SERIES A: They Made a Difference: The People Who Shaped Canada

Mondays, 10:00 – 11:45 am, September 14 to November 30, 2020
No classes Monday, October 12 for Thanksgiving
and Monday, November 9 for Reading Week

Innis College, Town Hall

A former journalist and amateur historian, lecturer Murray Campbell has always been fascinated by Canadian history. In this series, he looks at the people -- some of them household names, most of them not -- who changed the course of that history.

September 14: Robert Baldwin and Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine were pre-Confederation politicians who showed that the English and French could work together, ushering in responsible government and paving the way for the creation of Canada.

September 21: Gabriel Dumont and Louis Riel were the unlikeliest of comrades but their common cause over the issues that affected Métis as Canada expanded westward in the 1880s had an impact on Canada that persists 140 years later.

September 28: Nellie McClung and Emily Murphy were far removed from the centres of power in the east yet they virtually created feminism in Canada, securing the vote for women and a place for women in the Senate.

October 5: The unlikely partnership between Lord Byng, a British aristocrat, and Arthur Currie, a real-estate salesman in Victoria, secured an important victory in the First World War that gave a young Canada a strong sense of itself. Also, a look at the volunteer army in the Second World War that punched above its weight and helped Canada come out of the war as a confident nation ready to take its place on the world stage.

October 12: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving

October 19: The success of track and field athletes such as Ethel Catherwood and Bobbie Rosenfeld in the 1920s obliterated the attitude that women shouldn’t participate in vigorous sports because it would damage their health.

October 26: Graham Spry and Alan Plaunt were the leaders in the movement in the 1930s to mobilize support for a public broadcasting system that would preserve and enhance Canadian culture. The cultural nationalism they embraced flared again with the creation of the CRTC 30 years later.
November 2: A dispute between Maurice Richard, a hockey player who personified French Canada, and Clarence Campbell, a unilingual English Canadian, resulted in a riot in Montreal in 1955 that helped ignite Quebec nationalism and set the stage for René Lévesque and the separatist referendums in 1980 and 1995.

November 9: NO CLASS – Reading Week

November 16: Hugh Burnett was angry when he returned to his hometown of Dresden, Ontario, after serving in the Second World War, and discovered he was not served in some restaurants and stores because he was black. In response, he began a protest campaign that persuaded Ontario’s Progressive Conservative premier Leslie Frost to enact Canada’s first comprehensive human-rights legislation a decade later.

November 23: Tommy Douglas never forgot the kindness of a Winnipeg doctor who treated his crippled leg for free and, decades later, he led the way in introducing the first universal medical care plan in North America. Despite the popularity of medicare today, he faced a lot of opposition.

November 30: Lord Tweedsmuir, a Scottish-born governor-general, and Paul Yuzyk, a senator of Ukrainian descent, were early champions of multiculturalism. Their views were reflected in legislation enacted in the 1970s that set the stage for today’s “unity through diversity” orthodoxy.