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NEWS

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## Mount Allison researchers to be featured on nationwide television

Last August a group of undergraduate researchers from the Mount Allison dendrochronology laboratory (MAD Lab), led a CBC production team out to a remote area of the Fundy coast to document the world's oldest red spruce tree.

The team was made up of ecologists and wardens from Fundy National Park, as well as the MAD Lab team and the production crew of the CBC program *Land and Sea*.

The exact location of the oldest tree had been kept in strict confidence until that day of filming.

Now the nation will have a chance to view the tree in *Oldest Tree*, on *Land and Sea*, airing Sunday, Dec. 3, at 12:30 p.m. on CBC Television.

"I'm really excited about this show, not just because it will broadcast our MAD Lab research nationwide, but also because it has documented the life and discovery of an amazing tree," said fourth-year student Ben Phillips, who discovered the tree. "Everyone who watches the show will finally get the opportunity to experience the 450-year-old tree without disturbing it. It has survived the entire 400 years of European colonization and no one knows how much longer it will live. At least now it will live on in people's memories and it will keep on contributing to the appreciation of the natural environment long after its existence is over," he said.

Phillips, a Moncton native, is current-

ly in his last year of an environmental studies and geography double major. Ben was credited with the discovery of the tree a little over a year ago.

Rob Summerby-Murray, dean of social sciences at Mount Allison University, said, "In addition to the fine scientific research that the discovery has produced, I think it has contributed significantly to undergraduate research on campus. The national coverage that this story continues to garner really expands the undergraduate experience at Mount Allison. For all students to have a concrete example of a success story such as this one, I hope, illustrates to them that they too have the potential to follow countless opportunities in their subject matter when it knocks on their doors. It shows each student that, during the normal course of their studies at Mount Allison, everything that they do has the potential to be at the cutting edge of public and academic interest nationwide. It is a powerful message, not just for Ben, but for everyone who has witnessed and continues to follow this story."

For more than 30 years, *Land and Sea* has reflected East Coast life in a unique and unparalleled way, by focusing on stories from those who celebrate life living close to nature, and who promote and protect their culture and traditional ways of doing things.

The lives, stories, and issues of the people of Atlantic Canada comprise the documentaries in this half-hour current affairs series.



Mount Allison student Ben Phillips, second from the left, is shown on location with a production crew from the CBC's *Land and Sea*.