

(17) Cathy and I needed something to keep things dry and warm during inclement weather. We decided a canopy resembling the cover Paul used on his "cattle drives" in Nevada would be apropos. We took our thoughts to Lorin Rigby (President/Owner of Idaho Canvas Products, Inc. of Idaho Falls, Idaho) and discussed the idea with him. We wanted easy assembly and disassembly of the canopy, side and front windows, and side "rain curtains" long enough to retard moisture. He listened and agreed that our idea was feasible.

Weeks later, the Canvas Shop showed us the initial product. It fell short of expectations. For example, the cover did not fully ensconce the open area of the boat, windows were miniscule, and weather flaps were too short. Sometime thereafter, another model was presented, which served the purpose; however, the materials were heavier than anticipated, the canopy difficult to erect from inside the boat, windows rolled-up backwards, and the carbon shaft-supports prone to splinter under stress. Nevertheless, Cathy and I managed to erect the canopy for public showing. Here are pictures of our Conestoga-look-a-like as presently constituted. Next year, Cathy and I will tackle much needed refinements.

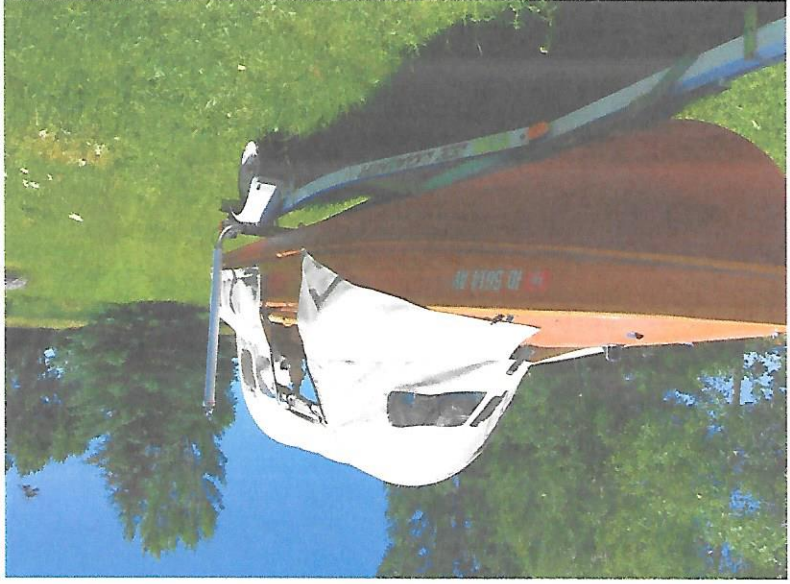


Figure 20. Prototype inclement weather shield for the Wolverine.