Welcome to spring and to great plans for Canadian studies in the region and nation! First, our two Centers are pleased to announce the first Quebec Institute for Teachers of French to be offered in Quebec City this summer. "Quebec's Language, Culture and Society in the Classroom" is a 3-week immersion institute in Canada's oldest and most charming city! Thanks to the Partnership of the two Centers' initiative, a grant offered by the Quebec Ministry of International and UW Extension, we are able to provide this opportunity to educators across the nation. We would like to thank Lynn Klawe, a member of the UW Extension who organized this event, for her hard work and inspiration. We hope all of this will make all of this possible. The Institute will be held at Laval University from July 4-22, 2005. And, we're pleased to announce that Anne George, long-time friend of both centers and director of Canadian Studies at Seattle University, will be the director of the Institute. We'd like to point out that several $500 scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit www.extension.washington.edu/k12/ quebec/default.asp or contact Lynn at ak@uw.edu. We hope to see you in this romantic and inspiring city!

Each Center is also offering its annual K-12 workshop the last week of June at Western University in London, ON. Educators can enroll in the 17th Annual STUDENT CANADA Summer Institute (June 26-July 1). Participants can enroll for a single day or for the full six-day institute (for 3 university credits or 40 clock hours). Contact Tina for more information.

At the University of Washington, educators can enroll in a 2-day workshop on international education with a focused session on Canada. This year's 2005 Summer Seminar is entitled, "Mystics, Eccentrics, Visionaries and Revolutionaries: People Who Changed the Course of History" offered June 28-29. For more information contact West European Studies at 206-543-1670 or cwes@u.washington.edu.

Finally, we're also pleased to mention that the O Canada! The Tragic History of the French-Language Newspapers in Education Supplement has been published by the Association of Canadian Newspapers, and dozens of newspapers across the country! The Seattle Times published it as a 18-page tabloid guide for teachers—go get a copy by Pentagon Klang at seattletimes.com or (206) 652-6340.

Have a wonderful spring and, as always, enjoy teaching about that intriguing country north of us!

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The History of Quebec and Roots of the Sovereignty Movement

by Nadine Fabbi

The study of Quebec is indeed an intriguing one for American educators and students. First, there is no other province or state in North America that has only one official language that is not English. And, there are few countries or regions in the world that have struggled for linguistic and cultural survival, and then created protected policies and laws that have been so successful. French settlement in North America dates back almost to the same time as English settlement and colonization (Quebec City was settled in 1608 just a year after Jamestown was founded). But each colony would develop a very distinctive character. For example, New France was more interested in the fur trade than in settlement shaping a Quebecois character that is still very much influenced by the freedom-loving coureurs de bois men of the woods), the survival abilities of the Mi'kmaq (Northmen), and the adventurous spirit of the voyageur (traveler).

Young adventurous Frenchmen were responsible for exploring the country claiming new lands for the French Crown that would come to include the St. Lawrence River Valley, the Great Lakes Region, and the Mississippi. River Valley from the northern states to the mouth of the Mississippi at the Gulf of Mexico and west to the Rockies. The territory was huge but vulnerable to European competitive interests.

The first loss by New France to the British was Acadia (see the Fall 2004 K12 STUDY CANADIAN FLYERS). In 1755 about 13,000 Acadians in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were expelled from their farms and beautifully cultivated lands. After Acadia, there were just two other crucial colonies to conquer in order to have dominion in North America—Quebec City and Montreal.

British took Quebec City in 1759 and Montreal a year later. The Conquest virtually ended French immigration to the New World. Almost all of Canada's 7,000 million francophones today can trace their ancestry back to those 60,000 colonists who lived along the St. Lawrence in the mid-1700s.

The Quebecois have still not forgotten the fall of New France. In fact, the Quebec license plate reads, "Je me souviens" or "I remember" referring to the defeat of the French armies in New France in 1759 and 1760. Some people think that 200-plus years are too long to hold a grudge and that the Quebecois ought to "get over it." But this is too simplistic. The French in Canada are not just remembering that they lost a battle—they are remembering their culture, their language, and their identity as a people, and remembering is certainly part of keeping a culture alive.

After the Conquest, there was just one major uprising by the French against British rule and this occurred in the early 1800s. Following the uprising, the British sent Lord Durham to Canada to investigate the tensions. Durham's report is revealing of British sentiment towards the French-Canadians. "There can hardly be conceived a nationality more destitute than that which is exhibited by the descendants of the French in Lower Canada, owing to their peculiar language and manners," wrote Durham, "they are a people with no history and no literature." This prejudice towards Canada's francophones would last well into the 20th century.

Between the 1930s and the 1960s, French-Canadians remained undocumented, mostly rural, religious, and, mainly laborers for the English-owned businesses. It wasn't until the 1950s that intellectuals began to speak out against Church control over their lives and English political and economic dominance. In 1960 everything changed. Jean Lesage (1907-1983) was elected Premier of Quebec and for over 15 years he was in power as Premier of Quebec and the leader of the Parti Quebecois. The old Parti Quebecois was now the Parti Libera (or Liberals) but that didn't matter. The Parti Quebecois became more popular that it served as the Official Opposition in the federal government for several years.

Today, popularity rests with another political party, the Action Democratique, although the Quebec Liberal Party, led by Jean Charest is in power. Many of the issues faced by the Quebecois since the Conquest, are no longer of concern. Quebec has a strong economy with the largest hydro-electric output in the nation, a vibrant technology industry, and a world-renowned cultural industry. The Quebecois are indeed "masters in their own house." Quebec remains a fascinating place for American students because of its unique history and distinct society and status in North America. Given the struggles for cultural and linguistic survival in an increasingly globalized world, Quebec provides a positive example that a minority of 7 million francophones can indeed exist in a "sea of" about 300,000 million anglophones in North America and thrive in their distinctiveness.
Province of Québec:
Geographical Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>1,540,680 km² (of which 183,889 km² is inland water); 15.51% of Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time Zone</td>
<td>Eastern Standard Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Parks</td>
<td>La Maurice, Forillon, Mingan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highest Point</td>
<td>Mont d’Iberville (Tongat Mountains) 1652 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowest Point</td>
<td>Atlantic Coast (sea level)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largest Lakes</td>
<td>(entirely within PQ) Lacs Mistassini 2436 km, Minganougagog Reservoir 1942 km²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Province of Québec:
Fact Sheet**

Created as a Province: July 1, 1867 (one of the original four)

Origin of Name: An Algonquin word meaning “where the river narrows,” a reference to the narrowing of the St. Lawrence River at Cap Diamond

Provincial Flower: Blue flag or flag lily (Zizyphus), adopted November 5, 1999, and replacing the Madonna lily

Motto: Je me souviens (I remember)

Capital City: Québec City

Provincial Government: Lieutenant-Governor, Executive Council (premier and Cabinet), National Assembly, with 125 elected members (MLAs)

Flag: Order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, January 1, 1948

**Recommended Reading**


This picture-filled story is based on the moving novel of survival in the midst of pitiless nature. Maria Chapdelaine has cast its spell over millions of readers around the world with over 230 different editions published in 23 countries since it first appeared in 1918.

**Québec: Land & People Apple Press — activity book w/ blackline masters — 44 pages — Grades 4-6**

Topics cover Québec’s geographical regions, including the St. Lawrence Valley and Gaspé, climate and natural resources. Other topics include: Samuel de Champlain, the seigneurial system, the fur trade, Québecois foods, Forillon National Park, Montebello and Québec City. Numerous maps, drawings and charts are included to develop map skills and enhance content while a crossword puzzle and a quiz help students review.


Christopher Moore brings “the father of New France” to life and, through him, creates a portrait of Canada in its earliest days. This remarkable book is entirely illustrated entirely with paintings, archival maps, and original artifacts.


The “chasse-galerie” is a well-told legend in French Canada. In various versions, lumbermen make a pact with the devil to fly them home, with uncertain outcomes. Roch Carrier’s version is fun and makes a good elementary-level read-aloud. Roch Carrier’s story, The Hockey Sweater (ISBN: 0-88776-169-0) is also highly recommended and the themes used can be analyzed at all grade levels. This one’s a favorite.

**Québec on the Web**


Canadian Studies Web Center: www.canadianstudies.ca


Confederation for Kids: Québec: www.collectionscanada.ca/confederation/kids/hz-1360-e.html


Québec History Encyclopedia: http://www2.marianopolis.edu/quebechistory/encyclopedia/index.htm


Teaching Canada Resources (high school level lesson plans and units that include Québec): www.ualberta.ca/canam/512outreach/resources/lessonhigh.htm#DISCOVER%20CANADA

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