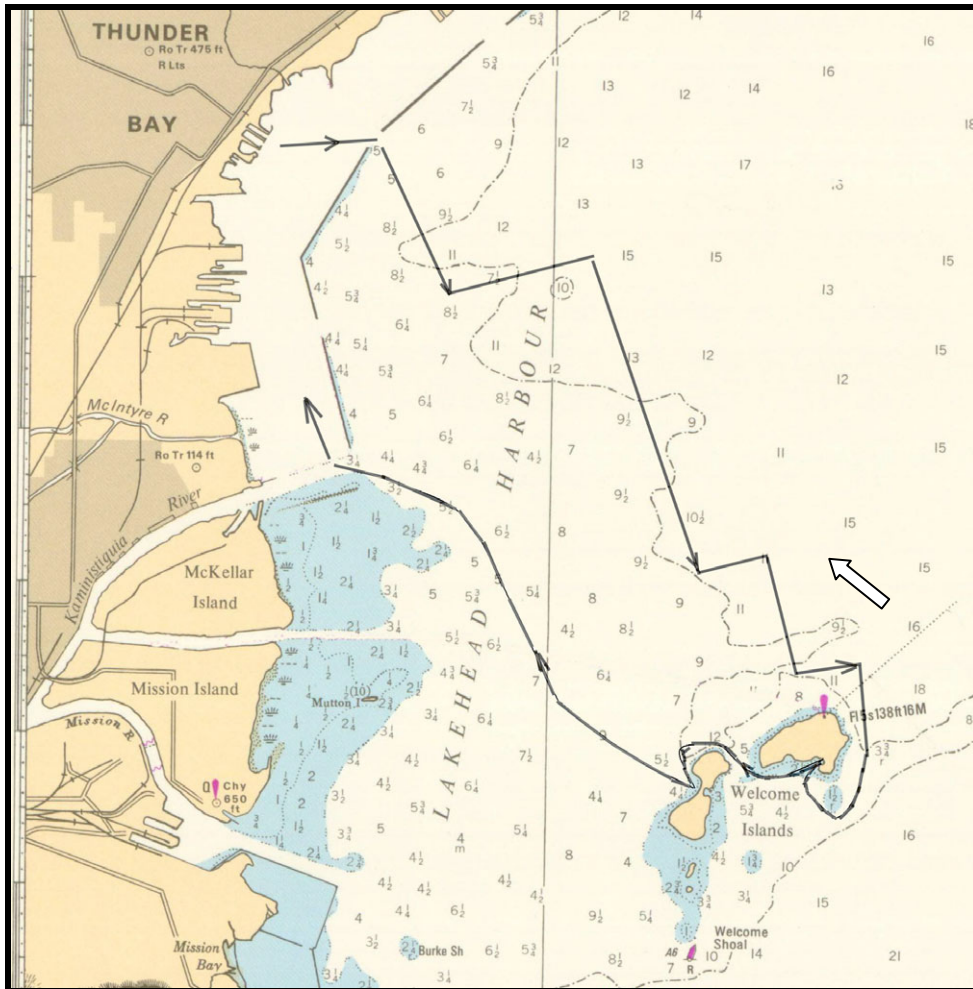


A day-sail to the Welcome Islands ... Thunder Bay

Andrew Hail W9657

The Welcome Islands lie about 6 nm offshore from the city of Thunder Bay. 'Round the Welcomes' is a popular offshore keel boat race and 'out-there' enough to be a bit of a journey. On a nice mid-September 06 day it was the cruise destination for W9657.



After leaving the dinghy dock and sailing outside the breakwater the camera is remembered. A look back towards the north part of the city.



We have light winds and an upwind destination starboard tack aims us east towards the Sibley peninsula and its unique landform the Sleeping Giant which forms the far side of the bay the city is named after.



The goal ... the two islands known as the Welcomes.



The red roof of the Coast Guard buildings become apparent once close to the islands.



The Sleeping Giant reposes in the distance ... a provincial park, and the highest cliffs in Ontario.



The navigation light and buildings on the steep edge of the eastern island ...



... and the outer shore before sailing around the reef at the corner of the island.



Tucked into the protection of the small bay is a dock... now with a W as the island's only visitor.



A walk across the island on the old access path...



... to reach the Welcome Island navigation light. Still in Coast Guard fashion but no longer manned.



Overlooking over the cliff edge ... and Thunder Bay proper...



... and back to the city across the route from the mainland.



Returning to the dock via a forest footpath and around the shoreline of the island.



Departure into the gap... and into a quickly freshening breeze off Lake Superior.



A diversion to check out the western Welcome Island....



... with its framed view of the Giant.... followed by a great spinnaker run back to town with enough wind and gybe practice to keep the camera stowed.