

Give Me the Sea
Eric Laux

There are some who yearn for the open sky, with its pristine offering of hope, but the clouds hold nothing for me.

Instead promise me the sea, wide and deep, and the joy of treading her waves. Let me have just the water, and hope will wing to me.

Others dream of the vast-spread plains, a rich bounty their offering, but I do not wish for the wealth of the grasses.

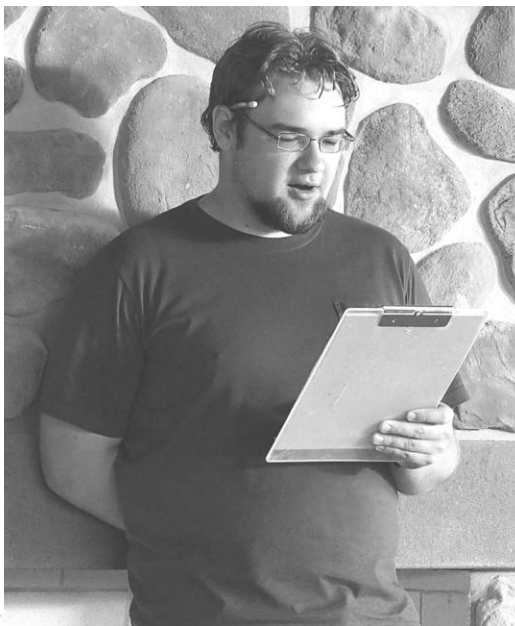
Instead give me sail, strong and taut, with all the swiftness that awaits. Let me just have the unbreaking iron that lies hidden in canvas, and I will be as rich as I ever need.

Give me a hull, a mast, give me rope and give me crew, I shall want for naught. Keep your sky and keep your plains, keep your hope and keep your wealth.

Leave only for me a ship, strong and swift. Leave only for me a crew, loyal and fierce. Leave only for me the water, for there I am free.

There, I am home.

Eric Laux reads his poem at the Black Tie Event during the Rally at Wellesley Island State Park.



Wellesley Island State Park, Thousand Islands
July 18—25, 2015 by Trish McDermott W1392

Trish and husband, Scott Bogue attended their first rally and Trish related these impression in her article written for the Lake Townsend August newsletter.

Imagine beautifully clear water splashed with islands that have summer cottages and even some castles. Lots of green and blue, and spectacular multicolored

sunsets. A place that makes you sigh with contentment and sheer pleasure. The Thousand Islands.



Ten year old Julien Asselstine, grandson of Alan and Mary and the youngest participant at the WISP Rally, looks completely comfortable at the helm.

It's a thirteen hour drive from Greensboro, but worth every hour, even worth the occasional traffic jam. The Thousand Islands area has that northern rocky ruggedness from tough winters and the genteelness of "summertime and the livin' is easy." Lush with pines, beautiful hardwoods, intriguing island homes, and a rocky shoreline, it's easy to fall in love with the area.

Twenty-two Wayfarers and one GP-14 from as far as Florida, Wisconsin, Michigan, and of course, North Carolina, joined the many Canadian Wayfarers to cruise the St. Lawrence River. It was very interesting sailing in a current. One excursion took us through a narrow passage where a big tour boat honked at us to get out of the way. Sailing downwind with the current made for tough maneuvering. Once through the narrows, we were headed into the wind and against the current. Some of us were sailing backward! Tacking a million times, it seemed like we were getting nowhere. The wind was shifty, sometimes strong, and occasionally it died right in the midst of us hiking to keep the boat flat.

The entire event was well organized, with morning meetings to discuss the cruise for the day. Many sailors were familiar with sailing the St. Lawrence and brought their charts. Each day was a different route around picturesque islands and through narrow passages where sometimes the paddles had to come out. We stopped at idyllic Canoe Point for lunch

twice. You can camp here but you have to bring everything by boat. On Sunday, at the park's brand new pavilion, the Wayfarers enjoyed a pig picking with wonderful food, but the "black tie" potluck event on Tuesday was a feast to remember! You should've seen all the sumptuous food these campers brought! Amazing! What a beautiful place and a fun Wayfarer family!

**Exciting North Americans Attract
14 Wayfarers to Fine New Venue
in Cobourg, Ontario
Al Schonborn W3854**

Very close competition marked a thrilling Wayfarer North Americans hosted July 25-26 for the first time by the excellent Cobourg YC. Sail Parry Sound's Sue Pilling and Steph Romaniuk consistently sailed just that little bit faster and smarter to capture their first ever North American title by a wide points margin in light to medium airs.

Saturday began warm and sunny but windless and a fairly lengthy postponement gave the six of us who had risen early to make the two-hour drive from the Rally at the Thousand Islands' Wellesley Island State Park a chance to prepare in a nice relaxed way. In the early afternoon, a SW breeze finally settled in, rising to about 8 knots by the time six relatively short races had been completed. The first of these was subsequently scrubbed due to an Uncle Al request for redress. The protest committee agreed with Al's contention that a course designation of "2" (two legs, one windward-leeward sausage) had not been described as an option in either the SI's or the oral instructions at the skippers' meeting. They also agreed with Al's contention that, while the RC had changed the course board from "4" to "2" well before the Warning Signal, Al (and half the rest of the fleet) were justified in not seeing this change since a long start line that was extremely pin-end favoured in a virtual drifter made a re-check of the course board a risky proposition because it would have taken well over five minutes to get back to the pin end.

There were some very notable performances in that Saturday afternoon's racing. These included a natural hat trick of wins by Sue and Steph who took races 3, 4 and 5. Race 2 went to Mike and Marg while race 6 went to the Pughs. No wins but excellent results for Conestoga's Leo and Joanne Van Kampen as well as the Daves - Hansman and Richardson - from North Bay. So fine in fact that it is worth remembering that time with pictures of the first awards ceremony on

Sunday that was inadvertently based on the Saturday evening's standings:

Sunday was a similar weather story, but with a 2 PM cut-off time, our fine RC had to jump at the first sign of wind. Just as well, too, because after two very light-air races - won by Uncle Al with son, David, and the ubiquitous Sue and Steph- the wind decided it had had enough and quit for the day. An amazing five teams ended up within two points in the fight for the runner-up spot which wound up in a three-way points tie that was broken in the following order: Mike and Marg Duncan of Mississauga SC, Al and David Schonborn of TS&CC, Dave Hansman and David Richardson of North Bay YC (most firsts, most 2nds, etc.)

One point back of this trio were David and Anne Pugh of MSC who in turn edged out Conestoga's Leo and Joanne Van Kampen by only one point. Counting 3-7-6-7-4-6 were TS&CC's Kit Wallace and George Waller who finished an extremely respectable 7th overall. Kit and George were followed by the Mississauga SC team of Rob Wierdsma and Donna Gallant, their series highlighted by a fine 5th in race 2.

Completing the top ten were the 2015 North Americans *Most Improved* teams, Jan d'Ailly with Scott Ramsay (13th seed) and Bob Stevenson with Andrew McCaughey (Sat.) and Cam Christie (Sun.), the 14th seed. By placing 9th and 10th overall respectively, Jan and Bob each beat their predicted finish by an impressive four places. Well done, gang!!

Losing to Bob by a mere one point were our hosts, Colin Junkin and his wife, Heather, who acquitted themselves very well on the race course while at the same time being in charge of regatta success. They ended up falling just that little bit short in most of the races.

And one point further back came Jim Heffernan with Texan grandsons, Nathan and Sean, the first of our three world-traveller entries, a couple of North Carolina boats from the Lake Townsend YC and even one from Mount Dora, Florida. Also representing the LTYC was AnnMarie Covington (W276) who borrowed Tom Goldsmith's Mark III *Lovely Day* which came complete with Tom as crew. An all-Eustis (Florida) team, John Cadman and Pat Kuntz set a reachable goal of beating at least one boat in the series with their cruise-rigged Wayfarer and did accomplish that feat as they placed 11th of 14 in Sunday first race.

PHOTOS OF WISP RALLY on page 6

