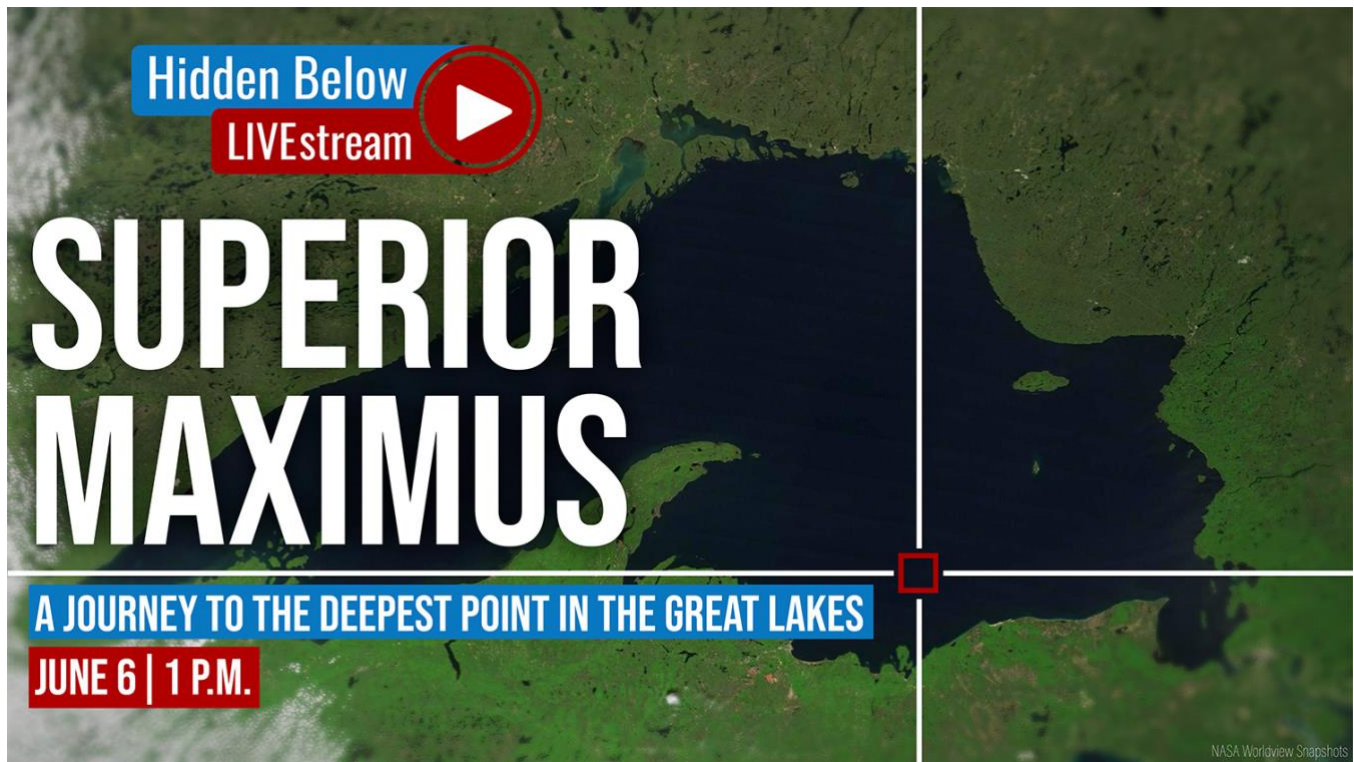


Canadian Filmmakers Launch LIVE Expedition  
to the Deepest Point in the Great Lakes



[Hidden Below LIVE Website](#)

**MUNISING (May 25, 2026)** — Although the Great Lakes form the largest freshwater system on Earth, their deepest waters remain more mysterious than many parts of the oceans.

Now, a new expedition is heading into that unknown.

More than 55 km (34 miles) offshore and over 400 meters (1,300 feet) beneath the surface of Lake Superior lies “Superior Maximus” — the deepest point in the largest lake on Earth by surface area. No sunlight reaches this extreme environment, where pressure is more than 40 times greater than at the surface.

Forty years ago, scientists descended here in a submersible. Since then, the depths have remained virtually unexplored.

Filmmakers and Fellows of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, Yvonne Drebert and Zach Melnick, are returning to Superior Maximus using a cutting-edge Boxfish Robotics Luna ROV. Equipped with a fiber-optic tether and high-resolution imaging systems, the ROV will document this hidden world in unprecedented detail for the upcoming documentary TVO Original Documentary, *Hidden Below: The Great Lakes*.

And audiences will experience the expedition's most challenging moment LIVE: the first descent to the deepest point in the Great Lakes.

The team will search for extraordinary deepwater life: alien-looking deepwater sculpin, forests of colourful hydra, mysis shrimp, and the legendary siscowet lake trout — giant trout specially adapted to survive in cold, lightless depths. They also hope to encounter one of the rarest fish in the Great Lakes: the kiyi, a deepwater cisco now found only in Lake Superior, and never photographed alive in its natural habitat.

But in this little-known environment, the greatest discoveries may be the ones nobody expects.

Joining the expedition is Shawn Sitar, fisheries research biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Sitar has been investigating the appearance of mysterious “zombie fish” — emaciated siscowet lake trout increasingly found throughout Lake Superior. Many originate from the deepest waters, and scientists hope this expedition could provide new clues about what is happening in the lake's unexplored depths.

The live dive to Superior Maximus is presented in partnership with [Detroit PBS](#) and [Great Lakes Now](#). During the livestream, Drebert, Melnick, and Sitar will answer audience questions in real time.

The dive is planned for June 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm, with a June 6–9 weather window reserved due to the unpredictable nature of offshore exploration on Lake Superior. Exact timing will be announced shortly before launch, as conditions can change rapidly. Follow [Hidden Below: The Great Lakes](#), [Great Lakes Now](#), or the [TVO Docs Facebook page](#) for updates. You can also visit [Canadian Geographic](#) for special real-time coverage of the expedition.

#### **Videos & Stills Available for Media:**

- [Hidden Below Trailer](#)
- [B-Roll from our previous missions](#) that can be used for stories on Superior Maximus
- [Stills and Graphics](#) that can be used for stories

#### **About Inspired Planet Productions**

Yvonne Drebert and Zach Melnick are award-winning documentary filmmakers and Fellows of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Through Inspired Planet Productions, they have created more than 40 hours of broadcast documentary, including the Canadian Screen Award–nominated series *All Too Clear*. Their work combines cutting-edge underwater technology with cinematic storytelling to reveal overlooked natural worlds and advance freshwater science. They live and work on the shores of Lake Huron's Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula in Ontario.

#### **About TVO Media Education Group: Canadian Commissioning Broadcast Partner**

TVO Media Education Group inspires learning that changes lives and enriches communities. Founded in 1970, we are a globally recognized digital learning organization that engages Ontarians of all ages with

inclusive experiences and diverse perspectives. Through our brands TVO Today, TVO Learn, TVO ILC and TVOkids, we're investing in the transformative potential of education for everyone. TVO is a registered charity funded in part by the Province of Ontario and supported by thousands of sponsors and donors. Visit [TVO.me](https://www.tvo.org) for more information.

**About Hidden Below Partners & Additional Quotes**



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