



North Channel Diary

by: Sylvia Gozzard



Map of Manitoulin Island

The North Channel lying just to the North of Manitoulin Island.

Contents

• North Channel Diary	Page 1
• GBYC Pictures	Page 10
• The Larder	Page 11
• Bulletin Board	Page 12
• Upcoming Events:	Page 12
• Greetings	Page 13

Most boaters travel from southern Lake Huron up the shore 'til they reach the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula and lay over in Tobermory. It's forged



from the limestone outcrop- pings of the Niagara Escarpment

To the left, the Cliffs at Tobermory



Picture to the right in Georgian Bay, a couple of miles east of Tobermory is Flowerpot Island.

**Next Issue: Contributions
 Deadline Sept 25, 2008**

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Flowerpot Island is part of the *Fathom 5 National Park* which is a diver's paradise with sunken ships that provide them with interesting underwater wrecks.

To the right, the lighthouse at the entrance to Big Tub Harbour, Tobermory, Ontario



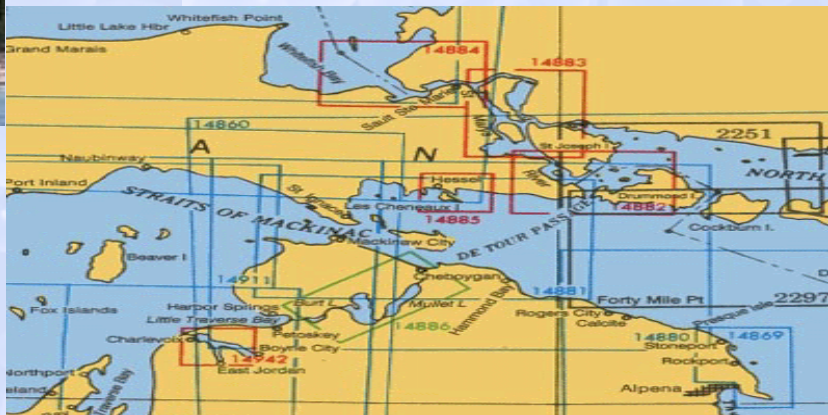
and pictured below is the ferry, Chi-Cheemaun ("Big Canoe," origin Ojibwe) departing from Tobermory as well as an aerial photograph of Tobermory.

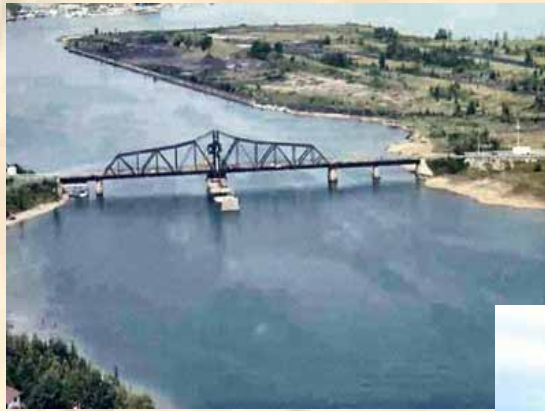


From Tobermory, the ferry goes to South Baymouth, Manitoulin Island.

which is on the South side of Manitoulin Island. Manitoulin Island is the largest fresh water island in the world.

Its' usually just the ferry that puts into South Baymouth. Boaters cruise directly to Little Current on the North side of Manitoulin Island where the entrance to the North Channel starts.





There's a swing bridge at Little Current opening for 15 minutes at the hour during the summer season.

The Town of Little Current below after clearing the bridge. This is where most boaters stock up for fresh groceries, supplies and sometimes top up with fuel if they need it.

Now begins this remarkable body of water where islands are accessible by water. Boaters lower their anchor (s) and enjoy the peace and quiet of their vacation. As long as we've been going there, we've never tired of the scenic grandeur.

The water is crystal clear with visible fish swimming under and around the bottoms of anchored boats.



The series of mostly deserted islands approachable only by water, are set in pristine, fresh water. To the left, an overhead of Croker Island. Pictured below, a closer view of Croker's inner harbour.

Most marinas are left behind on the mainland. Usually boats are tied to trees with anchors off their bows. Bottoms are often rocky and sometimes more than one anchor is needed.



Many artists continue to be attracted to the North Channel. The Group of Seven are famous for their paintings, drawings and illustrations:

The West Wind, by Thomson



The Red Maple by A.Y. Jackson



North Shore by A Y Jackson



North Shore by Lawrence Stewart Harris



Inlet, Georgian Bay by: Thomas Byng



Back to the islands of the North Channel. The next anchorage is in the Benjamin Islands.

Left:
Anchorage,
Benjamin
Islands South.

Right:
Anchorage,
Benjamin
Islands North.



Below: Skyline, Benjamin Islands in the distance.



Next stop: Baie Finn:

Below, aerial view of the channel leading to the Baie Finn Pool:



To the best of my knowledge, it is the only inland fjord in the world. The pool at the end is approximately seven miles long and 100-150 yards wide in the bay. The marked channel into it is very narrow, with mountains at both sides and about eight miles long.

The anchorages in the pool are breathtaking. Mountains all around and completely sheltered from storms. Most people do have either an inflatable boat or a small tender they tow behind.

White granite rocks that line the channel:



Casson Peak overlooking the pool at Baie Finn:

Sunset, Baie Finn





Next anchorage, the Village of Killarney on Northern Ontario's mainland.

This is one of our favourite villages. It's a world of isolation and mystery. The town of Killarney didn't have any electricity until 1951. With no road access until 1962, water was for many years the only route of travel for its citizens and visitors. The reason for the lack of roads was because of the very hard Canadian shield, granite, rock formations. The 44-mile road that eventually connected them cost more than \$2,500,000 to build.

Fishing resort in the background, Killarney, Ontario:

We normally stop and pick up fresh perch for dinner.



When you've been a boat for several days, sometimes when you get off, it's hard to regain land legs because of climatization to being on the boat with the decks moving up and down. So there is a tendency to make up for it by weaving about as if you were still on the water. :)



Probably some of you who have been in the navy might be able to identify with that! Somehow, it's much easier to adapt to a boat going up and down with the waves, than being on solid land! It leads me to believe that scientists were correct...human beings did evolve from being fish in the sea! :)

The community of Killarney was once serviced regularly by steamships that carried both passengers and freight to various locations on Georgian Bay and throughout the North Channel area.

It's primarily a fishing, logging and trapping village. Almost all of their goods came first by sailing ships and later by steamers. Villagers were extremely self-reliant and had to make do because the lake froze over cutting them off from supplies that arrived in the Spring. They did have telephones starting in 1936 enabling contact with the outside world.

Being in that town is a step back into history. Do not miss the little pioneer museum that houses several original sound recordings of villagers complete with background scratchy sounds that lend authenticity to them. Before it was turned into a museum, it was the village jail! :) It's a very small building, so they must not have had too many drunks they had to toss into it.

Physical separations from mainlands often combine to produce cultural separations. Islands are always a little rustic and behind the times, or so it seems, from a mainlander's point of view. When travel to them is difficult, the feeling of isolation in those communities increases. Manitoulin Island although located only a few hundred miles due north of Detroit or Toronto, was always difficult to reach —other than by boat.

Killarney wasn't alone in being unaccessible. To reach Manitoulin from Mackinaw City in Michigan's lower peninsula, vehicles crossed the Straits of Mackinac, travelled 50 miles across Michigan's upper peninsula, crossed the international border at Sault Ste. Marie, using the bridge over the St. Mary's River, traversed 200 miles of Ontario's mainland forest, crested the La Cloche mountains, then down the rocky hills to the Little Current passage. When you consider that many of the bridges along this route were not built until the mid 1950's, you can appreciate the historical difficulty in reaching the island from the south via automobile.

On to the next anchorage:

One of the most pleasant places we stayed was Sturgeon Cove. We were guests on a 55' Wellington that Haydn designed, built and installed the swim platform we're sitting on.



Drawing of Sturgeon Cove:

The anchorage below is looking Northwest toward the narrow opening: Prevailing



winds do come from that direction and there are wonderful sandy beaches on the southeast end. The darker island in the center of the opening is High Island. Behind it are the quartzite hills of the La Cloche Mountains, the true northern coast of Lake Huron.



Our host was a pilot who worked for General Motors. He flew around the world taking GM executives to their destinations. He is very knowledgeable about the galaxies and it gets inky black in the North Channel...no light pollution from nearby cities. The stars against the black velvet of the skies are brilliant and you can see the entire Milky Way without the assistance of binoculars or telescopes. He drew our attention to overhead satellites. If you've never experienced a really dark sky, you won't have any idea what I'm talking about. The whole dang thing lights up brighter than any billboard—the feeling it invokes is oneness with nature. That night sky and those stars, just makes you feel so small and yet belonging to what's up there. We really are just part of a very big universe. The Milky Way is just one of many galaxies—the effect to see it so plainly is soothing to know we're part of a much bigger picture. Did you know there are over a 100 billion stars in our Milky Way?



Big Dipper, in the Milky Way Galaxy:

In the bay, we were entertained by a family of Loons.

Their evening song is a real treat. I hadn't realized 'til last summer that in Canada we see them when they look their best. Their distinctive white and black



colouration isn't apparent when they aren't mating. They mate in the northern lakes, away from civilization. Click to listen to the charming Indian story of how the loon got its markings. It's a story called Loon Necklace.

The Common Loon is Ontario's provincial bird. Closeup of a loon with chicks:



Loons sometimes appear to do a Penquin dance vertically while treading water on the surface to keep themselves upright.



Loon haunting calls, click to hear, the hoot:

The hoot call is not as intense or as loud as the other calls. It is used to keep in contact with mates, chicks and social groups residing or visiting the same lake.

Click to hear the Tremolo.

The tremolo has been described as "insane laughter"; it is eight to ten notes voiced rapidly which vary in frequency and intensity. This alarm call usually indicates agitation or fear, often caused by disturbance from people, a predator or even another loon. This is also the only call that loons make in flight.

Click to hear the Wail.

The wail is most frequently given in the evening or at night, and can be heard for many miles. This haunting call is not an alarm call but is used to keep in contact with other loons on the same lake and surrounding lakes.

Click to hear the Yodel.

The yodel is exclusive to 'male' loons. This call is used to advertise and defend their territory, especially during incubation and early chick-rearing. If you are watching loons and they make this call or a tremolo, it usually means that you are too close and are disturbing the loons. If that happens, you should leave their territory and give them their space.



Sunset at Sturgeon Cove:

Just a couple of more pictures of some other anchorages:

Little Detroit Passage, North Channel:



Belows: Meldrum Bay, Manitoulin Island, at sunset:



We'll continue to to take sailing holidays at the North Channel every opportunity we get.

There are hundreds of islands and anchorages left for us to discover.

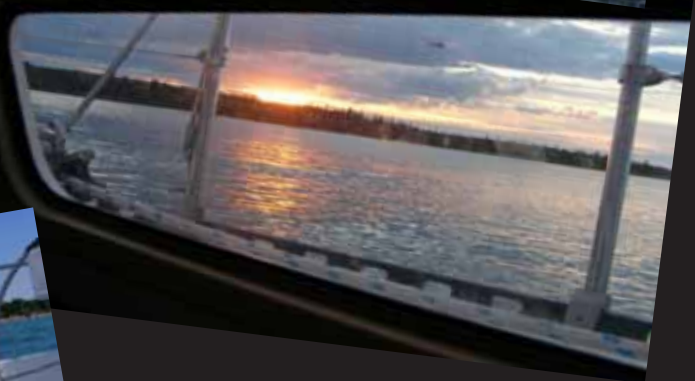
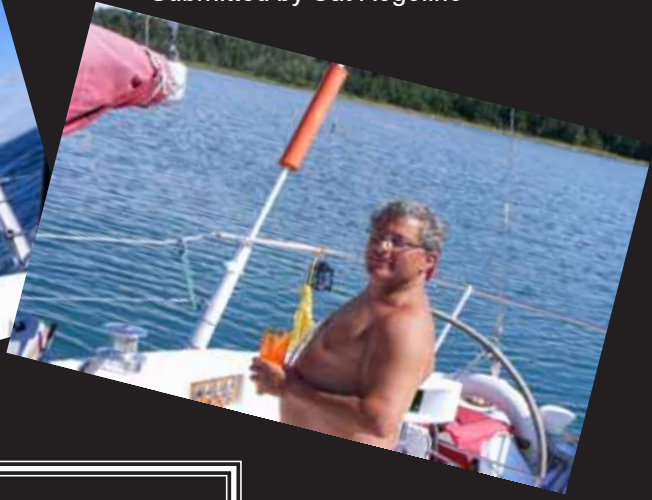
Great picture I managed to capture of Haydn two summer's ago.



GBYC Pictures

Jigsaw's North Channel photographs

Submitted by Cat Rogolino



The Larder



BBQ vegetables:

Ingredients:

1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup olive oil
selection of fresh veggies that grill well
zucchini, yellow squash, eggplant, onions



Directions:

Half an hour before grill-time: Slice veggies into 1/4-inch slices and place in a large shallow pan.

Stir together marinade and pour over vegetables, making sure all veggies are well coated. About 10 minutes before ready to serve your meal, lay the vegetables on the grill, allowing 2-5 minutes grill-time per side, over medium heat. Brush extra marinade on some of the veggies as they're grilling, if desired.

Remove grilled vegetables to a platter and serve.

Grilled Ham Steaks with Apricot Glaze



1/2" thick-ham steaks

1/4-1/2 cup apricot jam

2 teaspoons Dijon-style mustard

2 teaspoons cider vinegar

In a small bowl, mix well the jam, mustard and vinegar. Cut around the edge of the steak at 1" intervals to prevent the meat from curling during the cooking process. Grill ham slices over hot coals, brushing with apricot basting sauce occasionally and turning once, until nicely browned, about 8-10 minutes total. Serve immediately. If desired, add extra apricot jam before serving.

Servings: 4

Minutes of prep time: 15 (Serve with fresh corn, bbq'd vegetables and a crusty roll.)

Bulletin Board



Bill Newton removed the refuse cans adjacent to the road allowance--it looks much tidier and there shouldn't be as much opportunity for passerby's to mix their garbage with the club's.

He purchased a nice-looking, lided box that holds two large cans mounted on rollers. The bin is hinged and opens from the front. Beside the bin is a tall, blue, recycling can for plastic and glass bottles along with a small recycling blue box for cans and cardboard. Signs are posted indicating where garbage and recyclables are meant to be thrown away.

Executive members are getting complaints about rodents being seen around the docks. Members are being requested to tidy up before retiring. If the rats' food supplies are curtailed, the problem ceases.

Club burgees \$25.00



Upcoming Events:

FISH FRY and Derby
Trophy for Largest Catch

Saturday August 2 5:00 p.m

Adult tickets \$15
Less than 18, \$10

Entries close at 5:00 p.m.
(Fish provided for non-entrants & guests-- fee for derby is included with ticket prices)

FISH DERBY

GBYC

A colorful poster for a 'Fish Fry and Derby' event. It features a cartoon fish wearing a chef's hat and holding a frying pan. Below it is a trophy and a fish in a boat. The text includes the event name, date, time, ticket prices, and entry deadline. A GBYC burgee logo is also present.

Garbage Pail: Saturday, August 30th.

Editor's opinion; Previous events have been well attended--members seem to be enjoying what's been organized to date.

Greetings

**Wishing you
an enjoyable
Civic Day**

