

## Editorial Note

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Welcome to Volume 27-28 (2007-2008) of the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale* – the first electronic volume of the *Forum*.

From the start, we want to address the concerns and apprehensions that some and perhaps many of you may have about an electronic version. None other than Nolan and Alex understand these concerns, having spent countless and frustrating hours, days, weeks, and months in front of computer screens and in meetings with technical advisors to figure out how to make this thing work. Neither of us are Luddites (although as a labour historian, Nolan always aspires to be one), but neither of us are particularly computer literate either. So, why should we then put you (and us) through the misery of e-publishing? Because we believe that once we have overcome initial problems – which are much more time and energy consuming than e-enthusiasts will make you believe – the medium of online publishing is particularly suitable to oral history. If you do not believe us, visit Alessandro Portelli and Charles Hardy III's "essay in sound" titled "[I Can Almost See the Lights of Home ~ A Field Trip to Harlan County, Kentucky,](#)" which was published online in volume 2 (1999) of the *Multimedia History Journal*. (You will also notice that the journal had only three issues and stopped publication in 2000, which is testimony to the costs involved in online publishing.)

Our new electronic format will allow you to view and listen to (or, as authors, post) audio and video files online, be it as part of articles or other kinds of contributions. It will also allow you to view (or, again, as authors, post) image files, which often cannot be published in print journals because of prohibitive costs.

Another advantage of publishing online is that you will no longer have to wait a full year before you can read about the newest trends in Canadian oral history. We will post contributions as soon as they have undergone the review process. This also means shorter waiting times for authors. We would like to stress that *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale* will continue to publish peer-reviewed scholarly articles. At the same time, we hope to publish a great variety of other contributions, from reviews of books, films, exhibitions, oral history projects, etc. to work in progress, teaching resources, discussions, artwork, annotated transcripts, audio tours, and whatever else you have done with oral history.

One of our great hopes is that by publishing *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale* online, Canadian oral history will become more widely accessible. Although we have not taken the ultimate step of making this journal

completely free of cost (you still must be a subscriber to view the most current issue of *Forum*), we have already made all previous volumes (1-25) available online in pdf-format (go to [www.canoha.ca](http://www.canoha.ca) and click on *Forum*. While you are there, you may also wish to click on 'Membership' to fill out your [membership form](#) if you have not already done so. At \$20 per year, membership in the Canadian Oral History Association and a subscription to *Forum* is a pretty good deal.

We are looking forward to your submissions, subscriptions, and comments!

Alexander Freund and Nolan Reilly