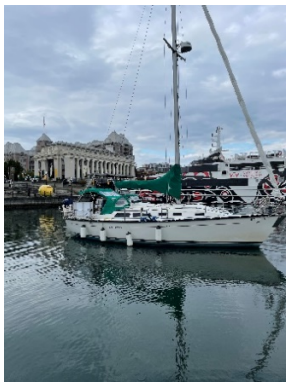
Victoria Inner Harbour Cruise, September 13 to 16

Originally nine boats expressed interest in participating in the cruise but due to mechanical issues and COVID concerns five boats made the trip. The participants were Graham Likeness and Deb Osborne on *Commitment*, John and Bridget Metzger on *Kingfisher*, Ted and Barbara Baldwinson on *Snorri B*, Randall Walford on *Swell Skimmer* and Jon Taylor on *Yin & Yang*.

The cruise began on a beautiful, sunny Tuesday morning with mirror-like calm seas and warm temperatures. Enroute Snorri B, Yin & Yang and Commitment rafted together just south of James Island to enjoy a beverage.



All participants arrived at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club safely around 4 pm. Other than a mix up by the wharfinger concerning one of our slip assignments we all settled in for the night at the beautiful facilities at RVYC.

Appetizers and beverages were enjoyed on Commitment's flybridge courtesy of Graham and Deborah. Later in the evening a visit to a neighborhood pub by a few participants provided an opportunity to stretch our legs and enjoy some pub grub and local brew.

The next morning, we were blessed with calm seas and sunshine again for our trip to the Victoria Inner Harbour. This was the first time cruising into the Harbour for most participants. Maneuvering past the 5,135 ton M.V. Coho was interesting. We all had experience dodging the float planes.

Our slip assignments provided us with a fabulous view of the Express Hotel and Legislative Assembly and great proximity to vibrant downtown Victoria.

The afternoon was free time so most people went shopping, strolling around the harbour or listening to the live music on Wharf Street.

Prior to having a group supper at the Keg we shared delicious appetizers and beverages on the dock.

Our first activity on Thursday was an educational tour of the Legislature. Even though most participants were long time BC residents, it was the first time many had visited BC's parliament buildings.

Our original plan for a 'pub crawl' in the afternoon was revised to drinks and dinner at the *Irish Times Pub*, a Victoria landmark. We were fortunate to be entertained by live jazz bands on many of the downtown streets on the walk to the pub.

We had thought we'd make the trip home on Friday morning however gale warnings changed our plans. Some participants left on Thursday and others stayed over until Saturday morning.

The weather on Saturday morning for our cruise home was sunny, warm and the seas were calm.

I'd like to think *a good time was had by all*. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone and look forward to cruising together again in the future.

Shout out to Graham and Deborah for assisting the Coast Guard on a May Day call on their return on Thursday.

Jon Taylor

Yin & Yang