

MLAOC at Toronto International Boat Show January 2023.

Report & Photos: Ken Kirk

Once again MLAOC was invited to participate with ACBS Toronto in their exhibit space at the Toronto International Boat Show, TIBS.

This is a grueling ten day Show but the effort is usually worth it in terms of signing up new members for MLAOC and for getting leads and potential acquisitions of vintage outboards. There is always the opportunity to make new contacts and talk to a lot of interesting people.

This year our display location was inside the main exhibit hall, very near the entrance to Lake WOW. This was a high traffic location and the increase in numbers of visitors to our exhibit was significant.

Our President, Ron Stevenson, took the lead in putting together our outboard display and organizing our volunteers to man the exhibit. Ron set up six of his prize Johnsons spanning the time period 1922 to 1958. This included a **101 year old** 1922 Johnson Model "A", a 1957 Johnson Golden Javelin 35 h.p. and a seldom seen 1935 Johnson Model "300". This rare 3.7 h.p. gem was only made for two years.

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MLAOC Presenting ourselves in style at the Toronto International Boat Show



Ron Stevenson provided six meticulously restored Outboards for our display.

L-R: 1957 Johnson Golden Javelin, 1932 Johnson VR-50 Sea Horse 32 & a rare 1935 Johnson 300, 3.7 HP.

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Kevin Hartley's 1957 Sheppard JR 15 Outboard

Outboard boat and motor combos in the display included Mike Gridley's 1972 Checkmate MX-15 powered by a 1982 Mercury 115 h.p., "Tower of Power". Mike has done most of the fiberglass restoration work himself and the spectacular "candy apple wine" metalflake paint and clearcoats have been done by Murray Parnell. This boat was a real "head turner".

Also in the display was Kevin Hartley's beautiful 1957 Shepherd JR 15 outboard powered by a contemporary Mercury. This awesome outboard Shepherd had been totally restored by Kevin.



L-R: Radu Campeanu, Ron Stevenson & Ken Kirk prepare for move out at the end of the Show Sunday evening.

Thank you to those MLAOC members who volunteered to spend some time with our display during the ten days of the Show. These members included Rick Burns, Peter Johnston, Glenn Weigel, Sean Goodman, Ken Kirk and Murray Parnell. Special recognition to Sean Goodman who was there to help Ron with the pre-show motor and signage setup and to Radu Campeanu and his partner Joy who, along with Ron and his wife Margie, moved motors and the MLAOC signage out through the chaos that ensues once the Show closes on the final Sunday evening.

Thank you to all who made our presence at the Toronto International Boat Show a success.



Mike Gridley, Past President ACBS Toronto and MLAOC Member, with his Mercury "Tower of Power "



Mike's 1972 Checkmate MX-15 with 115 HP Mercury