

A Day in the Life... in Newfoundland!



MV Caribou loading at Port-aux-Basques for voyage to North Sydney

Western Logistics started scheduled service to Newfoundland on December 1, 2007. This represented completion of its progression across Canada which started in Vancouver in 1990, and resulted in 11 distribution centres along the way. The “maiden voyage” – and it was a voyage! – was conducted by Erick Haines, manager of Atlantic operations – and Bob Hartin, CEO and founder of Western Logistics. We invite you to follow along on a day in the life of a specialized carrier.

Trips to Newfoundland start with boarding one of the ferries at North Sydney, Nova Scotia. This trip was aboard the MV

Smallwood and its return was aboard the MV Caribou, a sister ship. These ferries have ice-breaking hulls, a feature used extensively in winter months to reach mooring on both sides. The short route to Port-aux-Basques takes about 5 hours, but then involves a 10-hour trip across the Island to St. John’s, the capital. The long ferry route to Argentia (near St. John’s) takes about 14 hours, but operates only during summer months when the North Atlantic is calmer.

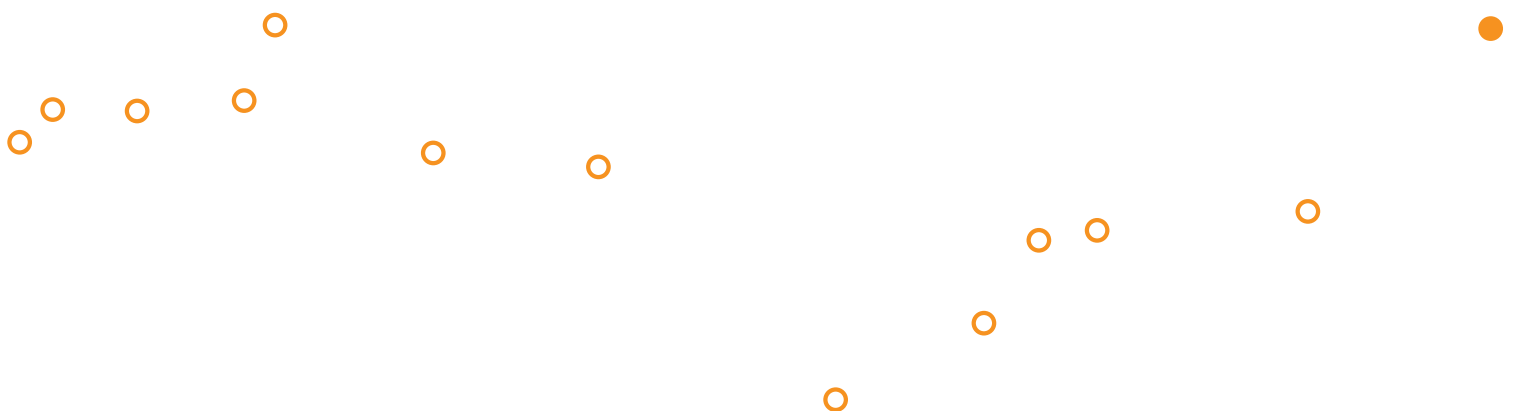
Although the trip across Newfoundland is breath-takenly beautiful, its winter storms are breath-taking, too. There is no room for error on these trips! The maiden run involved driving through strong head-wind, slick and changing roads, new snow and freezing rain – the worst possible conditions for truck operation. These runs separate the amateur drivers from the pros in a hurry.

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Captions from top to bottom:
Bob Hartin, founder of Western Logistics, helping deliver to major customer in St. John's;
Erick Haines, Manager, Halifax, on bridge of MV Smallwood on outbound voyage from North Sydney;
Erick copes with visibility during ice storm near Gander;
St. John's harbor was first discovered by Italian explorer John Cabot in 1497, although the Vikings had landed at Anse-aux-Meadow, NL, 500 years earlier.



It was a relief to reach St. John's at the end of a long day. Good food and legendary hospitality awaited. Newcomers quickly fall in love with Newfoundland and its warm and witty people.

Newfoundland is a study in contrasts. Exquisitely modern buildings mix with heritage structures. St. John's is considered to be the oldest English-speaking city in North America. Newfoundland is almost entirely rock, but the ocean is ever-present in the life and minds of the people. Here is St. John's harbour, with trawlers and rescue ships at the ready. This trip allowed time only for a peek at George Street, world-famous for pub-crawling. Western Logistics is happy to be in Newfoundland, finally. We can now connect Victoria and St. John's, across five and one-half time zones, two ferry rides, and 4500 miles with single-line responsibility and our own personnel all the way. ■



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