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Last month I asked you to send me photos of boats that sailed on the Grand River. The response was not as fruitful as I had hoped, but I did get a few. I would like to share one of them with you; and another I found elsewhere. One I received from Brad Bird of Canfield who did such a good job of describing his photo I decided you are going to get exactly what I got from him. Thanks Brad. The other boat however, never saw the water of the Grand River. I attended the Home and Garden Show in Hamilton on the 15<sup>th</sup> and came across a great photo by Paul Simon. No; not the singer! Paul is a fine art's photographer from Dundas who knows how to catch the moment on film, or digital; I'm not sure which. He really caught it in this photo. But first to Brad's photo!

*Hi William, I'm not sure if this is what you are looking for, however here it is. The boat is a mid 1950's 15 foot Molded Plywood Peterborough boat in good condition. I am not sure of the exact year or model. I do know it was ordered from Peterborough Boats as a kit and was built in Cayuga Ontario by a gentleman named Bob Baldwin. Murray Baigent of Cayuga purchased the boat kit and hired Bob Baldwin to build the boat as Bob had built wooden boats in the past. This boat, along with Murray Baigent and Sam Rounce entertained many crowds at the Cayuga summer gatherings, by pulling skiers and performing stunts as part of the early Cayuga Ski Club shows. This boat has a Johnson 60 super sea horse electric engine model VXL 13A and an antique boat trailer. The Boat now is owned by Murray Baigent's Nephew, Brad Bird of Canfield Ontario.*

Brad, you have the idea! I would like to do more stories about boats that sailed on the Grand. I had a couple more sent to me recently when I put my request out via a group email sent to friends. Once I get a better handle on these two boats I will do an article on them. One looks to be sitting on a dam, possibly the Dunnville dam, while the other looks to be tied to the front porch of someone's home during a flood.

Then there is Paul Simon who I mentioned took a magnificent photograph of a boat sitting beside a dock while nature returns them from whence they came. Actually, the boat once belonged to Thaddeus delaMorandiere the proprietor of Roche Rouge (Red Rock) Campground in Killarney near Killarney Provincial Park. His daughters Lorna and Lois have continued in his foot steps as proprietor of the camp. Until I made a phone call to delaMorandiere sisters, I thought Thaddeus had a fleet of these boats for rental to fishermen and those wishing a day on the water. No way! Thaddeus who died in 2006 at age ninety kept this fourteen foot cedar strip beauty for his own pleasure. Lorna delaMorandiere (I like writing that name. – You try to pronounce it!) tells me she is forty-seven years young and as she recalls this boat has been in its present location all of that time. This particular boat is not sitting beside the dock while Georgian Bay dries away as one might think from the photo! The park has some property where both the boat and the narrow dock have been discarded. Paul tells me even the style of dock seen here is no longer in use. The earlier docks floated on narrow styrofoam supports while modern docks in this area use plastic barrows which are wider. This of course, makes the dock, a bit safer and gives a much better sense of balance. Paul was able to tell me the maker of the boat which led me to a call to them. This Company is still in existence. It is the B. Giesler & Sons Ltd., in Pawassan Ontario. Of course when this boat was made it was just "Giesler"! The Giesler's have been making wooden boats for over seventy

years. I took a look at their website and found the company's declaration declaring. "We don't just build them pretty, we build them pretty good". My call was fruitful. I talked to "Dad" Giesler first. I asked him if I sent him a cropped photo of the boat would he be able to tell me if it was one of their creations, and would he be able to tell me what year it was built. He thought so! Does it have curved ribs, or are they flat he asked. I guess that would be a good clue for him. The email was send and Pete's son Gerry wrote back, *"It does look like one of our boats. The year the boat was built is impossible to tell from a picture. If there is a serial number stamped in the transom that you can read, the last two numbers are the year. Yours respectfully, Gerry Giesler"*.

What also intrigued me was the registration number on her bow; 85E 366. I asked Pete if he knew at which Port it might have been registered. Though not sure, he suspected it was an early Sudbury number. That made sense as Killarney is fairly close to Sudbury. However, as always it ain't that easy. Lorna delaMorandiere tells me there was no road from Killarney to Hwy 17 until 1962, which meant it was unlikely the boat was registered in Sudbury, more than likely it was Little Current. It appears to have been the 266<sup>th</sup> boat registered in that series of numbers. Look at the number on most boats today and they are in the thousands! So now without even asking, you are getting the history of Killarney!

Enough nattering for this article! Please think about sending me a photo of a boat that sailed the Grand River with as much information as you have on it and maybe it will be in a future article.

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