

# The Kenneth A Minaker Martin Collection

**By: Dave Ferguson**

After successfully bidding on a Martin 60 at a farm auction at McDonald's Corners in Lanark County I was approached by a father and son team who inquired if I would be interested in purchasing a collection of restored Martin outboards. They informed me that the cost would be considerably more than my current \$10 investment for the seized Martin 60. Undeterred by this reasonable warning I exchanged contact information. A few weeks later Doug McEwen from the Kingston area and I travelled to the waterfront community of Port Hope Ontario to meet his aunt in order to inspect the collection of 8 Martins that his late uncle had restored between 1998 and 2003. From the receipts his uncle, Ken Minaker, had kept it was apparent that Ken had developed a financial relationship with Russ Larson, the well known supplier of vital NOS Martin parts.

In addition to four parts motors, manuals and several boxes of spare parts the collection included a lineup of restored Martin models 20, 40, 60, 66, 75, 100 and a 200 complete with a Martin tank.

It was obvious to see the care, time and attention Ken had put into this impressive collection. (I was pleased to hear that Doug had already been gifted with Martin 60 and 100 models, so there would be some family legacy carried on.

Although Ken tested each of his projects, they seldom saw any use after the restorations were completed.

Doug's uncle Ken died in 2004 and his aunt Marlene agreed it was now time to pass the collection on to another caretaker. She was particularly interested to see that the collection would remain intact.

With the collection now in my possession, it is my intention to keep the collection intact for the foreseeable future. My biggest decision will be to decide which motor I should assign to each of my growing collection of vintage watercraft and Tee Nee trailers. Hopefully in the coming years I will be able to show up at one of the Club meets with the Martins proudly on display; or on the back of a Penn Yan Trailer Boat or perhaps an Islander model cedar strip from the Canadian Canoe Company.

## **Background:**

*My own relationship with Martin outboards began as a young lad in 1958 when our father purchased a used Martin 40 to use on the family's rowboat. Since 2013 I have acquired 8 other Martin's including some from fellow MLAOC members.*



**Dave Ferguson with three of the most desirable Martin's...the 100, the 200 & the little 2 hp Martin 20.**



**A wonderful line up of nicely restored Martin's from the Ken Minaker Collection. L to R, a Martin 66, 60, 45, 40 & Martin 20.**