



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABM HOSTS LECTURE ON THE FIRST BOAT PEOPLE OF THE 1000 ISLANDS

CLAYTON, New York (September 16, 2016) – In an effort to raise public awareness of the region's long Native American history, Kenneth J. Knapp will present a talk called "The First Boat People of the 1000 Islands." The discussion will focus on local prehistoric cultural activity and the key role watercraft, the St. Lawrence, and the river systems of Jefferson County have played for the last 10,000 years in this region. The talk will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 29, in the Cox Theatre at the Antique Boat Museum and is free to the public.

Mr. Knapp is quick to say that he is not a professional archeologist, but he is the fourth generation of his family to be passionately involved with this subject. The understanding and preservation of Jefferson County's vast Native American history has been the goal of his family for over 100 years. Mr. Knapp is the curator of the Knapp Family Collection, a collection of Native American artifacts begun in 1908 by his grandfather. The artifacts were gathered from over a dozen Jefferson County sites and two sites in St. Lawrence County. Mr. Knapp has worked with several professional archeologists and is one of the founding members of the Thousand Islands Chapter of the New York State Archeology Association.

According to Mr. Knapp, "We are all fortunate to live amidst a place where there is evidence of more prehistoric Native American culture than most all other regions in the State. We do an amazing job in our area emphasizing and celebrating our rich historical past, yet that post-European contact timeframe spans only a few hundred years. We know a lot about the several hundred years of modern American history, but those thousands of years from the time of the glacial lake (left by retreating ice) until the first European contact, remain unknown to most, and still mysterious--even for professional archeologists and scholars. This long Native American history in the area is largely unknown to the public, but we do know enough through archeology and Native traditions, to outline that epic story of the area's past. One part of that long story, a very key part, is watercraft."

The public is invited to the Antique Boat Museum to hear Mr. Knapp talk about the fascinating story of the First Boat People. It is his great hope that as people become more aware of this region's pre-history, they will reach out to those in the archeological community if they encounter evidence or have a story of past discoveries, to help in the quest for understanding the incredible past of the 1000 Islands.

This lecture will be the final educational program for the 2016 year at the Antique Boat Museum. The Museum offers a full slate of programs for youth, adults, and families. The Antique Boat Museum will remain open through Columbus Day, October 10, 2016 and will reopen in May 2017.





About ABM

Located on the St. Lawrence River in upstate NY, the ABM features a collection of over 300 antique and classic boats, among thousands of recreational boating artifacts, including the world's largest runabout, Pardon Me, and a 113-year old gilded-age two-story houseboat, La Duchesse. In addition, the ABM plays host to the longest running antique boat show in North America and is considered the birthplace of antique raceboat regattas. For more information, please visit the Museum's website at abm.org.

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Contact: Debra L. Rantanen, Educator
315.686.4104 x235 drantanen@abm.org

