

From: Ken Sooley <mail@kensooley.com>
Subject: Trip to Newfoundland
Date: July 20, 2007 11:06:57 AM EDT (CA)
To: Ken Sooley <ken@caperace.com>



Copy of Letter from Susan Crawford (BC)

June 27, 2007

Dear Ken,

I thought I would just jot you a line about my trip. Bonavista was beautiful. Lots of amazing icebergs which I never seemed to tire of. It was mostly sunny. A clear sunny day on my trip to the lighthouse. It was foggy one day but by the time we went to Trinity it was clear and bright. We enjoyed the Random Passage site, if not for the site itself, but really enjoyed the people running the site. It seems that all these historic site have these fresh-faced, enthusiastic students working for the summer. They were all very charming!

The Moulnd House was so cute. I didn't know it was in such a great location. Enjoyed the view from "my" bedroom. I would have gone to "Harv's for Bingo, but one of the ladies I was with at the time was in a 12-step. And, besides, I had been a week in St. John's with evenings free so had already participated in the local pub culture quite a bit. (That was fun!). Suzy's at Birchy Cove was very good.

Heart's Delight was fun too. Drive over made more enjoyable by the call-in radio shows I listened to. The non-functioning shower head brought Elizabeth and Billy to us on the first evening. (Fixed easily). We really enjoyed Billy's stories...sharks in the harbour...his impromptu surgical work...etc. We were loath to let on that we were having any trouble catching on to the dialect. (Don't tell him!)

The next morning was too windy for the surprise boat trip (Thanks by the way), but Shannon got the surprise Spa Package! She was covered in mud during her shower. Not sure if it was city-line flushing or at the house. It did run clean eventually. We drove over to Carbonear and Harbour Grace. Saw a huge iceberg in Spaniard's Bay and went around the cape. Unfortunately we had fog at Cape de Verde. We thought we might take a shortcut through a 'ravel' road between Grate's Cove (?) and Daniel's Cove, but turned around after about 3 km of very rough terrain! Lots of laughs.

The two ladies had to leave for N.S. and I stayed. I took that ay to go to Cape St. Mary's and the birds. Bright sunny day. Stopped at Castle Hill just before Placentia. Quite a spectacular view (especially as it was a wonderfully clear day). I didn't do the interpretive centre, but walked about the fort which was neat. "Belles" restaurant was good for both lunch (Pea Soup) and supper (Fisherman's Platter - fresh shrimp, cod, scallops and tongues). I turned around at the cape and went back to Heart's Delight, not going all the way around the cape. [Just a note: the highway is 100 not 90/92 as in the guide book...they may have just changed that. It is marked as "100 kms on highway 100" - from TCH turnoff to Cape St. Mary's]. No signage on highway re: Cape St. Mary's and almost missed it. I guess they will have it up for summer. I loved this stop. I felt mesmerized and stayed for hours. Hard to describe to people who haven't been, but really cool. Had trouble sleeping that night as I kept seeing the huge plunge down to the water and the birds circling-made me dizzy! I was sure those sheep would tumble to their deaths when they seemed to be standing (and eating) right on the edge of the cliffs.

The next day was sunny again, the wind had changed direction so much calmer. Enjoyed the boat ride all around Dildo Island, warm, sunny, calm. Picked up archeologist on Dildo Island and she spoke about some of the findings and history of the different native groups. Gerald, Dennis and Paula all very hospitable. No whales - still too early.

Took my time coming back to St. John's through Cupids, Brigus, Conception Bay South, etc. Hidptich house was a gem. Loved the views and the neighbourhood. Caught the Comedy Fest at the Battery Hotel (This Hour Has 22 Minutes gang, etc). on Friday and one more night at O'Reilly's on Saturday night. The 22 minutes gang ended up there too. Loved that they were just part of the crowd. People from my convention were back in town from their adventures. Lots had gone up to Twillingate...(sigh..next time?) Spent a lazy day on Sunday warm and muggy not wanting to leave (except to see my family).

Really Really loved Newfoundland. Loved: stopping all over the place..."Quilts 4 Sale", "Chip Truck ahead", tiny little museums filled really old stuff! The Geology...it is aptly named "The Rock" (actually, glad I went to the Geo centre that 1st week--made me much more aware). The pubs, the food, the fun, the sights, the music, the people, the sea. Thanks for that Ken.

Sincerely,

Susan Crawford.

