

# CANAL CONNECTIONS

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CONNECTIONS

## What's underneath your boat?

One man's underwater curiosity extends to a portion of the Rideau, discovers old village, treasures



In his very own backyard, Kenn Feigelman, has discovered an underwater world.

He lives on Colonel By Lake located near Kingston Mills of the Rideau Canal. A professional scuba diver by day, Feigelman has gone underwater to find out just what used to be above lake level. Colonel By Lake is a body of water that was once forested land and had even housed a general store. When the canal locks were built, the workers dammed up certain areas and as a result, the lake was formed.

“The bottom is a submerged forest and there are tall trees there that are 12 to 15 feet high, they're not just stumps,” explains Feigelman. But he has found some special artifacts that tell the story of who used to occupy the land.

Feigelman came across arrowheads and pottery that helps confirm Native People lived in the area. He found one piece of pottery in the bottom of the lake and brought it in to get analyzed by Parks Canada staff. They figured it was probably 1,000 years old,” he says.

Feigelman owns the scuba diving company, Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions, which has spearheaded many research projects below the water's surface.

The 61 year old Montreal native first discovered his love for scuba diving at the age of 13, when he constructed a homemade snorkel to help him dive underwater and explore a pond that he and his friends frequented.

He found a fish bowl and attached a hose to it that ran to a bike pump, which his friends pumped as Feigelman went underwater with the fish bowl strapped onto his head.

“I was hooked from day one”, he says, with a smile. In 1973 he and a friend started up Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions to search for long lost shipwrecks beneath Lake Champlain in upstate New York and Vermont.

He has since conducted expeditions beneath the waters of Cuba, Panama, Mexico and Florida to name just a few.

Currently, he is working on "Operation Vortex", a project that will document some of the many shipwrecks lying beneath the waters of the mysterious area known as the Marysburgh Vortex; that portion of Lake Ontario believed to be the final resting place of more than 450 shipwrecks stretching from Kingston to Prince Edward County, Ontario.

“We're going to spend some time trying to find an unknown shipwreck,” he says. “That's our goal.”

Since working with Parks Canada regarding the artifacts he found in his lake, he knows that the interest in scuba diving is growing.

“Parks Canada is interested and trying to make the Rideau an attractive spot for divers,” he says.

Feigelman adds that he will continue to keep Parks Canada updated about his backyard excursions, because for his own personal curiosity, he hopes to find even more at the bottom of Colonel By Lake.

He has been told that the RCAF used to practice bombing on the lake with non-explosive heads and he wants to prove it.

“There are so many historic aspects to my lake and I want to find them,” he says. “You never know what you’re going to find.”

To find out more about Feigelman’s projects, visit his website at [www.deepquest2expeditions.com](http://www.deepquest2expeditions.com).

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