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Expedition organized by Diagonale-Groenland
An association created in 2003
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Samuel Hearne (1745-1792), the walker of the North

Samuel Hearne, an explorer and a fur trader of the Hudson Bay Company, was looking for the North-West passage by rivers and seas. "The Walker of the North" succeeded in the first crossing through the tundra departing from Churchill, on the Hudson Bay, between 1770 and 1772. We came upon his travel narrative partly due to the French sailor, La Pérouse. Hearne was imprisoned in Prince-of-Wales Harbor in 1782 by La Pérouse, who confiscated his notes. Yet, La Pérouse gave back his writings to Hearne on the condition that they were to be published. The narrative only came out in 1792, a few days before Samuel Hearne's death.



From the taiga to the tundra

Two First Nations share the vast territory of the Barren Grounds. In the south, the Chipewyan and the Dogribs live in the sub-arctic taiga. In the days of Samuel Hearne, they were named Yellow-Knives or Dogribs. At present, they name themselves Dene: "the People".

In the North, one has to travel along a territory where trees are replaced by marshes and short grass. Those who were named "Copper Eskimos" live there, on the shore of the Arctic Ocean. Today, the Inuinait are a sedentary people and live in Kugluktuk -- "where there are rapids" -- on the mouth of the Coppermine River.

Encounters between the Dene and the Inuinait weren't always as friendly...



The Walkers of the North



Pascal Hémon

Our Expedition leader, 45

Has a passion for Arctic and ice. Crossing Iceland, Baffin Island, Greenland ice cap, Spitzberg, Labrador, East coast of Greenland, Lap land. His greatest assets: sens of human contact and masters organisational matters. Photographs, writes and films. Aerodynamics engineer in CNRS



Céline Espardellier

42 years old

Fascinated by the Arctic and inuit world, studies inuit language and culture in Paris University. Crossing the Greenland ice-cap, Lap land, biking across France. Her greatest assests: creates shows and films inspired by her travels and passions. Theater director and actress.



Yann Couillard

37 years old

Skiing, riding, trekking (Island), biking (New Zealand tour), kayaking (Scoresby Sund , east Greenland). His greatest assests: fascinated by snow and wind, Yann cannot afford to live in any place other than in alps. Photographs and films. Mountain guide in Vanoise



Dominique Simonneau

Logistic assistance in rear base, she is 62.

Numerous sailing trips in polar areas. Dominique will be based in Kugluktuk during the expedition and will bring her mastering of large projects to the benefit of the expedition. Her greatest assests: studies inuit language and culture, films and writes. Formerly was director for large industrial projects.

Contact : Pascal Hémon, tel. +33 6 61 58 24 42 - pascal@diagonale-groenland.asso.fr

Internet : www.diagonale-groenland.asso.fr/barrengrounds-e.htm