

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop

Thursday, July 31, 2025

Day 65 (46th day of cruising)

Baie Fine – the Pool to Little Current, Ont.

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

Mark raised the tender today, thinking it would be in the way when we stopped in Little Current. The plan was to get provisions, rid our trash and used engine oil, and do any other errands needing attention. Unfortunately, while raising the tender, the winch broke, which may change our plans.

The anchor chain was covered in grass/weeds. We had seen several boats weigh anchor, so we expected it.

Mr. I Spy Champion, Mark, saw a beaver swimming this morning. Of course I didn't.



Last night was a lot of fun. Paul and Carlene cooked an amazing meal and were wonderful hosts. After dinner, we played *Jokers and Marbles*. They taught us this game back in Phoenix, NY. Tons of fun, similar to the board game *Sorry*.

We left Baie Fine Inlet around 9:00 am. There was only one boat left in The Pool, our friends Next Chapter.

I had been raving about this anchorage for days. It is definitely a highlight of the trip so far. Although all of Georgian Bay has been beautiful, the anchorages seem to get more and more amazing as we continue the loop.

We cruised from Baie Fine to Little Current, Manitoulin Island, the largest freshwater island in the world. Manitoulin Island has over 100 inland lakes and is situated on Lake Huron. During our cruise, we passed Strawberry Island Lighthouse. Built in 1881, Strawberry Island Lighthouse is one of Ontario's most photographed lighthouses. The tower is still operational with solar-powered light.

Little Current is known to have a very strong current, and all research indicates not to take it lightly when maneuvering and docking here. The Little Current Swing Bridge, 112 years old, is a historic swing bridge that opens on the hour every hour, sunrise to sunset, for 15 minutes.



Originally a train bridge, it is now a one-lane vehicular bridge that is the only roadway access to the mainland.

There are a lot of loopers here in Little Current. We met up with several and had dinner together. We went to the American Legion's wing night. While there, we ran into a bit of trouble. It is a cash-only establishment. We tried using our debit card (accepted), but it would not go through! Ugh! Thankfully, a fellow looper had Canadian currency. She paid for our wings, we calculated the conversion, and paid her in US dollars. Embarrassing, maybe, but who cares? It all worked out. After dinner, we went for drinks and played trivia at the Anchor Inn.



Daily Summary:

Departed from Baie Fine @ 8:49 am

Arrived at Little Current Municipal Marina @ 12:43 pm

Days cruised: 46 Days on the loop: 65

Hours traveled: 3 hrs 54 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 22.78 for the day (1090.69 total miles)

Average Speed 5.8 knots

Weather: Sunny but cool. Low 70's S SW winds at 14mph

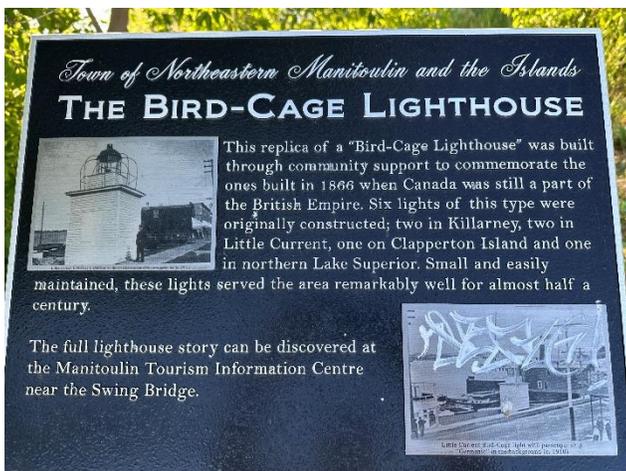
Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Protected cove, good hold

#of locks we went through: (73 total locks)

Friday - Saturday, August 1-2, 2025

Little Current

I went for a walk this morning. I followed the boardwalk as far as I could. It brought me to a nice nature trail that led to the Swingbridge. Along my walk, I saw this bird-cage lighthouse, the welcome center, gorgeous views of the harbor, and I was just thrilled to be out walking.





Not since Trenton have we been to a marina. It was nice to be hooked up to electricity and water and be able to step off the boat and walk to town to get whatever was needed. There is a grocery store not far from the docks. I took the wagon and filled 'er up. Mark washed the boat and worked on the winch. He was able to bypass the problem; however, a new winch motor will have to be ordered. A plan would need to be made to have it delivered to a US address. I cleaned Valkyrie's interior.

This marina has full services; water, electricity, pumpout, fuel, bathhouse, and is within walking distance to shops, restaurants, grocery, liquor, hardware, autopart stores, and more. Mark was able to find a place to dispose of his used engine oil and found a mobile mechanic who happened to have a switch for our underwater lights that he needed. I am lovin' Little Current. It has it all, plus, there is a festival going on! The Haweater!

The Haweater Weekend Festival (falls on the August Civic Holiday) celebrated its 56th year this year. We participated in many of the festivities. The main street was closed to traffic. It was lined with vendors selling everything and anything. There was a farmer's market, singers, HGTV's Carver Kings, a wrestling event, a softball tournament, a parade, and beach volleyball. The list of events was long. We watched the soapbox derby, the cardboard box boat races, had dockside live music, ate at the pulled pork food vendor, had pizza, gelato, and I bought several souvenirs from the local shops.

The gelato flavors we got were maple butter tart and birthday cake. Not festival-related, but we were invited on board a loopers' boat for cocktails, which was nice.

The Haweater Festival (officially **Haweater Weekend**) is Little Current's big annual cultural celebration on Manitoulin Island, held on the August Civic Holiday weekend, featuring family fun like cardboard boat races, live music, vendors, fireworks, and celebrating the island's unique culture and history since 1967.

- **"Haweater"**: An honorary term for longtime residents of Manitoulin Island, notes 3 Cows and a Cone. Google



The Ojibwe (Chippewa) are known for their deep connection to the Great Lakes region, expert use of birchbark (canoes, scrolls, wigwams), distinctive beadwork, and rich traditions in harvesting wild rice and making maple syrup. They are also known for the Midewiwin (Medicine Society), Clan systems (like Crane and Loon), and spiritual practices involving [sacred pipes](#) and [sweat lodges](#), alongside their significant historical role in the fur trade and contemporary leadership in education and activism, like the [Red Power movement](#).

Cultural & Traditional Practices

- **Birchbark Mastery:** Used for canoes, storage, housing (wigwams), and recording history (scrolls).
- **Wild Rice & Maple Syrup:** Key food sources, historically harvested and still important today.
- **Beadwork & Crafts:** Intricate designs on clothing, moccasins, and other items.
- **Clan System (Doodem):** Society structured by clans (e.g., Bear, Crane, Loon) that determined roles.
- **Midewiwin (Grand Medicine Society):** Spiritual leaders and healers preserving complex knowledge.
- **Spiritual Beliefs:** Focus on a Creator and spirits, with practices like offerings and vision quests.
- **Seven Grandfather Teachings:** Core ethical principles: Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, Truth.

Historical Significance

- **[Council of Three Fires](#):** Alliance with Odawa and Potawatomi tribes; Ojibwe were "keepers of the faith".
- **Fur Trade:** Major players, trading furs for European goods like guns and metal tools.
- **Copper Mining & Trade:** Historic mining and trading of copper from the Lake Superior region.

Modern Influence

- **Activism:** Key role in the Red Power movement in the 1970s.
- **Language & Literature:** Important contributions to the study and recovery of the Anishinabemowin language.
- **Gaming & Education:** Leadership in Native American gaming and educational reform

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That is a wrap for this update!

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/rWafvo6iauU>



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