

Marine Institute Supports Celebrating Bartlett 2009; Simulation of Bartlett's Peary Polar Expedition



The Marine Institute announced today its partnership with *Celebrating Bartlett 2009*. The Centre for Marine Simulation at the Marine Institute will offer a simulation of two sections of Captain Bob Bartlett's historic 1909 Polar expedition voyage in the Roosevelt, the trip in which Bartlett carried Perry to within 150 miles of the North Pole.

This partnership is a natural fit for the Marine Institute given the strong maritime culture of the organization, its history of training mariners, and its expertise in ice navigation. "This is an excellent opportunity to highlight the amazing journey of Bartlett, while also showcasing the Centre's abilities as the most comprehensive suite of marine simulation capabilities in North America," said Captain Christopher Hearn, Director of Marine Institute's Centre for Marine Simulation. "It is exciting and rewarding to be able to educate about Bartlett's legacy and achievements."

The Centre will offer the tours of the simulator and the opportunity to experience the Peary Polar Voyage simulation for five weeks next summer during the Celebrating Bartlett 2009 program of events. The simulation will allow people to "virtually" sail to the Arctic, including the sensations of hitting and maneuvering over the ice. The tours will be open to the public, free of charge, and will begin on July 7, 2009

Edward Roberts, Chair, *Celebrating Bartlett 2009* Steering Committee expressed his appreciation to the Marine Institute for their participation in next year's festivities. "We are very pleased to have the Marine Institute partner with us for Celebrating Bartlett 2009," said Roberts. "The simulation technology provides a wonderful way for members of the public and in particular, children to experience the voyage of the Roosevelt in the 1909 Polar Expedition and gain a better understanding of Bartlett's great accomplishments. We encourage everyone to take the opportunity next summer to experience first-hand what it was like to voyage to the Far North over 100 years ago."

The Marine Institute is Canada's most comprehensive institute dedicated to education, training, applied research and industrial support for the oceans industries. The Centre for Marine Simulation is the most comprehensive suite of marine simulation capabilities in North America – it can simulate any ship, anywhere in the world.

Celebrating Bartlett 2009 is an initiative of the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is a program of events and activities to bring the story of the life and adventures of Captain Bob Bartlett to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and to national and international audiences. Captain Bob was a world-renowned Arctic explorer and mariner during the first-half of the 20th century. He navigated more than 400,000 miles over 40 journeys.

Media Contacts:

Stephanie Barrett, Public Relations and Communications Officer
Marine Institute
709.778.0677
stephanie.barrett@mi.mun.ca

Diane Keough
for Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland & Labrador
709.738.5126
709.691.2552
diane@m5pr.ca