

# HERITAGE GAZETTE OF THE TRENT VALLEY

ISSN 1206-4394

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 3, NOVEMBER 2021



HASELWOOD LODGE, GRUBBE ISLAND, UPPER STONEY LAKE



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

567 CARNEGIE AVENUE  
PETERBOROUGH ONTARIO CANADA K9L 1N1  
705-745-4404



Peterborough, ON— The fate of Sir John Franklin's 1845 expedition was one of the Arctic's most enduring mysteries, until the wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* were found in 2014 and 2016. The Peterborough Museum & Archives is pleased to present **The Ones We Met – Inuit Traditional Knowledge and the Franklin Expedition**, an exhibition developed by the Canadian Museum of History and the Inuit Heritage Trust, which explores the role of Inuit oral history in solving that mystery.

**Presented in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French — the four official languages of Nunavut — the travelling exhibition will be on display at the Peterborough Museum & Archives from September 18 to December 5, 2021.**

"Without the shared memories passed down through generations of Inuit — stories of sick and starving men, and an abandoned ship locked in the ice — we might still be searching for the Franklin Expedition," said Caroline Dromaguet, Interim President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of History. "With **The Ones We Met**, the Canadian Museum of History is proud to bring well-deserved attention to the importance of Inuit *Qaujimaqatugangit*, or Inuit traditional

knowledge, in keeping history alive and ensuring that critical information is not forgotten."

The exhibition features photographs, illustrations and an animated map of routes charted by Europeans looking for a Northwest Passage in the 350 years before Franklin's expedition. Visitors can hear stories of Inuit encounters with Franklin and his men, and of Martin Frobisher's voyages to Baffin Island in the 1570s. The recordings include the late Inuit historian Louie Kamookak reflecting on the ongoing importance of oral histories and the bleak environment northwest of King William Island, where Franklin's ships were first trapped by ice.

This exhibition was inspired by the Museum of History's special exhibition **Death in the Ice – The Mystery of the Franklin Expedition**, which traced Sir John Franklin's doomed attempt to navigate the Northwest Passage, and the many efforts made over the years to find out what had happened to the British explorer and his 128 crewmen.

"This exhibit is a great opportunity for visitors to learn about an important perspective surrounding the account of the Franklin Expedition. From the time HMS *Erebus* and *Terror* got trapped in the icy north, Inuit have been a part of the story. When that chapter ended, they continued to share their experience to younger generations, of the crewmen they met, and of ships stuck in ice," said Dustin McIlwain, Community Engagement Coordinator at the Peterborough Museum and Archives. "This tradition of sharing oral histories was a key component to the discovery of these wrecks. To this day, the Inuit continue their key role in sharing this story, as well as the preservation of this historical site. The narrative will continue to evolve with time, as we embrace the concept of storytelling to keep our history alive."

The Peterborough Museum & Archives is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is by donation. The exhibit runs until December 5.

#### Canadian Museum of History

*Located on the shores of the Ottawa River in Gatineau, Quebec, the Canadian Museum of History attracts over 1.2 million visitors each year. The Museum's principal role is to enhance Canadians' knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the events, experiences, people and objects that have shaped Canada's history and identity, as well as to enhance Canadians' awareness of world history and culture. Work of the Canadian Museum of History is made possible in part through financial support of the Government of Canada.*

#### Inuit Heritage Trust

*The Inuit Heritage Trust is dedicated to the preservation, enrichment and protection of the Inuit cultural heritage and identity embodied in Nunavut's archaeological sites, ethnographic resources, and traditional place names. Its activities are based on the principle of respect for the traditional knowledge and wisdom of Inuit Elders. The Trust receives its mandate directly from the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.*