

ISSUE 31

THE DEVICE

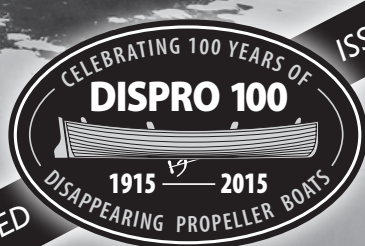
AUG 2015

DISPRO OWNERS

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.disproboats.ca

Photo: Paul Jenner



EXPANDED

ISSUE



President's Letter • August 2015



What Celebrations! Wow, the Dispro Owners Association certainly knows how to celebrate an historic event. The club members have worked so diligently to share with the public their enthusiasm, their boats and their pride in being part of the Year of the Dispro. Billy Johnston and Edwin Rodgers would be extremely happy in how we celebrated their invention.

The club's presence at the Antique and Classic Boat Society's (ACBS) Summer Show on July 11th in Gravenhurst was outstanding. As stated on the Woody Boater web site, "those Dispros were everywhere". From the Poker Run, to the land display, to the water display, to the Boats in Motion to the social

events, we looked great! Thanks to the Antique and Classic Boat Society-Toronto for making the Disappearing Propeller Boat, the feature boat and their cooperation as we worked through the many details for each of the events. Also thanks to Mike Windsor with assistance from Ian Dickson, for setting up the tent and creating the display. For all those who brought a boat for the in-water display we appreciate your efforts, some of you coming a long distance.

The highlight of the year was the Centennial Celebration on Saturday, August 8th in Port Carling. With almost 80 boats at the docks, 190 members and their guests registered for lunch, attendees from 5 of the United States, good weather and memorable ceremony we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the invention of the Dispro in great style. The dedication of the Provincial Plaque was feted by two town criers and former Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman as well as local politicians. Many, many thanks to the organizing committee under the leadership of Ian Dickson.

Our club has never been stronger. We have signed up a lot of new members the last couple of months. There have been 22 articles published in various magazines and newspapers on both sides of the border over the last few months. The public certainly knows about Dispros and we have received many, many compliments about how special our club is.

As Dennis Howchin states, "The Dippy Club presence at the ACBS Boat Show to celebrate 100 years demonstrated the passion and dedication we have to our club objectives."

Each member of Dispro Owners Association can be proud to be part of such a fantastic club.

See you at the regatta.

Mary



Lake Kashagawigamog, Haliburton • June 27

On June 27 2015, 18 dippies gathered at the docks on Head Lake in the village of Haliburton. Eight of the dippies had arrived the night before. Around 9:30, the group set out on Head Lake for Kashagawigamog Lake. The day was overcast, but no rain!

The group arrived at Bonnie View Inn for lunch located part way down Kashagawigamog Lake. It is a long lake running NE to SW for a few miles. Bonnie View Inn was the location of a Dispro Regatta in 1995. It is a lovely older lodge with lots of character.

It was a lovely location to socialize and reconnect with other Dippy owners. Lunch was in a covered area just behind the docks. The BBQ food was simple and delicious. I was impressed with how the staff organized the food preparation and distribution to a group or our size in the very informal setting. The owner gave us a history of the area which was very interesting.

After lunch, the group headed south on Kashagawigamog Lake to Canning Lake. The group then returned to the dock at Haliburton for pull out.

Many thanks to Mike and Susan McGarrell for organizing a successful UUMMT!

Dennis Howchin



Photo: Mary Storey

Dispros at the Antique & Classic Boat Society Summer Show

Dippies were the feature boat at the ACBS Boat Show on July 11, 2015 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the patent of the Dispro device.

Poker Run

The Dippy Poker Run started at approximately 10:00 at Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre in Gravenhurst. The Run visited 5 cottages in Muskoka Bay to pick up a playing card, while looking for details to complete a trivia quiz, before returning to the museum for lunch and the awards. Many thanks to John and Mary Storey for organizing the Poker Run!

ACBS Dinner

On Friday evening, the ACBS held a dinner at the Muskoka Bay club near Gravenhurst. Twenty four Dippy enthusiasts attended. The group was honored to have uncle Billy Johnson (who applied for the device patent) and Auntie Mae present at the reception and dinner. Their presence at the event certainly added lots of fun to the event. They arrived and departed in a Model A vintage car (courtesy of John Storey). Billy reminisced about his days in the Dispro factory. Auntie Mae talked about her culinary skills. Many thanks to Bob and Sheila Burke!

Boat Show Land Display

The club had an on-land display at the boat show near the pavilion. The Dispro tent covered an impressive display of dispro posters, photo's and key boat parts (a device!). Four Dispro boats were positioned in front of the tent, displaying 3 different models. The other was a 'barn find', a complete Dispro before any restoration has been undertaken. The booth was staffed



Competing in the Poker Run.



At the booth.



Billy Johnston and Auntie Mae made a special appearance.

all day by DOA members answering questions regarding the boats and club activities. It was a great gathering spot for club members and Dippy enthusiasts attending the show! Many thanks to Mike Windsor for coordinating the Dispro land display.

Boat Show In-Water Display

Twenty two Dispros were on display at the docks. Nearly every style and model of Dispro was represented. It was the largest Dispro display ever at an ACBS boat show. The boats were tastefully grouped at a number of locations throughout the docking area to give visitors a chance to fully appreciate the different models. During the 'Boats In Motion', a number of Dispro's treated the people on the docks with a demonstration of how calm and serene a dippy ride can be. Many members were dressed in period costume or 'whites' or Dispro shirts and complete with straw hats and lace parasols they added a great deal of colour to the show.

Post Show Cocktail Party

At 4:00 on Saturday after the show, a number of show participants gathered for a post-show cocktail party. Upon entry to the event, they were again greeted by Billy Johnston and his wife Mae (with some resemblance to Bob and Sheila Burk) along with John and Mary Storey all decked out in costume.

Dennis Howchin



Eric and Cynthia Luks won an award for their boat Auntie Mae for the oldest boat at the ACBS Boat Show.



Auntie Mae.



The Dicksons treating a guest to a Dippy ride during Boats in Motion.



The Dippys are Coming! The Dippys are Coming!

This was the slogan on the roadside signs approaching Port Carling from both directions, announcing the Dispro Centennial Celebration.

Dispros were on the main docks, on the side docks, by the little locks, at Duke's Marina and even at private homes on the river. Port Carling waterways had nearly 80 Dispros on display on August 8th. Members were dressed in period costumes. It was a beautiful site with women in white hats and dresses and men in bow ties and suspenders. How elegant our members looked!

The Centennial Committee had spent almost three years of planning to celebrate 100 years since the patent was granted for the device used in Disappearing Propeller Boats. The morning was spent viewing all the boats, interacting with the public and renewing acquaintances. Members attended from Florida, Ohio, Vermont, Michigan and New York states. One third of the Dispros were built before 1926 in Port Carling, a great display of early boats. Other activities included tours of the former home of Billy Johnston home where Tim DuVernet took a lot of photos of members in their elegant costumes. One hundred cardboard Dispros complete with Canadian flags graced the park setting.

The huge tent set up near the Muskoka Lakes Museum provided a lunch venue and a chance to discuss what else happened in the world during 1915 due to reminders on the tables. The complete area was elegantly decorated and a delicious lunch was served.

Town Criers Bruce and Shawn Kruger certainly grabbed everyone's attention to start the Plaque Ceremony at two o'clock. Personnel from Ontario Heritage Trust explained the significance of the Provincial Plaque, followed by James Bartleman, former Lieutenant Governor, with reflections of Dippys in Port Carling where he grew up. Mary Storey gave a brief history of our club and her reflections on what it means to be a Dispro owner and a member of the club. Then it was time for the unveiling and reading of the text on the plaque.



Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!
Town Criers Bruce and Shaun Kruger.

Photo: Paul Jenner



The tent provided the ideal venue to gather and take part in the centennial celebrations.

Cakes decorated with 100th Dispro Centennial logos were served along with lemonade by the board and staff of the Muskoka Lakes Museum.

The plaque is now securely mounted in front of the Johnston House on Joseph Street in Port Carling.

In order to recognize Edwin Rodgers who assisted Billy Johnston in the creation of the boat and device, members in 21 boats cruised to Port Sandfield on Sunday. Bright sunshine and glassy waters were ideal for the shoreline trip to this small village. Picnics, ice cream and gift shops made the day complete.

A huge thank you goes to the Centennial Committee, chaired by Ian Dickson and including Barb Dickson, Launi and Art Clarke, Nancy and Dennis Howchin, Tim DuVernet, Gary Campaign, Helen and Stan Byrne, John and Mary Storey and Ronda Turner. Many other members helped out closer to the event and the day of the event. Thanks to all

Billy Johnston and Edwin Rogers would have been proud of the way we celebrated their invention and our passion for 'the greatest little motorboat afloat'.

Happy 100th birthday Dispros!

Mary Storey
DOA President

Photo: Paul Jenner





Commemorative Plaques and the Heritage Plaque Ceremony

Ian Dickson, John Storey and Dennis Howchin busy producing the commemorative wooden plaques for the DOA attendees.



Bob Burk and John Storey preparing the site for the installation of the Ontario Heritage Plaque.



The Honorable James K. Bartleman (27th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario), Don Furniss (Mayor, Township of Muskoka Lakes), Mary Storey (President of the Dispro Owners Association) and Sean Fraser (Director, Heritage Programs and Operations, Ontario Heritage Trust) about to unveil the plaque.



The Honorable James K. Bartleman and Mary Storey stand beside the plaque.



The plaque in final position in front of the Johnston House.

We Made it Happen

All members of the DOA who actively participated in the 100th Anniversary celebration made the day a truly memorable one. From those at the planning stages, to those behind the scenes working tirelessly to make it all happen and finally to all the members who brought their Dispros and were decked out in period costume. A big thank you to all those involved.



Photo: Paul Jenner



Three beautifully decorated cakes were served up at the reception in the Port Carling Museum proving that we can have our cake, and eat it too!

The ladies that kept the food and drink tables well stocked were Dorene Jenner, Rachel Campaigne and Barb Dickson. Barb also generously produced all the delicious, home baked goodies we all enjoyed for dessert.



Paul Dodington and plaque.



Nancy Howchin, Jim Domm, Launi Clarke, Helen Byrne and Ronda Turner were all volunteers at the tent



Photo: Paul Jenner



Photo: Gary Campaigne

Cynthia and Eric Luks graciously opened up their home for tours. The house was originally the home of Billy Johnston, inventor of the Dispro.

John Storey looking very distinguished between the town criers. John was the driving force in getting the Ontario Heritage Trust to erect the commemorative plaque in front of the W. J. Johnston House.



Photo: Mary Storey



Art Clarke explaining the unique features of Dippys to interested members of the public.

Photos: Paul Jenner

Last Minute Reminders

Fall Workshop

The Fall Workshop for 2015 has been postponed until 2016.

Membership

Barb Dickson is the new membership secretary.
Please contact Barb with any membership queries.

2016 UUMMT

One of the UUMMTs for 2016 will be at the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, NY where Dispros will be the feature boat. Please reserve August 5-7 to be there.

Regatta

This year's regatta, held at Cleveland's House, Muskoka on Sept. 11-13 is filling up quickly. If you have not reserved please phone the hotel for reservations and reserve with the club by contacting Barb Dickson.



Photo: Paul Jenner

Paul Dodington treating guests to a Dippy ride during the Centennial Celebrations..

The Device is published 4 times a year in March, June, August and October. Deadlines for the submission of articles and photos is normally 2 weeks prior to the first day of these publication months.



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