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AMRC Newsletter

Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre, Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada

Malaspina Lecturer for 2015

This year's Malaspina Lecture was given by **Capt. William Noon** of the Coastguard vessel *Sir Wilfrid Laurier*. Bill was part of the Parks Canada expedition which last year found the relatively intact remains of Sir John Franklin's ship *Erebus*.

Franklin set sail from England in 1845 in an attempt to navigate the Northwest Passage, but perished along with his entire crew after both of the expedition's ships became stuck in the ice of the Canadian Arctic.

Bill's well-attended talk explained the methods and technology used in the recent discovery, and tracked the search to its impressive conclusion. He also communicated his love for the Arctic and the special character of this fascinating region.



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Other News

- Honorary Research Associate **Barry Gough** has published two books in the last year. *The Elusive Mr. Pond* traced the career of the fur trader, explorer and arguably rogue who mentored Alexander Mackenzie. *Pax Britannica* was awarded the Mountbatten Literary Award Armada Silver Plate for the best book in maritime history published in 2015. Barry has also been named to the editorial board of *Terra Incognita*, the journal of the Society for the History of Discoveries.

- Honorary Research Associate **Robin Inglis** has just curated an important exhibit on James Cook. Shown first in [Anchorage](#), it has now moved to the [Washington State Historical Society](#) museum in Tacoma, where it will remain until March 6. Robin also contributed to the companion book [Arctic Ambitions](#), and took part in the associated symposium in Anchorage, as did former visiting scholar **Reetta Niemi Sippola**.

Did You Know? ...

The existence of a northwest passage in more temperate climates was disproved in the late 18th century through the combined efforts of Cook, Malaspina, Alcalá Galiano, Valdés and Vancouver.

- Honorary Research Associate **Josie Osborne** has recently been elected unopposed to her second term as mayor of Tofino, on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

- Director **John Black** is awaiting the imminent publication of his paper *Malaspina's Meditation on Beauty in Nature* in a book prepared by the Malaspina 2010 scientific and historical project in Spain. The paper gives an historical and analytical account of this essay on aesthetics written by Malaspina during his imprisonment in the fortress of San Antón at La Coruña. The essay was translated by John and his colleague **Oscar Clemotte**, and published in a Spanish and English facing-page translation in 2007.

AMRC Website: web.viu.ca/black/amrc/index.htm