

Bar Haven

47° 42.6 N x 054° 12.8' W

Charts # 4839, 4619

With formal signage at the community dock bearing the name of its heritage society and a well kept community centre with artifacts reflecting its history, Bar Haven celebrates its past as a prominent fishing town and enjoys its present as a tranquil yet lively community of seasonal residents and small scale fishery activities.

Approach: Entering Bar Haven harbour takes a vessel north of Tobins Point and then southward into the harbour. Shoals and rocks off the harbour's western shore are only fully revealed at low tide; so, favouring the eastern side is recommended as one proceeds toward the harbour's south end. **Caution:** The approach to Bar Haven includes designated anchorages for very large vessels. Mariners destined for Bar Haven are advised to proceed with extreme care when visibility is reduced. Contacting Placentia Traffic on VHF channel 12 to report passage intentions and obtain advice on both anchored and moving vessels is strongly recommended.



Source: BoatCruiser™ from [Navsim](#) with C-Map from [Jeppesen](#).

Docking/Anchoring: A floating dock is clearly prominent in the harbour's southwestern corner and three community moorings may be found east of the dock. A minimum depth of 12 feet may be found alongside the dock and 10 feet at the moorings. The dock was in an excellent state of repair during our 2013 visit as was the reported condition of each of the three moorings. Owned by the Bar Haven Heritage Society, the dock and moorings are available for use by visitors. Vessels wishing to anchor will find good holding ground and lots of swinging room in the area south of The Neck.

History: Pursuit of the Newfoundland fishery by the firm Spurrier and Company of Poole, England is thought to be the impetus for Bar Haven's settlement by Irish fisherman sometime in the late 1700s. The town quickly grew in importance and size with the 1836 census reporting a population of 130. Throughout the 1800s and well into the 1900s, Bar Haven along with nearby Glendon Cove and Western Cove were sustained by the cod, herring,



S/V Staragan and M/V Agnes and Cecily at the Bar Haven Heritage Society dock looking northward toward Tobins Point on the right.

and lobster fisheries. By the 1960s the population reached 200; however, in 1966 the existence of Bar Haven as a permanent year-round community came to an abrupt end under the government resettlement program of the time.

Today Bar Haven is a seasonal community largely made up of summer homes and cabins along with small scale fishing premises. The efforts of Bar Haven's current denizens to defy the fateful oblivion of many resettled communities are firmly in evidence throughout the community: a well-maintained community centre has been constructed and displays artifacts recalling the community's erstwhile prominence; a heritage society had been formed to hold community assets and focus community efforts; grounds in the vicinity of the old cemetery and former church are well maintained as are private dwellings throughout the community; and a sturdy plaque boldly proclaims its intention to "historically preserve the name of the settlement." The community's seasonal residents and their friends and relatives affirmed their attachment to Bar Haven and added new meaning to the word 'seasonal' when, in 2012, nineteen individuals were present in the community for Christmas celebrations. And there's more to come with planning underway to commemorate in 2016 the 50th anniversary of Bar Haven's 1966 resettlement.

Ashore: Trails, following the roadways of Bar Haven Island's former communities, lead away from the dock area: northward to The Flats (¾ km), southward to Glendon Cove and thence to Western Cove (3 km), across The Neck and northward to Tobins Point (1 km) and also southward to another (later) graveyard and thence to James Point (1 km).

Notes: Good cell phone connectivity was available throughout the Bar Haven area. Successful VHF ham radio contact was made with the Internet-linked repeater station VO1ARG (146.820MHz; - 0.600MHz offset). Although the Bar Haven Heritage Society levies no formal charge for its floating dock and moorings, donations to the Society are gratefully accepted.



The Community of Bar Haven



The Heritage Society's Community Centre

Further information on Bar Haven may be accessed through its location web card at <http://iprox.mi.mun.ca/PlacentiaBay.htm>.

Jim Wyse aboard Staragan in 2013