

# The Rock Rocks

by Jim-Beaux Lieyeah

Cape Spear National Historic Site: As any traveller does, I have referred to my trusty Travel Guide to help me seek out Newfoundland's treasures.

Today, I have come here with a head foggier than most mornings on this province's coast. But things have cleared quickly as I stand at the "Far East of the Western World." From here there is nothing but the sea to the east. To the west a

prosperous continent has developed over the last 500 years. Around me lies a barren landscape that has rightly earned the name "The Rock." From here I can see Signal Hill...

Cabot Tower sits perched on the top of Signal Hill, one of two hills guarding the port and city of St. John's. From there, one can look down inland and see the city spread out in front of them. Looking out east, one is faced with the great navy blue

expanse known as the Atlantic Ocean. The tower was built in 1897, to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Cabot's discovery of the New World. Thanks to those

sent out the first transatlantic wireless communication. The ramifications of that discovery are still being felt today with things like cell phones, television remotes, and garage

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Heritage Canada moments (the federal government and Sheila Copps beams at us) this spot is better known for Marconi's experiment. The Italian inventor was looking for a place to test his new invention: wireless communication. Initially, he had opted for Cape Cod as his North American site but problems and distance to Europe brought him to St. John's. On that eventful day, he

door openers to name a few. But time has frozen here. The city has grown and modernized but here things seem the same as over 100 years ago. I certainly hope this National Historic Site remains untouched for all its visitors imaginations to enjoy...

...As I walk through the park, my gaze keeps returning to the sea. Below me lies the jagged coastline, defiant in

the face of the oceans remorseless attack. At its furthest corner the ocean heaves. The rocks are swallowed and the waves roll over them. It is something to behold when nature rolls these waves over the coast. Each heave builds to over six foot peaks today before it crashes down on the edge of the continent. The sea colour transforms along a blue spectrum, from navy to teal, to green, and finally to the white of the foam as it drifts out to sea again...

We drifted out of Corner Brook early yesterday. We got a first hand taste of the town's curious statistical claim to Canadian fame. This area, that lies nestled in a valley with the Humber River on its side, gets the most snowfall anywhere in Canada. Usually, I would dispute this, however all evidence seems to confirm this. Marble Mountain lies a five minute ride out of town and claims to have the best skiing east of the Rockies (which my brother Nic-oh-lie-yeah has confirmed). This I

can not validate but I can say that on Nov. 12th there was enough snow to ski!! Corner Brook is Newfoundland's darling town. Their economic policy of aggressive promotion to lure companies in, has paid off. The bustling town sprawled over the valley is certainly a site to behold after 200+ km drive from the ferry. The world class salmon fishing here has also served to justify its presence on many

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surveys of the top 10 places to live in Canada. Year round world class facilities (thanks in part to the Canada Games that were held here) and resources should keep this town on the list for awhile to come...

...One comes upon

a small opening around a concrete frame. Upon closer inspection and entry one realizes they are in the concrete maze of a WW II coastal gun battery. Huge guns still sit in their sidings. It is not hard to imagine their arrival from the US in 1941 and the first shells (250 pounds a piece) being fired out to sea. Any entry towards the harbour must pass through these guns sight. One can't help but

wonder what the soldiers thought when they saw a whale glide by or a huge ice berg inch its way past (personally I can't help but speculate that these guys took shots at it for fun). The con-

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