

# AuCanada

The Canadian Studies Center at Bowling Green State University

Winter 1999 Vol. 06 Issue 2

## Culture Gets Popular

Canadian culture is unlike our own, although many Americans find it difficult to make a distinction. To be sure, our similarities are many, but as the old joke goes—"The difference between Americans and Canadians is that Canadians know the difference." Surveying *popular* Canadian culture in particular reveals clues into how the Canadian character and society differs from ours.

Comedy, television, and literature are featured in the upcoming Canadian Popular Culture Series. The three part series scheduled for Spring semester promises to go beyond stereotypes in an examination of the popular Canadian psyche.

A musical comedy troupe, **The Arrogant Worms**, brings their satire to BGSU's Bryan Recital Hall on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The group, which has toured extensively in Canada and in several locations in the United States, sings and banters its way through such songs as *The Mountie Song*, *Canada's Really Big*, *Me Like Hockey*, *Proud To Be Canadian*, and others. The Worms' high energy performance is geared for all ages in a playful show which includes slightly unusual audience participation.

Then on March 21<sup>st</sup> **Daniel Richler** an author and social commentator known in Canada as host of the counterculture television program, *Big Life*, will share his experiences in the field of "alternative grooves and information." He will spark a discussion about differences between the Canadian and U.S. approaches to media, political coverage, and the arts. A reading by a Canadian author will complete the series.

All of the events in the Popular Culture Series are free and open to the public, however space may be limited. For more details contact Linda Snyder at 419.372.2457. The series is made possible with the assistance of the Government of Canada.



The Arrogant Worms bring their unique commentary to BGSU's Bryan Recital Hall.

## From the Director

Thanks to the able leadership of Professor Stuart Givens I was able to take a sabbatical leave last academic year and not worry about the Canadian Studies Center. Stuart, you are much appreciated!

My research project focused on Canadian economic relations with Asia and whether or not this huge potential market would reduce Canada's dependence on the United States. I conclude that the vast Asian market, eagerly anticipated by Canadian business circles, remains a long term hope. In contrast, the North American market is relatively open and trade with the U.S. continues to grow at a steady pace. This bodes well for Ohio, with 43 percent of worldwide exports destined for the Canadian market.

Despite the fears of some Canadians that free trade will destroy its cultural sovereignty, Canadian music, literature, comedy, and film are increasingly appreciated south of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel. A sample of Canadian popular culture will come to BGSU next semester.

The Reddin Symposium will celebrate its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 15, 2000 with the theme, urban development in Canada and the United States. If you want to discover why Canadian cities are more liveable than most in the U.S., you are cordially invited to this event.

Best wishes for the holiday season and New Year!

Mark Kasoff  
Director

---

---

# The Classroom is Canada

Several courses at BGSU require study in Canada. Field experiences and foreign internships intensify the learning experience enabling students to use all their senses, extending their knowledge, and challenging their preconceived notions.

Professor **Ed Danziger's** students spent an intense single day experiencing Native American life in Canada. Canadian culture and tourism was the subject of a week-long field analysis by Professor **Dallen Timothy's** students. **Cheryl Bodek** gained valuable skills during her year at Laval University in Québec. In each case the insights gained are not replicable in the classroom.

Graduate students in Canadian-U.S. Policy History and undergraduates in American History traveled to Walpole Island to see through the eyes of those living with the consequences of Native American policy in Canada. Stereotypes are shattered as students explore the ways that the Walpole community has selectively used technology while retaining traditional life-styles. For the students the trip humanizes the challenges and community differences facing the people of Walpole Island. Dr. Danziger comments that after the trip the class is never the same, "Barriers between students are broken down and class discussions are deeper and more animated."

Students in the Sport Management, Recreation and Tourism (SMRT) division of the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies spent a week last summer in Canada fulfilling their international field experience component. Most of the time was spent studying Québec City although visits to the Thousand Islands region, the St. Lawrence River, and Niagara Falls were also made. Fieldwork included interviewing local residents and tourists, evaluating the tourism landscape, infrastructure development, and heritage conservation. Upon returning, students created a consensus analysis of the tourism, cultural, and economic development issues in the region. This trip fostered an appreciation of Canada as a different country with distinct policy goals and approaches to the burgeoning tourism industry.

**Cheryl Bodek**, Romance Languages master's student, began French classes at BGSU this fall with the distinct advantage



*SMRT group pauses in front of Le Château Frontenac during a survey in Québec City.*

of spending the first of her two-year program at the University of Laval in Québec City. "Everything you come into contact with, from books to music to shopping, is in French. You really learn the language that way." Bodek chose the program here specifically because of its study-in-Canada component. Her desire to go to Canada began early in life along with her penchant for hockey. While at Laval Bodek met Canadians from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia. Her career goals include using her international and bilingual skills in public service or private business.

She has already put her skills to work this past summer as an Academic Relations intern at the Canadian Embassy in

***"With a billion dollars of trade a day between Canada and the U.S. there is a lot of opportunity for an American who has personal knowledge about Canada."***

***— Cheryl Bodek.***

Washington D.C. Among the other Canadian interns Bodek was at home with cultural references and jokes. Her duties at the embassy, appropriately enough, included promoting study abroad opportunities to American students.

---

---

# Automotive Industry Links Ohio & Ontario to the World

Since 1997 **Norplas Industries Inc.**, located in Northwood, Ohio, has been producing automotive exterior systems in its worldclass 310,000 square foot facility. Superb transportation connections and proximity to its Canadian headquarters were the primary motivations for selecting the site in northwest Wood County.

Norplas is a subsidiary of Decoma International, Inc., a Magna International operating unit. Magna, headquartered in Markham, Ontario, develops and manufactures automotive components, assemblies, and systems for original equipment manufacturers (OEM) and the aftermarket throughout North America and Europe.

On November 10, 1999 **Mr. Randy Smallbone**, CFO of Decoma, spoke to 105 professionals at the Canada-Ohio Business Workshop. He outlined the future of automotive assembly in North America.

One forthcoming change in manufacturing stems from the need to enhance fuel economy by making vehicles lighter. Many materials currently in development hold the promise of meeting this objective, but according to Smallbone plastics have the advantage.

The design flexibility of plastics is projected to greatly reduce assembly complexity. In turn, OEMs will become more focused on design and engineering and increasingly outsource the assembly function. Vehicle assembly will move toward common "global platforms" where entirely different vehicles will be produced from the same platform. This development will transform assembly from a parts-based to a module-based process with components shipped in sequence.

In response to questions about the safety of plastics compared to current materials Mr. Smallbone conceded nothing. He explained that the energy management and impact absorption characteristics of plastics in concert with the design of the hydroform spaceframe, or vehicle superstructure, will make these new vehicles crashworthy. He pointed to the design features of race cars which enable drivers to withstand high-speed crashes as an example.

---

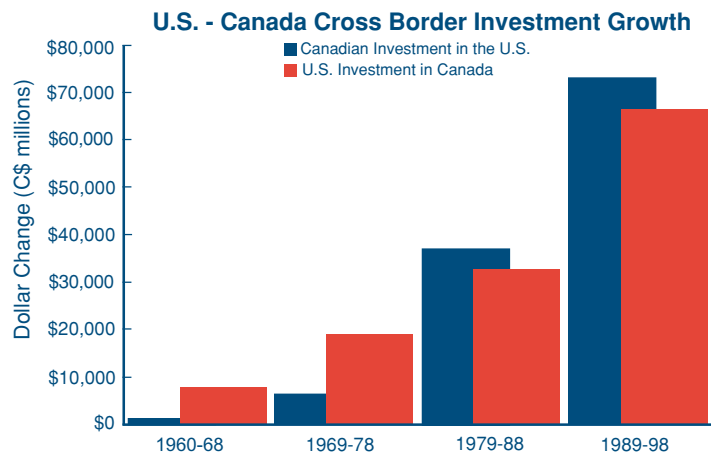
---

---

---

## Cross-Border Business Investment Boosts the Economy

Cross-border direct investment (in plants, equipment, labor, and other non-portfolio type investments) between Canada and the U.S. continues to grow. Even though the U.S. invests at much higher levels in Canada, during the ten years ending in 1998 the growth of Canadian investment in the U.S. has outpaced U.S. investment in Canada. About two-thirds of all foreign investment in Canada comes from the United States.



Data Source: Statistics Canada.

Numerous cross-border corporate ties benefit both the Ohio and Canadian economies. The Canadian Studies Center has issued a new directory profiling 147 individual firms which have locations in both Canada and Ohio. Approximately half of these firms have multiple locations in Ohio and/or Canada, and are often part of large multinational corporations. The other half tend to be small or medium-sized operations with just two locations in all; one on each side of the border.

Seventy-two Canadian-owned companies employ over 5,850 Ohioans while Ohio-owned companies in Canada employ 18,000 Canadians. To obtain a copy of the directory contact Linda Snyder at 419.372.2457.

---

---

## ACSUS '99 Showcases BGSU

The Biennial meeting of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States held in November, 1999, provided an opportunity for nine faculty members to participate.

**Roger Batchelor**, presented "Reforming the Common Law Curriculum: A Comparison of Recent Changes in the Law School Curriculum in Canadian and American Common Law Schools," which he coauthored with Diana Wong also of BGSU.

**Mary Ellen Benedict**, chaired the panel "Population Migration and Human Capital."

**Beth Casey**, presented "The Constitution of Self and Community in Eudora Welty and Alice Munro" and chaired a panel entitled "The Literary Maps of Atwood and van Herk."

**Christine Drennen**, presented "Canadian Productivity in the 1990s."

**Gary Hess**, chaired the panel "Canadian-British-American Defense Cooperation in World War II."

**Mark Kasoff**, panel participant, "Canadian Studies in the U.S. at the Dawn of the New Millennium: An Agenda for the New Century," panel chair, "Building and Sustaining Relationships with Canada: The Pennsylvania and Ohio Experiences," and presented "Canadian Trade and Investment with Asia."

**Katherine Roberts**, presented "Making Women Pay: Revolution, Violence, Decolonizing Québec in Hubert Aquin's Prochain episode and Trou de mémoire."

**Marc Simon**, presented "Canadian and U.S. Scientists: Perceptions of Science and the Environment" with Leslie R. Alm of Boise State University.

**Peter VanderHart**, presented "An Investigation of the Monetary Conditions Index as a Predictor of Canadian Economic Activity."

---

---

## Urban Life Theme of Upcoming Reddin

The next Reddin Symposium, to be held Saturday, January 15, 2000, is titled "Urban Development: A Comparison Between Canada and the U.S." Population growth and urban sprawl strain resources and reduce the quality of life in numerous North American cities. Many Americans feel that Canadian downtown areas are more vibrant than U.S. cities. Larger numbers of middle class residents, a better mix of economic activity, and lower violent crime rates set Canadian urban centers apart. Our speakers investigate the planning and development strategies resulting in fundamentally different Canadian and U.S. cities.

**Mr. Ken Greenberg**, Principal of Urban Strategies, Toronto, and former Director of Toronto's Division of Architecture and Urban Design, reflects on the differences in our two societies that impact urban development. Mr. Greenberg has been strongly influenced by the ideas of Jane Jacobs (author of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*). He favors a holistic approach to urban planning and rejuvenation that mixes neighborhoods, retail, and restaurants in order to make streets livelier.

**The Honorable Susan Thompson**, Canadian Consul General, Minneapolis, and former Mayor of Winnipeg, describes the challenges of representing multiple constituencies and her personal experiences in reinvigorating the city of Winnipeg.

**Professor Norman Krumholz**, College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, and former Planning Director of the City of Cleveland, explores the factors responsible for the major turnaround in Cleveland over the past few decades. He will assess the successes and failures in Cleveland's transformation to a thriving urban center.

The panel discussion will be led by **Dr. Brian Carter**, Chair of University of Michigan's Architecture and Planning College. The Symposium is possible due to generous support by the Reddin family of Bowling Green, private donations, and assistance from the Government of Canada.

The event is by reservation only with limited space available. Contact Linda Snyder at 419.372.2457 if you are interested in attending.

---

---

---

---

## BGSU Named Canadian Government Depository

Beginning in the Fall of 1999 BGSU joined the exclusive ranks of 150 other institutions outside Canada when it was officially awarded *Selective Depository status* for Canadian Government publications by the Government of Canada. The only other institution so awarded in Ohio is Case Western Reserve which has a significant Canadian law collection.

Under this exciting new arrangement BGSU students and faculty gain access to a wider selection of Canadian government hardcopy, microfiche, and electronic publications of the Parliament of Canada, Statistics Canada, and federal departments. Since BGSU is a member of the statewide OhioLINK consortium many of our new additions will be available at institutions and public libraries throughout the state.

BGSU has been building an exceptionally strong Canadian Studies library collection for decades. The main library subscribes to over 240 journal titles on Canadian subjects and has over 9,500 Canadian monographs. Several on-line products from Statistics Canada, including the five year Canadian census and the CANSIM database (with over 730,000 time series) have long been available to BGSU researchers.

BGSU will add to its extensive holdings with the objectives of supporting research and Canadian Studies courses. It will also continue to build specialized collections on business and economics, environmental science, history, and sociology.

BGSU is now able to make selections from hundreds of titles per year and will obtain these publications free of charge. Canadian Studies faculty are encouraged to regularly communicate their research interests to Evron Collins, our Canadian Studies library liaison. Dr. Collins will be making selections on a weekly basis. To get a sense of the scope of materials available contact Evron Collins at 419.372.7905 or on the web visit <<http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/>> .

---

---

## Call for Papers

Our Occasional Paper Series provides an opportunity for professionals from industry, academe, and government to share essays regarding Canada. Papers are welcome from a broad range of disciplines. Submissions are evaluated on the basis of relevance, originality, clarity, and applicability to the Canadian experience.

### Suggested Topics

- Business and Economics
- Culture
- Politics and Government
- Social Policy
- Labor and Immigration
- Environment

Please send the paper both on disk and in hardcopy. A fax number or e-mail address should accompany the paper. For additional information about submissions contact the Center.

---

---

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following events. Please contact **Linda Snyder** at (419) 372-2457 if you are interested in more information.



January 15, 2000

Thirteenth Annual Reddin Symposium, BGSU, Ohio



February 22, 2000

The Arrogant Worms, BGSU, Ohio



March 21, 2000

Daniel Richler, BGSU, Ohio



April 7, 2000

Ohio-Canadian Studies Roundtable, Columbus, Ohio

---

---

## Notables

In addition to the many presentations made at ACSUS (noted inside) the following faculty activities took place at other venues.

**R. Michael McKay**, Biological Sciences, was visiting scientist on board the Canadian research vessel CCGS Limnos during an 11-day trip on Lake Erie in July, 1999. He also was a panelist along with Rex Lowe, Biological Sciences, in the roundtable binational panel, "Limits and Regulation of Energy Transfer at the Base of the Lake Erie Ecosystem," at the U.S. EPA Large Lakes Research Lab at Grosse Ile, MI.

**Jan Pallister**, Romance Languages, chaired a panel on "Women Facing Justice" at the CIEF meeting in Lafayette, LA in May, 1998. She presented a paper on La Corriveau at the first Anne Hébert Colloquy at the University of Sherbrooke in Québec in June, 1999.

**Mark Kasoff**, Economics, presented "Overview of the U.S. Market," at the Hands Across the Border business partnering workshop in Toledo, OH in September, 1999.



This is a publication of the



CANADIAN  
STUDIES  
CENTRE

D'ÉTUDES  
CANADIENNES

Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0260

(419) 372-2457

Fax: (419) 372-0457

E-Mail: [cast@cba.bgsu.edu](mailto:cast@cba.bgsu.edu)

<http://www.cba.bgsu.edu/cast/>

**Editors:** Mark J. Kasoff  
Christine Drennen