gala were announced at the annual gala on May 10 at the Panorama Ridge Secondary School in Surrey, British Columbia. The winners of this year’s award are as follows:

Information Category:

Transformed: How Everyday Things Are Made, by Bill and Jim Slavin

Fiction Category:

The Crazy Man, by Pamela Porter

This year marks the 11th anniversary of the award, and more than five–hundred young readers as well as teachers, librarians and authors took part in this exciting annual event. The award ceremony included a parade and skit performances by children, group–talks with authors, book–voting and an award presentation.

The Red Cedar Book Award program is British Columbia’s *Young Reader’s Choice* book award. It aims to broaden students’ reading experiences, promote literacy and encourage participant evaluation of the materials. Every year in November, children across the province from

grade four to seven are invited to participate by reading books on the nominated lists. The participants then vote on their favourite title at the Award Ceremony in May. Two winners are selected each year, one title each from the information category and the fiction category. The award gala gives children the opportunity to proclaim their support for their book, and engage in discussions with the authors as well.

To encourage participation in the program, the Ministry of Education announced its decision to provide funding to eliminate group registration fees in May. The Provincial Government has received a resounding response from the audience on the announcement.

To find out more about award and the list of nominated titles, please visit [The Red Cedar Book Award](#).



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