

The Royal Manitoba Yacht Club

Our Initial Experience with the Royal Manitoba Yacht Club



The first time I heard anything about the Royal Manitoba Yacht Club was when friends and neighbours were at the riverside by Copa Cabana. We were all watching a RMYC Parade on the water. Our oldest son, Colin was maybe 4 or 5 years old and he saw a big red and white boat and he yells out to everyone “There is my Daddy’s boat!” The boat or yacht had to be at least 35 feet long, but it sure was painted the same colour as my 16 ft red and white Poplar Mechanics design with two prominent fins and wide gunnels. That is nearly 50 years ago and a lot of water has gone under the bridge. My son Colin, is now a family man with 2 of his own children, Madison and Michael. Colin and his wife Ingrid have brought them up to be good Manitoba adults. He is now a Vice-President of a Manitoba Company. He just bought a nice lakeside cottage. He now has his own boat and motor he can parade around with.

Thinking back, my 16 foot run-about has long been sold. We also had another boat that we had fun with an old 18 foot Aeroliner that was previously an RCMP patrol boat. I got it for cheap and Colin and I fixed it up. We had lots of experience ‘going up’ Sturgeon Falls in the Whiteshell. It was near there

that I previously had a cottage for many years at Barrier Bay.

Jacqui and I followed Colin and family up to Eagles Nest, past Pointe du Bois, for an exciting and adventurous boating trip. Some very nice successful fishing for walleyes. The Winnipeg River can be a very treacherous river when some of the Power Houses raise or lower the water 3, 4, or 5 feet. It indeed creates a new river.

Every weekend taking the boat out to a lake for two or three days got to be very onerous as the years started to pack on. It got harder and harder and it seemed we had less and less energy. Jacqui and I were starting to look at maybe other options for boating.

For many years Jacqui and I enjoyed going to the Royal Manitoba Yacht Club and having a boat fix on seeing all the various boats of different shapes and sizes. After taking a stroll down the docks to see all the boats we would go to Dockside and have a drink and a great meal.

We started a number of years ago to watch for special events at the club. There were several of them and you could go even as a non-member and have fun and a great experience.

It did not matter whether it was a Seafood Night, Filet Night, Thanksgiving, Halloween or any other event, they were all top drawer. It was great food and superb entertainment and friendly volunteer members. They could really make you feel at home and happy to be there.

Last year Jacqui and I were very put off about COVID-19 when we

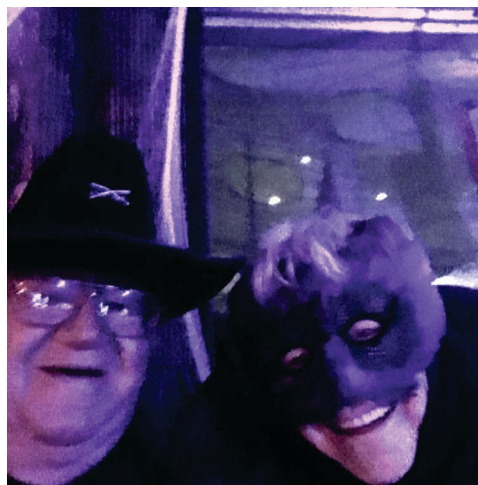


were told to stay home, watch TV, do not go out, have your groceries delivered. we immediately made up our minds we were not going to let COVID-19 put us down and out. Rather we would turn it to our advantage where ever we could.

We would wake up in the morning and say were are going to have Alternative Bacon and Eggs for breakfast. So one morning we would have a small slice of Banana Cream Pie, another morning, Black Forrest Cake with Keto Coconut Cream, another morning it would be Cinnamon Buns sliced and Keto Butter sloped on, still another morning it would be Blueberry Toast, and another morning a Fruit Basket, and still another morning Raisin Toast, and the last morning of the week we would have toast with Peanut Butter and Raspberry Jam. Wow ! It was good. My dietitian, who was helping me after my heart attack said I could eat anything I wanted as long as it was in moderation. Jacqui and I make sure we are disciplined and keep our portions of food modest.

While Jacqui and I made sure we followed all health regulation of wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands and counting to 20, we did not miss a beat on living socially. We invited family and friends every last Sunday for a Pot Luck BBQ. What fun. Lots of laughs.

We contacted our 3 sons for advice on whether to go ahead with some renovations. The answers we received were unanimous, stay put and do nothing until we see how things will shake out. Our daughters were certainly in family



agreement. So what did Jacqui and I do, we contacted our Handyman Bruno and said we had some work for him. We estimated 4 weeks. We finished some fencing, put in a sheltered California Walkway and constructed 3 Gazebos. We could enjoy entertaining rain or shine. The average Manitoban is not aware that we get an average of 77 or 78 days of rain a year. Now Jacqui and I and our guests can enjoy everyone of those days without getting wet. The work of renovations and improvements was originally planned to take 3 years to do and we did it all in 6 weeks. Wow!

In late August of 2020 we decided to look at our Bucket List and pick the biggest item to do no matter the cost. We picked the one that turned our fancy the most. It was our dream to finally get an inboard outboard motor boat. We looked at 18 boats online and then we got it down to 6 that we saw in person. I said to Jacqui that when we had it down to 3, that one would stand out and say "Pick Me!" I was right, there was one boat that kept drawing us back to take one more look.

We finally looked at all the key factors of cost, maintenance, operation, time on motor (28 hours), overall appearance, ease of control and big enough to take out family and close friends and relatives. It was also well maintained like new as it was owned by AVO Marine as a trade in.

We talked to the daughter of the owner of AVO Marine, Jessica and we let her know that we were going to spend the day talking ourselves out of the boat purchase and leave it till spring since it





was so late in the season. Jessica assured me that with only 28 hours on the engine and boat, that as soon as they put it in the showroom, it would be sold quickly. I and Jacqui agreed with her, so we basically talked ourselves back into the purchase, rather than regretting it later.

We had Avo Marine, Larry Wadge, the owner, deliver the 22 foot Larson inboard boat to the Royal Manitoba Yacht Club on Thursday, September 24/20. We had made arrangements with Brian Stevenson of the Yacht Club to dock the boat in the visitor area for 2 weeks. This allowed Jacqui and I time to get used to our boat and have a 2 week RMYC vacation. We were there everyday and night for 2 weeks. It was a lot of fun. Memories for a lifetime.

One day we went to the Forks, it was our Maiden Voyage. It was like a slow boat to China. We were seeing a big part of Winnipeg, River City, from a whole different vantage point, from the Red River and The Assiniboine River. We saw so many young people living along the river in tents. We also saw so many high rises, modern day cliff dwellers. I guess another thing that stuck out more was the amount of bridges we have. The



Canadian Museum of Human Rights was very distinctive against the blue skyline. Aspers dream come true. The Manitoba Legislature also stood out so prominent with the Golden Boy glistening in the sunlight. The Forks has become so iconic. It is a must stop and walk

around the gift shops. Then to catch a fish and chips meal from Fergies. Walleye. Very tasty, just like English Fish and chips in a newspaper.

Another day we spent going to Lockport. We had to carefully watch out for all the marker buoys and there were so many of them. Going to the

Forks there weren't any. After a wonderful cruise to Lockport, we tied the boat up and went to pick up foot long hot dogs, chips, onion rings, drinks and ice cream sundaes. The food was so tasty, so good, so Skinners!

Another day, we just spent a few hours fishing and I caught a few nice sized fish. Our friend George who was with us said it was his best day of the summer. It was also for Jacqui and I, our very best day of the summer of 2020.

That evening we had a few drinks at the bar and met a few more Yacht Club members. Everyone made us feel right at home as if we now had another family, a family of like interests: boating. The next weekend we brought friends with us, Al and Lou from our Supper Club. We each tried something different, a full order of Saint Louis Ribs, RMYC Nachos, Greek Salad, Crispy



Chicken Burger. All good, all royal tasting. Moma Joes is good food. A special meal, a special taste, a taste to be remembered.

The strawberry on the Sundae of our 2 week Royal Manitoba Yacht Club Vacation was that I was notified I won the Thanksgiving Fund-raising Draw for a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings, including Cranberry Sauce and Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream.

So Jacqui and I committed to have Joe the Club Chef, use the winnings to make a special meal for our Supper Club. He even said he could do it up Mediterranean Style. Wow! I can taste it already. Thanks Joe, thanks members of the Royal Manitoba Yacht Club.

We are now officially members and are looking forward to getting to know our new friends even better.

I wrote this for Manitoba Neighbours our Legacy Book Project.

For anyone that is interested check out our website: www.manitobaneighbours.com
Also: www.royalmanitobayachtclub.com

