

Inaugural George Luste Lecture

A new tradition at The Canadian Canoe Museum was born on Sunday, October 27, 2013 – the George Luste Lecture. This exciting inaugural event marked the kick off of the new partnership between The Canadian Canoe Museum, Wilderness & Canoe Symposium and the Wilderness Canoe Association (WCA).

The Lecture series was organized with funding from the new George Luste Fund at the Museum in 2013 to honour George Luste. The George Luste Fund is financed by donation from many of you in the attendance, as well as other WCA members and members of paddling community at large. So far, \$5,895 has been raised. George Luste has organized the Wilderness & Canoe Symposium in Toronto for the past 28 years.

Inaugural George Luste Lecture kicked off with a special, behind the scenes, tour of the Museum's collection led by Curator, Jeremy Ward. This tour featured a lot of 'ahhh moments' as guests were treated to a unique look at the Museum's collection that is not normally on display to the general public.

During his brief speech, George Luste announced another donation to the Canadian Canoe Museum in the amount of \$15,000.

This year's Luste Lecturer was John Lentz. Author John Lentz presented his wilderness paddling stories in a presentation entitled "Five Decades of Wilderness Paddling: People and Places". Lentz has logged 21 major Canadian paddling expeditions, plus 2 in Siberia where canoes and catamarans were employed. He has been a member of The Explorers Club, New York City, since 1963. His river trip articles have been published in a variety of magazines, including *National Geographic* and *The Beaver*. The special presentation featured a unique blend of photos, stories, and humour from John's paddling trips in Canada including the Dubawnt and Hood Rivers.

Attendees to the event were in for a special treat, as the event also marked the premiere of Lentz's new book *Tales from the Paddle: A Canoeist's Memoirs of Wilderness Trips in Canada and Russia*. This novel is available at the Northern Books table during Symposium weekend.

Over 110 attendees took in this inaugural event, with many travelling great distances to be there. Special thanks to the efforts and collaboration of Aleksandar Gusev, Bill King, James Raffan, and of course George Luste for bring this exciting new partnership into development.

Stay tuned for details on the 2014 George Luste Lecture!

(Adapted from Canadian Canoe Museum blog)