

# “Evolution of the wood and canvas canoe”

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One of the very few tools that Europeans adopted from Native Americans is the canoe. It has retained its essential form and function until today and is probably more popular than ever. How it evolved from the birch bark canoe used throughout Canada to the wood and canvas canoe produced in Maine during the final decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the subject of this evening lecture. Bert Drake will discuss the role of the birch bark canoe in the fur trade and the exploration of North America. He will emphasize the role of native peoples in construction of the large voyager canoes and their use in transportation of trade goods into central Canada, the evolution of methods for constructing the cedar strip canoe in Peterborough, Canada, and the adaptation of these methods by Maine woodsmen to produce the wood and canvas canoe in the 1870s.