

Students Reveal Alberta's Greatest Maverick at Glenbow

Calgary, AB (November 24, 2005) — On Wednesday, November 30, Glenbow Museum will launch an innovative educational website entitled *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta*. As part of the scheduled launch activities, Glenbow Museum and the Calgary Board of Education have invited four elementary school classes who used the site this fall to select “Alberta’s Greatest Maverick.”

Students will reveal their favourite Maverick personality as they navigate through the website explaining their choice. The students will then be invited to participate in a Question & Answer period; asking David Thompson and Colonel James Macleod — brought back to life by character actors — questions about their fascinating experiences in early Alberta. Also in attendance will be descendants of some of the Mavericks profiled in the website including Fred McCall, son of Captain Freddie McCall, a World War I flying ace and Canadian war hero; and David Dover, son of Mary Dover, who was one of only two officers from Alberta to join the Canadian Women’s Army Corps in 1941.

The website launch will take place on Wednesday, November 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Burlington Resources Theatre at Glenbow. Visit www.glenbow.org/mavericks/ to view the site.

Background information on Mavericks website

This innovative website allows Alberta students in grades four to seven to explore nationally significant stories of the important people and events that have shaped the province of Alberta. But rather than just learning or memorizing history; students are able to become historians themselves. Over 700 historical source materials have been digitized from Glenbow’s collections representing almost 40 different maverick personalities from various ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds. The artifacts include the personal affects, clothing, weapons, tools, photographs, documents, artwork, and maps from their lives. Some of the featured mavericks include explorer Captain John Palliser; William Van Horne of the Canadian Pacific Railway; John Ware, Alberta’s best known black cowboy; women’s rights advocate Henrietta Muir Edwards; politician Peter Lougheed; and wrestler Stu Hart.

Mavericks is a bilingual website available in English and French for Alberta students in grades four through seven. The student activities on the site follow a project-based and inquiry-based learning approach and are multidisciplinary, combining social studies with language arts, mathematics, science, art, and health.

Alberta's history is broken into nine areas on the website (Uninvited Guests, Mounties, Railway, Ranching, Politics, Newcomers, War and the Homefront, Oil and Gas, and Post Haste) with each section containing content on a number of different Mavericks, why they are considered a Maverick, and the historical context. There is also a section on historical maps and an interactive timeline. The website includes teacher resources with ready-to-use classroom project plans that can be adapted or modified to suit student needs.

The *Mavericks* website is a companion site to Glenbow's new permanent gallery, also entitled *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta*, currently in development and scheduled to open in February 2007.

The website project was developed in partnership with the Calgary Board of Education's Innovative Learning Services Department and the University of Calgary Learning Commons. It was funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canadian Culture Online Program, Partnership Fund.

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