

The Boat Builders of Ontario



A History of Craftsmanship





By Stephen Fox

About:

This work covers the history of pleasure craft building in the province of Ontario, from 1000 BC to the present day.

This work is presently divided into four books, progressing from early Indigenous craft up to modern fibreglass and carbon fiber construction.

A fifth book covering the present era 1985-2025 is in progress.

For those who are interested in a particular boat, I have also provided histories of specific builders.

The intent is to provide an evergreen historical document. Updates will be made as new information comes in.

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Acknowledgements and Sources

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Museums and Archives

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Brockville Museum, 5 Henry Street, Brockville Ontario Canada

Great Lakes Museum 55 Ontario Street, Kingston, Ontario Canada

Muskoka Steamship and Discovery Centre, 275 Steamship Bay Road Gravenhurst, Ontario, Canada

Kingston-Frontenac Public Library 130 Johnston Street, Kingston, Ontario Canada

Canadian Canoe Museum 910 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario Canada

Antique Boat Museum 750 Mary Street, Clayton, New York, USA

Gananoque Archives: Gananoque, Ontario Canada

The City of Toronto Archives 255 Spadina Rd. Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The Archives of Ontario 134 Ian MacDonald Blvd. Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Interviews with Individuals:

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Grampian Marine: Gil Bibby (Talk provided to grampianowners.com symposium 2002)

Gilbert Motor Boats: Fred Gilbert Jr. , Walter Pullaw

W. J. Dowsett & Sons: James Potter, Wendell Brown, Bob Sneyd

Davey Nichol: Bob Sneyd (also provided cassette with other interviewees)

Jeffrey Boats: Don Ferguson, Kevin Tackaberry

Outboard Racing: Ron Tackaberry

Jack Mallette: Walter Pullaw, Mike Krzyzanowski, David Linkletter

Andress Boat Works: Walter Pullaw

Link Boats and Cliffe Craft: Charlie Cliffe

Johnson Motor Co. (Canada): Ron Tackaberry

Dey Bros Boat Works, Capital Boat & Canoe: Fred Kitchen

St. Lawrence Engine Co. Ltd. : Don Buffett

Ayling & Ramage: Peter Ayling

Auld Hydros: Jamie Auld

135 Class Hydros: Don Johnston

Knapp, Sharman & Green Bay: Robert Cardwell

Photos

The author: Stephen Fox

Manotick Classic Boat Club; mostly Graeme Hoatson Beattie, Dave Tilley and also Chris Grant

Graeme Hoatson Beattie

Adam Hunt/Ken Heaton: sailboat shots

Peck Family Archives lakeofbaysheritage.ca

Facebook: Rideau Lakes and Area History and Genealogy

Facebook: Muskoka History and Genealogy

Charlie Cliffe

City of Toronto Archives

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