

Often the Thousand Islands are identified as three separate groups and everyone has an opinion about their favourite anchorages. With most islands being private, dog owners prefer to anchor along those with designated as parks, such as *Aubrey*, *Mermaid*, *Bellevue Rivage*, *Thwartway* and *Mulcaster* and *Gordon Island* in the *Navy Islands*. *Half Moon Bay* on the south side of *Bostwick Island* is a cruiser's favourite, just a 20 minute dinghy ride from *Gananoque*. There is something for everyone! Here are a few of *Pat Drummond's* favourites!

Pat's favourite 1000 islands anchorages

Pat Drummond and Jim with their Aloha 32



MardiGras II and Namaste at anchor off Half Moon Bay - S. Grimes

• **Leek (Thwartway) Island** has moorings in its small south bay, but you can also anchor. Many boats anchor east of the island, but be sure to set an anchor light as it is near a frequently travelled route to Gananoque. (A friend of mine had a runabout and ice cubes land on his deck here one evening!) Boats may want to take a line ashore to limit the swing when it gets crowded. Anchoring in the islands near Gananoque usually means weeds and mud. Farther east toward Rockport, you might anchor in deeper water with weed and “rock”. Nearly all anchorages can be tricky in a thunderstorm – I know people who swear they will never do it again!

• **Brakey Bay** in the “Forty Acres” south of Howe Island is a favourite of sailors. Close to park islands and marinas around Gananoque, there is anchoring room north-east of Beurivage Island if you don’t mind the wakes from the busy channel. South of this island by Wanderers Channel is quieter, with more room to swing, but you may be exposed to strong prevailing winds. Be prepared to leave if you plan to anchor overnight.

• **Endymion Island** South of Endymion Island is one of the best and most popular anchorages with 7 moorings (fee). Wakes from the passing boats can be a problem, as always. If you anchor, stay well clear of boats on moorings – they won’t “swing” on a wind shift but you will. A small day fee allows you to use shore facilities. Recent changes to protect flora and fauna have resulted in removal of many docks, camp-sites and trails in this lovely park. Even trash cans are becoming extinct.

• **Camelot** has moorings beside the channel on the north side. The mooring buoys inside the south-west bay are popular. The bay is nicknamed “Hotel California” because “you can check out anytime you like, but you can never “leave.” Keel and props often touch the rocks, especially when leaving, because the sun is often in the skipper’s eyes. We passed west of the plastic bottle in the entrance with a 5-ft. draft in August – probably we were just lucky.

• **Mulcaster Island** West of Mulcaster Island is a nice bay, but it is getting more and more crowded every year. There are rocks to miss approaching Mulcaster, before you turn to port (west) along the shore until it opens up into a bay in the middle of a group of islands. There are spots with weeds and those without – I’ll let you find them! You can also anchor east of the island’s main dock – it is exposed to wakes, but works as a nice day anchorage.

• **Half Moon Bay** (pictured left) is located on the south-east end of Bostwick Island in the Admiralty Island group about 2.5 km (1.5 miles) southwest from Gananoque. If your boat draws more than 3 feet, stay in the centre of the bay as it is shallow.

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www.trident-yc.ca

Call 659-4130 if you would like to request transport on a volunteer's boat.

Home of the famous in water Sunday Services for over 50 years, Half Moon Bay has welcomed visitors to worship on Sundays afternoons at 4:30 during the summer months. Arrive early to enjoy 15 minutes of music anchored in the beautiful natural rock bay before the hymns and guest speakers (non-denominational) service begins.

• **Wanderer's Channel**

A favourite boat trip is from Endymion Island to Mermaid Island using the back channels. Go west to Leek Island (Thwartway), and turn north to pass Leek's east side. You meander along the west side of the Huckleberry Islands (watch for rock markers here). On a normal south-west wind, this is the only wavy spot. You will notice on your left red and green spar buoys coming from the "Forty Acres" as you continue on the route between islands that leads to Gananoque. As you approach the end of the island chain, Wanderer's Channel branches to the west and takes you between a number of islands to Mermaid Island. Watch for a rock marker that appears to be in the middle of the channel and be sure to pass to the south! You will pass another park island with docks, Macdonald Island, about mid-way. Don't be surprised if you meet the tour boat in

this narrow channel! Just slow down and stay as far to the edge of the channel as you can safely go. 



Pat Drummond

Sadly we sold our cruising boat and are now retired on the Rideau Waterway where our boating life began 37 years ago. We cruised the Rideau Canal, Thousand Islands, and NYS Canal for five years by power, then after the skipper and I crewed for a friend on his Cabot 36 sailboat in the Bahamas, we acquired the cruising "bug" and bought "Chester Longtree", an Aloha

32. It took a few years, but we finally moved aboard with our cat "Skipper" for a 15-month snowbird cruise. Back in Canada, we cruised the Thousand Islands and Great Lakes over the 24 years. I created "Boating in Canada" back in 1996, when there was very little boating information online - neither CPS nor CYA were planning to create any. So I sat down with a folder of information and started typing. It's always been a simple design because people used "dial-up" connections then, and someday I might even redesign it. I've met so many people online and offline because of this site. I've almost retired it several times in those 19 years, but there's always someone who writes me to say how much it helped them, and so it continues...Visit www.BoatinginCanada.com
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• **Main Duck Island**

If you have some extra cruising time in your plan either on your way to or returning from the Thousands Islands, this remote island is worth a visit. Once settled by the Iroquois, then as a small fishing village in the early part of the century, Main Duck Island marks the eastern end of the Lake, and is a favourite remote, peaceful sanctuary for birds and sailors alike.

Main Duck's lighthouse has been an important navigational aid for lakera for years because of high visibility. When approaching watch for low lying rocky shoals. Depths become more shallow as you proceed inwards. along a narrow channel marked with a range which you should use, as the sides of this channel rise almost vertically. It is critical that you do not try to enter the bay on the north side of the small island. You MUST enter via the channel on the South side on the exact bearing of 232 ° and between the channel markers.

The public wharf is on the east side of Schoolhouse Bay with 2 to 3 feet of water and room for a half dozen rafted dinghy or shallower draft boats.

Anchoring conditions vary from soft and muddy to weedy and the wind can at times blow hard. A second anchor may be required to reduce swing in crowded situations. You will need your depth sounder to pick your way in and might consider a



- Anchored at Main Duck PHOTO- Rick Verschoor, Waupoos Marina

trip line on your anchor for weeds and to mark its location for others.

John Foster Dulles, the future secretary of state for Dwight D. Eisenhower, bought much of the island as a summer place, in 1941. After his death in 1959, a colleague inherited his land on the island. The Nature Conservancy of Canada purchased this land circa 1976. It was then purchased by Parks Canada in 1977 and has been a part of the Thousand Islands National Park since 1998.

For more information visit - www.cruisingguide.ca

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