



2016

PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT



CANADA

YOUR MUSEUM. YOUR IMPACT.

We are pleased to share with you the impact of your investment in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), which helps us connect people to their world and to each other.

SHARING CANADIAN STORIES

Your impact on the ROM

A Canadian icon, the ROM is uniquely positioned to share the stories—both historical and unfolding—that capture the hearts of our nation. Your support enables visitors to explore and celebrate our natural history, diverse cultures and Indigenous heritage.

In honour of our country's 150th anniversary, the ROM will shine a light on the very best of Canada in 2017. We look forward to marking this historic milestone with you and hope you enjoy this snapshot of the research, exhibitions and programs you have made possible. For more up-to-the-minute impact stories, follow us on Twitter at: [🐦 @ROMCanada](https://twitter.com/ROMCanada)



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

1 CAPTURING THE HEART OF A NATION

The death of nine Blue Whales, caught in the ice off the coast of Newfoundland, sparked national and global headlines in 2014. The largest animal on the planet, the Blue Whale has a heart the size of a Smart car. A team from the ROM recovered two whales, with thousands of people watching their back-breaking work on social media.

Enabled by your generosity, the bones and plastinated heart of one whale will be displayed at the Museum during Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017. Once accessible to the public and the global research community, it will further our understanding and conservation of these endangered animals. The Blue Whale Project is generously supported by Nita and Donald Reed and Jean M. Read.

“When we celebrate the country's 150th birthday in 2017, ROM Canada will be front and centre in telling Canadian stories that only the ROM can tell. And telling those stories with a focus on diversity and inclusion as well as the natural history of this incredible place. We would not be able to do this without passionate, committed donors.” **Sadia Zaman** | ROM Canada, Managing Director [🐦 @szamacanada](https://twitter.com/szamacanada)

2 TRACING THE STEPS OF PAUL KANE

During the summer of 2014, the ROM's Kenneth Lister located and recorded portage sites sketched by Canadian artist Paul Kane along the fur-trade routes north and west of Thunder Bay. This project provided Kane's art with geographic locations and an enhanced relevance as a visual record of the Hudson's Bay Company fur-trade routes, and contributed to *The Portage Project: Paul Kane's Visual Record of the Carrying Place*.

The ROM holds the world's most complete selection of Kane's paintings, photographed in 2012 with multi-spectral imaging. In 2014, these heritage works were exhibited for the public in *The First Brush: Paul Kane and Infrared Reflectography* with philanthropic support from Diane Blake and Stephen Smith.



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Highland Lassie with Bagpipes, oil painting, Rex Woods, 1946.

3 "HIGHLAND LASSIE WITH BAGPIPES"

Rex Woods was Canada's premier artist-illustrator from the 1930s to the 1950s, his work gracing the covers of *Maclean's*, *Canadian Home Journal* and even cigarette packages for a generation of Canadians. Known as "Canada's Norman Rockwell," Rex Woods mythologized Canadian history, society and gender roles. The ROM acquired his oil painting *Highland Lassie with Bagpipes*, generously supported by the Richard Iorweth Thorman Endowment Fund. An iconic figure in advertising, "Highland Lassie" shaped Canadian cultural identity.

2 "A Nesperces Indian" by Paul Kane. 1849-1856. Nez Perce, Columbia and Snake rivers region. Oil on canvas. Gift of Sir Edmund Osler. Infrared Reflectography image on the right.

3 *Highland Lassie with Bagpipes*, oil painting, Rex Woods, 1946.

5 Tiny Late Woodland Ceramic Vessel, donated in 1949 by the Dunn family, reconstructed by the Dunn family prior to donation.

4 WORN: SHAPING BLACK FEMININE IDENTITY

Worn: Shaping Black Feminine Identity, an art installation by Vancouver artist Karin Jones, was displayed in the Wilson Canadian Heritage Exhibition Room in 2015. Jones' beautifully crafted piece, a Victorian mourning dress made of synthetic hair, evoked the complexity of African identity when shaped by forces such as imperial rule, slavery and alienation. *Worn* was the first contemporary art exhibit presented as part of the *Of Africa* project and was selected through a public call for artists, who were invited to reflect on the position and representations of African Canadians in the nation's historical and contemporary narratives.

5 TORONTO UNDERFOOT

The past may be nearer than we imagine. Showcasing objects from the ROM's outstanding Ontario archaeology collection, *Toronto Underfoot* reveals layer upon layer of the rich history of Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area. Each unique object sheds light on our past, and can still be seen in the Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada: First Peoples. This exhibition was generously supported by Diane Blake and Stephen Smith.



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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SHARING A CANADIAN MYSTERY

The Franklin Expedition has fascinated generations of Canadians: on May 19, 1845, under Sir John Franklin's command, the Royal Navy's HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* departed England on an quest to discover the Northwest Passage. The ships were last seen entering Baffin Bay in August 1845. A breakthrough was made in 2014 when an expedition led by Parks Canada discovered the wreck of HMS *Erebus*.

The ROM and Parks Canada are partnering to share this historic tale, via a network of museums across the country. The *Franklin Outreach Project* will use displays, lectures and exhibits that incorporate research, technology, and Inuit traditional knowledge to bring this iconic story to life. Special thanks to Lead Exhibit Patron, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, as well as the Government of Canada; Isles Foundation Incorporated–The John E. Irving Family; Andrew and Valerie Pringle; The WB Family Foundation; and an anonymous donor for generously supporting this project.

"BY YOUTH FOR YOUTH"

Eight young people from across the GTA came together to form the first ever ROM Youth Cabinet, thanks to generous support from The Slight Family Foundation. This new program empowers Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth to develop ROM-inspired projects that nurture leadership skills. One such project will involve participants creating online videos of the Museum's fascinating work behind the scenes. This is just one way the Cabinet will infuse youth perspectives into ROM Learning programs and resources, inspiring diverse youth to engage with the Museum.

PROGRAMMING

CELEBRATING OUR FRENCH HERITAGE

The ROM was proud to celebrate 400 years of Francophone contributions to social, cultural, economic and political development in Ontario. Visitors were invited to explore the legacy of Explorer Samuel de Champlain by viewing his travel journal from 1613. Franco Fun BIG Weekend featured French artists, performers and artisans and a special Friday Night Live profiled Franco-Ontarian and Indigenous Fashion.

LEFT Parks Canada underwater archeologists recovered the bell from the HMS *Erebus* on September 17, 2014.

RIGHT Samuel de Champlain

Thank you for believing in the transformative power of the ROM.