

# The Gazette

## Down in the deeps, he sheds some light

**Underwater explorer, filmmaker. Diver's working on documentary series, organizing educational snorkelling trips**

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Kenn Feigelman has been an underwater explorer since, as a youngster growing up in the West Island, he strapped bricks onto his shoes and trudged along the mucky bottom of Turtle Pond in Dollard des Ormeaux. To be able to breathe, Feigelman plunked an old aquarium over his head, sealed it as best as he could, and a friend pumped air into the contraption with the help of rubber tubing and an old bicycle pump.



**Kenn Feigelman, with artifacts from a 1814 naval battle between U.S. and Britain that were recovered on dives in Lake Champlain.**

"I didn't see much because it was too muddy," the 60-year-old professional diver said during a recent visit to Montreal. "But I had to try. I grew up in the 1950s and loved watching the television show Sea Hunt."

Feigelman is the founding director of Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions, a Kingston-based underwater exploration and film documentation organization. He passed through Montreal this week on his way to Plattsburgh, N.Y., where he had been invited by the Battle of Plattsburgh Museum to repatriate artifacts he'd discovered during diving expeditions in Lake Champlain. The artifacts - which include muskets, swords and cannon balls - are from a major naval battle between the Americans and the British which took place in 1814.

Feigelman is currently in the early stages of developing a 13-episode documentary television series about underwater ecosystems. This year he filmed in Florida, Mexico and Cuba, and next year he will concentrate on the Great Lakes and revisit old diving haunts in Quebec - filming the beluga whales in the Tadoussac region, shipwrecks off the Magdalen Islands, and the enormous blue whales in the Mingan Archipelago.

"I was filming the beluga whales in Tadoussac before (they) became a huge tourist attraction," Feigelman said. "These little guys - we call them sea canaries because they chirp - are dying now. They have ingested too many toxins from the water and from what they eat."

Feigelman became a certified diver at 19 and studied biological sciences at both Concordia and McGill universities. Although diving was his primary passion, he juggled diving trips and underwater research projects with day jobs until 2002, when he began to focus on Deep/Quest 2 full time.

Deep/Quest 2 recently joined forces with P & G Travel to organize snorkelling expeditions with a strong educational bent. The first two trips will be to Cuba in January, to explore the coral reefs and mangroves with a marine biologist.

Feigelman has been asked to speak about his explorations at the Explorers Club in New York City in November. The club is a professional society for explorers and its membership has included such famous ones as mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary and astronaut Neil Armstrong.

For more information about Deep/Quest 2 Explorations, see...

[www.deepquest2expeditions.com](http://www.deepquest2expeditions.com)