

# TVOntario cuts the ribbon on THE BRIDGE

If you enjoyed that documentary you watched on TVO, and you want to learn more, or are curious about what's on television to support your ILC course, **MARAL MACLAGAN** suggests you make TVOntario's The Bridge your next destination.

When the Ontario Ministry of Education's Independent Learning Centre (ILC) joined the TVOntario family in 2002, it opened the door for cross-promotional opportunities between ILC course material, online resources, and on-air educational programming.

The ILC was established in 1926 to ensure that children in Ontario's isolated logging and mining communities received an education. During the school year, a teacher and his family would bridge the geographic gap by whistle-stopping throughout the north, using a Canadian Pacific railway car as a makeshift classroom.

Recently, TVOntario has been building bridges of a different sort – virtual bridges – which inform TVO viewers and ILC students about

resources they can use to further the learning experience.

TVOntario's The Bridge is an online tool linking educational content from ILC and TVO. "There has always been a link between TVO programs and the ILC. We wanted to refine the connection by constructing something that is user friendly and easier to locate," says Sarah Irwin, managing director of the ILC. "I realized we could do this more effectively through shared space on a website."

TVO viewers, teachers, students, and lifelong learners can all access The Bridge to further their knowledge and find practical educational applications. It also provides links to university and college course material where available. "The Bridge helps connect the educational



dots at TVOntario," says Jeff Dunk, TVO's post-secondary liaison.

Indeed, anybody who has ever bought a book or CD online and has clicked to find suggested related products will easily appreciate the thinking behind The Bridge.

## TEST DRIVING THE BRIDGE

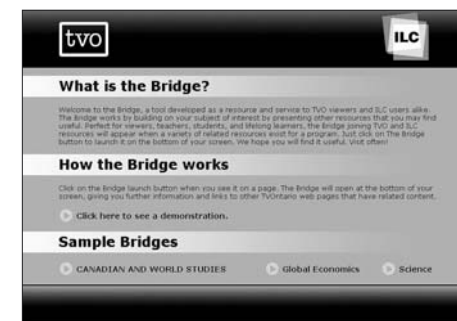
Visitors to [www.tvo.org](http://www.tvo.org) or [www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org) can access The Bridge by clicking on the appropriate button on either site's home page. This month, watch for these TVO programs, then visit [www.tvo.org](http://www.tvo.org) or [www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org) to discover how The Bridge can take your educational experience a few steps further.

**Liszt's Rhapsody**  
Sunday December 4 at 7 pm

**Masterworks: Hans Hoffman**  
Thursday December 8 at 10 pm

**By Woman's Hand**  
Sunday December 4 at 5 pm

# THE MECHANICS OF THE BRIDGE



## What is The Bridge?

The Bridge is a new online tool to help viewers, students, and educators get more out of TVOntario resources by creating a link between TVO programs and ILC credit courses and online resources.

## How does The Bridge work?

As a visitor to the TVO website ([www.tvo.org](http://www.tvo.org)) simply click on a program in the schedule. If the Bridge button appears, it means the program has



related resources. Clicking on The Bridge button will launch a navigational tool at the bottom of the screen. The most relevant education links from TVO, ILC, and post-secondary resources will appear. By clicking on those links, you are introduced to a network of further educational opportunities.

Likewise, a visitor to the ILC website ([www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org)) can click onto The Bridge to learn about related programming as well as links to post-secondary institutions offering relevant courses. For example, a student enrolled in the ILC's Grade 11 Parenting course would be interested to learn that several documentaries from TVO's *The View From Here* series provide excellent supplementary learning resources for the course. The student would also find links to post-secondary institutions offering programs in sociology.

## An indispensable tool for teachers

The Bridge can be an indispensable tool for educators. TVO's traditional "apple for the teacher" icon on The Bridge will identify and link to additional resources that can be used in class, such as a teacher's guide with curriculum connections, classroom activities, student worksheets, and assessment and evaluation tools. "This material has all been designed for use in the intermediate or senior classroom," explains Lisa Fernandes, TVO's education officer.

## Keeping the content fresh

TVOntario's Bridge content team meets regularly to select new resources based on educational content and relevance to viewers and educators alike. The TVO schedule is always the starting point. "TVO programs must have strong curriculum links to be considered as candidates for The Bridge," says Fernandes. "A program must satisfy the requirements of the Ontario curriculum."

Programs on the TVO schedule change from week to week, so it is also the content team's responsibility to ensure that information contained on The Bridge does not go stale. "Telling someone about a show they missed can lead to frustration," Dunk points out. Therefore, The Bridge only lists upcoming programs over a one-to-two week window.

After the program has aired, the link is archived so that viewers and ILC students still have access to information about the show.

A future possibility is to provide users with e-mail alerts of future broadcasts of The Bridge programs. Julian Wharton, head of production and technology for the ILC, and his team will tackle this next as The Bridge evolves. "It's one thing to think 'wouldn't that be nice.' It's another to have the skill and talent on-hand to make it happen," notes Sarah Irwin.



## IT'S ALL A CLICK AWAY!

Learners of all ages can find information on Independent Learning Centre courses, homework help, and post-secondary choices at [www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org).

- COURSES**  
Ontario Ministry of Education high school credit courses and elementary programs by correspondence
- CAREERMATTERS**  
A guide to high school, career profiles, and post-secondary planning
- ASK A TEACHER**  
Free online homework help with certified Ontario teachers
- GED**  
Testing for the Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate

For more information, visit [www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org) or call 416.484.2704 in the GTA or 1.800.387.5512.

### ILC Course Guide: Credit Courses

Grade 12 | Social Sciences and Humanities | HHS4M-A: Individuals and Families in a Diverse Society

#### GRADE 12 COURSES - Social Sciences and Humanities

**Individuals and Families in a Diverse Society**  
Course code: HHS4M-A

**Grade 12, University/College Preparation**  
1 credit

**ATS code: 2432**

View Related Resources!  
CLICK HERE!

This course applies current theories and research from the disciplines of anthropology, psychology, and sociology to the study of individual development, family behaviour, intimate and parent-child relationships, and the ways in which families interact within the diverse Canadian society. You will learn the interpersonal skills required in order to contribute to the well-being of families, and the investigative skills to conduct and evaluate research about individuals and families.

**Prerequisite:** any university, university/college, or college preparation course in social sciences and humanities, English, or Canadian and world studies

TVOntario	ILC Resources	TVO Resources	Post Secondary
The View From Here Hardwood	The View From Here Hardwood: Teacher Resources	The View From Here Women and Men Unglued	Educators will find curriculum connections, classroom activities, viewing questions, Black Line Masters, assessments and evaluations – all designed to help teachers use TVO programs in the classrooms easily and

[Learn More...](#)