

From: "Inside Passage Satellite Access" <CABianco@stratosnet.com>
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Ahoy Family and Friends We are off again for another summer cruising adventure. With this journal, we invite you to come along. We plan on sending out one each week we are on the *Inside Passage* for a total of six installments.

Contact Information If you wish to be excluded from our mailing list, please address an original e-mail to Boat@BiancoProperties.com and put the word "CANCEL" in the subject line. Also, these reports are being sent with HTML coding and include photos. If your e-mail system does not handle this format and/or you would prefer the text only version without photos, also send us an original e-mail to the same address with the word "TEXT". We welcome your comments or news, but please do not use your REPLY button. Rather, start a new e-mail to the boat address.

Seasoned Crew We are pleased that our long time boating partners Herb and Lucy Pruzan are onboard again this summer (see photo). They have joined us almost every year since 1985. We left from our home Thursday morning, June 20th. For the first time in several years instead of rain, we departed in full sunshine! We had come to expect that we could only do the final boat outfitting, fueling and passing through the locks into Puget Sound in the rain. We went through the "large lock" without much delay giving us the realization that we were actually on our way to Alaska.



Victoria, B.C. We have two weeks to complete only 350 miles on this first leg of the trip to our destination of Greenway Sound near the north end of Vancouver Island. After traveling against the tide up Puget Sound, we reached the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The wind and wave conditions were quite favorable, so we experienced an easy crossing of the potentially challenging thirty miles stretch of open water to Victoria, British Columbia.. We found an open moorage spot in front of the Empress Hotel in the Inner Harbor (see photo). We learned that the annual Victoria to Maui sailboat race was scheduled to begin in just a few days. The boat moored next to us, whose owner has a

home at Kahana, Maui, recognized our Lahaina Yacht Club flag and came by to visit and borrow our water hose.

We explored the town the next morning, and then soaked in the glorious sun on the top deck. Our location afforded us free entertainment from the street musicians along the quay. Some were good; others were “not quite ready for prime time”. We introduced the Pruzans to a charming Italian restaurant, Il Terrazzo, located down the alley behind The Salvation Army store and homeless shelter. Such is Victoria. Before departing the next day, we took a



lengthy walk along the harbor path in front of the many new shore-side condos. We had almost reached the Canadian Naval Base at Esquimalt before we turned back.



Butchart Gardens We anchored Saturday evening outside of the entrance to Butchart Gardens (see photo), just past Sydney and around the Saanich Peninsula. The 55 acre gardens were created in a former limestone quarry that the very wealthy Mrs. Butchart decided looked unsightly. She began its transformation into a world class attraction over 100 years ago. The flowers (see photos) are always spectacular no matter what time of year that we have visited. The Garden attracts visitors from all over the world. Fortunately, we arrived in ample time to quickly walk through the entire area before bus loads of tourists arrived off the cruise ships.

Vancouver, B.C. The *Inside Passage* usually cruises at about 10 knots, so it was quite a ride when we hit 14.5 knots as the large incoming tide boosted us through Portlier Pass. The Strait of Georgia was very muddy all the way across and up to the Lions Gate Bridge near Stanley Park. The Fraser River must be at full flood stage for this much sediment to be floating on top of the salt water. The weekend staff at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club said they were full, so rather than get our usual reciprocal Lahaina Yacht Club moorage (read free), we moored at the Coal Harbor Marina across the bay. We discovered that there were 15,000 Shriners in town for their convention. We didn't realize there were still that many fez hats around. Vancouver is a great town to walk around and people watch. It is a very densely populated cosmopolitan city, and English is just one of the many languages you hear spoken on the streets. It has to be one of the most visually



impressive metropolitan areas in North America, if not the world. From our moorage Carl noticed that the space we have occupied in prior years at RVYC was open, so Monday morning he called the club and the regular staff welcomed us. We quickly relocated across Coal Harbor.

Whistler Ski Resort Herb rented a car and we drove to the Whistler Ski Resort for the day. It was a



beautiful two hour drive along the coast of Howe Sound. While there, we toured our mutual friend Jon Barwick's condo as well as the shops. We watched mountain bikers riding down under the ski lift area on a special course designed for them. We also observed skiers walking around the village with their equipment, which reminded us that this year there is ample snow for summer skiing in the Northwest. On our return drive, we stopped at Shannon Falls (see photo) which is a spectacular waterfall along Highway 99. Today, June 24th, is Carl's birthday, so after dinner on Granville Island, we forced ourselves to eat his chocolate birthday cake (see photo).

Lasqueti Island Departing Vancouver and finally leaving civilization behind, we had a leisurely passage north with following winds and calm seas to False Bay on Lasqueti Island. After another lazy afternoon of reading on the sunny top deck, we went ashore to

explore this remote area just west of Texada Island. It is an artistic/counter culture retreat or for permanent residents who clearly want to get away from it all. There are a few very dusty roads and many 'beater cars', but not much else. One of the highlights was the Free Store recycle center (see photo). We observed people dropping off an old couch for recycling that had previously been re-upholstered in duct tape! Our fathers, both professional upholsterers, would have been horrified at the sight. One of the few other commercial facilities was the Old Bakery Bed & Breakfast. It boasted a sign that stated "No Bras Allowed On The Island".

Desolation Sound We completed our first week with another day of calm following seas and sunny skies as we proceeded

to Eveleigh Anchorage in Desolation Sound (see photo). We have gone a complete week with the same daily description in the ships log: "Sunny and Warm". This is not the usual pattern for our northern trips,

but one that we have certainly enjoyed. All our dinners have been eaten on the upper deck and sun tan lotion has been used quite liberally. The weather is supposed to change soon, but we have appreciated it so far. More to come next week.

