



**Musée maritime du Québec salutes Barbara Pouliot
for her significant contribution to Quebec's maritime memory**

L'Islet, Québec, August 20, 2019 – On Sunday, August 18, during its traditional *Hommage aux gens du fleuve*, the Musée maritime du Québec (MMQ) honoured **Barbara Pouliot** for her contribution to maritime heritage thanks to research carried out on the capsizing of the *Fort William*. She addressed this forgotten maritime incident in her book, *Lever l'ancre : John Pouliot, naviguer sur les eaux du monde* (Les éditions GID) and in a documentary, *Faux départ : incident du Fort William* (produced by Barbara Pouliot and directed by Jean-Pierre Fillion). Mrs. Pouliot describes the event in the Port of Montréal in 1965 that took the lives of five crew members. Her father, John Pouliot, a seafarer from a father to son tradition over 300 years, was also aboard the ship and miraculously escaped the capsizing.

Through this tribute, the MMQ wants to highlight the importance of Mrs. Pouliot's contribution to the preservation of our collective memory. "We were moved by her human approach and that of a daughter of a sailor, but also by the attention to detail presented in this very personal quest," stated Simon Mercier, President of the Board of Directors of the MMQ and a river pilot.

Much like her book explaining all the ramifications of the seagoing profession on family life, her documentary showcases the emotions and thoughts dwelling among the loved ones who remain on land during years on end. The 34-minute medium-length documentary is presented continuously all summer long at the Musée maritime du Québec until October 2019.

"The call of the sea lured me into producing the book and the documentary. (...) In 2013, my seafaring roots piqued my curiosity. From that moment forth, I knew that I had to write about my father's sailor stories to safeguard the family memory, but also to allow non-mariners access to this world and reveal a little known, but oh-so-important trade," indicated Barbara Pouliot.

Barbara Pouliot

Barbara Pouliot comes from a long line of sailors and seafarers. She was born in Saint-Michel de Bellechasse. Despite a childhood marked by her father's long absences at sea, she was fascinated by navigation. She experienced work on the seas aboard two Canadian Coast Guard vessels that sailed the Lower North Shore and the Arctic seas. She holds a bachelor's degree in forest management and worked in the field for 16 years. Currently, she is a maritime transport analyst for the Ministère des Transports du Québec and is very proud to contribute to the sustainable development of the St. Lawrence River.

Quick Facts

The first “Hommage aux gens du fleuve” took place in 2007 during the *Fête des chants de marins de Saint-Jean-Port-Joli*. To date, 26 Quebecers from the maritime sector have been honoured during this annual event. For several years now, the museum has organized the tribute as a way of expressing gratitude to impassioned individuals who have actively contributed to maritime life in Quebec. Today, the MMQ is a close partner in the *Fête des chants de marins*.

The MMQ, founded in 1968, is the guardian of Quebec’s national maritime collection and the custodian of more than 15,000 artefacts and ancient documents related to Quebec’s maritime history. There are also three ships onsite, ranking the museum as a major maritime institution in Canada. Its mission is to inform visitors and heighten their awareness of the history and maritime heritage of Quebec through means that promote, disseminate, educate, preserve and explore. The museum is a vibrant, welcoming and open environment where activities are focused on establishing strong ties with visitors, museum members and partners.

Photos: Marie-Pier Morin

Caption:

042: Barbara Pouliot gave a riveting testimonial before some 60 guests assembled for the occasion.

063: As a token of recognition, Barbara Pouliot received the traditional *Hommage aux gens du fleuve* award (a creation by artist Denys Heppell).

072: Guest of Honour Pouliot surrounded by Marie-Claude Gamache, Musée maritime du Québec Director, Simon Mercier, President of the MMQ, and Alain Franck, the MMQ’s Curator.

[Musée maritime du Québec website](#)

Barbara Pouliot’s Facebook page : [Histoires de marin](#)

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Source

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