



The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
Le MUSÉE CANADIEN du CANOT

NEWS RELEASE

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CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM EDUCATORS REACH MORE THAN 5,000 STUDENTS IN EIGHT COUNTRIES VIA VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. — The Canadian Canoe Museum’s virtual field trip program, celebrating its two-year anniversary this month, has reached more than 5,000 students in Canada, the United States and six other countries including India, Sri Lanka, Georgia, Vietnam, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Via Skype and the Microsoft Educator Community, from the museum’s exhibition galleries on Monaghan Road, the museum’s educators connect to students in classrooms near and far. To-date, the program’s live, curriculum-connected lessons have travelled 338,380 “virtual” kilometres – the equivalent of close to 2,500 trips from Peterborough to Toronto.

Virtual field trips are offered to schools more than a two-hour drive away from the museum. Students of all ages take part in interactive explorations of the fur trade, and of the Indigenous origins of birch bark canoes, cedar dugouts and skin-on-frame kayaks, customized to the history and cultures of their location.

“We’re always working to use the collection as a catalyst for connection, curiosity and new understanding and this program has allowed us to do just that. With this technology, we are reaching so many more students and teachers, and they really seem to enjoy ‘visiting’ the museum this way,” says Karen Taylor, Education Manager. “We’re building relationships nationally and internationally and all the while, learning from students and teachers all over the world about their connections to canoes and kayaks.”

The museum also offers more than 20 hands-on, experiential education programs for students and youth groups from kindergarten to grade 12 – by day and overnight. In the 2016/17 school year, close to 4,500 students visited the museum. Field trips are guided by educators offering curriculum-connected programming in both French and English.

The museum continues to experience increasing demand for field trips – both virtual and on site. The new museum, to be built next to the Peterborough Lift Lock and the Trent-Severn Waterway, will see increased space for school programming, along with many more on-site and on-water offerings.

MARCH BREAK: Students can also visit the museum this March Break. The museum is hosting an array of half- and full-day hands-on workshops. Visit canoemuseum.ca/marchbreak for further information.

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