

The PMA's Canoe and Boat Collections

The Peterborough Museum and Archives in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada has amassed a large and varied collection of canoe and boat building artifacts and archival holdings. What follows is a partial inventory listing of this material. **Please note that due to space restrictions, the canoes and related material are not all on physical display. Contact the Museum for details.**

Canoes:

959.64.10 / birch-bark canoe; originally from Victoria Museum collection (Peterborough's first local museum established in 1897); "transitional" - First Nations construction techniques showing European influences with use of copper nails; 1790 circa.

976.4.1 / hand-hewn, "dug-out" canoe; basswood; painted red; built by William Alfred Payne, Warsaw, Ontario; 1876; brass labels.

976.13.1 / canoe; Stephenson Canoe; 1876; painted gray; 3 planks to the side, flush battens; acquired from Rye Boatworks.

976.13.2 / sailing canoe; built by Tom Gordon; 1860s; painted green; basswood board canoe with elm or oak ribs and batten; picked up from Rye Boatworks, Peterborough.

978.74.2 / dory; wood plank construction; "Camp-Pal" model; painted brown; 4 seats; 3 floor boards; 4 metal oar locks; wide body; wooden rudder.

984.49 / Stephenson canoe; cedar rib construction; built on steel mould; painted green; with sail and oak paddles; second last version of Stephenson's "Peterborough" board canoe. (Currently on loan to the Canadian Canoe Museum).

993.15 / sailing canoe; Peterborough Canoe Company; 'Sponson unsinkable' model; canvas covered basswood canoe; with lee boards and sail intact; painted red; 2 cane seats; hand-painted name: "Paio-Tiki" on bow; 1920 circa.

993.29 / sailing canoe; Canadian Canoe Company (metal logo); painted red; longitudinal strip construction; with lee boards and sail intact; 16 feet long.

994.18 / sailing canoe; Strickland and Company, Lakefield; 1886; varnish finish; 16 feet long; basswood; board construction.

cedar strip canoe; Peterborough Canoe Company (decal); 12 feet long; similar to canoe given as a wedding gift to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip (1948). [permanent loan - on exhibit]

[no accession number] / 'freight canoe'; Peterborough Canoe Company (decal); board construction; 16 feet long; 2 cane seats; painted red; serial number: 26PC-1073.

[no accession number] / sailing canoe; Lakefield Canoe Company (decal and metal logo); longitudinal strip construction; varnish finish; 2 lee boards; 18 feet long.

Canoe & Boatmodels:

980.50.9 / Model Hull; wood; 4 horizontal layers of wood held together by 3 wooden pegs; metal screw-in eye at center of length; for a 12 foot long boat; 22.8 x 3.9 x 3.7 cm; Peterborough Canoe Company.

980.50.10 / Model Hull; wood; for 20 foot long streamliner; 38 x 4.9 x 7.6 cm; donated by a boat builder with the Peterborough Canoe Company, 1925-1939 and from 1945-1947.

997.3 / 2 wooden models of "Speedstar" and "Lakeside" motor boats; made by Percy Bullied, cabinetmaker with Peterborough Canoe Company; 1930s.

[Permanent exhibit] / sailing canoe and cedar strip canoe models; wood; Peterborough Canoe Company.

Boatbuilding Tools:

[Please note that these are not currently on permanent display]

Boat building tools; owned by A.E. Barrie a boat builder with the Canadian Canoe Company until 1929 and then with his own canoe and boat works in Peterborough; collection includes: awl, tenon saw, cross-cut rip saw, spoke shave, carpenters square, hand drills, pincers, clamps, clinching weight, planes.

Canoe & Boat Accessories:

The museum also holds several examples of paddles (including red cedar paddles, circa 1885 and paddles from the Peterborough Canoe Company), oars, outboard motors (including a 1939 Evinrude, "Handi-Twin") and other material.

Additional "Recreation" Artifacts:

998.2 / Toboggan; with original finish, hardware and straps; Peterborough Canoe Company (metal label); 1930 circa.

[no accession number] / Millionth Motor; Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC); gold plated 50 horsepower outboard motor on a display stand; 1971.

H69.94 (a,b,c) / 3 sales samples of "Woodtex Sun-Ray Shades" by Peterborough Ventilating Shade Company (subsidiary of Peterborough Canoe Company), circa 1930.

969.45.1 / bronze medal in case; awarded to William English Canoe Company at the International Exhibition, Philadelphia, (Worlds Fair) 1876; for the Hunting Canoe displayed in the "Dominion of Canada" exhibit.

969.45.2 / bronze medal in case; awarded to William English Canoe Company at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London, England, 1886.

969.45.3 / bronze medal in case; awarded to William English Canoe Company at the International Exposition (World's Fair), Paris, France, 1878.

969.45.4 / bronze medal in case; awarded to William English Canoe Company at the International Exhibition, Philadelphia (World's Fair), 1876.

975.53.1 / Fragment of Peterborough Canoe (with metal tag) found by Jack Hamer on his tour of the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush Trail, at the shore of Crater Lake, on Canadian border at Chilkoot Pass.

980.82.1 / Silver water-skiing trophy awarded in 1935 to Eric Dineson, by the Peterborough Canoe Company. Dineson was a local champion water skier. He was chosen to promote the PCC Aqua Ski product line. He was also an employee of the company.

Original Archival Material, related to Canoe and Boat Building:

1968-003 / Beal Family *fonds* (4 files) ... price lists, catalogues, letterhead, other promotional material; Peterborough Canoe Company; 1951-1961.

1969-028 / Canadian Ventilating Shades (1 file) ... patent certificate, design specifications, plans for "improved" wooden venetian window blinds by Claude H. Rogers, Peterborough Canoe Company executive. This blinds manufacturing operation was a subsidiary of Peterborough Canoe Company.

1970-001 / Peterborough Review Printing and Publishing Company (2 scrapbooks) ... Portfolios catalogues from Lakefield Canoe Company, William English Canoe Company and Peterborough Canoe Company; 1904-1917.

1972-013 / Rice Lake Canoe Company (3 items) ... catalogues from Rice Lake Canoe Company, Gore's Landing (1910 circa); reproductions.

1975-001 / Felix Bownscombe (1 file)... collector extract from financial ledger of Canadian Canoe Company; 1892-1931; assorted Canadian Canoe Company photographs and other material (reprints).

1976-018 / Magie Photograph Collection (Roy Studio) ... includes several 8x10 photographs of Peterborough Canoe Company product line used for promotional literature by the company (1910-1920 circa).

1980-002 / Leonard Robinson *fonds* (Peterborough Canoe Company) (1 file; 40 images) ... colour catalogue of Peterborough Watercraft, 1955; 40 glossy 8 x 10 photographs of canoes, boats including: "Handy Boy", "Express Cruiser", "Mercury Moldliner", "SeaFarer Convertible", "Imperial", "Lark", "Zephyr", "Lakeside" and "Arrow"; 1950s.

1980-018 / Eric Dineson *fonds* (2 files; 2 catalogues; 2 price lists) ... catalogue (1930circa), catalogues, price lists (1941, 1954) - Peterborough Canoe Company; Johnson Motors Company price lists and catalogue (1927); Chestnut Canoe Company catalogue (1961); 7 photographs showing construction of PT Boat in Montreal factory (1945); photographs of boat launch; large photograph of Peterborough Canoe Company staff (1938 circa).

1982-020 / E.H.D. Hall *fonds* ... letterbook of Mr. Hall when he represented William English Canoe Company at Paris Exposition (1878); scrapbooks, assorted photographs and ephemera related to Stoney Lake regattas (1910 - 1920 circa).

1986-021 / Marjorie Scriver, collector ... 2 photographs of twenty-seven Peterborough Canoe Company workers in one freight canoe built for Hudsons Bay Company (1910 circa).

1987-008 / Birch Bark Canoe Construction ... photographic study collection of 14 photographs showing construction of birch bark canoe (1980 circa).

1989-006 / Peterborough Canoe Company photograph of staff of Peterborough Canoe Company, 1938.

1989-001 / Howard Pammett *fonds* (16 metres) ... assorted correspondence, photographs, postcards and other material relating from local canoe companies.

1989-011 / SS "Mollie" (1 item) ... "Registry certificate of British registry for "SS Mollie" boat owned by Strickland Canoe Company, Lakefield (1898).

1989-020 / Martha Kidd *fonds* (5cm textual; 95 photographs) ... additions several glass plate negatives canoeing in Stoney Lake (1890s); canoes in bay behind Peterborough Canoe Company.

1990-019 / Dick McKend *fonds* (1 file) ... photograph of employees of Rice Lake Canoe Company (Cobourg works), 1922.

1990-023 / Halls Glen Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History ... includes an original photograph on board, of Massey-Harris convention in Lakefield; in background is clear view of Lakefield Canoe Works factory, 1909.

1990-106 / Albert Edmund Barrie *fonds* ... biographical notes, photographs relating to boat builder, A.E. Barrie and his career with Canadian Canoe Company and Barrie Canoe Company, Peterborough.

1990-110 / Donald Boulter *fonds* (5 photographs) ... of Peterborough Canoe Company Livery and Storage Building at Juniper Island, Stoney Lake (1940 circa).

1992-007 / Roy Studio cyanotypes (21 photographs) ... of parade floats celebrating amalgamation of Peterborough and Ashburnham; includes float from Canadian Canoe Company (1904).

1992-022 / "The Old Man and the Canoe" ... VHS videotape documenting the work of Walter Walker, master canoe builder from Lakefield (1992).

1992-032 / H.K. Fallis *fonds* (6 photographs) ... Includes an original photograph on board, showing the east side of Charlotte Street near George. Clearly visible is the William English Canoe factory. A large advertising sign for the company can be seen on the west side of the building (1890 circa).

1992-044 / "Peterborough: The Canoe Capital of Canada" (1 volume) ... a large box of research notes, photographs and published material relating to the local canoe and boat building industry; included are company timelines, photocopied catalogues and price lists, publications; this material was used to develop a major exhibition.

1995-069 / ACA Store watercolour painting (1 painting) ... of ACA Store with canoe and sailboat on shore of a small lake; by E.S. Shrapnel; 1885 circa.

1996-028 / Demonstrating Canoe Safety (1 photograph) ... of Peterborough Canoe Company staff demonstrating how a Peterborough canoe with several passengers will not tip (1925 circa).

1996-029 / Peterborough Canoe Company (1 photograph) ... of Peterborough Canoe Company office staff at annual banquet, Peterborough Golf and Country Club, (1945 circa).

1997-003 / "Making Small Boats and Canoes" (1 item) ... booklet circulated by Outboard Marine Company, Peterborough, 1943.

1997-025 / Canadian Johnson Motors Company, Peterborough (3 files) ... 16 operating manuals and instruction guides for Johnson and Evinrude outboard motors; including: "Sea Horse" line, "Fast Wind", "Sports Win" and other motors; 1935 - 1968.

1997-004 / Peterborough Canoe Company (3 items) ... photograph of Peterborough Canoe Company workers with canoe given to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, 1948 as wedding gift.

1998-010 / Archives Rare Book Collection - additions includes a second edition copy of "Canoe Handling" by C. Bowyer Vaux (1888).

1998-017 / Stoney Lake Calendar (1 item) ... 1904 calendar with mounted photograph of Stoney Lake Boat House, sailing canoe and row boating foreground.

1998-029 / Rye Boatworks (1 photograph) ... onboard of first Rye Boatworks in old Tollgate School, sw corner of Sherbrooke and Clonsilla streets, Peterborough (1890 circa).

1998-035 / Peterborough Postcard Collection additions (21 postcards) ... picture postcard showing aerial view of Rice Lake Boatworks, 1930 circa.

1998-043 / Pilon Marine Sales and Service (1 item) ... advertising brochure and Kawartha Lakes map; produced by Pilon Marine, 176 Simcoe Street, Peterborough; agents for Johnson, Evinrude and Elto outboard motors; includes interior photographs of business showing motors, canoes, outboard boats and other product line, also portrait of Charles Pilon, owner; 1950 circa.

1999-013 / Shooting the White Horse Rapids, Alaska, in a Peterboro Canoe (1910 circa) (1 item) ... A colour postcard produced in San Francisco of three men in a Peterborough Canoe, shooting river rapids in Alaska.

1999-035 / Parks Studio *fonds* ... The Parks Studio fonds comprises over 60,000 photo negatives representing the surviving body of work of one of Peterborough's best professional studios (late 1930's to 1970's). Included are extensive series of negatives relating to: Lakefield Boatworks, Peterborough Canoe Company, Outboard Marine, Pilon Marine and Traveler Boats.

1999-040 / Peterborough Boating Club *fonds* (1874 - 1891) ... A minute book documenting the active years of the Peterborough Boating Club. The Club built a large boathouse at the foot of King Street to race skiffs and shells. In August 1879, a team from this Club won 2nd place at the Dominion Regatta in Lachine, Quebec. In 1880 the Club team won 2nd place at the Toronto Regatta. After 1890, the Peterborough Boating Club became dormant.

2000-004 / William W. Sliger *fonds* (2 files) ... two colour catalogues for Peterborough Canoe Company - Peterborough Watercraft; also cover letters and price lists from PCC Sales Rep., Robert Miller; 1954 and 1956.

2000-012 / Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images (Roy Studio *fonds*) ... A vast collection of over 300,000 glass plate and film photo negatives created by the Roy Studio, Peterborough between 1896 and 1992. This collection includes extensive photographs of local canoe and boat building product lines, factories and workers.

2001-001 / J.J. Turner Company catalogue (1 catalogue) ... A 1932 illustrated catalogue (#48) of the J.J. Turner Company - makers of canvas tents, camping gear, canoes, skiffs, canoe sails, flags, banners and a variety of other products. The catalogue comprises over ninety pages.

2001-004 / Canoe Company Advertising Literature Collection (3 files) ... an artificially compiled collection of local canoe company advertising literature. Includes: Peterborough Canoe Company catalogue (ca. 1941); owners manual for Fleetwin 7.5 Aquasonic outboard motor (Evinrude/OMC); owners manual for Sea Horse 10hp (1959); a series of illustrated spec sheets for a variety of boats (Rilco Industries, Lakefield; Canadian Canoe Company; Peterborough Canoe Company)

2001-007 / Peterborough Boats, Peterborough Canoe Company. (1 catalogue) ... A 1927 Peterborough Canoe Company colour catalogue.

2004-012 / Stoney Lake Yacht Club *fonds*. Textual and financial material related to the Stoney Lake Yacht Club (1953-2003).

2004-014 / Association of Stony Lake Cottagers *fonds*. (1.8 metres) ... material relating to the Association of Stony Lake Cottagers (1907-1999).