



Antique Boat Museum

**CANTON
CANOE
WEEKEND**

AND

**RUSHTON
MEMORIAL
RACES**

CANTON, NEW YORK

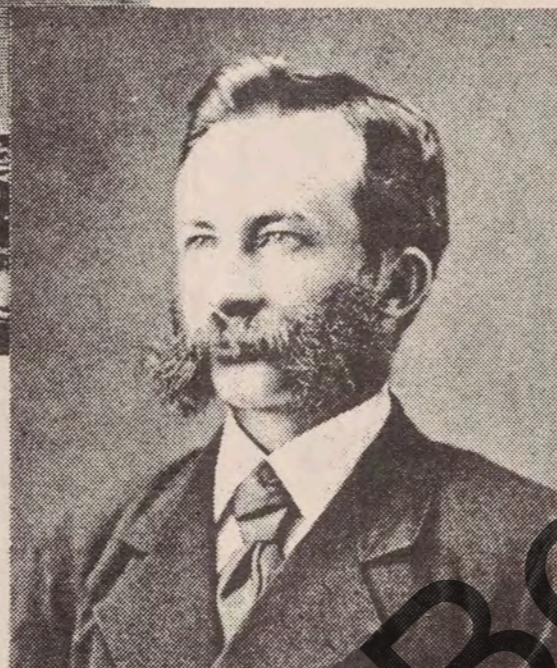
FIRST WEEKEND EVERY MAY



J. HENRY RUSHTON, 1843 - 1906, CANTON'S WORLD FAMOUS CANOE BUILDER

Every first weekend in May since 1961 they dust off their paddles and head for the Grasse River in Canton, New York. That is when the Winter run-off waters roll high out of the Adirondack foothills. They are the local canoe enthusiasts, joined by racers from around the Northeast U.S. and Southeastern Canada. They come to rekindle the memory and compete in the spirit of J. Henry Rushton, Canton's famed native son and master craftsman of the now classic wooden canoe and a co-founder of The American Canoe Association.

Starting in 1873 from his large 3-story white clapboard boat shop on the flatiron corner of then Water and State Streets in Canton, just a stone's throw from the Grasse River, Rushton and his men turned out cedar lap-strake watercraft gems for customers all over the world for forty years. Rushton's lightweight *Sairy Gamp* caught the fancy of outdoor writer George Washington Sears. Sears bought the 10 1/2-pound one-man wisp and under his pen-name Nessmuk wrote about his meandering forays into the Adirondacks in his *Forest and Stream* magazine column, projecting Rushton into new orders and Canton onto the map. Rushton's Canton friend, renown Western artist and sculpturer of horse bronzes Frederic Remington contributed two pen and ink drawings to the first J. Henry Rushton illustrated sales catalogue. Remington would often be seen plying the nearby St. Lawrence River around his studio island in one of his two Rushton purchases. Others kept their Rushtons in the cavernous log boat houses at their stately Adirondack camps. From Europe to the Nile, the length of the Mississippi to the Columbia in the West, recreational boaters wrote Canton and bought Rushtons.

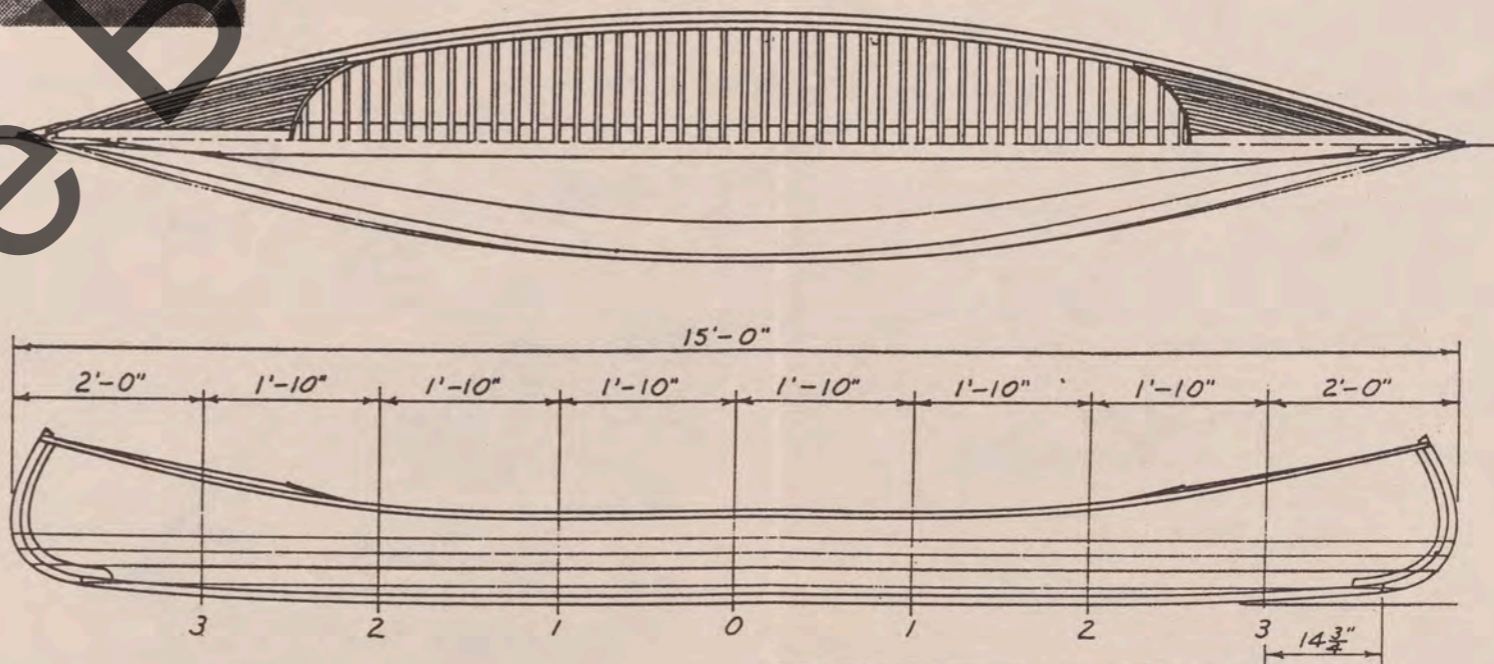


CANTON CANOE WEEKEND

When the handful of Rushton devotees in the short-lived Grass River Historical Association started the Rushton Canoe Races in 1961, little did they know that the Canton Sportsmen's Club would continue the tradition for so long. And then a new Canton Canoe Weekend Committee in the 1980s enlarged the 7 and 12-mile canoe races on a Saturday with a two-day event including the Grasse River Triathlon, exhibits, speakers, and raffles. Then in the 1990s the run/bike/canoe GRT saw the addition of a shorter Bend-In-The-River Triathlon (BIRT).

So what began as a couple of races has turned into a Rushton celebration, with many still looking forward to the day when a year-around Rushton Canoe Museum will once again refocus Canton as the canoe capital it once was. Although the bicycle and the automobile may have been the downfall of the once prosperous Rushton boat building business, we have come full circle with renewed interest in the wooden canoe and the healthy new emphasis in our area in canoeing, bicycling, and running.

The Canton Canoe Weekend Committee welcomes participants and volunteer organizations each year to contact us through the Canton Municipal Building, the Canton Chamber of Commerce, or the Canton Sportsmen's Club for weekend dates, details, and registration forms.



CANADIAN UGO MODEL

15'x30" RUSHTON CANOE "VAYU"
OWNED BY VILLAGE OF CANTON, NY
LINE DRAWINGS AND OFFSETS BY
ORVO E. MARKKULA 2/5/67



CANTON CANOE WEEKEND INQUIRY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Send me information as follows:

- Entire Weekend Schedule
- Registration for 7-mile Race
- Registration for 12-mile Race
- Registration for Grasse River Triathlon
- Registration for Bend-In-The-River Triathlon

Comments & Suggestions: _____

Please tear off this panel and return by mail to:

Canton Canoe Weekend
 c/o Canton Municipal Building
 60 Main Street
 Canton, New York 13617

Telephone: 315/386-2871

CREDITS: Writer: Bradshaw Mintener • Layout and Design: Crawford & Stearns • Photography: St. Lawrence County Historical Association; The Adirondack Museum; and Syracuse University Press • Logo: Mark Scanlin and Bradshaw Mintener.

**CANTON CANOE WEEKEND
 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Friday

Annual Can-U Canoe Dance,
 Canton Club, Court Street,
 sponsored by Hospital Guild
 of Canton-Potsdam Hospital

Saturday

Rushton Canoe Races -
 12-mile competition classes
 and 7-mile recreational classes

9-10:45 am 12-mile registration
 10-11:45 am 7-mile registration
 11:00 am Start 12-mile at Pyrites Gorge
 Noon Start 7-mile at Pyrites Gorge
 1:00 pm Finish
 2:00 pm Awards and Prize Drawings
 6:00 pm Dinner, St. Lawrence Inn

Sunday

Grasse River Triathlon and
 Bend-In-The-River Triathlon

9-9:45 am BIRT Registration
 10-11:30 am GRT Registration
 10 am BIRT Start
 11 am BIRT Finish & Awards
 Noon GRT Start
 2-3:00 pm GRT Finish, Awards, and
 Prize Drawings

