

BAR HAVEN

- Bar Haven Island is situated on the western side of Placentia Bay
- Called Barren Island until 1911
- Settled by 1800
- First records of the community suggest it may have been settled in the early 1800s when Spurrier and Company was expanding into the bay
- However, by 1831, Spurrier and Company had gone bankrupt.
- In an advertisement in a local newspaper we learn about their premises: “at Barren Island a house, stages, stores, flakes, smith’s forge, a carpenter shop, a cooper shop, and three tenements for tradesmen as well as a good space of garden ground”
- The Spurrier business was taken over in the 1830s by John Cosens and later by C.F. Bennett
- In the 1835 census reports, Bar Haven was listed as having a population of 130.
- By 1845 the total population had declined to 101.
- During its early history, Bar Haven had become a major centre in inner Placentia Bay.
- In a petition requesting a road grant in 1839, the existence of a church and school is mentioned.
- According to Cyrus Crewe, a business man at Sound Island, Bar Haven had a Justice of the Peace and a constable.
- Bar Haven continued to be an important fishing community and began a second population expansion in its history around the turn of the century with the development of the lobster fishery.
- In 1921, Bar Haven, together with Western Cove and Glendon’s Cove, reported a population of 217.
- Traditionally Bar Haven was part of the St. Kyran’s Roman Catholic Parish, and then the Parish of Argentia.
- In 1913 the Parish of St. Francis Xavier was founded in Bar Haven to serve the local area as well as communities around the bay as far as Long Harbour and the Rams.
- A beautiful church was built through the leadership of Father Cacolia.
- By 1919 Bar Haven could boast a new church, school and rectory.
- In the 1930s a schooner fishery was established in Bar Haven and lasted up until the time of resettlement in the 1950s.
- In the 1960s under the resettlement program, the people left Bar Haven and settled in communities including Arnold’s Cove, Southern Harbour, Placentia, Burin Peninsula, and Long Harbour.

Arnold’s Cove: A Community History (1997), Hand Book Gazetteer and Almanac, Newfoundland 1940, Abandoned Communities in Placentia Bay (Oct. 2002)