



## 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. Sponsorship events will be planned throughout the project and posted on the Sponsorship Page. For more information, please call 540-338-2877.

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

**Thankyou for Your Support!**

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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 mentione'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."*

