

Saorsa II – 2013 Cruise

SitRep 003

The adventure has begun! Although some would say that it had begun some years before, *Saorsa II* and I are now underway again on another extended cruise.

The month of May was a time of frenetic non-stop activity while I prepared the boat, finished moving belongings to storage, closed out the house, said farewell to friends, endured a couple of medical procedures to ensure my cancer remained dormant, and dealt with other shore side matters. It was thoroughly exhausting physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

We left Port Whitby Marina as planned on the morning of May 30 and sailed directly to Kingston via the “outside” route. Prior to that, we used the week-end of May 25, 26 to do some work-up training with the crew Jason and Cindy. It was two days of solid force 4 to 6 winds and we got in a full schedule of sailing exercises aboard *Saorsa II*. Then followed a few days of last minute preparations before the dock lines were cast off and we were underway.

This year, Jason S. is a new addition to the crew and has turned out to be a first-rate shipmate. Although something of a novice in sailing, he is enthusiastic, energetic, cheerful in adverse circumstances, and just generally great to have on board. I’m simply delighted he was able to join us. My other crew member, Cindy H., was aboard for last year’s cruise and has again joined the ship’s company. Fortunately, the on-board chemistry between the three of us is just great and we have a ***very*** happy ship.

In Kingston, we cleaned up and had a run ashore. We shared a pint with Andy, the sail maker, and I bid him a fond farewell as we parted. We bought a few fresh provisions and departed Kingston the next day.

The prevailing westerly winds drove us along and we had a few days of grand down-wind sailing as we worked our way through the Thousand Islands and on down the St. Lawrence River. Beautiful scenery all around.

We spent two successive nights at anchor before transiting the first Seaway lock and arriving at Crysler Park Marina where we have taken a dock for a “make & mend” day to re-provision, tidy, clean, do laundry, and so forth.

On reading the news this morning, Jason noted an impending VIA Rail strike with concomitant interruption of service. This forced his hand and he hastily departed for home while the trains were still running. He simply couldn’t take the risk of being trapped and unable to return to work on schedule.

It was a very sad event for all concerned. Jason had quickly become a fixture on board and on returning to the boat after his departure there was the distinct feeling that “something” was missing. I must have gotten something in my eye as a few tears ran down my cheeks. I can only hope Jason and I will again have an opportunity to sail together.

So, for now, *Saorsa II* will carry on with Her Captain Zaphod and The Crew Cindy.

I remind my correspondents that there continue to be crewing opportunities available for various portions of this cruise. One such is the leg of the cruise from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Boston, Massachusetts. This will require a minimum one month commitment from late July until late August or early September. The reward will be cruising through the epicentres of Canadian and American maritime history along some of the most spectacular and challenging coastline to be found.



I encourage all who are of good moral fibre, strong back, and adventuresome spirit to contact me directly if interested.

In return, you'll find adventure, hardship, good food, strong drink, charming companionship, and wonderful memories.

Yours aye, Bill
(aka Captain Zaphod)

June 4, 2013

