



WESTWIND YACHT SALES

Victoria Harbour (Georgian Bay), Ontario

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Orville Wright's 1929 Gidley 32 Gull Commuter "KITTYHAWK"

SOLD



LOA	32' 2"	LWL	32' 0"
Beam	7' 4"	Draft	2' 9"
Weight	7,380#	Fuel	60 gallons (2 x30 gal)
Freeboard	3' 1" fwd, 2' 5" aft	Registration	Canadian

Power 1941 Kermath 8 cyl, 110 hp, rebuilt 1975

**Gorgeous Mahogany Express Runabout
Fully Restored and Steeped in Historical Significance
Authenticated, Surveyed and Professionally Appraised**

The Last Major Wright Brothers Artifact Remaining in Private Hands

Thirteen years after the Wright Brothers historic first heavier than air sustained flight, and four years after Wilbur's untimely death, Orville Wright, in need of a peaceful retreat, visited Canada's Georgian Bay wilderness and purchased an Island near Honey Harbour, Ontario. Between 1916 and 1941, Orville and his sister Katherine journeyed from their home in Dayton Ohio to Penetanguishene to spend relaxing summers at his Lambert Island property. They relished the simple lifestyle and rugged beauty of the Bay, often accompanied by family members and a host of interesting visitors, including AY Jackson of Group of Seven fame. Orville's life on Lambert during those years are beautifully and thoroughly documented in "From Kitty Hawk to KITTYHAWK" by Guy Johnstone, Kittyhawk's current owner. Offered for sale well below appraised value, Guy's wish is to see Orville's iconic runabout remain on Georgian Bay as a reminder of the area's remarkably rich history and the days when design, craftsmanship, performance and elegance were the order of the day.

Kittyhawk was built in 1928 in Penetanguishene by the Gidley Boat Company, a renowned and respected builder of boats ranging from rowing skiffs to 110' raised-deck cruisers. Established in the 1890's, Gidley turned out sturdy boats capable of handling Georgian Bay's often unpredictable conditions. While few Gidley's remain today, those still in service are highly prized as fine examples of a bygone era of classic wooden boat building.

Orville replaced his first Gidley, a 20' runabout, with the 32' Gull model in 1931. He used it personally up until his last visit to Lambert 1941, when he was recalled to Washington as an advisor following America's entry into World War II. Upon his death in 1948, ownership of Kittyhawk and Lambert Island passed to his heirs until 1953 when she was purchased for use as a water taxi by Wilfred A. France, local operator of a tourist establishment at nearby Franceville and long-time friend of the Wrights. She was damaged in a storm in the mid 60's and sat in slings awaiting repair until purchased by Wilfred's daughter Kathy as a gift for her husband Guy in 1972. Greavette Boats of Gravenhurst was commissioned to perform a full restoration and she was re-launched in Midland with great fanfare in 1975. A second restoration was completed in 1988 by Butson Boats, and she was refinished again in 2006 by Woodwind Yachts, Nestleton, Ontario. Kittyhawk remains today in show-ready condition, ready for new custodians to add another chapter to her rich and truly impressive history.

Available for viewing by appointment only

All details are believed to be correct, but not guaranteed by owner or Broker. Some information may have been sourced from manufacturer's brochures. It is the Purchaser's responsibility to have all engines, systems and integrity of the vessel inspected.



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Construction

Design: Semi-displacement V-bottom
Bottom: White cedar on oak frames
Topsides: Mahogany plank on oak ribs and frames
Transom: Mahogany plank on oak frames
Decks: Mahogany planked on oak deck beams
Cabin Top: Painted canvas on oak/mahogany ceiling
Keel and Stem: Oak
Fasteners: Brass and stainless steel
Cutwater: Chrome on brass
Rudder: Stainless steel
Brightwork: Professionally applied high-gloss varnish

Equipment

Navigation lights
Remote search light
Instrument panel (tachometer, oil pressure, ammeter)
Exhaust blower
Automatic bilge pump
Batteries - 2 with selector switch
Battery charger
Classic rope fenders (8)
Existing safety and mooring equipment
Wicker cockpit chairs (3 period reproductions, 1 original)
Custom mahogany cockpit steps
Custom draperies
Custom tandem axle trailer (2008)

Restorations

1974 Greavette Boats, Gravenhurst, Ontario
1988 Butson Boats, Bracebridge, Ontario
2004 Woodwind Yachts, Nestleton, Ontario

Showings/Publications

1975 Toronto International Boat Show - Antique feature
1975 Midland Free Press - Champagne launching
1976 Toronto Star - Set sail for the boat Show
1977 Local Legends - four pages with photos
1978 The Globe and Mail - front page, June 26
1984 Canadian Power Squadron - True Course
1985 Leisure Ways Magazine - Ontario
1990 Classic Boating - Issue #38
1995 Classicboat - Toronto ACBS publication
2003 Classic Boating - 100th anniv. of Orville's flight
2006 Toronto International Boat Show - Antique feature
2011 Toronto ACBS Boat Show - Poster boat
2011 Classicboat - Toronto ACBS boat show edition

Documentation (upon accepted offer to purchase)

Fair Market Value Appraisal (2000)
Marine Survey Report (2000)
Restoration history (1974, 1988, 2006)

Excluding

Orville Wright Commemorative Blanket

Additional Reading

[Kittyhawk - The Boat](#) - Guy Johnstone's website with detailed background information on Kittyhawk and her historical significance
[BoatingGeorgianBay](#) - The Legacy of Kittyhawk
[Woody Boater](#) - 2011 Antique and Classic Boat Show (Toronto ACBS) featuring Kittyhawk as the poster boat
[The Globe and Mail](#) - 2012 Article featuring Guy and Kittyhawk
[Toronto ACBS Classicboat Feature Article](#) - Summer 2011, Issue 110 (available online to ACBS members only)