

# Outboards at 2017 Toronto International Boat Show

## Article & Photos: Ken Kirk



**Ken Kirk with his 1915 Koban Twin with rudder steering and battery ignition.**



**Ron Stevenson's 1921 Elto Ruddertwin, on the right. Ken's Koban on the left.**



**Ron with his Johnson OK-15 and 1/2 horse Evinrude Mate.**

The theme of the Antique & Classic Boat Society display at TIB's for 2017 was "Birch Bark to Fibreglass". The display also emphasized Canadian builders in recognition of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. No surprise when the display was dominated by beautiful and unusual Canadian built canoes and fibreglass boats. But...there were a good number of other treasures on display...notably vintage outboards.

Many MLAOC members are also members of ACBS Toronto. As dual members, Ron Stevenson, John Gullick & Ken Kirk all contributed significantly to the ACBS display.

Ron brought out twelve beautifully restored outboards spanning forty years of outboard development. Ron's motors included a first year (1921) Elto Ruddertwin, an unusual 1937 Clarke Troller and a pristine example of the famous Johnson OK-15, made exclusively in Canada.

John Gullick displayed his Leavens Brothers, "Victor", fibreglass powered by a 1962 Mercury 450. This was the very first Mercury outboard model to be assembled outside of the United States. It was assembled on Caledonia Road in Toronto, just around the corner from the Leavens Brothers Boat factory.

Ken Kirk displayed his extremely rare 1918 Evinrude boat with Evinrude Detachable Row Boat Motor. Only a half dozen of these boats are known to still exist. Ken also displayed his 1915 Koban, one of the very first two cylinder outboards.

Rounding out the fiberglass boat roster was Ken's 1963 Princecraft Flyer, "Ringo" with eye popping gold metalflake finish and powered by a mint original 1965 Mercury 500.

A number of MLAOC members were also on hand to assist with set up and move out duties. Special thanks to Tim Aikenhead, Rob Carswell, Murray Parnell and the "King of Glass", Ronny Haylock, for their significant contributions to the success of the display.

## More Photo's from Toronto Int'l . Boat Show 2017



On left, Ken Kirk's 1963 Princecraft Flyer, "Ringo".  
On right, Ken's rare 1918 Evinrude Boat with 1918 Evinrude Row Boat Motor with reversing lower unit.



On right, Ron Stevenson with an array of his Outboards including a British Anzani and mint '54 Johnson 5.5.  
On left Ron's Johnson OK-15 & Evinrude/Elto Mate.



On right, John Gullick's 1962 Mercury 450 on a sweet Leavens Victor fibreglassic.  
On left, Ron's 1929 Johnson A-45. This one year only model featured a release charger for easier starting & optional underwater exhaust.

