

# **Cow Head to Port aux Basques**

## **NEWFOUNDLAND**



**Gros Morne National Park**





Stopped in Rocky harbour where we had coffee on the way down... lunch this time and she had home baked beans and titans [grilled bread dough: excellent] This has been a real trial to get something in a restaurant that isn't deep fried, fish or moose!

Got apples for tomorrow and were off up hill.





Lighthouse at Rocky Harbour in the distance

Stopped for a cookie break at 63.28k 17/54.9 3h44 Started the up hill grind from 22ft to 1105ft over about 16k hot 25C Ken had tightened my brakes and I was having a really difficult time.... Oh the brakes are on... fixed that and I was able to get to the destination... Saw a huge caribou in the middle of the road... brakes..... let a car scare him away... sorry no photo 79,19k 5h 15.2/54.9 1650 at the lookout I really thought those hills were going to do me in!



Hitch hiker! Inside of wings gorgeous blue

Stopped and made pb sands at Wiltondale which is only a gas station with conv store, cabins and a restaurant..[85km]

Downhill to Deer lake CG Long day.... Hot showers and some wine and off to bed!

## DAY Twenty-Five Deer Lake to Corner Brook

Thursday August 13 /09

D 53k+12k town A13.9 M 45 PT 4h 42 AT 9-1600 OD 1753.1km

Started off from Deer Lake a little later [9am] as last night in the next site they were moving out at midnight and had a 3 ft high blaze going which they left as he/she walked out.... I didn't know if Ken was snoring too loud or the generator that had been going 2 sites down for 5 hours was the cause.

@25km was Pasadena a bedroom community for Deer Lake and Corner Brook. Stretched out all along the side road for 3 or 4 km. Great Lake views. Stopped at a subway for a different breakfast sub that was thin omlet with a little cheese and veggies on top.... Was better than it sounds. A woman told us this area started just after WW11 when the vets came home they were given land to farm [10acres], also displaced fisherman in this area. The lots are large and that is why. Some U pick fruit farms... strawberries and raspberries, some "greens" and veggies.

Continued on to Marble Mtn the ski hill which is right on the Hwy 1 @44km they have some summer activities.... Hiking, water rafting as river is across the hiway from the hill, a few hotel type accommodations , a sports store, Tim Hortons and a gas station... very different than Big White, but looks like an interesting hill... could not get a brochure to compare stats... will have to do that at home.



Marble Mountain Ski Resort

Up up a couple of <10kph hills past our destination turnoff into town for groceries and to go to the info center to see if other options to camp.... There is a waterslide RV park but this town is really in the crotch of many hills and that would be on the other side of the hills. Looks like a belly button! We decide to go back to our preplanned destination... which was 4km or more back down steep hill and across the river.... And back up hill! Tried legs from yesterday. They have good shopping and we got veggie chicken burgers to make with the wood stove... turned out really good.

The campground seems to be run by kids and it took us 3 tries to get a site... 1<sup>st</sup> one was so dirty we went back and decided to pay for power to get in a more open area.... Went to set up and we needed a converter to use the power.... Went back and 3<sup>rd</sup> site was great .... Laundry and dishes done now off to bed... taking a day off here tomorrow as there is a summer festival

# DAY Twenty-Six Corner Brook Day off

Friday August 14 /09

D 15.5k town A 14.3 M 39 PT 1h AT 10-1500 OD 1768.6km



voyages, including the famous Peary Polar Expedition of 1909. Born in Brigus, NFLD in 1875, Bartlett's 50 year career included more than 40 voyages and over 400,000 sailing miles. A group from Maine sailed the Arctic schooner BOWDOIN around NFLD to numerous ports. We toured the ship, went to the Museum where they had a great display of his life works and then watched a monologue which was so good...Andrew Whalen was the actor who told the story of The Karluk disaster, which on New Years Night 1914, the ship the Karluk was lost north of Siberia and how Captain Bob Bartlett led the survivors to safety across the drifting ice. You felt like he really was Ernest Chafe, a crewman on the Canadian Arctic expedition, standing on the dock with the boat there, telling us this story as it happened to him. We cycled back to camp along the river road which is basically flat... too far to go back in at 2030 for the music as finishes after dark. Kind of disappointing that less then 100 people at any of the events.... Maybe more people come Saturday. We really enjoyed all parts of it!

Had a lazy day today with clear sky and lovely wind could have pushed us down the coast! They were having a celebration of Bob Bartlett a captain of numerous Arctic





Never got to see it with the sails up but got a tour anyways.

## **DAY Twenty-Seven Corner Brook to Barachois Pond Prov Pk**

**Saturday August 15 /09**

**D 75.25k A13.7 M 44.3 PT 5h30 AT7h OD 1843.3 km**



### **CORNER BROOK**

Well the Kinsmen Prince Edward CG needs to have some adults monitoring the staff as the outhouses are filthy and the shower block not much better. I wrote a note, but I doubt it will have any affect. The power only sites are need a adaptor to plug in so we ended up changing sites for that and the first site they sent us to had so much beer caps and general garbage it would have taken me an hour to clean the site before setting up the tent. This is the first CG like this. It is a really nice site, just needs maintenance.

We left and cycled back up to Corner Brook to the Dominion for fruit [forgot yesterday having too much fun at the boat] It was rolling most of the day with some really nice downs after we climbed to 1050ft from 0 [~ over 15km so not too hard] into the wind all day although the road winds around the mtns so it is side, front, side.... One spot huge cross

wind on a down hill! Very hot all day which I like, but humid as well [30C with 100% humidity]sky hazy. Rumble strips started after the divided hiway ended [was divided from Pasadena until past Corner Brook

Stopped at 26km at Pinchgut Lake for Ken to have coffee and pie... used to have gas but only a restaurant now. No other services all day so had pb, banana, hazelnut spread sands.... Don't knock them until you try them after 60km in the heat..... just at the side of the road where it turned down to Stephenville..... if it wasn't 30 more km we might have stayed down there. It was 250ft down to the CG which won't be fun tomorrow morning, but it is a really nice with sites all around a pond. They were full, but they let us camp in the picnic area beside the activity building so we will get to hear the moving tonight and the scavenger hunt will be right around us... I don't think it will concern us at all.

We have hotdogs for supper and there is a threat of thunder storms either tonight or in the morning.....

They have lots of rocks... see how they hold up telephone poles! But no stone houses or fences like in Scotland



## **DAY Twenty-Eight Barachois Pond Prov Pk to Wishingwell CG**

**Sunday August 16 /09**

**D 68.12 k A14.6 M 50.5 PT4 h39 AT6h OD1911.9 km**

Awoke to rain on the tent at 4am.... A good pouring rain. No thunder like predicted and it stopped by 7am. Packed up and dried the tent in a nearby gazebo where we had our breakfast. Started off up up 200ft in first 1km and 50 more in the next 1km to the hiway. Not a lot of services along this section of the hiway. 2<10kph hills on our way to the turn off to St Georges which has a store, but as it is Sunday... probably closed. Off into a minimal head wind to a restaurant at 19km. We had pancakes as unsure where our next meal will come from. The wind not a great factor today. Passed turn offs for other towns, but nothing along the road until 57km a gas station at Crab's River... no groceries. We had our hobo lunch and continued on expecting to go another 20km. Suddenly at 68km there was Wishing Well CG.... Good in that we get to enjoy the afternoon sun, bad in that we are 90km instead of 80 to the ferry tomorrow. Decided to stay as the next CG was 50km on and at 28C not very inviting... no more sign of rain ... few wispy clouds.

Lovely day CG \$12 with no services.... He has no electricity on this site, but at 8pm-11 he runs a generator to run electricity. Showers hot. Most people local. Dart competition in progress.



## **DAY Twenty-Nine Wishingwell CG to Port Aux Basque Ferry terminal**

**Monday August 17/09**

**D 87.3 k A15.7 M 45.3 PT5 h34 AT6h OD1999.1 km**

Well the locals stayed up partying until midnight when the electricity went off! Also no electricity, no lights in the bathrooms..... lucky we carry a headlamp. Turned out to be not the best choice of stops. Had a spit of rain over night and woke up to dark clouds and threats of rain.

Headed out with no breakfast as no store for fruits .... Small store at South Branch.... Okay cookies!



At 47km we care to Mountain Side General Store in Codroy Valley.... Still no fruit but bought some bread and made a sandwich. Has gotten much hotter 30+C with slight head wind. Saw a sign that said: Campers and Trailers Attention for the next 20km frequently up to 200kph winds. This could make handling of vehicles difficult. If so stop and resume when able..... we were very glad the winds are not that bad today!!



Table Mountains just before Port aux Basque

Got to the ferry in good time to find out without a reservation we are looking at a 6 DAY wait! Yikes!! It was expensive also... \$25.50 per bike [charged for 5ft of space]....each..... \$28.75 per person with fuel surcharges... total \$87.98 booked for 23 August..... if they put us on tonight we pay another \$25.... Not sure if that is each to change the ticket! Incredible.... Guess they have you in a hard place..... the internet site should say you must book not may book..... Anyways we will sit here from 1430 until 7pm to see if we get on that one and if not until midnight and so on... only 3 ferries per day..... we will see maybe going to see the south side of the island is in order!