

What happened to Tom Thomson?

New mystery coming for student sleuths

Research and development on one of the final three mysteries of the University of Victoria-based Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History Project is nearing completion at the Roberts Centre.

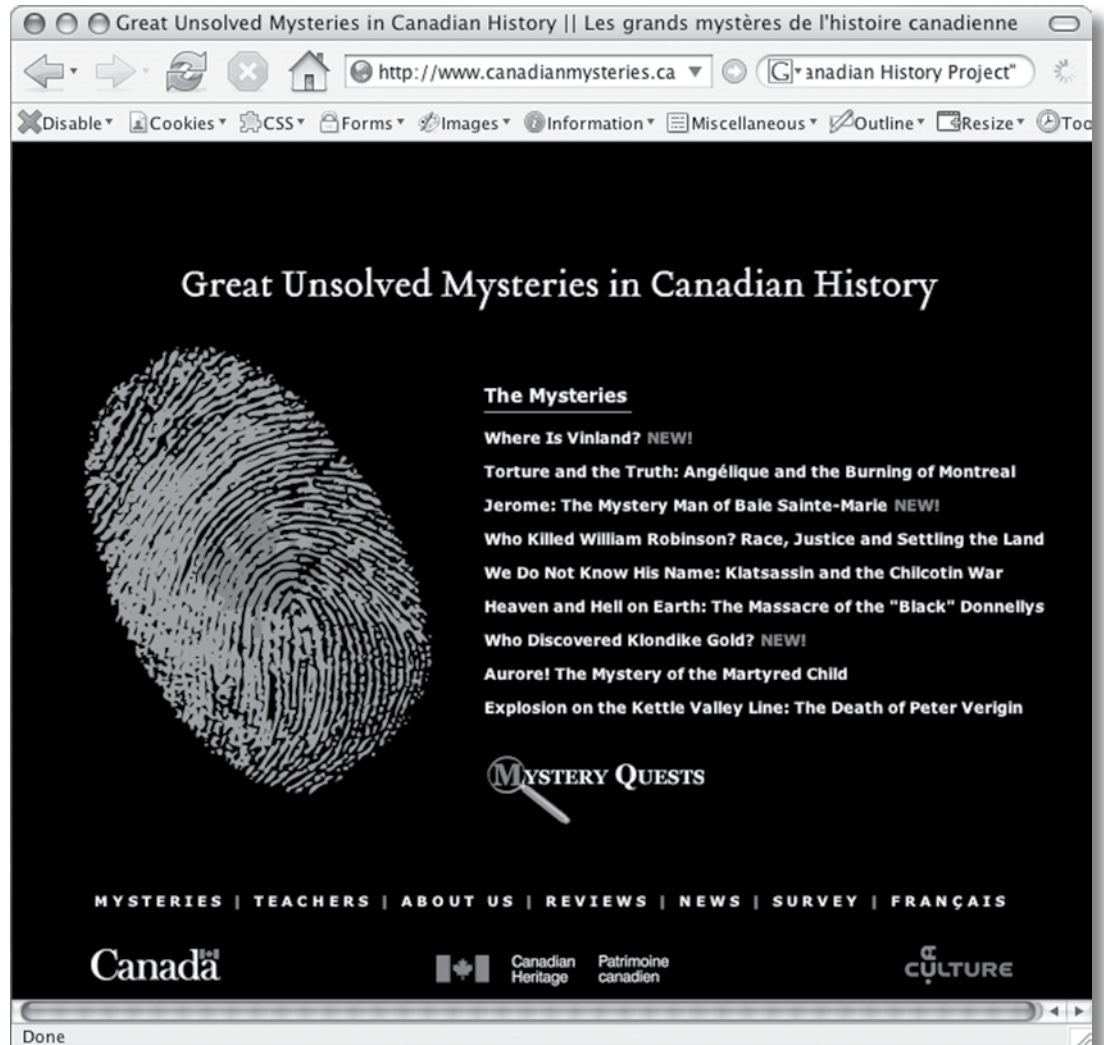
“Death on a Painted Lake: The Tom Thomson Tragedy,” revolves around the great Canadian painter who went out alone for a fishing trip on a lake in Algonquin Park on July 8, 1917, and never returned. His empty canoe was sighted on the lake that afternoon, and his body was found afloat in the lake eight days later.

What happened to Thompson? Was it an accident caused by bad luck? Or did he meet a more sinister end as a result of

debt, his support of the First World War or a love interest?

The research director for this mystery is Gregory Klages, PhD candidate in Communication and Culture at York University in Toronto. Klages has provided investigators with a wealth of on-line information about Tom Thompson and the circumstances surrounding his demise (see www.canadianmysteries.ca).

The Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History projects have been selected by a national competition. Student sleuths will soon have a total of 12 whodunits with which to hone their historical and detective skills.



To date, the project includes these nine mysteries:

- Where Is Vinland?
- Torture and the Truth: Angélique and the Burning of Montreal
- Jerome: The Mystery Man of Baie Sainte-Marie
- We Do Not Know His Name: Klatsassin and the Chilcotin War
- Who Killed William Robinson? Race, Justice and Settling the Land
- Who Discovered Klondike Gold?
- Aurore! The Mystery of the Martyred Child
- Heaven and Hell on Earth: The Massacre of the “Black” Donnellys
- Explosion on the Kettle Valley Line:

www.canadianmysteries.ca

Visit the Robarts Centre's website at www.yorku.ca/robarths for past issues of *Canada Watch*

Recent issues include:

- “The Chrétien Era: A Red Book Audit”
FEB 2004, VOL 9, NOS 3–4
- “From Doha to Kananaskis: The Future of the World Trading System and the Crisis of Governance.”
SEPT 2002, VOL 9, NOS 1–2
- “The New Mexico Under Fox: Is It Happening?”
JUL 2001, VOL 8, NO 6
- “Canada–U.S. Relations in the New Millennium”
NOV–DEC 2000, VOL 8, NOS 4–5

Also available on the website, the Robarts lecture series:

- “English Canada and Quebec: Avoiding the Issue” by Kenneth McRoberts –Sixth Annual Robarts Lecture 1991
- “1492 and All That: Making a Garden out of a Wilderness” by Ramsay Cook – Seventh Annual Robarts Lecture 1992
- “Politics on the Boundaries: Restructuring and the Canadian Women’s Movement” by Janine Brodie –Eighth Annual Robarts Lecture 1994
- “In our own Image: The Child, Canadian Culture and our Future” by Carole H. Carpenter –Ninth Annual Robarts Lecture 1995
- “Where is Here? Canadian Cultural Policy in a Globalized World” by Joyce Zemans –Tenth Annual Robarts Lecture 1996
- “Queer Nation?” by Terry Goldie –Eleventh Annual Robarts Lecture 1997
- “Defining Aboriginal Title in the 90’s: Has the Supreme Court Finally Got it Right?” by Kent McNeil –Twelfth Annual Robarts Lecture 1998
- “Theatre and Transformation in Contemporary Canada” by Robert Wallace – Thirteenth Annual Robarts Lecture 1999
- “The Writer’s Conscience: or why reports of the death of the author have been greatly exaggerated” speaking notes by Susan Swan – Fourteenth Annual Robarts Lecture 2000
- “Canadian Movies, eh?” by Seth Feldman –Fifteenth Annual Robarts Lecture 2001
- “Rethinking Feminization: Gendered Precariousness in the Labour Market and the Crisis in Social Reproduction” by Leah F. Vosko –Distinguished Robarts Lecture Series 2002
- “Citizenship After Orientalism” by Engin F. Isin –Distinguished Robarts Lecture Series 2002
- “The Digitalization of Knowledge: Tribal Ignorance and the African Diaspora” by Paul E. Lovejoy FRSC –Distinguished Robarts Lecture Series 2002

