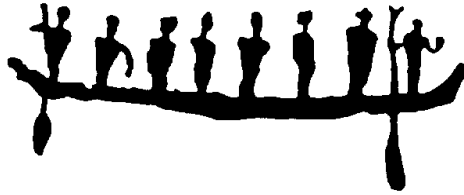


The Canadian Canoe Museum
Le Musée Canadien du Canot



The Canadian Canoe Museum is looking for input

The Canadian Canoe Museum has recently acquired a craft significant to the history of canoeing and canoe safety. The Pere Lallemand was one of four Chestnut Selkirk canoes involved in the 1978 St. John's School tragedy on Lake Timiskaming, and was given initially to Andrew and Barbara Greaney by St. John's School, who asked for it and received it after losing their son, David, in the tragedy. In May of this year, the Greaney family gave the Pere Lallemand to the Museum, on permanent loan, with the understanding that it will be conserved and used to help educate people about the tragedy in particular and canoe safety in general, particularly the changes in canoeing safety standards and school canoe tripping policies that occurred as a result of Timiskaming.

Over the coming months, the Museum will be developing an exhibit around this historic craft, and we are seeking comment and input from Timiskaming survivors and family members of those who died, as well as from others affected by, or with a connection to, the tragedy. Although this event happened nearly three decades ago, we are aware that this remains a sensitive issue for many. Our intention is to be absolutely respectful to the memories of the thirteen people who died in the tragedy, as well as to the craft and its legacy. As we shape the messages around this new exhibit, we seek your comments and input. You can write, email, fax or phone, and I would be pleased to communicate with you directly (and in confidence, if that is more comfortable for you) about your thoughts on how and with what messages this canoe should be presented to the public.

The Canadian Canoe Museum is located in Peterborough, Ontario and is home to the largest collection of canoes and kayaks in the world. We are an independent Museum, a not-for-profit corporation, with charitable status, governed by an elected volunteer Board of Directors. There is no doubt in our minds that this is exactly where Pere Lallemand should be to have the maximum educational impact on visitors from across Canada and around the world. Depending on how things evolve, there is a possibility that, once developed, this exhibit may travel to other locations. For more information about us, please visit www.canoemuseum.net.

As a mother and grandmother, I know that the Pere Lallemand carries with it a very difficult story. As manager of a national Canadian museum, I know that this is an important Canadian canoe that represents a turning point in the development of safety standards and practices for canoeing. It is important to me, to the Canoe Museum Board, and to our staff and membership that this exhibit be done properly, and we hope you will take a moment and give us your input to help us do it right.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice L. Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice Griffith
Manager, Canadian Canoe Museum