

## TI - ACBS Day Cruise Canadian Channel by Diane Ames 8/27/2024

Led by Capt. Bruce & first Mate Reggie Watkins, a flotilla of 6 boats and 24 people plied the Canadian Channel on a perfect August River day!

From the Alex Bay James St. docks, we headed past Boldt Castle, Mary's Island State Park and to Rockport where the beautiful St. Brendan's Church overlooks the river.

Headed up-river we passed the big river home of the racer "My Way", the "Indian" marks on the rock face warning of rough water ahead and the Statue of St. Lawrence. Next came "Darlingside", the last refueling station for the woodburning steamboats, then on to the large stone edifice known affectionately to many as "Cinderella's Castle." In contrast, the next island is called "dark island" as it still has no electricity. It is the family cottage for Abby Wambach, famous retired soccer player.

A sharp turn to the north took us into Smugglers Cove where history tells that the bootleggers would drop burlap sacks filled with salt and liquor so that when the revenueurs caught up to them, there would be no evidence. Days later, after the salt dissolved, the bootleggers would come back and retrieve their booty. "Thelma" cottage (1897) was our landmark on the Canadian mainland.

At The Ivy restaurant, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch on the patio, arranged by Heidi Szonn. Check-in to Canada was painless! J Our Canadian friends, Ray & Judy Sanders from Brockville, in their beautiful cruiser KARAT, joined us for lunch.

On the return sail we wended our way through the Canadian islands: Ash (with Bud and Diane Ames' home visible on the shore of Wellesley), Georgina, Constance and Kismet, going thru the Hidden Channel where a flotilla of French boats successfully hid from their English pursuers. We safely traversed Benson's Rift and enjoyed seeing the many newly remodeled homes on Hill Island. On the way into the International Rift remnants of Capt. Bill Slate's collection of scuttled river boats was still visible. Capt. Bill sunk the most famous, the steamer "Riverside", on the international boundary line so that neither country could take it from him. Deemed a hazard, it was removed in 1967 by the Canadian government.

Thanks to the skill of all the captains there was safe passage thru the narrow International Rift. (NO need to call Don's Prop Shop...Capt. Watkins had provided the phone number!) J

The final leg of the journey took us through the Lake of the Isles (water temp 73 degrees) and past Leigh and Robert Charron's Westminster Park home where there are plans to hold a 2025 Rendezvous. All the boats got up on plane and made it thru the channel between Wellesley Island and Fairyland Island, only stirring up a little mud!

We checked back into the US at Boldt Castle...with only one hitch. Our beloved secretary, Linda Schmitt, brought her expired passport card! (HOW did she get into Canada without trouble???) . Captain Randy convinced the officials to let her back into the states!

Thanks to all for arranging such a wonderful excursion on our RIVER!!