

Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our
56' Ocean Yacht.

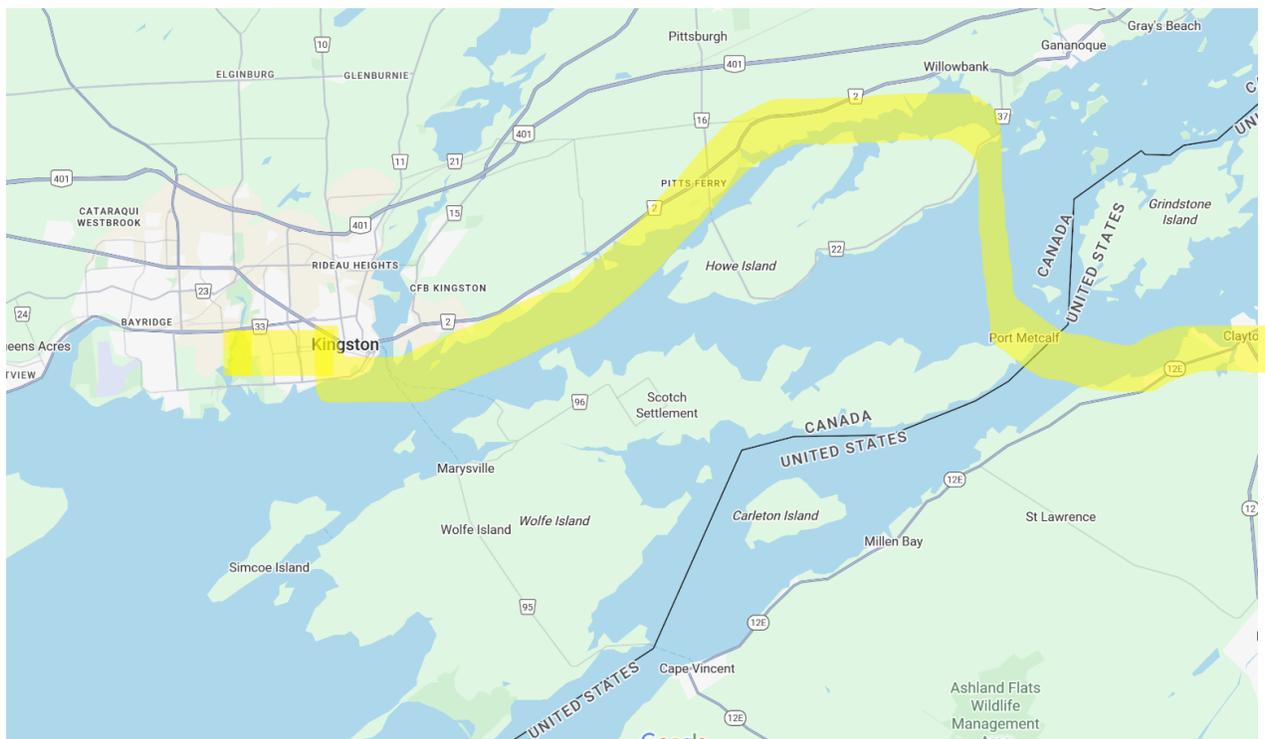
Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop
Clayton, NY to Kingston, Ontario

Wednesday, July 2, 2025
Day 36 (23rd day of cruising)

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

The last update left off with us leaving Clayton, NY, and cruising towards Kingston, Ontario. It was a beautiful ride. We crossed the border at 10:10 am and arrived at Kingston Municipal Marina at 11:50 am. We saw hundreds of Swans, a deer, and some gorgeous waterside homes as we cruised a suggested route from M/V Asylum, Captain Steve. Thank you. Rather than following the route plotted by Navionics, we cruised the north side of Howe's Island.



We crossed paths with 2-cable ferries. In the video, you can see the orange guide cable, which I said was red. Howe Island is the 4th largest island of the Canadian 1000 Islands and runs 8 miles long and 3 miles wide. 2 cable ferries can transport passengers and vehicles to the mainland.

Fun Facts:

The Frontenac Howe Islander is a cable ferry that runs on two different cables. The drive cable

is a 3/4" cable that is driven through our hydraulic winch, and is responsible for moving the vessel forward and backward. The orange guide cable is a 1 1/8" cable and acts as a stabilizer, controlling side-to-side movements. The Frontenac Howe Islander is the only 24-hour, on-demand ferry service in the area. Because of the constant wear and tear, both of these cables are changed out several times a year. This table is actually a spool that holds the orange guide cable that you can see spanning from shore to shore. This cable is 500 metres long, and weighs approximately 1.8 tonnes.



The distance between the both docks on the mainland and island is 370 metres. It just so happens that 370 metres is exactly two cables, which is a nautical unit of distance equal to 1/5th of a nautical mile. This means that the ferry is never more than two cables away!

If you just missed the ferry, don't worry because a round trip only takes about 15 minutes.

A cable ferry has been in operation at the current ferry site since at least 1898.

<https://www.frontenacounty.ca/en/ferry/about-the-frontenac-howe-islander.aspx>





As we were approaching Kingston, Fort Henry was a prominent site.

Fun Facts:

Fort Henry was built from 1832 to 1837 to replace an existing fortification from the War of 1812 era. Situated atop Point Henry, the Fort protected the naval dockyard at Point Frederick, the entrance of the Rideau Canal and the town of Kingston, which was the major transshipment point along the supply route between Montreal or Ottawa and all points west.

The British Army garrisoned Fort Henry until 1870 when Queen Victoria's troops were pulled out of Canada. Soon after, "A" Battery, School of Gunnery, followed by "B" Battery, took up residence in the Fort and remained there until 1891.

During World War I, Fort Henry was superficially repaired and used as an internment camp for political prisoners. Following the war, the Fort fell into complete disrepair.

Fort Henry was restored from 1936 to 1938 as a joint Federal / Provincial make work project costing over \$1 million. The Fort was opened as a museum and historic site "in the name of all British soldiers who served there" by Prime Minister Mackenzie King in August 1938. During World War II, Fort Henry became Camp 31, a Prisoner of War camp for enemy merchant seamen, soldiers, sailors and airmen. Reopened in 1948, Fort Henry has seen millions of visitors pass through its gates to watch the internationally acclaimed Fort Henry Guard perform. <https://www.forthenry.com/the-fort/about-fort-henry/>

Also viewable from Valkyrie as we approach the city is the Royal Military College of Canada and the Capital Building. As we pass Cedar Island, we get a very good view of the Cathcart Tower, built in 1848.



Fun Facts:

The Royal Military College of Canada, abbreviated in English as RMC and in French as CMR, is a military academy and, since 1959, a degree-granting university of the Canadian Armed Forces. It was established in 1874 and conducted its first classes on June 1, 1876. Wikipedia.

The military tower on Cedar Island in Ontario is known as Cathcart Tower, a 19th-century Martello tower built in 1848 to defend Kingston Harbour against potential American aggression. Google



There are 6 round stone towers built throughout Kingston, known as Martello towers. For more information on these towers, you can visit this link: <http://parkscanadahistory.com/series/chs/15/chs15-1h.htm>

11:50 am – arrived Kingston, Ontario, Canada!

Check-in time was 1 pm; however, since we arrived early, Mark called the marina and they let us go into our slip early, and by noon, we were docked. Mark hung the quarantine flag and called Canada Customs straight away.

What sort of questions did they ask?

- They asked for specs of our vessel,
- Our names, dob, passport numbers, passport expiration dates
- How many on board
- How long did we plan on staying in Canada
- What is the purpose of our visit (America's Great Loop)
- Where will we be staying? (on our boat)
- We had nothing to declare. Any liquor on board was "Ship's Stores"
- How will we purchase food & goods? (go ashore)
- How much currency is on board?
- His Phone number?



After Captain Mark answered all the questions, he was given a reporting number, which was to be displayed in our window.

12:33 pm – Mark hung the Canadian flag!

After getting our report #, I made a fun little printout, and we put it in our windshield next to our Canada Parks sticker.

Mark then went about finalizing his arrival checklist, meaning adding more lines to the dock, connecting the electric, turning on the AC, and other systems inside the boat, and then he walked to the office to check in. He brought back a map of Kingston, a code to the self-locking marina gate, a transient boat pass to put in our window, and was told the wifi here doesn't work.



This afternoon, in between work calls, I cleaned. Mark did a quick washdown. He cannot reach the port side, so that side just stays dirty, lol. Most importantly, get the bugs rinsed off.

3:40 pm – we lost power, the whole marina. The office has called an electrician. It was down for a short amount of time, no biggie.

Based on Steve's (Captain of Asylum) recommendation, we went to Jack Astor's for dinner and requested a rooftop table. We then walked Princess Street, King Street, saw a free concert, got gelato, and walked a portion of the waterfront trail.

The free concert was a real treat. The orchestra was incredible. We scored great seats. It took place next to the Capitol Building. Several events take place in Kingston that are free of charge to promote the arts. We considered ourselves lucky to have stumbled upon this. The orchestra played a little bit of every genre, including Broadway, cinematic, pop, oldies, and swing. Taylor Swift, ABBA, Pirates of the Caribbean, and Phantom of the Opera are a few examples.

Getting Gelato was not without a tiny bit of drama. Neither of us has ever had gelato, and the only reason we decided to go in was because of the sidewalk sign advertising the Maple Cookie flavor. We were waiting in line, and when it was our time to order, it was announced that they were out of that flavor. I was sooooo disappointed. More so than I should have been (lol). I did not think I would bother getting anything, but ultimately decided on the Maple Walnut. It was ok.



Daily Summary:

Departed from Clayton @ 9:09 am

Arrived at Kingston, Ontario @ 12:00 pm

Hours traveled: 3 hours 9 mins total for the day

Nautical Miles Traveled: 21.92 for the day (598.26 total miles)

Average Speed 6.9 knots

Weather: low 70's sunny and breezy

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Sandy bottom, protected, calm, quiet

#of locks we went through: (30 total locks)



<https://youtu.be/YBu9lf5oTvc>

That is a wrap for this update!



Time is unrenewable and tomorrow is never promised so do it before you can't!

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