

***Ariel* Soon to Arrive at the Marine Museum!**

An historic International Fourteen Foot Dinghy donated to the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston by John and Nancy Mills.

The International Fourteen Foot Dinghy pioneered almost every development introduced into small boat sailboat racing over the last one hundred years. From the development of the planning hull to the invention of hiking straps, the boom vang, gybing centerboard, and the trapeze, the 14 has led the way in innovation and design. For many years, the 14 also supplied the majority of the members of the Canadian Olympic sailing team, including Paul Henderson, Paul McLaughlin, Walter Windeyre, Bruce Kirby, Ian Bruce, Terry McLaughlin, Frank McLaughlin, Jay Cross, and many more. So, it was with great pride that the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston has accepted the donation of the Fourteen Foot dinghy, *Ariel*, which encapsulates that history so well.



Dr. John Mills beside his beloved Ariel.

Ariel was donated to the Marine Museum by her current and original owners, Dr. John and



Ariel showing her original wooden mast and cotton sails. It is extremely rare to find a boat from this period with her original rig and sails.

Nancy Mills, of Marion, MA. John purchased *Ariel* when he sailed 14' dinghies out of the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht club in Montreal, and raced her in the 1950 Canadian Dinghy Association regatta at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club. CDA represents the Canadian Championships of the Fourteen Foot Dinghy, and 1950 was only the 3rd time that event had been held. Before John left Montreal in 1960 to relocate to Boston, he and *Ariel* had won the International Fourteen Foot Dinghy championship at RStLYC four times and the Connecticut Cup twice. John and Nancy now live in the sailing center of Marion, MA, literally across the street from the Beverly Yacht Club on Buzzard's Bay.

Ariel was designed in 1948 by Charlie Bourke of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club. Bourke was without question Canada's preeminent small boat designer of the early to mid-20th Century.



John Mills, on the left, with Ariel at the 1950 CDA Regatta at RCYC

She was the last of a short production run built by Greavette Boatworks of Gravenhurst, ON, in 1949. Greavette, of course, is now better known as a past builder of classic mahogany Muskoka motor launches. It is evident that they put the same level of quality into *Ariel* as they did in any of their larger power launches.

GREAVETTE
builds good sailboats too!

These 14-foot National dinghies are used at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club and at other Yachting centres for class racing.

Popular class of 14-foot racing dinghy, designed by Bourke, built by Greavette.

"You Get All The Best Things First In A Greavette"

"Designed by Bourke — built by Greavette!" — there is a winning combination if there ever was one. Bourke's reputation ranks with the world famous in dinghy designing. Add to such a reputation, the famed skill of Greavette boat building, and the result is Canada's outstanding dinghies in speed and beauty. Whatever you may wish in a new boat, remember Greavette brings you a reputation of building the finest in runabouts, cruisers, and sailing craft. It costs no more to own a Greavette. Your enquiries are invited now.

GREAVETTE BUILDS:—
Streamliners
Shearliners
Twenty Series Runabouts
The Greavette "15"
12 ft. National Dinghies
Famous Dispro Boats
Custom Built cruisers

Greavette
BOATS LIMITED
GRAVENHURST, ONTARIO, CANADA

FOR QUALITY IT'S ALWAYS GREAVETTE

Greavette Boats advertisement promoting their dinghies (courtesy of the Muskoka Discovery Centre in Gravenhurst)

Ariel represents the best and last of pre-war boat building technology utilizing light weight double layers of cedar and mahogany carvel planking riveted to a myriad of closely spaced transverse ribs. This technology was already being obsoleted in the late 1940s by hot molded laminated plywood, which used the same high temperature autoclave technology developed for the Mosquito fighter/bomber. That hot molded technology would soon give way to cold molded laminated veneers, and then fiberglass, leading to carbon fiber composite technology used in today's International Fourteen Foot Dinghies. *Ariel* represents an important evolutionary step in this whole process, in both design and construction. As you can see from the photos she still sits on her original trailer sporting her original cotton sails and wooden spars.



A half model of the Greavette International 14 dated 1948 in the Charlie Bourke model collection on display at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club city clubhouse. (Photo by David Weatherston, RCYC)

Ariel is a rare example of a racing dinghy that has had only one owner in her 71 years, has been lovingly maintained, and is in immaculate condition. The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston is grateful to John and Nancy Mills for entrusting us with her future care. She will be a proud addition to our growing historic sailboat collection once she arrives. Unfortunately, current Covid-19 restrictions mean that *Ariel* will not be arriving at the Marine Museum until early 2021.

Rob Mazza