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Cruising the Eastern Side of Georgian Bay

Introduction

Coming out of the Trent-Severn Water System, Georgian Bay is one of the most precious and pristine freshwater cruising areas in the world. "G-BAY" as some of the locals call it, has over 30,000 islands, and many of those islands provide great anchorages. From Southern Georgian Bay, up the east coast to Parry Sound, into the historic Byng inlet, and onwards to the North Channel, Hindson Marina, Killbear Marina, and Wright's Marina respectively, have you covered. Our group of marinas are all Family-Owned and operated, creating an intimate and welcoming environment.

Amenities

It would be our honor to assist you in what is for some a lifetime experience performing The Loop. While circumnavigating the Loop, and dropping into Georgian Bay, come meet some friendly faces at Hindson Marina in Penetanguishene Bay, Killbear Marina outside of Parry Sound, and finally at Wright's Marina in Byng Inlet the last stop before the North Channel. Our family-owned, one-stop full-service marinas are strategically placed along the eastern shores of Georgian Bay. Each marina can easily accept up to a 6' draft, has fully licensed OEM and ABYC certified mobile technicians, 24/7 emergency services, laundry services, shuttle services, provisioning, internet, and heated storage options. We have you covered! Any preventative maintenance or maintenance can be performed at any one of our locations. You may even book time with a tech to get onboard with you for recommendations on any maintenance you may have concerns with. We take customer looping experiences to the next level. Wind down in the early evenings and enjoy a chat with our local 'salty sailor' who can provide you with the best cruising routes, local weather patterns, and must-do on the hook anchorages.

We offer true convenience, no car, no problem. It is our pleasure to arrange for any road transportation you should require to local grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals, parks, beaches, or on-land day trips and if airport shuttles are required, we have you covered.

Sights and Sounds in the Area

Hindson Marina, Penetanguishene Bay

As you enter Penetang Harbor, on the east shore is a historic site. For any amateur naval historians, Penetanguishene Bay is the site of a War of 1812 British naval base. It's deep waters with steep hillsides proved to be a good site to protect and maintain ships, and to help prevent an attack in the Upper Great Lakes. The historic site and grounds have been restored as a museum which is open to the public for viewing.

[Killbear Marina / Carling Bay \(Parry Sound\)](#)

Whether you enter Parry Sound from the South Channel or make the outside trip up past Killbear Park, you might notice a subtle change in the pace of life as you step into the north of Ontario. The sweeping landscapes and clear waters invite you to take a step back and drink in the tranquility. Take a stroll through the town of Parry Sound, which can be a little more bustling in the peak tourist months. Cruise around the Sound to see some wonders of nature including the “Hole in the Wall”, the beautiful gneiss rock formations along the shores of Killbear Park and the iconic windswept white pine tree growing on a barren granite boulder in Kilcourse Bay. Have a cocktail while you enjoy a stunning sunset before taking your next steps deeper into the remote and beautiful northern Georgian Bay

[Wright's Marina, Byng Inlet in Britt, Ontario](#)

Byng Inlet on the Magnetawan River is the home of both Britt and Byng Inlet towns. Both towns are still unincorporated and boast a rich history, not only in boating & fishing, but also lumber, coal and railway industries. During your ride up the river, you can still see the old loading docks and posts for old bridges gracing the river's edge, whispering tales of old and this is where the big bass are.

The town of Britt is not as populated as it once was but is still home to St. Amant's Waterfront Inn & Marina, which is the local meeting place for everything from groceries to dining and is busy during the summer season. Britt also has an active Legion, where on Friday evenings you can go to get a meal and play darts or pool with the local crowd. Additionally, we have a Community Centre where we hold annual events such as the Annual Community Day in August. Join us on the water for our Annual Canada Day Boat Parade on the July long weekend or sign up for one of our fishing derbies in July and August!

[Navigational Concerns](#)

[Hindson Marina in Penetanguishene Bay to Killbear Marina in St. Aubyn Bay](#)

The Small Craft Route (SCR) from Southeastern Georgian Bay to Parry Sound is exceptionally well-marked with clear channels. It is advisable to stay within these markers while navigating the SCR. If using navigation software, disable the autoroute function as it is best to navigate this area manually.

Starting from Penetanguishene Bay, navigation to the Muskoka Landing Channel involves heading up the west side of Beausoleil Island, passing by Brebeuf Lighthouse (a Canadian Coast Guard station in summer). Heading north towards Parry Sound, there are stretches of open water susceptible to northwest winds. Numerous anchorages dot the route to Parry Sound.

A popular stop for lunch is Henry's Sans Souci just north of Twelve Mile Bay (closed Mon-Thurs until July, then closed Mondays only).

Taking the south channel to Parry Sound offers views of many cottages and is frequented by both cottage-goers and commercial boats. There is a swing bridge with low clearance that swings hourly, except during high winds. Alternatively, bypassing the south channel and circling Parry Island leads directly to Killbear Marina, nestled in a sheltered bay just north of the popular Killbear Provincial Park. The park provides a sheltered anchorage with sandy bottoms and a short dinghy ride to Killbear Marina for marine supplies or groceries.

[Killbear Marina to Wright's Marina, Byng Inlet in Britt, Ontario](#)

The trip from Killbear to Wright's Marina is a very scenic part of Georgian Bay. While taking the "outside route" (a straight run from Red Rock Lighthouse to the Magnetawan Ledges) may be a bit faster, most folks prefer to travel the "inside route", or "small craft channel." This route transits the east end of Franklin Island, through Shawanaga Inlet, out at the Pointe Au Baril Lighthouse, through Hangdog Channel and Bayfield Inlet. The route provides fairly sheltered waters until exiting Bayfield Inlet, where boaters are met with an approximate 11 KN exposed run North. On windy days, the prevailing West Wind can kick up a mean chop.

Boaters are encouraged to pre-plan this leg of the trip and take note of several tight turns through Pointe Au Baril and Hangdog Channel. Many loopers consider this to be one of the most scenic parts of their journey and encourage a relaxed and slow transit through this leg of the trip.

[Wright's Marina to Killarney](#)

If you choose to leave the warm and friendly atmosphere of Byng Inlet, heading north past Cunningham's Paradise to your starboard side is Black Bay, full of great fishing and wonderful anchorages. Still heading north past Golden Sword Island and Kantos point you will need to be steady and careful, watching for shoals and markers; remember "red right return". Next, Roger's Gut, a narrow well marked channel that may bring your nerves to a level not felt since Hangdog. Beyond that is Bekanon Island at the head of Henvey Inlet. Henvey offers some great anchorages and the ability to lay up against shore. There are pins placed in the granite where tie-up is easy. Do not forget to ask about anchorages before heading out of Byng Inlet. All this information is in charts and charting books we sell at our Chandlery.

Onward toward Dokis Point passing Dead Island, where many a visitor have had an epiphany where the famous artists of the "Group of Seven" captured the essence of the true nature of the Canadian Shield. Dead Island is an ancient burial place for the indigenous peoples of the Dokis First Nation. For many years, the remains found on the island were on display at the Chicago's Natural History Museum but recently have been returned to the Dokis people for reinternment to the isle. On a clear day looking to the northwest you can see the Cloche Mountain Range, home of Killarney Provincial Park.

The fabulous Bustard Islands are your next stop. "The Bustards", a group of some 500 islands, are well worth a night or two at anchor investigating the many nooks and crannies of this group. Turn in at Red Marker # D70 behind Northeast Island to find safe harbour and excellent anchorages at Tie Island. After a restful stay at the Bustards, you will be ready for more adventure. The three Bustard Island light houses will guide your way north to Beaverstone Bay. At some distance from the Bustards to Beaverstone Bay is an open stretch that may require an early morning departure as the broadside wave action can make for an uncomfortable ride later in the day.

You may have heard or watched YouTube videos about the famous Bad Channel of the French River (found between the Bustards and Grondine Point). Once anchored at the large, protected bay below the Devil's Door, you will want to launch your dingy to run the Devil's Door up to investigate Five Fingers of the French. Note: Walleye fishing in this area is outstanding - jig the bottom.

After passing Grondine Point, approaching Rooster Rock marker D86, notice the shape of Hen Island of the Chicken Island group. The channel into Beaverstone Bay is well marked, however, there are shallow spots before opening into Collins Inlet. Keep your eyes on the starboard side in the channel where you may see native hieroglyphics carved into the granite. Collins Inlet opens into your last leg of the journey to Killarney. Be sure to reserve a slip.

Provisions

Hindson Marina

A quick shuttle can take you to a fully stocked grocery store. Just across the street from the grocery store is a Shopper's Drug Mart which is the go-to for pharmaceuticals, minor groceries, and hygiene products. No car no problem, we have you covered, request a vehicle shuttle!

Killbear Marina

The town of Parry Sound is one of the last places for larger scale provisioning before entering the North Channel. There are several grocery stores to help you stock up. These include Walmart, Sobeys and No-Frills. They are not very walkable from the waterfront so you will want to arrange for transportation if you are docked in town. Smaller "corner stores" are more reachable on foot if you only need a few supplies. You will find a selection of restaurants by the water that are an effortless walk if you have come in by dinghy or are staying in the local marina.

Killbear Marina has a small grocery store available for essentials and can arrange a ride into Parry Sound for larger shopping trips. A well-stocked chandlery is also available if you need some of those all-too-common things that are always necessary on a boat! A restaurant with a patio and take out options is also available on site.

Wright's Marina

While Wright's Marina and St. Amant's Waterfront Inn & Marina are 'sister' marina's, they offer different experiences for our guests. Tucked in a quiet spot stretching along the Magnetawan River, Wright's offers beautiful, almost park-like grounds with picnic tables & BBQs for your use while you sit back on the ample decking and enjoy good company and a wonderful view. The Chandlery is stocked with marine supplies & parts, snacks & drinks, local artisan gift ideas, charts, ice and more. We have Premium and Diesel fuels, pump outs, potable water and Wi-Fi on our docks which have slips for up to 100 boats. Our on-board Service team includes a licenced marine mechanic who can help with your repair needs. Our facilities include full washrooms with showers and a laundry area and courtesy shuttle to St. Amant's.

St. Amant's Waterfront Inn & Marina is another long-time destination in Byng Inlet. We are not only a marina with docking for boats, midgrade and diesel fuels, pump outs and Wi-Fi on the docks, but we also have a stocked grocery store and restaurant for your convenience and enjoyment. Our facilities also have washrooms with showers and a laundry room. The grocery store is loaded with your restocking needs including fresh meats, seasonal fruits & veggies, snacks & drinks, fishing tackle & bait, some marine supplies & hardware, ice and, of course, the LCBO. Our newly reopened restaurant is under management by a familiar name in the area, Blake's Memories of Muskoka where they will happily host your next Captains meeting. They have a great menu with many delicious choices including a Loopers Exclusive menu. They are fully licenced and boast one of the best views on Byng Inlet.

Conclusion

We cannot wait to welcome you to one or all our family-owned marinas. We will not disappoint as we take the looper experience to the next level. Be sure to ask about our various discounts at our various marinas for 10% of service, fuel savings up to 10 cents per litre, 10% of transient slips, and a free haul out for below water line inspections!

To request a transient slip at one of our Marinas:

[Hindson Marina Transient Slip](#)

Killbear Marina email info@killbearmarina.ca

Wright's Marina email info@wrightsmarina.on.ca

St. Amants Waterfront Inn and Marina email info@stamants.ca

Contributions from:

Kelly Hindson, Owner

Walt Wachon, Owner/Manager Killbear Marina

Richard Maton, Manager Carling Bay Marina

Carol Knight, General Manager Wright's Marina and St. Amants Waterfront Inn and Marina

Don Knight, Manager Wright's Marina and St. Amants Waterfront Inn and Marina

Tracey Chartrand, Executive Assistant Wright's Marina and St. Amants Waterfront Inn and Marina

Tom Gardzinski, Continuous Improvement Manager at Hindson Marina

Pictures one of each Marina

Hindson Marina



Killbear Marina



Wright's Marina

