

BEST FEATURE STORY

BEN BULMER

The Low Down to Hull & Back News

Nice piece on an important and topical subject. I felt like I got to know the family well by reading this piece.

1

Resilient family settles into new digs, new life



Above: Abdullah, 6, proudly shows the schoolwork to his family. Right: Sadeq, 4, is shy but sweet. Bottom: Abdulrahman has endless energy. Photos: Ben Bulmer

ents he likes it. He'd only been going to school for two days when he returned home with specific demands for his lunch box. "He asked for a chocolate sandwich," said Fatima with the disbelieving look mothers find over give their chil-

Abdullah's willingness to change his environment appears to be a family trait, as his father Mohammad brushes off any mention that the cold climate in Canada is an issue.

The Webbe family arrived in Canada from Lebanon on Jan. 13 after being sponsored by Chelsea for Refugees. Mohammad says he's used to the cold.

standing on a balcony near the house he'd built himself. All that changed with the onset of war, and the family fled to Lebanon. They applied for refugee status in the US, Australia, and Canada. 18 months ago, they learned they'd been accepted to Canada.

Just like the incorrect preconceived ideas people in the West often have of Syria and the Middle East, Mohammad says Syrians often think the West will be too self-indulgent and lacking values. But, he said, it's "completely the opposite," and he sees caring, loving families working and taking care of one another. Before coming to Canada, Fatima was afraid - afraid to move further from her parents, who had gone to Saudi Arabia; afraid of what might follow - but she says the kindness the community has shown her family means she's now, "at peace."



While bursts of tears break out in his otherwise calm demeanor, Mohammad and Fatima express how grateful they are for the help they've received, but the words don't translate easily: they can't show their gratitude, at least clearly.

More than one million Syrian refugees currently live in Lebanon and for almost three years, families were part of that exodus. "Everything has been good," said Mohammad of his wife, al-Husn. Through the mountainous area of Syria where they lived, the family sits beneath the world's largest UNESCO World Heritage site, Krak des Chevaliers, one of the best-preserved castles in the world.

Mohammad was popular for his skills and saw families from cities coming to his lean mountain air and visit the castle and the ruins of foreign tourists. He and his wife often saw his future wife

Fatima can speak a few words of English but says she finds it difficult to put sentences together. They both answer "no" in unison when asked if they think learning both French and English is daunting - their resilient nature shines through. They've applied for French classes and Mohammad has started working part-time. The apartment they moved into needed a new floor, and on hearing this Mohammad offered to install it. He's now working part-time for his landlord. Playing on his years of experience building high-rise concrete and steel buildings, he's dry walling and helping with renovations. After barely a month in Canada, the family is integrating and enthusiastic about their new country. They like the order here: "You have red lights and the red lights are respected," said Mohammad, adding that he has yet to hear a car honk. But most of all, the Webbes like the humanity of the country.

"No one asks who you are or where you come from," said Mohammad. "Everyone is Canadian."



The crew of the Arctic Research Foundation's Martin Bergmann who, following directions from Gjoa Haven's Sammy Kogvik, detoured to Terror Bay and found Sir John Franklin's long-lost HMS Terror ship Sept. 3, 2016. (PHOTOS COURTESY ARCTIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION)

Ship director and Inuk Ranger tell the tale of Terror

"I believed him right from the start... So why not change the plan and follow a story?"

STEVE DUCHARME

The day Adrian Schimnowski met Sammy Kogvik was not what you might call memorable. But, the day after, the two men made history.

Kogvik, a 49-year-old Inuk Canadian Ranger, came aboard the Arctic Research

Foundation's vessel, the Martin Bergmann, in Gjoa Haven shortly after noon Sept. 2, in a last-minute crew change from the Canadian Coast Guard ship St. Wilfred Laurier.

Kogvik's paperwork for a berth aboard the Laurier had run into red tape so the

to Schimnowski, shortly after coming aboard.

What followed was an exciting 24-hour pursuit of history complete with superstition, coincidence, myth and a fair share of risk. But it paid off with the long-anticipated discovery of the Terror nearly 170 years after she sank.

Terror uncovered

Sir John Franklin and 124 crewmen, charged by the British Admiralty to find the Northwest Passage, departed England aboard the HMS Terror and HMS Erebus in May 1845 and - save for a brief sighting by whalers in Baffin Bay the same summer - were never seen again by their western peers.

Parks Canada divers discovered the crushed remains of the HMS Erebus in the shallow waters of Queen Maud Gulf in 2014.

But the Terror's final resting place had eluded both professional expeditionists and armchair historians alike since 1848.

Except for Kogvik, he explained to Schimnowski he thought he might have seen the Terror seven years earlier.

In 2009, Kogvik and James Klungnatsuk were travelling overland by snowmobile to a favorite fishing spot outside Gjoa Haven when

they spotted something on frozen Terror Bay.

"We were heading across Terror Bay and I stopped," Kogvik told Nunavut News, recounting the story from his home in Gjoa Haven, Sept. 20.

"I was getting off my snowmobile and I looked out and there was something strange sticking out of the ice. It was pretty far out but I could see it and I asked my hunting buddy what it was and he said he didn't know.

As they drew closer, Kogvik and Klungnatsuk found an old wooden post, possibly a ship's mast, sticking straight out of the ice, a six feet tall.

"We got in it and stopped and we started talking. I told my hunting buddy maybe this is the Terror, they've been looking for it," Kogvik said.

Kogvik took out his camera and posed for a photo with the wood pole.

"I gave it a big boost," he said.

But as he made his way back to Gjoa Haven days later, Kogvik lost his camera.

"I left my car outside parked in a snowdrift to check it out and I guess I

lost my camera," he said.

About a year later, Klungnatsuk died in an all-terrain vehicle accident. The events felt like omens and were enough to silence Kogvik about the strange encounter for years.

Schimnowski knew he had to act after hearing Kogvik's story and feeling the courage required to tell it.

"I believed



Sammy Kogvik, on board the Martin Bergmann, around the time he told ship's director Adrian Schimnowski a story about a ship's mast he thought he'd

2

STEVE DUCHARME

Nunatsiq News

Really interesting interview and story.

LYLE STEWART

the Nation

A very well told story about an interesting community figure.

3

"Baba was kind of funny"

An eternal smile fades as Lawrence Shecapio passes away

by Lyle Stewart

He left this life where he began it: on the land he loved. Oujé-Bougoumou Elder Lawrence Shecapio passed away at his hunting camp Saturday, January 16, at the official age of 79 years, eight months.

"Official," because birth records for those born in the bush during the 1930s are often unreliable, and an older friend had told him he was convinced they were born in the same year, which would have made him as old as 84.

Whatever his real age, Shecapio refused to slow down despite accumulating health prob-

lems. The day before his death, he had driven to his camp in biting cold, as the temperature dipped to minus-35. His truck stuck in the snow, he had hiked the final 200 metres to the camp. After morning phone calls went unanswered, Oujé Fire Chief James Wapachee travelled to the camp and discovered his body in his cabin.

It's the kind of cheerful and tough determination that Shecapio was known for. Hunting on his trapline three years previously, he suffered a broken neck in an ATV accident.

Blood gushing from cuts to his face and forehead, he called a friend, Oujé band councillor Sam R. Bosum, for help on his cellphone, then hiked several kilometres to a main road before being discovered by his son Roy. It wasn't until he'd been transported to a Montreal hospital that doctors discovered he had actually broken two neck vertebrae in the accident.

Lawrence Shecapio was predeceased in 2013 by his wife, Nancy Mianscum, and by four of his 14 children. He and Nancy raised nine other children. In all, they



With his great grandson Maverick.



Clowning in church as a boy