

**The Niagara Divers'  
Association  
Presents**



**A Full Day Symposium On Shipwrecks  
Saturday, March 14, 2020**

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# Shipwrecks/2020

## Saturday, March 14, 2020

**9:00 a.m. Tom Wilson: Master of Ceremonies - Welcome to Shipwrecks/2020**

Helen Cooper	Short: The Manola - One Ship, Two Shipwrecks
David Trotter	"Desperate Voyage" Discovery and Exploration of the Keystone State
Ian Kerr-Wilson	Accessibility is an Issue: Public Education and the Hamilton & Scourge National Historic Site
Ian Marshall	Short: Lake Erie (Eastern Basin) Mooring Project

**10:30 to 11:00 am      Break / Refreshments**

Matt Mandziuk	Short: Wreck Diving Trips
Kayla Martin	Short: The Creature from Beneath the Old Welland Canal
Jill Heinerth	Into The Planet - Journeys in Cave and Polar Diving

**12:15 to 1:15 pm      Lunch / Door Prize Draw**

David Gilchrist	Hope Island/Christian Island Shipwrecks Revisited
Tom Wilson	Short: Scuba Secrets: Cracking the Instructor Code
Walter Lewis	Early Steam Wrecks on the Great Lakes

**2:40 to 3:10 pm      Break / Refreshments**

Kayla Martin	Save Ontario Shipwrecks - Low Impact Diving
Jim Kennard	A Journey of Discovery
Jill Heinerth	Rebreather Safety

## Tom Wilson Master of Ceremonies



One of Tom's favourite phrases is, "The more I learn, the more I learn how little I know," from Socrates, which he finds translates perfectly into Great Lakes diving.

The more I dive the more I realize there's more out there to discover than I ever imagined," he said recently. Drawing on over 1,000 dives in environments from caves to ice and training from Open Water to Full Trimix, he brings a unique perspective to scuba that usually includes a few laughs along the way.

By his own admission Tom Wilson dives essentially for one reason: to capture photographs. You may have seen the fruits of his efforts in the magazines such as Diver, Advanced Diver, Scuba Press, Immersed, Ottawa Outdoors, and even the Toronto Star, all concentrating on the amazing wrecks of the Great Lakes which he firmly believes offer the best wreck diving in the world.

To compare he has traveled to such places as Roatan, Truk Lagoon, Turks and Caicos, Bahamas, Florida and North Carolina, but has found they pale in comparison to the diversity and numbers we have in our own backyard. Tom is a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer, and holds various certifications from IANTD, TDI, and GUE all the way up to full trimix and full cave. He enjoys teaching underwater photography, along with ice diving and nitrox courses.



Tom has presented both short and primary presentations at previous "Shipwrecks Symposiums" and has been our Master of Ceremonies for eight years. We are very pleased to have him back again this year.



### **“Scuba Secrets: Cracking the Instructor Code”**

In addition to being MC, Tom will also have a short presentation which is sure to leave you with a smile!

## David Trotter



David Trotter has been involved in Great Lakes shipwreck searching, diving, exploration, and documenting new discoveries for 35+ Years. In solving “History’s Mysteries” he has made significant contributions to the history of our Great Lakes and provided new exploration opportunities for sport and technical divers to enjoy.

His Discoveries have been featured on the Discovery Channel, PBS, NBC, and in The New York Times, Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, “Wreck Diver”, “Immersed”, “Canadian Diver” and “Lakeland Boating”.

David’s articles on Great Lakes shipwrecks have been published in historical journals and national scuba diving publications.

He has searched and discovered shipwrecks in all the Great Lakes (except Lake Ontario). In a unique odyssey, the 15 years of dedicated effort to discover the largest schooner built in Canada (the 250’ Minnedosa) has now resulted in surveying over 2,000 square miles of Lake Huron. This has been a one of a kind adventure with 90 new sites found; including Airplanes, the steamer Daniel J Morrell, the steamer W. C. Franz, the Schooner Marion Egan, the Hydrus and the steamer Goliath (naming just a few of the discoveries). The Goliath was designed by John Ericsson in 1846, fifteen years before he designed the ironclad “Monitor” of American Civil War fame.

David believes the Great Lakes are “Our Treasure” to be enjoyed by all who love our “Inland Seas” and our maritime history. It is the shipwreck hunter discovering and the diver exploring a shipwreck (in 20’ or 300’ of Water) that has that unique experience of traveling back into time.

Our World Underwater (Chicago) honored David’s contribution to diving and Great Lakes maritime history by presenting him with the special 2010 OWU Achievement Award. In 2016, the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History (AGLMH) honored David with the prestigious C. Patrick Labadie Award For Historic Preservation.

### **"Desperate Voyage" Discovery and Exploration of the Keystone State**

The 288’ Sidewheel Steamer Keystone State has been discovered in Lake Huron. She was the second largest ship on the Great Lakes when launched in 1849. Following the outbreak of Civil War hostilities in April, 1861, her loss, more than 150 years ago with a crew of 33, was a significant tragedy.



Web Site: [www.shipwreck1.com](http://www.shipwreck1.com)

## Jill Heinerth



More people have walked on the moon than have been to some of the places Jill Heinerth has explored right here on earth. She is a veteran of over thirty years of filming, photography and exploration on projects in submerged caves around the world with National Geographic, NOAA, various educational institutions and television networks worldwide. She is the inaugural Explorer in Residence for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, recipient of Canada's prestigious Polar Medal and the diving world's highest award from the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences.

### Rebreather Safety

Jill Heinerth has been diving rebreathers for over 25 years, taking them on remote filming and scientific expeditions. She shares her wisdom from lessons learned in the polar regions and underwater caves around the world.



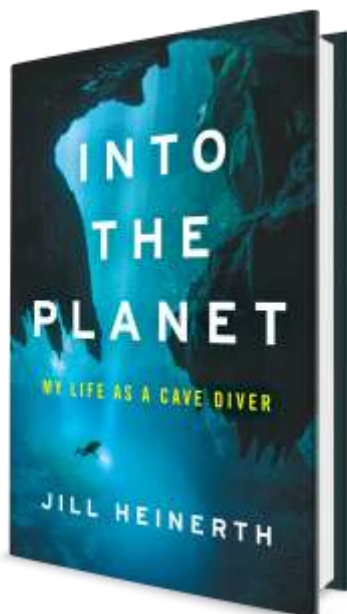




## Into The Planet - Journeys in Cave and Polar Diving

Jill shares a fast-paced program that highlights her new book *Into The Planet* and the making of the CBC documentary film *Under Thin Ice* where she swims with polar bears, walrus, and narwhals to tell the story of climate change.

Web Site: [www.IntoThePlanet.com](http://www.IntoThePlanet.com)



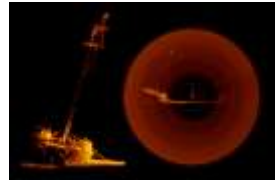
## Ian Kerr-Wilson



Recently retired as Manager of Heritage Resource Management at the City of Hamilton, Ian has worked in curatorial programming and management at industrial, military, marine and domestic heritage sites since 1981. Ian coordinated the Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site directly for two decades, before supervising his successors in that position. In retirement, he looks forward to consulting and advocating on heritage matters.

### **Accessibility is an Issue: Public Education and The Hamilton & Scourge National Historic Site**

The Hamilton and the Scourge are two American War of 1812 schooners resting on the bottom of Lake Ontario. Together they form one of only two shipwreck sites given a level of protection by the provincial ministry which prevents sport diving (the other being the Edmund Fitzgerald). As such, they are perhaps the most inaccessible National Historic Site in the nation.



The talk will highlight the punctuated waves of public interest which have attended the wrecks since their discovery in the 1970s. These waves of interest rise, fall and repeat as sporadic research projects take place, resulting in repetitive discussions about 'what to do about the wrecks.' The talk will provide an overview of research into the wrecks since their discovery, and examine how we might break free from the circularity of these discussions.

Web Site: [http://1812tour.hamilton.ca/hamilton\\_scourge.html](http://1812tour.hamilton.ca/hamilton_scourge.html)





## David Gilchrist

David Gilchrist, an NDA member, is a former presenter and Master of Ceremonies at Shipwrecks.



2020 marks his 50th year diving, with his initial training with the Aqua Knights of Hamilton, in 1970. He is a former ACUC, CMAS, DAN and PADI MSDT Instructor. He has been an active member of the Ontario Marine Heritage Committee (OMHC), participating in numerous archaeological programs with this group.

An avid underwater photographer, his award winning photographs have been displayed at Underwater Canada, the Vancouver Aquarium, the Ontario Science Centre, libraries and galleries. They have also been published accompanying articles in several magazines and also in children's books. After a first diving program at Resolute Bay in 1987, in 1989 he was the recipient of a Canada Council grant, through the Arctic Awareness Program, to complete an underwater photography project in Canada's High Arctic. He is more prone nowadays to be found in warmer waters having enjoyed trips to the islands of the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Chuuk Lagoon and the Red Sea.

### Hope Island/Christian Island Shipwrecks Revisited

Shipwrecks in Lower Georgian Bay became an attractive dive location in the mid 1970's. Many older divers here today may have enjoyed a dive weekend on board the 'Argonaut Diver' when we could visit several wrecks, the Western Island lighthouse and even a wreck over on the east side of Georgian Bay. Four of the wrecks that became quite popular were the Mapledawn, the Michigan, the Hope Island 'Mystery' Wreck and the Lottie Wolf. Fortunately, these wrecks are still there and relatively free from zebra mussel encrustations. For the new diver they offer a great first experience with shallow water wreck diving. At least two great charter services presently offer diving to these wrecks. This presentation will outline some of the features of this collection of Shipwrecks.



## Walter Lewis



Walter Lewis took up diving in 1990 specifically to dive on the wreck of the CORNWALL. At Shipwrecks '95, he did a presentation on the wreck, which was subsequently the subject of *The River Palace*, co-authored with Rick Neilson and published by Dundurn Press in 2008. In the following year, he and Rick were awarded the S.O.S. Marine Heritage Award. In 2011 Walter was named Great Lakes Historian of the Year, an award presented by the Marine Historical Society of Detroit. He is known to many in the Great Lakes community for the website he manages, which presents the raw materials of history, gathered through the work of many researchers, particularly those interested in shipwrecks. He is a frequent speaker on a wide range of topics

related to the history of the Great Lakes.

Web Site: [www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca](http://www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca)

### Early Steam Wrecks on the Great Lakes

This presentation will feature a range of steam vessels that pioneered service on the Great Lakes, all of them built before the American Civil War. Some were lost early in their careers; some survived into the twentieth century.



Some are among the most interesting dive sites on the lakes. A handful left the Lakes and met their ends in other waters. Some are still hiding in the depths of the Lakes.

## Jim Kennard

Jim Kennard has been diving and exploring the lakes of the northeast since 1970. He's found more than 200 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, New York Finger Lakes and in the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Utilizing his background as an electrical engineer, he built a side scan sonar system that located many of these shipwrecks. Significant discoveries include the two oldest shipwrecks discovered in the Great Lakes, the 1780 British warship HMS Ontario and the sloop Washington lost in 1803. In 1983 he found a unique horse powered ferryboat in Lake Champlain. All of these discoveries received worldwide attention in the news media. Discoveries made by Jim and his shipwreck teams have appeared in a number of publications including National Geographic, Sea Technology, Inland Seas, Wreck Diving, Skin Diver, and several Rochester, NY publications. He's appeared on Discovery Channel, CBC, BBC, and FOX News.



In 2013 he was selected a Fellow member of The Explorers Club. Jim received the Joyce S. Hayward Award for Historic Interpretation from the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History in 2015 for documenting the stories of Great Lakes shipwreck discoveries on his website [www.shipwreckworld.com](http://www.shipwreckworld.com).

In addition to searching for elusive shipwrecks Jim is an avid hiker and amateur radio operator. He graduated from Clarkson University with a BS in electrical engineering in 1966. A native of Peekskill he lives in Fairport, NY.

## A Journey of Discovery

The presentation highlights several unique and exciting discoveries over the past fifty years as related by Jim Kennard in his new book *Shipwrecks of Lake Ontario - A Journey of Discovery*, published by The National Museum of the Great Lakes.

These include:

**HMS Ontario:** A British warship built in 1780 and sunk in a storm the same year. It's the oldest shipwreck discovered in the Great Lakes.

**Sloop Washington:** A Canadian ship built in 1798 that foundered in a November storm in 1803.

Plus:

The Schooner St. Pete, Two Rare Dagger-board schooners from the 1800's, USAF C45 Aircraft and the sloop Black Duck, which according to treasure books carried a large cargo of whiskey.



Ontario Underwater Explorers Scuba Club's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual

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Gear Registration  
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Friday, April 24  
6 pm - 9 pm

Admission only

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- Newly certified divers (within 12 months or in progress) with certificate card



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- 50% off for students and newly certified divers (within 12 months or in progress) with certificate cards

# Women's Day of Diving

Sunday July 19, 2020

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year of PADI's International Day of Women's Diving.

Join us in Welland, Ontario for a great day of bonding with other women who share your love of the Underwater World!



## Morning Event

Dive at the Welland Scuba Park  
(Open to Women Only)

Cost \$5

Meet at 11 am for underwater contests and games with prizes for the winners. Plus there will be surface events for the bubble watchers.



Please RSVP with  
Kayla Martin  
Niagara Divers Association  
kayla@loveofdiving.com  
(647) 546-0113

## Afternoon Event

Canal Side Buffet Lunch  
(Everyone Welcome)

Cost \$10

Meet at 1 pm for Chili Cheese Dogs, Nachos, Salads and some great Homemade Desserts including Dive Sugar Cookies.

All proceeds of the Event to Women's Place of South Niagara

## Event Sponsors



## SHIPWRECKS/2020 SURVEY

This is our 26th year for Shipwrecks and we would appreciate your help in filling out a short survey. Every year we have incorporated your suggestions into the program. Thanks for your response and your attendance here today.

Based on your feedback, we have gone to an on-line survey only

It is available on-line at:  
[www.niagaradivers.com](http://www.niagaradivers.com)



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[www.riverdiver.ca](http://www.riverdiver.ca)

[www.facebook.com/rick.lymer](https://www.facebook.com/rick.lymer)



## Grand Door Prize

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# Lake Erie (Eastern Basin) Mooring Project 50/ 50 Draw

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<http://www.feuru.com>



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- 25% - First Prize
- 15% - Second Prize
- 10% - Third Prize

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spring in deploying the moorings.

We need both **Boats** and **Divers**.  
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The Mooring Chairman  
Ian Marshall  
[ian@niagaradivers.com](mailto:ian@niagaradivers.com)

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[www.aquasubscuba.com](http://www.aquasubscuba.com)

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10L Dry Bag, Neoprene mask strap and floating sunglasses leash.**



## Love of Diving Productions

[www.loveofdiving.com](http://www.loveofdiving.com)

In hopes of inspiring the next generation of divers, Kayla Martin has been creating videos to share her experiences and love of diving.

**Prize: 1 Custom Mask Strap**



## Bob's Scuba Shop

[www.bobsscuba.ca](http://www.bobsscuba.ca)

Bob's Scuba Shop has been serving Hamilton and the surrounding area for over 65 years with the best quality products, training, and service for any kind of adventure you plan to take underwater.

**Prizes: 1 Pair Scuba Go Sport Fins**



## Georgian Explorer Charters

[www.facebook.com/GeorgianExplorerCharters/](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgianExplorerCharters/)

Georgian Explorer Charters offers scuba diving, snorkeling and sightseeing tours of lower Georgian bay. Let us take you out for a day of adventure!

**Prizes: 6 Tee-Shirts**



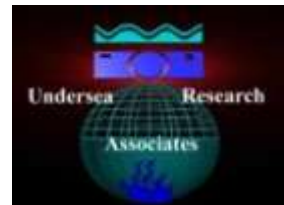
## Undersea Research Associates

[www.shipwreck1.com](http://www.shipwreck1.com)

Welcome to the leading edge of Shipwreck Discovery on the Great Lakes!

David Trotter in the course of surveying over 3,000 square miles of lake bottom has discovered a significant number of shipwrecks that were lost throughout the history of the Great Lakes.

**Prizes: 1- Set of five DVD's from the Great Lakes Series  
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# Door Prize Sponsors

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[www.seawolfcommunications.com](http://www.seawolfcommunications.com)

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**Prizes: 6 Books , 5 DVD's and 2 Maps**



## New York State Divers Association

[www.scubany.org](http://www.scubany.org)

Promoting and Protecting Diving and Diver's Rights by Encouraging Safe, Organized Diving and Respect for New York State's Underwater Heritage.

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## Save Ontario Shipwrecks

[www.saveontarioshipwrecks.ca](http://www.saveontarioshipwrecks.ca)

Save Ontario Shipwrecks is a Provincial Heritage Organization dedicated to the study, preservation and promotion of Ontario's marine heritage.

**Prizes: TBA**



## Rec & Tek Scuba

<https://www.recandtekscuba.com>

At Rec and Tek SCUBA we believe that scuba diving is not just a recreational sport but also a fellowship of unique explorers of the underwater world.

**Prizes: TBA**



## Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit

[www.feuru.com](http://www.feuru.com)

Members in good standing have complete access to the club house and all amenities; compressor, tanks, regulators, dive computers, Zodiac boat, motor and trailer and great fellowship!

**Prizes: 50/50 Draw (Lottery License # M823028)**





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