

M^cCURDY & REED
canoes

\$1.00



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At McCurdy and Reed Canoes we are proud to be the heirs to a long tradition of wood and canvas canoe building reaching back to the very beginnings of the industry in Canada. From Tim Stewart, who was building canoes in Peterborough, Ontario at the turn of the century, to Harold Gates, the best known of Maritime builders, and through our own revival of the fine Morris and Kennebec designs from Maine, the knowledge and craftsmanship perfected over a century continues.

"My two old canoes are works of art, embodying the feeling of all canoemen for rivers and lakes and the wild country they were meant to traverse. They were made in the old tradition when there was time and the love of the work itself.

I have two canvas-covered canoes, both old and beautifully made. They came from the Penobscot River in Maine long ago, and I treasure them for the tradition of craftsmanship in their construction, a pride not only of form and line but of everything that went into their building. When I look at modern canoes, of metal or fiberglass stamped out like so many identical coins, I cherish mine even more ..."

So begins Sigurd F. Olson, the legendary outdoorsman, in his essay *Tradition*. In a few words he conveys the feeling and quality we capture in our canoes.

"Sixteen feet in length, it has graceful lines with a tumble home or curve from the gunwales inward ... No other canoe I've ever used paddles as easily ... The gunwales and decks are of mahogany, the ribs and planking of carefully selected spruce and cedar ..."

We use the best materials in all stages of construction. Clear woods are matched carefully for color. Stems are of oak, ash or cedar; brass or bronze hardware is used throughout. Trim is available in fine native woods like black cherry and apple. Finishing, which is half the work of building a canoe, is done with great care using the best available products.

Olson finishes his essay with these words:

"We can never revert entirely to the old days, but we must remember there are other satisfactions in work that can be enjoyed ..."

Three generations of canoe builders

Tim Stewart was born in Brookfield, Nova Scotia in 1877. This is an area of beautiful, wild lakes and rivers, made famous in the outdoor classic *The Tent Dwellers* and still a mecca for canoeists in Kejimikujik National Park. Tim left his native Nova Scotia in the early 1900's for new horizons in Ontario, where he spent many years building boats and canoes at the Peterborough Canoe Co. This was at the time Peterborough made the transition to Chestnut patented wood and canvas techniques. Stewart returned to Nova Scotia in the 1920's and bought a carding mill in his hometown. His canoe designs and building experience soon earned him a reputation as a master builder when he renewed his trade. He was known as something of a curmudgeon - he didn't tolerate visitors to his shop - and also as a perfectionist who would destroy his own work if it didn't meet his high standards. The moulds which have been passed down to us are as beautifully and carefully made as the canoes which come off them.

Harold Gates of nearby Middleton, Nova Scotia had tried his hand at canoe building, and bought the Stewart Moulds in 1959. Over the next 30 years,

Harold built hundreds of canoes on the Stewart moulds. He added designs of his own, including reproductions of famous Rushton and Morris canoes. He built moulds for other cedar and canvas builders, built canoes for museums, resurrected the local Micmac design and even built in birchbark. Harold also made plugs for commercial production of well-known fiberglass brands, although he maintained that fiberglass canoes paddle "like my Volkswagen". Harold, who shared his expertise generously, passed away in 1994.

Kip McCurdy and Gus Reed bought Harold's moulds and stock on his retirement in 1986. Kip had restored an original Kennebec in his spare time, then went on to build a mould to make reproductions. Kip's careful workmanship and attention to detail produce canoes worthy of the tradition. Kip has designed and built several more moulds to add to the variety of models available. His latest addition is a superb solo design called the Al Gordon.

The Tim Stewart Designs

Generally speaking, the Stewart designs are medium to high volume "working" canoes. They are beamy and deep with moderately rockered and arched hulls, low bows and simple lines. Stewart built to satisfy the professional trappers and guides whose livelihoods depended on the canoes they paddled. These are true wilderness canoes built without embellishment to withstand rough conditions. The 16 and 17 foot cruisers are fine recreational or family craft. The Vee Stern models will accommodate an outboard and are most often used by Atlantic Salmon anglers. The broad beamed 17 and 18 foot models are rugged wilderness trippers. These canoes have bent ash stems and are usually built with spruce gunwales and ash decks.

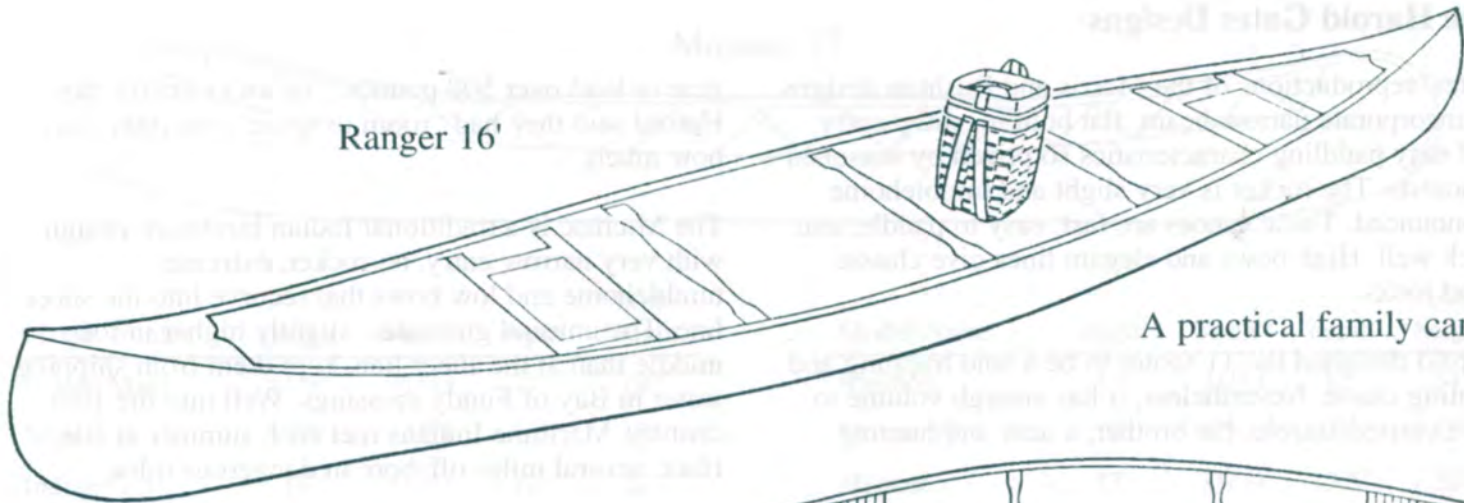
| Model Name | length | width* | depth | bow height |
|------------|--------|--------|-------|------------|
| Ranger | 16' | 33/35 | 12" | 22" |
| Cruiser | 17' | 33/35 | 13" | 22" |
| Tripper | 17' | 35/37 | 13.5" | 22.5" |
| Wilderness | 18' | 35/37 | 13.5" | 21.5" |
| Vee Stern | 16' | 34/36 | 13" | 21.5" |
| Vee Stern | 17' | 35/37 | 13.5" | 21.5" |

*at rail/
overall

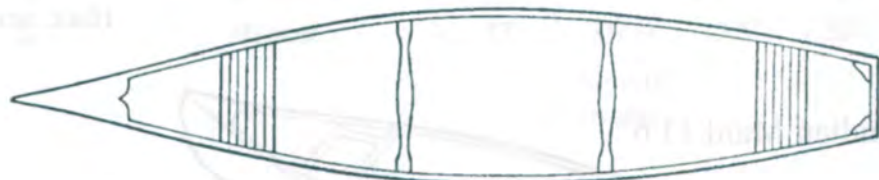
Wilderness 18'



Ranger 16'



A practical family canoe



Vee Stern 17'

Restorations

If you have a treasured old canoe which needs restoration or repair work, we will be happy to give you an estimate. We will replace ribs and plank, recanvas and refinish. We also have supplies on hand for those wishing to tackle the job by themselves.



Stern View

The Harold Gates Designs

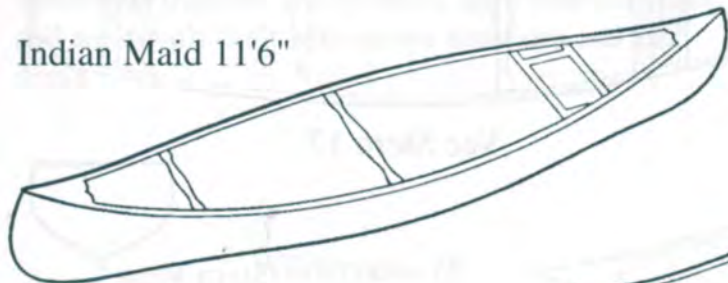
Gates' reproductions of the Morris and Rushton designs all incorporate narrow beam, flat bottom, sharp entry, and easy paddling characteristics so prized by seasoned canoeists. The rocker is very slight and tumblehome pronounced. These canoes are fast, easy to paddle, and track well. High bows and elegant lines give classic good looks.

Harold designed the 11 footer to be a solo trapping and hunting canoe. Nevertheless, it has enough volume to have carried Harold, his brother, a deer and hunting

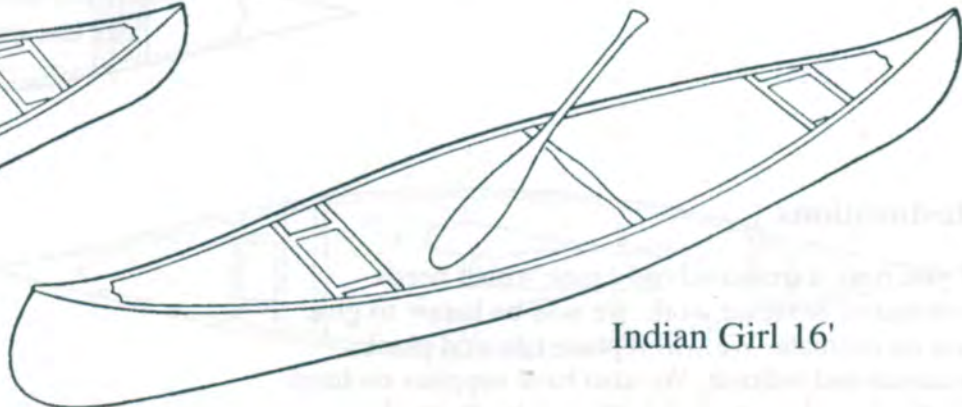
gear (a load over 500 pounds!) on an extensive trip. Harold said they had "room to spare", but didn't say how much.

The Micmac is a traditional Indian birchbark design with very narrow entry, no rocker, extreme tumblehome and low bows that recurve into the sheer line. The unusual gunwales, slightly higher in the middle than at the sheer line, kept them from shipping water in Bay of Fundy crossings. Well into the 19th century, Maritime Indians met each summer at Isle Haut, several miles offshore in dangerous tides.

Indian Maid 11'6"



Indian Girl 16'



Micmac 17'



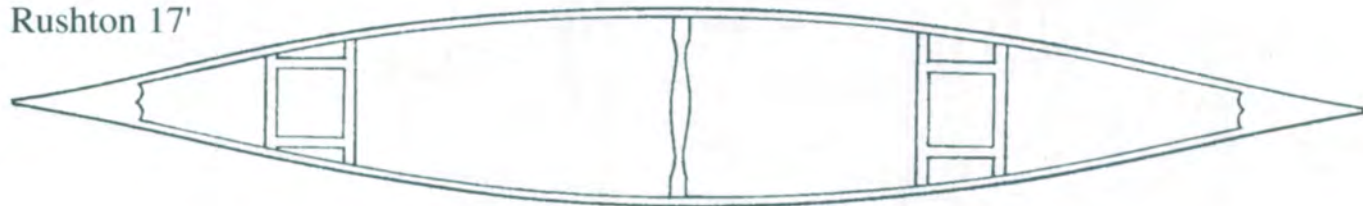
| Model Name | length | width* | depth | bow height |
|-------------|--------|--------|-------|------------|
| Indian Maid | 11'6" | 31/33 | 11" | 19" |
| Solo | 13'6" | 32/34 | 12" | 19" |
| Indian Girl | 16' | 31/33 | 12" | 22" |

*at rail/
overall

| Model Name | length | width* | depth | bow height |
|------------|--------|---------|-------|------------|
| Rushton | 17' | 31/33 | 12" | 24" |
| Morris 'A' | 17' | 31/33.5 | 12" | 25" |
| Micmac | 17' | 31/34 | 13.5" | 20" |

*at rail/
overall

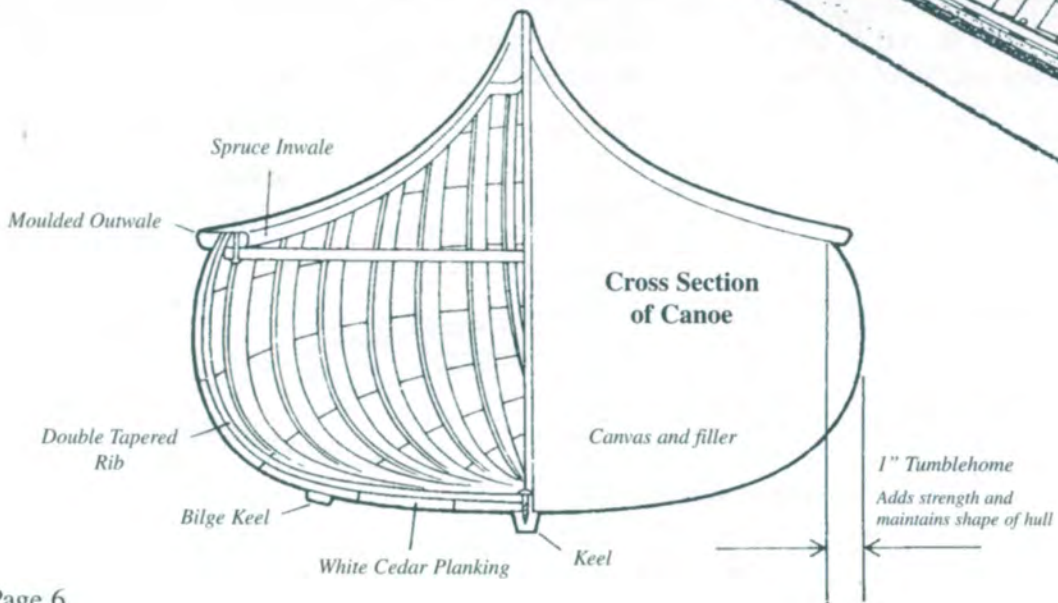
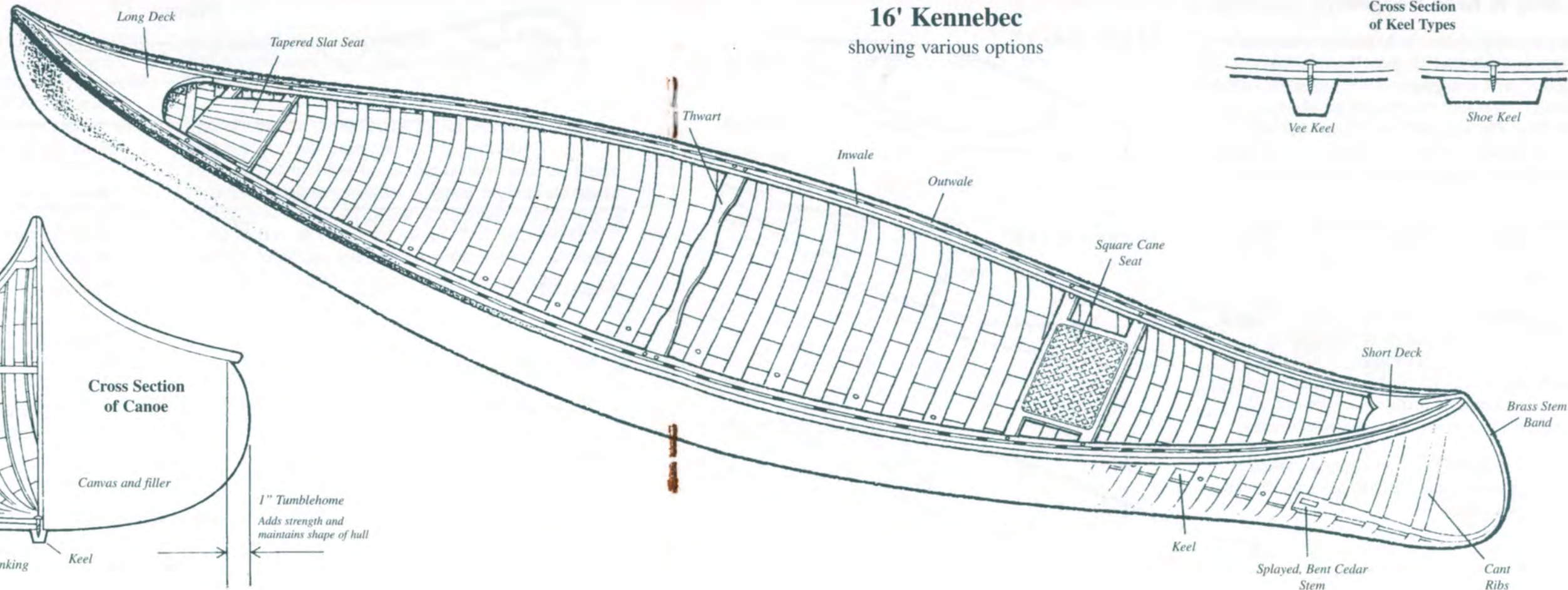
Rushton 17'



16' Kennebec

showing various options

Cross Section of Keel Types



The McCurdy & Reed Designs

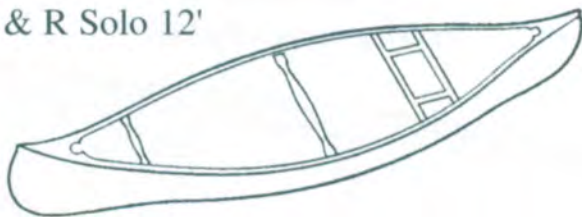
Kip McCurdy's designs closely follow the Kennebec lines taken from an original 17 foot Type A. The Kennebec and Morris companies produced some of the finest canoes until the 1920's, when B.N. Morris lost his factory to fire. The splayed, bent cedar stem is a distinctive construction method in all models, which were typically highly finished with fine woods and detailing.

The solo is an extremely agile and light canoe with a deep, flat bottom and sharply turned bilges. It can be built in two different depths - 11" and 13".

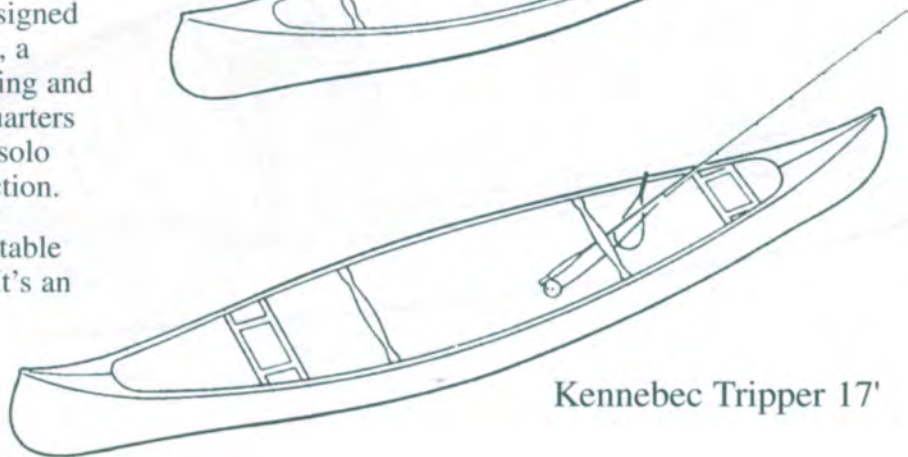
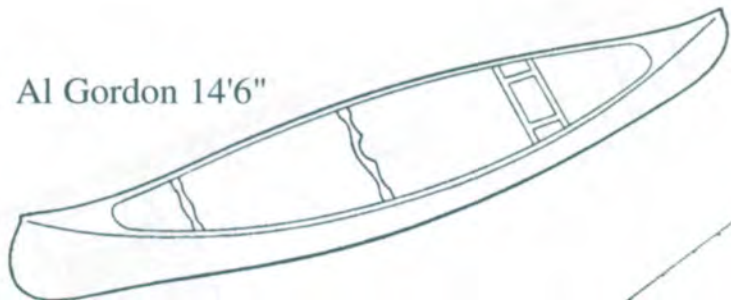
The Gordon is a somewhat larger solo canoe designed by Kip in 1988. Named in honour of Al Gordon, a great sportsman, it is a nice compromise of touring and solo characteristics. It has tumblehome in the quarters and a more rounded middle profile for keel-out solo paddling. Striking lines prove form follows function.

Our War Canoe is a 25 foot, 10 person craft, suitable for use in summer camps and traditional races. It's an adaptation of Stewart lines.

M & R Solo 12'

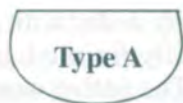


Al Gordon 14'6"



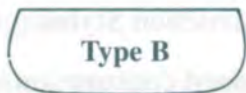
Kennebec Tripper 17'

Cross Sections



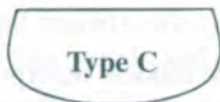
Type A

Round - Good tracking, fast, delicately balanced, least wetted surface area.



Type B

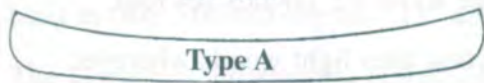
Flat - Good capacity and easy maneuverability, high stability, shallow draft.



Type C

Shallow Arch - Compromise of tracking, stability and capacity.

Profiles



Type A

Moderately rockered - Increased maneuverability, especially in moving water.



Type B

Slightly rockered - Best for steady paddling in flatwater. Excellent tracking.

Bows

Type A

Low - Moderate recurve and height.

Type B

High - Classic look. Extra depth at the sheer line.

Model Summary Tim Stewart Designs

Ranger 16'



High capacity and good stability. A fine family canoe. Bow: A Profile: A Section: C

Cruiser 17'



A slightly longer canoe for more extensive trips or larger families - comfortable for three adults for day use. Bow: A Profile: B Section: C

Tripper 17'



A bit narrower entry and slightly flatter profile give directional stability and make paddling easy. Bow: A Profile: B Section: C

Wilderness 18'



A high capacity canoe for larger groups or expeditions. Bow: A Profile: B Section: C

Vee Stern 17'



Suitable for mounting an outboard and use on the shallow rivers of the north. Bow: A Profile: B Section: C

Vee Stern 18'



The classic guide's boat for the swift, rocky environment of the Atlantic Salmon. Bow: A Profile: B Section: C

Harold Gates Designs

Indian Maid 11'6"



A good capacity, lively, maneuverable canoe strictly for solo use.

Bow: A Profile: A Section: C

Solo 13'



A smaller canoe for the serious solo camper or for light recreational use. Good capacity and practical design.

Bow: A Profile: A Section: C

Indian Girl 16'



Narrower than the Stewart 16' Ranger with sharper entry and more tumblehome.

Bow: B Profile: B Section: C

Rushton 17'



Very similar to the Indian Girl, but with more sweep to the bows and more capacity.

Bow: B Profile: B Section: C

Morris 'A' 17'



His best design, said Harold. A close adaptation of one of the classics of canoe history.

Bow: A Profile: A Section: C

Micmac 17'



The original canoe of Nova Scotia's Indians. See illustration for bow profile.

Profile: B Section: A

McCurdy & Reed Designs

Solo 12'



A beamy boat with lots of room for one person's gear.

Bow: B Profile: A Section: C

Al Gordon 14'6"



Light, but with enough length for easy paddling.

Tumblehome in the quarters and more rounded amidships.

Bow: A Profile: A Section: A

Kennebec 16'



Shown in the centerspread. Built with the splayed, bent cedar stems of the original. A fast paddler.

Bow: B Profile: B Section: C

Kennebec Tripper 17'



Slightly roomier, but with the same classic lines.

Bow: B Profile: B Section: C

War Canoe 25'

We are one of a dwindling number of builders of these very large canoes.

Bow: B Profile: B Section: B



Materials

Plank

Eastern White Cedar, made to order, 3" by 6'.

Ribs

Eastern White Cedar, made to order, single or double taper.

Canvas

Canadian made cotton, very good quality.

Number 10, 60" width

Number 8, 60" width

Stem Bands

Brass, 3/8" concave back, 3.5' length.

Bolts with nuts and washers

Brass carriage, 3/16" x 4"

Brass machine 3/16" x 2,3,4" flat head, slotted

Tacks



Canadian made flat-head cut tacks. Excellent clinching, very sharp. 1/2", 5/8", 3/4"

Filler

Tim Stewart's original recipe, without the white lead. Gallon containers.

Seats

Hand caned ash or cherry.

Thwarts



Ash or cherry.

Yokes



Hand carved ash or cherry.

Gunwales

Made to order, single piece, spruce, cherry or ash.

Keels

Rock Maple, Yellow Birch, Ash.

Postage and shipping extra. Prices are in Canadian funds, subject to change.

Choosing a Canoe

Just as there is no all-purpose vehicle, there is no canoe suitable for all situations. Primary considerations are size and intended use. Will you often be portaging or paddling alone? Do you need to make good time over flat water? Will you be in rocky rivers? Will you be out for the day, or on longer trips? Skill level is also a consideration, but a good craft will make you a better paddler and you will soon be well adapted to your own canoe. Careful consideration of the model best suited to you will pay dividends in the future.

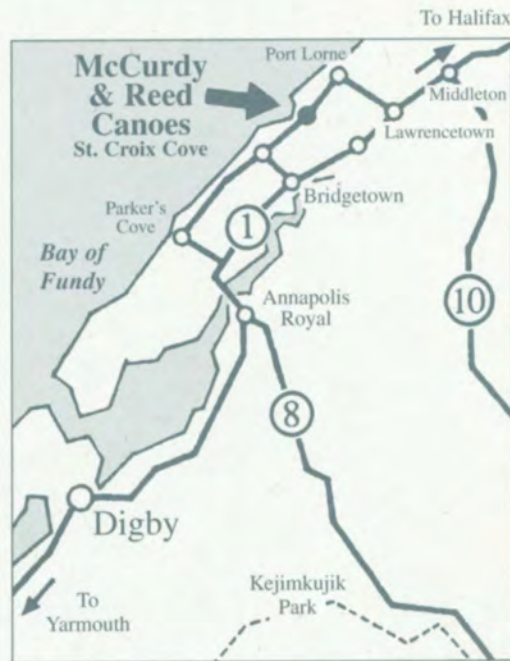
Wood and Canvas

Wood and canvas construction evolved in the last half of the 19th century. The white cedar rib and plank construction bears many similarities to native birchbark methods and permits designs very close to birchbark. Unlike mass produced metal, plastic and fiberglass canoes, canvas covered canoes can be shaped in a great variety of ways to enhance stability, speed, maneuverability or capacity. Wood and canvas is very rugged and durable - we routinely restore 60 year old canoes with only minor structural repairs.

Bill Mason advises in *Path of the Paddle*:

"If you are fortunate enough to own a ... wood-canvas canoe, you have probably been told that these canoes are too fragile for running rapids. I've been using mine in rapids for fifteen years now and it's still got the original canvas. They are not as delicate as most people think. However, they do have to be handled with skill and care and they do require maintenance. Personally, I don't mind this. It's all part of the art of canoeing."

Perhaps I am partial to the canvas-covered canoe because it's only one generation removed from the birchbark canoe of the native people ... I insist on retaining some of the aesthetics of canoeing."



St. Croix Cove
Hampton RR#2
Annapolis Co., NS
CANADA BOS 1L0

Telephone: (902) 665-2435

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