

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop
Sunday, August 3, 2025
Little Current to Benjamin Islands

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

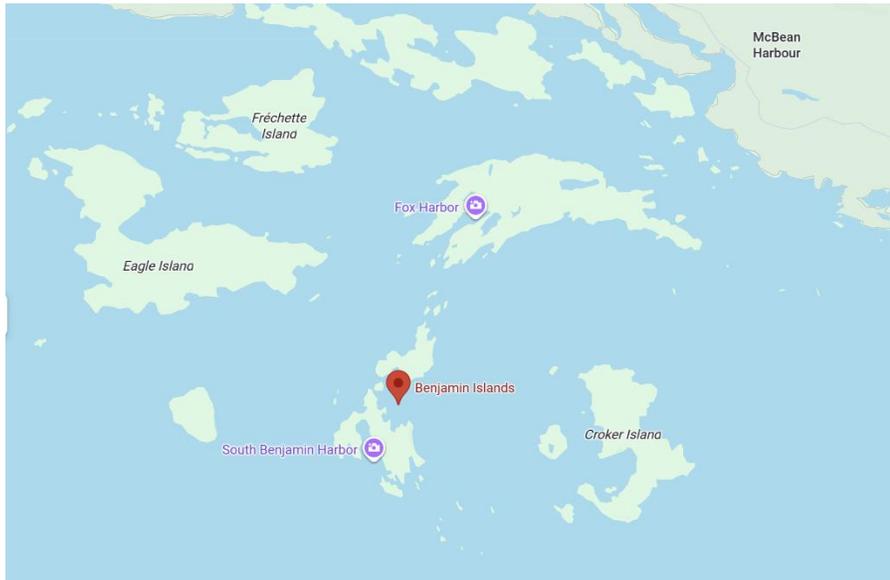
After a delightful and entirely unexpected extended stay in Little Current, we set off this morning and cruised toward the Benjamin Islands. What was meant to be just a couple of hours ashore turned into several days when a broken winch kept us docked while Mark tackled the repairs. As luck would have it, a festival was underway, giving us a perfect reason to linger a little longer. When Saturday's conditions weren't ideal for cruising, we happily stayed put—and now, at last, we were able to head out.

There was a lot of haze in the air due to the Canadian fires. It dulled the horizon view as we cruised in what is supposed to be some of the most beautiful waters on the loop. The North Channel and the Benjamin Islands have been reported to be the best part of the entire loop. The cruise was easy, not much chop, even after the 20+mph winds we had yesterday. What little chop we had did cause some splash on the windshield, but not enough to make the ride uncomfortable.

On a clear day, the La Cloche mountains would be in view:

They're the pale, dramatic ridgeline you see on the mainland north of the Benjamin Islands, especially on clear days when the quartzite really pops. The La Cloche Mountains are part of the Canadian Shield and are made mostly of white and pink quartzite, some of the oldest exposed rock in North America (around 1.8–2 billion years old). Unlike the rounded pink granite of the Benjamins, La Cloche has sharp, angular ridges and a much lighter color—almost chalky white in the sun. They're not mountains in the alpine sense, but they rise 300–500 m (1,000–1,600 ft) above sea level, which feels dramatic when you're on the water. Much of the range is preserved within Killarney Provincial Park and is undeveloped. (combination of google and chatgpt)

We anchored Valkyrie in the Benjamin Islands, North. Also at this anchorage were several loop boats that we met along the way, including two that we were in Little Current with and had cocktails with last night.



The Benjamin Islands are a scenic, uninhabited archipelago of pink granite in Ontario's North Channel (Lake Huron), renowned for their turquoise waters, glacial-sculpted landscapes, and as a top, quiet anchorage for boaters. The area is characterized by two main islands—North Benjamin and South Benjamin—surrounded by smaller islets and rugged, smooth rock formations. The islands are considered a "must-see" destination, particularly for those traveling the Great Loop. They offer protected, clear, and quiet anchorages. (combination of google and chaptgpt)

Because there were so many of us loopers, we all got together for cocktails. We spent a couple of hours sharing stories and laughs. It was a really special night that I enjoyed very much. The sunset was pretty this evening despite the hazy sky.

Daily Summary:

Departed from Little Current @ 10:31 am

Arrived at Benjamin Islands @ 12:47 pm

Days cruised: 47 Days on the loop: 68

Hours traveled: 2hrs 15mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 15.99 for the day (1,106.68 total miles)

Average Speed 7 knots

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

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Good hold, clay bottom, lots of room for several boats,

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

Monday, August 4, 2025

Benjamin Islands North to Benjamin Islands South

The winds shifted, so we moved Valkyrie from Benjamin Islands North anchorage to Benjamin Islands South anchorage, which would provide better protection from this particular wind direction. Because Valkyrie is surrounded by unforgiving rocks, the captain decided to move.

Once we were settled in at the new location, we took a very long, beautiful ride in the tender exploring the Benjamin Islands. It was another hazy day, but that did not affect our ride nor detract from the beauty of the islands. We saw a turtle and a mink. We have not seen an overabundance of wildlife on our journey so far, so any sightings add to the excitement of the trip.

The Benjamin Islands display the beautiful, smooth granite and quartz like nothing I have seen before. The islands are made mostly of plutonic (cooled-deep-in Earth) rocks. The vibrant orange and other colors come from the moss and lichen that grow on the rocks, providing yet another new and awe-inspiring experience, way outside our normal Cape Cod home. The trees and shrubs are curious; there is a limited variety (mostly pines and evergreens), and there isn't a lot of soil for them to root. It gave Mark and me plenty to admire as he carefully guided the tender through waters that shifted from surprisingly deep to strikingly shallow, all while we were immersed in the raw, unmistakable beauty of Mother Nature.

The colours you see in the granite and related rocks come from their mineral makeup and surface weathering. Freshly broken rock often shows brighter colours (pinkish feldspar, shiny quartz). As rock is exposed to air and water over geologic time, chemical weathering can grey or dull these colours, but the underlying pinks from feldspar still show through. These rocks are Precambrian intrusive igneous rocks formed deep underground roughly 1.45 billion years ago and later exposed by uplift and erosion. Glacial activity during the Ice Ages scraped away overlying material and smoothed the rock surfaces, leaving smooth, rounded exposures of the granite. This makes the colour and texture especially visible today. (chapt gpt)

The Benjamin Islands themselves are small and rocky with very thin soils, so they don't support large, dense forests like the mainland. What vegetation *does* grow tends to be hardy, windswept trees that can root in shallow soil pockets and cracks in the granite.

Between trees and especially along shoreline ledges, you'll find low shrubs, mosses, lichens, and sparse herbaceous plants that can survive thin soil and regular wind exposure. Mosses and lichens grow directly on the granite surface and in tiny cracks, often giving the rock a green, orange, or gray patina where moisture collects. (chapt gpt)

Daily Summary:

Departed from BI North @

Arrived at BI South @

Days cruised: 48 Days on the loop: 69

Hours traveled:

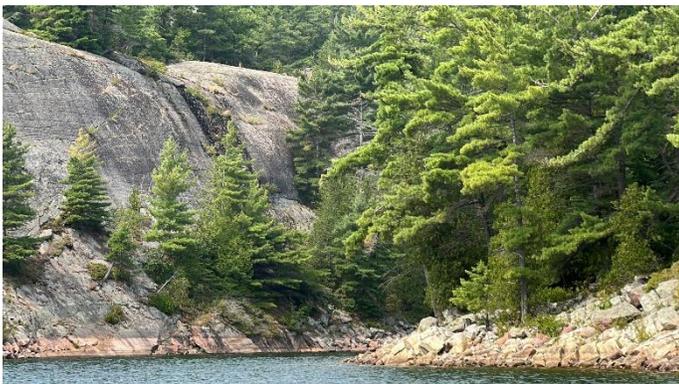
Nautical Miles Traveled: 1.79 for the day (1,108.47 total miles)

Average Speed 2.1 knots

Weather: Cool, hazy

Anchorage/mooring/marina review:

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





<https://youtu.be/ur4Bo2g0gFw>

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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