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Fort William man in 3-day traverse of Greenland ridge thanks to legacy of two mountain men.

Thanks to funding support from the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant, a local Fort William man will attempt a previously unclimbed 25km ridge in Greenland this summer as part of an expedition with the Scottish Arctic Club.

29-year-old Will Rowland will travel to Tasilaq in July where he and fellow expedition members will gather final provisions ahead of the 3-day climb along the 25km ridge. Before returning to Scotland Will and his team plan to take on an unnamed 500m rock climb (Peak 610) that nobody has yet attempted.

On receiving the news of the grant offer Will said: "I am over the moon obtaining the award. Climbing in Greenland is dream come true and a real privilege for me. Being supported by the John Muir Trust is actually quite humbling, it's a strange feeling when you are supported by people or an organisation you have never met face to face."

"We have put a lot of planning into this trip and I have missed many beautiful days out in the hills glued to a screen. I am sure we will have a great time and come home safely. Hopefully we will get some good stuff done and be able to share our experiences for years to come."

Rosie Simpson of the John Muir Trust, who administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: "We wish Will all the best with his expedition and hope he will be able to share memories and learning from the trip with the people he takes out in the Scottish hills for years to come."

"Des and Bill lived active, adventurous, outdoor lives and would be delighted to know that their legacy is now helping Will with his adventure."

Will is one of eight successful applicants to the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant. This grant was established to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places of the world in ways which will benefit both the person, and the wild places themselves.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

ABOUT THE DES RUBENS AND BILL WALLACE GRANT

The John Muir Trust administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant for free. The grant was set up in honour of Bill Wallace, who died of heart failure in February 2007 while skiing in the Alps at the age of 73 with two artificial hips, and Des Rubens, a popular teacher at Craigmoynton High School in Edinburgh who was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing accident at the age of 63.

Since the grant was established in 2007, initially in honour of Bill Wallace, it has supported almost 60 people from all walks of life, from students to scientists, from grandmothers to gardeners, take part in life-changing adventures of educational or scientific value in some of the wildest places in the world.

The John Muir Trust looks to support projects, adventures or expeditions that reflect the ethos of both men and give others an opportunity to follow in their footsteps.

ABOUT THE JOHN MUIR TRUST

The John Muir Trust is a membership based conservation charity dedicated to the experience, protection and repair of wild places. The Trust was founded in 1983 and was inspired by the life and works of John Muir (1838-1914), the Scots-born founding father of modern conservation and the inspiration behind national parks. We operate in Scotland, England and Wales and are the guardians of some of the finest wild places in the UK including Ben Nevis, Helvellyn and Schiehallion.

For more info about the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant, contact:

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<https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/grants-and-awards/the-bill-wallace-grant>