

# How did Dildo Get it's Name?

The name Dildo is without a doubt, one of the oldest of all place names in Trinity Bay. There is no factual evidence other than it got it's name from Dildo Island. Dildo Island was named after some small town in Basque, a part of Spain from where sailors came from or after the name of one of their vessels or captains. The Spainards were here in the 1500's. Spainards sailed up this arm in the 1500's well before John Guy was here in 1612. A lot of Spanish towns end in o, it could of got its name that way. Some people think it got it's name from the meaning of Dildo an artificial penis, but we all assure you that whoever named Dildo didn't name it for that reason. There is another theory of how it got its name. Named after the Dildo tree down in the Caribbean, which is better known to us as the cactus.

No one has been able to determine the exact date the first settler or settlers moved to Dildo.

However, the oldest map on which Dildo is recorded, the John's Cary map dated 1807, shows the settlement as Dildo Harbour. This indicates that there were people here before 1807.

The first settlers in Dildo were between 1800 or 1805. During that period they were familiar with the name Dildo Island, so they transferred the name Dildo Harbour to Dildo.



Denise Pike/The Compass

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN** - Wayne Rostad, host of On the Road Again, the television showcase for the extraordinary passions and pastimes of Canadians, paid a visit to Dildo in May to interview and film local historian Gerald Smith. A former whaler, fishery worker, victim of the cod moratorium and current owner of the tour boat the "Heritage Explorer," Gerald's tenacious spirit and appreciation of his community has kept him working within the province. During the visit, the show's host was given a guided tour of Dildo Island via the Heritage Explorer. He also had the opportunity to visit with many local residents, including a group of students from Woodland Elementary school in Dildo. Throughout the filming Mr. Rostad commended Gerald for his commitment and effort towards the preservation of local heritage, often referring to him as his "Hero." The segment was scheduled to be aired on CBC during the fall season.