

# Baxter's Cove

The early settlement in the Baxter's Cove area was along the hillside in sight of the ocean. There was a store, houses, and farm buildings until the mid to late 1800s. The settlers moved inland but the hillside overlooking the cove was for years after known as "an Seann bhaile" (the old field or farm).

This small cove has a brook emptying into it at each end and needs annual dredging of the harbour. A strong breakwater offers protection against the north winds, currents, ice, and seasonal storms on St. George's Bay.

Over the years the catches have been cod, mackerel, herring, halibut, lobster and crab. Tuna fishing and an occasional experimental fishery have expanded the types of catches.



In the early 1900s, it used to take Duncan Gillis nearly two hours sailing to reach his lobster grounds, from here. Johnnie Big John who fished out of Baxter's for years is shown in 1941 in a masted skiff. Photo: Colleen MacLeod



Fishermen anchored their boats off-shore and used a dory to row to and from their fishing craft. Here, John J. MacDonald maneuvers the two. The wooden box at the back holds the engine. Photo: Ronald J. MacDonald, 1950



Fisherman, Nick Scott stands with a catch of tuna. In 1979 a world-class bluefin tuna (678.6 kg/1496 lbs.) was caught in near-by waters. The tuna fishery expanded in the 1990s. Photo: Dorothea Scott



Background photo: Fall sunset, Virginia Maclsaac



Modern fiberglass boats make up the majority of the in-shore fishing fleet. Photo: Blaise MacEachern, 2006



Codfish was one of the main food species harvested along this coast, circa 1960. Photo: Colleen MacLeod



Fisherman's hut, 1974. Fishermen used these for bunking at the shore, tending their gear, and young swimmers used the huts as changing houses. Photo: Virginia Maclsaac



In 1974, the fishing vessels at Baxter's were still mainly built of wood and many boats were still cabless. Fisherman, Ken Gillis. Photo: R. Daley



Fishermen's hand painted buoys brighten the wharf before setting day. Photo circa 1980: Sandy MacDonald, Long Point



The women in the family often travelled to Boston and Detroit for work and when they returned at vacation time, going out for a boat ride was at the top of their list. These three are dressed up like fishermen's helpers. Photo: Edie MacDonald.



A calm Baxter's Cove in the early 1960s before fiberglass, LORAN-C radio navigation, and modern diesel became the norm. Photo: Sandy MacDonald, Long Point



Text: Virginia Maclsaac  
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In May and June, lobster is a featured food at community dinners and family gatherings. In the 1930s, children who brought lobster sandwiches to school for lunch were embarrassed to be seen with them. Times have changed. Photo: Virginia Maclsaac

