

boyfriend can always head to the southern isles for their fill of indigenous culture and history. Nearby, on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast, lies Desolation Sound, where clear waters are ringed by precipitous, evergreen-clad mountains—a veritable El Dorado for sailing, swimming, and snorkeling. The landscape is teeming with orcas, sea otters, black bears, and wolves. This sound is also home to one of the couple's favorite anchorages, and they have spent many a happy hour at the foot of the waterfall in Teakerne Arm inlet.

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"Our life on board is this wonderful mixture of exhilarating and blissfully relaxing," says Kayleen. The couple's lifestyle has made a ship's electrician, diesel mechanic, fiberglass specialist, and woodworker out of her. "When it comes to living on a boat, sailing is just one part of the picture," she explains. Her main source of income is her work as a professional diver and freelance author. Tyler, meanwhile, leaves the boat for the snowboarding season, spread over two months of every year, to scoop up medals all over the world. As a paralympic gold medalist in snowboard cross, he is always looking for his next adrenaline rush. The couple's home port of Campbell River offers plenty to satisfy their love of sports, from snowboarding, skydiving, sailing, and fishing to winter surfing.

Following two years of preparation, they recently cast off from that haven and embarked on their first long voyage together, all the way to Mexico. It was not all smooth sailing: they hadn't traveled farther than Oregon on the west coast of the United States before they encountered difficult conditions. The sea became very rough, and Tyler had a bad fall. He had problems moving and trouble sleeping. The couple were

exhausted, and Kayleen was wracked with guilt. Life on the boat has its ups and downs, and they sometimes find themselves questioning the path they have chosen. Ultimately, though, their optimism wins out, and they conclude that they have made the right choice. They do not take life too seriously: instead of wanting to be the best at everything, it is about having fun and enjoying the good times.

Looking to the future, they can see themselves on a catamaran, which offers a higher level of comfort. That said, Kayleen is not ruling out sailing around the globe. "I can imagine the older me as someone like Jeanne Socrates," she says. Jeanne Socrates holds the record as the oldest woman to sail solo around the world. To top it off, she is also the only woman to circumnavigate the globe nonstop starting from North America. ◀

**BOAT FACTS** At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, Kayleen and Tyler were browsing a listed ads website when they spotted their spacious Tartan 42, built at Sparkman & Stephens shipyard in the United States in 1981. The *Footloose* was selling for around C\$62,000 (around €43,000). They had to act fast: bluewater cruisers were in hot demand worldwide. The sails and rigging were in tiptop condition, but the couple still had to put in a lot of work to get their new adventure boat exactly how they wanted it. Among other things, they upgraded the entire 12 V system; installed a 700 W solar system; modernized almost all of the pipework, safety equipment, and ropes; replaced the anchor; and installed a wind steering device. "We've definitely gone over our initial budget, but you have to bargain for surprises when you buy an old boat," says Kayleen.

In winter, Kayleen and her friends go on splitboard and ski trips from their Tartan 42 (right page and next spread, right page, bottom). In summer, she and Tyler explore the countless secluded bays and fjords (next spread, right page, top and spread after next) or find an anchorage with a view of the Vancouver skyline (next spread, left page, top).

