

Speech notes:

We stand today on the banks of the mighty 'Exploits River'

With great reverence and an adventurous spirit, I join past explorers who have sought to discover its essence and reveal its mysteries.

Today, as we prepare to launch ORBY, I can't help but imagine the indigenous Beothuck camped along its shore or Lieutenant John Cartwright, in 1768, making his way to 'Grand Falls'.

But unlike our forefathers, we have the technology that allows us to send digital devices as surrogates. From the humble weather balloon to the space-traveling Mars probe, technology goes places so we don't have to.

A driving force in technological development is the intrepid consumer. Our desire for new forms of entertainment has led to the creation of powerful tools that help blur the line between professional and amateur endeavors. ORBY stands at the forefront of this trend. Fashioned from readily available digital accessories - a surf camera and a GPS tracking device for hikers - ORBY combines DIY ingenuity with a hobby scientist's thirst for understanding of the natural world.

An un-guided technological traveler on the Exploits River, ORBY will shoot still images every two seconds and send GPS locations to Google maps every 10 minutes. Before the sun disappears over the horizon, we will have ORBY's unique perspective of the Exploits River. This data will be gathered, analyzed and displayed at the Art Center in Grand Falls, for all to behold.

Thank you all for coming today to witness this historic event. Please join me in wishing the ORB safe travels.