

Boating with Missy

By Melissa Gervais



Resolutions

Last year, I spent New Year's Eve on my boat. I was late getting to the dock, and as I passed through the yacht club parking lot, I remember being hailed down by three club organizers. Turns out, the boat lined up to take the supplies to a local outstation, where a sold-out cruise was headed, sailed away without the goodies! Next thing you know, I was hauling forty pounds of mashed potatoes, eighty pounds of white linens, and numerous boxes of decorations and flowers for a great New Year's Eve party.

When we arrived, the dock was packed with boats, and eventually the dinner tables were overflowing with costumed party-goers. As usual, by 10:30 pm, I wondered if I would make it until midnight? Before I knew it, it was 2:30 am, and I was sipping a Grand Marnier on the dock with my friends, comparing New Year's resolutions! I make them, but I oftentimes don't stick to them; all the same, it made me think, how did this all get started? I made a note in the logbook, and here I am one year later!

The origins of New Year's resolutions date back 4,000 years to the Babylonians (who also happened to be boaters). They hosted a 12-day party, where they promised to pay back debts and return items that they had borrowed. Early Christians took it a step further to include thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do better. New Year's resolutions used to remind me of a brand new notebook in school; with the very first blank page holding so much promise. But alas, as the school year progressed, everything got messy. Life settles in, the years speed by, and the resolutions simply come and go. That said, I'm thinking that 2021 may just be the exception.

There is a likely chance that most people in the world, boaters or not, may make and keep very similar resolutions going into the new year. For example, I will resolve to stay home, but if I do go out, it will only be for essentials, work, or to go boating. I will wear a mask, wash

my hands, and stay within a safe distance of other people. I will not host large gatherings on the beach or dock, and no dinners for twelve on the back deck. These are all attainable, but nowhere near what we had discussed at the beginning of 2020!

These are "good for the world" resolutions, but how about a true boating resolution? I want to make a point of going somewhere different this year. I have been boating in the same waters for twenty odd years, and there aren't many hidden spots that I haven't found. I do have some favorites, like Conover Cove on Wallace Island, Tribune Bay on Hornby Island, Buccaneer Bay on North Thormanby Island, or Cabbage Island. My favorite hike is from Deep Bay to Home Bay on Jedidiah Island. This past year, most of my boating was to a local outstation, which was fantastic and super easy under the circumstances. However, my best-loved afternoon is spent anchoring in shallow water and rowing to shore, with my toes in the sand and a good book in hand.

Let's hope our good behavior pays off, and we can all start traveling again. I guess for the next little while, we will just be staying close to home or talking about where we will be boating. I'm going to break from tradition and make a couple of conventional resolutions this year. Be it resolved, I will register my under-the-tree, gift-to-me EPIRB, I will check my MMSI number on my very old VHF, and I may purchase a fitness tracker—but nothing is in stone!

Missy grew up boating with her family in the Gulf Islands. She works for a yacht services company based in Vancouver, B.C. and boats most weekends from April to October. A self-proclaimed weekend warrior, she enjoys blogging about everything cool for women who boat at missygoesboating.com.