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Library building fund receives second donation from Evinrude Foundation

For a second time, the Cambridge Library Capital Campaign Committee has received a contribution of \$7,500 from the Ralph Evinrude Foundation.

Early in the campaign, the Foundation gifted \$7,500, showing its support for the new library in Cambridge, where young Ole Evinrude was inspired to invent a boat motor rather than follow in his father's footsteps as a farmer.

The committee is extremely grateful that the Foundation chose the new library initiative to benefit Ole's "hometown."

Ole Evinrude was born in Norway in 1877; five years later his family emigrated to the U.S. and settled near Cambridge.

The story surrounding Evinrude's invention of the outboard boat engine revolves around a picnic with his girl-

friend on Lake Ripley.

She expressed a desire for a dish of ice cream and Ole rowed to shore to get it.

Of course, the ice cream was melted by the time he returned, and Ole decided that a faster way to get around on open water could be found.

This led to Ole's determination to design an engine that would replace the oar.

In 1909, Evinrude developed the first outboard motor, a one-cylinder, 1.5 hp model, which became an instant success.

A year later, Ole founded Evinrude Motors in Milwaukee to build his new engines.

Because of the local history surrounding these two donations from the Evinrude Foundation, amounting to \$15,000. Those contributions are fondly received.

"We are proud to use these

contributions to help complete the new library addition," said secretary of the Cambridge Library Capital Campaign Committee Sharon Erb.

When the committee received the check, they noted that the stationary included a photo of an ice cream cone, Ole's impetus for designing and building one of the most valuable inventions in the history of water transportation.

Those wanting to more about the Evinrude history can stop by the local library inside the Amundson Center, 200 Spring St., Cambridge.

More information can also be found at the Historic School Museum, 213 South St., Cambridge where there is a display of Evinrude's motors as well as history about his famous invention and his family's life in Cambridge.



The Cambridge Historic Museum is home to several Evinrude boat motors and materials relative to Evinrude's history in the Cambridge area.