

Editorial

What makes Canadian history: torches and trumpets? or firelight glow and the quiet voice of a mission preacher? How much drama was there in our past, and how much dramatizing should we do in order to catch young readers' interest? The answers, in this special issue of CCL on history and historical fiction, are varied – and unexpected. Critics and reviewers enrich our ideas about what constitutes a Canadian hero (or heroine) and which stories make good bridges to our unique past. Some books considered here were written for children; others have slid from adult shelves onto adolescents' reading lists. Some are reprints, others brand new. All contribute, as we hope this issue will do, to what Professor Donald Swainson calls "the job of taking real history into the intellectual lives of our children."

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