

2020 Ice Breaker Cruise Report

The Ice Breaker Cruise to Trenton has been an annual Victoria Day weekend tradition at the Cobourg Yacht Club for many years and, although it had to be delayed this year, the tradition continued despite the pandemic. On Saturday morning, August 1, five boats set sail from Cobourg: Nemesis, Slip Stream, Time Well Spent, Jigsaw and Aquavit. Typically, the wind was on the nose and we managed just a bit of motor sailing on the lake before turning into Presqu'ile Bay and heading through the Murray Canal. At least the skies were clear and the temperature moderate. We were clearly not alone in using our boats to defy the mind numbing tedium of the pandemic ... I have never seen so much boat traffic on the route to Brighton and the transient dock at Trentport was well used. Boaters coming in from the east told us that marinas down that way are unusually busy as well.



1 Slip Stream and Jigsaw Departing Cobourg

As usual, Trentport did an excellent job of looking after us. Washrooms were open during business hours and, while the Covid-19 protocols meant an occasional wait outside the building while they were being cleaned, that was really no issue. Unfortunately, BBQ's were not available so we were unable to gather around them for drinks and a communal meal as we would normally do. However, we were

docked next to each other and were able to share conversations while still keeping the required distance.



2 Aquavit, Nemesis, Jigsaw, Time Well Spent and Slip Stream at Trentport

Sunday's weather was quite unusual with frequent, short bursts of rain and wind. I saw over 40 knots on my anemometer at one point during the day. But there were intervals of relative calm as well and we gathered at the marina to slake the thirsts we had built up zipping and unzipping our rain screens all day.



3 Time for an afternoon get together at Trentport

The weather cleared by our departure time on Monday morning but, as to be expected, the wind now blew from the direction we were heading at close to 20 knots. So another slow, bumpy slog back to Cobourg. I am sure that I am not the only sail boater who, having spent 4 hours watching the Sabic plant draw nearer so painfully slowly, thought that perhaps a burn rate of 20 gph wouldn't be such a bad price to pay for an extra 20 knots of speed.

Despite the poor sailing conditions and social gatherings restrictions, Melinda and I thought the cruise was a success. We escaped the pandemic tedium on our boat, disconnected with CNN and the madness south of us and reconnected with some wonderful fellow CYC members. As I have said in the past, I believe a cruising program is an important and highly enjoyable component of a yacht club, bringing its members together through the shared experience of a cruise. Unfortunately, we have to concede this summer's battle to the virus and limit the cruising program to this one event. But we will not concede the war ... with a bit of luck a more ambitious cruising program will be back in place next year.



4 Slip Stream, Time Well Spent and Jigsaw westbound in the Murray

As always, suggestions for more cruising activities are always welcome.

Respectfully,

Torben Drewes

Cruise Captain