Harbour Island

- (Pop. 1956, 39)
- Harbour Island is located in Placentia Bay just west of Merasheen Island, with Jean de Gaunt Island to he south, and Kings Island to the north.
- The small community of the same name, which was located on that island first appeared in the Census in 1911, with a population of 57, of whom almost equal proportions were Roman Catholic and Church of England adherents.
- If the community existed prior to 1911, the population count was probably included with that of Ragged Islands qv.
- The fishery was the mainstay of Harbour Island. In 1910 a total of 35 people, including 12 women, were involved in producing 14 122kg (278 qlt) of cod and 1262 L (278 gal) of cod oil; 8 lobster factories produced 60 cases of lobster, and forty one barrels of herring were pickled. The total value of fish products for 1910 was $2320.
- The residents grew their own vegetables and raised poultry and sheep as well. The community at the time boasted a one room Roman Catholic school attended by 17 pupils.
- Harbour Island next appeared in the Census in 1935. The population by then had dropped to 36, the majority of whom were Roman Catholics.
- Fishing supplemented by subsistence gardening and livestock raising, remained the primary industry.
- The school had closed by 1935 and only 11 homes in the community were occupied. The population remained fairly stable over the next 20 years, as did the economic and social conditions. During that period, Harbour Island had no church, no school, and no organized means of communication with the rest of the province.
- By the mid 1960's Harbour Island had been resettled under the government resettlement programme, its residents having moved to larger communities in Placentia Bay.

Robert Wells (1960), Census (1911-1956).