North Bay Wayfarer Fleet Day Cruise to Sunset Cove Lake Nipissing – 1 September 2007

A keen group of Wayfarer enthusiasts gathered at the North Bay Yacht Club on this cool, sunny Saturday morning with the prospect of a long day on the water interspaced with the socializing opportunities seldom missed by such intrepid "adventurers".

The forecast for the day was for northeast winds at 10 knots in the morning to be followed by light and variable winds in the afternoon. As it turned out, there was none of the former and much of the latter, but we were not deterred from the task at hand – get to the Sunset Cove Inn for lunch and then return, a 24 mile return trip by water.



After an hour of preparations and with the boats ready to go, the crews did one last review of the charts, noting way points, rocks, and islands along the planned route.

We set off from NBYC in Callander Bay at 10:00am with much enthusiasm but in near "drifter" conditions, challenging ourselves to chase elusive puffs of air until something more satisfactory arrived.



We played with the light airs for a couple of hours. More solid winds did not seem to be forth coming. Eventually, we came to the conclusion that if we are to have lunch at the Sunset Cove some mechanical intervention, of the 4 wheeled variety, would be needed; thus, temporarily abandoning ship, we made our way to Sunset Cove by car.

There, we found a little part of Georgian Bay that seemed to have been detached and left on Lake Nipissing. Rocks and pine trees, clear water and beaches, combined with the 21 degree temperatures we were now enjoying, made for a great spot to stop for lunch.





The Sunset Cove Inn offers a good menu that features some excellent German and Hungarian choices including Goulash and Spätzle, Wienerschnitzel, Sausage and Sauerkraut. We also cannot forget the staple of Wayfaring – the beer selection included choices of German beer (such as Dab, Lowenbrau and Pauliner).

Of course, we had no choice but to sample!



All of that eating and beer "sampling" called for a little R&R on the beach before we made our way back to our Wayfarers to face the challenges of "light and variable" winds once again, teased by what appeared to be a lovely northwest breeze all the while we were eating lunch.





Our band of intrepid Wayfarer sailors:

Brian Stepaniuk (top left)

Ross Jamieson (top right)

Walter Koch

Mary Ann Johnson

Dave Hansman

Sue Pilling

Dave Richardson

Kim Rainville

Lori Jamieson (bottom left)

Carol Hansman (aka C³)

sitting on the little observation deck in the Sunset Cove harbour.



After two+ more hours on the water chasing light air patches, challenging each other to a chase round Callander Bay, it was time again to retire to shore.

Of course, in good Wayfarer tradition, out came the food and libations (including several bottles of "bubbly" in celebration of our successful 2007).









The sailing talk continued for the rest of a thoroughly enjoyable evening. There was much discussion around plans for next year, including our opportunity to host the 2008 Canadian Wayfarer National Championships. We have developed a small, very enthusiastic, group of Wayfarer sailors and we hope the growth trend continues in the future.





All the best to everyone as the 2007 sailing season draws to a close!