

2024 Victoria Cruise

September 27, 28 & 29

Report by Randall Walford

On a beautiful sunny and warm fall morning, **Ted and Barb Baldwinson** on ***Snorri B*** and **Randall Walford** on ***Swell Skimmer*** set out from the Club to meet up with **Jamie and Alison Pettigrew** on ***Tranquillitas*** at Sidney Spit for a lunch stop and a hike.



The western wind supported a fine opportunity for Swell Skimmer to raise sail!



Leaving Sidney Spit together, the next stop was into reciprocal slips at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, where happy hour and an excellent dinner were enjoyed by all as we watched our Club junior sailors arrive and set up for the next day's regatta.

Saturday morning saw us leave in calm waters and gentle winds to make the journey to the Inner Harbour's Causeway Marina of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, where the welcoming staff allowed us to tie up a few hours earlier than their normal arrival time. There was time for a leisurely lunch and some shopping before all five joined the *Discover the Past* guided historic walking tour of Old Town, Chinatown, and around the harbour. We were all impressed with the knowledge and passionate delivery of the tour guide as he entertained us with history and stories of the past during an almost two hour walking tour.

After our tour, we had a few hours of free time in Victoria before getting together for drinks, then dinner at Finns on the waterfront. The company, food, and beverages were excellent and all had a good time.



Wonderful dinner at Finns!

It was 10:30 or so when we walked back to our boats for a quiet night in the shadows of the Empress Hotel and provincial legislature building.



Sleeping in the shadows of the Empress Hotel

Sunday morning Ted and Barb headed off for a walk up Rockland Ave to take in a walking tour of Government House, a tour of the McMichael Gallery's Sobey exhibit, and a visit to Craigdarroch Castle – all within blocks of each other. Alison, Jamie, and Randall opted for a visit to the provincial museum, where they saw the travelling Stonehenge exhibit.

Ted and Barb opted to stay in Victoria another night while the others left for their respective home ports. While still sunny, the winds were as high as 30 knots and the wave action at Ogden Point was treacherous enough to snap the two painter lines joining Swell Skimmer to its dinghy. It was white-knuckle sailing for Swell Skimmer, and definitely the most engaging part of her 7 hour voyage back to Saltspring. For Jamie and Alison, an overheating problem occurred and they pulled into Oak Bay Marina to let things cool down. After chilling for a while, they resumed their trip and made it back to Sidney without incident.

On Monday, Ted and Barb cruised back to the Club in calm water, without any excitement except that which naturally comes from speeding between Ogden Point and the Club in two hours!



Home again – all's well that ends well!