

Cory Trépanier returns to the wilderness to capture TrueWild

Caledon artist, adventurer and filmmaker Cory Trépanier has explored and painted some of the wildest places on earth. Now, he is returning to Canada's most remote and spectacular National Parks in a multi-year wilderness legacy project, entitled TrueWild. A fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the Explorer's Club, Trépanier is building upon his life-long quest to paint the land with the launch of TrueWild, A Legacy for Canada's National Parks with the objective of creatively engaging, through fine art, online interactive content, public speaking and more, millions of people today and in the years to come with Canada's spectacular wild places.

Chapter one of TrueWild begins July 15 in the Yukon, where Trépanier may become the first artist in history to bring an easel into the vast ice fields surrounding the highest peak in Canada, Mount Logan.

Nine days in the mountains kicks off Trépanier's month-long painting expedition into Kluane National Park, in the southwest corner of the Yukon, where he will also hike the Donjek Route, and raft down the Alsek River. With only a thin veil of nylon for covering each night, Cory will trek into these remote and challenging wilderness locations carrying his easel, canvas, oil paints, camping and filming gear.

Subsequent chapters of TrueWild will take him to other wilderness National Parks like Nahanni and the Torngat Mountains National Parks to capture the majestic vistas of Canada's wild landscapes.

Each journey will see Trépanier develop a dozen original oil paintings while on location. But he also wants to take the most compelling of these vistas, combine it with the intense, visceral wilderness experience, and create a major eight to 10-foot wide legacy painting from each journey. Each canvas, he hopes, will inspire and connect others with Canada's northland.

Trépanier will be sharing the experience online, at www.TrueWild.ca, through his TrueWild video series, blogs, photos and social media. This content will be experienced through a unique interactive Google map allowing the visitor to engage with our National Parks in a completely new and unique way

No stranger to film, Trépanier has been recognized for his outstanding achievements in both cinematography and on canvas. His last film, Into The Arctic II, was nominated for Best Performing Arts / Arts Documentary at the inaugural 2013 Canadian Screen Awards (formerly the Gemini Awards).

As he develops his first cinematic TrueWild film, Trépanier hopes this medium too will connect and inspire others to experience Canada's wilderness, stirring them to take a closer look, and perhaps visit its wealth in person.

"History is filled with artists that have impacted their culture," Trépanier observed. "To encounter them, one has only to look in museums around the world, where past civilizations are remembered through their paintings, sculptures, writings and architecture." He cited Ansel Adams, Thomas Moran, A.Y. Jackson and Bill Mason as inspirations for his work.

"Their artistic vision reached beyond their work, inspiring generations with the wilderness they portrayed on canvas, in photographs and on film," he commented. "These artists used their art to help protect the lands they were passionate about. In some cases, their influence was instrumental in the development of new parks, for the protection and enjoyment of all."

Trépanier aspires to add, in his own way, to this rich artistic legacy as he heads into the wild for chapter one of TrueWild.