
TRUE PATRIOT LOVE EXPEDITION: WHERE ONCE THEY STOOD, WE STAND

September 6 – 14, 2024



This September the Where Once They Stood, We Stand Expedition, Presented by Mary Brown's Chicken, participants, both civilians and members of the military community will tackle the rugged back country of the Long Range Traverse in Gros Morne National Park. This experience is powerful in the healing, recovery, and transition of our military participants and equally powerful in inspiring the civilian participants. The military participants will be Newfoundlanders as a tribute to the vast number of us that served Canada proudly in the Canadian Armed Forces.

This expedition will raise funds for True Patriot Love Foundation, which supports the health and wellbeing of Veterans, serving members of the Forces, and their families. Their expedition series has raised over \$9M and has directly impacted over seventy ill and injured serving members and Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Where They Once Stood, We Stand expedition will take place during a historic time in Newfoundland and Labrador. 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of Newfoundland joining the Confederation, and the province will also see the repatriation of an unknown Newfoundland soldier who died in the battlefields of northern France in the First World War.

Against this backdrop of a country united, of service and sacrifice, we are standing with True Patriot Love and the work they do to help those who serve and their families.

Yours, for our Forces,

General (Retired) Rick Hillier, Where Once They Stood, We Stand Expedition Co-Chair

Dwight Ball, Where Once They Stood, We Stand Expedition Co-Chair

Greg Roberts, Where Once They Stood, We Stand Expedition Co-Chair

Points of Interest

Gros Morne National Park is the second largest park in Atlantic Canada and a World Heritage Site and its unmarked trails make for an exciting, rugged backcountry adventure!

2024 marks a historic year for Newfoundland and Labrador – celebrate by supporting Canada's military community

Expedition participants will be invited to a special dinner upon arrival into St. John's. In partnership with Memorial University, participants will gather in honour and tribute to the new tomb for an unknown soldier from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment – the first time the Commonwealth Graves Commission has approved the repatriation of a second unknown soldier to a country

Climate

Average temperatures of 15°C (high) 8°C (low)

Start/End Point

Arrival and departure from St. John's NL. The expedition trek will start in Deer Lake, NL

Skill Level Required

This is no walk in the park! Participants should be fit and prepared to hike/trek an average of 12km per day with daily elevation gains and losses while carrying a pack weighing approximately 45lbs

Training Required

Advance, independent training will be required. True Patriot Love and the guiding team will provide a series of exercises to help focus your training in the lead up to the expedition.

Price Per Participant

\$7,500

Fundraising Requirement

\$20,000

Required Gear

True Patriot Love will provide participants with a specific itemized gear list for this expedition. This list will include;

- Clothing and accessories
- Footwear
- Camping gear

Guiding Team

Off Trail Odysseys is a Veteran owned and operated company staffed by military Veterans. Their unique skills and unmatched experiences provide a guide team that is well prepared to facilitate an adventure of a lifetime.

Head guide – Jeremy Blair

Since Jeremy was a young child, he has enjoyed being an explorer in the outdoors. From family camping trips at a young age to joining the military, his life has always been about adventure. He has been blessed during his 20 years with the Canadian Armed Forces to have traveled the world to some of the most remote places.

From the most northern reaches of Canadian soil, the roof of Antarctica, and to the Registan Desert in Afghanistan, he has lived comfortably in some of the most inhospitable regions in the world. Focusing his career on mountain operations, he enjoys escaping to the immense places that put life into perspective. He is qualified in several specialty fields with international military and civilian training as a ski instructor (Nordic and Alpine), avalanche trainer and advisor, first aid instructor and wilderness first responder, and advanced mountain operations instructor. As an ORCKA qualified canoe trip leader he enjoys teaching new people skills that really give confidence and enjoyment on the water.

Sample Itinerary

- Day 1 – Sept 6:** All participants arrive in St. John's, special welcome dinner
- Day 2 – Sept 7:** Group 1 – depart for Deer Lake, camp
Group 2 – Various activities and historical sightseeing
- Day 3 – Sept 8:** Group 1 – Ferry across to Western Brook Pond, trek begins– 6.38KM
Group 2 – Depart St. John's, arrive Deer Lake, camp
- Day 4 – Sept 9:** Group 1 – Trek 7.62km (ascent 150 m)
Group 2 – Ferry across to Western Brook Pond, trek begins– 6.38KM
- Day 5 – Sept 10:** Group 1 – Trek 6.68 km (ascent 361 m)
Group 2 – Trek 7.62km (ascent 150 m)
- Day 6 – Sept 11:** Group 1 – Trek 13.9km, end at Norris Point, transfer back to Deer Lake
Group 2 – Trek 6.68 km (ascent 361 m)
- Day 7 – Sept 12:** Group 1 – Flight back to St. John's, sightseeing, hotel stay
Group 2 – Trek 13.9km (ascent 541 m), end at Norris Point, transfer back to Deer Lake, camp
- Day 8 – Sept 13:** Group 1 – rest day/free time; end celebration dinner
Group 2 – flight back to St. John's; end celebration dinner
- Day 9 – Sept 14:** Departure day

please note, Sunday, September 15 should be held in your calendar for a contingency day