



Toronto Teenagers and their Teacher Pay Tribute to Canada's Fallen Soldiers and Earn National Recognition

(Toronto, Ontario – October 6, 2009) – Using the latest computer animation, cardboard boxes and paper mache, students in Diane Vautour's class are embarking on a mission to build the greatest war memorial. These Grade 10 students at Loretto College aren't skilled in the art of engineering and may never duplicate the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, however, they are adept at studying artefacts from history in order to learn how Canada should commemorate its First World War experience. Through local interactive field trips and pictures of the world's Great War memorials, Vautour's students are building their own tribute to the soldiers of the First World War. Vautour's Grade 10 class is also creating a historical record of Canada's battle experience through visual scrapbooks and narrative diaries.

This creative lesson plan is just one example of the commendable teaching style for which **Canada's National History Society has selected Diane Vautour as a finalist for the 2009 Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.**

Now in its 14th year, the Awards recognize the outstanding contributions of Canada's history teachers, ranging from elementary grades through to secondary schools. Deborah Morrison, President and CEO of Canada's National History Society says, "At a time when teachers are frequently criticized for what they aren't doing right in the classroom, we take pride in reminding Canadians of the many teachers whose creativity and dedication are transforming both the history classroom and how our children discover our history." Morrison adds, "These exemplary teachers merit celebration, and we hope that by sharing their techniques with others, how history is taught in our schools will continue to improve, and even more young Canadians will look forward to their studies."

A panel of distinguished judges will next select six recipients from the twenty-five finalists, based on submissions outlining the nominee's achievements and innovations in the field of teaching Canadian History or Social Studies. The six recipients will be awarded \$2,500, a gold medal and a trip to the Awards ceremony in Ottawa on Friday, November 20, 2009.

The Awards recipients will also be presented with their medal by the Governor General and treated to a reception in their honour and private tour of the historic Rideau Hall. Their respective schools will also benefit from a cash gift of \$1,000.

During the Awards festivities, recipients will also be treated to a gala dinner a rare insiders' tour of the Gatineau Preservation Centre hosted by program partner, **Library and Archives Canada**. "I am delighted to be able to offer this experience to this year's recipients and to open a window on how we preserve the stories about Canada and its history," said Daniel J. Caron, the Librarian and Archivist of Canada. "Each individual story is important because it helps us discover something unique about our country, and each individual history teacher is important because they give us a broader understanding about who we are and where we have come from."

This prestigious event and Awards prizes are made possible through the generous support of **TD Bank Financial Group**. "Few things are more powerful than a teacher's enthusiasm. Their passion for a subject can excite, inspire and even transform the lives of their students," said Frank McKenna, Deputy Chair, TD Bank Financial Group. "Our finest teachers of Canadian history have the ability to make our proud past come to life, in ways that help our students gain a better appreciation of the world we live in today. TD is proud to do its part in recognizing the incredible contributions our Canadian history teachers make in the lives of so many young Canadians."

Biographical details and photos of each of the finalists are available for download through the press room of the History Society's website:

www.historysociety.ca/abo.asp?subsection=new&page=pre

About Canada's History Society

Canada's National History Society is a charitable organization dedicated to popularizing Canadian history. In addition to the Governor General's Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History, the Society also publishes **Canada's History Magazine: The Beaver** and **Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids**.

About Library and Archives Canada

The mandate of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is to preserve the documentary heritage of Canada for the benefit of present and future generations and to be a source of enduring knowledge accessible to all, thereby contributing to the cultural, social and economic advancement of Canada. LAC also facilitates co-operation among communities involved in the acquisition, preservation and diffusion of knowledge, and serves as the continuing memory of the Government of Canada and its institutions.

TD Community Giving: Making a Difference Together

Children's health, literacy and education, and the environment are the three primary areas of focus for TD's community giving. The major flagship programs within these areas are: TD Children's Hospital Fund, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, TD Canadian Children's Book Week, TD Canada Trust Scholarships for Community Leadership, and the TD Summer Reading Club. In addition, through the support of our customers and employees, TD is involved with a host of national, regional and local programs in support of diversity, arts and culture and other causes. In 2008, TD donated \$35 million to more than 2,100 organizations across Canada.

For further information or to arrange an interview with teachers, please contact:

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