



# Catalina, Newfoundland

**Location:** 62-64 Main St., Port Union NL  
**Mailings:** Box 181, Port Union NL AOC 2J0

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## Location

The municipality of Trinity Bay North is comprised of four small towns; Catalina (pronounced Cat-line-uh), Little Catalina, Port Union and Melrose. It is located on the Bonavista Peninsula on the north-eastern tip of Newfoundland, about 300 kilometres from St. John's.

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## Demographics

In the 1500 fishers from England, France and Spain frequented the harbour and by 1580 Catalina had a permanent population of 100. Fishing was the main occupation of all the communities in this municipality and continues to this day, although the fisheries experienced a major collapse in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the fishing plants in the area are now closed and the one that was still open before Hurricane Igor hit was badly damaged and will not reopen until 2012. Blueberries and partridge berries are picked for commercial sale but because of the poor soil there is little cultivation in the area. Most of the people go to other parts of Canada to work and come back to retire, which means the average age in this municipality is around 65.

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## Hurricane Igor

Hurricane Igor was an enormous, long-lived Category 4 hurricane. It caused widespread damage in Newfoundland on September 21, 2010, even though by the time it hit Newfoundland it had been downgraded to a post tropical storm. The change in Igor's classification did not reflect a downgrade in the storm's intensity. Winds had strengthened to over 150 km/h, as the storm drew energy from another weather system to the west. Igor was the largest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin, in terms of gale diameter.

Significant wind and flooding damage was reported across much of the island of Newfoundland, in particular from the Burin Peninsula, across to the Bonavista Peninsula in the east. Up to 238 mm (9.37 inches) of rain fell, making Hurricane Igor the third wettest tropical cyclone to be recorded in Canada. Igor caused well over \$100 million damage in Newfoundland.

Roads and bridges were completely washed away as well. After the Trans-Canada highway was closed, all of eastern Newfoundland, including the Bonavista Peninsula was cut off from the rest of the island. Nearly 50 communities were isolated for several days as roads that connected them to the rest of the island were washed away or simply destroyed.

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## MDS

The historical Coakers Houses in Port Union/Catalina will serve as the MDS camp. Two houses will serve as the headquarters, kitchen, dining area and residence for the volunteers. MDS is partnering with a local long-term group on the building of three new homes in the towns of Melrose, Newman's Cove and Bonavista.

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## Items to bring along

- enough clothes for 2 weeks as laundry facilities are not available at the MDS site
- clothing for work and leisure; MDS asks that volunteers are covered from shoulders to knees
- temperatures will vary, so volunteers should be prepared to layer clothing as needed
- appropriate foot ware for job sites (closed toe shoes)
- toiletries
- MDS will provide tools and equipment, but volunteers may want to bring their own personal tool belts and small hand tools
- Do not bring bedding or bath towels as those will be provided for all short-term and long-term volunteers

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## Travel Information

### Air:

Volunteers should fly into St. John's, Newfoundland and arrive by 1:00 pm (at the latest). Marsh's Taxi will need to be taken from the airport to the MDS site in Port Union. Taxi reservations must be made in advance through the MDS office manager so they can inform Marsh's Taxi that someone will need to be picked up. PLUS the **volunteer must call the St John's phone number (747-2225)** (area code 709 is not required for local calls). If overnight in St Johns call in the morning prior to a noon pick-up. If arriving by air around noon time, call **immediately after collecting baggage**. Marsh's Taxi will give detailed final instructions regarding time and place of pick-up. They will pick-up anywhere in St Johns. Marsh's has only one trip out to Port Union and it starts pick-ups around noon with intent to leave St John's airport by 1:30 (2:00 p.m. the latest)

Flights out of St. John's must leave after 1pm to give time to arrive by Marsh's Taxi. Taxi rides between St. John's and the MDS site in Port Union can take up to 5 hours. The taxi cost is \$40/person one way; volunteers are expected to pay this cost with cash only; no credit cards or debit cards.

### Bus:

There's good bus service that travels from Port aux Basques to St. John's (and St. John's to Port aux Basques) each day. Total cost for an adult is about \$100 each way. The bus service is operated by DRL Coachlines (709-263-2163) and it connects with the gulf ferry service that joins Port aux Basques, Nfld and North Sydney, NS. Tickets are bought on the bus. In Port aux Basques the bus leaves the ferry terminal at 8:00 AM. In St. John's the bus leaves the airport (7:30 AM), the Arts building at Memorial University (7:45 AM) and the Irving service station at Donovans (8:00 AM). The bus stops at many communities across Newfoundland and arrives at its final stop of the day at about 9:30 PM. The total distance covered is about 900 kms (550 miles). Morning connections to Port aux Basques can be made with Marsh's Taxi from Port Union to Clarenville bus depot for \$25. Unfortunately the DRL Coachline arrives later in the evening than Marsh's Taxi driving through Clarenville.

### Ferry:

If people drive they must take one of two ferry rides. One runs all year, the other only in summer. The all year ferry runs between North Sydney, NS and Port Aux Basques, Nfld. It is an 8-10 hour sail. Cost is about \$100 for the vehicle and \$35 for adult passengers. Following the ferry there is a 9 h drive to the Bonavista area. The rate given is for a vehicle under 20 ft in length. The summer ferry runs between Port Sydney NS and Argentia Nfld. Argentia is about 4 h from Bonavista. This sail is about 18 hour. An adult passenger pays \$96. Cost for a 20 ft vehicle is about \$200. For more information on rates, times and reservations go to: <http://www.marine-atlantic.ca/en/schedule/pabnsy.asp>  
Ferry reservations must be made in advance, with volunteers making their own ferry reservations and paying the ferry costs.

## **Driving directions to MDS site at Port Union**

### **From the Ferry in Port Aux Basques:**

Take Trans-Canada Hwy 1 East to hwy 230 East (exit 26) 20 km. before Clarendville. (Resist the temptation to take 233 at Port Blandford unless you want a slow, scenic drive through many small villages on a poorly maintained and narrow road.) Stay on hwy 230 until Port Union. Turn right on Main St (The sign is not very visible) which is just before the Sir William F. Coaker Bridge. The same intersection has another very short street, but more notable is a sign for Capt. Blackmores B&B. Stay on Main St until you pass a large red building on your left which is the Coaker museum. On your right you will see a series of large red semi-detached houses. When you get to the parking lot just past the museum pull in. The MDS houses, with a MDS sign, are opposite the parking lot.

### **From St John's airport:**

If you are taking the taxi service ask to go to the Coaker houses on Main Street in Port Union.

If you are driving, take Trans Canada hwy 1 West to hwy 230 East (exit 26), 20 km. past the Clarendville exits. Stay on hwy 230 until Port Union. Turn right on Main St (sign is not very obvious) which is just before the Sir William F. Coaker bridge. The same intersection has another very short street, but more notable is a sign for Capt. Blackmores B&B. Stay on Main St until you pass a large red building on your left which is the Coaker museum. On your right you will see a series of large red semi-detached houses. When you get to the parking lot just past the museum pull in. The MDS houses are opposite the parking lot.

**People should be advised that driving is best done in daylight hours.** The number of vehicle-moose collisions is great and driving at night is discouraged for that reason. Having said that, the hours of daylight at the end of May will be long; sunrise at 5:45 AM and sunset at 8:50 PM