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New book and exhibit highlight the history of Herschel Island

WHITEHORSE—The launch of a new book *Herschel Island/Qikiqtaryuk – a natural and cultural history of Yukon’s arctic island* will coincide with the opening of a Herschel Island exhibit at the MacBride Museum today.

“On behalf of the Yukon government, congratulations to all involved,” Tourism and Culture Minister Mike Nixon said. “The many contributors to the book speak to the collegial spirit of interdisciplinary research that has taken place at Herschel Island. This new publication establishes the significance of our largest island as a special place in Yukon’s natural and human history.”

Carleton University professor Dr. Christopher R. Burn edited the publication. Under his leadership, the leading authorities on Yukon’s north slope were brought together to tell their stories and help make the new volume a reality.

The MacBride Museum exhibit features artifacts and ice age fossils that were recovered at Herschel Island, but have never been seen on public display. The artifacts were excavated at various locations on the island in the 1980s and 1990s while the fossils have been collected from the beach deposits at Pauline Cove.

Support for the project was provided by Yukon government’s Cultural Services/Heritage Resources, Yukon Parks, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) and the MacBride Museum of Yukon History.

“MacBride Museum is proud to be presenting this exhibit which focuses on the rich natural and cultural history on Herschel Island,” MacBride Museum of Yukon History board chair Hank Moorlag said. “We are also pleased to be displaying artifacts from this region from the Government of Yukon’s collection that have never before been shown to the public.”

The exhibit highlights different aspects of Herschel Island history, including ice age animals, Thule/Inuit hunters, commercial whaling, the missionary period, the fur trade and North West Mounted Police period, and modern park management.

The public is invited to attend the book launch and exhibit opening at the MacBride Museum, beginning at 5 p.m. today.

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