

## PPYC - Lake Ontario Chapter

Graham Segger

Have you ever wondered what happens to all of your snowbird fellow members when the lovely northern summers summon them north? One of the truly wonderful aspects of Platinum Point Yacht Club ("PPYC") is that many of the relationships formed at Burnt Store Marina ("BSM") often carry over to the "north country fair" as Bob Dylan famously described it.

Diane and my home yacht club in Toronto - Mimico Cruising Club - is a bit of a PPYC north itself. Doug and Lori J. live aboard their Tayana 42 sailboat, Mu Li, at Mimico and Mike and Stephanie L. sail their Beneteau 473, Creme Brûlée, from the club.

Each summer, we try to head out onto Lake Ontario for a few weeks on our Catalina 400, Soulstice, and sail to the great cruising grounds of the Thousand Islands. This collection of marvelous freshwater anchorages and gorgeous scenery is 200 miles east of Toronto and marks the beginning of the St. Lawrence River. We usually zig zag our way down the lake as Graham is not a big fan of set itineraries and subscribes to the "depends which way the wind blows" theory of sail planning. This year our route provided fortuitous opportunities to renew three BSM friendships in different corners of the lake.

Bob and Myrna S. live just outside of Buffalo and moor their sailboat, Rolling Stones, at the Tuscarora Yacht Club, a popular sailing facility in Wilson, NY about 15 miles east of the Niagara River. Bob is a two times past Commodore of TYC. With fair winds, which we had, Wilson is a 4 to 5 hour sail across Lake Ontario from Toronto. Bob and Myrna arranged dockage for us in advance and came down to the club the morning after our arrival to treat us to breakfast. We then went for a drive to Youngstown and Lewiston where we ate lunch with beautiful views over the Niagara River gorge. Thank-you Bob and Myrna for your warm welcome.

After we had sailed back across the lake and then east through the Bay of Quinte our next BSM north encounter was not with PPYC members, but with friends Ray and Linda L., who spend half their winter in Emerald Isle, BSM. They kindly picked us up at Gananoque and took us to their lovely home overlooking the St. Lawrence River in the heart of the Thousand Islands, where we enjoyed a delicious grilled lunch. For future reference there is a protected anchorage behind an island right in front of their home, which is also close to the Singer Castle on Dark Island. Thank-you again Ray and Linda.

Our cruise was a little shorter than usual this year as grandchildren babysitting duties beckoned at home. We headed south west and again crossed to the American side of the lake, anchoring one night in Little Sodus Bay, then calling ahead to PPYC friends Milt and Kathy S. They live on the east side of Rochester on the shores of Irondequoit Bay. In previous years we had looked covetously at this large protected bay but were unable to enter due to silting in the channel from the lake. Our timing this year was exquisite as the Army Corp of Engineers were just finishing up a one week dredging exercise on the day we arrived. Milt and Kathy came out in their power boat and escorted us into their community dock. We've never had an escort before and felt a little like we were the Royal Yacht Britannia. We had cocktails at their home then went out for dinner. Thank-you Milt and Kathy for your gracious hospitality.

After four summers of circumnavigating Lake Ontario, we are considering perhaps heading into the upper lakes in future years in search of yet more PPYC snowbird friends.

Picture 1 - Soulstice cruising north of Picton, Ontario on August 17 (photo by Diane from our dinghy):



Picture 2 – August 11-22 Lake Ontario Cruise:

