

New DVD's September 2009

CBC News in Review March 2009

Barack Obama Visits Canada

12:01 minutes

In February, Canadians welcomed a very important visitor, Barack Obama, the new President of the United States. Polls show that Obama is very popular in Canada. But his visit came at a time when protectionist policies in the U.S. threaten to harm our economy. In this News in Review story we'll look at the Obama visit and examine what his presidency could mean for Canada.

Canada Gets a Recession Budget

16:47 minutes

In early February, the Conservative government's new budget was passed by the House of Commons. Two months before, the Conservatives had claimed that spending billions of dollars to stimulate the economy wouldn't be necessary. But the budget they tabled predicts a federal deficit of more than \$60-billion over the next two years. In this News in Review story we'll look at why the Conservatives changed their mind and whether the budget will be able to boost Canada's sagging economy.

Guantanamo Bay and Omar Khadr

13:44 minutes

For eight years the United States has operated a military prison at its naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The maximum-security facility is used to house prisoners charged with terrorist offences. Because it has a bad reputation, the new U.S. administration has vowed to shut it down. But the status of one prisoner, a young Canadian named Omar Khadr, remains unclear. In this News in Review story we'll look at Khadr's story and at the history of the infamous prison.

Afghanistan: A Soldier's Story

17:19 minutes

Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan have been paying a heavy price recently in their war against the Taliban. In December and January alone, 11 soldiers were killed in a series of bomb attacks. But what's it like to be a soldier in Afghanistan and have to fight a largely unseen enemy? What's it like to be shot at, or lose a friend? In this News in Review story we'll look at the war through the eyes of a young Canadian soldier.

CBC News in Review April 2009

Hard Times Hit the Auto Industry

12:23 min

One of the biggest victims of the global credit crunch is the auto industry. Consumer demand is falling, factories are closing, and the once mighty industry is now asking for government bailouts. In this News in Review story we'll look at the state of the Canadian auto industry and what is being done to try to save it.

The Future of the Oil Sands

13:49 min

Canada's oil sands industry is a big part of our economy. But in recent months it has come under increased scrutiny because of its environmental impact. And most of that scrutiny is coming from our biggest customer, the United States. In this News in Review story we'll look at the problem and what the industry plans to do about it.

White Dragons: The Killer Avalanches

13:14 min

It has been a deadly avalanche season in Canada. By the end of February, 16 people had been killed, most of them in British Columbia. Why are so many people dying? In this News in Review story we'll look at why the so-called white dragons are so dangerous. We'll also examine what avalanche-control experts are doing to try to prevent them.

The Flight of the Silver Dart 18:55 min

Canada has a long and proud aviation history that began 100 years ago with the flight of the Silver Dart. On February 23, 1909, J.A.D. McCurdy piloted Canada's first powered airplane across a frozen lake in Nova Scotia. In this News in Review story we'll look at how a group of aviation enthusiasts brought history alive by recreating that famous first flight.

News in Review May 2009

The Recession and the developing world 14:12 min.

In early April, the G20 leaders agreed to provide more than \$1-trillion of aid to developing countries. The recession has hit those countries hard. Many are running out of money, and some are threatened by mass starvation and violence. In this News in Review story we'll look at the desperate situation in many countries and what's being done to help them.

Afghanistan and the rights of women 14:28 min

One of the goals of Canada's mission in Afghanistan is to try to improve the rights of women. But that campaign was dealt a blow when the Afghan government unveiled some controversial legislation. The legislation would make many women financially and sexually subservient to their husbands. In this News in Review story we'll examine why the Afghan government did what it did and look at the angry reaction.

The Decline of the traditional media 15:15 min

Newspapers, magazines, and radio and television stations have been hit hard by the economic recession. Advertising revenues have plummeted, and the so-called traditional media are losing ground to new media. In this News in Review story we'll look at how newspapers and other old media are struggling to survive. We'll also examine what a new media world might look like.

Hockey players and life lessons 12:52 min

In Vancouver, police have come up with a new way to teach kids about the danger of drugs. They have enlisted the help of some hockey players and some of the drug addicted residents of the city's Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. In this News in Review story we'll show you what happened when the two groups came together and what the police are trying to achieve.

Nine Lives 112 minutes

Nine uninterrupted moments in the lives of nine unique women. These interweaving tales confront the relationships, past and present, which hold us captive.

Stars Kathy Baker, Amy Brenneman, Elpida Carrillo, Glenn Close, Stephen Dillane, Dakota Fanning, William Fichtner, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Holly Hunter, Jason Isaacs, Joe Mantegna, Ian McShane, Molly Parker, Mary Kay Place, Sydney Tamiia Poitier, Aidan Quinn, Miguel Sandoval, Amanda Seyfried, Sissy Spacek and Robin Wright Penn

Chocolat 122 min

Starring Johnny Depp and Juliette Binoche

Nobody could have imagined the impact that the striking Vianne would make when she arrived in a tranquil, old-fashioned French town. In her very unusual chocolate shop, Vianne begins to create mouthwatering confections that almost magically inspire the straitlaced villagers to abandon themselves to temptation and happiness? But it is not until another stranger, the handsome Roux, arrives in town that Vianne is finally able to recognize her own desires.

Village Cell Phone: Empowering Bangladesh

11:31 minutes

In the early 1990s, Iqbal Quadir, a Bangladesh-born MIT professor and entrepreneur, had the idea that cellphones could be used to help the very poorest people. For Bangladesh, a densely populated country strangled by frequent natural disasters and a serious lack of infrastructure, Iqbal saw communication technology as an essential resource. His vision: to help village entrepreneurs, backed by micro-loans, establish cellphone leasing businesses that retail phone services to their surrounding communities. Ten years later, with hundreds of "village phone ladies" in operation, did Iqbal's model for lifting developing nations out of poverty pay off? CBC News Sunday's Natasha Sweeney has the story of how one man, starting with one phone, helped a whole country leapfrog into the 21st century.

The French Revolution

90:17 minutes

As their government helped England's rebellious Colonies win their freedom, its citizens looked to the same struggle for inspiration. Driven by idealism, catalyzed by a society in crisis, and defined by carnage, the French Revolution erupted a little more than a decade later.

Contents: Political alliances - Enlightenment - Madame Deficit - Financial crisis - To the Bastille - The People's friend - Foreign assistance - Death of a king - Noble blood - Defending the border - Civic virtue.

Peacing it Together 2 DVD's

A group of Israeli, Palestinian and Canadian teenagers converge on a secluded island off the west coast of Canada to participate in a unique peace and filmmaking camp. Organized by the Peace It Together Society, the three-week experience brought together bitter enemies from across the globe to a place where they learned to live and co-create in harmony. During their course, they participated in dialogue sessions before being divided into small groups to collaborate on films about the Middle East conflict. Through the lens of a camera they created seven short films that reflected their lives, fears, and hopes. The Peacing It Together 2 DVD set contains the seven short films and a 29-minute documentary by filmmakers, Erik Paulsson and Nova Ami which follows several students on their remarkable and inspiring journeys of hope. Includes complete educational guide and over one hour of conflict resolution workshops, student dialogue and additional interviews.

The Things You Can Do 2 DVD's

This program urges students to become "power police" to put a stop to the wasteful things people do everyday and promote the use of Green Power. It covers what can be done in the home such as buying energy-efficient appliances, recycling cans, growing a garden, taking shorter showers and eating organic foods. It explores the things we can change in schools such as reusing paper and batteries. It also suggests changes that can be made in the community such as minimizing driving, boycotting bad products and writing petitions for change. Students are encouraged to spread the word about becoming eco-friendly and help our Earth recover. The middle school DVD is hosted by older teens.

May Truong: Coasting on a Dream 22:50min

24-year old May Truong was born on a sinking boat in the South China Sea. Her parents were Cino-Vietnamese refugees who risked their lives to escape the communist regime in Vietnam. May's mother was 9-months pregnant with her at the time. Since her dramatic birth on turbulent waters, May's life has been an epic journey to discover where she belongs. Is she Vietnamese? Is she Chinese? Is she Canadian? While exploring her parent's story, May learns a lot more about herself.

The M Word: Canada's Multiculturalism: A Work in Progress 47:30 min

Important areas covered include: Immigration, Canada's nation building, rise of Quebec nationalism and the Royal Commission, Multiculturalism designed in a bicultural framework, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the three great waves of immigration in Canada and their criteria, residential schools and their effect on First Nations Culture, Chinese railroad workers, head tax, Continuous Journey Regulation of 1908, Pier 1, Japanese internment, slavery in Canada, treatment of "Visible majority", immigrants to 1970's, visible minority, post 911, reasonable accommodation. Examines the history and the issues behind Canada's Multiculturalism policy through archival film footage, newspaper articles & official documents, as well as present day interviews with students, scholars, journalists, activists and lawyers.

The Great Lakes: Who Owns the Water? 7:51 min

Fair distribution of water has been a worldwide historical problem that we may experience more in the future. The Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's fresh surface water, but it is currently available to only a small portion of the population. Should other water-scarce regions have access to these waters, and if so, should they have to pay for them? And what effect would water removal have on local environments? These questions are debated by students and adult experts, giving viewers perspectives for further thought and research on their own.

Make Some Noise: Beyond our Borders 22:20 min

Make Some Noise is a unique, multi-award winning series about Canadian young people who are quite literally changing the world. The series offers youth a chance to tell their own stories, in their own way, about how they are changing lives, what inspires them and what it took to achieve their goals. Featuring original scores from up and coming young musicians, each segment tells the story of a young Canadian who is making a difference.

DYNAMITE GIRL: After discovering that over 250 million children around the globe between the ages of 5 and 14 have to work to survive, Cheryl Perera knew she had to do something to help. So she goes to Sri Lanka hoping to expose these injustices.

TAKING IT GLOBAL: Michael Furdyk, a dot.com millionaire in grade 11, realized early on how the internet could be used as a tool for change. Determined to harness the power of youth around the globe, Mike and his partner Jen Corriero form "Taking IT Global."

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS: Navid Tabatabai joins "Engineers without Borders" and heads to the West African country of Ghana. His challenge is to help local farmers develop more sustainable agricultural practices... and to answer his own question - is it really helping when Westerners impose their views on other countries?

Make Some Noise: Keeping it Real

SHOES, MEDICINES AND FRISBEES: Ultimate frisbee in Africa? Stephanie Dotto collects and sends 1200 pairs of shoes to a community in Malawi. When she's invited to visit the village she also brings \$7000 worth of medical supplies and dozens of Frisbees.

HAIDA GWAII SPIRIT: A filmmaker escapes city life to the rugged BC islands of Haida Gwaii, and focuses his camera lens on a fight between the Haida people and a logging industry giant.

The Earth Needs Your Help 2 DVD's

The Earth Needs Your Help discusses some of the things that are hurting the planet. Students learn common terminology used when talking about the environment, such as climate, ozone, fossil fuels, and carbon dioxide. They explore the issues of air pollution, the greenhouse effect, renewable resources and water usage while studying the factors contributing to all of them. The 2-disc pack contains an Elementary and a Middle School version of the same title. These vary somewhat in that The Earth Needs Your Help, Middle School Version length: 16:28 is hosted by older teens, that the scenes are titled differently and may contain slightly varied content.

Green Sweep: Transforming our Trash 22:02 min

Canadians are generating more waste than ever. On a per-person basis, we're some of the biggest garbage producers in the world. But even if we reduce our garbage as much as we can, what can we do with the waste that's left? This series of six mini-documentaries from The National looks at innovative ways some Canadians already recycle and re-use, as well as the big-ticket items we still struggle to scrap responsibly. Whether it's the runaway success of Quebec's recycled Boomerang paints, Vancouver's Free Geeks recycling computers sans charge, or Enerkem's efforts to turn garbage into ethanol, see how Canadians are getting serious about living sustainably.

Crude Awakening: Alberta's Oil Patch 23 minutes

Alberta's tar sands are sometimes called the Saudi Arabia of the North, an oil deposit so rich it's transformed Canada into an energy superpower. But there's a catch. This oil is heavy. Scraping it out of the earth and separating out the valuable stuff is a massive enterprise, and it's turning Canada into one of the most polluting countries in the world. In addition to the clear cutting of boreal forests, voracious consumption of fresh water and natural gas, the refineries have created 80 square kilometres of toxic tailings ponds and now annually emit 40 million tonnes of greenhouse gases. As this National documentary reveals, Albertans concerned about contaminated water, diminishing air quality and increased health risks say it's time to slow the pace down, and environmental groups are proposing steps to achieve a carbon-neutral tar sands.

Genocide 25:16 minutes

The systematic destruction of a group of people, associated most readily with the Holocaust, tragically remains a major global issue today. Despite the lessons learned from planned exterminations such as the Armenian Massacre, the international response was limited in subsequent genocides in countries like Cambodia and Rwanda. This show defines genocide, explores the nature and causes of the crime, and shows students how the world community attempts to monitor global conditions and prevent future atrocities.

Canada's Brands: Can they Compete? 18 min

How does Canadian manufacturing compete in the world market? Featuring Vancouver companies, this program provides very current information on marketing trends. The content and pacing are well suited for many courses in the Business Education curriculum.

The Selling Game 44 min

With the widespread use of such technologies as digital media, the Internet and cable TV, advertisers have new tools with which to easily reach consumers. The program contains a subtle yet important message - young consumers are not controlled by television; they control when they watch. The content is current, but will date easily. There is some fluctuation in sound level, but the narration is clear. Examples used are vivid, humorous and easy to understand. Many cultural groups are represented in this program where a preference for capitalism over other economic systems is evident.