

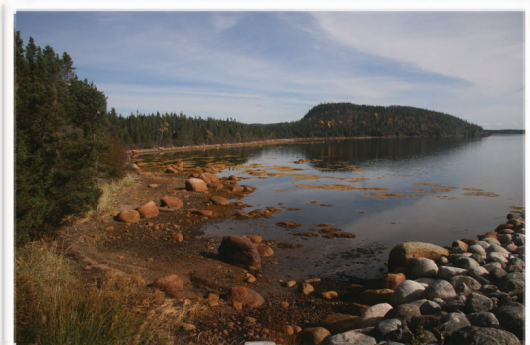
# “Kissing the Cod” in Newfoundland



## Pedalling Through History in The Town of “Salvage”

As I boarded the small twin propped airplane in St. John’s Newfoundland and headed for Gander I knew I was heading into something timeless and special. Finding my seat was easy considering there was only one on either side of the plane. The co-pilot doubled as the flight attendant, and in his finest Newfoundland dialect he greeted us and proceeded to go through the mandatory safety talk. There were no doors separating the cockpit from the passengers and this provided me with a great view on both take-off and landing. At the airport Andy Poole, the teacher who had organized my visit, was there to greet me and take me to my cabin in Terra Nova National Park. It was already 12:30 am and I had a 7:00 am interview with CBC Radio NL, so it was off to bed!

The interview went well, and as I sat back to enjoy another cup of coffee and watch the morning sun light up the autumn colours, I was startled by a cow moose and her two calves peering through the window. How perfect was that! Everyone knows Newfoundlanders are famous for their warm hospitality, but it appears this attribute extended to the local wildlife. The “Greeting Committee” hung around for about a half hour and then calmly meandered into the forest. At this point I figured it was time to get suited up and explore some of the trails within the park. It was an amazing fall day; cool, crisp, and sunny. The fall colours were brilliant shades of yellow, orange, and red.



## Terra Nova National Park

Terra Nova Park is located on the east coast of Newfoundland approximately a three hour drive from St. John's. The park is a wilderness paradise offering an amazing forest, complimented by an incredible coastline just begging to be explored by the coastal trails or by kayaking the many inlets. Later that morning I was met by David Saunders, Visitor Experience Product Development Officer for the park. He was going to be my tour guide for the day and I couldn't have asked for a more knowledgeable guy. Dave's family has been in this area since 1742. The stories he told me about the history of this part of Newfoundland and his family were incredible!

The next day I presented the Sprockids Program, along with material and research demonstrating mountain biking as a viable tourist industry, that could be developed here in Newfoundland. Attendees were park staff, Tourism NL, and councillors from surrounding towns. There was definitely a buzz in the room regarding the future possibilities mountain biking represented. The following day was the Sprockids Leader Training Session. Despite the heavy rain and wind, a small but enthusiastic crew representing teachers, park staff, and the bike industry attended. It was a great day and all left excited to get their own Sprockids Program happening. On Monday I spent the day in Eastport riding with Andy Poole's students. It is always great to get out riding with young people. Their enthusiasm, energy, and outlook on life is infectious!

Unfortunately my brief stay in Newfoundland was over and I was once again on a plane heading west. I had only scratched the surface of the riding possibilities in Newfoundland and hoped to be back soon to explore the trails, culture, and train more Sprockids Leaders!

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**140 Leaders Trained**  
**in 2014!** *Happy Holidays – See you next year!*