

Maritime Trip Day 07, August 29, 2010 29 degrees C (85 degrees F) and sunny

The owner of the KOA, Dave Barton, stopped by our site this morning and presented us with 4 tickets to ride the Rockport Cruise out to Boldt Castle. We were thrilled as we had planned to do just that tour today! It was a pleasant half hour ride in the St. Lawrence Seaway through the Thousand Islands to the castle on Heart Island.

George C. Boldt, a self-made millionaire, became the most successful hotel magnate in America in the late 1800s and early 1900s, managing/profit sharing the Waldorf-Astoria in New York and the Bellevue-Stratford in Philadelphia. He was President of several companies. His love for his wife, Louisa, led him to commission the 127 room, summer home to be built. They spend 4 summers there while the construction continued. Many antiques, European sculptures, imported tapestries, marble mantles and more were purchased and stored until the workmen were ready for them. Louisa died suddenly in 1904 and all the 300 workers were sent away. Many crates were not unpacked! The project was never finished but the ownership was assumed by the Thousand Island Bridge Authority and rehabilitation begun in 1977. One and a half floors are completed with more to come. The Yacht House along with numerous antique wooden boats is finished! These are truly magnificent examples of the grandeur of the Gilded Age!

An Italian dinner was prepared at our campsite and enjoyed by all!