



This cottager channels the sun

Electricity and water do mix," says Tamarack Lake cottager and inventor Monte Gisborne, who has designed a solar-assisted pontoon boat. The 20' by 8' *Loon* is juiced by solar panels coupled to a built-in 3-hp Briggs & Stratton electric outboard motor that

powers it to a cruising speed of five knots (9 km/h). On a sunny day, it can travel up to 80 km before recharging.

The *Loon* features six, 0.5-metre by 1.5-metre solar panels mounted to the top of a permanent custom-built aluminum canopy. Low-voltage wires connect the panels to eight 6-volt batteries housed underneath the deck boards. The 48-volt motor draws a maximum current of 100 amps. A 4–5 amp charger running off 110- or 220-volt shore power allows operators to recharge at marinas overnight on extended trips. www.tamarackelectricboats.com.

—Kate Barker

