

Trip 3 – Episode #16: Beautiful Bonavista

We said goodbye to colourful Twillingate. We never got the full “Story of Cod” promoted by the sign in this photo. But we did learn that when Newfoundlanders say “fish”, they mean cod. Otherwise they name the fish specifically – like salmon or halibut. But if they just say “fish” you’re getting cod. Good to know.



Our next destination was Bonavista, but as usual, there was lots to take in along the way.



As we drove through the area of Musgrave Harbour, we passed Banting Memorial Park, named in honour of Sir Frederick Banting, co-discoverer of insulin, who died in a plane crash there, over 60 years ago. Along with an interpretation centre, they had a replica of the plane, as well as the wreckage of the Hudson Bomber.



We chose not to stay in Deadman's Bay Provincial Park. We're just not quite *that* intrepid.



We drove past the aptly named Rocky Pond.



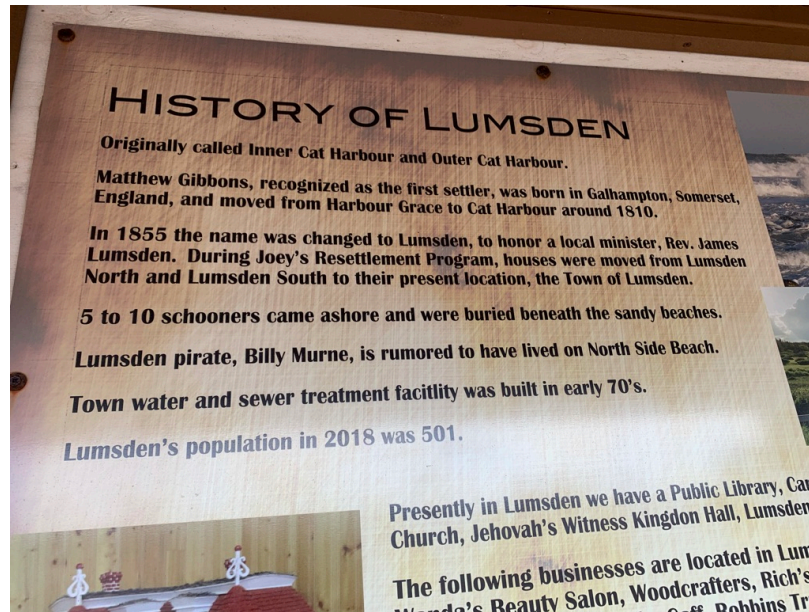
Finally we settled for the night in a funky little campground on the beach, just outside a town called Lumsden.



The campground office had these great lounges, as well as a shop and a café.



And we learned some of the town's history from the sign on the side of the campground office.



There were interesting things to see in this little beach community. Like this little spot for you and a friend to sip your lattes.



And some of the homes in the neighbourhood.



Strewn across the beach, there were these purple jellyfish everywhere.



And when I looked in the water, I decided perhaps I wouldn't go wading. All those dark spots in the water are jellyfish.



But the beach was beautiful, and our camping spot was just fine for the \$15 fee.







To top it off, we got another great sunset.



The next morning, we continued on toward Bonavista.

Along with the ruggedness of the land, we were also struck by the fact that so many of the homes we saw were large and elegant and well looked after, despite the trials that have tested Newfoundlanders.



And as all the tourism ads suggest, clean laundry is a must.



Finally, we arrived in Bonavista.



Not quite as colourful as Twillingate, but with many surprises. Like this welcoming committee.



Fortunately, this wasn't actually Bonavista's finest.



The town had its own unique charm.







This lovely little spot, The Bonavista Bicycle Picnics & Café will pack up a nice picnic for you before you go out for a bike ride. We skipped the bike ride but enjoyed some coffee and scrumptious croissants.





Of course, Bonavista is most famous for its lighthouse, right at the northern tip of the peninsula, which overlooks an island home to puffins. We got spectacular views of the rocky shores around the lighthouse.









We also found a place to boondock overnight – along with two other Leisure Travel Vans just like ours!



Although we saw hundreds of puffins, the tales we'd heard about being able to get right up close to them didn't prove true for us. So, I didn't get any great shots of the cute little birds, but you get the sense of just how many there are.



The closest I could get was shooting through the binocular viewers they had set up on a deck across from the island.



It was a great spot with wonderful views, at all hours, in every direction.





And of course, there was the statue of John Cabot, who made landfall in this area in 1497.





CANADA

CABOT'S LANDFALL IN THE NEW WORLD L'ARRIVÉE DE CABOT AU NOUVEAU-MONDE

In early May, 1497, John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto), a Venetian citizen bearing letters patent from Henry VII, sailed from Bristol in the MATTHEW to seek a western passage to Asia. On June 24, he made land somewhere on the east coast of Canada. Although the sources do not allow unequivocal identification of the site, local tradition records Cape Bonavista as the landfall. From this, the first official English voyage of exploration in the Western Ocean, derived Britain's subsequent claims in the New World and the beginnings of her overseas empire.

Au début de mai 1497, le Vénitien Jean Cabot (Giovanni Caboto), à qui le roi Henry VII avait accordé des lettres patentes, partit de Bristol sur le MATTHEW en quête d'une route maritime vers l'Asie. Le 24 juin, il aborda la côte atlantique du Canada. Les sources historiques ne permettent pas de préciser le point exact de son arrivée, mais la tradition prétend qu'il s'agit du Cap Bonavista. Ce premier voyage officiel d'exploration donna lieu à des revendications anglaises en Amérique et marqua le début de l'Empire britannique outremer.

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.
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Despite the fact that we nearly got stuck there due to a dying battery, we thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Bonavista, which certainly lived up to its name.