

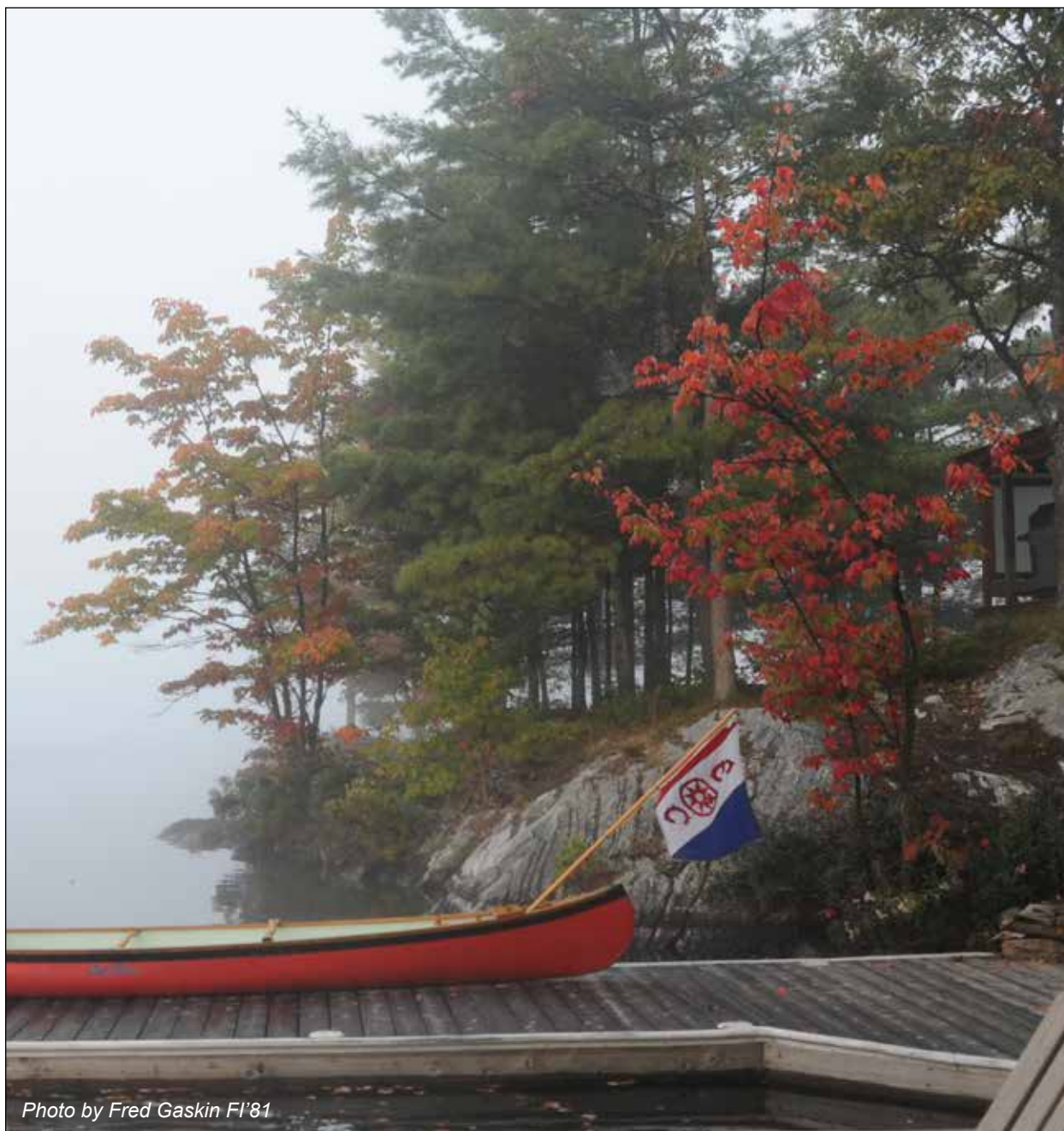


# Far Afield



NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN CHAPTER

---



*Photo by Fred Gaskin FI'81*

---

**Vol. 5 No. 2**

**Winter 2014**

---

*The Explorers Club – Canadian Chapter*

[www.explorersclub.ca](http://www.explorersclub.ca)

## Table of Contents

---

Message from the Chapter Chair .....	3
Communications.....	6
Regional Report - BC/Yukon .....	7
Regional Report - Atlantic/Quebec .....	10
Regional Report - Prairie/NWT .....	11
Regional Report - Ontario/Nunavut .....	12
Outstanding Canadian Members.....	14
Student representative .....	16
Explorer Reports & Updates.....	20
In Other News.....	29
Awards & Honours.....	35
Membership Report.....	36
Passages.....	37
Calendar of Events/Announcements .....	37
Classified Ads .....	39
Far Afield Schedule .....	39



*Far Afield* is published bi-annually. *Far Afield* welcomes brief submissions from members with high-resolution photographs sent separately from the text. Photographs must include captions and a credit. Please send all materials to: [editor@explorersclub.ca](mailto:editor@explorersclub.ca). Submissions may be edited for length.

The authors are responsible for the content of their articles. Their views do not necessarily reflect the views of The Explorers Club – Canadian Chapter and the Club is not responsible for the accuracy of the articles.

## Message from the Chapter Chair

**John Pollack FI'06**

---

The past two years have gone by very quickly, and in a few weeks the Canadian Chapter will have a new Board and Chair. On January 1, 2014 the very capable **Elaine Wyatt MI'05** will take the helm as Chapter Chair.

Elaine has been the Regional Director for the Ontario-Nunavut Region for a number of years, and she has created a well-organized and vibrant monthly program centered in the Toronto area. She knows most of the current Board members personally, and I have no doubt she's the right individual to take the Canadian Chapter to the next level.

But for now, a few thank you's are warranted:

First of all, our Canadian Board has been outstanding. Their volunteerism has allowed this Chapter to succeed in its primary mission – delivery of services and events to Canadian members. Our meetings, symposiums, film festivals, communications, and membership troubleshooting, have all contributed to the success and reputation of the Canadian Chapter – now up from 180 to 215 +/- members in just two years. We are the largest international chapter within TEC, and the chapter could easily exceed 250 members in another two years at the current rate of growth.

Particular thanks go to **Murray Larson FI'05**, **Mary Morris FI'10**, **Elaine Wyatt** and **Dale Dunlop MI'08** for their work as Regional Directors, to **Rosemarie and Pat Keough FI'02** for their superb job with the Salt Spring Symposium, to **Wilson West FI'08**, Elaine Wyatt and **Amanda Glickman FI'05** who serve as Far Afield editors, to **Jason Schoonover FE'86** as our Communications Director, to Murray Larson as Membership Director, to **Denis St-Onge FI'05** for chairing our Awards and Honours Committee, to **Rogier Gruys MI'10** as webmaster, to **Maeva Gauthier FI'13** for her tireless work as Student representative... and there are many others. These are dedicated people who do a lot of work for us, and they are 100% volunteer.

Likewise, the new crew at HQ in NY has helped us continuously and with frequent displays of good faith. Alan Nichols (President), Alex Wallace (VP-Chapters), Will Roseman (Executive Director), and the Membership staff have all worked hard on our behalf and have been most responsive when the occasional issue or problem crops up. Thanks to new policies we now have a small but dependable budget for our Chapter's operating expenses, and – by far the most important – we have improved personal relationships and trust with our counterparts.

So thanks to all of you, and please help Elaine as she “reads into” her new job. I should mention Murray Larson (Membership) and Denis St-Onge (Awards and Honours) will be retiring from the Board, and their replacements shall be confirmed by the new Executive in early 2014. I have volunteered to fill in for Murray and it is very likely you'll be hearing from me in 2014, as the new Membership Director.

Until then, au revoir my friends,

John Pollack  
Outgoing Chair  
The Canadian Chapter



# **The Explorers Club, Canadian Chapter 2013 AGM Report**

Approved: September 2013

Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada

**1. Purpose:** The Explorers Club is a multi-disciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research, scientific exploration, resource conservation, and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore (Bylaws, Article III). The Club's goals in research, education and public service include the orientation of young people toward careers in field science and engineering, and the encouragement of scientific exploration of land, air, sea and space with the emphasis on the physical and natural sciences. The Club serves as a common bond and meeting point for explorers and field scientists worldwide, thus continuing the early goals laid down by its founders in 1904. The Canadian Chapter is one of 19 US and 7 international chapters of The Explorers Club.

## **2. Officers of the Canadian Chapter Executive (Elected)**

Chapter Chair	John Pollack
BC/Yukon Director	Mary Morris
Prairies/NWT Director	Murray Larson
Ontario/Nunavut Director	Elaine Wyatt
Atlantic/Quebec Director	Dale Dunlop

## **3. Directors, Committees and Contacts in the Canadian Chapter (Appointed)**

Student Representative	Maeva Gauthier
Communications	Jason Schoonover
Awards & Honours	Denis St-Onge, Lee Treloar, Simon Donato
Recruitment	Denis St-Onge
Membership	Murray Larson
Webmaster	Rogier Gruys
Far Afield	Wilson West
Directors at Large	Simon Donato (Ex-Chair)
	Amanda Glickman (Ex-Chair)
	Rosemarie Keough
	Nat Rutter

## **4. Membership**

Current membership is 196 comprised of 21 in Atlantic-Quebec, 75 in Ontario-Nunavut, 28 in the Prairies-NWT, and 63 in BC-Yukon. Nine members reside outside Canada. In the Fall of 2012 membership was 192. Eight new membership applications are either being evaluated by the Membership Committee, or in preparation.

## **5. Financial Report**

By choice, the Chapter does not charge Chapter dues in addition to the organizational dues; hence we have no consistent source of operating funds. Our fixed costs are small, and consist of the maintenance of the website and the production and distribution of Chapter awards. In 2013 a new program was instituted by NY that provides a small Chapter stipend for every new member sponsored or co-sponsored by a Canadian. The Canadian Chapter received \$300 USD in 2013 from this program. The funds were allocated by the Canadian Executive to our 2012-13 website hosting costs and the production / mailing of our 2012-13 awards. Regional events are funded on a cost-recovery basis by participants and donors in each region.

**6. Incorporation status:** The Canadian Chapter is unincorporated.

## 7. A Synopsis of Activities for 2013

2013 was a very successful year for the Canadian Chapter. Major events included:

- Two issues of *Far Afield*
- Updating of the Chapter website
- A frequent blog by our Communications Director
- The West Coast Symposium Galiano Island: A Sense of Place was held in British Columbia
- The Toronto Film Festival
- A program of dinner lectures in Toronto, sponsored by Kensington Travel
- A program of student pot luck lectures held in Victoria by the Student Representative
- Canoe brigades led by Jason Schoonover in western Canada
- The annual field trip of the Prairies - NWT Region in Stettler, Alberta
- And various other meetings, dinners and get-together.

## 8. Awards: The Canadian Chapter recognizes its outstanding members annually.

This year's Stefansson Medal was awarded to Jason Schoonover for his years of outstanding communications service to the Chapter and organization, his diverse literary contributions including the book ADVENTUROUS DREAMS, ADVENTUROUS LIVES and his assembling of ethnographic collections that now reside in a variety of major museums world-wide. A Citation of Merit was awarded to Jeff Wilner of Toronto, for his long-standing contributions of monthly dinners and a speaker's venue for the Ontario - Nunavut Region. The success of our largest region and this Chapter is due, in so small way, to Jeff's steadfast support and generosity.

## 9. Progress and Outlook

- Canadian Membership has increased steadily, and new member applications have swelled recently. I encourage members to recruit candidates with "the right stuff."
- Our consistent focus is recruitment of qualified members and expansion of services in the form of local events, and the continuation of the website and *Far Afield*.
- In our relationship with the NY Board, the Canadian Chapter continues to be neutral and objective when factional disagreements arise in the larger organization.
- Elections are to be held in November, and our BOD will experience a small turnover at that time. I will not run for a second term, but will run for Membership Director to relieve the good efforts of Murray Larson. We have an excellent volunteer for Chapter Chair who has been a regional director for many years, and who knows how our organization works. If she is elected, her regional directorship can be filled by a competent individual. A new Student Representative will be appointed by the Executive this fall, given Maeva Gauthier has completed her studies. A new Chair for the Awards and Honours Committee will be sought at Denis St-Onge's request. We are always looking for new volunteers provided they are neutral, objective, and willing to work for the good of the Chapter and its members.
- All of our regions will have continuing Regional Directors or volunteers stepping forward, to be confirmed by the membership this fall.
- Our webmaster (Rogier Gruys), e-publication *Far Afield* (Dr. Wilson West), and blog (Jason Schoonover) wish to continue in 2014.
- Continuing major and minor events are planned for all four regions for 2014.

In closing, the Chapter is growing, financially stable, and democratic. I want to personally thank the current Board of Directors, and all of the members for remaining true to the objectives and goals of The Explorers Club and helping make Canada the largest and one of the most successful foreign chapters of this legendary organization.

Respectfully submitted,

**John C. Pollack FI'06** Chair, Canadian Chapter

## Communications

---

I would like to introduce your new communications team – **Wilson West FI'08**, **Maeva Gauthier FI'13** and **Rogier Gruys MI'10**. These three extraordinary members are using their diverse skills and experience to develop a vibrant, coordinated communications program to deliver news of your expeditions, accomplishments and upcoming events to your fellow members. They're looking at an easy-to-read newsletter and more robust website, perhaps even social media so that you can speak directly to each other. They would love to hear from you. If you have ideas for bringing the scattered membership of this very large chapter together, please let them know. Their email addresses are at [www.explorersclub.ca/pages/leadership](http://www.explorersclub.ca/pages/leadership). *Elaine Wyatt MI'05*



**Wilson West FI'08** has worked for 30 years as a maritime and naval historian, museum curator and cultural resources management planner. His passion is US Civil War naval history. He has authored *The USS Tecumseh Shipwreck Management Plan* for the US Naval Historical Center and was a member of Clive Cussler's 1981 expedition to locate the Confederate submarine, CSS Hunley. He is currently writing a history of the USS Tecumseh and researching the career of her commander, Tunis A.M. Craven. He is also translating a Peruvian account of the voyage of two of Tecumseh's sister ships to Peru in 1869.



**Maeva Gauthier FI'13** recently graduated from the University of Victoria with a Masters in marine ecology. She is interested in ocean sciences, filmmaking, education & outreach and coastal communities. She's been involved in educational initiatives, including an underwater live webcasting project called the Fish Eye Project, which connects classrooms with underwater activities or research. Field expeditions took her to both poles in 2009. Her recent passion for filmmaking was rewarded by the TD Go Green Challenge 2011 (3rd national position) and Best Cinematography & Best Editing awards at the UVic Film Festival 2011.



**Rogier Gruys MI'10** is an adventure tourism specialist, biologist, keen photographer and avid explorer. Born and raised in the Netherlands, he immigrated to Canada to study wildlife biology. Upon finishing his Masters on the winter movements of willow ptarmigan in the Yukon, he moved to Ghana. Eventually he switched careers to information technology, a career he pursued in Indonesia, Mongolia, Malaysia, Bhutan and Canada at the University of Victoria. More recently he has worked for the Canadian Tourism Commission and Parks Canada developing and promoting new tourism experiences in Jasper National Park.



## Regional Director BC / Yukon

Mary Morris FI'10

---



### Interconnections

Since the last Far Afield, I had a wondrous summer of exploring and working up and down the west coast. I am so grateful to have been outside and immersed in the world out there. Certainly helps to inspire me through these winter days, to remember that the real world is out there, in those wild and natural places.

After the field season, I was grateful to be able to once again attend **Pat and Rosemarie Keough's FI'02** Salt Spring Symposium in early September. On the second day of the event, we were basking outside in sunshine over the feast of buffet lunch and looking out on the breathtaking view of the Gulf Islands. As I looked around at the group, most in of who were engaged in animated conversations, I realized that here was the evidence of the interconnections we make in our lives. It was thanks to an invitation from the Keoughs to attend the Salt Spring event in 2009 that my husband **John Harper FI'10** and I subsequently became members of The Explorers Club (TEC). Since then, pretty much everyone at that September gathering last fall are now part of our circles of connections too. Thanks to Rosemarie and Pat for introducing me to TEC. So much inspiration comes from these meetings of the minds and sharing stories of experiences.

I am excited to see that our new student representative (and new member) **Jessica Lansfield TI'13** has written up other TEC events hosted in and around the Victoria neck of the woods from the past few months, which pretty much covers the club news I am aware of. Thanks to our previous student representative **Maeva Gauthier** (newly upgraded member FI'13) for co-presenting several of these gatherings too and for helping get Jess setup for the coming year.

Jess has other exciting news too, in planning for an event in Vancouver in early February 2014. The venue of the Beatty Biodiversity Museum at UBC is spectacular all on its own and certainly the list of speakers on the program will make for stimulating evening.

And looking ahead to September 2014, **Cathie Hickson FI'05** is working on a fall gathering at Wells Gray Provincial Park, near the town of Clearwater, BC. Not only is the park celebrating its 75 year anniversary, but it is also encompasses an incredible diversity of geological and biological features making it an ideal location for "It's About Place, 2014". Mark your calendars for September 11 through 14, 2014 and see page 39 for further details.

Like many people around the world I was reading the tributes for Nelson Mandela in December. In thinking about his inspiring legacy, I realized that I had a portion of his inaugural speech tacked up on a page in my kitchen. In that speech, he talked about 'our greatest fear' and he said "it is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us...and, as we let our own light shine, we consciously give other people permission to do the same." Seems to me that is what happens at Explorers Club events, we shine our lights together, and that's how we can build positive connections.

I must add special happy 'retirement' wishes to **John Pollock FI'06** our outgoing chapter chair; and warm congratulations to our incoming chapter chair **Elaine Wyatt MI'05**, whom I am looking forward to working with. We have a number of new members in BC/Yukon too, and would like to welcome all those folks to the Club. See the Membership Report section for a list of new BC/Yukon members since our last issue.

**Salt Spring Symposium**  
**Salt Spring Island, British Columbia**  
**September 5 – 8, 2013**

**By Rosemarie Keogh FI'02**

September 5th to 8th, 2013 at the Keough home on Salt Spring Island, Explorers enjoyed fellowship fuelled by keen minds and 35 stimulating presentations including: Neanderthal hunting skills and their visual opsins, **Tom Reimchen FI'09**; Eco-cultural Health, Grasslands of Inner Mongolia, **David Rapport FI'10** and **Luisa Maffi FI'10**; Beneath the Emerald Sea, **Brent Cooke FI'13**; Six months in Afghanistan, **Ben King AI'11**; Ancient Roads, **Ray Hyland MI'12**; Reducing childhood illness in Africa: From Stoves to Stool, Patty Pavliac; Asia's Dark Star still fighting the Cold War, John Wilcha MR'09; Valdez Clam Garden Investigations, **John Harper FI'10**; Yunnan, biological and cultural diversity and Endangered primates, **Lee Harding FI'12**; Footprints in the mud, Palynomorphs from the Nemegt Formation Mongolia, **Eva Kopplehaus FI'02**; Dinosaur poachers of Mongolia, **Philip Currie MED'02**; Have gun will travel: Recent nautical archaeological projects, John Pollack; Russia's Northeast Passage, **Lee Treloar MI'09** and many more!

John Pollack chaired the Annual General Meeting of Canadian Chapter, the first time the AGM was held outside Toronto. British Columbia and Yukon Region co-directors **Mary Morris FI'10** and **Cathie Hickson FI'09** shared local news. **Maeva Gauthier FI'13** reported on



Canadian student program and introduced **Jessica Lansfield TI'13**, our new student co-ordinator. Lynn Danaher MN'05, Kay Foster MR'03, Brian Hanson MED'04, and Will Roseman MR'07 respectively of the Pacific Northwest Chapter, TEC Legacy Committee, and TEC HQ Board all gave short talks. TEC Flag #83 Marquesas Rock Art Expedition and WINGS Flag #24 were returned by Lynn Danaher to Will Roseman and Milbry Polk FR'95. **Susan Eaton MI'11** officially announced the 2014-16 Sedna Expedition: An Extreme Snorkel relay of the Northwest Passage of which she is expedition leader.

#### Comments from participants

**Kate Harris FI'13:** "This was truly one of the most memorable, igniting weekends of my life, an opportunity to connect with friends and mentors and to meet new ones, and the Keoughs made it all happen with incredible generosity of spirit, energy, and time."

Alison Jones MR'03: "I truly don't know where to begin to express the impact of the symposium on my thoughts. I have a new-found understanding of the significance of TEC and what being an explorer means. The presence of so many younger explorers was very reassuring. That's where our future lies."



Chuck Arnold: "I am still coming off the high. As a long-time Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society I've always been curious about The Explorers Club. I'm now interested in becoming a member."

Emily Dowding Smith and Ben King: "We are buzzing with ideas, inspiration and new connections!"

Michi Main and Mike de Roos: "This has been a life-changer! We feel so inspired and full of new exciting ideas."

Kay Foster: "Speechless, which I'm usually not. Incredible friendships and hospitality!"

John Pollack: "I have just returned from the legendary Salt Spring Symposium (SSS), hosted by **Rosemarie and Pat Keough FI'02**, and it was a fine weekend with over sixty five attendees and dozens of excellent presentations on scientific exploration, wilderness art, conservation and ethnographic studies. There was great food, interesting people from Canada, USA, Hungary and England, and a large number of young explorers. A lot of energy was displayed, and many good connections were made among the attendees. The Keoughs have been running the SSS for roughly a decade, and if you get a chance to attend the event, I strongly recommend it."

After 10 years of hosting the Salt Spring Symposium in their spacious, craftsman home, the Keoughs have decided that henceforth the gathering will be bi-annual. Next symposium will be September 2015.



## Regional Director Atlantic Canada

### Dale Dunlop MI'08

---

I am working on having our summer get together on legendary Ile Haute in the Bay of Fundy. During the first two weeks of August we will be taken to the island by zodiac and spend the day and night there looking for evidence of aboriginal settlement and buried treasure. The day before we will have the option of kayaking the Five Islands and spending the night at the amazing Driftwood Cabins on the edge of Cape Chignecto Park.

The trip is limited to ten people, and there are six spots remaining. If you are interested in participating in this exciting excursion, please contact:

Dale Dunlop  
[atlanticquebec@explorersclub.ca](mailto:atlanticquebec@explorersclub.ca)



*See the Membership Report for a list of new Atlantic/Quebec members since our last issue.*



## Regional Director Prairie / NWT

### Murray Larson FI'05

The annual field trip was held on the weekend of June 8, 2013. Twelve members, spouses and friends availed themselves of a rail trip from Stettler to Big Valley, return, in central Alberta (a distance of some 60 miles) The feature of this trip was being drawn by a working steam engine (#41) provided by Alberta Prairie Railroad. While in Big Valley a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings was consumed by the members who also had time to explore the town's shops and museum. A train robbery took place during the trip causing no little excitement.

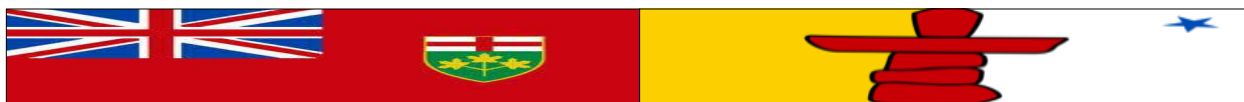
In other news **Murray Larson FI'05** will be vacating the position of regional director to be ably replaced by well-known retired professor and explorer, **Nat Rutter FE'78** on January 1, 2014.



*Photos courtesy of Murray Larsen*

*See the Membership Report for a list of new Prairie / NWT members since our last issue.*





## Regional Director Ontario / Nunavut

**Elaine Wyatt MI'05**

---



### Ontario/Nunavut Wilderness Symposium

**By Fred Gaskin FI'81**

A first Wilderness Symposium hosted by Ontario-Nunavut Region was held on the last weekend of September at a two acre peninsula named "Missinipe", on Healey lake located between Lake Joseph and Georgian Bay, forty km south of Parry Sound. A total of fourteen members and guests participated.

The event commenced Friday afternoon followed by a delicious dinner consisting of a choice of mild or spicy curry prepared by Nora Mark and **Jack Purchase FI'81**. After dinner **Tim Leslie FI'04** gave an informative talk, with supporting photos, on his career as an RCAF test pilot and his current duties with the National Research Council of Canada.

The following morning the 7:00 a.m. "skinny dippers" were refreshed with an invigorating 67 degree (F) swim and were treated to that rare September scene where the lake is lost in a solid mist and the opposite shore, though only half a kilometre away is nowhere to be seen. Then as the eastern sun slowly rises above the horizon, the missing shore gradually comes into view.

Following the Saturday ongoing breakfast, an advance canoe party set out to prepare for a lunch at a stunning Canadian Shield campsite half way down Healey Lake. Later the remainder, seated in Muskoka chairs, were transported by barge boat to the lunch site. Food and chilled white wine set on an elevated overturned canoe provided for a gala lunch. Then late in the afternoon the contented trippers enjoyed a return journey by barge in the warm September sun followed by further recreation and conversation on the deck.



Later we were treated to a delicious lasagna dinner courtesy of Andrea and **Hap Wilson MI'12**, following which Hap took over and we were introduced to their life time of family wilderness experiences and their current endeavors in developing the Trans Canada Trail, augmented by a collection of outstanding photos. Stimulating conversation continued well into the night until it was time to retire.

Following Sunday breakfast, departures occurred throughout the day and supper took place at the Bass Lake Road House for those staying over for the canoe trip to Georgian Bay. Two canoes headed out Monday morning and after a one kilometre portage to Georgian Bay (Wood's Bay) a five kilometre paddle brought us to Moon Falls at the mouth of the Moon River that drains Lake Muskoka. Our campsite faced Moon Falls and that evening featured the traditional steak and baked potato dinner, prepared by **Ingo Schoppel MI'87**, with "ample" wine, followed by profound conversation and Bailey's around a crackling camp fire.

On Tuesday after breakfast we broke camp and returned to the cottage where we were challenged by an afternoon of 14-hole Forest Golf played with six irons and hollow perforated golf balls. Exhilaration (wow) alternating with frustration (ouch)! The first Ontario-Nunavut Wilderness Symposium concluded with a supper of leftovers and plans for a "second," Friday to Sunday, September 5-7, 2014, preceded by a canoe trip to Moon Falls, if numbers warrant.

See you in September 2014!

*All photos courtesy of Fred Gaskin*



*See the Membership Report for a list of new Ontario / Nunavut members since our last issue.*

## Outstanding Canadian members – Peter Bobrowsky FI'01

By Nat Rutter EF'78

---

Peter has had a stellar career in exploration, research and scientific administration. In 1977, while an undergraduate student at the University of Alberta, he participated in his first international trip. It involved three months of field work in Algeria on an archaeological dig with participants from several countries. Peter was arrested on his first day, and was incarcerated in Constantine for eight hours on suspicion of being a “spy” for Canada. The cause of suspicion was his taking a photograph of a street beggar. The assumption was he would use such imagery for negative propaganda purposes back in Canada. Fortunately, the Project Director effectively negotiated with the Chief of Police for a few hours and he was eventually released. Since then, the urge to travel and work abroad has grown exponentially.

Having degrees in Geology and Archaeology, Peter has been fortunate in engaging in field research in both disciplines in a number of areas around the world, including North and South America, Middle East, Europe, China, India, Africa. Early in his career, he spent 15 years doing extensive geologic work throughout British Columbia, but also has been able to spend many other summers in Canada’s High Arctic and Prairie regions. His most memorable international excursion was his four years of research in Peru where he assessed the likelihood and potential for large scale catastrophic landslides at the World Heritage site of Machu Picchu. Peter continues to advise UNESCO researchers in monitoring geohazards at the World Heritage site of Petra, Jordan.



*Easter Island volcano 2007*



*Wadi Rum, Jordan 2007*

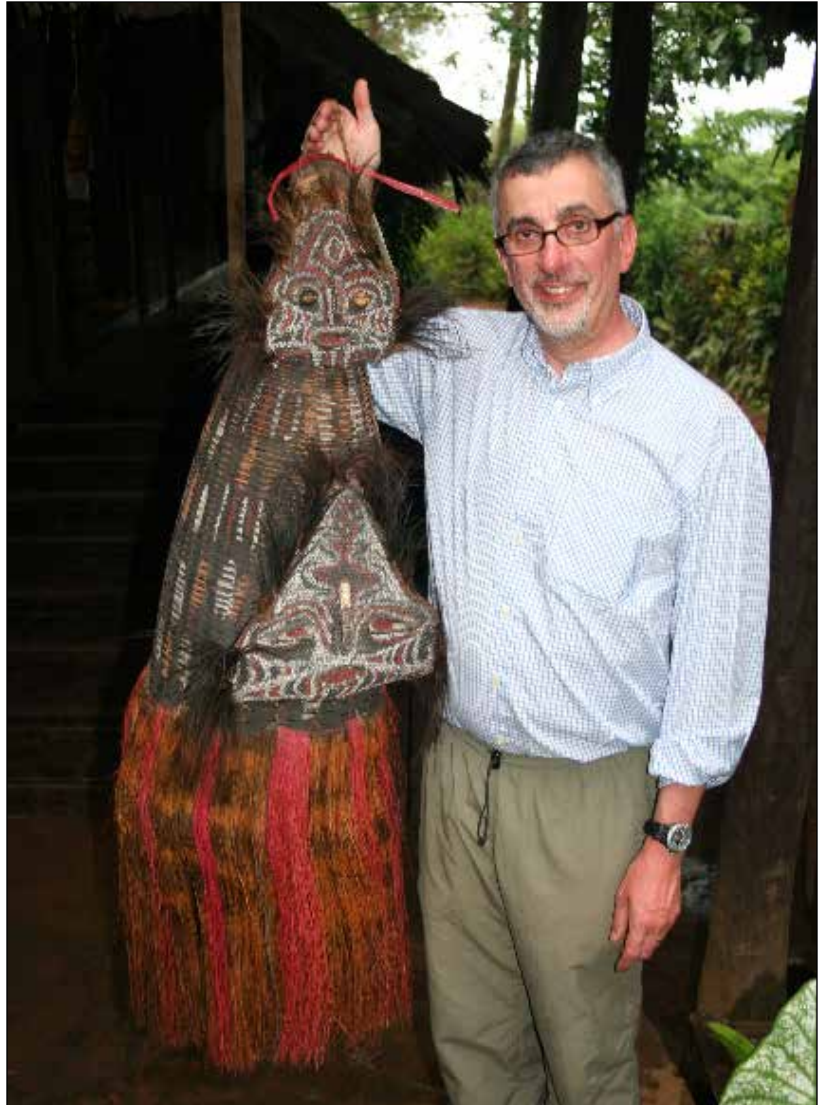
Currently, Peter is a research scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada, and an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University (SFU) focusing on natural hazards. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the recently published Encyclopedia of Natural Hazards. His international award winning book on landslides, published in 2008 (co-authored with a US colleague) has been translated and published into Mandarin, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. Farsi and Ukrainian versions are ready to be published. It doesn't end there.

During the past three decades, he has published many peer reviewed papers on a variety of subjects varying from the paleoecology of fossil snail shells, animal remains in archaeology, exploration methods and techniques for sand/gravel, placer gold and other deposits, paleo-

tsunamis, comet/asteroids and landslides. One notable contribution which Peter is particularly proud of concerns the first discovery of evidence for numerous great mega-thrust earthquakes on the west coast of Canada. In collaboration with colleagues from SFU and elsewhere he clearly documented the evidence for the 1700 AD mega-thrust earthquake and tsunami that affected much of western North America.

Peter has been successful as a scientific administrator, having held a number of honorary volunteer executive positions in learned societies such as President of the Canadian Quaternary Association, President of the Geological Association of Canada and Secretary General of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) to list a few. The latter effort spanned twelve years serving a global community of some 1 million earth scientists) during which time he was able to travel to incredible locations such as Iceland, North Korea and Tierra del Fuego. I anticipate that Peter will have visited 100 countries before he calls it a day.

*All photos courtesy of Peter Bobrowsky.*



*Tribal suit – Sepik River Lowlands, Papua New Guinea 2007*

## Student representative

**Maeva Gauthier SM'08**

---

After a few years as student representative and having graduated two years ago now, I am happy to say we found a great student rep to take on this role! **Jessica Lansfield TM'13** has been interested in The Explorers Club since I met her in Victoria, and it is with great enthusiasm and creativity that she's taking this role.

Jessica is a Ph.D. student at the University of Victoria in the Social Dimensions of Health Program. Her research focuses

on community development and social engagement of the general public in not-for-profit organizations and causes. She started her involvement by organizing successful, engaging events in Victoria and Whitehorse, and there is more to come!

I want to wish her the best for this role and I am sure she will be leading it with success! I hope to continue my involvement in co-organizing more events in the Victoria/Vancouver area and increase the francophone community involvement of the club across Canada. Thank you everyone for your support, I thoroughly enjoyed my years as student representative and hope to be involved in the club for many years to come!

Best,  
Maeva



## Student news and updates

**By Jessica Lansfield TM'13**

In the fall of 2012, **Maeva Gauthier FI'13** finished her schooling and began working full-time. There had been discussions with me to take over student representative duties, but it was not until the spring of last year that our schedules aligned and the two of us finally joined forces to organize the first TEC student activity of 2013. Since then, several wonderful student events have taken place in and around Victoria and more are planned.

### **May 29th 2013: Ocean Conservation**

The first Explorers Club event of 2013 was the Ocean Conservation night with talks by Francesco Ferretti, (a postdoc from Stanford University and the John Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey, California) and by Valerie Mucciarelli, a master's student of the University of Victoria. To an attentive crowd, Francesco spoke passionately about how he uses shark monitoring to understand the health of our marine ecosystems. Since this event, Francesco has released a citizen scientist app, SharkPulse, which can be viewed and downloaded for free via Itunes.

Valerie Mucciarelli also presented that evening. She shared stories regarding the creation and research of artificial reefs on Vancouver Island. This project was a major undertaking, especially for someone who had never been scuba-diving before, but Valerie's passions for learning and diving have led to the creation of a community supporting artificial reefs in the area. We look forward to future updates from Valerie's work.



### June 5th 2013: Wild Foods

What a delicious and informative night this turned out to be. The crowd gorged on the information and the appetizing food that Brendan Harris and Janusz Urban foraged from around lower Vancouver Island and prepared for the evening. Much excitement was shared between nibbles. Items were tasted, taken right from our local area that most of the people in the room had never considered trying before. Laughter, snacking and great conversation were shared well into the night.

Since their Wild Foods talk, Brendan Harris, Janusz Urban and the rest of their team have set off on an adventure of a lifetime. The Foragers Galley crew is continuing to use food as a means of learning about different environments and cultures; and they are about to set sail from Florida towards their final destination of Sydney, Australia. To follow this crew on their journey, visit <http://www.foragersgalley.com/>. Best of luck on the seas Foragers!

### July 28, 2013 – From Sea to Sky: Exploration and Capturing Images Along the Way

Well, Cherisse Du Preez is a force to be reckoned with, both on the rugby field, under and on top of the water, and in any academic setting. She is set to finish



*Francesco Ferretti, Shark Baselines. Photo courtesy of Maeva Gauthier.*



*An edible spread prepared by head chef Janusz Urban of The Foragers Gallery and Brendan Harris. Photo courtesy Maeva Gauthier.*



*Preparing for the journey. Photo by Dirk Johnson, The Foragers Gallery Collection, 2013.*

her Ph.D. in deep sea ecology at the University of Victoria in the near future, under the supervision of the renowned Verena Tunnicliffe, and will have ten publications to prove her tireless dedication and drive. Cherisse had the crowd in awe and wonder this night as she shared the images of her travels, her love of the ocean, and the different images you can obtain depending on what marine-based adventure you are having and tools you are using. From driving an ROV, to captaining a super yacht, to filming, surfing, and scuba-diving all over the place, the world is certainly becoming Cherisse's oyster. Her energy will continue to take her incredible places and hopefully she will share with us what she learns and sees along the way.

Luckily, Cherisse's talk could have lasted all night, because the second talk scheduled that evening was cancelled.

**John Harper FI'10** and **Mary Morris FI'10** were supposed to talk about their ShoreZone coastal habitat imaging and mapping work but weather conditions delayed their flights home from the Arctic. Although we missed them that the evening's festivities, we congratulate John and Mary on their work around the St. Lawrence Island. During their stay, they managed to fly over 900 kilometres of shoreline, a truly incredible feat.

### September 2013 – Salt Spring Symposium

This September was the first time I had the opportunity to attend the Salt Spring Symposium, hosted by **Pat and Rosemarie Keough FI'02**; it was an inspirational and overwhelming event. Hearing leaders in their fields from around the world talk about their passions was an honour and it took me weeks to process all of the information that I received.

One of the many connections that were made that weekend led to another Explorers Club-supported event on Salt Spring Island. At the symposium, I met Michi Main and Mike DeRoos, who are the owners of Cetacea and the team leaders responsible for Raising of Big Blue, (<http://beatymuseum.ubc.ca/research/whale>), an exceptional exhibit at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum. As a result of our connection, we coordinated an opportunity for students to participate in an archaeological dig with Cetacea on Salt Spring Island. Several students from the University of Victoria and Salt Spring Island attended to discover what remained of several marine animals buried on Michi and Mike's property. This was a hands-on and unforgettable, even if smelly, experience. Below is a photo of the adventure and a comment from one of the students.



*Photo courtesy of Cherisse Du Preez.*



*Loving every minute. Photo courtesy of Michi Main.*



*A team effort. Photo courtesy of Michi Main.*

### September 19th, 2013 – Volunteer Opportunity with Cetacea on Salt Spring Island

Comments from a Volunteer: Hi Jess, Just wanted to thank you for being such a big help organizing us for the whale volunteering on salt spring. It was a huge day for me, and loved every minute of it!

### October 28th, 2013: Celebrating BC's Rare Species

During this event, there was a playful discussion regarding changing the name of The Explorers Club to The "Women's" Explorers Club. It was a small gathering but one which

provided a lot of opportunity to discuss the topics of the evening and brainstorm about future projects. **Isabelle Groc FI'13** and Alanna Clason presented talks on BC's rare species from very different perspectives, yet both engaged the audience with their passion, challenges and hopes for the future.

At the moment, **Isabelle Groc FI'13** is currently preparing for her next film on endangered species in British Columbia. Visit [www.protectbiodiversity.ca](http://www.protectbiodiversity.ca) for more information on her film project.

Alanna Clason is currently working on completing her Ph.D. with the University of Northern British Columbia. Alanna organized the CONFORWest Conference in Bamfield, BC February 6-9th, 2014



*The Women's Explorers Club? Photo courtesy Jessica Lansfield.*

## Explorer Reports & Updates

---

### The FARA HEIM - Lake Winnipeg Expedition – 2013

By Johann Sigurdson MI'12

The FARA HEIM Expedition Team had a very productive 2013. We were very fortunate to be able to position a 35 ft. Pearson expedition sailboat on Lake Winnipeg in the spring of 2013. This has allowed us to penetrate the northern basin of the world's 10th largest freshwater lake looking for clues to early Norse expeditions into North America. Capt. Norm Baker helped us organize for the expedition and participated in interviews with CBC Radio and CBC TV.

The FARA HEIM - Lake Winnipeg Expedition - 2013 was an attempt to determine the location of "holestones" first reported in 1950 at Berens River, a First Nations community 250 miles north of Winnipeg on the remote east shore. It is accessible in summer only by air or boat. When we reached the community in July after a difficult approach through reefs and islands we found that we were the first sailboat that had visited for over a decade. We were greeted by village elders who assisted us in our search by confirming locations that had been described here 63 years ago. We were successful in finding the islands where these holes were located but were unable to view them because they were six feet under the high water that is common today. We attempted diving in the brown-stained water draining from the forests of the Canadian Shield, but we were not anticipating this requirement and were not adequately equipped. The local historians confirmed local knowledge of the existence of "holestones" but were reluctant to engage in detailed discussion of their significance as there is some secrecy attached to this site. Common opinions of these man-made hand chiseled holes range from ancient property markers to mooring holes for early Norse boats.

While interviewing the elders we were able to also confirm the location of another early site called "White men's writing on the Rock." This is a site located approximately 50 miles away from the community and up three rapids of Leif's River from Lake Winnipeg. It has been described as a "carved writing" which is extremely interesting as this area is a common region for aboriginal rock paintings. This site is definitely not a painting when described in this manner by local aboriginals who grew up surrounded with rock paintings. We could not get our sailboat in close enough to get up this river without jet boat capability so we are planning a return, perhaps this winter.

During our discussion with the elders, we found that a group of Europeans, reportedly from Finland, had been in the area last winter searching for the site but were unsuccessful due to extreme weather conditions.



## Explorer Reports & Updates continued

### The FARA HEIM - Battle of Hudson Bay Expedition 2013

By Johann Sigurdson MI'12

The FARA HEIM - Battle of Hudson Bay Expedition 2013 carried Explorers Club Flag # 109 in the latter portion of August to search for three ships lost in one of the most important naval battles in Canadian history and the largest marine battle ever fought in the Canadian Arctic.

We travelled by Zodiac Commandos as well as a large jet boat to the vicinity of York Factory at the mouth of the Hayes River. Here, with the help of a towed magnetometer, two side scan and one down-view sonar, high definition satellite imagery and a small drone we were able to zero in on two of the ships involved. The final resting sites have not been completely confirmed but we have strong indications we are very close. These ships were both run aground heavily damaged after the battle. Their final position is now at the shoreline because of approximately 10-12 feet of isostatic rebound since 1697.

The 16-foot tides, high currents, mud flats and a high population of polar bears all combine to make this a very difficult area to work in. The first night there we had a very close encounter with a 1000 lb white bear who was looking longingly at Johann Jr. through the screen. We were able to reach a negotiated truce and both parties had an adventure to relate. We have recovered musket parts, cannon balls, grape shot and other small items but no cannons yet. It will be the cannons that will mark the main debris field as there were over 40 on each ship made of either iron or bronze.

The third ship was sunk offshore with a loss of all hands, almost 200 men. We have eliminated most possibilities and have reduced the search area to a few shoals but this still remains difficult because of its offshore position.



*SAGA the polar bear dog.*



*All photos courtesy of Johann Sigurdson.*



*Left to right: Craig Mann, Mackenzie Collette, David Collette, Johann J. Sigurdson, Johann S. Sigurdson with Flag #109.*

## Explorer Reports & Updates (cont'd)

---

Prior to the departure, during the expedition and after our return we captured hours of video and audio. One of the main objectives of the expedition, besides finding the actual ships, was to collect enough material to create an interesting and engaging teaching package to support educating high school students on early North American history. The teaching aid will include a classroom activity guide, a short video on the expedition that supports the lesson plan and teacher's instructional guide to meet state and provincial educational requirements. The package, sold at a very low cost in recognition of the budgetary constraints of educators, will help create a revenue stream to help pay for the costs of the future expeditions.

We are currently attempting to organize aerial magnetometer capability so we can zero in on these final locations without risking polar bear encounters in heavy willows or serious weather offshore. We also have acquired and are rebuilding a Tiger AV8 hovercraft which will enable us to move much more easily at all tide conditions.

FARA HEIM's core objective is still to bring a large expedition sailboat into Hudson Bay from France via Iceland for two years of exploration. We have determined the best way to visualize the locations used by Norse explorers is from the deck of a sailing ship. We have been able to lease "The Glory of the Sea", a specially built and equipped high latitude sailboat, to serve as our base in future years in Hudson Bay.

There are expedition crew member positions available for 2014 and beyond. Please stay informed at our website [www.faraheim.com](http://www.faraheim.com).

### The Route of Wind and Wool

*An excerpt from the 'Expedition through the Sky'*

**By Jeff Fuchs FI'08**

Himalayan expeditions should offer up something beyond simply summiting a peak in record time or racing across an environment with barely a glance sideward. In the words of Sadanand, an epic Himalayan horseman for his 65 years, they take "listening, economics, and prayer" to fuel, travel, and survive. It is perhaps the 'listening' element that is most fascinating. For one so used to the mountains' every mood swing, and the last 10 years living within them, the statement hits me as something vital and perhaps even the very essence of this journey that I'm now on. These words came on day two of meeting this grizzled man who looked to have been in every battle ever fought. Sadanand's words come at a time when our own team must face a crossing the magnificent desolation of the Parang Pass. It hints at a fast disappearing habit of taking the time to listen to the tales of the elders to get a tangible idea of what life, climate, and the precious routes were about, and crucially, how to find the very pathways.

Those immortal words from Sadanand's mouth came while trudging upon our own journey along what was left (and remembered by elders) of one of the Himalayas' great and largely unheralded trade routes that was a conduit and high altitude pipeline for a timeless luxury of the mountains: pashmina wool.

My trek partner, Michael Kleinwort, and I coined 'The Route of Wind and Wool' simply because



*Michael Kleinwort (left) and myself briefly atop Parang Pass.*

## Explorer Reports & Updates (cont'd)

---

this route – like so many that stretched over the great span of the Himalayas – had so many names, but not one that was common. Both these elements of wind and wool were constants (and still are) within Ladakh, and northern Himachal Pradesh. The wool, as one local trader put it, was “the eternal wealth.” We have 10 days of trekking behind us, which began near Manali. We have a little over three weeks to our destination (and the extent to which our permits will be effective), the sand dunes and Bactrian camels of the Nubra Valley, passing through the ancient Himalayan capital of Leh, on our way north.

~~~~~

Sadanand is our muleteer for a portion of this route that will take us from the Tibetan-infused valley of Spiti over the wonderfully unpredictable 5,600 metre Parang Pass and into the Parang River Valley towards Tso Moriri, the great ‘lake in the sky.’ It is a zone of such desolation, that our guide and soothing interpreter of so much, Tashi, tells us that even the nomads have abandoned it.

Salt, tea, grain, trinkets, and wool, all passed along this route for centuries. Lèna, as the pashmina wool is known in these western portions of the Himalayas, has remained an almost fabled product whose soft warmth has been a prize of nobility throughout the globe. The irony is that this sought-after luxury that ends up in the courtier’s shops in the cultural capitals, can traced back to some of the most isolated regions on the planet. Pashmina goats - found throughout the wind-blown spaces where everything but silence is rare – and their precious ‘winter wool’ are the most valued from the spaces high in the Himalayas, upon the Changtang highlands in north and western Tibet. These regions, now cut by man’s contraption, the ‘border,’ once extended far into northwestern India and it is upon one such strand that a team of six of us, along with a mule and horse team of six move along. Distances in these mountains were not measured in days and nights so much as they were by way of peaks, lakes, and towns, so a journey of three weeks was often simply described as the journey of ‘8 passes and three lakes.’

Centuries of trade, most of which was not recorded, carried items throughout the region we tread upon. North into Yarkhand, Khotan, and what is now the Uighur stronghold of northwestern China, Xinjiang, across Ladakh into Pakistan and most importantly for us, through the myriad of wandering trails that seem to link all of these vanquished capitals in the



*Our own mountain man Sadanand, who had spent over half a century traversing, travelling and struggling with the mountains.*



*Two iconic and necessary elements of our team: Dharma and Karma (right). Karma would remain with us for the entire journey.*



## Explorer Reports & Updates (cont'd)

---

western Himalayas.

Parang Pass awaits us in all of its understated force and power. Parang and its notorious blizzards devastated caravans, obliterating trails, and disorienting traders and pilgrims alike. If the elements didn't decimate you, the notorious brigands and thieves were always another facet of Himalayan travel that travelers would have to deal with.

Thankfully, the days of thieves upon the route have passed though the days of mules and horses have given way to belching vehicles and diesel engines.

Ascending Parang, our caravan is spread over a distance of perhaps three kilometers spotting the landscape like a rosary. So much of expeditions involve simply grinding through the days trudging onwards and keeping the senses tuned to the windy solaces, with the legs and lungs doing the labour. Our pathway is etched into the coppery coloured rock, relentlessly moving upwards to the flat bow of the pass. The space we make our way through is a giant bowl that makes way to a hint of a ridgeline, where the primordial pathway ascends.

Winds begin their sermon, humming ominously as Michael, Tashi and I approach the pass. Sadanand leads the mules with Kaku, our man-boy who is an indestructible 'do-everything' and Karma, the relentlessly calm cook. Summits for the mountain peoples have never been glorious but rather something to be thankful for, prayed atop, and moved off of with a minimum of fuss. To dwell is to tempt the deity's wrath. Parang Pass like many, is a pass of two faces. During days of sun it is a glorious gateway, but during times of wind and snow it can turn into a place that eats up life in short order.

Cresting the summit of the pass the winds hit from all directions at once. A world unto itself, we are able to see over the Parang and into the next landscape that we face. This one is white-faced and encrusted with grey tones and ice. The southern portion that we made our way up had been clear of ice and snow, but this north facing portion is a veritable tribute of Himalayan cold.

So much of Himalayan trade has always been about not simply the trading itself, but also the relationships developed over the course of traveling the route. It was also about simply surviving the journey.

In the "Route of Wind and Wool" case, the fiercely independent Tibetan nomads, themselves part of clans and tight family groups, would bring their combed stocks of pashmina wool in the spring down from their communities. Gently combed out of the winter coats, the micro



*Our team gently struggles upstream through a river that is entirely glacial run-off.*

## Explorer Reports & Updates (cont'd)

---

fibres of wool would arrive to communities or middle-men who would then sell the fabric onto the fabric spinners. From the Tibetan highlands wool would be travelling to all points of the compass, and it was lucrative. It was the one product from these desolate peoples that was craved. The higher the source, the more that would be paid and the more desolate and remote a source, the more coveted the wool. The routes themselves were also used to send grains and



*The stunning "lake in the sky" Tso Moriri, which lies close to the Ladakh Tibet border.*

horses and other vitals in the reverse direction.

Our own routing takes us past the 'Lake in the Sky,' Tso Moriri, along whose blue crystalline banks nomads would convene when trading their goods.

West of us, Leh, the ancient market capital awaits. Leh, when we hit it, is gentle pandemonium, but this is an overstatement really because it is more a case of Michael and I being overly sensitive to every horn, four-wheeled vehicle, and body that comes close to us. As is so often, I have the urge to simply bolt back into the great silences where I can hide and my mind can function with the winds and stones as my guide.

We have a day of exploring the city's old trading quarter. Pashmina is everywhere; on signs, in heaps of colour, and on the mouths of locals. It is still alive, this luxury wool off the backs of goats. None of its luster has been forgotten nor lost.

This western Himalayan capital and its automobiles and structures make me quite ready within an hour – after a shower – to head back 'up' into the hills with our supplies and a pack of mules. But first, we must wait and allow for Karma, Tashi, and Kaku to enjoy the temporary sights, sounds and little luxuries of the cities. Part of journeying in a group is knowing needs, taking what's needed, and then moving along when 'everyone' is keen and clean.

West out of the city our reunited team heads. Then, up the Phyang Valley we head bending up into a green series of villages that sits like a beacon amid the dry desolation. The valleys become tighter and once again there is that feeling that we are embraced and protected by these elements and landforms.

Sadanand is gone and in his place we have a man who in some ways is the antithesis of our lined – and missed - warrior. Neat, quiet, with a voice that seems to disappear in the wind, he and his horse team are a team of apparent perfectionists. Understated, careful in movements, and almost dainty movements this muleteer and his charges are almost clinical.

Kaku is newly shaven and looking far better than the rest of us. Karma, unchanged as always is showing only the merest hint that he is once again content with our return to the route and

## Explorer Reports & Updates (cont'd)

---

the mountains. The only change in Tashi is that all clothing that he wears is completely clean and the few valiant whiskers that had been attempting to grow over the past weeks have disappeared. Michael and his hunger to be up in the mountains are evident.

We move up and the altitude's wide effect is hitting the team for whatever reason. We are not higher, nor is the route more difficult. Altitude's effects are not simply height alone. Air pressure, metabolism, and

temperature all seem to be playing at various team members. Our horseman is another epic character as it turns out, but his 'epic' qualities are linked to an understated competence and knowledge of his horses and of the land rather than Sadanand's bulletproof, iron entity. There is no grumbling from this new muleteer and his horses and mules genuinely seem to enjoy his company. He needs not scream or even threaten. Gentle little sounds and soft sympathetic looks maintain our animals' pace.

The 'Bharal' (Blue Sheep) is more goat than sheep (I'm told) and more grey than blue. They are also the main delicacy of the Snow Leopard. This solitary cat has been on the fringes of my mind for the entire journey. I'm sure it has gazed upon our caravan at times and I often wonder if we'll be granted a view, but for whatever reason I'm sure that we'll only see one, if it allows us to. But, it is the Bharal and its form that takes the breath.

At camp one night, at close to 5,000 metres, a group of six males descends slowly and passes within a few dozen metres of us. These thick-chested silent animals are so close to each other that they cannot help but brush each other as they move like a phalanx of the natural world. Alert (for the silent cat that must be around), but seemingly at a bit of ease, they pass us without so much as an acknowledgement; keeping only one of those famed baleful goat eyes on us. We evidently do not rate as dangers. Powerful and graceful, they are magnificent and strange in their shape and deliberation. We are entirely silent and even Karma is wide-eyed...even the sultan of calm is impressed and I feel a happiness at this knowledge.

Lasermo La is a pass that was once crossed with regularity by caravans heading to and coming from the Nubra Valley. Now it is utterly quiet in its appraisal of all things. We get up it by late morning and the light of a furious sun lights up the top of the world. Continuing up the plate-like glaciers Michael and I move towards 6,000 metres. What matters is to be able to look down upon the curling ridgelines of stone and the glaciers being blown by winds into frozen waves. Nothing else matters and not for the first time I am utterly loathe even considering leaving the heights. "Stay in the present" I am reminded by a little voice inside. Much as I would like to listen to it, I ignore it, and simply let the breath that heaves in me take over. These spaces and their



*A nomadic matriarch whose one product, pashmina wool, allowed her clan to survive their lives of isolation.*

## Explorer Reports & Updates (cont'd)

---

accompanying winds will long remain in the mind and blood and they are instant memories when they hit you.

The Nubra waits with heat for us. My dreamlike lusts to see a snow leopard have come to nothing. Wolf scat was found along our route but not one discernible trace of the solitary and very legendary cat. Dust, a drop in altitude, and the inevitable feelings of gentle edginess come too. We are leaving the sanctity of the heights and moving back down into the lands of 'two-footers', the land where we people apparently. Sand dunes, Bactrian camels, and a little closer to the border with Pakistan, the valley holds softer winds and more memories of the days of trade.

Yarkhandis, Dards, Changpa nomads, Sikhs Kashmiris, Newaris...all of these peoples, and a dozen others were active and have left their DNA in this region. A region that is a crucible of Central Asia, Tibet, and India and it positively hums with these cultural infusions even now. The DNA remains in the business ways, it is in the sands of the Nubra Valley and it is in the nearby glaciers, whose tempests took many a life.

Two figures we meet in the valley – one a trader, and one a sage witness to trade – remind me that trade was very much more than simply commodities and economics. The ancient witness reminds us very clearly that trade was like a window letting in light. It was about sharing, and it was about adventure and it was entirely about relentless movement.

*All photos courtesy of Jeff Fuchs.*



*Nomad tend to their goats, sheep and yak. While yak are vital as transporters, and for their rough wool, it is the pashmina goats whose fine, winter coats that are vital for economic survival.*



*West of Leh we must cross the Lasemo Pass giving us a perspective over the great skeleton of ridges and mountains.*

## Explorer Reports & Updates (cont'd)

---

### **Cory Trepanier MI'09 Gets Truly Wild for a Month in the Yukon's' Kluane National Park**

**July 15th to Aug 18th, 2013**

For landscape painter and filmmaker Cory Trépanier it begins with an encounter with majestic Mount Logan, the highest peak in Canada, and ends a month later with the epic collapse of a stunning iceberg on Lowell Lake as he rafts out to paint it.

Between those bookends was a month of awe and wonder in the Yukon's Kluane National Park & Reserve, 22,000 square kilometers of true Canadian wilderness. Cory's Kluane expedition was chapter one of his new project called TrueWild: A Legacy for the National Parks.

Cory spent the first nine days skiing and camping on the Icefields Ranges of Kluane, part of the largest non-polar ice field in the world. There he set up his easel where few, if any, have ever had the privilege to do so.

Ensuing weeks were filled with strenuous hikes along the Donjek Route, including a one kilometre decent down steep scree slopes with a 90-lb pack, canoeing on Mush and Bates Lakes, and rafting down the Alsek River to the glacier strewn Lowell Lake.

While the challenges of trekking and camping in this rugged landscape were enough to fill each waking moment, Cory also had to focus on what brought him there in the first place: the desire to bring these spectacular wild places back on canvas. He was also looking to find that one momentous experience that would inspire a major new work back in the studio, an eight to ten foot wide "Legacy" painting from Kluane.

And he was there for one more thing as well... to make a new film.



*Cory painting in the ice fields of Kluane National Park & Reserve during his one month TrueWild: Kluane expedition. Photo courtesy of Adam Greenberg.*

## Explorer Reports & Updates (cont'd)

---

To these ends, Cory began over a dozen oil paintings on location, including his big view of Mount Logan that may become the largest realistic painting ever of Canada's big mountain. He and cameraman Adam Greenberg also captured over 50 hours of footage that will share this magnificent land with others through Cory's journey.

TrueWild continues now in his Caledon, Ontario studio as Cory stokes the fire in his wood stove and fulfills the visions he began in the field.



*A big view over Kluane's Lowell Lake and Lowell Glacier makes for an awesome view to paint. Courtesy of Adam Greenberg.*

Visit [www.TrueWild.ca](http://www.TrueWild.ca) for a multi-media interactive google map, expedition photos, stories, media coverage and Cory's TrueWild Online Series, featuring new episodes every month. You can also watch a video of the epic iceberg collapse on the homepage.

Visit Cory's Caledon gallery and studio, just northwest of Toronto, and see his works at [www.trepanieroriginals.com](http://www.trepanieroriginals.com). To inquire about Cory's remaining available paintings from TrueWild: Kluane email [oils@trepanieroriginals.com](mailto:oils@trepanieroriginals.com)

## In Other News

---

### Shipwrecked on a Great Lake - a new Ontario shipwreck film

**By Peter Rowe FI'08**

In April of 1813, the city of Toronto was attacked by a fleet of American ships carrying a large number of U.S. soldiers, who defeated the British force defending the town and then sacked and burnt many of the buildings, including the Parliament. Two of the ships in that fleet, the USS Hamilton and the USS Scourge, were caught in a squall on Lake Ontario later that summer, and sank in over 100 meters of water.

The ships sat forgotten for 160 years, until they were re-discovered in 1973, sitting in pristine condition in the dark, deep, still cold water. They have been the objects of interest by explorers such as Jacques Cousteau, Robert Ballard, the Royal Ontario Museum and others, but have been rarely seen and not visited at all since 2009.

Now, on the 200th anniversary of the sinking, **Peter Rowe FI'08** led a production team to make a new film titled *Shipwrecked on a Great Lake*, telling the story of the two ships through the eyes of one of the few survivors of the wreck, Canadian-born seaman Ned Myers.

## In Other News (cont'd)

Rowe filmed with senior marine archeologists from Parks Canada doing a new survey of the ships using sidescan sonar and magnetometer to examine the current condition of the deep wrecks. The production team then organized and filmed the re-enactment of the battle, the shipwreck and other elements of the story. British actor Jack Manser flew in to play the lead part of Ned Myers, with the rest of the cast found in Toronto, including **Wilson West FI'08**, who along with his work as Editor of *Far Afield*, and his interest and expertise in marine archeology, is also a skilled actor. West played a U.S. prisoner, shackled to lead character Ned Myers on a (barefoot) forced march from Toronto to Montreal.

Canadian Forces diver **Jonathan Frey SM'06** and his father, past Canadian chapter chair Joe Frey, assisted the production as safety divers, looking after the actors and boats in the re-enactment of the storm, in a Toronto wave tank.

Shipwrecked on a Great Lake was supported by a number of Canadian foundations and municipal institutions, led by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The film will premiere as the main evening attraction of the Mississauga Waterfront Festival ([www.themwf.com](http://www.themwf.com)) on Saturday, June 14, 2014. All members of the Canadian Chapter will be invited to the opening night reception and screening. The film will then play through the summer at parks in Hamilton and Mississauga, where it will play nightly on a water screen at a lakeside location.

*All photos courtesy of Peter Rowe.*



*Jack Manser, Tayo Jacob and Wilson West (left to right), playing survivors of the sinking of the ships *Hamilton* and *Scourge*, are marched barefoot by British Redcoats from Toronto to Montreal.*



*Producer Director Peter Rowe with three War of 1812 re-enactors aboard the HMCS Griffon at the site of the sinking of the *Hamilton* and *Scourge*.*

## In Other News (cont'd)

---

### Air extraction from a floating ice island in Nunavut

By Susan R. Eaton, MI'11

In June 2013, I travelled to the High Canadian Arctic to camp near the ice floe edge in Admiralty Inlet (73° 31' N and 84° 38' W) and to snorkel with belugas, bow heads and narwhals as they stage for their annual migration through the Northwest Passage—instead, I wound up having a very different type of adventure...



*Adventure traveler Dr. Joe Bunni from Paris watches as a CC-130 flies over the ice island at low altitude. Photo courtesy of Susan R. Eaton.*

When the ice floe edge disintegrated suddenly and unpredictably—possibly due to a high tide during the summer solstice and a huge wind storm—my intrepid group of adventure travelers was carried away on a floating ice island which measured nine square kilometres—that's according to the hulking CC-130 Hercules patrolling overhead. The ice island continued to shrink, in size, by the hour.

Travelling at between 500 metres and 1.7 kilometres per hour, the ice island drifted northwards, some 19 kilometres towards the open waters of the Lancaster Sound, the gateway to the Northwest Passage. Luckily, the ice island hit the headland of the Borden Peninsula where we scrambled over rafting ice, onto terra firma.

Due to low lying coastal fog and our extreme northern location, 36 hours elapsed before the Search and Rescue (SAR) operation extracted us with two Bell CH-146 Griffon helicopters from the Royal Canadian Air Force's 438 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. The helicopters originated from Eureka, on Ellesmere Island, where they were participating in unrelated military manoeuvres in Nunavut.

In addition to rescuing our group of 20 people, the 438 Tactical Helicopter Squadron also air lifted a group of 11 Inuit hunters who had become stranded on a nearby, yet separate, sheet of floating ice.

It was quite the experience—let me tell you—with a CC-130 Hercules aircraft circling low overhead and dropping survival equipment including three covered, 20-man life rafts and satellite phones. We didn't sleep much during the 36-hour ordeal.

The extraction of 31 people (which included 16 Inuit) involved the mobilization of three CC-130 Hercules aircraft, one CH-149 Cormorant helicopter and two Bell CH-146 Griffon helicopters. In all, the rescue cost Canadian tax payers \$2.7 million.

Later, I was amazed to read vitriolic comments—that Darwin's law of natural selection should

## In Other News (cont'd)

---

have been invoked—posted about the air evacuation by readers of one national Canadian newspaper. In response, I want to affirm that the adventure travelers had air evacuation insurance which contemplated just such a rescue. Because there was no negligence (or fraud) on behalf of the 31 people rescued that day, we were not charged for our air extraction.

I left the Canadian High Arctic, with a new respect for our nation's SAR capabilities and the role that the Royal Canadian Air Force plays in these operations. This deepened respect and knowledge will serve me well, as I plan to lead two all-female snorkel relay expeditions to the Canadian Arctic, during the summers of 2014 and 2016.

You can read Susan's interview in the Calgary Herald or listen to her interview with CBC Radio.

Susan blogs and tweets and you can follow her extreme snorkeling adventures and cultural explorations at <http://www.susanreaton.com/>.



*Susan R. Eaton exiting a Bell CH-146 Griffon tactical helicopter from the RCAF's 438 Tactical Helicopter Squadron in Arctic Bay, Nunavut. Photo courtesy of Stephen Hensall.*

## George Luste Lecture

**By Fred Gaskin**

On Sunday, October 27, 2014 club members **Fred Gaskin FI'81**, **Jack Purchase FI'81**, **Ingo Schoppel MI'87** and former member Rob Caldwell attended the inaugural George Luste Lecture at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, Ontario. This new lecture series is in honour of George Luste who in 1986 inaugurated the annual Wilderness and Canoeing Symposium in Toronto, attracting upwards of 800 paddlers from all over North America. The October lecture featured a presentation by John Lentz FN'63 on his lifelong experiences paddling wilderness rivers in Northern Canada and Siberia. John was born in Toronto and attended Upper Canada College. He is now retired and living in Bethesda, Maryland, following a career with the Export-Import Bank in Washington, D.C. John and his wife Judy are regular visitors to Toronto attending the annual Wilderness and Canoeing Symposium in February and he is well known to the members of the Ontario Division, having attended the Explorers Club event in Waterloo Region a few years ago; an event that was the first in Ontario held outside of Toronto.

The first George Luste lecture served as the official book launch for *Tales from the Paddle*, authored by John Lentz, consisting of "A Canoeists Memoirs of Wilderness Trips in Canada and Russia." The Canadian members attending the lecture are veterans of canoe trips they shared with John, and on one occasion John and Judy. John's book provides an informative and entertaining read of events occurring during his 22 major canoe expeditions and the dust jacket remarks conclude with the closing remarks; "Is it any wonder that John Lentz is a member of the 'Explorers Club'".

## In Other News (cont'd)

### A Stefansson celebration

By Jason Schoonover FE'86

In July, Prairie-NWT and Membership Director **Murray Larson FI'05** and Patsy hosted a gathering at their place where **Jason Schoonover FE'86** was honoured with the awarding of the Stefansson Medal. **Susan Eaton MI'11**, **Gordon Currie AI'07**, **John Pollack FI'06**, **Denis St.-Onge FI'05**, Andy Hogg and Robin Usher were in attendance. It was a great time and one that I will always remember. There was Pasty's splendid dinner and bottles of Lagavulin 16 and Shackleton's to celebrate, with lots of laughs and that great camaraderie that always develops when explorers get together.



*L to R: Susan Eaton, Andy Hogg, Robyn Usher, Jason Schoonover, Gord Currie, Murray Larson.*

### Explorer's Club members celebrate 75th anniversary of the discovery of Helmcken Falls.

By Catherine Hickson FI'05 and Trevor Goward

2013 marked 100 years since the first recorded discovery of Helmcken Falls, British Columbia. Helmcken is Canada's 4th highest waterfall with a drop of 141 metres. Around this spectacular feature Wells Gray Provincial Park was established in 1939. To venerate the first discovery and exploration of the area, Thompson Rivers University (TRU) and the Wells Gray World Heritage Committee hosted a year-long series of 27 guided tours, hikes, field courses, lectures, and children's events – all on the theme of wilderness exploration, research and learning in the Wells Gray - Clearwater Valley.



*Wade Davis delivering from the throne chair, Edgewood Blue, Upper Clearwater Valley. Photo courtesy of Ken Wright.*

Coordinated by local Clearwater naturalist and world renowned lichen specialist, Trevor Goward, Explorers Club member and geologist **Catherine Hickson FI'05** kick started the events. She gave a very popular day-long tour focused on the park's volcanic history. In May, explorer **Wade Davis HON'87** was by for a lecture on the importance of wild places – as seen through the lens of the Sacred Headwaters. An early October visit from wildlife artist **Robert Bateman MI'84** and biologist Bristol Foster (former TEC member) capped the year-long celebration.

Robert Bateman's visit in particular made a lasting impression. At 80+, Bob wowed everybody he met with his zest for life and generosity of spirit. Early in his visit, he made it clear that he'd come to Clearwater not so much to take in the autumn scenery as to "do something useful."

And do something useful he did. In the space of 36 hours, Bob gave no fewer than five public addresses. One of these was a moving tribute to Yorke Edwards, British Columbia's "Father of natural history interpretation." Another was a speech at the sod-turning for the Wells Gray TRU Wilderness Centre. A third was an hour-long presentation on the importance of bringing kids back in touch with the living green world. Did you know, for example, that the average North

## In Other News (cont'd)

---

American child can recognize hundreds of corporate logos, but doesn't know the names of even 10 common birds or trees?

But it was in the two remaining presentations – nature walks for kids – that Bob Bateman really shone. To say that Bob has a way with children isn't enough. Watching the intense enthusiasm in the faces of those young people gathered around him was for revelation – something we wager few parents get to see very often. Anyhow, it was clear that something very precious was being offered in those brief encounters – and hopefully may help inspire a new generation of explorers and naturalists.

In 2014, Wells Gray will again be the focus of attention for Explorers Club members. Cathie and Trevor will be hosting the annual BC-Yukon region's Symposium, Thursday, September 11 through Sunday, September 14, 2014.



*L to R: Purple, Trevor Goward, Robert Bateman, Cathie Hickson and Bristol Foster of Dawson Falls, Wells Gray Provincial Park. Photo courtesy of Teuvo Ahti.*

## The Robert Bateman Centre

**By Jason Schoonover**

Who isn't a **Robert Bateman MI'84** fan? The permanent exhibit of 160 pieces in eight galleries is a thoughtfully chosen and magnificently impressive retrospective spanning seven decades. "Robert Bateman invites us to explore our relationship with the environment and pay homage to the majesty of nature" assisted by his personal multi-media commentary on smartphone or tablet. In the gallery dedicated to birds, by waving your hand over a sensor, the individual bird songs fill the room. I was taken by surprise learning what a splendid sculptor he is.

The Robert Bateman Centre is located in the century-plus classically designed former Steamship Terminal on Victoria's inner harbour. The Centre itself is located on the second floor, with the Robert Bateman Centre Shop, Thinking like a Mountain, on street level.  
<http://batemancentre.org/>



*The Loretta Anne Rogers Gallery from batemancentre.org*

## Awards & Honours

### Committee Chair Denis St-Onge, O.C. FI'05

---

In August Denis was part of the 8th Annual Northern Tour of the Prime Minister. This year the focus of the tour was natural resources, exploration and mining so lots of rocks to talk about and explain. The tour went from Ottawa, Calgary, Whitehorse, Hay River, Gjoa Haven, Rankin Inlet, Raglan mine in northern Quebec and back to Ottawa.

In November 2013, Denis was presented a Merit award by the Department of Natural resources Canada for his work on a committee to establish a national legend for Quaternary geology maps.

Incoming 2014 committee chair **Simon Donato FI'09** will be assuming the role from Denis, who is completing his term as chairman of the committee, after serving several years in the role. Both Simon and the board wish to thank Denis for his dedicated service. The committee is typically composed of three club members and we are currently looking for an additional member to round out our trio. If anyone in the membership is interested in joining this committee, please contact Simon Donato for more information at [simon@adventurescience.ca](mailto:simon@adventurescience.ca).

The Awards and Honours Committee includes the following Canadian Chapter members:  
**Simon Donato FI'09** (chair) and **Lee Treloar MI'09**



## Membership Reports

---

In 2013 the Canadian Chapter of the Explorers Club gained 25 new members (two in Atlantic/Quebec, five in Ontario/Nunavut, eight in Prairie/NWT and eleven in BC/Yukon) bringing our total number to 215 up from 180.

On December 31, 2013, **Murray Larson** vacated the position of Membership Director and was replaced by the out-going Canadian Chair **John Pollack**.

### Welcome to the Club!

June – December 2013

#### BC/Yukon

**Maeva Gauthier FI'13** (sponsored by John Pollack FI'06 and Denis St-Onge FI'05), **Isabelle Groc FI'13** (sponsored by John Pollack and Mary C. Morris), **Kate Harris FI'13** (sponsored by Mary C. Morris and John Pollack), **Hannah James SM'13** (sponsored by Rosemarie Keough FI'02), **Jessica Lansfield T'13** (sponsored by Mary C. Morris and John Pollack), **Michael Schauch MI'13** (sponsored by Jeffery Whiting FI'11 and Jason Schoonover FE'86) and **Jim Shockey MI'13** (sponsored by Christopher Kinsey LM'00 and Elizabeth R. Jones FN'90).

#### Ontario/Nunavut

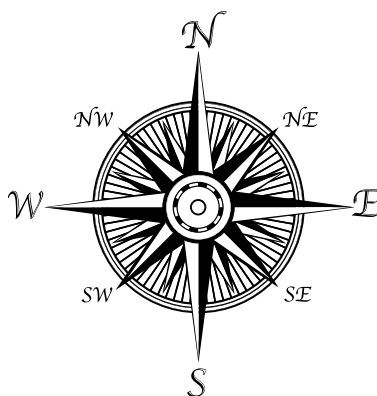
**Jason Kelly AI'13** (sponsored by Denis St-Onge and John Pollack), **Paola Pulido-Santacruz TM'13** (sponsored by Alan Nichols and Bob Atwater), **Robert Stark TM'13** (sponsored by (Eduard Reinhardt FI'04 and John Pollack), **Maxwell Stewart SM'13** (sponsored by John Pollack),

#### Prairie/NWT

**Lorrie Hanson MI'13** (sponsored by Capt. Norm Baker FN'70 and Jason Schoonover), **Susan Hattori MI'13** (sponsored by Capt. Norm Baker FN'70 and Jason Schoonover), **Todd Mintz MI'13** (sponsored by Capt. Joel Fogel), **Garth Ramsay MI'13** (sponsored by Capt. Norm Baker and Jason Schoonover), **Martin Stockwell MI'13** (sponsored by Capt. Norm Baker and Jason Schoonover) and **Kumiko Yokoyama MI'13** (sponsored by Capt. Norm Baker and Jason Schoonover)

#### Atlantic/Quebec

**Adrien Greene MI'13** (sponsored by Gary Hermalyn FR'75 and Bob Atwater LF'05) and **David Greene MI'13** (sponsored by Gary Hermalyn and Bob Atwater).



## Passages

---

Hello Friends,

It is with considerable sorrow that we've learned Toby Saks, a regular at the Salt Spring Island Symposium, and wife of Martin (Marty) Green, MD FN'07, passed away suddenly.

Toby was a truly gifted musician, and a lovely and caring person who has left a huge musical legacy in the Seattle area. She was also a friend to many western Canadian Chapter members.

Our sincere condolences to her family and especially to Marty.

John Pollack



### Toby Saks

Toby was born in New York City on January 8, 1942 and died at her home in Seattle on August 1, 2013. Her family, many friends and colleagues, and the musicians of the Seattle Chamber Music Society were with her during her last weeks. The cause of her death was pancreatic cancer.

To read more about Toby's extraordinary life go [The Seattle Times](#).

## Calendar of Events

---

### Channelling Shackleton: Ten Women to Snorkel the Northwest Passage for Climate Change

#### The 2014-2016 Sedna Epic Expedition

*Women wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete sunlight, constant danger, safe return hopeful, honor and recognition in case of success.*

Who would be crazy enough to answer such a cryptic advert, one inspired by Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous 1914 advert (in a London newspaper) recruiting men for a perilous Antarctic expedition? Channeling the same spirit of polar exploration one hundred years later, ten female explorers have answered this intriguing call to attempt a world record—a snorkel relay of the Northwest Passage—and to go 'where no man has gone before.'

In July 2016, a team of 10 passionate women will embark on an epic three-month journey, snorkeling over 3,000 kilometers through frigid Arctic seas from Pond Inlet, Nunavut, to Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Supported by a mother ship equipped with two rigid hull boats, the snorkelers will scout and document the impacts of global warming on this fragile Arctic ecosystem and on the aboriginal peoples' traditional ways of life.

Through cross-cultural dialogue and educational outreach, the 2014-2016 Sedna Epic Expedition will record on-the-ground climate change observations of Inuit and Inuvialuit Elders. Providing educational and life role models, Team Sedna will reach out to Inuit and Inuvialuit women and girls, empowering them to build resilient communities to combat the impacts of climate change.

Immersing itself (pun intended) in the issue of disappearing sea ice, Team Sedna will translate its findings into educational and awareness programs on climate change and disappearing sea ice. The Expedition will serve as a “call to action” for citizens of the world, including youth, providing aboriginal and scientific knowledge to inform governments of the world on implementing science-based policies to mitigate global warming. The Expedition will also serve to inspire women and girls to think “big,” and to follow their dreams, no matter how crazy they may appear...

But, before tackling the 100-day Northwest Passage Snorkel Relay in the summer of 2016, Team Sedna will mount an 15-day, action-packed expedition in July 2014. Traveling aboard the 116-foot MV Cape Race, along the Labrador coast to Baffin Island and across the Davis Strait to Western Greenland, the sea women will conduct team-building exercises, perform oceanographic studies, deliver educational outreach in Inuit communities and broadcast their findings to the world. Further, they’ll demonstrate that snorkelers—using diver propulsion vehicles—can successfully ‘go the distance’ through ice-infested arctic waters.

Sedna, the Expedition’s namesake, is the Inuit goddess of the sea. Also known as the “sea woman,” Sedna is the mother and protector of the Arctic’s marine mammals.

Susan R. Eaton, founder and leader of the 2014-2016 SEDNA Epic Expedition, is a Calgary-based geologist, geophysicist, conservationist and journalist. She has assembled a stellar team of ocean explorers ready to tackle this epic world record: a hyperbaric (dive physician), a submersible pilot and 2013 Young National Geographic Explorer, three marine biologists, an environmental lawyer and several scuba diving masters and instructors. Underwater filmmakers, Canadian Jill Heinerth and American Becky Kagan Schott, will film the July 2014 expedition. Recipients of numerous international awards, Heinerth and Kagan Schott are both Fellows of the Explorers Club and inductees of the Women Divers Hall of Fame.

To learn more about Team Sedna and its advisory board, and to follow the July 2014 expedition to Labrador, Baffin Island and Western Greenland, visit [www.sednaepic.com](http://www.sednaepic.com).

**Susan R. Eaton, MI’11**, P. Geol., P. Geoph., M.Sc.

Founder/Expedition Leader  
([www.sednaepic.com](http://www.sednaepic.com))

~~~~~

## Beautiful Raivavae, Austral Islands

We are planning another trip to Raivave, in the Australs of French Polynesia, to revisit and accurately locate several sites Edmundo surveyed in the 1980’s, and a couple new ones we discovered in 2006. If you have any questions or interest in joining us this coming May 2014 and would like the complete package, please contact:

Capt. Lynn Danaher MN’05  
PNW Chapter of The Explorers Club  
President, Pacific Islands Research Institute  
[www.pacificislandsresearchinstitute.org](http://www.pacificislandsresearchinstitute.org)  
PO Box 2627  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
[4islandexplorer@gmail.com](mailto:4islandexplorer@gmail.com)



*Edmundo measuring a rare Tiki head.*

## BC-Yukon Explorers Club 2014 Symposium

Please mark Thursday, September 11 through Sunday, September 14, 2014 on your calendar's for the BC-Yukon "It's about Place" Symposium that will take us to Wells Gray Provincial Park, British Columbia. A magnificent 540,000 ha, wilderness preserve – as large as, or larger than, one in every five nations on earth. The boundaries of the Park circumscribe nearly the entire drainage of a major river, the Clearwater and encompass tremendous geological and biologic diversity including multitudinous waterfalls for which Wells Gray – the "waterfall park" – is justly renowned. In 2014 the park is celebrating its 75th birthday.

The Symposium will pay tribute to the Park's history and the amazing natural diversity through talks and field visits to special places. There will also be time for Explorers to present on their personal explorations through a daily format of an early morning nature walk, morning lecture time, followed by an afternoon field trip and picnic lunch, as well as an evening fire circle.

Trevor and I are really looking forward to seeing you in September and helping you explore this truly wonderful and unique area as only Explorers can! For more information on registration, costs, transportation, accommodations, presentations, volunteering, etc., please contact:

**Cathie Hickson FI'05**

chickson@telus.net - use the subject header WELLS GRAY EC SYMPOSIUM 2014

## March 21 & 22: 6th annual Explorers Club Film Festival

The Explorers Club is partnering with the Arts and Letters Club to host another weekend of films and discussions about filmmaking and exploring. This is an opportunity for members of both clubs to meet, exchange ideas and be immersed in an abundance of films. All Canadian Explorers Club documentary filmmakers are encouraged to submit a film. It must be related to exploration, but there are no restrictions on production date. Your involvement can be as producer, director, writer, editor or subject. All members and friends of The Explorers Club are welcome to attend. Please send an email to [chapterchair@explorersclub.ca](mailto:chapterchair@explorersclub.ca) if you would like to submit a film.

## Classified Ads

---

Classified ads are limited to 50 words and are free for Explorers Club members. These classifieds are limited to non commercial usage and are aimed at helping TEC members share resources, communications and contacts.

**Wanted:** Contributors to *Far Afield*. We're looking for keen and interested volunteers to help edit and write columns. Please contact Wilson West at [editor@explorersclub.ca](mailto:editor@explorersclub.ca).

**Wanted:** Expedition photos for the front cover of *Far Afield*. Please contact Wilson West at [editor@explorersclub.ca](mailto:editor@explorersclub.ca).

## Far Afield Schedule

---

Issue	Submission deadline	Publication date
Winter	December 15	January
Summer	May 15	June