

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop
Tuesday, August 5, 2025
Benjamin Islands South to Beardrop Harbour

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

Little did we know that when this day started, it was going to turn out to be a very busy day filled with a little mystery, a search and rescue operation and some boat chores.

8:45 am – Mark started the engines, completed his pre-cruise checklist, weighed anchor, and we departed the Benjamin Islands for Beardrop Harbour.

The cruise was beautiful. Stunning, really. We were in the North Channel, seeing much of the same type of scenery that we have experienced all throughout Lake Huron, Georgian Bay, and the parts of the North Channel we have already conquered; each cruise seems to be just as beautiful as the day before.

Why do Loopers enjoy the North Channel so much? It checks every box:

- Protected anchorages in almost every wind
- Minimal tides or current
- Crystal-clear water
- Endless island exploration
- Night skies filled with stars

And perhaps most importantly for Loopers — it feels like a reward. After navigating rivers, locks, and, depending on your route, commercial traffic, this stretch invites you to slow down.

As we progressed on our cruise, Mark had to navigate through Little Detroit. A narrow passage that brought us into Whalesback Channel.



The entry to the Whalesback is a skinny, turning cut between a crooked mainland peninsula and Arid Island, Little Detroit. Odd name it seems for a spot in an area of rocky islands covered with trees. Detroit is French for a strait connecting two lakes. Detroit, Michigan, is located on such a strait. <https://greatlooplastdance.blogspot.com/2016/12/north-channel-whalesback-channel.html>

The Whalesback Channel, located along the north shore of Lake Huron, is

arguably the most scenic Great Lakes waterway in [Ontario's Algoma Country](#).

The chain of islands that form the Whalesback Channel provides boaters and anglers access to Great Lakes species, but at the same time, the confidence of fishing from a protected inland waterway.

<https://northernontario.travel/algoma-country/whalesback-channel-lake-huron-fishing-trip-bucket-list>



Whalesback Channel is an island-studded waterway that runs along the rugged north shore between Spanish River to the East and Gore Bay to the West and is one of the most traveled inside routes for cruising the

North Channel. The name comes from a long, rounded island ridge that resembles the back of a whale rising from the water.

For those cruisers who need a stop, Spanish is a great town. There is a full-service marina with nearby shops for provisions, etc.

Spanish is a natural pit-stop for North Channel island-hoppers or a great place to stay for a while. The modern, full-service marina has a laundromat, fitness centre, wireless internet, clean showers, sauna, and more. Spanish is an important Gateway to the North Channel because it is a short hop to the beautiful Benjamin Islands group and closer still to the island-speckled waters of Whalesback and McBean Channels...for more info check out this site:

<https://www.algomacountry.com/cities-towns/spanish/>

Shortly after we were underway, we heard a loud beep, which took us by surprise. There were two, and only two. Mark investigated thoroughly, going through the engine room, all state rooms, and nothing. It sounded just like a smoke detector. Nothing conclusive was found, nor did we hear it again the rest of the day.

Beardrop Harbor has a narrow opening but opens up to a large basin with a serene backdrop and ample room for several boats. There are so many nooks and crannies to explore via kayak, canoe, tender, or the like. There is also hiking, and in-season, blueberries. Black bear sightings are not uncommon, nor are eagle sightings, or other waterfowl. It is the perfect backdrop for a peaceful anchorage.

Mark set out a tripline. Having read somewhere in his research that Beardrop Harbour was a lumber/logging site, he wanted to take extra precautions. My later research showed that it was not specifically a logging site; however, the region was shaped by the 19th and early 20th-century logging



industry. The entire North Channel shoreline, including nearby Spanish/Blind

River, was involved. Timber would have floated past the entrance but was unlikely to be involved in any other way.

Fun Fact:

An anchor tripline is a secondary line attached to the crown (bottom/rear) of an anchor and connected to a surface buoy, used to retrieve a stuck anchor by pulling it backward. It acts as a safety release in rocky or fouled bottoms and marks the anchor's location.

Chores included sanding the teak in the cockpit and applying a fresh coat of oil as well as repairing the stantion on the flybridge that he knocked when the winch broke.

The drone was the cause of a search and rescue mission after an in-flight crash. It had lost signal with Mark's controller, and when it went into "return home" mode, it dropped in elevation, hit a tree, tumbled down, down, down, all the while still recording. It was a pretty easy find, according to Mark, since it reports its location. While on his rescue mission, Mark came home with a pocket full of blueberries. He had been wanting to find wild blueberries this entire Canadian voyage. Today, he was able to pick some. Once the camera card was retrieved, Mark sent the drone back up in the air to test it. The test was a failure as it dropped into the water mid-flight, never to be recovered.

Stay tuned for the final chapter in today's story, which will include a sunset tender ride. Tomorrow, we head back out into the North Channel to a different anchorage as we get closer to returning to the USA.

Daily Summary:

Departed from Benjamin Islands South @ 8:48 am

Arrived at Beardrop Harbour @ 11:39 am

Days cruised: 49 Days on the loop: 70

Hours traveled: 2hrs 51mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 19.58 for the day (1,128.65 total miles)

Average Speed 6.8 knots

Weather: another beautiful summer day, breezy, partly cloudy

Anchorage/mooring/marina review:

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



https://youtu.be/d1QGdvwN_vw

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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