Newfoundland & Labrador Circle - Part 6 Sailing Newfoundland's South Coast



The crew

- · Jayne Finn
- Mike Evans





- •We started sailing together on the Great Lakes in 1998
- •Explored Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron Sailed "Downeast Circle" to Gaspe, Halifax, Boston & New York
- •Spent 6 seasons sailing in Newfoundland and Labrador
- ·Planning an Atlantic crossing



Loon's Lace is a 2006 Najad 40, hull #10

Home Port - Cobourg on Lake Ontario

· Length 12.2 m/40' overall

Waterline 10.44 m/34'3"

Beam 3.85 m/12'7"

Draft 2.10 m/6'11"

• Displacement 12.2 tons

Power Volvo D2-55 Saildrive

Fuel 300 litres

Water 590 litres

Sail Area 45 sq m/485 sq. ft. main

Sail Area 85 sq m/915 sq. ft. working jib

Sail Area 98 sq m/1055 sq. ft. MPGenoa

Loon's Lace is locked down With many other out of Province boats in Newfoundland

We did not sail in 2020!





Over the fall, winter & spring of 2018/19 we had the boat in the shop, to prepare for



Some of our "to do" list

- Mast off we needed to learn the un-rigging process for our fancy triple spreader furling mast
- Boat in the shop and on the cradle
- Sails in for service
- Fly screens for 6 opening windows
- Saloon lee clothes
- Stern cabin lee clothes
- SeatalkNG network upgrade
- DC house battery bank upgrade to 675 amps
- Cutter stay fittings added to the mast
- New cutter sail from UK Sweden
- Genoa cars rebuilt
- Genoa tracks resealed
- Bimini frame and canvas designed and installed
- 4 x 100 watt solar panels added
- Propane upgraded from 2 x 5 lb bow to 2 x 20 lb stern tanks
- Saildrive repainted
- Maxprop Easy installed
- New fenders
- Spade 140 and 275 feet of Magi G43 chain
- Matress lifts for the stern cabin
- Waxed hull and bottom painted
- Launched June 2019 and almost ready to sail!







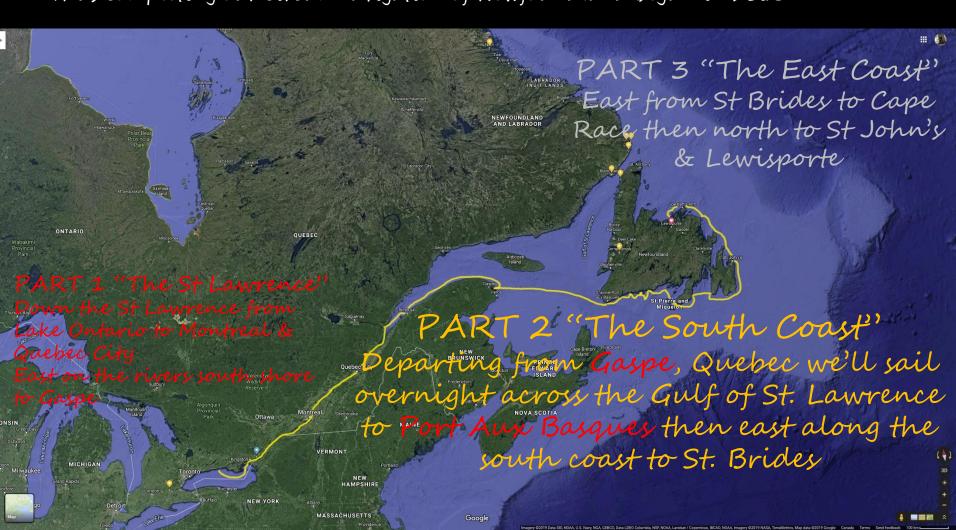
Leaving Lake Ontario we picked up 275 feet of Magi G43 chain, from Marine Outfitters in Collins Bay. The perfect partner to our Lofrans windless and new 60 lb. Spade 140

anchor

We had sailed Newfoundland's: West, East, Great Northern and Labrador Coasts

· This season we would be "Sailing Newfoundland's South Coast"

Thus completing our circumnavigation of Newfoundland begun in 2013



Part 1 Harbours -"The St Lawrence"

- 1. Cobourg

- Long Reach
 Collins Bay
 Thousand Islands
 Brockville
- 6. Isle St Regis
- 7. Lac St Louis
- 8. Montreal (Longueuil)9. Sorel
- 10. Quebec City
- 11. Cap l'Aigle 12. Tadoussac
- 13. Bic
- 14. Rimouski
- 15. Matane
- 16. St Anne de Monts
- 17. Riviere au Renard
- 18. Gaspe



Cobourg Harbour

Best Guides

"Down East Circle Route"

Covers down the river from Lake Ontario to St Anne des Monts & Gaspe and on to Nova Scotia... by Capt. Cheryl Barr

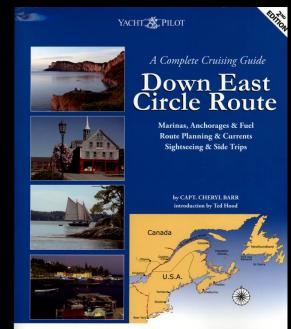
Has been one of the most valuable guides we've found on sailing the St Lawrence route

We carry Canadian Hydrographic Service sailing directions, paper & raster electronic charts.

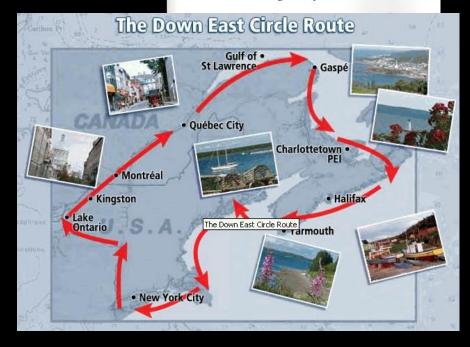
Also Navionics vector charts

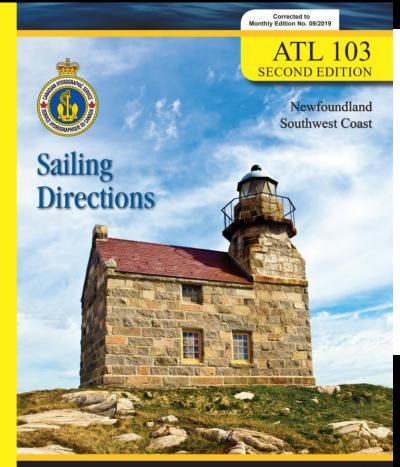
Available from,
The Nautical Mind
http://www.nauticalmind.com











Canada

CHS sailing directions often include useful descriptions, photographs and charts...



During strong NE winds, the wind funnels down the steep cliffs surrounding the settlement with a force that tends to blow ships off the wharf when docking.

146 Aviron Point, situated about 1.8 miles SW of Nick Power Point, is the south extremity of a conical isolated hill, a force that tends to blow ships off the wharf when docking.

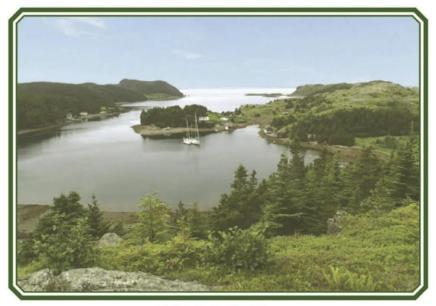


You can download for free CHS Sailing Directions in PDF format http://www.charts.gc.ca/documents/publications/download/SD/ATL109E.pdf

THE CRUISING GUIDE TO

NEWFOUNDLAND

the 2018 Edition



Oderin in 2017

Oderin is located in Placentia Bay.

The island community had some 400 inhabitants in the late 1800s.

This guide contains complete coverage of the entire island, describing over 200 harbors in detail, with full color photos and maps throughout.

Free online updates yearly

Simplified organization See inside cover

- The Cruising Club of America
- "Crusing Guide to Newfoundland"
- Great for getting in and out of NL harbours

Its written by sailors!

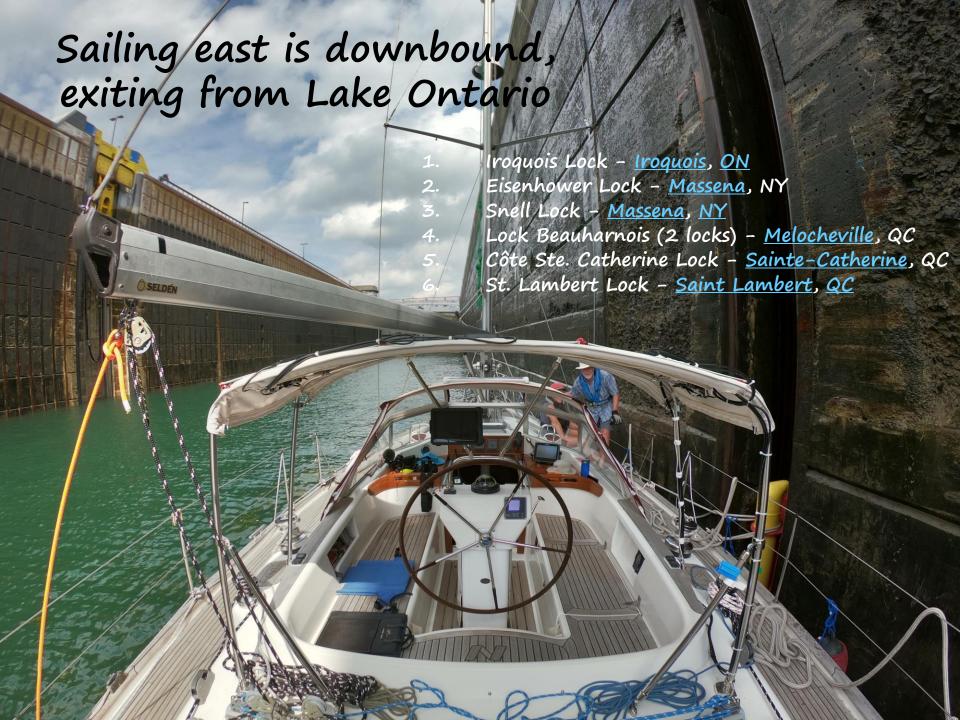


There are 7 locks to transit

- \$20 per lock, pay by debit or credit card at the Canadian locks – you need cash at the American locks
- Easier to manage with a crew of 3 but you need only 2 when downbound, 3 upbound
- Wear a life vest and heavy gloves
- Listen to the seaway staff on your VHF
- You may have to raft up







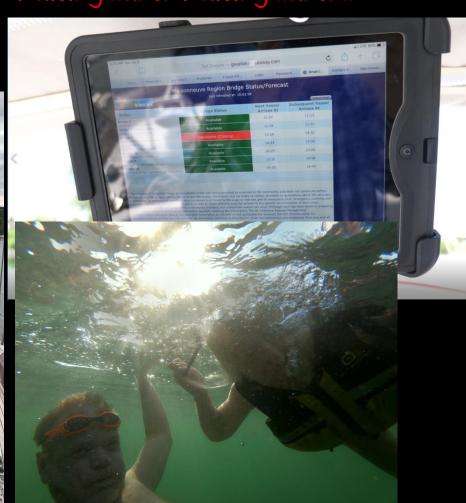




There are 4 lift bridges to pass under

- You may want to look up the bridge opening schedule on http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com
- · And save your self hours of waiting...and waiting...and...





The Seaway can be quite challenging.

We managed to get ourselves sideways in a lock and a handling line locked on a bow cleat.

It had to be cut!









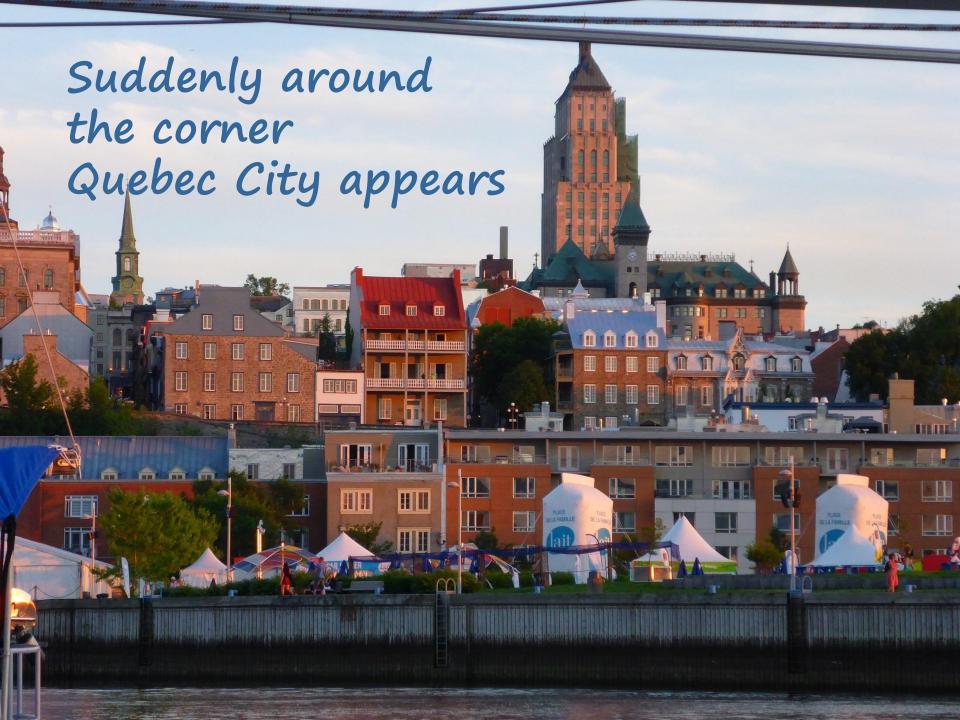




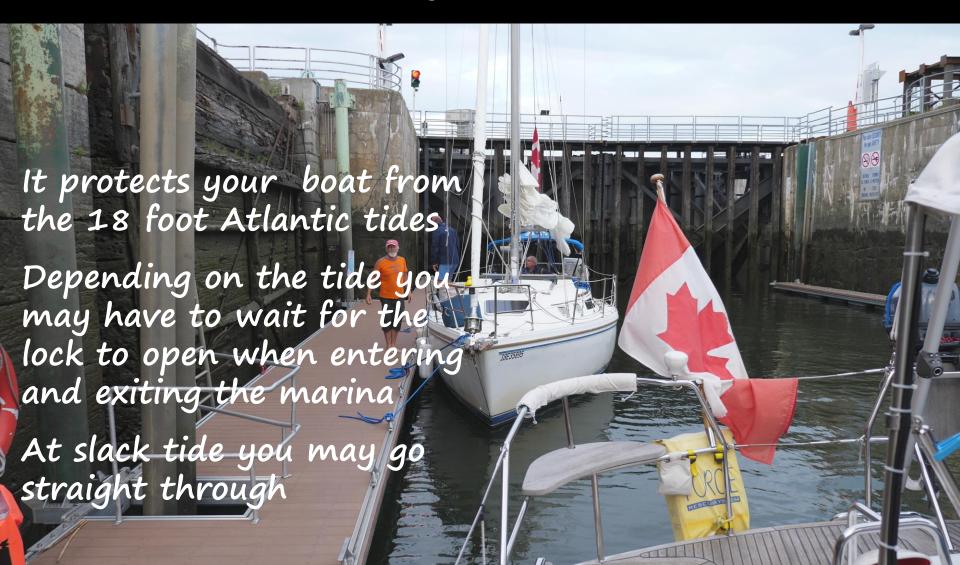




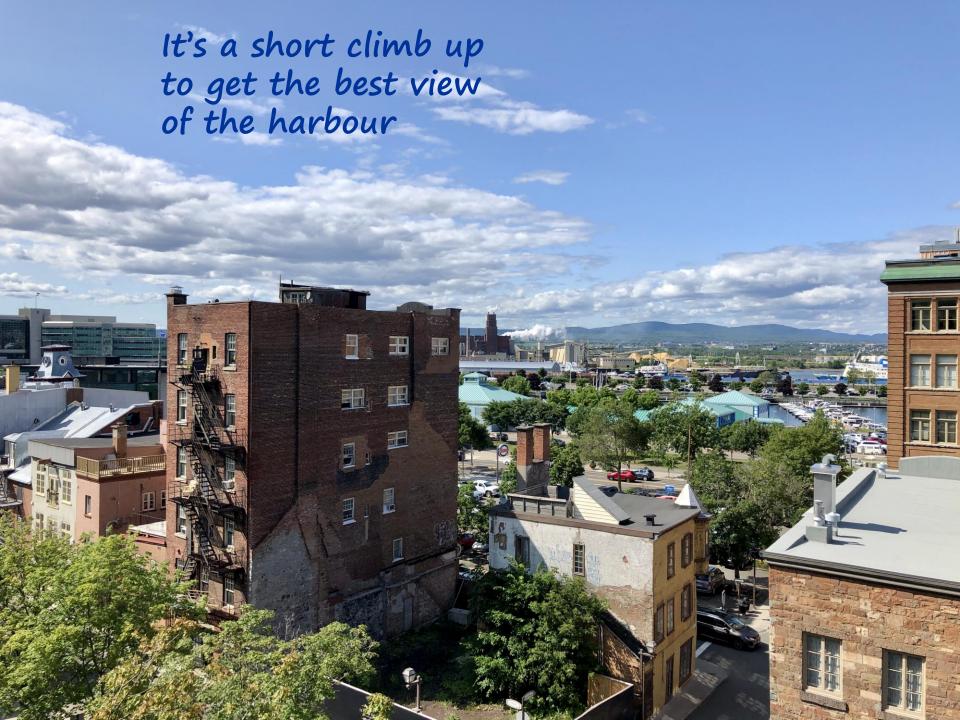




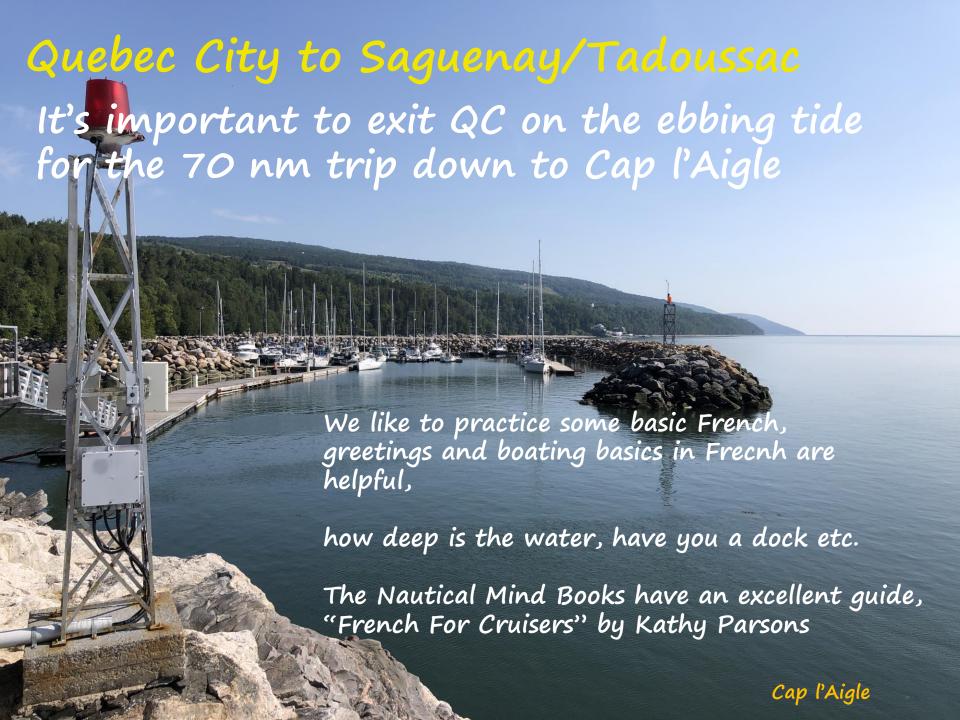
There is a lock at the entrance to Quebec City's Bassin Louise



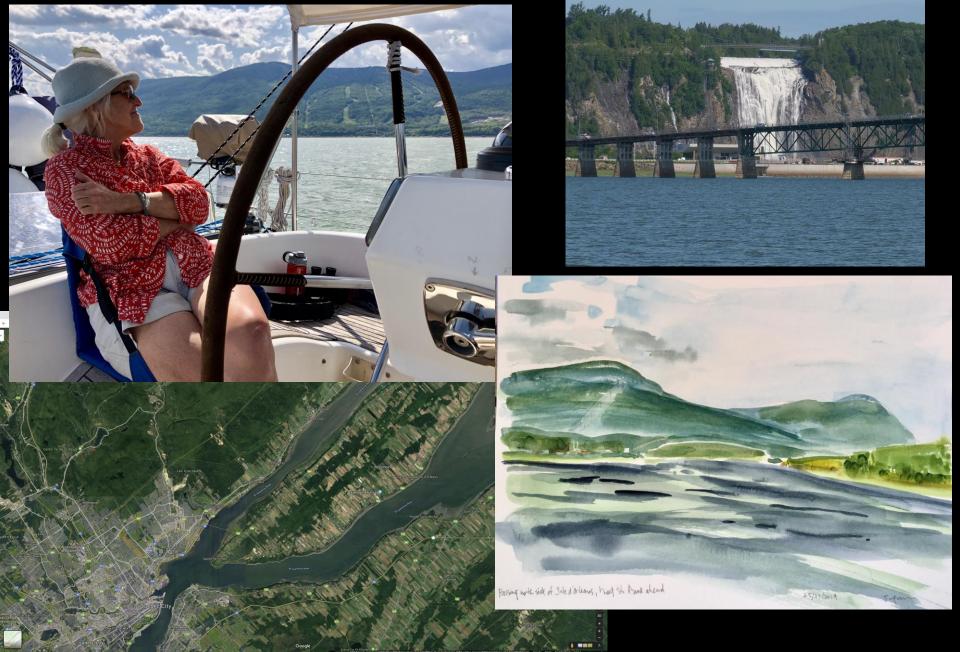








You can leave Isle d'Orleans to starboard or port



















Day sailing down river from Lake Ontario:

about 3 days to Montreal

5 days to Quebec City

15-21 days to Gaspe?

It's up to you, we like to take our time, we were 23 days to Gaspe.

We spent several days visiting friends in 1000 Islands

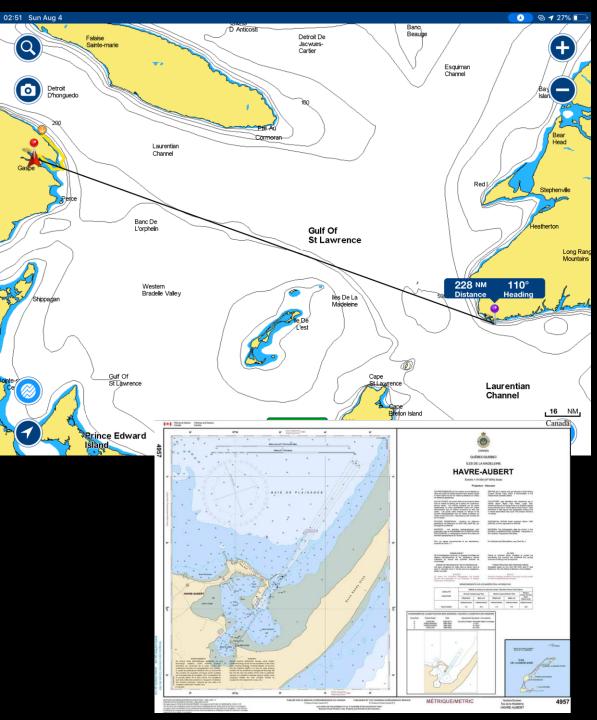
Without doing any overnight sails!





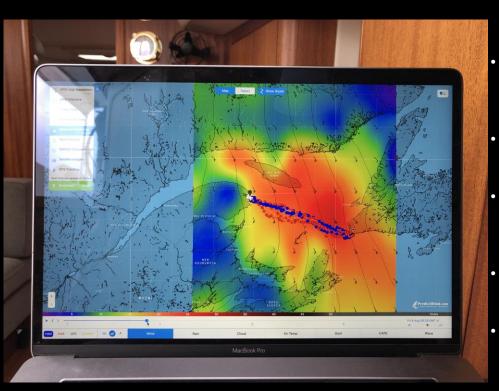






The 250 NM crossing to NL will be a good chance for us to work on our overnight sailing and passage planning skills:

- Weather analysis
- Route planning
- Navigation
- Tides & currents
- Vessel systems, safety & watchkeeping
- Provisioning & meal planning
- · Contingency Planing:
 - 1) heave to or anchor
 - 2) return
 - 3) alternate harbours (Havre Aubert)



We've had time to relax, provision and plan carefully.

Important because we've not sailed Cabot Strait before!!!

- Weather analysis wait for fair, north, south or west winds. Forecast is 10–20 knots south or SE using PredictWind/Iridium Go & Environment CA
- Route planning quite straightforward, point to point is fastest, the only offshore hazard is the Madeleine Islands, we could stop there if needed!!
- Navigation Our GPS, radar, radios, chartplotter, AIS & Autopilot are working well BUT!
- Tides & currents We think we don't have much choice, the semidiurnal tide/current will change several times over the 40 hours crossing
- Vessel safety & watchkeeping lifejackets, jack lines, liferaft, EPIRB, lee-cloths, harnesses are all in order.
- Someone will always be on deck, watching for ships and fishing boats, we'll take 3 hour watches overnight
- Provisioning & meal planning Jayne has preprepared snacks and hot meals for 24-40 hours

BUT! Our Autopilot is not working that well, it keeps disengaging under load

Looks like we'll have to mostly hand steer



Using VHF & weather.gc.ca we pay special attention to the zones we'll be sailing through, and those near

Quebec Southwest Coast

Cabot Strait

Gulf Magdalen

Offshore banks

New Brunswick

United States

Nova IScotia

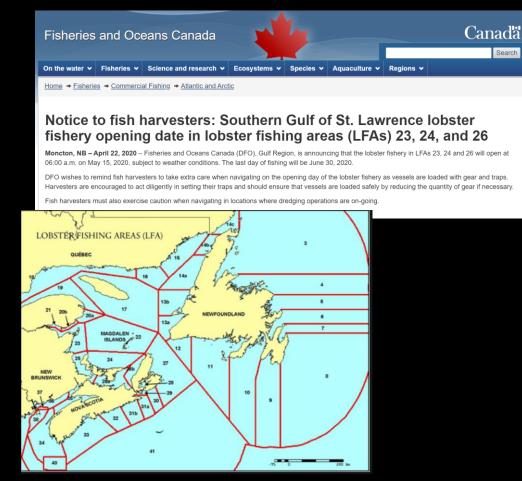
Environment Canada

Canada

Canada

- Anticosti
- · Gulf Magdalen
- Cabot Strait
- Gulf Port au Port
- Southwest Coast
- · Offshore banks ...

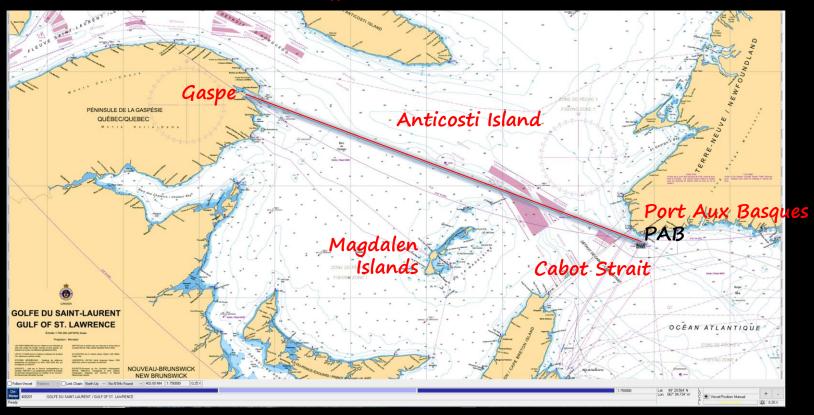
Notices to fish harvester will be announced on VHF (21 & 83) and dfo-mpo.gc.ca



Note that the last day for lobster fishing is June 30th.

If you sail after that date there will be no lobster boats, fishing!

The purple shaded areas show the commercial Traffic Separation zones/lanes for inbound and out bound traffic



We always set waypoints on limits of the shipping lanes we'll be crossing.
Note that a lot of commercial traffic enters and exits Canadian waters through Cabot Strait The ferries from North Sydney to PAB are active 24 hours a day

We plan about 36-40 hours to get across at an average of 6 knots

9	9:27 PM	1.5
	3.27 111	1.5
10	4:16 AM	0.7
10	10:10 AM	1.0
10	3:20 PM	0.7
10	10:36 PM	1.6
11	5:32 AM	0.6
11	11:20 AM	1.0

We departed Gaspe at 0600, on the ebb tide

The PredictWind package we use does not take into account tides and tidal currents!

PAB 11-August-19

10	6:05 PM	1.6
11	12:36 AM	0.9
11	6:14 AM	1.4
11	12:28 PM	0.7
11	7:09 PM	1.6
12	1:35 AM	0.9
12	7:11 AM	1.5

We arrived at PAB at about 2000, 8:00 PM against the full flood tide. It may have been better to depart 6 hours earlier from Gaspe and arrive near noon, at slack tide!!!

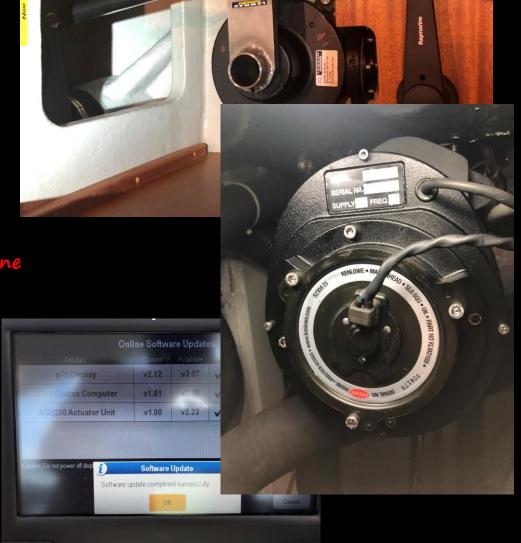


We spend a day on the phone with Raymarine but the AP problem can't be easily resolved.

We've since upgraded our Raymarine course computer (ACU), Lewmar Mamba drive and DC wiring to both

We havn't been able to test them yet due to the COVID lockdown in NL.

We didn't expect to have this problem, the Boats systems are factory designed/installed



The day starts out nice...

light SE winds

Just off Cap
Gaspe...
as we unfurl the
main a batten pops
through the pocket
and sticks into the
mast

Our fancy furling main is stuck 1/2 way out

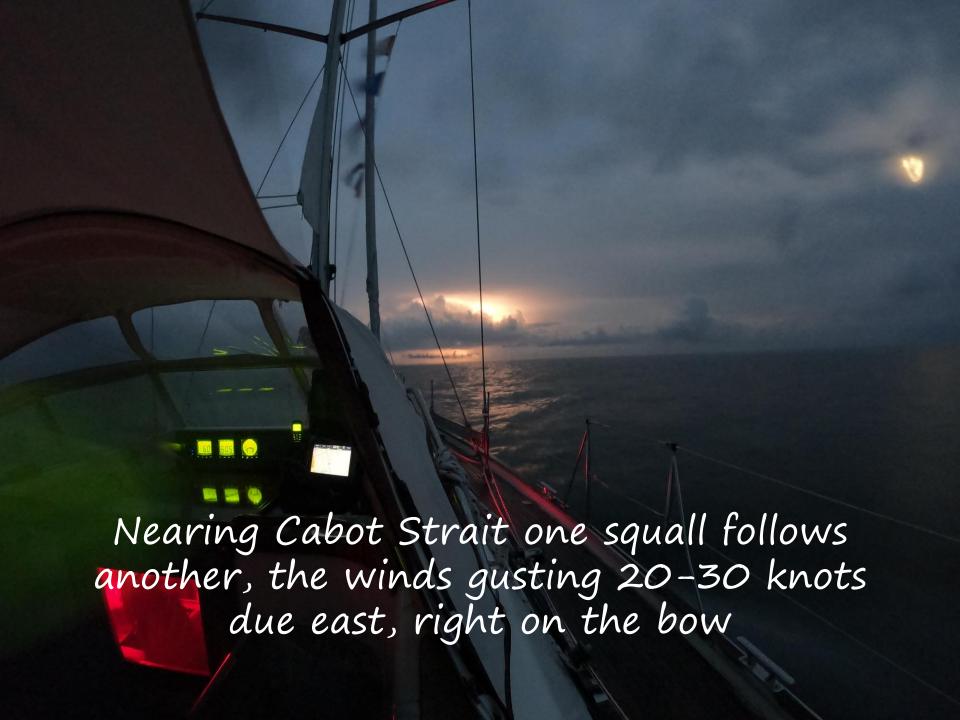
We must return to Gaspe to un-snarl it.

We had the sails serviced before departing, they missed the batten pocket problem













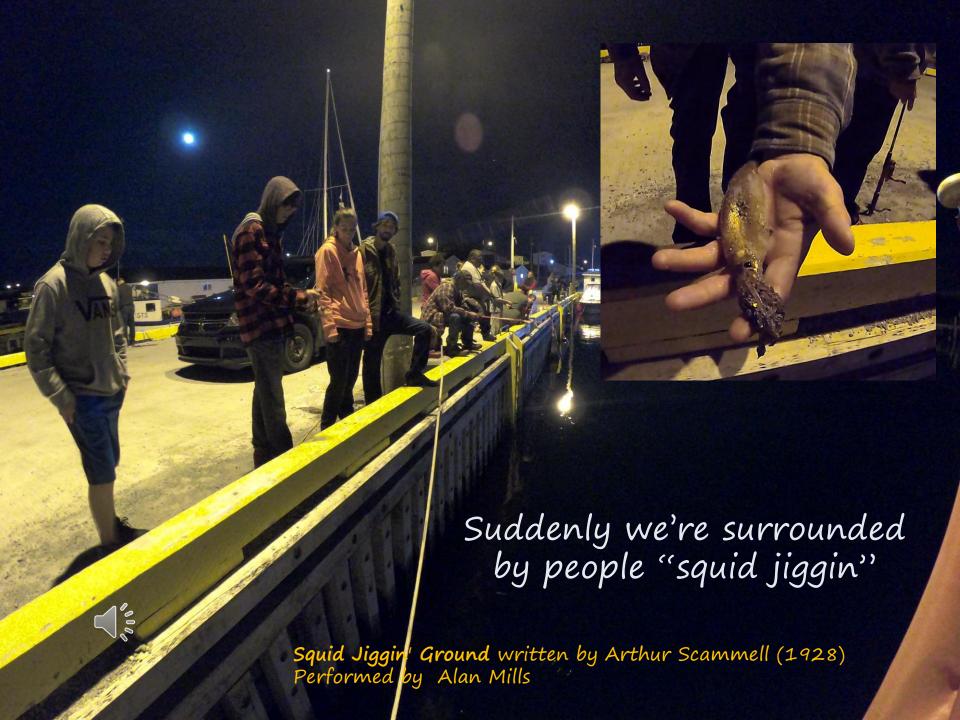




In the dark we creep in to tie up on the PAB government wharf, it's right across from the ferry that sails to North Sydney











It's August 12th and we've made it to "The South Coast"

Crossing Summary: Autopilot working intermittently - not fixed

Main furling failed - fixed

Route Plan - hit flood tides in Cabot Straight

Weather - wind went east, squalls, rain ugh!

Part 2 Harbours -"The South Coast"

- 1. Port Aux Basques
- Isle A Mort
 Little Garia Bay
- 4. Rose Blanche
- 5. Grand Bruit
- 6. Cinq Cerf Bay
- 7. Burgeo
- 8. Grey River
- 9. Francois
- 10. Hare Bay
- 11. St. Pierre
- 12. Little St Lawrence
- 13. St. Brides



Cinq Cerf Bay, Culotte Cove



There is much to explore!





Port aux Basques Harbour AuthorityINVOICE

Ship Date: Page:

Re: Order No

Sold to:

Unit	Quantity	Description	Tax	Unit Price	Amount
	1 Berth	nage fee	Н	8.69	8.69
	Subte	otal:			8.60
	GST	IST 15% /HST /HST, not included			1.3

The wharf is a very reasonable \$10 per night. Fuel, food etc. are all available nearby

Tracking Number: Shipped By Total Amount 10.00 Amount Paid 10.00 Comment: **Amount Owing** 0.00 Sold By



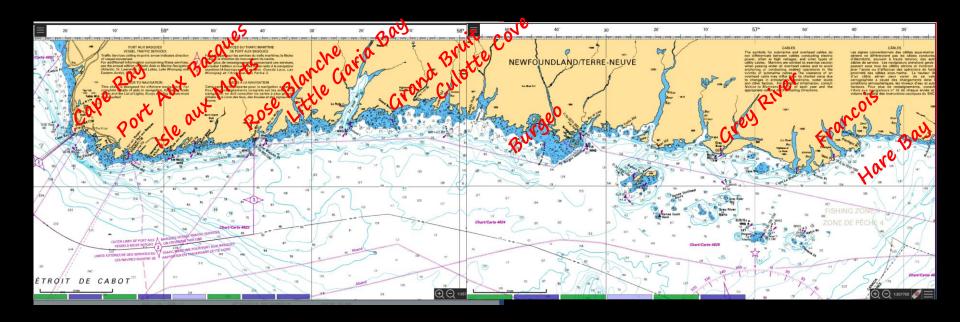


In the evening across the street in Scott's Cove Park there is music and





It's time to sail on





"Isle Aux Morts" pronounced "I'll-a-morts", the name refers to many shipwrecks

Light winds allow us to get our big genoa working





On the wharf at Isle A Mort we meet Betty & Luis on Ave Dei Mar. They have sailed here from Vancouver via Cape Horn!!





The Harvey family and their Newfoundland dog "Hairyman" saved hundreds of shipwreck victims during



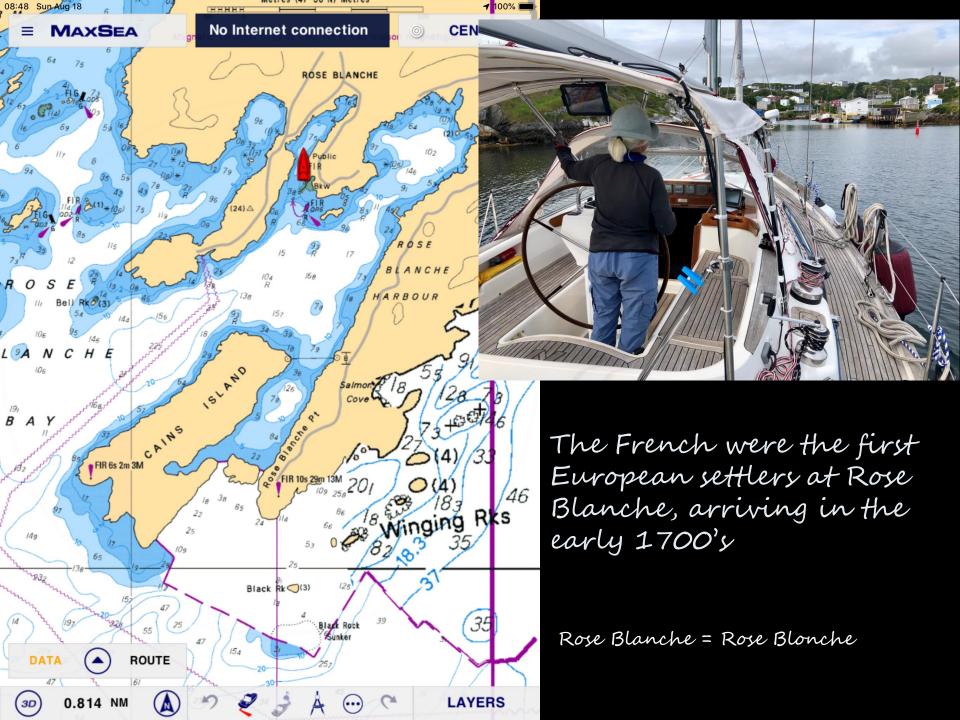




We spot several leatherback turtles on the way, also ocean sunfish and tuna





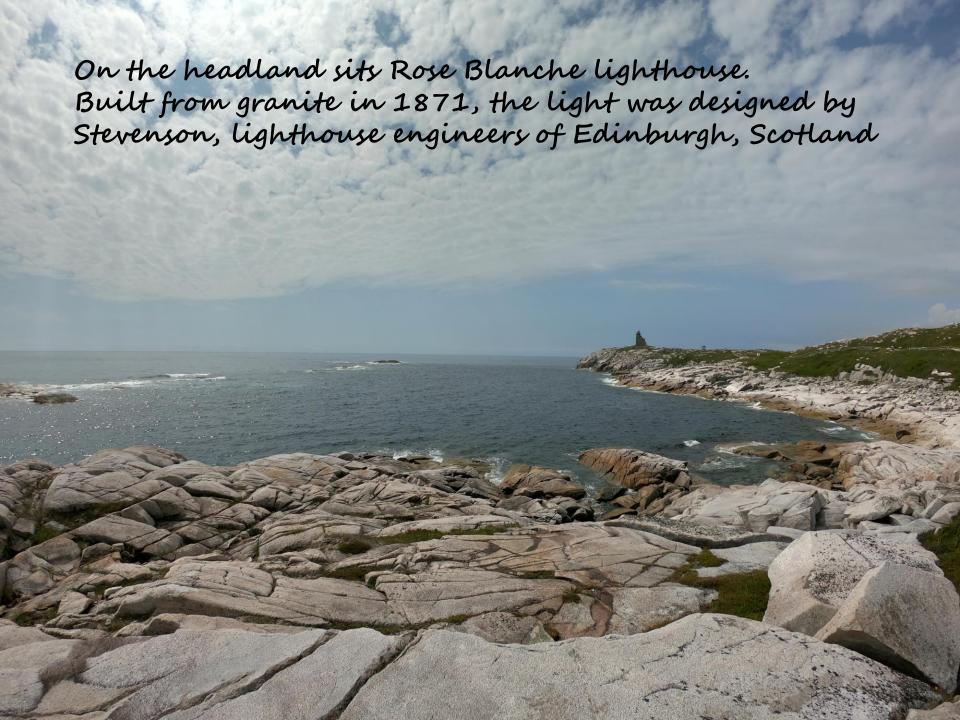


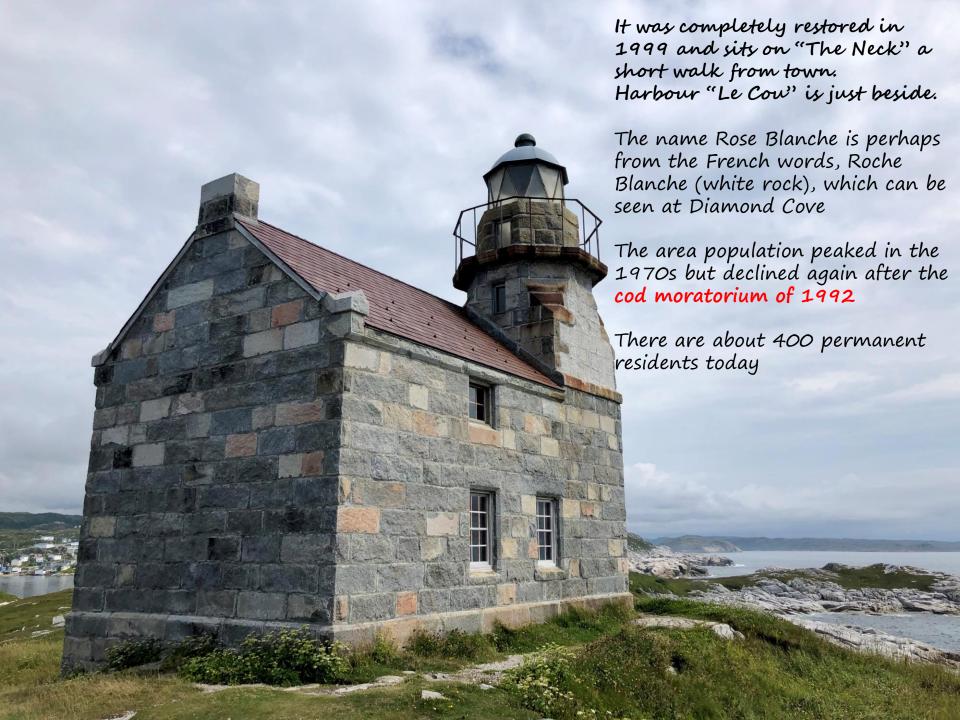
There's room at the wharf for us because there is no active fishery, if it were crowded we could ask to tie to a fishing boat, a yellow painted wharf is usually public

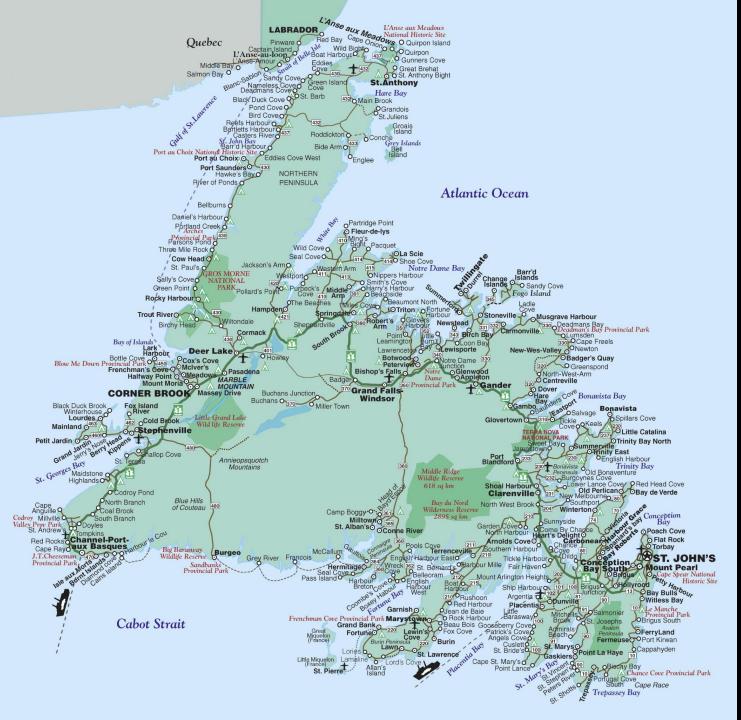
Best to ask or you may be leaving early! Eg. BDV











HWY 470 from PAB ends at Rose Blanche

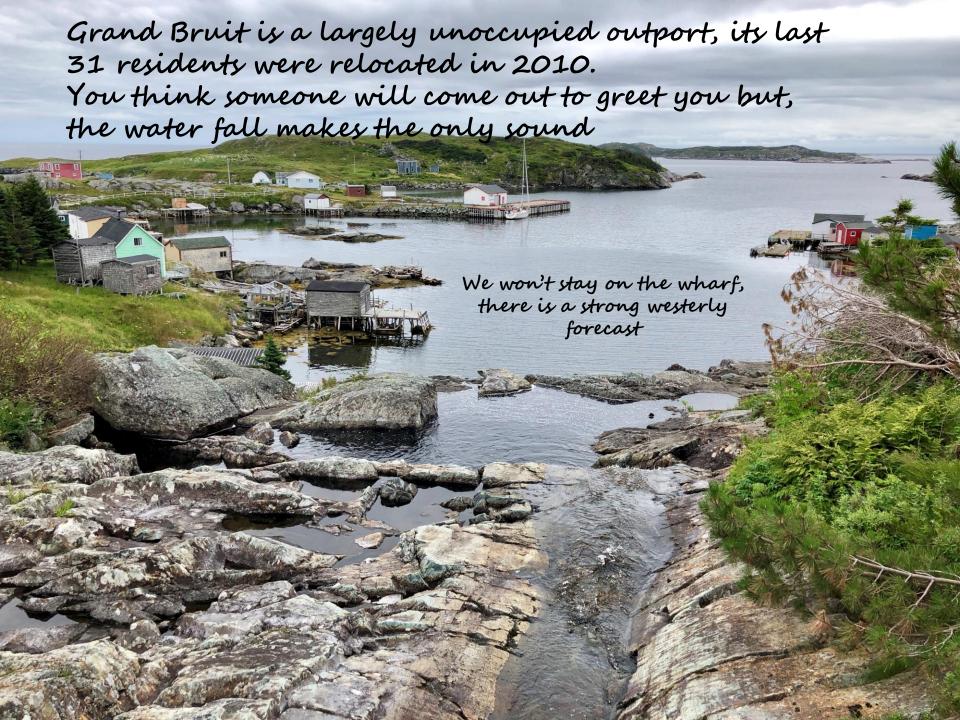
The next harbours are all "Outports" not connected by road, until we get to Burgeo, which Is connected to Stephenville by highway 480.



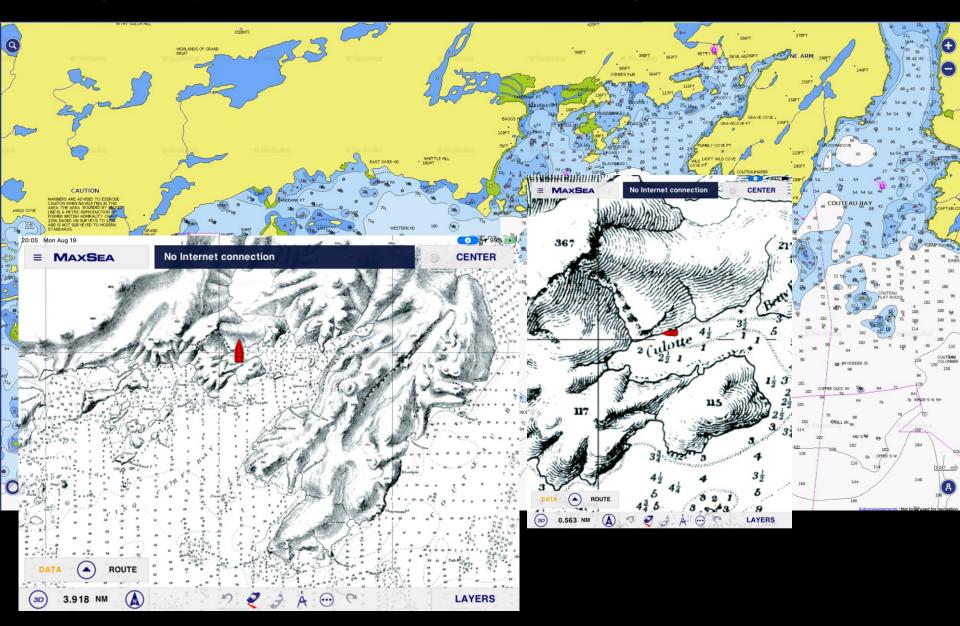
Another day east and we look for shelter behind the fishing pier at Grand Bruit



Grand Bruit = Grand Brit



The chart advises caution, the areas bounded by the pecked lines where surveyed in 1890





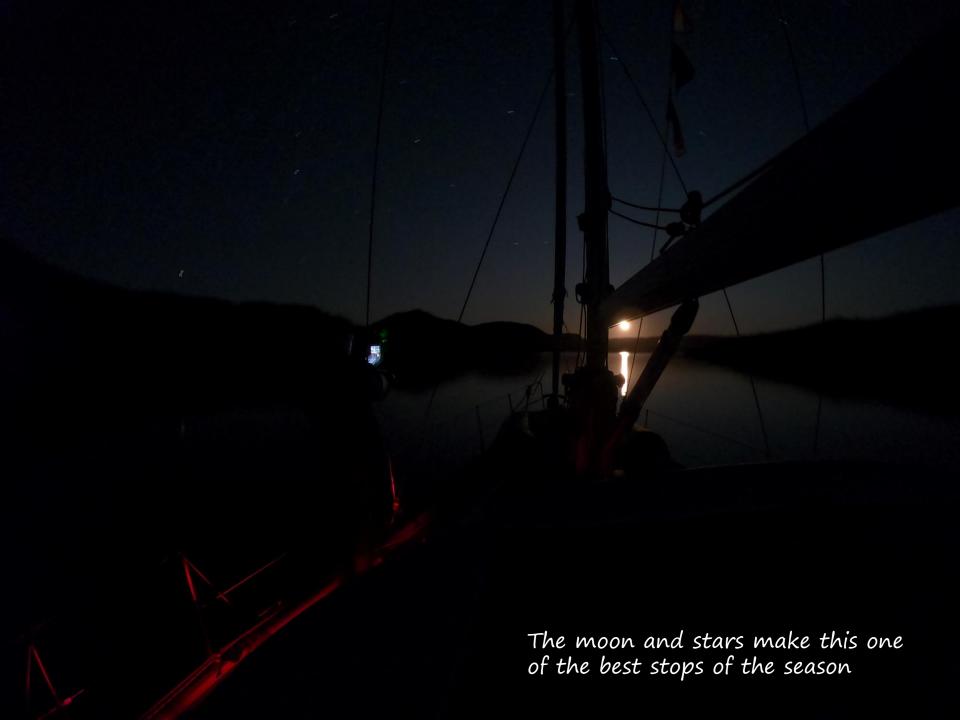






I make an attempt at flying our drone, I don't find it easy but so far have not lost it into the ocean!







We want to go into the Marine Service Centre in the "tickle"

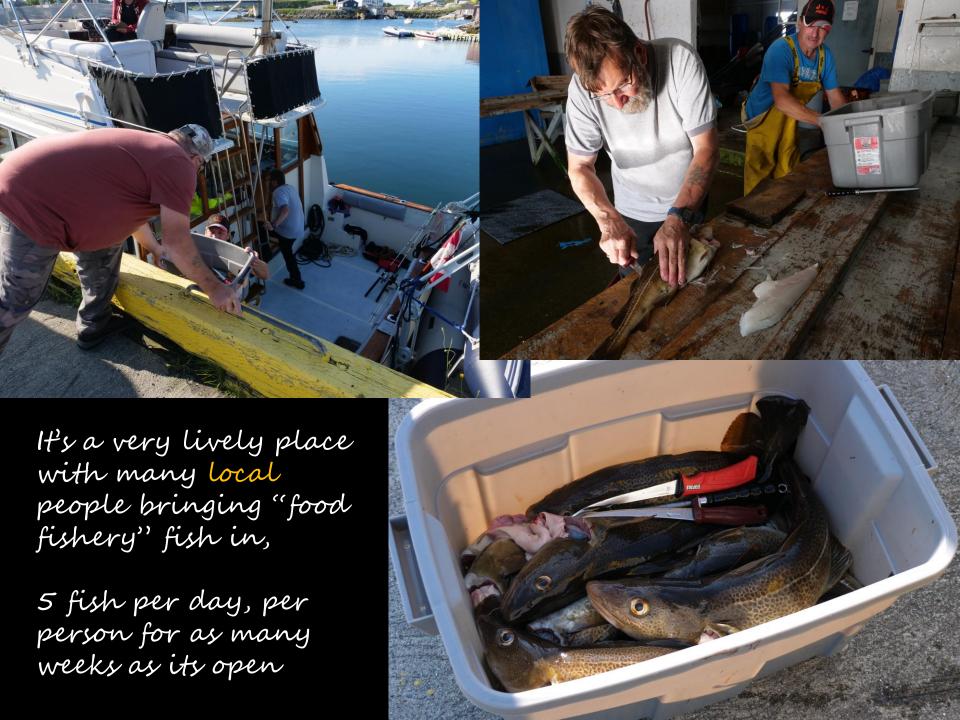


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With the sun out the following day we move onto the wharf "downtown", at Marine Service Centre to dry out











A perfect day for painting





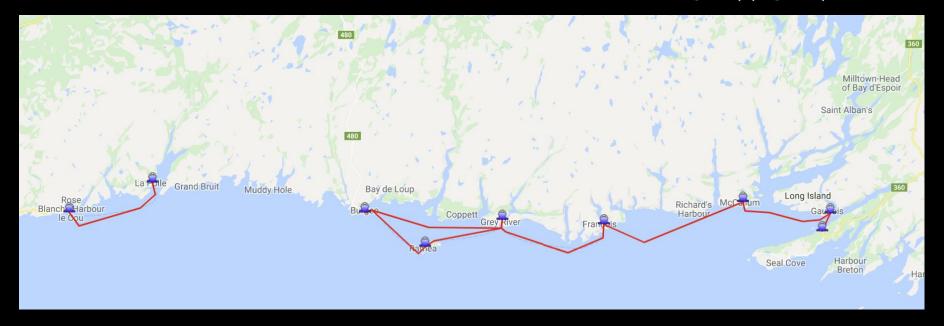






The outport of Jerts Cove clings to the west shore of Grey River inlet, the local supply ship/ferry is just arriving

South Coast ferry/supply ship routes



It makes outport life possible

We chose to anchor off Southeast Arm in 12 metres, It's a spectacular fjord

















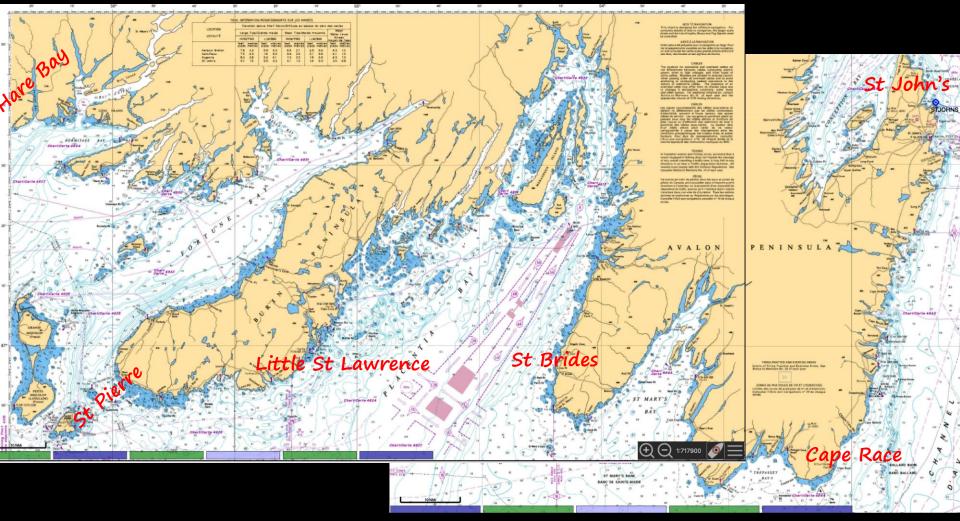


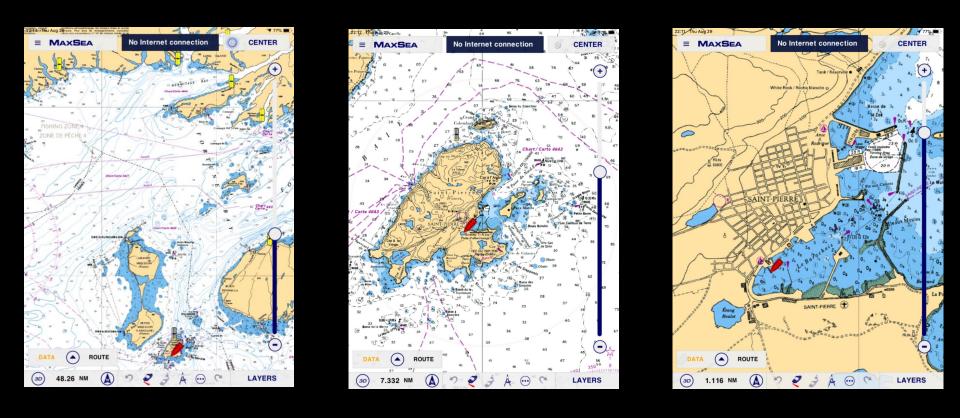






There's a weather issue coming, we'll be able to visit only a few more harbours on the south coast...





It's about 60 miles across to St Pierre. If the weather gets bad we can put into Miquelon, 40 miles.



We'll be in France this evening!





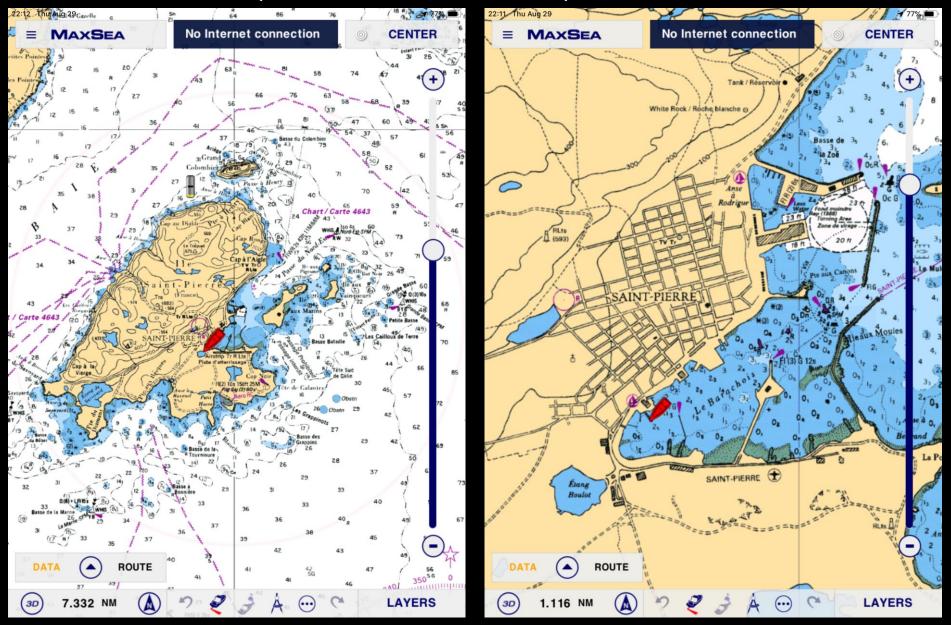


Once across the border we're escorted by a fleet of French dolphins

By the early afternoon we are nearing Miquelon, its going to be a fast crossing



The entrance to St. Pierre is well marked and protected by multiple breakwaters

















Charcuterie, Epicerie, Fromagerie













Across from the marina is an excellent museum of local history









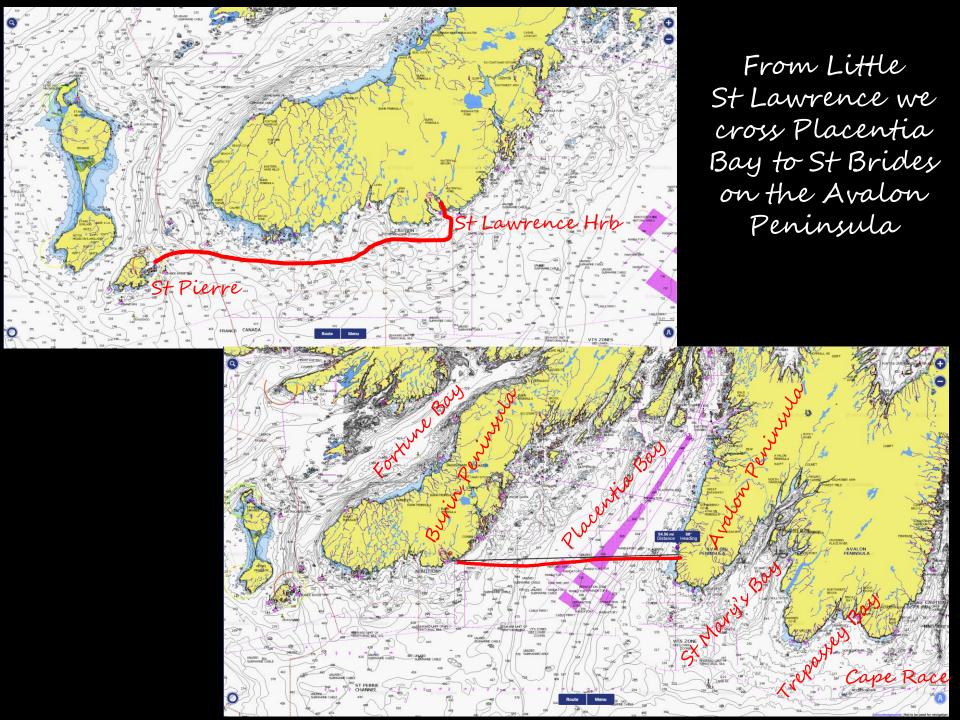


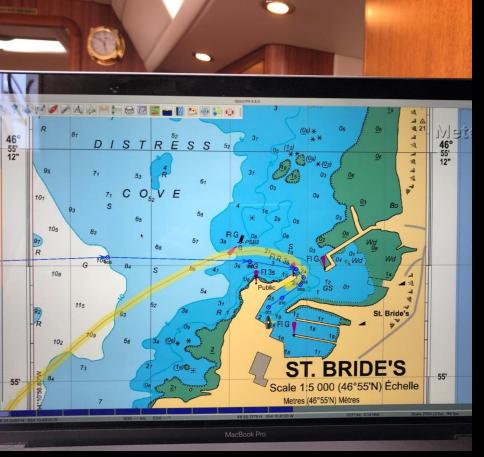


We get sailing north east the next day, crossing about 45 miles to St Lawrence Harbour on the Burin peninsula to report in, and then anchor at Little St. Lawrence next to it.

It's September the 1st

You must check back into Canada with CBS, Fortune Harbour or St Lawrence are two entry points on the Burin Peninsula







St Brides provides a snug but slightly shallow harbor for us, we're bouncing on the bottom at low tide.

Its reported to be a difficult entrance in onshore winds.



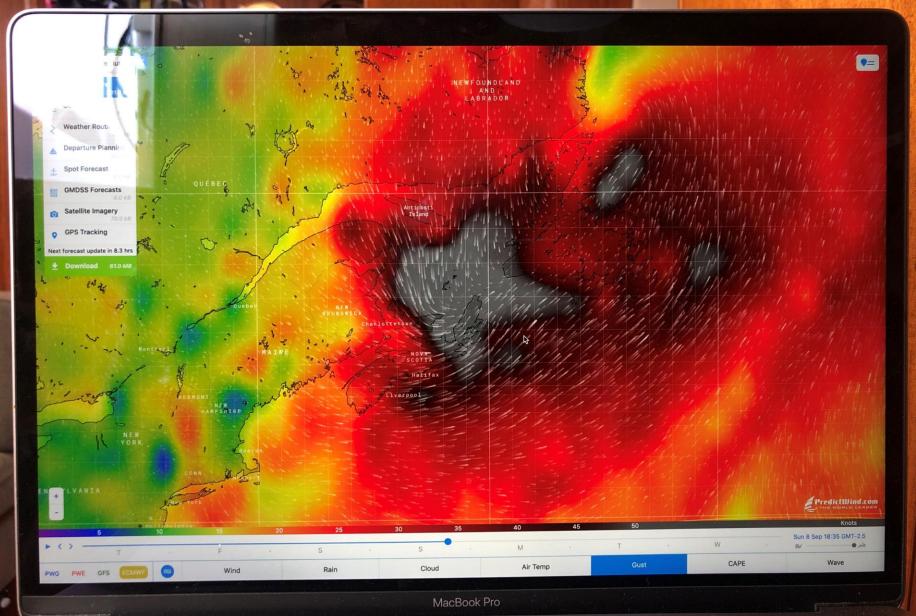


Mainly Gannets, some still with chicks, are nesting there this late in the season





We have to find shelter - hurricane Dorian has been slowly churning up the coast behind us!!!





PART 3 "The East Coast" Harbours

- 1. Fermeuse
- 2. St John's
- 3. Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club
- 4. Bay De Verde
- 5. Bonavista
- 6. Puddingbag Cove
- 7. Lumsden
- 8. Seldom
- 9. Change Islands
- 10. Exploits Island
- 11. Lewisporte



In one very long and foggy day we decide to get up off the south coast, around Cape Race and into Fermeuse, on the east coast of the island, about 90-100 mile motorsail.

It's not certain where the storm will head?

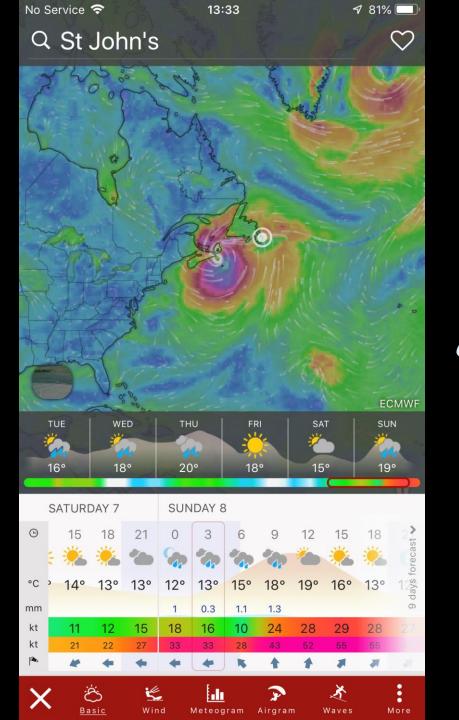




We get set to ride it out on borrowed balloon fenders in St John's harbour at Pier 6



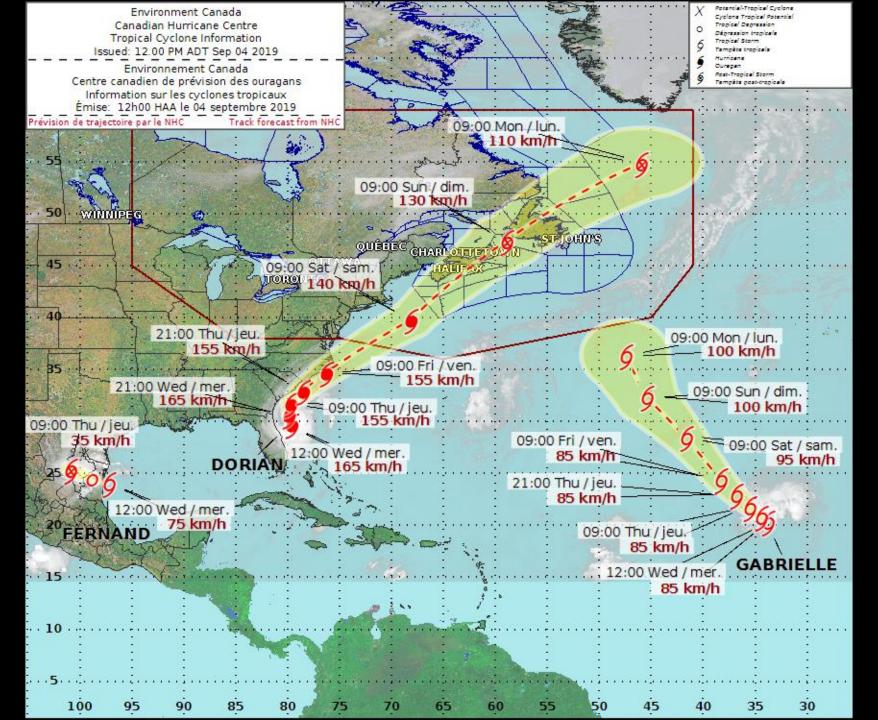




Dorian turns more westerly.

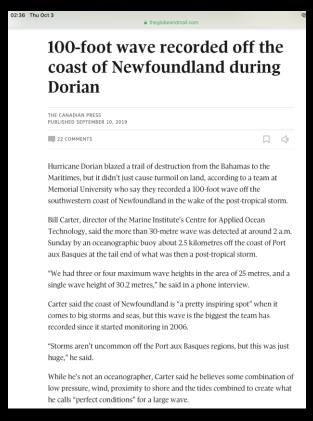
We see winds of only 35-40.

Our friends on Splice have 70 knots at Burgeo!









After a couple of sleepless nights bouncing off the wharf friends from Lewisporte come by to see we're ok

There was a reported "100 foot" wave off Cape Ray

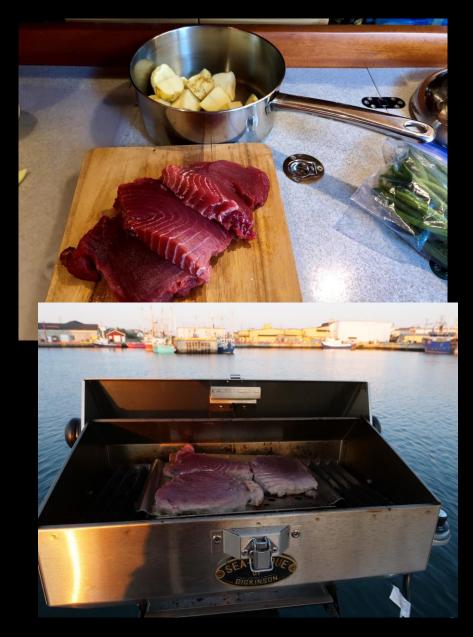


The weather has changed since Dorian went through, it's very unsettled





One of the Bonavista fishing boats has brought in bluefin tuna!



Just a few more stops across Bonavista Bay, Cape Freels and Hamilton Sound and we'll be "home" in Notre Dame Bay at Lewisporte Yacht Club









A week of fine weather at the dock and we're ready to haulout



Thanks for coming to,

The Toronto Boat Show

Please contact us if you have any questions about "The South Coast" or sailing in general, Mike & Jayne @LoonsLace

http://gonesailing.finnevans.ca

https://www.youtube.com/user/GoneSailingCA

https://www.facebook.com/GoneSailingCA/

Instagram @LoonsLace



Jayne's "TopGun" cockpit cover



Thanksgiving dinner Laurenceton NL 10/11/2019