

The S.S. Thackeray , considered the most notable wreck in Lumsden, was built in 1942 in Sunderland, England and was utilized as an armed merchant ship during World War II. The ship was owned and operated by the Rodney Steamship Co., London, England. Capt. Walter Wright of Newcastle, England commanded the ship and the crew of 35 men.

1) S.S. Thackeray

In 1946, she was under charter to the A.N.D. Paper Co., Grand Falls, NL to carry paper from Botwood, NL to ports in America. The S.S. Thackeray left Alexandria, USA in early December



Crew members of the Thackeray (left).



Captain Walter Wright and the Pilot, Captain Ken Barbour. (right)

A strike in Sydney, NS prohibited the ship from docking and obtaining coal, leaving the ship to continue on empty; eventually arriving in St. John's, NL on the 26th of December 1946. With Capt. Kenneth Barbour as pilot, the S.S. Thackeray passed Cat Island off the coast of Lumsden around 4 A.M. on December 27th, heading north to Botwood. Soon after passing Cat Island, the ship was forced to turn back due to a sudden blinding snowstorm. Without the stability of a ballast, the ship was forced ashore at the Queen's Head in Lumsden just before daylight. As the day dawned, word spread around the community and locals were quick to construct a bosun's chair to rescue the men one by one. Each crewman was welcomed into the home of a local family to warm their frost-bitten bodies by heat from the wood stove. The local families offered their hospitality for 23 days to their billets, including two cats.

On May 2, 1947, 123 days after the disaster Captain Wright and the Chief Engineer returned to Lumsden to start the refloating preparation. Captain Crowley arrived ten days later in a steam tug, the Foundation Josephene, to assist in the refloating. The first two attempts at refloating were unsuccessful. On the night of the 21st of May, a strong northwesterly wind moved the S.S. Thackeray about fifty feet until it came to a rest on an outside reef, where it remained until the evening of May 23rd, 1947, when the she lifted her head and slipped quietly into the waters of Deadman's Bay. The next evening, the tug, Foundation Josephene, towed the ship to St. John's for repairs.

2) Queen's Head

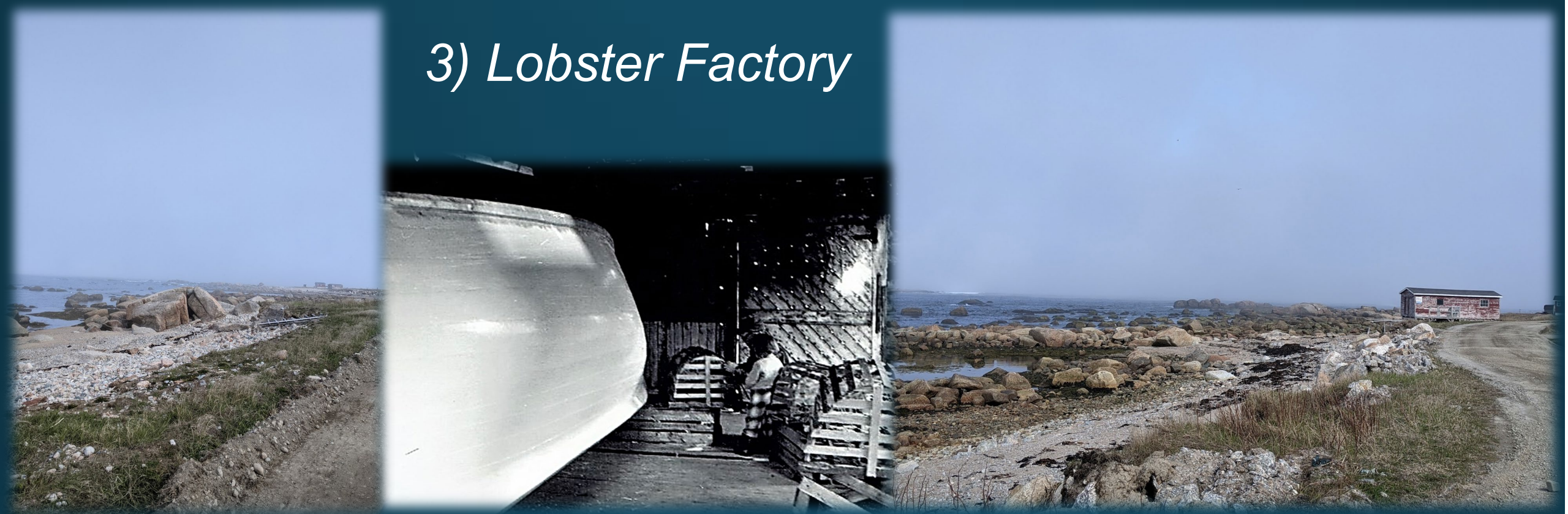


*There's a story told that at this rocky site is a rock that is shaped and looks like an image of a woman. This site is probably the closest to England on the island and was named the **Queen's Head** in honour of our queen. The **Queen's Head**, Lumsden, NL was once believed to be one of the four corners of the earth by the Flat Earth Society. It is a magical place to relax, get lost in your thoughts and erase all your cares and problems from your mind. Some people have made very life changing decisions by just sitting and thinking at this beautiful place. As you sit and watch the breathtaking sight, deep within all feels right.*

*The **S.S. THACKERAY** ran aground here on December 27, 1946. She withstood the battling seas of winter and was floated back to America in the spring of 1947. Her rudder is still here, wedged between the rocks of **Queen's Head**.*

***Queen's Head** was and still is today a very popular place where hunters sit for hours, dressed in white suits, patiently waiting to get a shot at a duck or turr during the birding season, when the strong winds blow from the Northeast. For years, this site was a popular parking and walking site for young lovers.*

3) Lobster Factory



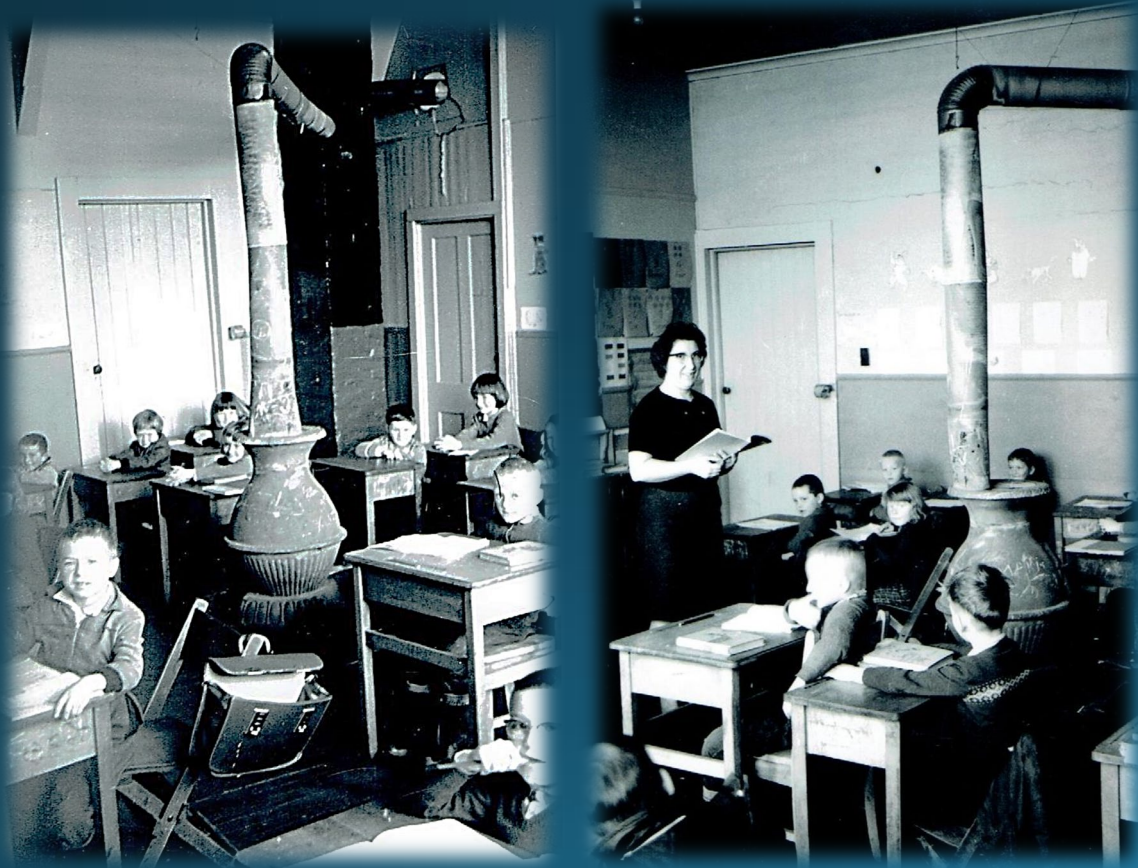
Many years ago, there was a **lobster factory** across from H. Hatcher & Sons Store in Dog Cove. Here Lobsters were canned for market, just few hundred feet from the **Queen's Head**.

Mr. Lawrence Gulliford worked here during the summer months. He also taught at the school in Lumsden North for a number of years.



Gray's Point was the site of the new school opened in September of 1940 and was used up until 1967-68. When it closed students were bussed to the new Lumsden Central High/Elementary School. The old school was a 2 room, multi grade classrooms with a wood stove and a two compartment outhouse just over the bank, by the sea. The older female students would have to sweep the floors daily. The parents were expected to clean the school on a regular basis. Students were often asked to bring along wood to keep the fire burning during the colder months.

4) *Gray's Point*



To the south of the school site there were numerous rocks. Kids loved to jump rocks and explore the shoreline. One outstanding rock was named Sugarloaf. It was tall, pointed rock, off the shoreline, out from the turn in the road. Story has it that a fisherman once saw a mermaid sitting on top of the rock. The turn in the road, very close to this rock, was then called Heaven's Curve.

5) Northern Island



*Jack Melindy in front
of Northern Island*



There is no evidence that this Island was ever occupied by settlers, however, the story has been told that pirates buried their gold and treasure somewhere in the middle of Northern Island.

This Island is famous for driftwood, old lobster traps and beach-combing for treasures that might have washed ashore. It is a very beautiful, interesting and relaxing place for boiling up, berry picking and hiking. It is also a perfect place to light a campfire using the driftwood on the shoreline.

It takes about 2 hours to walk around this island. The scenery is a sight to behold.



6) Old Fishing Stages of Lumsden North

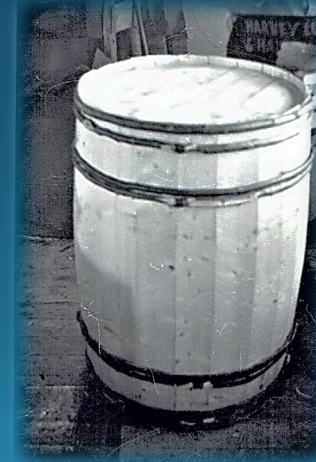
Long before the 1960's fishing was the main occupation of men and women in **Lumsden North**. Each fisherman built his/her own individual fishing stage from the beach out into the salt water, far enough that the boat could sail to the wharf during low and high tide. The fishermen of **Lumsden North** had a very unique way of building these fishing stages/flakes. There were 20 or more stages built on the coastline; Some shores and foundations from these stages and flakes are still visible today when a storm hits the coastline shifting the sands. The flake surfaces were constructed of long tapering poles called 'lungers', on which the washed salt fish were spread to dry.



Cod Traps and Lobster Traps were the main way of fishing from these fishing stages. The stages had to be built in the spring and taken down in the fall before the winter seas and ice arrived. They were very close to each other and the flakes from one stage almost touched the next. You could often jump from one flake to the other in certain places.



Two business firms, Howell's and Robbins', had the facilities for preparing dried salt cod for export. Both firms had a cooper shop and made their own barrels to put the salt cod in for shipment. Cod Liver Oil was also another big seller for the fishermen of **Lumsden North**. This oil was from the liver of the cod fish. Cod livers were placed in barrels 'to render in the sun' long enough for the oil to float to the top. The oil was then dipped off, sealed in drums, and shipped to market.



7) Lumsden North Beach

Many people walk this beach every day. Kids and adults enjoy swimming in the ocean. Others walk and pick up sand dollars and broken pieces of glass that often wash ashore daily in the spring, summer and fall; reminders from these forgotten old shipwrecks. During Hurricane Igor in 2010, many frames of these old shipwrecks were visible, but have since been buried in the sand again.



Some of these buried shipwrecks include:

- UNICORN - October 6, 1859
- THE LOYALTY - 1927
- THE ELTON - 1927
- EREMA H. - 1929
- MARITIME - 1938
- STELLA - 1950
- PATRIOT - 1950
- ALICE M. PIKE
- SEABIRD - 1951
- LADY GREEN
- STANLEY G. BARBOUR – 1934
- ADAMANT - 1868
- THE BRITISH GEM - 1903
- THE HUNTER - 1909
- THE SILVER STREAM
- THE COMET
- THE GRACE DARLING
- AMAZON - September 15, 1891

One of the greatest storms talked about in Lumsden was the wicked gale that occurred June 7, 1885. It is locally called the 'seventh of June gale'. Several schooners met their fate on the Cat Harbour Breakers during that terrible storm.

Vessels that were lost in that storm include **CORKUM, LADY WINSOR, JULIE B, COQUETTE, GIBBONS AND THE LOLANTHE**

All vessels were on the way to Labrador for the fishing season and were blown on the Cat Harbour sands by the raging storm.

8) Annual Lumsden Festival Site

*A CELEBRATION BY THE SEA was first held in August of 1980 and has been an annual festival every year since. The Celebration takes place the week before and including the first Saturday of August. The festival includes many activities such as a kid's day, family BBQ, fireworks, volleyball tournament, poker run, teen and adult dances, games of chance, bake sale, craft sale, and many varieties of traditional food. There is also a bar operated by the Lumsden Volunteer Fire Brigade and all activities take place at the Lumsden Day Site, located near and on **Lumsden North Beach**.*

This festival attracts many tourists, former residents and their families from many places, far and wide. Many of the local residents volunteer their time to make this festival a success and all money raised at this event is donated to the Lumsden Volunteer Fire Department and the Lumsden Recreation Committee.

The Festival Building, at the Lumsden Day Site, was constructed in 2000-2002, and was funded by the government through ACOA. It is also rented for wedding and other public functions.

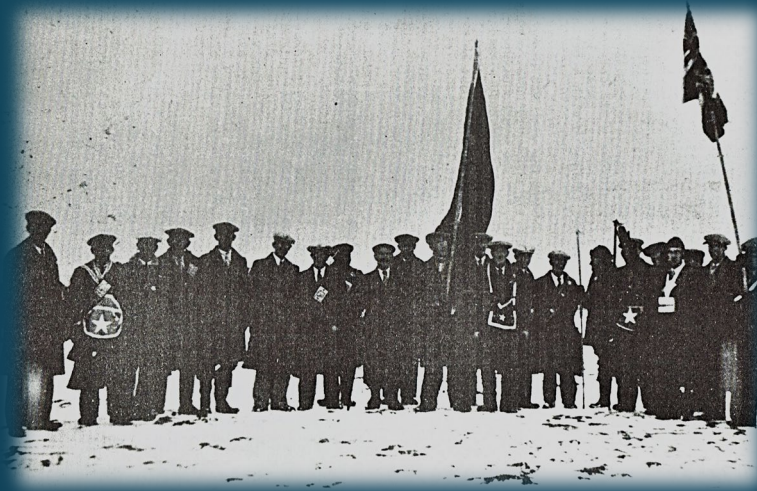


As you walk south on Lumsden North Beach, after passing the river that runs into the sea, on your right you will see beautiful sand dunes. These dunes were formed after the old Orangemens Lodge, the Church and the School were relocated to another site.

The school was built in 1856 and served 16 families from both communities. It was also used as a church until a new church was built in the same area. It later burned and two new churches were built; one in each community.

The old Orangemens lodge was a meeting place where adults and children would gather. This central location was perfect for concerts, tea times, and Sunday School Picnics.

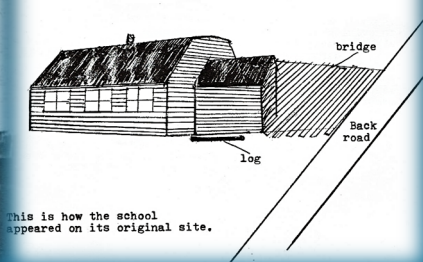
9) Sand Dunes & Old Lodge Site



Orangemen's Parade around 1938



School at Lumsden North, 1919 - 1940.
This school is not on the original site.
Here it was used as a fish store.



This is how the school
appeared on its original site.

The big 'time' each year was the Orange Men's parade and supper.

During the meeting for the planning of the supper certain Orange Men would volunteer to be responsible for a table. This meant his wife and several more ladies had to spend considerable time preparing for the supper. There were usually three tables to prepare. This meant a plentiful supply of home baked goodies, salt beef, boiled and minced and cooked with the vegetables. One Orange Man would volunteer to keep the kettles boiled.

On this 'time day' all the dishes and food had to be packed in trunks and put on a slide, hitched to the horse, and pulled to the site. It was thrilling for small children to go along for the ride.

After supper was served, games were played and left-over goods were auctioned. Younger kids fell asleep on chairs cushioned by jackets and the adults would sing and play all kinds of games. It was usually daylight before everyone left the lodge to begin the journey home on the horse and slide.

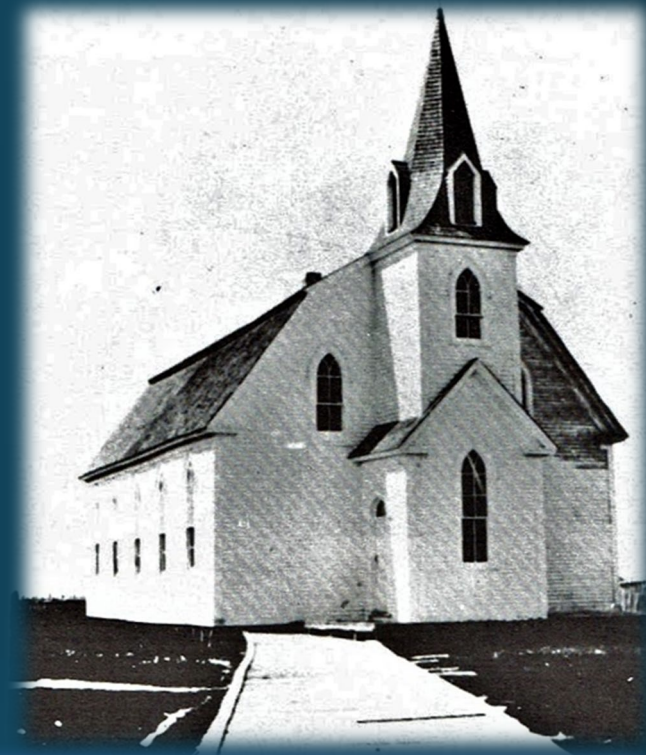


10) Old Lumsden North Cemetery

This old cemetery was originally located on the other side of Cat Harbour Brook (Gut) near the beach. It was moved to its present location in the early 1900's with the help of government funding.

This move was made due to constant flooding near the beach. The earliest known date on a headstone is 1876, although it is possible that older markers were lost in the flooding, or during the move.

The latest stone was placed here in 2006. This old cemetery was designated a Municipal Heritage Site May 28, 2012 by the Town because of its historic and aesthetic value. Donations, volunteers, government funding and fundraising have preserved this historic site. It is still being restored as funds become available.





11) Johnny Grey's Lights

In order for ships to safely enter Lumsden Harbour, two red lights were erected on the headland at different elevations. By lining up the two red lights, Captains were able to safely enter the deepest part of Lumsden Harbour.

For many years, the lights had to be hand lit with kerosene by Johnny Gray. Every day he would have to relight and refill the lights with kerosene. After Johnny Gray's retirement, Seymour Goodyear took over the task in 1945, and maintained the lights until they were automated in 1964.

12) Legend of Billy Murne

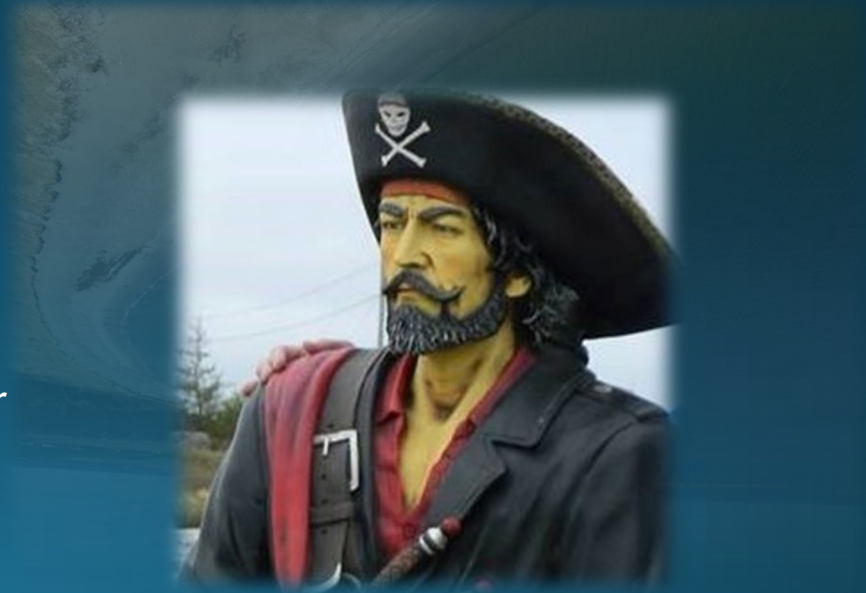
In the 1880's Lumsden (Cat Harbour) had a pirate settle near the beach and close to **Johnny Gray's Lights**. Where he came from or how he got here is not known for certain.

Legend has it that he escaped from a pirate ship, stealing gold from his fellow pirates. He settled midway between **Lumsden North** and **Lumsden South**. He made his shelter next to a huge rock, and for many years the burnt side of the rock was thought to be his fireplace.

People say that a girl by the name of Helen Gray took care of **Billy Murne**. She was hoping he would confide in her and tell the secret of where his gold was buried. On one occasion while he was trying to recuperate from a night of heavy drinking, he called Helen to his bedside. "Helen," he whispered, "can you keep a secret?" "Yes, Mr. Murne.", hoping he would tell her where his treasure was buried. But instead, he turned his head to one side and said, "And so can I!".

It is not really known what happened to **Billy Murne**, but some say he moved to Ladle Cove, NL in later years. Some say he died in Ladle Cove, but to this day his treasure has not been found and still lies buried beneath the shifting sands or near his shelter in Lumsden.

Legend also states that people often saw a flashing light near his shelter for years after he disappeared. It was thought to be his ghost. One night, a young man from **Lumsden North** walked to **Lumsden South** to see a special girl. On his way back home, he saw a light following him all the way. Just before reaching his home, he figured he would take his flashlight out of his pocket to investigate the so-called ghost light, but to his surprise his flashlight was on all during the journey. The mystery of the light was solved.



13) Vegetable Gardens – Garden Point

Cat Harbour Point consisted of many locally owned gardens where each owner grew and some still grow vegetables – potatoes, turnip, cabbage, carrots, and onions. The vegetables are set in the spring and harvested in the fall. There are some root cellars in these gardens, which can still be distinguished by mounds and/or sunken holes. Local root cellars were constructed and insulated for storing the vegetables, so they would not freeze during the winter months. These gardens were all divided by fences. Some of these gardens are still used today to grow vegetables. These were used by residents of both Lumsden North and Lumsden South. There are many remains of old root cellars around today, these cellars have been abandoned for many years and are not considered safe, please use extra caution around this area and use at own risk.



14) Swimming Hole – Garden Point



This swimming hole was used by children and adults for many years.

*The water was very deep where the river turns the corner of **Garden Point**.*

It was abandoned in the early 1970's because of the town water and sewer system. The sewer plant water runs into Cat Harbour Brook and from there into the ocean.



15) Lumsden South Beach



*In the north corner, capelin roll ashore in the summer on the rocky sand to spawn. As you walk towards **Lumsden South** it is quite possible to see all kinds of shore birds. Many people like to bird watch and both beaches have quite a variety of birds.*

Lumsden South Tragic Hailstorm

June 26, 1930 was just another typical day in Lumsden. Some fishermen were out on the fishing grounds, others were on their way home.

Suddenly, around noon, the sky got very dark. In a matter of seconds, a vicious storm broke with hurricane force winds, rain, thunder, and lightening. Stories of ice pellets, large enough to kill a person had fallen.

*Houses and buildings were damaged, and people ran for shelter from the storm. The tragic news of three men drowning or had been killed by the ice pellets was devastating to the residents of both communities. The three were mooring their 'boats on the collar' between **Lumsden South** and **Southern Island**. They were Roland Cuff, Baxter Goodyear, and Samuel Goodyear; all of Lumsden. It was a very sad day for both communities.*

In the matter of a few minutes the storm passed, the seas had become calm, and the sun shone down all tis glory on a rain soaked, sad community in mourning.

Lumsden was a disaster area. The government responded and sent the coastal boat with roofing supplies, glass, and materials to restore the damaged houses. That tragic day would never be forgotten by the local residents, or at least those old enough to remember.

16) Old Cemetery (Outside Ballfield)

This old cemetery, which often flooded, had to be moved to a new location. Moores (Morey's) Marsh, was chosen as the new site of the present United Church Cemetery today. During and after the flooding many bones were picked up. There's a story of how one man found a skull on the beach and used it all that summer as a bailing bucket for his boat.



17) Lumsden South



Garland Goodyear

All the people residing at **Lumsden South** lived on the sandy banks around the fishing stages.

Some say they decided to relocate inland because of the shifting sands and the damage that would be done to their homes and property.

After relocating inland, the fishermen continued to fish. Some had summer homes 'on the point' and continued to stay with their families during the fishing season.



Mr. Pearce Gibbons did a replica of 'the point' (**Lumsden South**), including houses, stages, etc. of the earlier years before resettlement. It is on display and can be viewed at the Town Council Office in Lumsden.



18) School Cliff

*This cliff was once the home to the old school of **Lumsden South**. It was a one room school at first, then another room was built, and eventually another classroom was added to make it a three room multi grade school. It was built in 1927 and closed in 1967-68 when elementary students moved to the new school in Lumsden.*

The first church in Lumsden South was built on the opposite side, east, of the school cliff. It was used until the new church was built in 1963, which served the combined congregation of the Town of Lumsden after resettlement.



The old church was sold and used as a restaurant/hangout for many years. It was sold later and opened as a bar called Cat Harbour Lounge. Part of the old church still remains in that building today and is located on the highway entering Lumsden from the South. A portion of the old school was bought by Irene and Mark Goodyear and used as a grocery store for many years.

Many years ago, the salt water actually came into the school cliff where schooners and boats would be anchored for shelter.

19) Lumsden Southern Island

*Inner Cat Harbour Island (**Southern Island**) once had residents (Crews, Parsons and Tillers.) Many artifacts, arrow heads, old dishes, coins, and broken glass pieces have been found. Five rock fire rings were discovered a few years ago, giving evidence that Indigenous people had once lived here as well.*



It has been said that the first settlers on this island settled here because they were afraid of the Beothuk peoples, an Indigenous group native to Newfoundland, who lived on the mainland. During recent years, this island has been home to local animals, cows, goats, sheep, and horses. These animals are taken there to feed and graze for the summer. The island is also home to the shipwreck Roma H. Many tourists and residents love to sail to this island today and look for artifacts, hike around the island and often boil up before leaving. It is also home to many seagulls. They make their nests here, lay eggs and bring out their young.

20) Lumsden Harbour Wharf and Breakwater

The community stage, wharf and breakwater are used by many fishing vessels from Lumsden and other communities for offloading their catch. It is a safe haven and shelter for many fishing vessels, sail boats and pleasure cruisers. The first phase of the breakwater and walkway was completed around 1982. The second phase was completed around 1985. In 2012-2013, it was completely dismantled and rebuilt with a different design for both the wharf and the breakwater. The rock for the formation of the rock breakwater was blasted and brought to this location from the cliff to the south called **The Head**, located at the bottom of the rock cliff road leading to the **Crow's Gulch**. This new wharf and breakwater give excellent protection to all vessels from the stormy seas. The boardwalk has a very scenic view, and many beautiful pictures have been taken from this site.

Approximately 20,000 lbs. of Lobsters and 800,000 lbs. of Snow Crab plus Shrimp and Cod quotas are landed here each season. Also, thousands, sometimes millions of pounds of Capelin are off loaded and trucked to different plants to be prepared for market. The wharf is certainly an interesting place to be during the fishing season. Many men and women from Lumsden are employed at the local fish plant in Valleyfield during the busy fishing season.



21) Grass and Vegetable Gardens



These grass gardens were once used for growing vegetables and cutting grass to feed animals during the winter. Vegetables grown by the local residents were often potatoes, turnip, cabbage and carrot. These grass gardens were also home to many animals for grazing, mainly sheep, goats, cows, and horses. Kelp and capelin that washed up on the beaches, were often used as fertilizer. Across from the gardens is a very flat rock formation by the shoreline. This scenic spot is often used today to pick mussels, light a fire to boil the kettle and have a boil up. It's a great location to boil lobsters in salt water and break open the shells on the rocks and eat this delicacy in the great outdoors, by the ocean.

22) Windmill Head

This rock formation is one of the highest elevation points in the area. Some say it got its name when early settlers came to Lumsden. They were said to have built a windmill here to operate a sawmill, which was used to saw logs for building material to build their homes.



Others say it got his name from the Whimbrel. The Whimbrel was one of the most wide-ranging shore birds in the world. It uses its long down curved bill to probe deep in the sand of beaches for invertebrates, but also fed on berries and insects. This bird was very plentiful in this area in earlier years.



Whimbrel

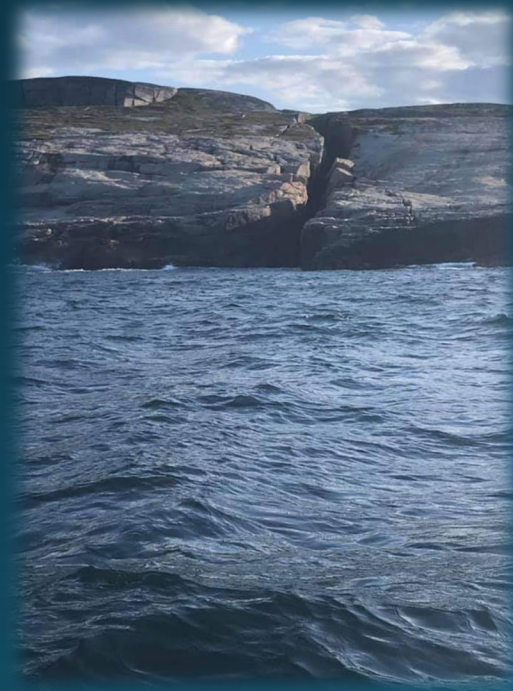
*Today it is called **Windmill Head**. Maybe over the years, the oral tradition may have resulted in the different spelling and pronunciation. Windmill Head includes the rock quarry and the **Crow's Gulch**. The rocky formation ends at the beginning of the old road that leads to **Windmill Bight Brook**.*

23) Crow's Gulch

The picture-perfect view from this giant split in the rocks is second to none. Many kinds of berries including Marsh berries, blueberries, partridge berries and bakeapples grow on and around this rock formation.



Crows built their nests on the right side of the gulch for many years. It was and still is a very safe place from predators. Lots of nesting crows explained how this giant split in the rock got its name. Small boats can often sail in the opening of the gulch when the sea is very calm.



24) Mussel Shells

This Beautiful place gets its name from the many mussels that grow on the rocks close to shore. Shells wash ashore and are broken by the stormy seas.

The sand is sometimes not visible because of all the broken shells littering the beach.

Capelin roll ashore every summer, and many people come here with dip nets and catch capelin for eating, drying, and for fertilizer to put on their vegetable gardens.

The cemetery on the side of the beach is a burial site used by the Goodyear family and others. Many years ago, this particular family of Goodyear ancestors resided in this beautiful place. It is a very peaceful and scenic place to be laid to rest. The roaring of the ocean makes it even more special.



25) Grass and Vegetable gardens – Perchy Cove

*This land was once used, by the residents of **Lumsden South**, to plant vegetables. It was also used for growing grass and pastureland for domestic animals. Individual gardens were fenced. Now it is used for cottages and it's a perfect spot for picking berries and having a beach fire and mug up.*



26) Windmill Bight Brook

Before the highway was constructed in 1952, a draw line ferry was used to carry passengers across the river to the other side. This was the only way to get to Cape Freels, Newtown, and Brookfield Hospital, and many patients had to be taken to the hospital by horse and cart. This made for a very long journey. Babies were usually born at home by a mid-wife. The mid wife was Aunt Tye (Maria Goodyear,) who born many babies in Lumsden before the hospital at Brookfield was constructed.

The minister (clergy) from Newtown, Lumsden pastoral charge would also have to use this route to get to Cat Harbour. Most of the time he walked, but in the winter months he would travel by boat if possible.

Many men from Lumsden took part in the seal hunt in the early spring. They would have to walk to Gambo, partly around the shore and then through the country. They would then get on the train at Gambo and head to St. Johns to catch the sealing vessels.

In 1910-11 Gertrude Goodyear of Lumsden was courting Joseph Stagg of Cape Freels. Her parents were not in favour of the courtship. On the night of Sunday November 10, 1911, she packed her belongings, threw them out the upstairs bedroom window, and walked to the Bight Brook with Joe. When they were safely across the brook, Joe cut the line on the ferry so her family could not follow them.

They walked to Cape Freels, spent the night, and the next morning November 11, 1911, they walked to Newtown and got married. They raised a family of nine children and lived a very happy life together. Sometime after the marriage, Aunt Gertie's family accepted Joe as their own son. Aunt Gertie was born in 1898 and died in 1988.



As you look to the south of **Windmill Bight Brook**, there is a beautiful sandy beach in the Windmill Bight Park, owned and operated by the Town of Lumsden. This beautiful park has 51 campsites, eleven of which offer electricity. At the end of the beach is a very scenic place called Burnt Head. This was the proposed site for the Windmill Bight golf course which was never built because of opposition by the Environmental Society.

Windmill Bight Brook is also a very popular salmon river used by many fishers during the salmon season. Here the salmon leave the salt water and head upstream to spawn.