

April 2005



# ACS N Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
20<sup>ième</sup> anniversaire

Dear ACSN members,

On February 1, 2005, ACSN celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! 2005 is not only important for ACSN, however, it has also been 60 years since the end of the Second World War. Canada played a major role in liberating our country and Canada still means a great deal to many Dutch people. Therefore, this year's theme for our conference focuses on the role of Canada in establishing and maintaining world peace and its position as a peacekeeping nation since 1945. This June, ACSN organizes a three day international conference in Middelburg (Zeeland) entitled "**Building Liberty: Canada and world peace, 1945-2005**" with keynote speakers Ko Colijn and George Elliott Clarke, among others. To have a bit of fun together prior to this conference, ACSN invites its members to a **bicycle tour**, ending at the Canadian restaurant Mondani in Lochem, where you are welcome to join us for a drink to celebrate ACSN's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In this issue of the newsletter Sophie Kalb and Marijke Uitdehaag present their research, which they carried out in Toronto. Nicole Stuckenberger proudly announces that she finished her Ph.D.-thesis. Other news in this issue relates to some new books being released and other conferences that are being organized this summer and fall. We would like to draw your special attention to the **International Summer Seminars** that ICCS organizes in August. This year the seminars will take place in Ottawa and Vancouver. The **14th European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies** takes place in York, U.K., in September. All students are encouraged to submit papers! For ACSN members who are selected for either of the two events above, ACSN takes care of travel expenses. For more news, please keep an eye on [www.acsn.nl](http://www.acsn.nl) and [www.canada.nl](http://www.canada.nl).

Happy reading,  
Amanda Helderman  
(E-mail:  
[A.C.Helderman@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderman@uva.nl))

*The "ACS N newsletter" appears three times a year and is a publication of the Association of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands ("Canadees Studiegenootschap"), exclusively for members, with a circulation of 130. Editors: Amanda C. Helderman and Evelyn Ersanilli.*

## **Executive Board 2005**

President: Dr. Conny Steenman-Marcusse; Vice-President: Dr. Pauline Sarkar; Secretary: Drs. Amanda Helderman; Treasurer: Drs. Fred Toppen; Board members: Dr. Cor Remie and Dr. Leen d'Haenens (Liaison Vlaanderen).

## **VERY FIRST EDITORIAL for ACSN Newsletter, March 1985**

This is the first issue of our newsletter, which comes to you in this very simple form. Because it is our intention to begin with modesty and restraint we have chosen this straightforward and inexpensive way in which to inform our membership of the activities of their organisation. It is not our intention, however, to remain so restrained, for it is our hope that as the membership and interest grow the newsletter can become a means of exchange among Dutch scholars, in the beginning, and then one of the ways in which we seek to enter into scholarly conversation with sister organisations throughout the world. Active co-operation of the membership, then, is the absolute prerequisite to our success. The editor can only await your response. The editor.

## **Executive Board 1985**

President: Dr. C.H.W. Remie; Vice-president: Dr. B.J.S. Hoetjes; Secretary: Drs. E.M. Jacobs; Treasurer: Drs. J.M.P. Edema; Member/ Editor: Mrs. L.J. Bakker.

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## Twenty Years of ACSN

The first footprints of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands were set in the early 1980s. The then cultural attaché Robert Stansfield of the Canadian Embassy in The Hague encouraged Canadian content academic programs in collaboration with professor August Fry of the Free University in Amsterdam. In 1984 the first Canadian Studies Seminar was held in the Netherlands, organized by Cornelius Remie, August Fry, and Ben Hoetjes. They wanted to bring together Dutch academics interested in Canadian Studies and they requested Canadian academics to bring their scholarship into contact with that of the Netherlands. Keynote speakers were Barry Gough (Waterloo), who commented on the Canadian nation-state; Aritha van Herk (Calgary) challenged the underlying factors of Im/migration and Writing, and Patricia Smart (Ottawa) reflected on the Francophone-Anglophone Cleavage in Canadian culture, while Cornelius Remie contributed to the event with a paper on the Inuit of Northern Canada.

In 1985 the Association for Canadian Studies in the Netherlands was founded with the untiring support of Louise Bakker of the Canadian Embassy in The Hague and with the financial assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada in Ottawa. The Association's objectives were already clear; it wanted to promote and support education and research with regard to Canada in the faculties of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Among today's most successful programs are the ACSN Student Research Awards (enabling Dutch students to do research in Canada) and the ACSN Seminar Support Program (providing financial support for organizing a seminar with at least 50 per cent Canadian content), which were designed in this period.

ACSN organizes one-day seminars and conferences for its members. It has also been active in organizing international conferences, of which the most important one was the all-European conference in The Hague in 1991, "Canada on the Threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. European Reflections upon the Future of Canada". As a result of the international cooperation in setting up this conference, the European Network of Canadian Studies was established. This network arranges academic events, which have a European dimension. One of its most successful programs is the annual European Student Seminar on Graduate Work in Canadian Studies.

The proceedings of the majority of ACSN conferences have been published in the ACSN Canada Cahier series, with books on environmental issues, the constitutional crisis, refugees, Canadian geography, English and French Canadian literature and multiculturalism. Its most recent publication is *The Rhetoric of Canadian Writing* (2002), edited by Conny Steenman-Marcusse, with contributions by the Canadian writers Susan Swan (Toronto) and Louise Dupré (Montreal). Hans Bak and Nergis Mazid are publishing the conference proceedings of *First Nations of North America: Politics and Representation*. This conference was organized in collaboration with the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA). Not only did non-natives give their views on First Nations issues at the conference, aboriginal people from North America spoke about their experiences from within. Particularly interesting was the panel discussion on Nunavut with Clara Aupalu. In the future the ACSN will continue on the road set out, with many more interesting activities and publications starting with the international conference entitled "Building Liberty: Canada and world peace, 1945-2005" in June.

*Conny Steenman-Marcusse*

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# ACSNI Newsletter

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## "Building Liberty: Canada and world peace, 1945-2005"

On June 2-4, the ACSNI organizes an international conference about the role of Canada in world peace since the Second World War. Preparations are well under way and we hope to welcome you all at the conference. We have a wonderful program with a number of well-known speakers.

On the first day, **Ko Colijn** will address "Security Issues in Canada and the Netherlands". **Christl Verduyn** gives an exposé of the Dutch-Canadian photojournalist Kryn Taconis who was a member of the "Ondergedoken Camera", a Dutch resistance movement during the Second World War. On the second day, **Richard Menkis** will present his paper entitled "But you can't see the fear that people lived through: Canadian soldiers, the liberation of the Netherlands, and Dutch Survivors". **Doeko Bosscher** will address the role of Canadians in the Netherlands in the Second World War. His paper is entitled: "Canadians in the Netherlands: heroes, liberators, and more". Canadians in the Netherlands in 1944 and 1945 were liberators and heroes, but many of them also became lovers and fathers, and in rare and isolated cases they behaved in a way that compromised them. **Janice Kulyk Keefer** will speak about "The interrelated writings of Ety Hillesum and Naomi Klein". Frank Davey will talk about the work of Earle Birney: "The Road to Nijmegen". The work's influence on Canadian Second World War Literature is evaluated. On the third day, **George Elliott Clarke** will speak about "Domestic Dissenters in the Peaceable Kingdom": While Canada is viewed internationally as a nation of benign peacekeepers, it is vital to recognize domestic dissenters whose works expose to the ways in which propaganda about Canada's good works and 'good' people obscures its own practice of vicious racism and sexism, both at home and abroad. **Aritha van Herk** will deliver a keynote entitled "Inventing a Family Tree: Is it possible to be a Dutch-Canadian?"

ACSNI hopes to have the conference proceedings available at the beginning of June!

*ACSNI invites you to register for this international conference. You can do so on our website: [www.acsn.nl](http://www.acsn.nl). You can also register for individual conference days, if you are not able to attend the whole conference. If you do plan to attend the full conference, you may be interested in accommodation in Middelburg, which can also be found on our website. For students, conference attendance is free of charge.*

## "Bicycle tour" to celebrate ACSNI's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

ACSNI invites its members for a bicycle tour along castles, farmhouses and meadows, ending at Canadian restaurant Mondani in Lochem where Canadian snacks and drinks will be waiting for you. This special event will take place on **May 7, 2005**. The starting times will be 12.30 or 1 pm at Canadian restaurant Mondani in Lochem. The main route is approximately 45 km long, but a shorter alternative can be provided. The annual Keidagen, a local festival, will be held in that same week so there should be lots to see and do in and around Lochem. Participation is free for ACSNI members; their partners and family members are also welcome. For others, participation is €13.00 without and €18.00 with a rental bicycle. The availability of rental bicycles is limited. You can bring your own bicycle by train: the price of a day ticket for your bicycle is €6.00. There is no day ticket necessary for a folding bike, of course. If you would like to participate, please register by E-mail (preferably **before April 20, 2005**) by sending your name, the number of participants in your party, and the number of rental bikes needed: [A.C.Helderman@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderman@uva.nl); 020-5254015 (during office hours). More information about the restaurant: <http://www.mondani.nl/>

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## **Minor Canadian Studies at Radboud University Nijmegen, 2005-2006: "Focus on Canada: Introduction to Canadian Studies"**

Starting in September 2005 the American Studies program of Radboud University Nijmegen offers a new "minor" program in Canadian Studies to advanced undergraduate students in the humanities. The program is made possible with the help of ACSN and ICCS/DFAIT. The Minor comprises three courses: *Canadian History* (5 ECTS, September to December 2005); *Interdisciplinary seminar/ lecture series: Canadian Politics, Business, Society* (10 ECTS, November-December 2005 and February-March 2006); and *Canadian Literature* (5 ECTS, February-May 2006). More information: Prof. dr. J.T.J. Bak at [h.bak@let.ru.nl](mailto:h.bak@let.ru.nl); [www.acsn.nl](http://www.acsn.nl)

## **14th European Seminar for Graduate Students in Canadian Studies, September 8-11th 2005**

The University of Leeds and the British Association for Canadian Studies will host the 14th European seminar for graduate students in Canadian Studies this year. European students working on Master's or Ph.D. theses in Canadian Studies are invited to present their current research and to meet and exchange ideas with students from other countries. The seminar, to be held in a small college in the heart of the beautiful city of York, will be organized in a series of eight workshops chaired by scholars and postgraduate students in the field of Canadian Studies. Open papers may be in any of the following areas: literature, linguistics, cultural studies, fine arts/ visual arts, environmental studies, history, geography, politics and sociology. The conference sub-theme is 'visualizing violence'. ACSN encourages all of our students who have been to Canada for their research in 2004/2005 (or before) to submit an abstract for this conference. The deadline for submitting abstracts is May 20, 2005. If you are not sure how to write an abstract for your thesis, you can contact one of ACSN's board members. We are willing to help you. The conference fee is only 25 GBP (incl. accommodation and meals); maximum number of participants: 24. If your abstract is chosen for a presentation in York in September, **ACSN will cover your travel expenses**. Please let us know if you are interested, so that we know how many students submit abstracts, and so that we can recommend you with the conference organizers if necessary. For the full Call for Papers: [a.c.helderman@uva.nl](mailto:a.c.helderman@uva.nl)  
For more information and submissions: [encssubmissions@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:encssubmissions@leeds.ac.uk); ENCS conference, c/o Prof. Graham Huggan; School of English, University of Leeds; Woodhouse Lane; Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK.

## **ICCS International Summer Seminars 2005**

The International Council for Canadian Studies, in partnership with a number of Canadian universities offers two five-day, multidisciplinary, international summer seminars during the month of August. In anticipation that some participants may wish to attend both seminars, the dates have been coordinated to make such twinned participation possible. In 2005 the ICCS International Summer Seminars will be held from **August 15-19 in Ottawa** and from **August 22-26 in Vancouver, British Columbia**.

Intended for professors new in the field of Canadian Studies and graduate students working in the area of Canadian Studies, these annual seminars combine oral presentations by academics, practitioners and leading figures from the realm of politics, public policy or the arts, followed by question/discussion periods. The days are organized thematically on topics ranging from politics, aboriginal issues, multiculturalism, literature and the arts. The late afternoons and

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early evenings are spent visiting cultural or historical sites or attending cultural or social events.

The Ottawa Summer Seminar, in its ninth year, is a collaborative effort of the ICCS, the Institute of Canadian Studies at the University of Ottawa, and Carleton University's School of Canadian Studies. The seminar traditionally includes visits to both campuses as well as a day at Willson House, Meech Lake, and tours of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the National Gallery of Canada, the House of Commons and the Library and Archives of Canada.

Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia will host the 2005 edition of the ICCS Western Summer Seminar from Monday, August 22nd to Friday, August 26th, 2005. Professor Karl Froschauer, Director of the Canadian Studies at SFU will organize the academic and cultural program, which will cover topics such as the multicultural face of British Columbia, the arts, literature and history and will include both lectures and cultural visits throughout the lower mainland. **ACSN provides travel grants for ACSN-members who will be selected to participate in the ICCS summer seminar(s).**

For complete information, including reports of previous seminars, visit the ICCS website at: [http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/4\\_ICCSprogs/e\\_seminar.html](http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/4_ICCSprogs/e_seminar.html)

## **Conference on the nation-state: comparing EU and Canada, Brussels**

The European Network for Canadian Studies (ENCS) will host a conference on the theme "**The Ties that Bind: Accommodating Complex Diversity in Canada and the European Union**" in Brussels, Belgium, from November 17-19, 2005. The event aims to examine the nature of the challenges of complex diversity and assess possible responses beyond the nation-state template, which is one of the most salient manifestations of the European past and of Europe's global reach. The state helped form the nation, through defining who are included, and who are not. But the nation was also created and written into existence, through epics, stories, poems, and paintings, all of which told people how they belonged together in a particular national community. The nation (as type of community) and national identity (as mode of allegiance) are challenged by the emergence of new and/or more complex types of identity, such as post-national, multinational and poly-ethnic ones. Contemporary patterns are towards pluri-lingual societies. Nations in the sense of communities are challenged by other types of collectives and by group-based mobilization. Examples of such groups are: women's groups, aboriginals, gays and lesbians, ethnic minorities, the disabled, the poor, the elderly, the affluent, and so forth. The first objective of the conference is to examine the nature of the challenges of complex diversity. The second objective of the conference is to assess possible responses beyond the nation state template. More information: Cor Remie, [c.remie@chello.nl](mailto:c.remie@chello.nl); John Erik Fossum, [j.e.fossum@arena.uio.no](mailto:j.e.fossum@arena.uio.no); or Serge Jaumain, [sjaumain@ulb.ac.be](mailto:sjaumain@ulb.ac.be).

## **New thesis: Community at Play: Social and Religious Dynamics in the Modern Inuit Community of Qikiqtarjuaq**

This study shows, by examining ways of social and religious life in a modern Inuit community and the annually ten days of Christmas festival, that after more than 100 years of being Christians and about 50 years after moving from nomadic hunting camps to modern settlements, Inuit still perceive themselves as a hunting society and formulate their self-perceptions in cosmological terms emphasizing relations to God, land, and animals. To Inuit the community does not

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represent a corporate unit encompassing and transcending the participants, it represents much more a potential for cooperation. The performance of communal games, a major element of the Christmas festival, has a marked position in this respect because relations to humans and transcendental agencies are fragile and can only be fully realized in play.

*Nicole Stuckenberger plans to publicly defend her thesis on May 11, 2005, at 10.30 am. Address: Academiegebouw Utrecht University, Domplein 29, Utrecht. The thesis "Community at Play: Social and Religious Dynamics in the Modern Inuit Community of Qikiqtarjuaq" by Nicole Stuckenberger is available at Rozenberg Publishers.*

## **The research project of... Marijke Uitdehaag and Sophie Kalb**

We are two students of Intercultural Communication at Tilburg University. To finish our bachelor program we had to do research in our field of interest. We decided to conduct a research into the experiences of Dutch immigrants in Canada.

The integration policy is a hot topic in the Netherlands. In January 2004, an independent committee (called the Blok-committee, after its president) presented an evaluation report on the Dutch integration policy of the last 30 years. One of the most important conclusions drawn in this report is that integration has only been partly successful despite government efforts. The public debate, as a consequence of this report, became the main reason for our interest in the immigration history of Dutch communities in other Western countries. Canada is an interesting country to do research on processes of immigration because Canada has a long migration history. Moreover, the country has approximately 350.000 Dutch immigrants.

In short, we wanted to find out how the Dutch immigrants of the first generation in Canada experienced their immigration process. We focused on four domains of immigration throughout the whole research, i.e. reason for emigration, ties with the Netherlands, language and self-identification. From August 2004 till December 2004 we examined the Dutch community in the Greater Toronto Area by depth-interviews among 20 respondents. The majority of the respondents were living in an old people's home called: "Holland Christian Homes". The most important outcome of this study was that women are the gatekeepers of the Dutch culture. They play a major role in the maintenance of ties with the Netherlands, the Dutch language and identity. Further, the majority of the Dutch women followed their husbands to Canada. Most of these men suffered from the socio-economic climate in the Netherlands after the Second World War and wanted to start a new life.

As a consequence of the report of the Blok-committee, the role of female immigrants in the Dutch integration policy has gotten greater attention. Our study has revealed that the influence of women on the integration process should definitely not be underestimated.

More information: [marijkeuitdehaag@hotmail.com](mailto:marijkeuitdehaag@hotmail.com) or [sophiekalb@hotmail.com](mailto:sophiekalb@hotmail.com).

## **Jacques Beaudry**

Le 10 mars 2005 a été inauguré le nouvel Institut de la Biographie (Biografieinstituut) de l'université de Groningen, avec un congrès sur "Nécrologie et Biographie". L'un des intervenants fut l'auteur Jacques Beaudry, docteur en philosophie, qui enseigne la littérature à l'Université de Sherbrooke. Il réside actuellement à Amsterdam, à l'invitation de la Fondation des Lettres (Fonds voor de Letteren), où il travaille sur les influences néerlandaises dans l'oeuvre de l'écrivain québécois Hubert Aquin, qui se suicida en 1977. Cette étude s'intitulera *L'Obombre*;

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*Hubert Aquin et les Pays-Bas* et fera partie d'un recueil sur trois auteurs qui se sont donné la mort. Beaudry avait déjà publié en 2002 une étude sur l'auteur suicidé Césaire Pavese. Dans son intervention du 10 mars 2005 intitulée "L'impulsion suicidale: quelques réflexions sur des auteurs suicidés", Beaudry a analysé l'oeuvre d'une vingtaine d'auteurs du XXe siècle qui ont attenté à leurs jours. Il a montré à travers quels symboles cette obsession du suicide s'est exprimée dans leur oeuvre. A côté de cette préoccupation plutôt morbide, l'auteur a publié en 2003 chez Liber à Montréal le recueil *L'oeil de l'eau: notes sur douze écrivains des Pays Bas*, qui contient des réflexions sur 12 grands auteurs néerlandais contemporains, tels que Cees Nooteboom, Jeroen Brouwers et Harry Mulisch.

Pauline Sarkar

## Elise Turcotte

Le 1er mars 2005, la romancière (et poète) Elise Turcotte a parlé de la littérature québécoise actuelle devant des étudiants en Etudes Canadiennes, à l'invitation du directeur du Centre d'Etudes Canadiennes de l'université de Groningen, le professeur Jaap Lintvelt. Elle a expliqué que, pour elle, les grands thèmes des décennies précédentes (la position des femmes pour les auteures des années 60 et 70, comme Anne Hébert et Marie-Claire Blais, et ensuite la quête identitaire, avec, entre beaucoup d'autres, Jacques Poulin) sont maintenant des acquis sur lesquels les auteurs de sa génération n'ont plus besoin de s'arrêter. Actuellement, et pour la première fois, les auteures ont parallèlement à leur vie d'écrivaine, une vie de famille dans laquelle elles s'occupent de leurs enfants. Ceci n'avait jamais été le cas auparavant... De plus, Elise Turcotte a expliqué qu'elle ne se sent pas très proche de la France ni des Français, mais elle déclare: "Je suis une Nord-Américaine qui parle Français". Elle pense que cette Nord-Américanité est perçue par toute sa génération et que c'est la force du territoire américain qui donne cette force à son écriture et aussi sa spécificité et sa modernité. Quelques titres et 2 compte-rendus:

*Le bruit des choses vivantes*, roman, Leméac, 1991, Prix Louis-Hémon, (in English translation: *The sound of living things*, translated by Sheila Fischman, Coach Houde Press, Toronto, 1993);

*L'Île de la Merci*, roman, Boréal, 1994; (in English translation: *The body's place*, translated by Sheila Fischman, Cormorant Books, Toronto, 2002):

Helene, fifteen, lives with her younger sister and brother and their parents in a house near a river with an island. School is out for the summer, it's hard to find things to do to ward off boredom, but Helene finds work in a garage. A girl her age has gone missing and, eventually, her murdered body is found on the island, L'Île de la merci. In this atmosphere of violence and fear, Helene tries to understand the silences in her house, the sexual yearnings she's beginning to experience, the eloquent lure of nothingness - of death. This summer will mark the end of a certain innocence and the beginning of a journey of discovery of the body and its place.

*Sombre Ménagerie*, poèmes, Editions du Noraît, 2002. Grand Prix du festival international de la poésie 2002;

*La maison étrangère*, roman, Leméac, 2002, Prix du Gouverneur-Général 2003:

La maison étrangère, c'est le corps d'Elisabeth, son corps qui lui est étranger. Pourtant, autour de cette femme d'âge mûr, en rupture avec l'univers, gravitent des personnages qui peut-être détiennent la clé de ce savoir qu'elle cherche dans les textes anciens: son veuf de père, enrôlé prématurément dans la vieillesse; Marc, porteur d'un nouvel amour qui ne demande qu'à naître; Lorraine, son alter ego, atteinte d'anxiété chronique. Encore faudrait-il qu'Élisabeth accepte de

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pactiser avec ses spectres et d'embrasser la vie. Chronique d'une traversée des ténèbres, admirablement servie par une écriture somptueuse, ce roman propose une méditation sur le passage du temps, la fragilité des amours, le poids du monde.

*Pauline Sarkar*

## **Un nouveau Délégué Général du Québec pour le Bénélux**

Monsieur Christos Sirros a été nommé Délégué Général du Québec à Bruxelles, après le départ de Madame Stafford. Il a une grande expérience politique, comme parlementaire et comme premier vice-président de l'Assemblée Nationale du Québec. De plus, il a été ministre des richesses naturelles, ministre délégué des affaires autochtones et député pendant 23 ans. Diplômé en sciences éducatives et en commerce, Monsieur Sirros a travaillé aussi dans le secteur des services sociaux. Pour de plus amples renseignements, voir:

[http://www.premier.gouv.qc.ca/general/communiqués/2004/nominations/2004\\_10\\_06/sirros\\_christos.htm](http://www.premier.gouv.qc.ca/general/communiqués/2004/nominations/2004_10_06/sirros_christos.htm)

*Pauline Sarkar*

## **'École et droits fondamentaux'**

L'Institut français de l'Université de Regina est fier de participer avec les Presses du Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface à la publication du livre de Paul Clarke (Université de Regina) et Pierre Foucher (Université de Moncton) intitulé : École et droits fondamentaux : droits collectifs et droits individuels à l'ère de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés. Ouvrage qui fera certainement date, ce livre étudie l'impact des droits fondamentaux prévus par la Charte sur le système scolaire et l'enseignement dans la salle de classe. Il est d'autant plus marquant que c'est le premier livre en français spécifiquement consacré à cette question cruciale depuis 1992. Les auteurs ont voulu fournir non seulement un texte académique pour tous ceux et celles qui s'intéressent à l'étude du droit scolaire mais aussi un véritable livre de référence pour les avocats, les enseignants et les administrateurs scolaires. Ils ont effectivement réussi à produire une étude très pertinente qui cerne l'influence importante et croissante de la Charte sur les droits collectifs et individuels tout en analysant l'impact des droits et libertés traditionnels sur le système scolaire. Pour plus d'information, veuillez contacter Frédéric Dupré au par courriel à [frederic.dupre@uregina.ca](mailto:frederic.dupre@uregina.ca)

## **Canadian Films at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR 2005)**

**Sabah - Ruba Nadda:** Sabah is a smart, attractive Arabic Muslim woman living in Toronto. To celebrate her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday she goes swimming. In the pool a man, Stephen, mistakenly grabs her towel and a friendship develops. However, Sabah does not dare take Stephen to her home with her affable mother and demanding brother who does not only control the family's finances but also the family's choices. After her father's death 20 years ago, the family has retreated into a more conservative Arab lifestyle. Nevertheless, Sabah falls in love with Stephen. However, the pressures of leading a double life take their toll on both the relationship and her family life. Finally, Sabah must confront her family. Ruba Nadda, an acclaimed short filmmaker, spent years refining her intelligent script about a woman stuck in between cultures. The well-known Lebanese-Canadian actress Arsinée Khanjian is splendidly cast.

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*Trains of Winnipeg - 14 film poems - Clive Holden:* Arriving from the West like a loaded freight train, *Trains of Winnipeg - 14 film poems* is a kaleidoscope of memories and ruminations on Clive Holden's nomadic experiences from across Canada. As a first-generation Canadian, born of Irish immigrants, Holden's past is full of flashes of travelling across the country. "Without even trying to do it I ended up living all over the country. A sense of place is important to everyone but for an immigrant the search for place is really important. I think that's why the trains work so well. It's powerful, searching" (Clive Holden). Holden's haunting short films and texts are set to music in this exquisite feature-length film cycle, which explores feelings of transience, loss and longing for a place to call home. The musical contributions of John K. Samson and Jason Tait of The Weakerthans and composer Christine Fellows create a dense, rich soundscape, with ambient sounds that echo the rhythm of rumbling trains. The film's rhythmic and oblique approach shifts our focus, requiring us to re-examine what we thought familiar. Holden's ideas are infused with a deep sense of place, and explore distance and remoteness as both a physical and an emotional experience. Transportation, searching and movement often become the focal point of his ideas for either closing that gap or acknowledging that it has grown even wider. Between writing poetry and fiction, touring, recording, and making films, Clive Holden also finds time to run Cyclops Press, which specializes in spoken word albums. His books include *Fury - fictions & films* (1998) and *Trains of Winnipeg* (2002), which was nominated for three Manitoba Book Awards; his CD of the same name is available in North America and Europe.  
*Conny Steenman-Marcusse*

## 'Nourishing Canadian journal wins public discourse prize'

*Toronto* - The Literary Review of Canada has won the Kroeger College Award for Public Discourse. Since it was established in 1991, the LRC has carved out a reputation as Canada's answer to the Times Literary Supplement or the New York Review of Books magazine with its feature essays and book reviews written by people such as Margaret Atwood, Jack Granatstein, Janice Gross Stein, Bob Rae and John Crosbie. In its citation, the jury for the award, which is administered by Carleton University's Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs and celebrates excellence in public debate, called the LRC "nourishing, entertaining and inspiring".

*The Globe and Mail, Monday January 31, 2005, page R2.*

## European perspectives on Canadian Women's Writing

Two-day conference to be held October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Strasbourg, organized by the Centre for Canadian Studies of Strasbourg University (France) and the Centre for Canadian Studies of Marburg University (Germany). The conference will bring together European scholars who are interested in Canadian women's writing from a variety of perspectives. More information: [Charlotte.Sturgess@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Charlotte.Sturgess@wanadoo.fr).

## Bibliography of Comparative Studies in Canadian, Québec, and foreign literatures

This database is a bibliography (2375 entries) containing bibliographical references in comparative literature (articles, books, critical works, journals, etc.).

It is located at <http://compcanlit.usherbrooke.ca/search.html>.

April 2005



# ACS N Newsletter

20th anniversary  
20ième anniversaire

## Canadian History News

CHN is an ad-free web log primarily for Grade 7-12 teachers and students, but of interest to all. It contains daily news, quizzes, biographies, anniversaries, news features and history happenings. Recent stories include 'Who Owns the Stanley Cup', 'Paul Kane's Christmas at Fort Edmonton' and a new video game that lets users fight World II through Canadian eyes. Canadian History News is indexed and searchable, and you can view entries in their entirety, or broken out by such areas of interest as Canada/US Relations, First Nations, Military, Political or Social History, New France History, History in the Media, and Teaching with Technology. More information: Alastair Sweeny Ph.D., V-P Development, Northern Blue Publishing. E-mail: [info@northernblue.ca](mailto:info@northernblue.ca); <http://northernblue.ca/cblog/index.php>.

## Lea Zuyderhoudt has a daughter!!!

Lea was our enthusiastic guide in the wonderful Blackfoot exhibition after the 2003 ACSN seminar in the Kunsthal, Rotterdam, in 2003. We would like to announce that she gave birth to a lovely baby girl named Enne Juna Lisanne Zuyderhoudt. She was born in Leiden on January 28, 2005, weighing 6.5 pounds. ACSN congratulates the new parents Lea Zuyderhoudt and Matthijs Vos!

## ACS N and government programs:

### *ACS N student research award*

This award is designed to assist students of higher education, whose M.A. theses or doctoral dissertations are related in substantial part to Canada, to undertake research in Canada in topics within the social sciences and the humanities. The deadline for applications is March 31st and October 31st of each year.

More information: <http://www.acsn.nl/activities/student.html>

### *European Speakers Program*

In order to promote European co-operation in Canadian Studies, the ACSN has established this program to give financial support to teaching faculties at Dutch universities to bring in expert Canadianists from Europe as guest lecturers. We also have a seminar support program and a conference participation program.

More information: <http://www.acsn.nl/activities/programs.html>

### *Faculty Enrichment program*

This is a program of the Government of Canada to increase knowledge and understanding of Canada abroad by assisting academics in higher education institutions to develop and teach courses about Canada in their own discipline, as part of their regular teaching load. The program enables academic award holders to come to Canada and gather the necessary information and material to devise a new course on Canada. Deadline is October 31 of each year.

More information: [http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/5\\_govprogs/b\\_FEP\\_countries/netherlands.html](http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/5_govprogs/b_FEP_countries/netherlands.html)

The next newsletter will appear in **September 2005**; deadline for contributions: **August 15<sup>th</sup>**, 2005. Everyone is most welcome to contribute! So if you have any news, a publication or a book review for us, let us know! Please send contributions to Amanda Helderma, preferably by e-mail: [A.C.Helderma@uva.nl](mailto:A.C.Helderma@uva.nl) or by regular mail: UvA, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

[www.acsn.nl](http://www.acsn.nl)