

# MLAOC 2019 “Spark Plug” Award

**Report: Ken Kirk**

**Photo: Sandy Kennedy**

After a considerable period of time your Steering Committee has reestablished the annual tradition of recognizing a worthy member by the presentation of the MLAOC “Spark Plug” Award. This marks the second year of presenting this award after a considerable hiatus.

This year “Spark Plug” Award recipient is Ron Stevenson. The Award was presented to Ron by committee chair Ken Kirk at the Whitby “Ice Breaker” Meet in April.

Ron has been a member of the Maple Leaf Outboard Club for more than 30 years. For most of that time Ron has served on the Steering Committee and has taken a leadership role in organizing countless Club events and exhibits. Ron has now served two 5-year terms as our President. As we all know.... the buck stops with the President.

Ron has been the long-time organizer and participant in our MLAOC displays at both the Toronto International Boat Show and the all-important ACBS Gravenhurst Antique & Classic Boat Show.

Ron created & organizes the Whitby “Ice Breaker” Meet which has grown to become our largest and most well attended Swap Meet.

Ron also created the Semi-Annual Nov. Technical Seminars.... created informative and educational content & presentations in order to provide useful restoration and running information to our members.

Rons mission to find the ideal location for our MLAOC Wet Meets resulted in gaining access to the Ski Pits, now Spray Lake, for our “Spring Run Off” and “Art Doling Memorial” Wet Meets.

In addition to all of this Ron finds time to write an



**Ken Kirk, on right, presents the 2019 MLAOC “Spark Plug “ Award to an emotional Ron Stevenson.**

Ron's contribution not only provides important and interesting information to ACBS members but also keeps outboard boats and motors up front in the minds of all antique and classic boat collectors and strengthens the relationship between the two Clubs.

Ron is currently engaged in raising the profile of Fiberglass and the 50's & 60's outboards that power them. To this end he is stimulating interest in the restoration, running & display of these outboard boats and motors.

Ron is constantly engaged in the restoration and rebuilding of outboards for his own collection and for others seeking his services. He is also always available to answer technical questions or to provide helpful advice to all MLAOC members.

Ron received a well-deserved standing ovation from the large number of members in attendance at Whitby. Congratulations Ron and thank you very much

The MLAOC "Spark Plug" Award recipient is selected on the basis of their significant contributions to the MLAOC as an Organization and to enhancing the membership experience of their fellow members. The criteria include....

1. Having made multiple contributions over a period of time.
2. Initiatives and actions that have been beneficial to the membership as a whole as well as to the experience of individual members.
3. Have improved the organization and enhanced its ability to serve the needs and wants of our members.
4. Have contributed to the public awareness and understanding of the MLAOC and our purpose.
5. Have worked for the "greater good" of the MLAOC without concern for immediate benefit and reward for themselves.

**Previous "Spark Plug" Award Recipients**

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- Art Doling      - Jim Smith
  - Roy Cameron   - John England
  - Ken Kirk        - Peter McDowell

**Selection Committee**

- Ken Kirk, Chair
- Dave Morrison (Past Pres.)      -Rob Abbott (Past Pres.)
- Roy Cameron (Orig. Sec. Tres.)   -Peter McDowell

Special thanks to David Hymers for designing and creating the 2019 "Spark Plug" Award trophy. It is very special.