



Charlevoix, Michigan Hosting Scientific Expedition

Discovering History to Enrich the World

Dear Patron,

Have you ever imagined what it would have been like to be an explorer in North America in 1679? To have been on board *Le Griffon*, the first sailing vessel on the upper Great Lakes? The Native Americans called the vessel a *floating fortress*. They feared and awed the magnificent wooden structure as the wind took hold beneath its sail and it began a maiden voyage, which would capture our hearts and imaginations more than 327 years later. René Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, who built *Le Griffon*, named it after a mythological creature to protect the crew from danger. However, the ship and five crewmen disappeared without a trace on her way back to Niagara. For three centuries, historians have pondered the fate of the lost French ship - *Le Griffon*.

Today, we have the opportunity to uncover the mystery that surrounds La Salle and his famous flagship. Explorer Steve Libert, president of **Great Lakes Exploration Group**, and his team have found a promising shipwreck and have engaged professional archaeologists and scientists familiar with the Great Lakes in what could be one of this country's most important archaeological finds. Historical accounts and initial survey results indicate that the wreck may be of the same vintage as the elusive *Le Griffon*.



French Explorer Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle

To identify the wreck, Great Lakes Exploration Group and Michigan's non-profit Center for Maritime & Underwater Resource Management (CMURM) are searching for corporate sponsorships and endorsements to help support **The Explorers** and the **LaSalle-Griffon Project's Identification Team - 1679**. We are pleased to invite you to consider supporting this very important scientific study. The expedition will be staged from the Host Port of Charlevoix, Michigan. Many events are planned including a Summer Affair Benefit at a beautiful lakeshore estate.

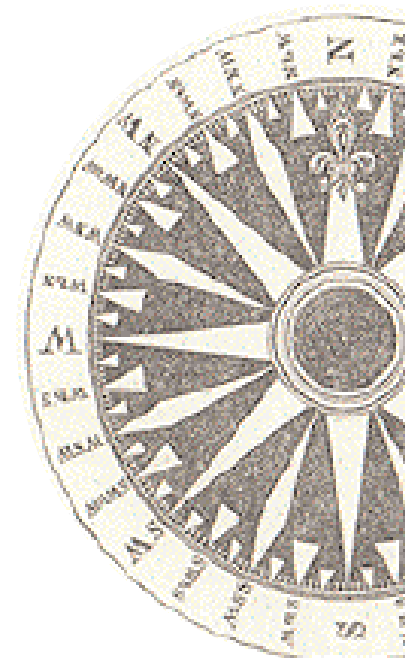
IMAGINE the possibilities... **EXPLORE** our world... **DISCOVER** our history.

Come Join The Explorers in Charlevoix the Beautiful!



Father Hennepin's description of a 17th century explorer:

"They're never weary of making new Discoveries. They're indefatigable in rambling through unknown Countries and Kingdoms not mention'd in History; leaving their minds with the Satisfaction of gratifying and enriching the World with something unheard of... in order to satisfy their natural Curiosity, and inform their Minds."



GREAT LAKES EXPLORATION GROUP, LLC.

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2006 Scientific Expedition La Salle-Griffon Project

Venetian Days, Charlevoix, Michigan

July 17th - July 23rd

2006 Summer Agenda – Charlevoix's Venetian Days

The **La Salle-Griffon Project's** Summer Affair Benefit and Luncheon Fundraiser will be held during the week of Venetian Days in Charlevoix, Michigan, July 17th-23rd. **Don't miss this opportunity** to meet face to face with **The Explorers** and scientists that make up the *Identification Team - 1679*.

Steve Libert, President of Great Lakes Exploration Group, LLC and his partners will be presenting the latest research concerning the project. This informational presentation will include historical accounts and scientific analysis that indicate the wreck may be of the same vintage as the elusive *Le Griffon*. Join with them as they unravel the mystery of this latest discovery in Northern Lake Michigan. Is it *Le Griffon*? Hear firsthand what these experts have to say about it.

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Join us in this great adventure!

JULY 17, 2006 – Monday 12:00 - 2:00 pm

LaSalle-Griffon Project Luncheon Fundraiser \$60 - Limited Seating
Grey Gables Inn Restaurant, Charlevoix, Michigan

12:00 pm Introductions: **The Quest for *Le Griffon***

Greg MacMaster – Michigan's Popular Forensic Meteorologist - WPBN - TV 7 & 4
Introduction / Michigan's Maritime Future and Tourism

David Miles – Charlevoix Historical Society
Father Charlevoix / The French Connection

Steve Libert – President of Great Lakes Exploration Group
His research and quest to find *Le Griffon*.
Father Hennepin's accounts and path – History.

Kenneth Vrana – Center for Maritime & Underwater Resource Management (CMURM).
Discussion on upcoming Phase II archaeological assessment and site testing for the purpose of vessel identification.

Guest Speakers – Identifying a French Vessel – Wrecks that proved not to be *Le Griffon*.

JULY 23, 2006 – Sunday 7:00 pm

LaSalle-Griffon Summer Affair Benefit (\$150 per person)

Support the *Identification Team - 1679* by enjoying a wonderful summer evening and cocktail buffet at the lovely lakeshore estate of entrepreneur David Parker. Come see award winning gardens as you mingle with **The Explorers**, scientists and invited guests. Don't miss this unique opportunity! **RSVP now!**



To RSVP
Call
the Charlevoix Area
Chamber of Commerce

231-547-2101
or
800-951-2101


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