



CURATORS CIRCLE

FALL/WINTER 2017

EYES ON THE SKIES

Thank you to all who attended our astronomy-themed event in September, and to Geoff Chipman, Past-Chair of the Manitoba Museum's Board of Governors and Chair of the *Bringing Our Stories Forward* Capital & Endowment Campaign for opening his home to us. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to learn from our Science Gallery & Planetarium staff, to meet **DR. ROLAND SAWATZKY, Curator of History**, and to engage with other Museum supporters about our long-term vision for the Manitoba Museum that includes a stand-alone science centre for Manitoba. "**Science is part of our renewal plans at the Museum.** As technology becomes more and more part of our daily lives, it is important to inspire kids of all ages with leaning experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. We intend to create an even better Museum experience that will instill pride and inspire our youth to stay in Manitoba; where we can celebrate our collective accomplishments, and more importantly a place where we can look forward to a bright and prosperous future," Geoff said.

If you are not yet a supporter of the Manitoba Museum at the Curators Circle level, please consider joining this group dedicated to shaping Manitoba's future by expanding knowledge, sharing stories and encouraging discovery.



(L-R) Rob Kennedy, Claudette Leclerc, Don Leitch, Hon. Deborah McCawley, Betty Leitch, Rick Frost

CURATOR EMERITUS

We are pleased to announce that **DR. KATHERINE PETTIPAS** has accepted the position of **Curator Emeritus**, bestowed upon her recently by the Board of Governors, for a five-year term. As former Curator of Ethnology (1975-2011) and the HBC Museum Collection (1994-2011), Katherine has contributed greatly to **advancing the field of museology as it relates to Indigenous Studies in Manitoba.** She was one of the first among museum professionals to work towards reconciliation with Indigenous communities in Manitoba. Katherine's significant scholarly and curatorial outputs within and beyond the Museum's walls are recognized today by experts across North America, and she continues her professional dedication to this day.



Katherine accepted, saying she "...was indeed privileged to have had the opportunity to serve the Manitoba public through my work in the curatorship position...it was truly a privilege to work alongside so many good people who were dedicated to preserving and communicating Manitoba's heritage. I know that new staff members will build on our legacy and carry it to new heights."

We hope you will have a chance to meet Katherine at one of our upcoming Curators Circle events.

NEW ACQUISITION

The Museum recently added a new specimen to its Geology & Paleontology collection: a mandible (lower jaw) from the genus *Castoroides*, a now-extinct, giant beaver that lived in North America during the Pleistocene Epoch (2.58 million – 11,700 years ago). In life, the **giant beaver was about the same size as a modern-day black bear**. Found in the southeastern part of Manitoba, this specimen adds to the Museum's collection of Pleistocene fauna from the same area, including mammoth, extinct bison, musk-ox, mastodon, and insects, all dating back tens of thousands of years. "It is very exciting to have an **Ice Age creature** that hasn't been found before on the Canadian prairies. This specimen adds a lot to our understanding of what lived in this area during the Ice Age," said **DR. GRAHAM YOUNG, Curator of Geology & Paleontology**. There are only three other documented instances of *Castoroides* in Canada – in the Yukon, Ontario, and New Brunswick.



Castoroides mandible (top) compared to modern-day, juvenile beaver (*Castor canadensis*) mandible

RE-RIGGING THE NONSUCH

The *Nonsuch* isn't heading back out to sea any time in the foreseeable future; however, a ship's rigging is best preserved by being maintained as if it could head out on open water. In 2018, the Museum's beloved iconic artifact, the *Nonsuch*, will undergo an important upgrade. For 12 weeks starting in January, a team of professional ship's riggers from California and Ontario will work on our replica 17th century ketch to improve the historical accuracy and long-term preservation of the ship. "The purpose of the project is two-fold," said **DR. AMELIA FAY, Curator of the Hudson's Bay Company Museum Collection**.



"We want to ensure that inaccuracies in the current rigging are corrected, and to replace the current hemp ropes with longer-lasting, more stable ropes of synthetic fibre that look nearly identical to real hemp." Once completed, the *Nonsuch* will be rigged in sailing condition with new materials which will be safer for the conservation maintenance that is required **to preserve this ship today and into the future**. During this time, our conservator will also conduct a thorough cleaning and inspection of the spars and sails. This project coincides with a larger *Nonsuch* Gallery renewal project that is the first step in the *Bringing Our Stories Forward* Capital Renewal Project. Watch for your personal invitation to our grand reopening celebration in June 2018.

For more information about Curators Circle, the *Bringing Our Stories Forward* Capital & Endowment Campaign, or planned upgrades to the *Nonsuch* Gallery, contact Heather Laser at 204-988-0656 or hlaser@manitobamuseum.ca.



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