

Outboards at the Toronto International Boat Show

Report & Photos: Sandy Kennedy

The 60th annual Toronto International Boat Show (TIBS) ran from January 12th to January 21st, 2018 at the Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place. "North America's Largest Indoor Boat Show" featured over 1,000,000 sq. ft. of manufactures, vendors and a large in-door lake.

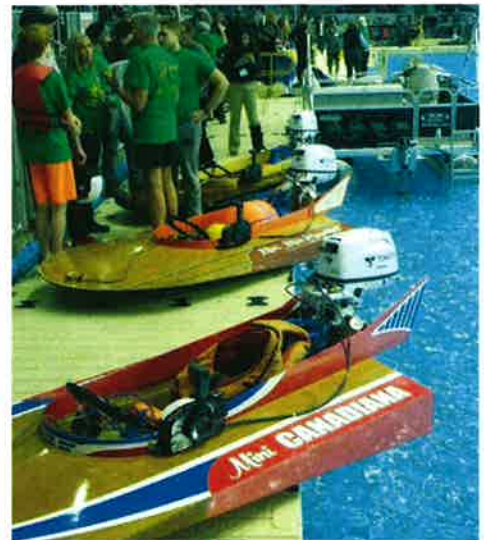
The MLAOC display featured six vintage outboard motors, the late Ronny Haylock's beautiful 1959 Glastron boat with a vintage six cylinder Mercury and a very unique Johnson outboard motor table. Many thanks to Murray Parnell and John Gullick for their efforts with set up and tear down.

The in-door lake was the size of a hockey rink and featured an amazing wakeboard / water ski show, a water skiing squirrel ("Twiggy") and the first ever "World Championship Indoor Sea Flea Races". The Sea Flea races were the brain child of MLAOC member / "Kids & Classics" founder, Malcolm Black. He overcame significant obstacles to make this event happen and it was a big hit with the spectators ! City of Toronto by- laws do not permit gasoline engines on the in-door lake. Thinking outside the box, Malcolm was able to get permission to run propane outboard motors. Tohatsu supplied the motors, Malcolm's "Kids & Classics" shop built the four Sea Fleas and the Canadian Boating Federation certified the event for insurance requirements.

Congratulations to Malcolm and his dedicated group of volunteers. I look forward to seeing his fleet of Sea Fleas at some of our outdoor boating events this summer.



Sandy Kennedy with motors displayed by Murray Parnell & John Gullick.



Sea Fleas built by Malcolm Black's "Kids & Classics" program, ready to race indoors at TIBS.



Exciting action- propane powered Outboard Sea Fleas racing indoors.



John Gullick's beautiful 1959 MERC & Scott.