

EXPEDITION TEAM PREVIEW:

High Arctic Explorer 2023

Meet some of our experienced expedition team members below. Please keep in mind that this is just a small glimpse of our team. You will have the opportunity to be accompanied by numerous other guides and experts as well.



Garry Donaldson
Ornithologist

Garry is a Canadian Wildlife Service biologist managing programs for migratory birds and the twenty-six Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas in Atlantic Canada.

Garry grew up as an Air Force brat living in a diversity of military communities across Canada. Perhaps influenced by time spent in places like Moose Jaw and Goose Bay, an eventual path towards wildlife biology seemed logical. Most military bases contain wild areas, where Garry first explored woods and streams—influencing who he is today.

Whether car camping with family as a boy, or guiding Arctic white-water canoe and hiking journeys, experiencing nature has remained a theme through Garry's life. It was his guiding skills that lead to a short contract working on ropes at a Nunavut seabird cliff, where the first glimpse of the chaos and racket of 20,000 swarming seabirds sealed the deal. He has pursued education and a career in wildlife ever since.

Garry's current job with the Canadian Wildlife Service is mostly carried out from behind a desk in Sackville, New Brunswick—but he enthusiastically grabs every chance he can to escape on bird surveys or visits to National Wildlife Areas. He dabbles in photography and enjoys exploring wild places in his spare time. Each summer, Garry looks forward to travelling to the Arctic to share his passion for birds and conservation with others on Adventure Canada and Students on Ice expeditions.



Looee Okalik

Inuit Cultural Educator

Looee is an Inuit Cultural Educator from Panniqtuuq, Nunavut.

Ms. Looee Okalik is originally from Panniqtuuq, Nunavut. A trained educator and Inuit rights advocate, Looee has dedicated her life to the positive advancement of her fellow Inuit.

In recent years, Looee has been pivotal in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry as well as the Federal Day School Class Action processes. Throughout her life, Looee has celebrated Inuit excellence, promoted cross-circumpolar regional affairs of Inuit, and promoted Inuit culture, language and traditions.

In her spare time, Looee enjoys Inuit crafts, travelling, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.



Sherman Boates

Naturalist

Passionate biodiversity champion, conservation scientist and keen life-long student of nature.

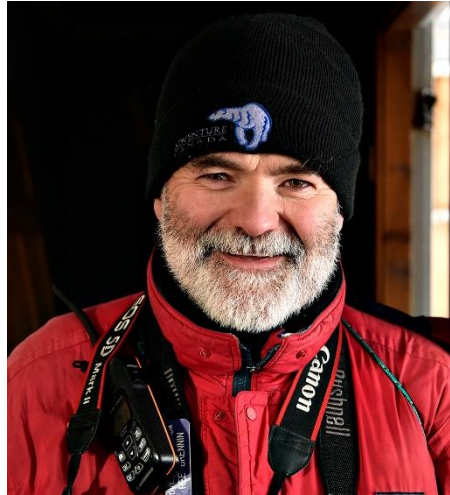
As a government scientist and professor, Boates has worked as a conservation biologist for more than 30 years doing research, inventory and monitoring, management and policy, and law development for endangered species and biodiversity conservation.

Leading the biodiversity program for the Nova Scotia Government, he played a focal role in the development and implementation of the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, and many other initiatives.

At Acadia University, Boates taught conservation biology and ecology courses and has had research projects and students working on birds, invertebrates, and plants.

Boates has been an active (paid or volunteer) contributor to many provincial, national, and international conservation projects, committees, and organizations, including COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada – 25 years) and Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (– 11 years).

Boates and his partner live in the woods near Wolfville, Nova Scotia, eat local food, and work at having a small ecological footprint.



John Houston

Expedition Team Member

John grew up among Inuit while his parents showed Inuit art to the world. He uses storytelling, filmmaking and art to bridge the cultural gap.

John's life is a story of the Arctic and Nova Scotia. He owes his storytelling to both the Inuit among whom he was raised, while his parents James and Alma Houston, helped develop what the world now knows as Inuit art, as well as to a long line of Maritime ancestors. After graduating from Yale University, John became Pangnirtung's Art Advisor, regaining his childhood fluency in Inuktitut. Also fluent in French, he went on to work in film across the Arctic and worldwide.

John and his mother opened Houston North Gallery in Nova Scotia, now in its 38th year. They also co-founded the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival, the province's longest-running music festival. John has written and directed six of his own films, all winners of international and domestic awards, with a seventh from Nunavik (Arctic Québec), and an eighth from Mi'kmaq territory, nearing completion. Between Adventure Canada sailings, John lives in historic Halifax and beautiful Rose Bay with his wife, AC Staffer Ree Brennin Houston, and son Dorset, enjoying visits from his daughter, Becky Kilabuk of Iqaluit.



Joseph Frey

Canadian Geographic Ambassador

Joseph Frey, CD, FRCGS is the Chair of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society's College of Fellows and a past Secretary, Executive Committee, and former Governor of the Society.

An avid traveller with a passion for archaeology, Joseph has travelled to over eighty countries and all seven continents.

Joseph is a former Director and Vice-President of The Explorers Club, New York City. He was a Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) member of the Parks Canada-led expedition which discovered Sir John Franklin's flagship HMS *Erebus* in the Northwest Passage. He has been engaged as a RCGS ambassador and lecturer with Adventure Canada, Cunard, Exodus Travels, Maple Leaf Adventures, and One Ocean Expeditions.

Some of the other expeditions he has actively participated in include the US National Parks Service's search for the Spanish slave ship *Guerrero* off Key Largo, Florida, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Battle of the Atlantic marine archaeology survey of the German submarine *U-576* off North Carolina's Outer Banks.

Joseph co-led an Explorers Club coral reef biodiversity mapping expedition in the Bahamas' Peterson Cay National Park and engaged in another with the University of Havana in Cuba's Punta Francis National Park. He dove in the Royal Canadian Navy's *SDL-1* submersible off the coast of Nova Scotia collecting fauna below 167 metres (500 feet) for pharmaceutical research by the National Research Council of Canada.

With a passion for archaeology, an important focus of Joseph's is on 17th Century Huron-Wendat sites. He was an archaeologist on Ontario's first winter archaeological excavation which searched for the historic French fortification of Fort Frontenac. Joseph has also worked on palaeontology excavations with internationally-renowned palaeontologist Dr. Phil Currie.

Fascinated by polar sciences, Joseph has taken part in expeditions to the Antarctic, Greenland, and across the Canadian High Arctic with various organizations including the National Science Foundation, Antarctica New Zealand, and the Meteorological Service of Canada. He was one of only seven international journalists chosen to report from the Antarctic on field sciences during the 2001-2002 research season.

An accomplished science writer, he has been published in the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, and New Zealand in *TIME*, *The Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *Toronto Star*, *Toronto Sun*, *Geographical*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Medical Post* and *DIVER*, to name a few. Joseph has contributed to five books on exploration and polar topics, including the Canadian best seller *Franklin's Lost Ship: The Historic Discovery Of HMS Erebus*.