

# Holyrood, Newfoundland (September 2018) – Foraging for Blueberries



Everywhere we went we saw cars pulled over at the side of the road – no doubt people foraging for blueberries. We thought we should give it a try. Sure enough, they were easy to find even though it was late in the season.

# Cupids, Newfoundland (September 2018) – Hike to Burnt Head



For some of the wave action at Cupids, see the following video:  
<https://youtu.be/c0JJcn-43XA>



Hiking is a popular pastime here. We had some time on our hands so decided to head out for an amble around Burnt Head, near Cupids. We were quite impressed with the scenery, the power of the waves, and – more blueberries!

# Bell Island, Newfoundland (September 2018) – History Under the Sea



Over a minute biking  
down one hill in this  
video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgEodiwOZIM&index=106&list=PLdGAg6TDHghtY8fwBgLK6zsymttR4teAp&t=0s>

We spent a fascinating day on Bell Island, which is right across from Topsail, in Conception Bay. A highlight was touring the old iron mine – the underwater tunnels extend out for many miles, far into the Bay. We then cycled our way to Lance Cove where 4 allied ships collecting ore for the war effort were sunk by German Uboats during WWII. A local dive company now makes dives into both the mine tunnels and the shipwrecks. Then a peaceful stop by the lighthouse before heading home.

# Cape St. Mary's, Newfoundland (September 2018) – Gannets Galore



Action of the birds playful interactions and flying are in the following video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBpRyIKo8w&list=PLdGAg6TDHghs3DmxkhmKZTM\\_2VaZBxEpw&index=93&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBpRyIKo8w&list=PLdGAg6TDHghs3DmxkhmKZTM_2VaZBxEpw&index=93&t=8s)

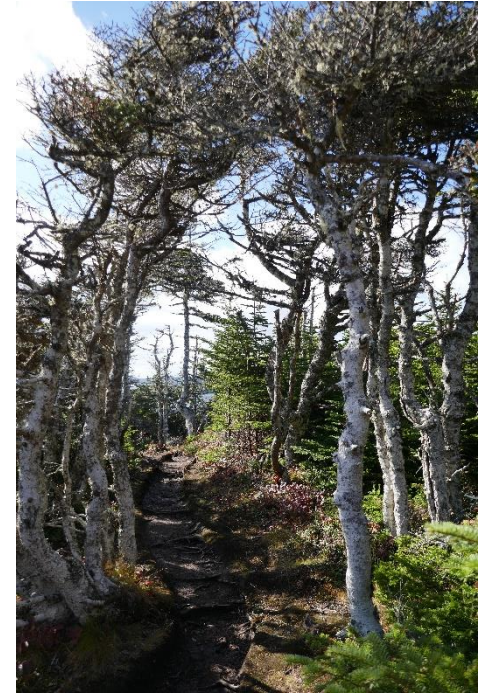
We took a drive down to Cape St. Mary's where you can view a large gannet colony from very close range. These large birds are very active. It's interesting (even dizzying!) to watch them, especially as they soar over your head. The dark coloured ones are this year's hatchlings; a few of them were brave enough to take to the air.

# Bonavista Peninsula, Newfoundland (October 2018) – Towns to Explore



We made a side trip to the Bonavista Peninsula for a few days, including stops in Elliston, “Root Cellar Capital of the World!” and Port Union, “the only union built town in North America”. This fascinating community, home of the fishermen’s labour movement, is being renovated as a National Historic Site.

# Bonavista Peninsula, Newfoundland (October 2018) - Skerwink Trail and Trinity



The Skerwink Trail is one of the most popular hikes in Newfoundland – and for good reason with beautiful, varied scenery leading to a stunning view of the pretty town of Trinity (pretty but tiny, like really small, like no place to have dinner small).

# Newfoundland (October 2018) - Fall Colours



The fall colours in Newfoundland were spectacular with impressive golden tamaracks, white birches, and barrens carpeted in brilliant scarlet and orange, dotted with sky blue ponds.

# Conception Bay South, Newfoundland (November 2018) - Community



Bell Ringing:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHy\\_oY89BifQ&list=PLdGAg6TDHghs3DmxkhmKZTM\\_2VaZBxEpw&index=99&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHy_oY89BifQ&list=PLdGAg6TDHghs3DmxkhmKZTM_2VaZBxEpw&index=99&t=0s)

We attended the Conception Bay South Remembrance Day event and at sunset were invited to take a turn ringing the bell at the heritage church down the road. Guy Fawkes Bonfire Night (November 5<sup>th</sup>) was fun though we're told it's nothing like the spectacular bonfires of years gone by (the local authorities put a stop to that ☹).



# Newfoundland (October/November 2018) - Downhome Food



We enjoyed two church dinners featuring classic Newfoundland dishes: cold plates and savoury stuffed chicken. Savoury is definitely the preferred herb in Newfoundland! At home, fresh pan fried cod was still our go to meal.

# St. John's Newfoundland, Signal Hill (October 2018)



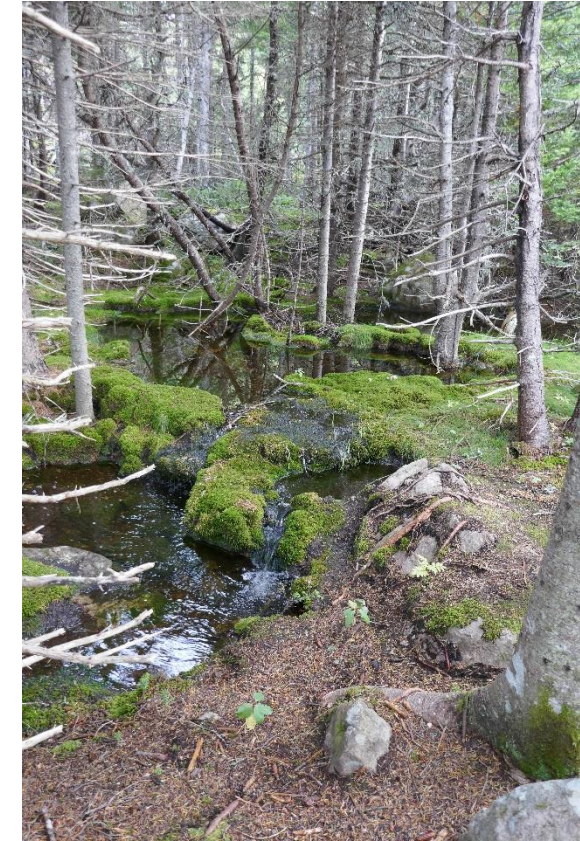
Signal Hill, a prominent landmark in St. John's Harbour and a slightly scary hike.

# The Battery, St. John's (October 2018)



This quaint neighbourhood on the Harbour is where you access the Signal Hill Trail. We happened to run into Jean Garland, the woman whose deck you cross to access the trail, and another woman named Sandy whose grandfather was the longest serving signalman on Signal Hill. They were both very friendly and interesting to talk to.

# Black Head, Newfoundland (October 2018)



Another popular segment of the incredibly stunning East Coast Trail, which runs 300 km along the easternmost part of the Avalon Peninsula.

# Cape Spear, Newfoundland (October 2018)



The easternmost point of North America and one of our favourite spots in Newfoundland.

# St. John's, Newfoundland (November 2018) – The City at Night



Watch the incredible guitar playing by Daniel Champagne:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rprzzngBwfA&index=29&list=PLdGAg6TDHghtN5FdFlqm8un9kLYdSJoal&t=0s>

St. John's at dusk. It was neat looking towards the Battery and Signal Hill from the Fort Amherst side. Fish and Chips at the Duke of Duckworth (with all the fixings, savoury dressing included) was delicious and we were amazed by the guitar skills of Daniel Champagne at The Ship pub.

# Paradise and St. John's (November 2018) – Water and Ice



Mike was really happy to get involved with a great seniors hockey group in Paradise. Rhonda played a few times too. They even gave Mike a Montreal Canadiens hat as a parting gift – but so far there are no photos of him wearing it! The Newfoundland Paddling group started pool sessions/pub nights in November so we were able to participate in that too. Sadly, we have not perfected our rolling techniques yet.

# Flatrock, Newfoundland (November 2018) – Father Troy’s Trail



For some of the wave action at Flatrock, see the following video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUIH7cRUafQ&list=PLdGAg6TDHghs3DmxkhmKZTM\\_2VaZBxEpw&index=100](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUIH7cRUafQ&list=PLdGAg6TDHghs3DmxkhmKZTM_2VaZBxEpw&index=100)

On a nice day we decided to take a drive over to nearby Flatrock. Once again, we were impressed with the scenery of the East Coast Trail. It is fairly common to find remains of World War II defense posts in Newfoundland.

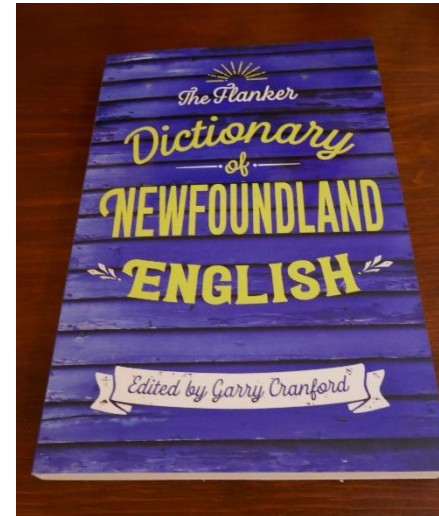
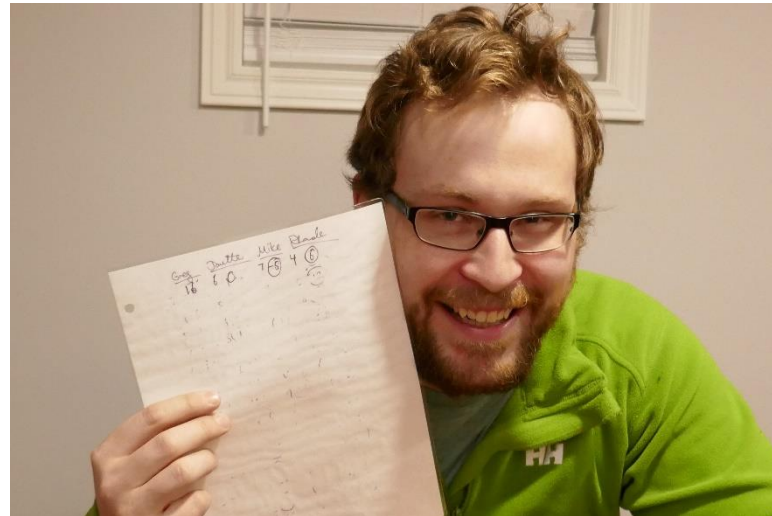


# Quidi Vidi, St. John's, Newfoundland (November 2018) – It's Quidi Vidi!



Quidi Vidi and The Gut – a beautiful part of St. John's. We even came across a local delicacy – partridgeberries.

# Conception Bay South, Newfoundland (November 2018) – Food and Games



We had a great time playing Exploding Kittens and Dutch Blitz with Greg (our Airbnb Host) and Jeanette, awesome Newfoundlanders (and just great people) – except they kept beating us.

# New World Island/Twillingate/Port-Aux-Basques, Newfoundland (December 2018)



In early December we started making our way across Newfoundland to catch the ferry at Port-Aux-Basques (the only option for driving off the island this time of year). We were lucky to have a calm overnight crossing considering that a few days earlier there had been a lot of cancelations due to rough weather at sea.