

**CELEBRATING
KING CHARLES III**

SPECIAL CORONATION SUPPLEMENT



CANADIAN Geographic



CORONATION DAY

KING CHARLES III

**MEET THE
NEW MONARCH**



During his 15th visit to Canada in 2009, then Prince Charles waves from the balcony of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton, Ont.

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER John G. Geiger

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Alexandra Pope
DIRECTOR, BRAND AND CREATIVE Javier Frutos
MANAGING EDITOR Sarah Brown
SENIOR EDITOR Michela Rosano
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Abi Hayward
ASSISTANT EDITOR Thomas Lundy
DIGITAL CONTENT EDITOR Madigan Cotteril
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS Christy Hutton, Edward Swan, Iza Valle

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT John Hovland
VICE-PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS AND ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
 Nathalie Cuerrier
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF FINANCE John Hovland
MEDIA SALES DIRECTOR Nicole Mullin, Strategic Content Labs
 416-364-3333, ext. 3051 nicole.mullin@stjoseph.com
VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS Tim Joyce

Canadian Geographic is published by Canadian Geographic Enterprises on behalf of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

EDITORIAL OFFICE
 50 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1M 2K1
 613-745-4629 Fax: 613-744-0947 canadiangeographic.ca

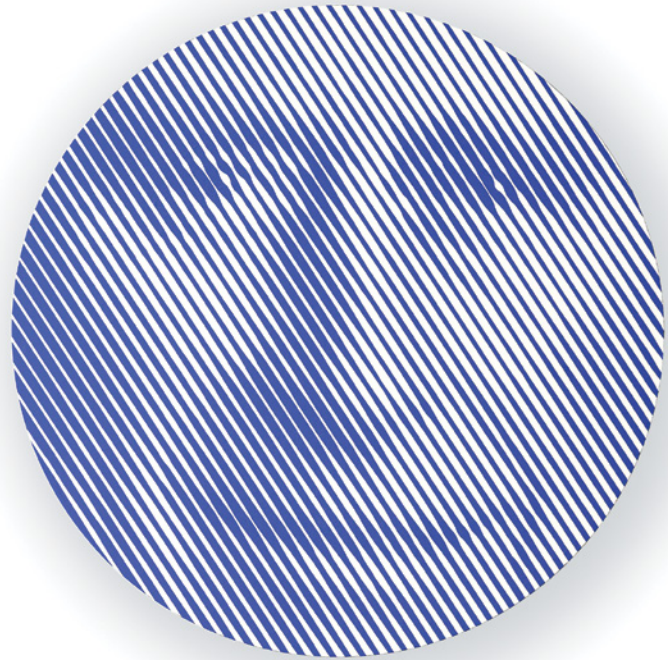
ISSN 0706-2168. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior written consent of the publisher or a licence from The Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency (Access Copyright). Copyright ©2023. All rights reserved.

Canadian Geographic and design are registered trademarks. ® Marque déposée.



Funded by the Government of Canada

Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Founded in 1929, the Society is a non-profit educational organization. Its objective is to advance geographical knowledge and, in particular, to stimulate awareness of the significance of geography in Canada's development, well-being and culture. In short, the aim is to make Canada better known to Canadians and to the world.

PATRON

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., O.Q., C.D., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

VICE-PATRONS

Sir Christopher Ondaatje, O.C., C.B.E., Lord Martin Rees, O.M.
 Hon. Margaret M. Thom, O.N.W.T.

HONORARY PRESIDENT

Chief Perry Bellegarde, S.O.M.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Roberta Bondar, O.C., O.Ont.
 Pierre Camu, O.C.
 Arthur E. Collin
 Wade Davis, C.M.
 Gisèle Jacob
 Denis A. St-Onge, O.C.
 Joseph MacInnis, C.M., O.Ont.

EXPLORERS-IN-RESIDENCE

Emily Choy, Jill Heinerth, George Kourounis, Mylène Paquette, Mario Rigby, Adam Shoalts (Westaway Explorer-in-Residence), Ray Zahab

PRESIDENT

Hon. Lois Mitchell, C.M., A.O.E., Calgary

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Joseph Frey, C.D., Toronto
 Connie Wyatt Anderson,
 The Pas, Man.

SECRETARY

Carl Gauthier, M.M.M., C.D., Ottawa

TREASURER

Jim Carter, CPA, C.D.
 Lethbridge, Alta.

COUNSEL

Andrew Pritchard, Ottawa

MEET THE KING

THE YEAR WAS 1975, and a dashing young Prince Charles was in Canada for a jam-packed Arctic itinerary filled with outdoor adventure. There was dogsledding, snowmobiling and, most exhilarating of all, a 30-minute dive beneath the frigid waters of the polar ocean in Qausuittuq (Resolute). On that day, physician-scientist and undersea explorer Joe MacInnis was tasked with making sure the prince stayed safe. The potential threats were many — acute hypothermia from a leaking dive suit, the remote “black swan” possibility of the ice shifting and closing over the prince’s head, even an encounter with a massive Greenland shark. In “King of chill,” MacInnis writes about this once-in-a-lifetime chance to dive with a future king, noting how curious and courageous Prince Charles was on that day, and how deeply interested he has always been in the people and places he visits.

That curiosity was on display almost five decades later when Prince Charles travelled to Canada in May 2022 on a whirlwind royal tour honouring the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The King (at the time Prince of Wales) dedicated a Platinum Jubilee garden in the Northwest Territories and spoke from the heart about the need to restore harmony with nature.

With the coronation of King Charles III set for May 6, *Canadian Geographic* publishes these stories, and others, with an eye to giving Canadians a deeper understanding of their new monarch, a king very much for the times. 🌍

– Nathalie Cuerrier
 Publisher

COVER: CHRIS PARSONS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; OPPOSITE: CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES; THIS PAGE: KING CHARLES III, CHRIS CRAN; PHOTO BY JAVIER FRUTOS/CAN.GEO



Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, attend Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill on July 1, 2017, as the country marks the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

A NEW ERA



THE WISDOM KING CHARLES III HAS GAINED THROUGH AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFETIME OF SERVICE AND MANY VISITS TO CANADA WILL GUIDE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS COUNTRY IN THE DAYS AND YEARS AHEAD

BY **JOHN FRASER**

CORONATIONS ARE HISTORIC, singular events. They happen rarely in anyone's lifetime and reflect not only on the person who is being crowned but also on the people being served. They also speak volumes on the nature of the times. This was as true when Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine were crowned in 1154, and their realm became afflicted with a murderous conflict between church and state, as it was when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953. In the late queen's case, the world was ready for a whole new story of hope after decades of depression and war. Contrarily, with the May coronation of King Charles III and his Queen Consort Camilla, the world turns out variously to be confused, grumpy, vengeful and not at all optimistic about the future.

If that is indeed the nature of our times, and there's lots of evidence to support that take, then those countries like Canada fortunate enough to claim Charles as their head of state should thank their lucky stars. That's because through a long life that sometimes looked like a game of snakes and ladders, all played out extensively in the media, this remarkable man who has finally succeeded to the role he was born to take on is not only

John Fraser is the founding president of the Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada and an award-winning journalist, author and royal authority.



a great survivor but also someone who turns out to be a champion of concerns and ambitions that align closely with those of many Canadians. These include a longing for a more caring treatment of the land with curbs on pollution and mindless development, as well as a more equitable relationship among all who live and work upon it.

To be sure, he is also a traditionalist, albeit of the evolutionary sort, so all the crowns and sceptres, all the golden orbs and robes, all the ancient thrones and solemn oaths and coronation glitter resonate strongly with him, as they also do for those of us who love the history and pageantry of monarchy. But soon enough, most of those jewels and precious metals go back to the Tower of London to await the next coronation, while the King is constitutionally required to get on with the business of kingship in a modern and increasingly skeptical world.

In Canada, where he is not yet able to command the sort of cumulative affection and esteem his mother had when she died, getting on with it means sticking to the

causes he has always avowed, either directly through his Prince's Trust Canada or indirectly through the people and places he has championed during his decades-long royal apprenticeship as Prince of Wales. But he now has to be more cautious in his avowals because constitutional monarchs are obliged to eschew any hint of an overt political agenda. He has already shown he is prepared to do exactly that. In the days following the death of Elizabeth II, he managed the transition flawlessly.

Many Canadians do not realize Charles has visited Canada more than any other member of the royal family except the late queen, and he has been to dramatically more far-flung Canadian destinations than most Canadians. His first official visit took place more than half a century ago in 1970 when he was just 21. The extensive tour started with his solo arrival in Ottawa, though he eventually joined his parents and younger sister, Princess Anne, for a centenary celebration of Manitoba's entry into Confederation and a trip north to what is now

Nunavut. On a second trip, a year or so later, he returned to the North, which he loves, and went under the ice in a diving suit, winning him a certain reputation as an "action man." On those initial visits 50 years ago, he impressed people with his straightforward approach. These visits even had a *realpolitik* aspect — to reinforce Canadian sovereignty over the High Arctic.

Subsequent travels, which came to be known as "homecomings" to reinforce efforts to Canadianize the Crown, have taken Charles to all of Canada's provinces and major cities. He has been subject to intense coverage, which bordered on intrusive during his first marriage to Princess Diana. He likely wished that his private life could remain more private, but different times call for different approaches and perspectives. When, for example, the famous constitutional essayist Walter Bagehot warned in the 19th century about shedding too much light on the monarchy, it was because he believed such exposure would diminish our sense of awe and the instinct of deference around



royalty. “The monarchy’s mystery is its life. We must not let daylight upon the magic,” he wrote.

In his wildest imagination, Bagehot could never have conceived the kind of klieg lights that would be focused on the institution in our time. Nor would he have been able to understand that the level of contemporary intrusiveness into the life of King Charles and his family would, ironically, serve to reinforce the fascination for monarchy. It has also underlined the relatable humanity of the King, making the fact that he soldiers on seem even more admirable.

But soldier on is exactly what Charles Philip Arthur George does best. On his last homecoming to Canada a few months before his mother died last year, he made a special point of focusing on Indigenous issues and reconciliation. Going right back to his young adulthood in the 1960s, Charles as Prince of Wales was urging anyone who would listen to try and understand that Indigenous voices had crucial messages for the rest of us — messages about the importance of not despoiling the

land, messages about respecting kinship and shared values, messages about settling disputes, messages about acknowledging and making amends for past iniquities if we want a more equitable future. His openness to discussion and reconciliation means he will be under intense pressure to deal with the wrongs of the past, but he doesn’t give any indication that he is wary of doing exactly that. In fact, his reign at this time in Canada’s story offers a new chance to change the plot line for the better.

For all the pains he took on this front and on climate change and a host of other issues, including everything from architectural brutalism and protection of the countryside to animal welfare and genetically modified crops, he was subjected to extraordinary criticism. Yet to his credit, he understood very well from a young age that if he was to make a difference on account of the role he was handed at birth, he had better just get on with it. That’s because it would be a long time before he became king, and it was up to him to define what role he could play as heir to the throne.

Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, (OPPOSITE) meet crowds in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, during their 1983 tour of Canada; Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles and Princess Anne (ABOVE) visit Portage la Prairie, Man., in 1970.

Once he was sovereign, there was a constitutional straitjacket waiting for him that would govern and temper everything he said or did. There are no guidebooks on how to be Prince of Wales, but there is plenty of precedence on what it would be like if he did nothing: the sons of George III, Queen Victoria and George V — all of them using the title Prince of Wales — were studies of what not to do. Charles could have wasted all those years waiting for his coronation, but he didn’t. He has lived long enough to see many of his causes finally become our causes.

Closer to his own royal family home, it has been clear for some time that he intends to pare back some of the trappings of monarchy, starting with a reduction in the size of “The Firm,” as his late father, Prince Philip, once dubbed the business of the working royal family.



Prince Charles spent a busy day in Ottawa visiting multiple delegations during his 2022 Royal Tour of Canada to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. His schedule included a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (MIDDLE) and a number of events with Governor General Mary Simon (BOTTOM).

And what of his queen consort? Like the King himself, she soldiers on, something she has also done remarkably well. From the moment Queen Elizabeth II died, the spotlight has been intense on them as a couple, and it is clear that they know how to handle it. They have clearly found ways to support one another, and that mutual support will be crucial in the days and years ahead.

As I am writing this article, Charles and Camilla are just ending a first foreign trip (to Germany). King Charles III and his current role provide a great example of how the once unbridled power of the monarchy evolved into the dignified model of power curbed and put to the service of the people through their elected representatives in Parliament. Powerlessness is, in fact, King Charles's strongest card to play as he tries to deploy his unique platform to urge us all into taking more responsibility for the world we inhabit and will be passing on to our children.

The trappings of monarchy, which will be on stunning display on his coronation day, are just that: trappings, full of historical memories and romantic imaginings. But the good man at the centre of this drama is now set to show the world how the evolution of constitutional kingship can enhance and improve the structure of democracy. It's a mysterious business, I suppose, but Canadians with our own distinctive history are a crucial part of that narrative, and that's why this coronation resonates so strongly with those who see the Crown as part and parcel of our history and who we are. 🌐





During his 15th visit to Canada in 2009, then Prince Charles salutes after laying a wreath as he attends a Remembrance Day service at the National War Memorial on November 11 in Ottawa.

Seeds of change

What a small garden in Yellowknife signifies for Canada's relationship with King Charles III

BY **NATHAN TIDRIDGE**



King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla tour a Platinum Jubilee garden with Northwest Territories Commissioner Margaret Thom, whose knowledge is rooted in her Dene culture.

DURING THEIR LAST VISIT to Canada before ascending the throne, King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla found themselves standing at the edge of a garden in Yellowknife. It was the final stop of a whirlwind royal tour honouring the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, and the King (at the time Prince of Wales) had just delivered an impassioned address acknowledging the suffering inflicted on Indigenous Peoples

at the hands of Canada's Indian residential school system.

"We must listen to the truth of the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples. We must work to understand their pain and suffering," King Charles III said to the crowd assembled in Yellowknife's Ceremonial Circle on Frame Lake.

Following the speech, the royal couple were joined by Northwest Territories Commissioner Margaret

Thom on a walk to the final event of the tour: the dedication of a Platinum Jubilee garden.

Co-created by Commissioner Thom and the Canadian Armed Forces (Joint Task Force North), the garden is one of 13 such spaces established by Canada's lieutenant governors and territorial commissioners in each of their capitals. What each garden looks like depends on the land and relationships that exist with the Crown in



that region — many vice-regal representatives worked with, and learned from, their respective Indigenous partners to determine the location and layout of each garden and the plants and medicines to be grown there.

A common thread binding the gardens is that each vice-regal representative was gifted tobacco seeds from the Chapel Royal at Massey College in Toronto. Massey's Chapel Royal, or Gi-Chi-Twaa Gimaa Nini Mississauga Anishinaabek AName Gamik (the King's Anishinabek Sacred Place), on the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, has revived the protocol of the Crown gifting tobacco in honour of the treaty relationships established with many Indigenous Nations across the continent.

Predating what we now know as Canada (some by centuries), these relationships often saw the sovereign and their representatives accepted as family by their Indigenous counterparts. When residential schools, and other actions of the Canadian government, are understood as happening within what were meant to be family relationships, the enormity of the betrayal is further revealed.

As she guided the royal couple through the garden, Thom stopped at

various stations along the way to gift teachings to the King and Queen around the significance of the different flowers and medicines used in its design. It was not lost on the couple that orange — symbolic of the children lost to the residential school system — was the dominant colour.

"The Prince of Wales understood the importance of the garden as a space that honours the Crown's relationship — his relationship — with Indigenous Peoples," recalled Thom. "It is a space meant to centre Indigenous teachings."

In a contemporary and effective use of the convening role of the Crown, the creation of the string of gardens originated with Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty and Manitoba's former Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon, who used the Platinum Jubilee to highlight the critical and unique Crown-Indigenous relationships that are threaded across Turtle Island.

Dedicating Saskatchewan's vice-regal garden on the grounds of Government House, Mirasty (himself a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and the first Indigenous person appointed to the province's vice-regal role) said the gardens "recognize the

Prince Charles meets with the crowds that came out to greet him in Yellowknife. He called on the territorial government to work with traditional Knowledge Keepers to "restore harmony with nature."

sacred relationship between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples and remind us of the commitments we must continue to uphold."

Back in Yellowknife, the significance of the future king dedicating such a space can now be fully appreciated considering what would happen in a few months. He left this country with reconciliation on his mind, and so it comes as no surprise that his first words to Canada following his accession were focused on his relationship with the land's First Peoples.

The King is famously a devoted gardener. He knows that gardens, like relationships, are dynamic spaces that must be cultivated if they are to persevere and flourish. There is a lot of excitement that surrounds a new reign, and it is inspiring to think that among the planning for the coronation and future royal tour of Canada, the King's mind will likely drift back to that little garden in Yellowknife and the relationships it represents. 🌱



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

KING CHARLES III HAS SHOWN THAT HE IS PREPARED
TO LISTEN TO – AND LEARN FROM – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

BY PERRY BELLEGARDE

MY ELDERS have taught me that the Cree way is to lift up our leaders. So that they know we have high expectations of them. So that they know they will always be supported in doing the right thing.

Today, I want to recognize and commend His Majesty King Charles III.

I first met the future king in 2001 when he visited Saskatchewan during the year marking the 125th anniversary of Treaty 6 with the Crown. Since

then, I have had several occasions to meet and talk with him in his role as the representative of the Crown and as one of the longtime, leading advocates for the environment and sustainable development. For the last four years, I have had the honour to be an advisor on the development of King Charles's Sustainable Markets Initiative.

For the First Nations people of the Prairies, the treaties we entered into with the Crown are sacred and

enduring covenants. We entered the treaty relationship through ceremony witnessed by Grandfather Sun and all of our Grandmother and Grandfather spirit beings. As the treaty itself stated, the relationship of partnership, mutual respect and reciprocity was meant to be honoured as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and the grass grows.

While the Crown in right of Canada now holds the legal responsibility for honouring, implementing



and enforcing the treaty provisions, for First Nations treaty signatories, the initial treaty relationship will always remain with the Crown in right of Great Britain. We have expectations of whoever wears the Crown.

In 2023, honouring the treaty relationship means many things.

Respecting the contributions that Indigenous Peoples have made and continue to make to culture, science, the economy and the environment means finding appropriate ways to incorporate our knowledge systems into the urgent global response to the climate crisis. Respecting our inherent, unsundered right to self-determination means ensuring a place for Indigenous Peoples in every forum where vital decisions are being made about our common future. Honouring our unique cultures and traditions means putting a priority on protecting and preserving our lands and waters — under our control.

His Majesty King Charles III has shown that he is prepared to listen to and learn from Indigenous Peoples.

His Sustainable Markets Initiative brings together government, industry and technical experts to promote common solutions to the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and global poverty. To his credit, His Majesty has made Indigenous knowledge systems and Indigenous rights a keystone of his leadership in this dialogue. I recognize him for that.

His Majesty carries a great many titles and honours. For me, the one that stands out is the traditional Cree name that the late Gordon Oakes, an Elder, Chief and Sun Dance leader bestowed upon the future King of Canada and head of the Commonwealth in 2001 when he was the Prince of Wales. The name is *Kīsikāwīpīsimwa miyo ōhcikanawāpamik*, The Sun Watches Over Him in a Good Way.

The name echoes the language of the numbered treaties. The name also invokes one of our most important teachings. In the Cree worldview, Grandfather Sun watches over all of us, the two-legged ones, the four-legged ones, and the ones that crawl

OPPOSITE: Prince Charles participates in a Cree naming ceremony with Elder Gordon Oakes (left) and Chief Perry Bellegarde in April 2001. The Cree name that was bestowed upon the King translates as “the sun watches over him in a good way.” ABOVE, left to right: Valerie Bellegarde, Chief Perry Bellegarde and Prince Charles at the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society during a three-day royal tour of Canada in 2022 as part of the celebrations of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

and the ones that fly. We are all related, and we all depend on each other.

The name is fitting. It is a good name for the man who is our treaty partner. And it is a good name for this global leader who, through his words and actions, has embraced an Indigenous worldview of our relationship and responsibilities to each other and the world around us.

Like many other First Nations leaders and citizens, I have high expectations for the new king. I lift him up. 🌟



King Charles III meets Noble at the Royal Mews in Windsor. The black mare was presented to him by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in March 2023 in recognition of the RCMP's 150th anniversary and the upcoming coronation of the King in May.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE/APF VIA GETTY IMAGES



Prince Charles was an experienced diver, but until his 1975 visit to Canada he had never explored Arctic waters.

KING of CHILL

REMEMBERING A 1975 JOURNEY UNDER THE ICE OF THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE WITH THE FUTURE KING CHARLES III

BY JOE MacINNIS

I'M TRYING TO READ the mind of the 26-year-old Englishman in front of me, searching for signs of anxiety. His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland has achieved many things in his rich and royal life, but this is the first time he's dived under a fathom of ice in near-freezing water.

We're 700 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, sitting on the edge of a square-cut dive hole. The ice is almost two metres thick. Sea water filling the hole is studded with ice crystals. We're sitting inside a heated canvas tent, wearing red neoprene diving suits. The temperature outside the double-walled tent is -33 C. The temperature inside is 5 C. As I explain to the prince how to inflate the suit, his eyebrows arch into an unspoken question. *Can I trust this man?*

The polar ocean in front of us is freighted with perils. Acute hypothermia from a leaking dive suit. Air embolism caused by breath-holding during ascent. The remote "black swan" possibility of the ice shifting and closing over our heads.

We're in Qausuittuq (Resolute), a small Inuit hamlet on the north shore

of the Northwest Passage. Since arriving here, the prince has been under the tight-lipped scrutiny of his British and Canadian security team. Their primary task is to analyze any threats against his life and take steps to protect him. They are uneasy. A few minutes from now, the prince will descend into a life-threatening environment and leave them behind.

The prince's itinerary on this visit to Arctic Canada includes dogsledging, snowmobiling and this dive. As a physician-scientist and undersea explorer, it's my job to make sure the prince stays safe. Yesterday I had a conversation with a senior member of his Scotland Yard protection team. His eyes moved all the time; his body bristled with energy. Beyond the words of our conversation was an unspoken message: if the prince returns with a single hair out of place, there will be trouble — sudden and serious.

From his first breath, the man in the red suit beside me has led a pre-ordained life. He was born for one job and one job only: heir to the throne. At six, he was shy and prone to sinus infections. At eight, he was shipped off to board at Cheam School, a prep school for royals and elites. During rugby games, his

teammates and opponents pumelled him in the scrum. He was stoic; he never fought back. Prince Philip thought his son needed courage and character and sent him to his own alma mater Gordonstoun, a spartan Scottish boarding school founded on the promise of freeing "the sons of the powerful" from "the prison of privilege." The future king was a prime target for bullies. When he wasn't beaten up, he was ostracized.

This afternoon, the man in the shadow of the throne shows no evidence of these early adversities. His eyes are attentive; he's full of questions.

I show him a thin neoprene hood that looks like a ski mask. "This hood protects the skin on your face from freezing," I tell him.

"Why is that important?" he asks.

"If the skin around your mouth gets cold," I tell him, "you'll have

Joe MacInnis is a medical doctor who studies leadership in lethal environments. His most recent book, Deep Leadership: Essential Insights from High-Risk Environments, was published by Random House. He is an Honorary Vice-President of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

trouble holding your breathing regulator in place.”

I imagine what might happen. His mouthpiece slips out. Thick neoprene gloves try to jam it back in between his teeth. Breathing rate increases. Panic follows.

The prince is almost ready. A metal harness carrying two high-pressure air cylinders is eased onto his back. He tightens its straps around his waist. He checks his breathing regulator by inhaling and exhaling through its mouthpiece. He cleans off his face mask. His practised way with these procedures confirms his numerous dives in temperate waters.

He adjusts the row of lead weights on a belt around his waist and looks at me. “This weight-belt is very heavy,” he says.

“The belt weighs 50 pounds,” I tell him. “The first 25 pounds is to overcome the buoyancy of your inflatable suit. The second 25 pounds is to overcome reluctance.” He responds with a half-smile.

He puts the mouthpiece of his breathing regulator between his teeth, inhales, pushes off from the insulated floor and slides into the water. After bobbing for a few seconds in the ice crystals, he presses the exhaust button in his suit and sinks. The neoprene glove on his right hand has a firm grip on the yellow line hanging in the dive hole. He will wait for me beneath the ice.

I slip into the water and check my breathing regulator. A member of the Scotland Yard protection team looks at me with eyes that have squinted the length of a gun barrel.

I exhale and descend into the chimney of ice. It took most of an afternoon to cut the hole and remove two tonnes of frozen water. The sides of the chimney have the patina of old ivory.

I ease my way down the chimney, beneath the ice, and come face to face

with the prince in crystal clear water. I’m hyper-vigilant for a multitude of signs that will keep my partner whole and bring him safely back to the surface. In this airless, voiceless world, I focus on three things: breathing rate, eye movement, body language. His breathing rate is paced. His eyes are locked on mine. His fins move easily in the water beneath him.

This is my homeland, a place I regard with deep suspicion. The ceiling of ice splaying out to invisible horizons. A tangle of kelp covering the sea floor. Water so cold it kills an unprotected diver in minutes.

Five years before, I led the first of four expeditions to this bay. Our objective was to develop techniques to allow scientists to work safely beneath the ice. Supported by the Canadian government, we made more than 800 dives in this cove and other polar regions. Last year, not far from where we’re swimming, we constructed *Sub-Igloo*, the first staffed polar station.

The station was a transparent acrylic sphere, filled with air, that was big enough to accommodate three divers on a circular bench. Its entry and exit hatch was a small, round opening in the floor. Air pressure inside the sphere kept the ocean at bay. Sixteen struts connected the sphere to ballast trays. For six weeks, *Sub-Igloo* was our refuge and science centre.

A diver appears out of the blackness behind the prince. It’s Rick Mason, one of the most trusted members of our team, and he’s carrying a 35mm camera with a strobe light.

The prince struggles to control the air in his suit. He adds too much and his head bumps hard against the ice. He presses the exhaust button and sinks too quickly. His steady breathing confirms that he’s unflustered as he wrestles with the unalterable principles of buoyancy.

I scan the dimensions of our claustrophobic realm. The undersurface of



the ice looks like a storm cloud restraining mercury-like pools of our exhaust air. The vertical vault of water distorts the near and far of things.

Once the prince has his buoyancy under control, I motion for him to follow. Slowly, we head west, keeping the ice above our heads. I point down to the shadowy piles of steel ballast that once held *Sub-Igloo* to the sea floor.

A few minutes later, we encounter the first ice stalactite, a hollow tapering tube as long as a forearm, hanging from the ice. It encloses a plume of descending brine filled with a community of life including diatoms and algae. The most visible creatures are tiny, brown crustaceans called



amphipods. The prince looks at the amphipods for a long time and gazes up at the ceiling of ice. Later, he tells me that “every mountain and river has an almost sacred character of its own.”

We continue west until we encounter a ridge of shore-fast ice. In the feeble twilight, we stare at broken blocks lying at harsh angles. It is a starkly forbidding place of fissures and corrugations. The prince is looking at ice as cold and malevolent as beauty can be.

I check my watch. Twenty-five minutes have elapsed; it's time to swim back to the dive hole. In the celestial light, a lion's mane jellyfish trails a skein of stinging tentacles. I turn a

slow, 360-degree circle to see if anything is watching. So far, we've avoided the evil luck of a Greenland shark. They live in deep water but visit the shallows. Slow-moving carnivores, they reach lengths of six metres. A few have been found with caribou and human bones in their stomachs. The fact that we've not seen them in this bay has never been comforting.

When the dive hole is almost above us I give a short wave to Rick Mason, who slides in beside the prince. I drop to the sea floor and search for two items I put there previously. With clumsy hands I dust them off and put them in position. Then I float up until I'm just behind the prince. Gently, I tap

Prince Charles (right) and Joe MacInnis at the edge of the dive hole, cut through ice that was two metres thick.

him on the shoulder. He turns around to see me wearing a black bowler hat and holding an unfurled umbrella. He stares at me as if I've gone mad. My heart sinks. Seconds later, his eyes crinkle and the sound of muted laughter fills the space between us. *My God, I think, he's going to inhale the ocean.*

The prince puts the hat on, reaches for the umbrella, holds it over his head and slowly ascends toward the dive hole. Trailing a stream of bubbles, he is Mary Poppins in the flying nanny scene.

The faces greeting him in the tent are stupefied. There's no logical explanation for a grinning prince surfacing in a bowler hat. The shock is followed by laughter. After wiping his face and adjusting his hat, the man who lives his life under the camera's unblinking eye steps out of the tent to face a scrum of reporters and photographers.

Before leaving the tent, he inflated his suit, making him look like the Michelin Man. He lifts his arms up in a victory salute and rises up on his toes. There is laughter and applause. He steps into the centre of the scrum and pats his enormous stomach.

"How was it?" someone asks. "Very interesting, indeed. Bloody cold," he laughs. "How was the suit?" someone else asks. "Well, you put the air in here," he says, "and you can do amaz-



kilometres east of where the prince made his 1975 dive. The discovery of the *Breadalbane* in 100 metres of water. The construction of a 20-person base camp that allowed us to make 10 dives to film the 1853 wreck. An almost-completed documentary about the project, *The Land That Devours Ships*, directed by Bill Mason for the National Film Board.

introduce him to the members of our four-person documentary film team. "I'm sorry, I've only got 40 minutes," he says, "so we should get started."

Standing behind a model of a 19th-century three-masted ship, he faces the camera. "I'm ready," he says. "Let's see if I have the talent to make this work."

"Camera rolling," says the cinematographer.

The prince begins. "More than a century ago, ships like this one sailed out from England and into the Canadian Arctic in search of the Northwest Passage. Having served in the Royal Navy myself for a few years, I think I can imagine, just a little bit, about what it must have been like to be on board a ship like this, crossing the cold North Atlantic in those terrible stormy seas. And fighting one's way through those ice-choked islands."

His voice is warm and humble. "A few years ago, I was lucky enough to visit the Canadian Arctic and to dive under the ice with Dr. Joe MacInnis. That was one of the most interesting and exciting things I have done for a considerable time. It was that particular experience that helped me to discover why so many of those ships never came back from the great expeditions of the 19th century. It was the loss of two of those ships, the *Erebus* and *Terror*, under the command of Sir John Franklin, that launched the greatest search in maritime history. And it's a search that's continuing even today."

His steady breathing confirms that
he's unflustered as he wrestles with the
unalterable principles of buoyancy.

ing things." He presses the exhaust button and holds it. His arms and shoulders go limp. His head leans forward until his chin touches his chest. He continues until he's almost doubled over.

My heart is slowing. The prince is safely on the surface.



ALMOST A DECADE LATER, in July 1984, I find myself in Kensington Palace, London, in the office of the personal assistant to the Prince of Wales. The lieutenant-colonel asks, "Are you ready? He'll be here in five minutes."

It has taken a series of interlocking events to be here. A five-year search for a 19th-century British shipwreck 90

Six months ago, I sent a letter to the prince asking if he might consider introducing the film. In a letter from Buckingham Palace, his private secretary wrote back: "His Royal Highness would be happy to contribute to your film. It would be helpful if you could let us have a draft of what the Prince of Wales might say. His Royal Highness would then like to see the film before deciding on the form of his introduction."

I check to make sure the lights are in place, the sound equipment tested. The film's director, Bill Mason, gives me an affirmative nod. "We're ready," I say.

The door opens, and the prince enters the room. He's wearing a double-breasted grey suit and smiling. We exchange greetings, and I



Clockwise from BELOW: Prince Charles watches a demonstration of how to skin a seal carcass in Frobisher Bay; the prince drives a snowmobile during a visit to Pangnirtung; the prince stays warm in a rabbit fur hat and heavy parka trimmed in wolverine fur; the prince is pulled by a team of sled dogs in Colville Lake; the *Sub-Igloo*, stored in a warehouse at Seneca College in Toronto, before heading up to the Arctic.



In a light-hearted moment after completing his dive, the prince inflates his suit, making him look like the Michelin Man.

We record two more versions. The prince inhabits every word.

“I really enjoyed seeing your film,” he says after we finish. “It gave me a clear understanding of the unpredictable ice and the challenges you faced. I wish I could have joined you, but it was impossible.” We sit down for tea and a short conversation. He’s full of questions.

The lieutenant-colonel reminds the prince of his other commitments. “I’m sorry, I must go now,” says His Royal Highness. “Please stay and help yourselves to a drink.”

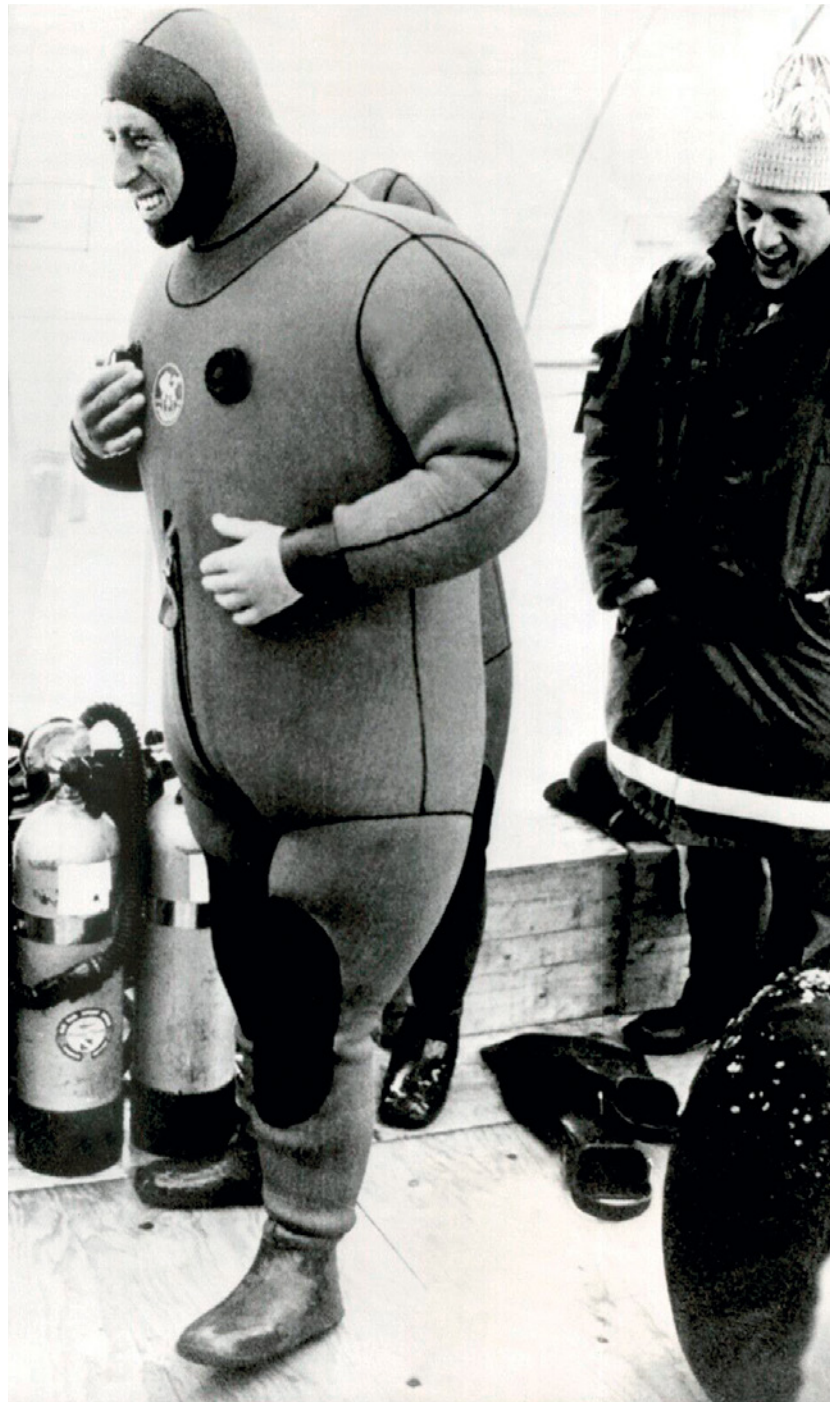
He motions to a large liquor cabinet at the end of the room.

“Thank you, sir, we will.” We shake hands and I tell the prince how grateful I am for his contribution. Then he and the lieutenant-colonel leave the room.

It is dangerous to tell a small team of filmmakers “to help yourself to a drink.” Spoken by a future king, it is a directive. Then it becomes a personal challenge. We open the liquor cabinet and help ourselves to generous glasses of rare, aged whiskey and cask-strength rum.

After two glasses, we walk into the hot July sunshine. I say goodbye to my colleagues and head towards Round Pond, an ornamental lake in Kensington Gardens. I stop to admire its shimmering view of the palace, then continue toward the Serpentine and follow its western shore until I come to the statue of Peter Pan. It celebrates a free-spirited boy who flies and never grows up — a boy who spends his everlasting childhood having adventures with pirates, fairies and mermaids.

The nine years following our Arctic dive were a challenge for the prince. The perpetual agenda of royal responsibilities. The hunt for



a personal identity. The search for a royal wife. The relentless scrutiny of the tabloid press. In 1979, in the explosion of an Irish Republican Army bomb, the prince lost his beloved great-uncle and confidant, Lord Mountbatten.

One of the best things about diving is that nothing exists of the world except your thoughts about the ocean and the person you are with. King Charles is someone whose deep blue

eyes and inquiring mind have their own unique depths. He pays close attention to the people around him, the nation and the shifting social terrain. He communicates with words and actions that are accurate, clear and clever. During a time of failing natural and social systems, he’s curious and courageous, focusing on projects that help people and places that are worthy and in need. Wherever he is, even under the ice, he carries the fire. ❁



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JULIAN PARKER/JUK PRESS VIA GETTY IMAGES; MCPLANIS ASSARI, RIDEAU HALL, OSCG-BSCG; THE CANADIAN PRESS/JIM CLARK; PAUL CHIASSON/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES.



The surprising pieces of history inside **KING CHARLES III'S** **CORONATION CARRIAGE**

A RELIC FROM THE LOST FRANKLIN EXPEDITION,
ALONG WITH OTHER PIECES OF POLAR EXPLORATION HISTORY,
WILL ACCOMPANY KING CHARLES III TO HIS CORONATION

BY ALISON FREEBAIRN AND LOGAN ZACHARY

ON SATURDAY MAY 6, one of the many silent faces watching the coronation of King Charles III will be that of Sir John Franklin.

His bust in Westminster Abbey commemorates the total loss of his 1845 expedition in search of the Northwest Passage, in which two Royal Navy ships and all 129 men vanished into the frozen Arctic.

A fragment of this historic tragedy is coming back to visit him on May 6: the Diamond Jubilee State Coach due to transport Charles III to the Abbey contains an actual relic from Franklin's lost expedition.

The interior is inlaid with pieces of illustrious history: polished slices taken from St. Paul's Cathedral, Florence Nightingale's dress, Sir Isaac Newton's apple tree, etc. Among these, in a top row position, is a wooden square marked "Franklin Expedition 1845."

This is just one of more than 100 pieces of Commonwealth history painstakingly collected by Australian craftsman Jim Frecklington, who built the coach for Queen Elizabeth II to mark her Diamond Jubilee.

Frecklington lived and worked in Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay), Nunavut for several summers in the early

1970s. This imbued him with a deep respect for communities in the North, and also for the 19th century sailors who sailed there looking for a Northwest Passage.

"I've always been very interested in those very brave men that went up into the Arctic, like Franklin and Crozier, and after working at Resolute Bay I really understood what a challenging environment it is, and had an appreciation for the courage they must have shown," he says. "I wanted to honour this bravery by including something from the Arctic in the coach I was building."

TRACE OF THE FRANKLIN



Frecklington approached the Government of Nunavut for its help with the project. The then Director of Heritage, Douglas Stenton, who still leads Nunavut's archaeological study of the Franklin Expedition today, received the call.

Having considered the proposal, the Government of Nunavut offered a fragment of a barrel that had been recovered from Beechey Island.

"I was absolutely delighted when colleagues in Nunavut were able to contribute an artifact from Franklin's camp at Beechey Island," says Frecklington.

This fascination with Franklin relics has been a constant since 1850, when search parties discovered the first traces of the lost expedition at Beechey Island, deep in the Northwest Passage. Franklin and his men had spent the winter of 1845-46 there, and buried three of their men on the island.

The discovery of the wrecks of HMS *Erebus* (in 2014) and HMS *Terror* (in 2016) sparked renewed interest in the expedition and its relics. An exhibition, *Death in the Ice*, toured three countries in 2018 and 2019, and the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth, England, recently announced that it would be receiving Franklin artifacts from Canada.

The placing of Franklin Expedition relics close to state power may be unusual, but it is not without

precedent; in 1865, Franklin relics were placed in the coffin of the assassinated U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. And to this day, the White House's Oval Office is dominated by the Resolute Desk, carved from the timbers of a ship that searched in vain for Sir John Franklin.

Franklin's is not the only polar expedition that is memorialized in the royal coach.

The RRS *Discovery* is represented there alongside artifacts from Sir Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton, including a piece of *Endurance's* spar donated by the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, U.K.

This spar was used as a distress signal flag pole by the party left on Elephant Island by Shackleton when he sailed to South Georgia for help. It is still the only surviving relic of the famous ship on dry land, the wreck of *Endurance* having only recently been located in the Weddell Sea.

Frecklington describes his work on the coach as "a labour of love," and hopes the various pieces of history he included will spark discussion and research for generations to come.

"Many places create time capsules," he says. "They gather together parts of their community history, and then they bury it for 30, 50 years. This coach is a time capsule above the ground, and it belongs to everyone." ❁



PREVIOUS PAGE: King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla will ride from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey for their coronation in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach, which contains pieces of Commonwealth history.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: An 1851 edition of the *Illustrated London News* noted the finding of a barrel from the lost Franklin Expedition at Beechey Island.

A fragment of a barrel from the lost Franklin Expedition, found on Beechey Island in the Canadian High Arctic, was incorporated into the Diamond Jubilee State Coach alongside other relics.

A piece of *Endurance's* spar is also included inside the Diamond Jubilee State Coach. The spar is the only surviving piece of Sir Ernest Shackleton's famed ship on dry land; the wreck of *Endurance* was found in the Weddell Sea in Antarctica in 2022.

