

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

# Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop  
Wednesday, August 6, 2025  
Beardrop Harbour, Ont to Bassett Island, Ont

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

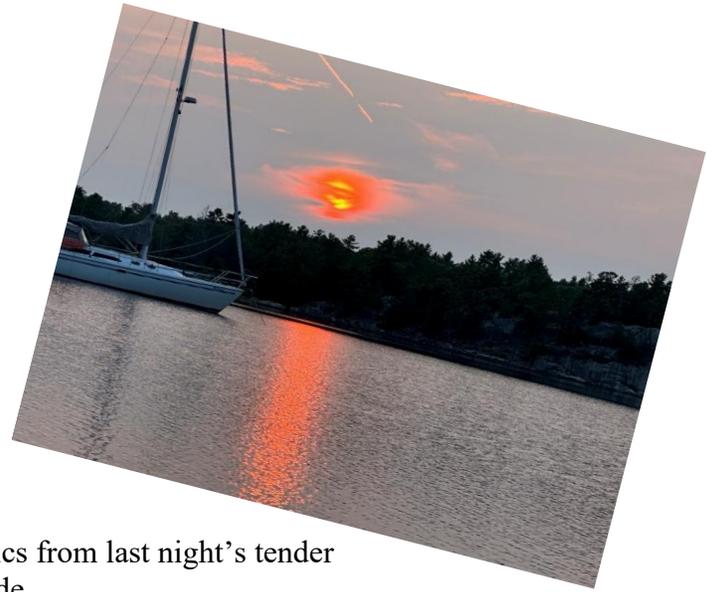
The previous YouTube episode left off with us getting ready to prepare dinner and then taking the tender out for a sunset ride. Dinner was a rice bowl with ground beef and veggies. I thought it was good. Like most galley meals on board Valkyrie, it was an easy skillet dinner recipe. The tender ride was wonderful. It is such a bonus for us to have these long days and secluded, remote anchorages that provide the perfect backdrop to get off the big boat and become engrossed with the natural rugged areas of the Canadian Shield.

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**Canadian Shield**, one of the world's largest geologic continental shields, centred on Hudson Bay and extending for 8 million square km (3 million square miles) over eastern, central, and northwestern Canada from the Great Lakes to the Canadian Arctic and into Greenland, with small extensions into northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and New York, U.S.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Canadian-Shield>





Pics from last night's tender ride

This morning, Mark started the engines at 8:30 am. We left Beardrop Harbour and took a short cruise to Bassett Island.

Beardrop Harbour was a quiet anchorage. It is a large basin with a lot of room for several boats. The short cruise to Bassett Island was much of the same scenery that we have been experiencing along the North Channel of Lake Huron. Mark and I had fun goofing around about the multiple names for the same body of water, and for that matter, the island we were about to anchor near. Bassett Island was also labeled as Turnbull Island on his navigation chart.

### *Fun Facts:*

Large bodies of water often have multiple names because different parts of the same water body develop their own identities over time — for geographic, cultural, navigational, or historical reasons.

Let's use Lake Huron as your example.

## 1. Geographic Subdivisions

Big lakes aren't uniform. They have:

- Bays
- Channels
- Straits
- Inlets
- Basins

For example:

- The **North Channel** (between Ontario's mainland and Manitoulin Island)
- Georgian Bay — a large bay on the eastern side
- Saginaw Bay — a bay on the western side in Michigan

Even though they're all connected and technically part of Lake Huron, they look and function differently, so people gave them distinct names.

## 2. Navigation & Safety

Historically, sailors needed precise names for:

- Shipping routes
- Dangerous shoals
- Fishing grounds
- Weather patterns

A fisherman saying "I'm heading into Georgian Bay" is much more specific (and safer) than saying "I'm going onto Lake Huron."

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## 3. Cultural & Historical Naming

Different groups named different areas:

- Indigenous nations had original names for many sections.
- French explorers named some areas.
- British and American settlers added others.

Over time, these names stuck — even if they refer to parts of the same lake.

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## 4. Political & Regional Identity

Sometimes subdivisions develop their own regional identity.

For example, communities around Georgian Bay often identify specifically with that bay rather than just "Lake Huron."

It's similar to how:

- The Atlantic Ocean contains the Caribbean Sea
- The Mediterranean contains the Adriatic Sea

They're connected but distinct enough to earn separate names.

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## 5. Physical Differences Within the Same Lake

Different parts of large lakes can vary in:

- Depth
- Water temperature
- Wave patterns
- Ecology

Georgian Bay, for example, is shallower and has many islands, giving it a very different character than the open main basin.

*Why would there be one island with two names like Bassett Island and Turnbull Island?*

In Canada, geographic names are managed through the federal and provincial naming system (Natural Resources Canada + Ontario Geographic Names Board).

Sometimes:

- Two names were recorded historically for the same island.
- One name was approved later, but older maps still show the previous name.
- Both names remain in the registry as **variants**.

This is very common with:

- Small, uninhabited islands
  - Features in remote northern areas
  - Places named after early settlers, surveyors, or landowners
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Now that the geography lesson is over, let's get back to today!

We spent a bit of time planning the next leg of our trip: Lake Michigan. We have decided to cruise the Michigan side, the east side of the lake. Mark tried to make reservations for a dock at Mackinac Island, MI, but they are sold out until August 17. We decided we were going to just plan on

going there and hope that something opens up for us. We did not even know reservations could be made; we thought it was first come first serve. There is an anchorage there, but it has been reported to be very turbulent due to the high volume of vessels. There is also the option to stay at a marina on the mainland and ferry over for a day excursion.

The planning continued with calling ahead to potential marinas to get dock rates and fuel rates, and to see if it was possible to arrange package deliveries. Once a marina was secured (in Frankfort, MI), the order for the new winch motor was placed. Plus, a new drone.

After a delicious dinner with marinated steak, we went for a tender ride. There was a nearby beach that had a hammock, a short walking trail, and a fire pit. Mark had been wanting to have a campfire all summer, but for reasons I do not know, he did not take advantage of having a fire tonight. The tender ride was serene. It is hard to imagine that our Canadian portion of the Great Loop was near completion. Reflecting on everything that we accomplished upto now seems remarkable. Not limited to but including: the Hudson River, Erie Canal, Oswego Canal, the Trent Severn Waterway, the narrow, shallow waters, the rocky shorelines, breathtaking vistas, and all those locks. At one point, it seemed daunting and unattainable, but alas, it was now our reality, and soon to be our past! 5,000 more miles to go! The time to reminisce will come, but that is not today.



## Daily Summary:

Departed from Beardrop Harbour @ 8:35 am

Arrived at Bassett Islands @ 9:58 am

Days cruised: 50 Days on the loop: 71

Hours traveled: 1 hr 23 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 7.27 for the day (1,135.32 total miles)

Average Speed 5.2 knots

Weather: Cool, light breeze

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: ample space for a dozen boats easily, quiet, good hold

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

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/z9MGKSBWOJQ>



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

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