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Far Afield is published bi-annually. Far Afield welcomes brief submissions from members, preferably in Microsoft Word format with high-resolution digital photographs files sent separately from the text. Photographs must include captions and a credit. Please send all materials to: 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.

Cover photo by Elaine Wyatt MI’05. Story on page 36.
Message from the chapter chair
Ray Hyland MI’12

Dear members and friends, we are half way through 2017 already, and my two-year stint as chapter chair is coming to an end in a few short months. I have to stress how much I have enjoyed meeting and working with so many of you. We have accomplished a lot, and we have some amazing things to look forward to.

We are moving forward with plans to develop merchandise featuring the new Canadian chapter logo. We have printed a batch of high-quality decals suitable for vehicles, pelican cases, and even dry-bags. We’ve run them through a few months of testing to ensure they stay put and don’t fade before offering them to members. They passed, so we will be offering them soon at a nominal price. We are also looking into other merchandise options; if you have suggestions, please email me. The logo is available as a jpeg, and members can use the logo when they are on their own expeditions, to show they are chapter members and to generate more interest in the club.

The Canadian chapter was also approved to host the Lowell Thomas Awards Dinner, the first time it will ever be hosted outside the United States. The Awards and Honours Committee has selected four names from the many fine nominations they received. They are:

- Donn Haglund, Ph.D.  Bio: http://www.americanpolar.org/donn-haglund/

Each of them has made important contributions based on this year’s theme, The Changing Face of the Arctic, and it will be an honour to host them in Canada. We are looking forward to seeing as many TEC members as possible at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, October 28th, 2017. And if any chapter members would like to donate an item to our silent auction, please let us know.

Our hard working Awards and Honours Committee led by John Pollack FI’06 spent a massive amount of volunteer time at the end of last year to compile and select a list of awardees from across our huge country. The 2016 Stefansson Medal goes to Bill Lishman FI’07. Bill is an explorer, artist, aviation pioneer, conservationist, architect, author and one of the humblest and most magnanimous people most of us have had the pleasure of meeting. The 2016 Citations of Merit was awarded to Simon Donato FI’09 for his tireless support of the Canadian chapter, and his work and outreach on Adventure Science, and to Geoff Green FI’03 for his great work with Students on Ice and educational outreach.

To wrap up, I’d like to thank all the members who volunteer their time, on various committees, as regional chairs, and the many unsung heroes in the various regions helping ensure our club is vibrant, active and alive. Here’s to making new Chapter friends, and reconnecting with old ones, in the near future.
Message from the membership director
Elaine Wyatt MI’05

For this issue of Far Afield we reached out to anthropologists among our members to gather 12 stories on a diversity of topics. While every story demonstrates the accomplishments of each member, several also exemplify one of the most important benefits of being a member of The Explorers Club – the opportunity to inspire and work with people who share our passions. Robin Brooks MI’14 was able to act upon her dream to document the vanishing tattooed Chin women of Myanmar by collaborating with Jessica Phillips MI’12 and George Kourounis FI’09. Their story starts on page 14. The lemurs of Madagascar are the life work of Travis Steffens FI’14, which made him the perfect person to co-lead a team of fellow Explorers – Robin Brooks MI’14, George Kourounis FI’09 and Simon Donato FI’09 – to Madagascar to explore the karst topography of the Tsingy Bemaraha National Park. Travis’s story on his current work in Madagascar starts on page 31.

Anthropology is the discipline that brought me to The Explorers Club in 2004. As Chair of Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS), I launched a protest with fellow SOS member Wilson West FI’08 against the City of Hamilton’s mismanagement of two US ships that sank in Lake Ontario during the War of 1812. The outcome: the City of Hamilton was forced by public opinion to work with Parks Canada to complete a thorough archaeological survey and establish a surveillance system to protect the ships from further intrusion. And Ed Reinhardt FI’04 invited me to join The Explorers Club. Wilson joined a few years later, about the time he introduced me to a colleague from East Carolina University, who in turn invited me to join her in Africa to survey the Eduard Bohlen.

During that trip, we ventured into the desert to visit the abandoned diamond fields and my life changed. This was Namibia’s Sperrgebiet, a 26,000 sq km industrial site spread over the most remote corner of the oldest desert on earth and the largest deposit of placer diamonds in the world. Declared forbidden in 1908 by the German colonial administrators, it remains forbidden to this day. I returned to the University of Toronto to take a Masters degree in archaeology. In 2014, working with John Pollack FI’06 I returned to Namibia to create a geo-referenced map and inventory of the complex, densely littered landscape. Our story starts on page 36.

The greatest benefit in belonging to this Club is the fellowship. I encourage you to reach out to other members. It could open a world of unexpected opportunities.

Bow to midship of the Eduard Bohlen, which ran aground in 1909 while delivering supplies to Namibia’s diamond fields.
Hello everyone,

The Communications Team has been working hard to deliver monthly newsletters to your inbox. We’ve had many submissions about your projects, updates, and news for the past few months and it is great to hear from you. I would like to encourage members who have never submitted news to give it a try. It’s a great way to stay connected and get to know who is involved in what in our explorer community. We also have a new Members Spotlight section and are looking for members to feature. Feel free to put a name forward for our upcoming features. Don’t forget the Explorers Club Canadian Chapter Facebook Page for sharing all things exploration.

We’re interested in having more people joining the communications team if you are interested! From posting on social media to reaching to members to get some updates, anything can help!

Far Afield vs. monthly e-newsletter

Far Afield comes out twice a year. It’s a great opportunity to tell stories at length with photos, photo essays, etc. The e-newsletter, on the other hand, is meant to be brief (100 words for news/50 words for events).

Facebook page

Join our Explorers Club - Canadian Chapter Page and invite people who are interested! We tend to share most news you send us for the newsletter on our Facebook page too, unless you specify otherwise. There are a few administrators on the page and we like to share your news, but sometimes posts don’t have public settings allowing us to share. In any case, feel free to send us your Facebook news to communications@explorersclub.ca so we can post them on Facebook as well. We realize not everybody is on Facebook, but it is a great way to share explorers’ news on a regular basis and interact with non-members who might be interested in joining the club.

Looking forward to hearing from you! Have a great summer everyone, keep exploring and keep communicating!
Cathie Hickson FI'05 and Glenn Helmlinger hosted four events at their home in Burnaby, BC during 2016. Three “storytelling” socials with Nature Culture dinners of locally sourced food were hosted January 20th, March 29th and November 7th.

Participants contributed shorter and longer stories to the evening’s socializing. For the November event, Ray Hyland FI’12 presented on an extraordinary overland vehicle expedition and for this event Glenn created a special Explorers Passion cocktail. He promises the recipe! The fourth event was December 17, when Cathie and Glenn held a Howdy party, attended by 80 people including TEC members. The weekend of August 6 to 8, they hosted Explorers Off Grid. The feature of the weekend was a work party with friends to help finish off a large deck to be used for future events. In June, Tony Mayo MI'14 had a two-month exhibit of his current artwork at The Reach Gallery Museum in Abbotsford. Tony is a wonderful artist and this was an excellent opportunity to see his latest body of work. In July, Rob Butler FI’14 organized a Nature Culture event on Cortez Island. Rob is also working on a film on Nature Culture. October, found Mark Angelo FI’09 inviting members to the world premiere of RiverBlue. Narrated by long-time water supporter Jason Priestley.

Two events in Victoria organized by Maeva Gauthier FI’13 and John Harper FI’10 drew out a number of TEC members. The first was October 18 when a number of explorers and friends got together to hear Catherine Dempsey give a talk entitled True as the Compass: Captain Robert “Bob” Bartlett the Forgotten Explorer. A second event was held on November 22. The presentation entitled Tall Ships and Uncharted Islands: Exploring Myanmar’s Myek Archipelago with Michael Orr drew a number of members, friends and interested people. My thanks to Maeva and John for organizing these events. They say there will be more this year! Please help them out by making suggesting and or volunteering a talk!

Pat and Rosemarie Keough both MI ’02 hosted their inspiring three-day Salt Spring Island Symposium from September 8 to 11. It was attended by 55 people, including 48 Explorers passionate about their respective field of discipline. Explorers came from near and far – British Columbia, Nunavut, Alberta, Ontario, six from the US states, and New Zealand – and direct from activities in Mongolia, Japan, France, Gibraltar, and Canada’s Arctic.

The Pacific NW Chapter had a very successful luncheon at the Seattle Yacht Club on October 30. BC members were welcomed with open arms by Chapter Chair Ron Zuber. Mingling with the more than 50 participants from various part of the Pacific Northwest were Ray and Michelle Hyland, Pat and Rosemarie Keough, Jessica Langfield TM’14, Glenn Helmlinger and Cathie Hickson.

Continued on page 13
In early 2016, I assumed directorship of the Prairies/NWT Region, following in the esteemed footsteps of Dr. Nat Rutter, FE’78, a geologist and professor emeritus at the University of Alberta. One of my initial tasks, as director, was to organize the annual outing for the Prairies/NWT Region. In early July 2016, I led a group of 16 people — including Explorers Club members, their friends and family members — from Alberta and Saskatchewan on an exciting weekend field trip to the town of Field in Yoho National Park, British Columbia, to hike to the Burgess Shale Fossil Beds.

Taking advantage of Nat Rutter’s geological expertise in the area, I enlisted him to assist with the second part of the weekend, a geology car caravan to study the glacial history of the Bow Valley, from Yoho National Park through Banff National Park to the Stoney Indian Reserve.

True confessions: I’m a geologist and geophysicist, and the Burgess Shale fossil beds, in my mind, represent the Holy Grail. The Burgess Shale is one of the most significant fossil finds on Earth. These exquisite, 500-million-year-old fossils found in Yoho and Kootenay national parks are changing our understanding of evolution itself. These internationally significant treasures are protected as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Fossils abound at these sites, and our

Traverse towards the Walcott Quarry, Yoho National Park.
intrepid explorers were not disappointed.

**Gord Curry Al'07** joined the geo-themed weekend. "I’d heard of the Burgess Shale, of course, and had driven through Field many times without stopping" said Curry, a mountaineer. "The field trip provided a great opportunity to visit the fossil site with a Parks Canada interpreter and our own Explorers Club experts in geology and geophysics."

“Among other things, I learned that there is more than on site,” said Curry. “My group visited the site on the slopes of Mt. Stephen while a second group hiked off to the Walcott Quarry on Mt. Field. Although the skies were threatening, we stayed dry, learned a lot, and enjoyed the company of fellow Explorers, many of whom we only see annually.

I joined the Mt. Stephen hike, which involved an 800-metre vertical climb and a six-kilometre round trip. The second group of explorers tackled the 21-kilometre round-trip slog to the Walcott Quarry, which also included an elevation gain 800 metres. **Martin Stockwell MI’13**, and his wife, **Lorrie Hansen MI’13**, were part of the intrepid group of hikers who trekked to the Walcott Quarry.

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by the time they reached the parking lot at Takakkaw Falls. Time sped by during the hike, according to Stockwell, because their Parks Canada guide, Adele, stopped the group on numerous occasions to point out various flora, fauna, geological features, teach some history, geography, geology, biology, trail safety, first aid tips.

“I cannot say enough about Adele’s competence, professionalism, broad knowledge base, and warm personality,” he exclaimed. “She enriched our experience immeasurably.”

That night, the explorers traded hiking stories over dinner, at the famous Truffle Pig Café, about their respective hikes. The following day, Rutter led the explorers on a geology car caravan to study the glacial history of the Bow Valley: We stopped at locations in Banff National Park and, further east, near and Canmore and the Stoney Indian Reserve. Participants received a beautifully-illustrated book, entitled Climate Change and Landscape in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, authored by Rutter, Murray Copeland and Dean Rokosh and published in 2006 by the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation. The explorers gained a greater understanding of how climate change – from the ice age to the current interglacial period we live in – has contributed to the development of the beautiful landscape we enjoy today.
Regional director Ontario / Nunavut

George Kourounis FI’09

Where do I begin? The Ontario/Nunavut region members continue to impress, with our region’s members embarking on so many expeditions, research trips and adventures that there’s no possible way to list them all here. The fruits of their efforts have been shared with the world through flag reports, art gallery showings, research papers & media articles, film and TV projects, classroom visits, educational initiatives, and more. Keep up the great work! Thanks to you all, there’s never a shortage of amazing people to meet, and chat with at our monthly meetings in Toronto.

Speaking of the monthly meetings, we’ve have had quite an eclectic variety of speakers over the past few months including:

Ian Evans – Ian joined us to talk about his new documentary film Lunatic which chronicles his efforts to become the oldest person to ski to the South Pole. His energy and enthusiasm was infectious. Lunatic screened at this year’s film festival held in cooperation with the Arts & Letters Club of Toronto. As I wrote this, Ian was cycling across Australia.

Mark Mattson – Prominent environmental lawyer and president of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper. Mark shared details about the freshwater systems here in Ontario that so many of us enjoy and depend upon, and the challenges that come with protecting them.

David Makepeace – The “solar eclipse chaser” has travelled the world for years, driven by his passion and obsession to document the shadow of the moon and the rare, beautiful spectacle it casts on Earth. His efforts have taken him to dozens of countries and all seven continents. Note: the next total eclipse is in the U.S. on Aug. 21st!

Beth Gilhespie – CEO of the Bruce Trail Conservancy. The Niagara Escarpment is one of the most prominent geological features in southern Ontario. The Bruce Trail Conservancy is committed to the conservation of the natural landscape of the escarpment, and the continuing development of the almost 900 km of the Bruce Trail. A walking trail that spans from Niagara to the tip of the Bruce Penninsula.

Also…it was a tremendous pleasure to present the chapter’s highest honour, the Stefansson Medal to Bill Lishman FI’07 for a lifetime of diverse contribution to the world of exploration, aviation, art and so many other disciplines. “Father Goose” was on hand in Toronto to receive this well-deserved medal in person. Congratulations again, and keep on sharing your experiences with the club. Kudos also go out to Joe Grabowski, the founder of Exploring By The Seat Of Your Pants. A friend of the club whose membership is in the works, Joe was named one of National Geographic’s
2017 Emerging Explorers. An educator and scuba diver, Joe is working to bring science, exploration, adventure and conservation into classrooms across North America through virtual speakers and field trips, using technology to open the most remote corners of the planet to classrooms.

In March, we held the 9th annual Explorers Club Film Festival: Documenting the Art of Exploration, in association with the Arts and Letters Club. The two-day event featured a variety of films, talks, plus a tribute to Canadian filmmaker and conservationist Rob Stewart, best known for his impactful Sharkwater. Rob died in early 2017 during a rebreather dive in Florida while filming material for the film’s sequel.

It was great to see so many members of the Canadian Chapter represented at the Explorers Club Annual Dinner on Ellis Island, New York this year. Canadian Wade Davis MED’87 was the master of ceremonies (the 4th Canadian to act as MC in recent years, I might add), and the sold out crowd of over 1,200 explorers was peppered with many other Canadians, including four tables set aside for those of us from the Great White North. Of course, the next big event will be the Lowell Thomas Awards Dinner, to be held at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto on October 28th. This will likely be the largest gathering of explorers that our country has ever assembled.

Big congratulations to Kensington Tours and Adventure Canada. Both companies (based in Ontario) have been named the official travel partners of The Explorers Club. This exciting news paves the way for many new collaborations and opportunities in the months and years to come.

Our region members continue to blaze a trail in the world of exploration and discovery that are far too numerous to list here.

It is with tremendous sadness that we mark the recent passing of Tamara Levine, a good friend of the club and a regular at our Toronto meetings. Tamara dedicated her life to helping others through international development, working with the World, Bank, the United Nations and so many other agencies. Tamara’s travels took her around the world to dozens of countries, including several Explorers Club flag expeditions. Her 37 years on this planet were too few and yet she lived more life in those years than most will in a lifetime. She will be dearly missed.

Regional director Atlantic / Quebec

Dale Dunlop MI’08

Members of the Atlantic / Quebec chapter are in the field.
Awards & honours
John Pollack FI’06

Our highest Chapter award is the Stefansson Medal. This year the medal goes to William Lishman FI’07 for his extraordinary lifetime achievements and ground-breaking innovation in a number of fields, including his visionary work with ultra-light aircraft and migrating waterfowl.

Two members received Citations of Merit for major accomplishments and service. They are:

Simon Donato FI’09 for his exemplary contributions to the Board and Committees of the Canadian Chapter of The Explorers Club, and to dedication to Adventure Science

Geoffrey Green FI’03 for his exemplary and enduring accomplishments in Arctic Education with Students on Ice

Finally, the 2016 Honour Roll recognizes Canadian Chapter and affiliated TEC members-in-good-standing who have made contributions to the Chapter by organizing or leading field trips, giving lectures, leading or participating in a flag expedition, conducting field projects, serving on the Chapter’s Board or committees, publishing major articles in Far Afield, and related efforts. This is an e-recognition award; recipients are posted on the chapter website, and congratulated in Far Afield. There is no annual cap for the number of recipients. It is entirely possible we’ve missed a few people - if so our sincere apologies and please notify us.

International TEC Awards: Fredrick Roots (The Explorers Club Medal) and Joseph MacInnis (The William Beebe Award)

Canadian Chapter Board: Ray Hyland MI’12, Cathie Hickson FI’05, George Kourounis FI’09, Dale Dunlop MI’07, Susan Eaton MI’11, Elaine Wyatt MI’05, Ingo Schoppel MI’87, Aaron Van Der Reest TM’15, Maeva Gauthier FI’13, Rogier Gruys MI’10, Lee Treloar MI’09, Wilson West FI’08, John Pollack FI’06

Far Afield authors: Bonnie Folkins FI’15, Brent Cooke FI’13, Candace Wilson MI’96, Lee Treloar MI’09, Peter Rowe FI’08, Paul Harpley FI’06, Tony Mayo MI’14, Simon Spooner FI’14, Denis St-Onge FI’05, Mark Angelo FI’09, Adam Shoalts TM’14, Brianna Rowe SI’11, Ken McGoogan FI’15, Geoff Green FI’03, Jessica Lansfield TM’13

Regional presentations: Jack Purchase FI’81, George Kourounis FI’09, Elaine Wyatt MI’05 and John Pollack FI’06, Daniel Wood FI’13, Jeff Whiting FI’11, Susan Eaton MI’11, Cory Trépanier MI’09, Phil Nuytten FI’85, Hap Wilson FI’12, Harry Bohm FI’11, Guy Duce FI’13, Rob Butler FI’08

Chapter events and symposia: Jeff Willner MI’01, Maeva Gauthier FI’13, Rosemarie and Pat Keough MED’02, Cathie Hickson FI’05, Peter Rowe FI’08, Susan Eaton MI’11, Mary Morris
Flag expeditions, field research and major projects: Susan Eaton MI’11, Nat Rutter FE’78, Cory Trépanier MI’09, Jason Schoonover FE’86, Garth Ramsay MI’13, Kumiko Yokoyama MI’13, Su Hattori MI’13, Joe Strasser MI’15, Lee Treloar MI’09, Lorrie Hanson MI’13, Martin Stockwell MI’13, Nathanael King-Cornier MI’10, Sally McIntosh MI’15, Tasha Ramsay-Yokoyama MI’15, John Pollack FI’06, Fred Gaskin FI’81, Denis St-Onge FI’05, David and Adrien Greene MI’13, George Burden MI’03, George Kourounis FI’09, Peter Rowe FI’08, Michel Labrecque FI’16, Norm Baker FN’70, Julie Ouimet FI’16, Phil Currie MED’02, Eva Koppelhus FI’02, Jessica Phillips MI’12, Wayne Sawchuk FI’09, Myles Lamont FI’16, Marlis Butcher MI’16, Simon Donato FI’09, Daisy Gilardini FI’10, Gabrielle Foss S’15, Naresh Swami FI’14, David Ferguson MI’15, Isabelle Groc FI’13, Joseph Frey FI’02, James Delgado FN’97, Gordon Nelson FI’78, Robert Bateman MI’84, Ray Hyland MI’12, Sally MacIntosh MI’15, Guy Coheleach FN’69, Ken McGoogan FI’15, Tony Mayo MI’14, Larry Pynn MI’09, Mark Terry FI’08, Dave Dunlop MI’07, Jeff Fuchs FI’08.

BC/Yukon regional report continued from page 6

Dr. Ernest Frederick Roots, O.C., who was born in Salmon Arm, BC, on July 5, 1923 passed away October 18, 2016 in Sooke, BC. Dr. Fred Roots, was awarded the Stefansson Medal at ECAD March 12, 2016. Fred was truly a deserving recipient of this award and he will be missed.

2017 events

Maeva Gauthier FI’13 kicked off the year with a presentation Going Beneath the Waves with Live Dives presenting her work at the annual Divers Weekend in Vancouver. The work was that of Maeva’s and Mike Irvine as co-founders of the Fish Eye Project. The project is revolutionizing ocean education by offering live underwater broadcasting events called Live Dives.

Maeva Gauthier FI’13 and John Harper FI’10 continued their Victoria-based series with two events so far this year. The first was The Heart Way on May 27 with Lindsay Marie Stewart, filmmaker, National Geographic Young Explorer, and Director of Communications at Pacific Wild. On June 27, Tamara Plush presented Getting the heck outta Dodge: Adventures of a Kansas girl gone global.

There is still space for Explorers, friends and family at the Explorers-Off-Grid campout August 11 to 15. Come hiking, canoeing, fishing, horseback riding, bird watching, mountain biking or just relax by the wildlife filled banks of the streams and ponds as you enjoy an un-plugged weekend. Connect with Cathie at chickson@telus.net for more details.
Fading bloodlines: Sharing the stories of the vanishing tattooed Chin women of Myanmar

By Robin Brooks MI’14

Occasionally, you find a country or people that captivates you. Myanmar cast its spell over me.

After my first visit, I knew I’d return, but beyond sightseeing, I wanted to return with a purpose. A year later, I saw an article on the “tattooed grannies” in Rakhine State. I had never seen a photograph scream with such quiet dignity. As the woman’s eyes stared at me, her face masked in wrinkles and intricate tattooed lines, she was daring me to learn more. Although it was clear she had experienced a life of hardship, civil wars and military dictatorship, her expression was of strength and pride.

A friend, Jessica Lindsey Phillips MI’12, came to mind. A global tribal art expert, intrepid adventurer, and strong-minded female, Jessica and I connected instantly over a shared respect for the mysterious women. She could also identify with these females in a way I couldn’t; she is tattooed, everywhere except on her face.

Together, we found beautiful images, but little else. The lack of a written Chin language, and a government ban on female facial tattooing, are but a few of the many reasons for the lack of documentation on the lost tradition. We learned that an unknown number of these tattooed women, aged 60 and up, still live in the remote areas of the northern Chin and Rakhine states.

This is how The Fading Bloodlines project began.

Our goals were to:
1. Document this vanishing way of life;

Len Kee’s tattoo cost a necklace, arrow and a blanket.

Lo Ling, age 70 from Wa Ya village, was tattooed at eight with thorns.
2. Carry out the first ever census of the remaining tattooed Chin women;
3. Document which tools were used, the age at which they were tattooed, the meaning of each tribal design, and the role the tattoos have played in their individual lives and more;
4. Translate all project findings into Burmese.

In November 2016, we left on our first trip, journeying by 4x4, foot, boat and motorbike through Chin and Rakhine states. We interviewed 28 women from the Laytu and DiChin Tribes and came home with a much clearer understanding of the magnitude and significance of the project.

We knew that if these women’s stories were not recorded soon they would be lost forever. Twice we arrived in villages to find out that the last tattooed woman had recently passed away. During our interviews, we always asked, “Why were you tattooed?” We normally received one of three answers:
1. “For beauty”;
2. “So I could get married”; or
3. A story about young Chin women being “stolen by the Kings of Bagan” so their faces were marked to discourage future

Held by her grandson, Thu Tung was tattooed by her aunt.

Hning Law, a Dai Chin, had a mithun, a bovine, sacrificed at her tattooing.
kidnappings.

We met George Kourounis, FI’09, Regional Director Ontario/Nunavut, and showed him our research, photographs and plans for a month-long visit in February 2017. “You should be videotaping these interviews,” he said. Having collaborated with George on several EC flag expeditions I had to ask: “Is there any way you’d consider joining us for our next trip and help us with the filming?”

We returned from three weeks in the field at the end of March 2017 having interviewed 186 more women. George filmed 80% of them. This film will be shared with the Chin and Burmese people today and for generations.

Jessica and I will return to Myanmar in November. Our focus continues to be chronicling these stories before they disappear and to actively encourage our instincts to explore and collaborate with other fellows and members. When working together collectively who knows what the future will bring?

Visit www.FadingBloodlines.com to learn more.
A special feature: Anthropology

Exploring the waters of the Southern Gulf Islands

By Warren Bush TM'10

The Underwater Archaeological Society of British Columbia (UASBC) will be exploring the waters around the Southern Gulf Islands as part of an initiative to discover and document shipwrecks. Founded as a not-for-profit in 1975, the UASBC is “dedicated to researching, locating, identifying, surveying, and protecting the maritime heritage of BC.”

Mariners have long been cautious about navigating around Vancouver Island. This is particularly true for the Southern Gulf Islands. During the colonial period, the government possessed only one vessel capable of installing aids to navigation throughout the vast and naturally rugged landscape. Treacherous reefs have also exacted a heavy toll on shipping since early settlers first entered the Strait of Juan De Fuca in pursuit of the area’s plentiful resources. Many vessels have conducted inadvertent one-way transits.

Between 2016 and 2019 the UASBC will focus on 12 historically and archaeologically significant ships that wrecked between 1868 and 1949. The sites cover a wide range of ship designs and will open a window into historical seafaring in British Columbia. The earliest vessel in the survey is the Del Norte, a sidewheel steamer launched in San Francisco in 1865 and lost attempting to navigate the perilous Porlier Pass. Also included is the Emily Harris, the first steamship of exclusively British Columbian origin, and the first to boast a propeller instead of typical sidewheels. The Emily Harris was a familiar sight around Victoria until August 18, 1871 when an unexplained explosion sent it to the bottom of Trincomali Channel where it remains undiscovered. Not all vessels included in the project originated on the West Coast; the clipper

Hull of the Robert Kerr. Photo by J. Marc.
ship Panther was built in Medford, Massachusetts, in 1854, and the three masted square-rigger Thrasher in Bath, Maine, in 1876. Both foundered around the Southern Gulf Islands after taking on cargos of coal at Nanaimo. The omnipresence of the early coal and lumber trades figured prominently in many shipping casualties.

The USABC will be offering Nautical Archaeology Society courses at the outset of the project and over its duration to prepare divers with the skills to survey and interpret shipwreck sites. Concurrent archival research will support fieldwork and historically situate each site. Dives will consist of exclusively non-invasive surveying, as opposed to the removal of artifacts, and the results will be summarized in a monograph slated for 2019.

The Southern Gulf Islands Project presents an incredibly compelling opportunity, and a convenient one. How exciting is the possibility of diving into local waters and coming across something that’s been lost for over a hundred years? The treacherous geography that plagues mariners is advantageous for modern explorers; the possibility of discovery isn’t logistically difficult, and the project may yield findings disproportionate to its modest nature.
A call to arts
By Rob Butler FI’08

The tradition of artists accompanying great voyages to create a visual record of the expedition is undergoing a rebirth through The Explorers Club Artists in Exploration. The reason why expeditionary art is seeing a resurgence is not about record keeping as it was in the past, but instead an appreciation of the art form genre. Expeditionary art is a form of plein air method championed the Impressionists with the added ingredient of the expedition. If you have never tried your hand at drawing or painting, try sketching a scene quickly. Force yourself to capture the scene in less than a minute. Try it several times and don’t worry about its accuracy. Forget the details and go for the broad outline. Once you have a drawing you might want to apply some colour.

I carry a small watercolour sketchbook, a small canister of water and palette, and Winsor & Newton tubes of paint and one or two brushes on my travels. Field sketches are completed in less than ten minutes so as not to delay the expedition. This regime means only the essence of place will be captured. I find that I see patterns and absorb the moment that would otherwise be overlooked or forgotten.

There are watercolour pencils and coloured pens that might make the job easier than watercolours. Whatever media you choose, work fast. Drop in the colour in fast strokes. Over time you might begin to feel confident to just use the watercolours without sketching the scene at all. Lay in clear water and add paint to create a bleed across the sky. The fun of watercolour is the unknown result. I never worry about how my sketches turn out because they only take 10 minutes.

It was a busy 2016 field season. Since leaving British Columbia after 20 years in the province, 15 as Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, I went on to become Director of Maritime Heritage for the U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. In May 2017, I became senior vice president of SEARCH, Inc.

In 2016, in addition to my regular duties, I led and participated in field expeditions across the U.S. and a mission in B.C. waters. These included a shallow water survey with a team of NOAA and California State Parks archaeologists and scientists to document Pacific Coast lumber trade ports of call and shipwrecks from the mid 19th through the early 20th century on the Redwood Coast north of San Francisco. In March 2016, NOAA announced the discovery of the U.S. Navy oceangoing tug Conestoga, which had steamed from San Francisco into the Pacific with 56 men in 1921, never to be seen again. One of the top 10 maritime mysteries of the 20th century, the disappearance of Conestoga was solved when our team discovered it off the entrance to San Francisco near the Farallone Islands.

During 2016, my other work included serving as Chief Scientist on joint NOAA missions on the Pacific Coast with Titanic discoverer Dr. Robert Ballard’s Ocean Exploration...
A special feature: Anthropology

Trust. Working with the OET vessel *E/V Nautilus* and the dual remotely operated vehicle system ARGUS/HERCULES, we successfully mapped and studied the wreck of SS *Coast Trader* off Vancouver Island. The first WWII wreck to be discovered in Canada’s Pacific waters, *Coast Trader* had been torpedoed and sunk by the Japanese submarine I-26 in June 1942. The remarkably intact forward section of *Coast Trader* still held the ship’s bell.

Other maritime archaeology dives that we made from *Nautilus* included the wreck *Dorothy Winternmote*, a steamer lost in 1938 on the northern California coast, the steamer *Ituna*, lost in 1920 off San Francisco, and the purposely scuttled *USS Independence*. *Independence*, a WWII aircraft carrier, had served as a target for American atomic bomb tests in 1946. The irradiated and battered hulk, towed back to San Francisco from the Marshall Islands, then served as a laboratory for radiological decontamination and a school for teaching sailors how to respond to an atomic attack on their ship. In 1951, *Independence* was scuttled by the Navy off California with a cargo of low-yield nuclear waste. The ROV dives, broadcast live to millions over the satellite/internet connection, yielded the first views of the carrier, upright in 840 meters of water, and two atomic bomb-damaged airplanes still left on board.

In December, during the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, working from the NOAA ship *Okeanos Explorer* we conducted deep sea dives with a remotely operated vehicle for a live-broadcast exploration of two Japanese mini submarines associated with the attack. One of them, lying intact on the seabed, was sunk in the predawn hours before the main attack began. The shell hole in its conning tower represents the first shot fired in anger at the start of the Pacific War. The story of the submarines and years of historical and archaeological work on them was published in time for the anniversary as a book that I authored with several colleagues. *The Lost Submarines of Pearl Harbor* was published by Texas A&M University Press and represents the second of my books published in 2016. The other, also written with colleagues, is *The Maritime Landscape of the Isthmus of Panama* and was published by The University Press of Florida.
The Eternal Road: The Ancient Tea Horse Road ‘Gya’lam

By Jeff Fuchs FI’08

Trade and pilgrimage routes have long played a deep role in blending and forging cultures weaving together the beautiful and often tortured mass that is the Himalayas. DNA, language, and customs travelled these routes embedding and nuancing themselves within the lands, fusing traditions and cultures to create the wonderful diversity that exists. The characters and cultures that surrounded and participated in that movement have long held me, be it for trade, pilgrimage, migration, or simply escape. Documentation needs context and with context one can unravel some of the Himalayas’ wonderful corridors of culture and geography. So often, the Himalayas are simply seen as spires to ascend or a realm of esotericism. There are deep layers and the precious narrative informs these layers.

My own overriding interest lies with these ‘routes through the sky’ and particularly the Tea Horse Road (Gya’lam or ‘wide road’ in Tibetan), and its striating paths that have disappeared under asphalt, and fading memories. A last generation of traders fades and with them, their recollection of one of the most daunting journeys and adventures on the planet. Their memories are based on a time not so long ago when land and humans were still entirely interwoven and respect and reverence were based upon this idea that “one cooperated or perished”, as the nomads often say. These pathways, often referred to as “lam” in Tibetan were conduits...
of some of the eternal commodities: tea, salt, resin, musk, and pashmina and they hummed with activity until the 1950s from China west across the Tibetan Plateau, into Nepal and India’s subcontinent and beyond even to the Middle East. For thirteen unending centuries the routes buzzed, and it is with these routes that much of the Himalayan cultural weave was formed. More than a dozen cultures participated and shared along these humming trade routes passing along beliefs, technology, and linguistics. The word in Tibetan across the plateau is arra which is almost identical to how it is said across the Middle East, arrak, and yet almost nothing has been written about it. It too came with the routes.

For travelers every mountain, valley, and character had a tale and that wonderful tradition still exists, though this tradition of orally passing on information fades too.

It was during a decade-long period living at 3200 metres in Shangri-la (Zhongdian or ‘Gyal’thang’ to the Tibetans) in northwestern Yunnan and being amidst the lore, the mountains, and the vital people that this notion of a ‘forgotten interconnectedness’ was enforced within me. The tales of the mountains and their tellers, I feel, have much to instruct when there is so much disconnectedness not only with the history of the Himalayas, but with its future. Tales matter and oral narratives are in many ways, the pasts’ science and history rolled into one.

It is one of the enduring truths that in some of the most isolated places on earth, the conversations (and their participants) remain that much more vital.
A special feature: Anthropology

Ka’kabish: Unravelling the history of an ancient Maya city

*By Helen Haines FI’10*

Ka’kabish is an ancient Maya city, located in the north-central part of what is now the country of Belize. Originally it was a medium-sized city consisting of at least 100 structures arranged in nine groups. Now that number has been whittled down as much of the surrounding area has been cleared for agriculture.

Archaeological research at Ka’kabish has revealed a long and amazingly resilient history. Initially occupied in the Middle Formative period (ca. 800-400 BC) the site survived not only the turmoil at the start of the Classic period, when many cities failed, but it also weathered the upheaval at the end of the Classic period (ca. AD 900) that saw the collapse of Maya civilization, and remained a thriving Post-Classic settlement up until the 15th century AD. Excavations into the main plaza revealed a burial of a revered ancestor dating to 800-600 BC, entombed with over 6,000 marine shell beads and 17 jade artefacts, including one of only two securely excavated jade spoon pendants. The Post-Classic inhabitants favoured chultuns (underground chambers) for their burial crypts. Two of these subterranean crypts have yielded a wealth of rare copper artefacts in form of bells and rings.

The city also appears to have suffered its own crisis, a hiatus at the end of the Early Classic (ca. AD 600) that lasted into the Terminal Classic period (ca AD 750-900), that resulted in a cessation of monument building. We speculate, based on the presence of corbel-vaulted residences and temples with vaulted tombs, that during the Early Classic period Ka’kabish had its own royal court, and that the hiatus resulted from...
Ka’kabish being conquered and amalgamated into a larger polity. As a conquered state, its wealth and resources were diverted as tribute to the conquering polity, thereby preventing the inhabitants at Ka’kabish from investing in the development of their own city during this period.

Our evidence for the conquest of this area is not limited solely to Ka’kabish. At the neighboring site of Lamanai Stela 9 was erected in AD 624, roughly the same time as the start of the hiatus at Ka’kabish. The monument depicts a ruler wearing a headdress associated with military conquest, and who declares himself to be the Overlord (Kaloomte’) of the region. Interestingly, the resumption of activity at Ka’kabish correlates to the destruction of this monument.

Evidence from other Maya centres indicates that when a city was defeated evidence of local rulership was often expunged, an activity that included the destruction of monuments and royal building. Currently, our research focuses on excavating Structure D-14, a tall range building on the west-side of the main plaza at Ka’kabish, that we believe, based on its size and location that this structure formed the royal palace at Ka’kabish. At Ka’kabish, we believe the eradication of royal evidence took the form of burying, rather than destroying, the royal palace. Preliminary investigations of looters’ trenches in the structure suggest that it contains at least three painted rooms, all of which were carefully preserved and buried by the inhabitants. Determining the nature of this structure will help us clarify the nature of rulership at Ka’kabish.

Our work at Ka’kabish has just begun and part of our goal is to see Ka’kabish protected from development and preserved for long-term future research. To this end, we are raising funds to purchase the site and have it converted into part of the National Park system. We are offering people the opportunity to have their names commemorated on a structure of courtyard group. People who are interested can donate through our Indiegogo campaign at https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/help-save-the-past-for-future-generations-history/x/8708327#/
A hidden era amongst the stones: The Forgotten monasteries of Angkor Thom, Cambodia

By Andrew Harris SM’15

I first became interested in the archaeology of Cambodia’s Khmer Empire, specifically at the enormous temples of Angkor, when I was twelve. My seventh grade history teacher, Mr. Birkett, decided that rather than drag a classroom of irritable twelve-year-old boys through yet another year of Canadian studies, he’d kick the curriculum to the curb and immediately get us started on an all-encompassing year of world history. Angkor Wat, the greatest religious Khmer monument, jumped out at me from a sub-chapter somewhere in between the Vikings and Crusaders. I was hooked. I had to do something with it.

And so I did. I read about Angkor for years, looked at photos of the temples obsessively on Google Earth, and made my first trip to Siem Reap, Angkor’s closest modern city, in 2012. I was admittedly chased out of Cambodia by the brutal temperatures of monsoon season, but not three years later I began my PhD at the University of Toronto and have been fully dedicated to my research in the country ever since.

I’ve decided to focus my research on the gradual Khmer religious transition that occurred between the 14th – 16th centuries from Hinduism and Mahayana Buddhism, the past religions of the kings, to Theravada Buddhism, today
the religion of 95% of all Cambodians, by analyzing the remains that survive within the Khmer capital of Angkor Thom. As only religious architecture was constructed in stone, and because the jungle climate has rotted both the wooden architectural remains and the ancient texts which may have chronicled this period, little interest has been shown by scholars in exploring Theravada Buddhism at Angkor despite its significance to the modern Khmer people. This topic therefore allows me to explore something so relevant to Cambodian history while also allowing me to make a significant contribution to my field relatively early in my archaeological career.

I began my research in May 2015 when I was given the opportunity through the University of Toronto to visit Cambodia, explore my research options, and scope out academic resources – you’d be surprised at how generous the Cambodian archaeological community can be. Their help with securing academic resources, dealing with authorities, and generating fieldwork opportunities (including an excavation I took part on at the site of Preah Khan of Kompong Svay in northern Cambodia in January 2016) was way above and beyond the call of duty, and because of many incredible people in Cambodia, Canada, the US, and beyond, I was shown the ropes relatively quickly and navigated towards a feasible research project that could guarantee a future survey permit. That, thankfully, is being processed as we speak.

After a brief preliminary survey of a few monastic structures at Angkor Thom called “Buddhist Terraces” - the pseudonym given to the extant substructures of Theravada religious/
monastic buildings marked by sima stones thought to delineate spaces where monks were ordained – in February 2016, I am now set to head back into the field for a three-month intensive survey of the entirety of Angkor Thom. The vast jungle that has grown within the city walls is thick and foreboding, and while the GPS I’ve been given to plot my points is relatively strong, there will probably times where a compass is all I’ll be able use while navigate from one Buddhist Terrace to the next. Having done enough research to determine that Buddhist Terraces are everywhere at Angkor Thom – surrounding temples, along main roads, and even way back from the central temple complexes in their own localized clusters - this first official survey will span three months and only begin to scratch the surface of interpreting the Theravada Buddhist ritual landscape that Angkor Thom became during the later years of the Khmer Empire.

I think in one way, it’s like attempting to discover a lost city in the ruins of one that’s already been uncovered. In another, it’s attempting to retell a lost history so relevant to the culture of modern Cambodia without being too patronizing; I hope to incorporate Khmer archaeologists and APSARA officials into my project in the long run. But I could never imagine being able to do what I do now, sitting in the back row of Mr. Birkett’s World History class, staring down at the pages of my textbook at the five imposing spires of Angkor Wat – it’s like an incredible daydream coming true.

For more information, and to follow Andrew Harris’s many future field seasons in Cambodia and China, please go to https://inbrokenfootsteps.wordpress.com/
A special feature: Anthropology

A decade of discovery: The Yukon River steamboat survey

By John Pollack FI’06

Since 2005 small teams of historical archaeologists, divers and remote sensing professionals have been exploring the rapids, lakes and old shipyards along the Yukon River between Carcross and Dawson City. We are documenting a previously unstudied fleet of late 19th early 20th century sternwheel steamboats. These vessels are among the last in the evolutionary line of the sternwheelers used on the rivers and lakes of western Canada. Over 130 riverboats were launched in 1898 alone to service the Klondike Gold Rush, and their remains are remarkably well-preserved. These wrecks and hulks contain century-old designs and ship-building methods, as practiced in over 40 shipyards as far south as San Francisco, and as far east as Toronto and Ohio.

As with any ground-breaking study, the finds are both numerous and spectacular. In 2007 the project was adopted by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology in 2007 as The Yukon River Steamboat Survey, and the project has been featured in a National Geographic
A special feature: Anthropology

documentary and archaeology magazine.

The survey operates at two levels. First there is a broad regional inventory of the wrecks and hulks. The river is explored and scanned, sites located, their status assessed, and each site is registered in the national archaeological inventory. The work is conducted under permit from, and in partnership with, the Government of Yukon. The inventory provides the basic data to protect wrecks and hulks from resource extraction and development activities. This work is complicated by the enormous area of the Yukon River drainage, the short field season, and the absence of roads. Wilderness camps are common, and some of the canoe trips necessitated 230 km paddles with a generator and total station. As of 2016, 28 sites have been catalogued, and the first of two major synthesis papers was published.

The second level of work involves detailed assessments and mapping of individual vessels, specifically focussed on hull construction and machinery systems. We have found great variation among the Yukon fleet, and there are distinct classes of vessels. Externally the Yukon sternwheelers may appear similar, but internal hull construction is complex and by no means standard. Fortunately many vessels are sufficiently intact such that excavation, conservation and reconstruction are not required. The excellent state of preservation has allowed us to collect detailed data rapidly from A.J. Goddard, Seattle No. 3, Julia B, Evelyn, the composite-hulled Tyrrell, Schwatka, Victorian, Klondike 1 and Lightning. We have also evaluated two famous heritage ships - Klondike 2 at Whitehorse and Moyie at Kaslo BC. These detailed assessments have produced nine publications to date, and more are in progress.

Over the past two years the focus has shifted toward archival research and publication, with a major synthesis publication on hull architecture and engineering in progress. Our field work continues on the Upper Columbia River in SE BC, where several undocumented and early sternwheelers are located. These ships will provide additional information and a further opportunity to capture the full range of variation among western Canadian stern wheel steamboats.
Oral history was an important part of finding the ships of the ill-fated Franklin expedition and is proving valuable to the Fara Heim Foundation in its search for the Battle of Hudson Bay warships and evidence of pre-Columbian exploration by the Norse. In 2016, we were contacted by several old timers regarding the whereabouts of cannons on the shore of Hudson Bay by York Factory, Manitoba. Several independent sources suggested some of these had been recovered by locals in the 20th century. Further, there were several stories about a cannon that been recovered and moved as well as a report of two cannon, one iron and one bronze, that were seen but not recovered.

An extensive process of interviews with persons identified as knowledge-keepers, led our team to believe several cannons were still discoverable. Explorers Club Flag 213 was sent on an expedition to document existing cannon and test methodology for finding others. In discussion with local indigenous elders as well as retired pilots and trappers, we were told the optimum time to launch an aerial recon of the Hudson Bay coast was the period between snow melt and leaf out on the Hudson Bay lowlands. This time period varies yearly, but in 2016 it was projected to be early June.

The Hudson Bay Lowlands is also an important polar bear denning area. In early June, the lack of leaves on the willows would allow us to more safely travel the beach ridges in high probability locations. We’d experienced a lot of polar bear encounters during earlier expeditions to Hudson Bay, and were looking forward to seeing them coming!

The aircraft of choice was a Murphy Super Rebel, which is a Canadian designed aircraft with a great reputation for performance and safety. In order for us to access the coast at that time of year it also had to be on wheels to allow landing on Beach ridges. The lakes and rivers are too shallow to permit float operations except at York Factory.

The team of Johann Sigurdson MI’12, David Collette and J.J. Sigurdson planned an extensive trip to test equipment and theories. Sadly, a last-minute conflict kept David from actually making the field trip. His place was taken by our polar bear guard dog Saga, a big brown Labradoodle, who has accompanied us on all our field trips. Fortunately, the ice was still on the Bay and most bears were still offshore dining on young of the year seals.

One of our sponsors, Nanuk Lodge, provided us with use of their landing strip and lodge access. The lodge wasn’t open yet so we camped inside their enclosure to minimize our exposure to polar bears. During the expedition we:

1. Found, photographed and measured two cannons whose location has been known since 1980 but has had no on site identification or documentation.

2. Visually searched from air and ground the geographic locations identified from our interviews

3. Tested aerial and ground recon techniques using wing-mounted cameras to evaluate the correlation between camera resolution, altitude, flight speed, and time of day (sun angle).

4. Identified several alternate landing sites (beach and sand ridge) for use in accessing the search areas requiring ground transport.
A special feature: Anthropology

Sustainable forest communities in Madagascar

By Travis Steffens FI’14

Fire rips across the savannah as a team of nearby villagers rush with their shovels to put it out. It’s windy and the fire is spreading. Thankfully days early the very same group had completed 13.5 km of firebreaks meant to stop fires from damaging the dry deciduous forest. After two days of hard work, the breaks held and the fire was out and the amount of damage was negligible. Sadly that is not always the case. We are within the periphery of Ankarafantsika National Park among a group of villagers from three remote communities. The park hosts a wealth of unique species including eight species of lemurs and numerous reptiles, birds and plants. Many of these species are endemic and most are only found in Madagascar. Although, fire is a necessary component of many ecosystems, the problem now is that the forest has shrunk dramatically in the last 30 years and contains the most endangered group of animals in the world, lemurs. Losing any amount is problematic.

So what can be done?

In 2015, I started a non-profit organization to answer this question. Leveraging my PhD in anthropology I created a non-profit called Planet Madagascar with a holistic plan to reduce the impact of fire on lemurs while building capacity in very poor and underserved communities. Planet Madagascar just received funds from the Save Our Species Lemur Grant to start rebuilding forest that was previously lost to fire while continuing to enlist local community members to engage in mutually beneficial conservation projects. Our latest project also includes funds from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to create a women’s cooperative to generate economic opportunity via sustainable tree planting. On top of that as part of our fire management program we have nearly finished an education film on fire management that we aim to bring to remote communities around the park via ox-cart. These projects combined with our fire management program will begin the long process of protecting and rebuilding forest within the park. However, that simply isn’t enough. We are now looking forward to how better serve the community members that act as guardians of the forest. Our aim is to continue with our holistic approach and bring more economic opportunity for the communities, greater food security, and improved health. Where we think we can make the biggest difference is in women’s reproductive and maternal health. Giving women agency over their own reproduction and the health capacity to ensure their children will grow up healthy. In the end creating sustainable forest communities.
USS Tecumseh: 153 years and counting

By Dr. Wilson West FI’08

Early on the morning of August 5, 1864, 14 wooden steam warships, lashed in pairs, followed four turreted ironclads toward Fort Morgan at the entrance to Mobile Bay, Alabama. As the lead ship, the monitor USS Tecumseh, approached the buoy marking the edge of the Confederate minefield, her captain, T. Augustus Macdonough Craven, ordered a course change to port. Tecumseh’s bow slowly answered the helm as she passed the buoy on the starboard side. Seconds later a violent underwater explosion rocked the ironclad throwing her over on the port beam ends. Tecumseh, having struck a mine began to settle quickly and, rolling over to port, sank in less than two minutes. Despite the rapid plunge, twenty-one of the 114 crewmen survived. Captain Craven, however, was not among them.

One hundred and three years later, on February 16, 1967, the Smithsonian Institution announced it had located Tecumseh off Fort Morgan in only 30 feet of water. She was found buried in the muddy bottom, intact and in a remarkable state of preservation. Smithsonian officials were aware of Tecumseh’s historical significance and her potential for display. At this time the museum revealed plans to make the ironclad the centerpiece of a new outdoor museum park near Washington, D.C. However, after conducting a two-year survey of the wreck, they abandoned the project in 1974. In 1975, to provide increased protection for the wreck, Tecumseh was added as a discontiguous property of the Fort Morgan National Historic Landmark site.
A special feature: Anthropology

Since 1975, despite several cursory examinations, there has been no organized effort to scientifically study, monitor or recover the ironclad. In September of 1993, the USS Tecumseh Conference convened aboard the battleship USS Alabama in Mobile. The conference was sponsored by the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program and organized by the U.S. Naval Historical Center (NHC) and the National Maritime Initiative. Hosted by the USS Alabama Battleship Commission, attendees included representatives from the pertinent federal, state and local agencies, as well as local historians, divers, and other experts on Civil War naval history.

The conference was held to discuss the future management and protection of Tecumseh. Because of her location in the shallow littoral of lower Mobile Bay, the site has been threatened by both human and natural forces, including vandalism, looting, commercial vessel anchoring, erosion and corrosion. At that time the conference attendees recognized an urgent need to coordinate the efforts of government and the private sector in the interests of preserving and managing this important historic site, and to consider options where by the site could be better protected and further studied. As a tomb for 93 sailors, and containing important artifacts, supplies, and equipment, Tecumseh is both a war grave and an invaluable source of data on the Union navy, particularly the operations of a radical new ship design.

Attendees agreed that a detailed site management plan was required that would address the issues and options raised at the conference. Acting on behalf

Tecumseh as uncovered by the Smithsonian Institution during their attempted recovery project. Image courtesy of the U.S. Navy.
of the U.S. Navy, which has custody of the wreck, the NHC commissioned the preparation of the USS Tecumseh Shipwreck Management Plan (1996). The plan would consider the wreck not as an isolated site, but within her historical, geographical and technological context, and outline options and recommendations for protection and preservation of Tecumseh and the Mobile Bay battlefield collectively, as a cultural heritage landscape.

Three options for the site were considered at the time:
1) Excavation, recovery and conservation;
2) Limited excavation and recovery, or;
3) Preservation-in-place.

With estimates ranging between $300,000 for limited recovery and conservation to upwards of $100 million for full recovery and conservation, preservation-in-place was the obvious option at the time. The immediate goals for site managers were determined to be ongoing protection, public education, and monitoring and analysis of the wreck.

The Tecumseh is the only surviving, completely intact, example of an American Civil War-era monitor. Unfortunately, the management plan was accepted but shelved, and there it still lies today. Ironically, Tecumseh’s only ally and protector over the years has been Mother Nature, as the wreck lies entombed in ever increasing layers of mud and sand, making it more and more difficult for looters to ply their trade.
A special feature: Anthropology

Mapping the land God made in anger

By Elaine Wyatt MI’05

… evocative ghost towns, battered by the ravaging winds, with eroded walls standing in surrealistic isolation – a Salvador Daliesque picture of rusting jigs, mangled wheelbarrows, creaking doors and broken windows, despoiled and deserted. Rooms are weighted with bulging piles of sand…

This is the Sperrgebiet, the Forbidden Zone, 26,000 km² of sand, gravel, salt pans and the largest deposit of placer diamonds in the world. The first Namibian diamond was discovered in April 1908. The potential wealth was so compelling and the rush to establish claims so frenzied, that in September 1908 the colonial German government declared the entire area surrounding the original discovery forbidded, to be mined by a consortium of German businessmen. In 1913 alone, one valley in the heart of the Sperrgebiet produced 1.5 million carats of the finest gem diamonds, 20% of the world’s production that year. By 1931, the motherlode of diamonds was discovered at the mouth of the Orange River on the border with South Africa and mining in the rest of the Sperrgebiet was abandoned.

Entering the Sperrgebiet remains forbidden to this day, which has protected the site. The early mining infrastructure built by the German colonists has deteriorated over time, exposed only to the forces of nature. This means it is remarkably intact.

Working with John Pollack FI’09, I submitted a proposal to the Namibian government to create a geo-referenced map and inventory of the complex, densely littered landscape. This is an intensely hostile environment. The world’s highest temperatures and...
A special feature: Anthropology

strongest winds have been documented in the Namib Desert. When in the field, we would also be very isolated. We knew that our methodology had to allow us to collect as much information in as little time as possible. It comprised four key steps:

1. Using Google Earth, we identified all the major structures and man-made features, including rail lines and roads. Using a geological digitizing mapping program called Didger from Rockware®, John prepared a geo-referenced base map of all the features identified.

2. With this map in hand, I went into the field to confirm the geo-references, describe and photograph each feature, and capture any significant features that had not be identified in Stage 1.

3. The floor plans of representative buildings were mapped using hand-held tapes and compasses.

4. John imported the data that I collected in the field into Traverse PC®, a land surveying software for the production of the final maps.

With the support of John in Canada and a Namibian colleague in the field, we were able to map four “towns” and document 266 structures in only four days.

The project supports continuing archaeological research into the industrial technology developed to harvest diamonds from the Namib Desert and the daily life of labourers and German colonists in the early diamond fields of colonial southern Africa.
Explorer News and Updates

Dr. Peter Suedfeld FI’09 and Governor General David Johnson.

Dr. Peter Suedfeld awarded Canadian Honours Polar Medal

UBC Professor Emeritus Dr. Peter Suedfeld FI’09 was awarded the Canadian Honours Polar Medal for his research focusing on understanding the psychological effects associated with isolation in polar stations, with insights into the leadership styles and personality characteristics of individuals who thrive in such extreme conditions. The Polar Medal celebrates Canada’s northern heritage and recognizes those who have contributed to or endeavoured to promote a greater understanding of Canada’s northern communities and its people. As an official honour created by the Crown, the Polar Medal is part of the Canadian Honours System, presented by the Governor General on behalf of all Canadians to recognize those people who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional dedication to service in ways that bring special credit to the country.

Salt Spring Symposium ‘16

Pat and Rosemarie Keough both MI ’02 hosted the Salt Spring Symposium, an inspiring three-day event founded by the Keoughs in 2004. From September 8 to 11, 55 participants attended, including 48 Explorers passionate about their respective field of discipline. Explorers came from near and far – British Columbia, Nunavut, Alberta, Ontario, six US states, and New Zealand – and direct from activities in Mongolia, Japan, France, Gibraltar, and Canada’s Arctic. Stimulating presentations, 41 in all, ranged from diving the Mirianas Trench, patterns of human predation, Death Assemblages found in the Clam Garden aquaculture of pre-contact coastal natives, discovery of previously unknown Adélie penguin colonies, new methods to determine paleo temperature from fossil leaves, whales, caribou, zeppelins, dinosaurs, Petra, Raivavae, Arctic oceanography, a novel concept for Arctic housing, Canadian Voyageurs to Khartoum, biological diversity as measured through time (inspired by mosquito research), futuristic ROV submersibles, snorkel expedition, Live Dive broadcasting, Switzerland’s Matterhorn, Mount Everest, earthquakes, canyons… and much more!

Annual General Meeting ‘16

Canadian Chapter Chair Ray Hyland MI’12 held the Canadian Chapter’s AGM followed by a discussion on what our chapter can do to mark Canada’s 150th birthday. As Regional Director BC & Yukon Cathie Hickson FI’05 was absent, working in the Arctic, Glenn Helminger presented the previous year’s happenings of the club’s BC & Yukon region. He also invited everyone to next year’s Explorers-Off-Grid event (August 12 – 13, 2017). Jessica Lansfield TM’13 reported on student activities. Lynn Danaher invited all to the Friday Harbour Film Festival and Martin Greene to events hosted by the Pacific Northwest Chapter in Seattle. TEC’s President Ted Janulis together with four TEC international board, committee and staff members fielded a lengthy Q&A session, and dedicated much one-on-one time getting to know our members. As noted by all, the Salt Spring Symposium

The Explorers Club – Canadian Chapter 38 www.explorersclub.ca
is an excellent source of inspiration, connections and camaraderie that is already resulting in synergies and further explorations. The food that everyone prepared together – 450 meals in all – was great too! The next symposium that the Keoughs will host will take place in Fall 2018.

Cory Trépanier’s *Into the Arctic* passionately brings the top of the world to the United States.

From the Far North to the Deep South and museums in between, Canadian artist Cory Trépanier’s MI’09 *Into The Arctic Exhibition tour* presents an unprecedented collection of over 60 Arctic oil paintings and three films from the furthest reaches of the Canadian North.

The tour premiered at the Embassy of Canada in Washington D.C., running from January 10 to February 28, 2017. It is now travelling to museums across the United States for two years to engage with and inspire audiences with the beauty of the Canadian Arctic.

Highlighting the collection is Trépanier’s 15-foot wide *Great Glacier*, quite possibly the largest Arctic landscape painting in Canada’s history.

“Exploring and painting the Arctic intimately by hiking, canoeing, camping, traveling with the Inuit prepares me to experience nature’s wonder on a visceral and emotional level. Through this approach, I experience first hand the awe and overwhelming sense of humility that is brought on from the realization of how tiny I am in these expansive landscapes,” says Trépanier.

From these journeys, he has also produced two documentary films, *Into The Arctic* and Canadian Screen Award nominated *Into The Arctic II*, with the final film in the trilogy set to be released summer of 2017. These films are integral to the exhibition, and cinematically convey the wonder, awe and challenges of his northern painting expeditions.

Katujjatigiit: The Sedna Epic Expedition to Frobisher Bay, Nunavut, July 25-August 4, 2016

Susan R. Eaton MI’11

In the summer of 2016, I led the Sedna Epic Expedition to Baffin Island, Nunavut, mounting a snorkel and dive expedition involving: documenting ocean change in the Arctic; studying long-lived Greenland sharks; and delivering a hands-on ocean outreach program to the predominantly Inuit community of Iqaluit. The Sedna Epic carried an expedition flag from WINGS Worldquest, a US-based organization that supports women explorers and scientists. Sedna’s 2016 expedition to Nunavut followed a successful
proof-of-concept dive and snorkel expedition in summer of 2014, from Labrador, across the Davis Strait, to Greenland. From Alaska to Greenland, according to Inuit legend, Sedna is the goddess of the ocean and the mother of all marine mammals. Known as the “sea woman,” Sedna delivers the bounty of the ocean to Inuit hunters.

For the past five years, the Sedna Epic Expedition has been developing community relationships and building cultural bridges from North to South and around the world. Our mission is to mentor, inspire and empower Inuit and Inuvialuit girls and young women—the next generation of northern leaders—with the skills to combat climate change and societal change in Canada’s Arctic.

Johnny Issaluk, one of Sedna’s Inuit advisors, named Sedna’s 2016 expedition Katujjigatiit, which means “working together, shouldering the burden together.” In the summer of 2016, Team Sedna included 12 sea women, two Inuit advisors, two dive masters, and a ground and boat support team. Team Sedna also included 10 Inuit and northern girls and young women, ages 16 to 24 years, who we involved in all aspects of Sedna’s community-based ocean outreach activities.

The sea women mentored these girls and young women, introducing them to careers in ocean science and technology, conservation, fisheries management, underwater videography and photography, and polar diving as an emerging form of ecotourism.

The sea women showcased local sea critters in mobile touch aquariums and ran workshops for youth to build underwater robots equipped with video-cameras, bringing the ocean to eye level for more than 400 Inuit youth, girls, parents and Elders in Iqaluit.

Taking the concept of bringing the ocean to eye level one step further, Sedna’s sea women introduced the largely non-swimming Inuit to arctic waters—equipping girls, young women and Elders with dry suits, masks, fins and snorkels—by leading them on snorkel safaris in Frobisher Bay to see what lies below the waves in their backyard.

Using diver propulsion vehicles (aka “scooters”) which propel snorkelers through the ocean at approximately eight kilometres per hour, Team Sedna mounted snorkel relays in Frobisher Bay. The sea women learned, first-hand, the challenges of snorkeling on the cusp of ebb and flood tides that measure more than 40 feet.

Sedna’s Greenland shark research project involved affixing satellite tags and collecting DNA samples whilst scuba diving beside these slow-moving sharks that can live more than 500 years. Yet, despite deploying odiferous bait balls of rancid walrus and seal meat in Frobisher Bay, we failed to attract any sharks…

In the summers of 2018 and 2019, Team Sedna will mount a snorkel relay of the Northwest Passage, all 3,000 kilometers of it, to bring global attention to disappearing sea in the Arctic. En route, the sea women will conduct ocean science and visit Inuit and Inuvialuit communities where they’ll deliver their innovative bringing the ocean to eye level outreach program.
Explorer resources

Explorers Club Canadian Chapter Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/explorersclubcanada. Find out what your fellow members are up to and share your own news.

Gribs USA (www.grib.us) is the format used by the meteorological institutes of the world to transport and manipulate weather data and is the foundation of the forecasts we see around us in our daily life. GRIB.US allows you to extract weather files tailored to your needs. The easy-to-use Ugrid software allows you to view the data anywhere in the world when you want to, where you want to.

Consult the Explorers Club Medical Committee
The Explorers Club has a medical committee made up of accomplished doctors, dentists, nurses, and EMTs, with expertise in providing emergency medical care in remote environments. We hope to provide a resource that members can use to answer their questions on wilderness and expedition medicine. We invite you to email your questions to us at medical@explorers.org. After removing identifying personal information, the questions will be put to the committee for discussion. We'll then send back our response, as a consensus or with differing views, as the case may be. The committee looks forward to helping Club members make their expeditions as medically safe and well-informed as possible.

Send us your suggestions for resources, information, granting organizations, websites and other materials helpful to exploration and field research.

Classifieds

Wanted: We’re looking for keen and interested volunteers to help edit and write columns.
Wanted: Expedition photos for the front cover of Far Afield.
Please contact Wilson at editor@explorersclub.ca.

Publication schedule

E-newsletter monthly schedule
Call for news: First Wednesday of every month
Deadline for submissions: Second Wednesday of every month
Publication: Third Friday of every month
Send your submissions to communications@explorersclub.ca

Far Afield

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Send your submissions to editor@explorersclub.ca

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