



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MISS CANADA III SET TO RETURN TO HER BIRTHPLACE Iconic raceboat to be loaned for 2013**

CLAYTON, New York (April 5, 2013) – The Antique Boat Museum, North America’s premier freshwater nautical museum based in Clayton, New York, has announced today its intentions to loan *Miss Canada* III, a former World Champion raceboat, to the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre located in Gravenhurst, Ontario, Canada.

*Miss Canada* III will be the centerpiece of the Centre’s “Race Boat Glory, Muskoka Legends Live On,” this summer’s leading commemorative exhibit.

Designed by Douglas van Patten and built in 1938 by Greavette Boatworks, *Miss Canada* III will be placed on special loan from the Antique Boat Museum (ABM) for the summer of 2013. Described by Motor Boating Magazine in the 1938 Detroit Gold Cup Race as being “beautifully handled and the most perfect running boat”, *Miss Canada* III was widely regarded to be in an elite class of hydroplanes.

“This is really a special exhibit for the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre and we are grateful to the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, NY for making it available to us”, noted Rick Terry, President of the Muskoka Steamship & Historical Society. “*Miss Canada* III was built right here in Gravenhurst by local craftsmen. She won many racing awards all over North America and will certainly be the highlight of our Race Boat Glory exhibit this summer.”

*Miss Canada* III has been on display alongside iconic raceboats such as *Dixie* II and *Chrysler Queen* as part of the “Quest for Speed” exhibit in the William J. Morgan building on the Clayton campus of the ABM. After spending decades in obscurity following the end of her racing career, *Miss Canada* III was restored by racer Bill Morgan at his shop on Lake George, NY. He later donated the boat to the ABM in 1991, along with a foundational collection of other raceboats and the vision for the raceboat exhibit in the building that now bears his name.

“We are so pleased to be able to send *Miss Canada* III to Gravenhurst,” commented Emmett V. Smith, curator of the Antique Boat Museum. “Being the boat that brought a major trophy to Canada in 1939, she holds an important place in Canadian racing history. She has been a cornerstone of our raceboat exhibits here in Clayton since she was donated in 1991 by restorer Bill Morgan. But she came from Gravenhurst, and it is important that she be displayed there as well.”

“The growth of the Muskoka Steamship and Historical Society and the excitement around the restoration of *Miss Canada* IV provides the perfect venue for this important boat to visit her birthplace, where the story of Harold and Lorna Wilson can be appreciated like nowhere else.”

In 1939, *Miss Canada III* was declared the 7 Litre Class World Champion as she won the President's Cup, which was presented to drivers Harold and Lorna Wilson in the Oval Office. In 1947, *Miss Canada III* set the 7 Litre Class World Speed Record at 119 mph. Then in 1948, using a new Rolls Royce Merlin engine, she would go on to win Detroit's Silver Cup Regatta.

*Miss Canada III* will return to Canada where it will be united with another Canadian racing masterpiece, *Miss Canada IV*, which will be the feature boat at this year's Antique & Classic Boat Show, July 4 to 7 at Muskoka Wharf. *Miss Canada IV* was built in the late 1940's and she would accelerate to speeds of over 200 mph.

These two historic "*Miss Canada*" champions proudly represented the country in races throughout North America. It will be a rare and special opportunity to view these grand ladies together this summer at Muskoka Wharf.

Details on the departure of *Miss Canada III* from Clayton have yet to be finalized.

Located on the St. Lawrence River in the 1000 Islands, the Antique Boat Museum features a collection of over 300 antique and classic boats among thousands of recreational boating artifacts. Beginning May 10, the campus comes alive with speedboat rides, boat shows, and educational programs for all ages, special events and more. For more information please visit the Museum's website at [ABM.org](http://ABM.org).

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Enclosure (PDF, Photo)

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