



# ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS

## NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA



## Power, Power, Everywhere But Not An Amp To Spare

As technology advances, vessels are being equipped with an ever expanding array of gadgets and appliances that demand more and more electricity.

If this sounds like your vessel you may want to talk to Island Steward George Ogoniek.

George has painstakingly retrofitted his vessel to maximize efficiency. One of George's major modifications is conversion to solar power.

If you are not in the market for a changeover to solar power, but would like to avoid calling your generator into action every 12 hours, George has some tips for you.

### George's Tips

1. Your refrigerator uses a huge amount of energy to keep cool. By wrapping it in extra insulation you can minimize the amount of energy lost during this process.
2. If you are in the market for a new refrigerator, look for one with the heat distribution coils on the outside. Those with the coils on the inside increase the amount of work the unit needs to do to keep cool by adding heat where you don't want it.
3. If you have a house boat you can paint the roof with a heat reflecting paint minimizing the need to run an air conditioning unit.
4. For you technically inclined mariners, you can exchange your power converter for a "sin wave" unit that mimics household current. "Appliances run much more efficiently on this type of current". says Ogoniek.

Being more energy efficient does not necessarily require you to retrofit your vessel. If you like your boat just the way it is; but you want to rely less on electricity, you should talk to the Perkins'.

Linda and Brian Perkins are Island Stewards who approach boating as a way to "seek tranquility". They are avid boaters and campers whose philosophy is "doing more with less".

Brian and Linda do not use a generator on board their vessel because they do not require it. They have minimized their electrical use in several key ways.

They rarely use their stove, have replaced the refrigerator with a cooler, use solar rechargeable lights instead of the cabin lights, and only use a microwave when they are plugged in at a marina.

These small changes, coupled with a slight increase in the size of their battery banks, allows them to enjoy up to 5 days on the water without using a generator.

"It is easy to use less electricity if you like bar-b-que" says Linda Perkins.

