



GREAT CANADIAN  
**WILDLIFE**  
ADVENTURES

# WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

## GREETINGS FROM THE NEW WILDERNESS OF NUNAVIK!

**W**e are now launching into our sixth operating season in Nunavik, Canada, and will again be offering some truly fantastic wildlife adventures - including encounters with wolves, polar bears, seals, fox, falcons, musk-oxen herds and the great caribou migration! This remarkable and remote wilderness region is easily accessed by daily commercial flights 1500 km north of Montreal to the coast of Ungava Bay at Kuujuaq, the capital of Nunavik. This area is home to the Inuit people who live and have harvested this land for thousands of years.

We launch our expeditions into incredible wilderness by floatplane and seagoing vessels. Nunavik is also home to the Leaf River caribou herd, now the largest in Canada. Following the caribou are packs of wild wolves that stop en-route to den and rear their pups. This region is also home to thousands of musk-oxen, and many polar bears range the coastal islands! So come take a look at our adventure offerings on-line for 2017 at [www.thelon.com](http://www.thelon.com), and join us this summer for an incredible adventure to this hauntingly beautiful, wildlife-rich and little-explored new wilderness!



**Tundra Tom**  
Kuujuaq, Nunavik



## POLAR BEARS, MUSK-OXEN, ICEBERGS & SEALS

Our maiden voyage last August on this special new trip to see polar bears and musk-oxen was a huge success! Compared to many of our other wildlife trips, extended hiking is optional and not necessary to get excellent wildlife exposures. These special trips are very easy

going with little or no hiking necessary. We will stay at comfortable coastal camps and launch on day-trips aboard quality power boats to explore among the numerous islands in Ungava and Leaf Bays in search of musk-ox, icebergs & polar bears! See [www.thelon.com/polar.htm](http://www.thelon.com/polar.htm).

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 'PRIMAL SURVIVOR'

In January 2017 we completed a winter film shoot in northern Quebec with Icon Films for the National Geographic Channel TV series '*Primal Survivor*' with Hazen Audel. Over a period of ten days we saw a more than a thousand caribou

of the Leaf River herd scattered about in groups ranging from singles to a hundred animals in their wintering grounds along the shores of James Bay, near the Nunavik boundary in northern Canada. Photo courtesy Trip Leader [Thomas Groening](#).



## THE GREAT SUMMER CARIBOU MIGRATION

Travel with us by boat with Inuit guides up a Arctic river deep into the remote Ungava Peninsula, to camp out and see the Great Summer Caribou Migration! Be one of the privileged few to experience this rarely-seen wildlife phenomenon. For the past several summers clients saw thousands

of caribou migrating in small groups - a steady flow of animals at primary water crossings and along age-old trails. We're going to do it again this summer, so come join us to see the great caribou migration in 2017: [www.thelon.com/caribou.htm](http://www.thelon.com/caribou.htm).

To book your 2017 or 2018 space, call us at **+608-370-5071** or email us at [tundra@thelon.com](mailto:tundra@thelon.com)



## SEARCH FOR THE LEGENDARY TUNDRA WOLVES

Wild tundra wolves are one of the most difficult and challenging of wild animals to see and photograph. The single predictable denominator is the den to which they will inevitably return to feed their young. In our work as guides we set out in advance of the wolves' trips to locate wolf dens in the northern

wilderness that can be observed at safe and non-harassing distances. Over the past four years we found several active dens that are 'traditional' sites – meaning that have been used repeatedly for decades. Join us to seek out wild wolves in 2017!

[www.thelon.com/wolves.htm](http://www.thelon.com/wolves.htm)



## SESQUI: A 360°VIEW OF CANADA

We are very proud to have accommodated a film crew from the 'Sesqui Project' on our caribou migration trips in Nunavik last summer. They managed to get right into part of the herd and shoot prime footage of caribou surrounding the

cameras. SESQUI is a touring, immersive media experience that is now touring and reaching Canadians through live and digital experiences as we celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017. See [www.sesqui.ca/en](http://www.sesqui.ca/en).

## NORTHERN LIGHTS ARE SPECTACULAR IN NUNAVIK!

The skies across the country continue to light up with breathtaking colours of aurora borealis. Most of northern Nunavik is situated beneath the 'auroral oval' and is listed as one of the best places in the world to observe this phenomenon. We start to see real good aurora displays in

Ungava Bay region in mid-August that increase in intensity into September. We offer an excellent opportunities to see incredible northern light displays [on all of our expeditions](#) through mid-August into September. Come join us to see the aurora this August and September 2017!



## 'MUSKOX, AUTUMN COLORS & AURORA'

We again had 100% musk-oxen sightings by all clients this late August and early September on our autumn musk-ox and aurora borealis trips! Join us to fly-in to a remote camp to see musk-oxen herds, fox, shorebirds, beautiful Arctic coastal

and tundra scenery during the autumn color period – and on clear nights – fantastic displays of northern lights! To learn more about our 2017 autumn musk-ox and aurora trips, see [www.thelon.com/autumn.html](http://www.thelon.com/autumn.html).

## ART WOLFE RETURNING NORTH!

We are proud that [Art Wolfe](#) - one of the world's leading photographers is returning to the Far North with us in July 2017, on a special private photo trip to photograph tundra wolves' in the wild during the den cycle in Nunavik. In 1999, Art joined us for a successful wolves' trip to the Thelon country in the NWT to obtain photos for a book

project he was working on at the time. In fact, several photos of wild wolves' taken on that trip ended up in his beautiful tabletop book: "The Living Wild". [Click here to visit Art's photo essay and review of his past trip with us.](#) If you are interested to join Art this summer, there are still a few seats left on his upcoming July trip - [click photo to learn more!](#)





### FIRST AIR AGAIN OFFERS SPECIAL TOUR RATES IN 2017

Flying to the Arctic is an expensive proposition. This is due to long air distances, the high cost of operations often in sub-zero temperatures; the high cost of fuel in the north and the low volume of passengers to such

small population centers. However, in the spirit of future tourism growth First Air is offering special tour rates that are substantially discounted! Details and tour codes are provided at time of reservation with us [www.thelon.com/map.htm](http://www.thelon.com/map.htm).

### LEAF RIVER CARIBOU HERD STILL THE STRONGEST

It was an amazing site to see huge bands of caribou come streaming down the ridges and into the river. Over a period of days our small group saw thousands during the summer caribou migration of cows & calves headed south off the calving

grounds. According to the biologists, as of autumn 2016 the Leaf River caribou herd count is now about 200,000 animals: slowly dropping - but still the largest caribou herd remaining in Canada. See [www.thelon.com/caribou.htm](http://www.thelon.com/caribou.htm).



### NEW CARIBOU VIDEO FILMED IN NUNAVIK DURING 2016!

Check out this great new short video clip taken by client and professional Cinematographer [Beth Davidow](#) showing

migrating caribou of the Leaf River herd gathering to cross a remote Arctic River in August 2016. [Click on photo to see the film!](#)

### JUST WHAT THE HECK IS AN ESKER, ANYWAY?

Winding across the Canadian northern boreal forests and tundra, eskers are excellent landmarks - are lofty highways for migrating caribou, and offer perfect den conditions for wild wolves & fox as

well as roost for birds-of-prey.

[Click here or on photo to learn more about eskers - and to see some great photos of this unique geological phenomena - and why they are so important!](#)



### WONDERFUL WILDERNESS!

In September 2015 Australian journalist Stan Davis joined our autumn muskox and northern lights trips. The article he wrote about it just was released in February

2016 in the on-line publication 'The West Australian'. [Click on photo to check out the photo story](#) - note that each photo has its own dialogue associated with it.

### FOUR NEW PHOTO GALLERIES ADDED!

We are very proud to have recently added four more new photo essays and trip reviews sent in from 2016 clients and trip leaders alike. There is truly some excellent photography to be seen here... [Click on their faces to see their places!](#)



Murray Douglas



Michelle Wallace



Joanne Winship



Mariela Urrea



## PHOTOGRAPHER/AUTHOR DR. STEPHEN FIELDING

Two seasons ago we were proud to accommodate East Coast USA author-photographer [Dr. Stephen Fielding](#) on our '[Mingle with Musk-ox](#)' wildlife expedition to Nunavik, Canada. Hailing from Rochester New York, he and his

friend Rich Sajdak drove to Montreal and then flew way up to Nunavik to join the expedition. Steve just published a book released in 2016 about his trip to the Far North titled 'Nunavik - A Photo Essay'. [Click on photo to order the book on-line!](#)

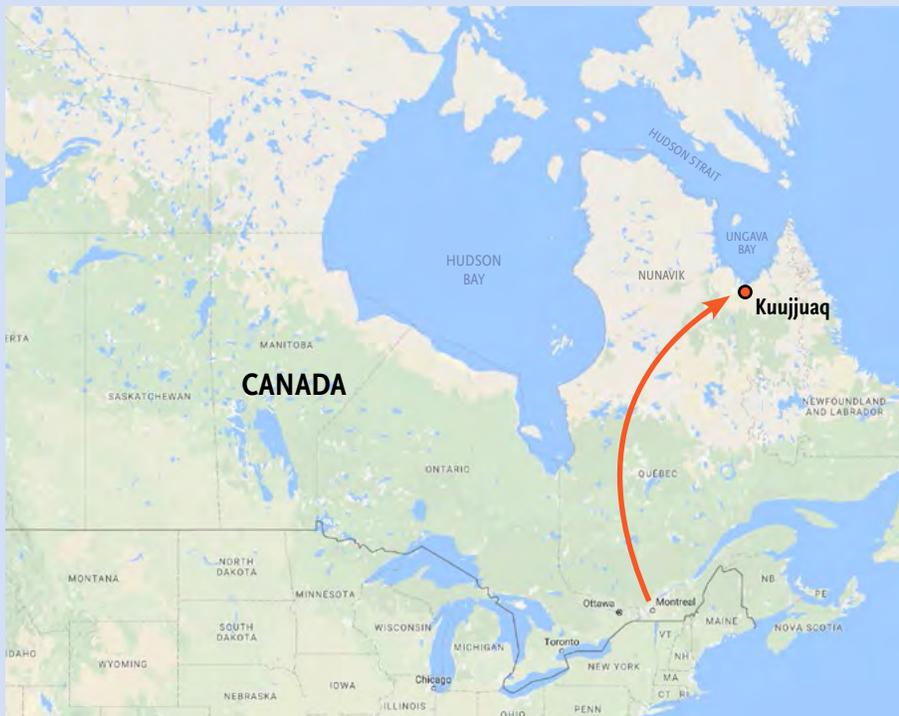
## FAADA

Too much harrassment is going on with wild animals for the sake of good photos or close encounters these days. This includes the on-going use of motorized buggies for sensitive polar bear encounters; use of helicopters by biologists to monitor and tag wolves and caribou; motorized boats for approaching often too close to whales and seals; hunting outfitters still promoting hunting of sensitive or declining species such as

Canada's barrenground & woodland caribou populations, polar bear - and the list goes on. Recently a new non-profit organization called [FAADA: the Foundation for the Adoptional Sponsorship and Defence of Animals](#) -has recently been established in Spain for the defense of animals in regard to proper tourism practices and principals. We heartily endorse their philosophy, and we are now a proud member!



## WHERE WE ARE - AND HOW TO GET TO US



For more information, go to [www.thelon.com/map.htm](http://www.thelon.com/map.htm)

Each season - depending on where the animals are for each specific trip - our adventures will begin at a remote northern town or settlement in Far Northern Canada, where we will board a charter boat or aircraft to access some of the most remote active wildlife regions in the Arctic & sub-Arctic.!

Kuujuaq Nunavik is a unique remote northern Inuit settlement full of vibrant history that is directly linked to the wildlife camp areas. Our expeditions are often operated to areas that encompass the traditional routes of the Inuit people while they traveled, camped, hunted for caribou and traversed the inland peninsula routes between Hudson & Ungava Bays. It is definitely worth it to spend some time here exploring the area, community and unique aboriginal culture.

For even more stories and photos, visit our on-line newsletter '[The Changing Page](#)'

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