

## Speeding by Galiano: Sunday's Montague Harbour Race August 18, 2019

By Tony Brogan and Greg Taylor

You would have thought the lead boats had Scylla chasing them. Who is Scylla, you ask? She is, according to Homer, 'a ferocious monster with six heads and twelve dangling legs who hid in a cave on one side of a narrow straits'. And how do I know this? Because I just read a novel called Circe by Madeline Miller, which is well worth the read.

But I digress. You see, you are missing Tony already. But Tony is taking a well deserved break from report writing this week. And since I was so far behind the leaders, I have to fill the report with something.

Back to racing, and indeed, the racers were racing. If they sailed roughly the same distance as Skeena Cloud (16.75 nm), they *averaged* close to 6 knots, including tacks, gybes, etc. Even Skeena Cloud averaged 5.

Imagine, they made it from the club, through Montague Harbour - Julia Is (P) to Sphinx Island (P) - in about 2 hours and 45 minutes. Ogoopogo did it in a minute over 2 and ½ hours!

Thank goodness John Gauld kindly, seeing the conditions, and knowing Radiant Heat had one crew member, volunteered to come aboard Skeena Cloud. I am sure, after crewing aboard Radiant Heat for years, he got a bit of a rude awakening aboard SC. It must have been like going from co-pilot of a jetliner to climbing into a Cessna 185 with a pilot who John was unsure even had his pilot's licence.

All I can say for sure about the sailing was the SE wind began building at the start and kept on building until we had to reef both the genoa and main after clearing Second Sister. Between the wind and tide slop we shipped some water on occasion which is always fun and a somewhat rare event racing around here. But it also says we were still heeled too far to be efficient, and were slower than we needed to be.

We also had a miserable start as the crew (that would be me) screwed up the release on the first tack and poked the spreader through the genoa. It also took us some time to get the boat balanced as we had too much sail up even going up the harbour.

So, by the time we cleared Second Sister, the leaders were heading through Captain's Pass on the ebb. John made a great decision on course selection and we gained some ground by not having to tack to get into the mouth of the Pass. I closed my eyes as we slid by first Scott Point and then Nose Point.

Heading out of the Pass, we saw to our surprise we were being trailed by one of the mega-yachts that had spend Saturday in Salt Spring who was also heading for

Montague, and we were pulling ahead. Or maybe he just felt sorry for us and thought he would allow us to be ahead of someone.

We saw that the leaders had a bit less breeze crossing Trincomali so let out first the genoa and then shook out the reef in the main. Entering Montague Harbour the wind was now directly on our stern, the worst point of sail for SC. And with little room to gybe we experimented with the whisker pole. We considered the spinnaker, as we saw at least two other boats were flying theirs, but the strength of the wind in the genoa cured us of that idea.

Rounding Sphinx Island we could see the wind had come again in Trincomali so in preparation, again reefed the main. I should have reefed the genoa. My only excuse is we were having fun heeled over, taking the odd wave aboard. We received a bit of a wind shift to our benefit so instead of having to tack as much as the leaders, we made it from Sphinx Island, through the Pass, and on to Second Sisters, in only four tacks. One thing John taught me (probably learning it from his time aboard Radiant Heat) is that I need to get more comfortable sailing the beach.

Once in the harbour, we shook out the reef and again opted for white sails, gybing back and forth to avoid, except for a brief time, sailing DDW. It was likely a good decision to not fly the spinn as we crossed the finish line at 6 knots, and likely would have been a pinball in Squalor Bay before getting it down.

Many, many thanks to John Gauld who made it a fun, if energetic, sail instead of the stuff of nightmares should I have sailed it alone.

Congratulations to the leaders, amazing sailors all.

As usual, we enjoyed beverages and snacks on the dock. And April, after some prodding, told us about some of her amazing volunteer work with the Junior program.

***But, just in the nick it time, Tony returns with the real write-up. It appears he is a successful at retiring as me.***

For a week the Sunday wind forecast had called for 10-15 knots .

Getting to the dock the wind was 7-8 knots from the SE and so beside the jib the Genoa was strapped to the deck in case the wind abated to 6 knots or less. It never happened. Highs of 22 knots apparent were noted.

The start approach revealed we were early and a circle was required to run the clock. Imp slipped into the vacant spot sailing down the line on port and flipped to starboard ahead of us as we completed our circle.. RH luffed up to the mark trapping Imp outside the Starboard end. Using the sprightly performance she is named for Imp ducked the stern of Radiant heat as we both slid over the line.

And such was the battle joined until the last 30 seconds of a boisterous race.

Leading the way from start to finish was Ogopogo. At the beginning we, the five boats, tacked back and forth out past Sisters at good speed. Ogopogo, having periodic problems with the wave action, was not leaving us, Radiant Heat, Imp and Oasis, much behind, although Skeena Cloud was in some trouble with the sail set and had already dropped back.

The turn for Captains Passage was a beat and Imp was inside and close to RH while Oasis was a little further back and further out was heading closer to Welbury Spar.

The first test, as it has been for recent races, was to avoid the potential rock awash at low tide on the reef marked by the spar. I have never seen the rock above the water but there was, this time, a patch of floating kelp confirming the location of shallow rocks in that area. Imp was enough left to have no worries going over a deeper place. Radiant Heat bore off to the left in the last 100 yard to avoid the kelp and stay out of the shallow zone. Oasis and Ogopogo both tacked out toward the Welbury Spar and then tacked again to the passage.

Imp and Radiant Heat went up to the Scott Point shore and then tacked out to clear the point. Ogopogo was now out in the pass past the ebb tide line, Oasis was making the pass while Radiant heat and Imp crossed the entrance to Long Harbour staying in the counter current until Nose point was reached.

Here Ogopogo stretched her lead in a gentle fashion on the reach to Montague harbour. Oasis showed her water length extra speed and inched ahead while Radiant Heat and Imp traded first advantage to one and then the other depending on the wind gusts but Rh retained her lead. And that was the order of possession into the harbour entrance. As we turned down wind the spinnakers popped one by one but Oasis opted for head sail and did remarkably well as we were well nigh to Spinx Island before we were again close together, even after spells of 7-8 knot boat speed . The turn back to Trincomoli was in the shadow of the islands and less wind. Here Oasis and RH traded places twice with Imp hovering a little away. Ogopogo was gone on the beat to Captains passage , Oasis was next, followed by Radiant Heat and Imp taking the short inside track and gaining little only 100 yard away. We wondered at the progress of Skeena cloud but we did not sight her.

It was the long beat to the Saltpring shore. Oasis to windward and Imp astern until an aberration of the skipper or the wind had RH 15 degrees off the wind more than the other two boats. Both were now somewhat ahead and that is the way it was to be to the finish line. No matter how the tacks through the passage were executed, none had a perceived advantage.

Captains pass was incredibly still ebbing as we came through and so we stayed out a little to advantage us but to little effect. Up with the spinnaker was Imp and RH , reaching hard to sisters and then the turn down the harbour. RH gained a little near the

end as the other two boats jibed, Oasis keeping ahead. and were were over the line at 7 knots with an emergency spinnaker take down before we tangled with Squalor bay.

Ogopogo was in 15 minutes earlier and crew were enjoying the sun on the dock.

Finish times were remarkably close and the adjusted times even closer. It will not take much to turn last into first and first into last place. Just a misplaced tack or a small hole will do it.

Where were the avid sailors. This is a hard to repeat sail. let us see you out next week.

### Montague Harbour - 8/18/2019

Start: Start 1, Finishes: Place

Rank	Boat	SailNo	NHC3	Start	Finish	Elapsed	Corrected	BCR	Points
1	Radiant Heat	67901	0.951	10:30	13:16:44	02:46:44	02:38:34	0.951	100
2	Oasis	421	0.96	10:30	13:15:51	02:45:51	02:39:13	0.956	80
3	IMP	2107	0.962	10:30	13:16:15	02:46:15	02:39:56	0.954	60
4	Ogopogo	2	1.064	10:30	13:01:35	02:31:35	02:41:17	1.046	40
5	Skeena Cloud	121	0.845	10:30	13:50:57	03:20:57	02:49:48	0.789	20