

Dippies on Kahshe

by **Clare Henderson**

with notes from **Nancy Howchin** and
material from the official site of the
Dispro Owners Association



August saw 20 dispros on Kahshe Lake for the day. This was a UUMMT visit of members of the Dispro Owners Association hosted by Nancy and Dennis Howchin and Allison and Bob Butler, both families resident on Kahshe Lake and proud owners of disappearing propeller boats.

A UUMMT is an Unofficial Unauthorized Mini Misery Tour, which members of the Association arrange four times a year on different lakes. They also hold a regatta each year, which is an official authorized event.

The group launched their boats at the South Kahshe dock and streamed the length of the lake into Bass Lake where they took a break on the beach. They then reentered Kahshe along the river and toured to Eleanor Island where they had lunch at the Howchin cottage.

The elegance of these classic boats as they toured our lake can be seen in the photos taken by Bill Irwin. It is unfortunate that this is not an annual event on Kahshe.

Background on Dippies from the official site:

The legendary Disappearing Propeller Motor Boat and its Patented “Device” were both invented in Port Carling, Ontario Canada in 1915. Powered with a 3 hp. inboard marine motor, 3100 boats were produced by four different companies over a 44 year time period. In the ensuing years, it has truly become an icon of classic small motor boats. It is fondly referred to as a Dispro or Dippy.

The Dispro Owners Association mandate is to preserve the Disappearing Propeller Motor Boat and offer fellowship and technical information to all Dispro boat owners and enthusiasts. The association was formed in 1979 and has grown to represent approximately 250 operating Dispro boats and 400 family members throughout North America.

Members who enjoy this simple yet elegant powerboat come from all walks of life. Most of them restore, repair and maintain their own boats and enjoy the convenience of its manual retractable propeller for beaching or storage. Automatic swing up propeller protection is offered should the propeller skeg accidentally strike bottom or any

submerged hazard when underway. With its propeller raised a Dispro will basically go anywhere you can paddle a canoe.

For more information, check the official dispro web site at <http://www.dispro-owners.ca/>
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