

Living on boat year round experience

Living on a boat all year-round has been an experience for Wendy Simpson, who says now she has boating in her blood.

"Once you get it in your blood, you may leave it for a while, but you always go back," says the three-year boater.

Simpson and her husband Richard bought a boat three years ago and have moved their 59' 10' home twice. But she says, living just outside Midland on Georgian Bay offers so much to see.

Georgian Bay was more beautiful than the Holland River or Lake Simcoe, "because the bay is vast and wide," she says. "It takes you a lifetime to see."

The Simpsons are mov-

ing to Deer Island, New Brunswick, but says Simpson, she and her husband will quickly buy another boat and head to Florida during the winter.

The winter on Georgian Bay was beautiful, says Simpson, who adds life on their boat was quite comfortable during the winter storms.

"It's absolutely beautiful," says Simpson about watching blizzards. "We had a beautiful snowstorm and every one of the front windows was coated in snow. It looked like someone had done a painting."

"We're really not bothered by any type of storm in this boat," she adds. "We've been out in

waves of up to five feet and it doesn't fizz us."

"Last summer we had a bad storm and the waves were breaking up to five or six feet. I sat up in the window seat until 6 a.m. and watched the storm."

Living on their boat docked at the Wye Heritage Marina, the Simpsons have had some experiences they won't forget.

Goofy, the Simpson's four-year-old deaf cat, enjoys living on the boat, but she's had some close calls. She fell over twice.

"The first time she was standing on the wharf and she saw a twig go by and she reached down, then down she fell," says Simp-

son. "Richard jumped in to save her, but he wasn't too pleased because it was spring and it was pretty darn cold."

After the incident, the Simpsons bought their cat a harness and tied her up to stop her from going overboard or if she did, by accident, fall in, they could immediately locate her and pull her out. But that didn't stop her and the cat had another close call.

"Then I bought her a life jacket and thought if she falls over, I can fish her out," says Simpson, but the cat, whose balance isn't top-notch cannot walk while wearing the jacket.

But, says Simpson, the cat loves living on the boat and she too will miss it.

Simpson says she and her husband will miss the boating lifestyle, which can be as quiet or as lively as one chooses. Boaters can be as quiet or as social as they please at any given time, she adds, giving life a lot of variety.

"Most of all it's all fun. We meet an awful lot of people," she says. "Many boaters are like that."

Some weekends, says Simpson, she and her husband felt they just had to get away, so they would head into the bay and anchor in one of the many

picturesque areas, away from the tourist-laden marina.

Anchoring on Georgian Bay, says Simpson, isn't easy and their boat has drifted into shore a few times.

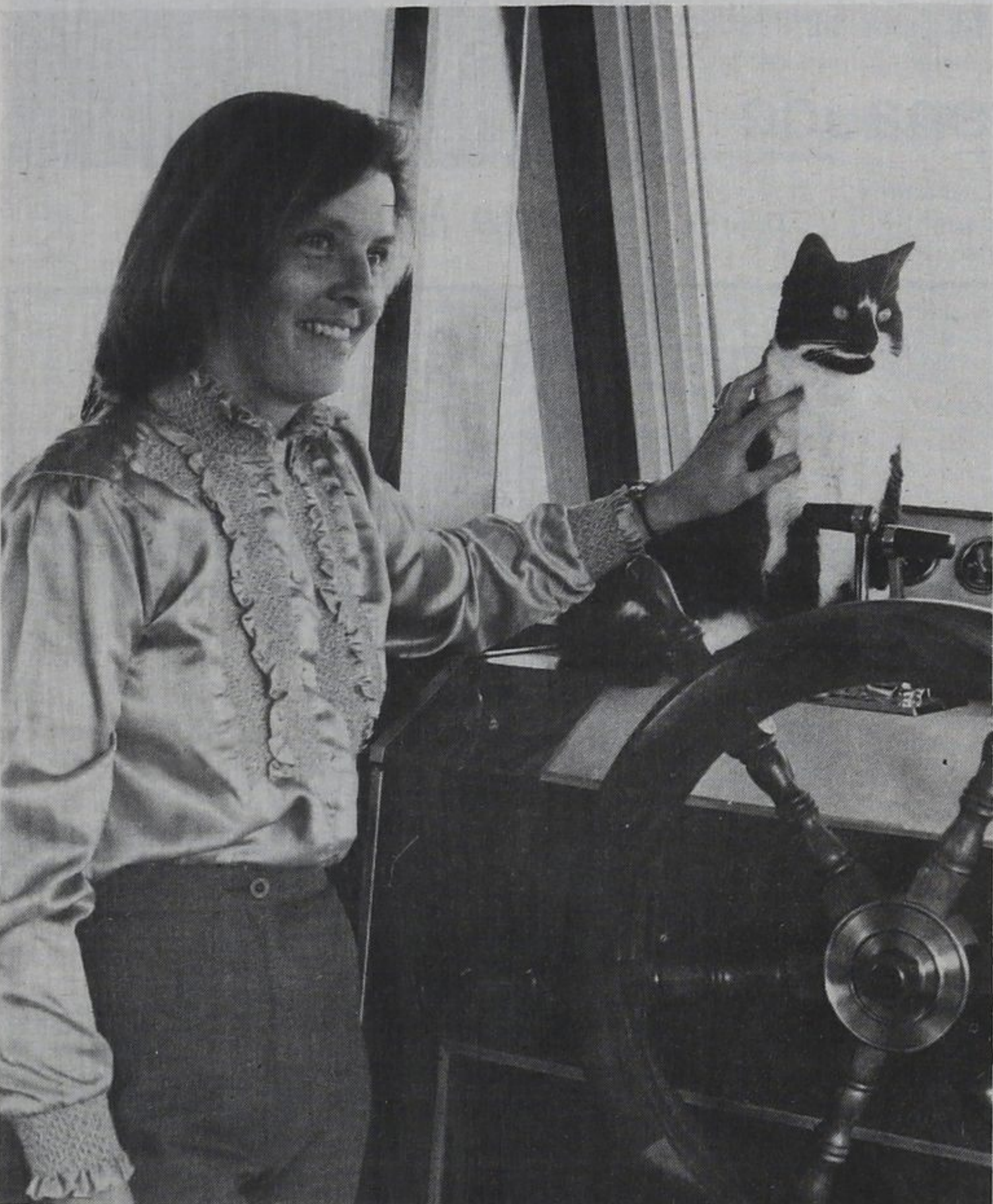
"We were up at Little Go Home Bay and there was

bad weather," she says. "I woke up and we were in the trees. We had drifted right in. I didn't sleep much that night."

But the storms the Simpsons faced in Huronia will not compare to those they will go through on the Atlantic Ocean.

"It's going to be different for me boating on the ocean. A storm can come up pretty quick. But with Richard's experience, I wouldn't be worried," says the novice boater.

"We'll always boat," says Simpson. "Within a year, we'll have another."



Looking to shore

Wendy Simpson and her cat, Goofy, have been living on the water for three years, but this weekend, the Simpsons left their home, the Luctor, docked at the Wye Heritage Marina and headed to New Brunswick. Simpson said she and her

husband, Richard, will likely soon buy another boat, one that's ocean-worthy, so they can head to warmer climates in the wintertime. She added she and her husband will never give up living on a boat, although they must leave it for a while.



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