

## International Contest of Seamanship, Canada, July 2010

Ten young members of the Moray Gig went to Canada as part of the GB team for the Atlantic Challenge International Contest of Seamanship, held at Midland, Ontario, in July 2010. They were Gavin Sim, and Dougie Brown from Keith, Stewart Samson from Huntly, Elizabeth and Lewis Owen and Rachel Innes from Forres, Ben Stone from Glenferness, and Robert, Victoria and Chloe Hunt from Findhorn – and *Team GB won the International Contest of Seamanship!*

Neil Sutherland, Vice-Chairman of the Moray Gig, who attended the week-long event as one of the judging team, commented: "I've been on four Atlantic Challenge Contests now and this was



*Atlantic Challenge gigs, ready for the events*

certainly the best. The town of Midland, Ontario, really laid on their support from accommodation in the local sports centre to closing the main street and providing a police escort for the opening parade. One local baker even provided free donuts for everyone, over 300 people!



*Team GB in the opening parade*



*Ceremonial rowing of the Captain's gig*

"The weather was almost perfect - warm winds and relatively sheltered water which provided ideal sailing conditions for the gigs. The winds, though, did change both in strength and direction quite rapidly which was a challenge for the crews.



*GB gig, first over the line in the passage race*

"The GB team deserved their win. They had trained hard for each event. The high point of their performance was a storming four mile row into the wind during the passage race. They also showed their skills and determination in the two sailing races, the oars and sails events and the ropework. They were in the lead overall by the time of the final rowing race in which they came second. That was enough to secure them the Atlantic Challenge Trophy by a comfortable 11 points over Ireland, who came second amongst the total of thirteen gigs in the contest. For the Moray Gig this is a very satisfying result as we provided ten members of the crew of nineteen. The whole GB team is most grateful to their sponsors and to the Canadian organisers of this wonderful event.."



*Slalom without rudder*



*Robert Hunt, Coxswain, & Julian Whitewright, Trainer, with the Trophies*



*GB's gig Intégrité is loaded for home*



*Team GB victorious*