

SALVAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES



Upper Arrow: Sailor South (DeAj-05); Lower Arrow: Sailor Site (DeAj-01)

The village of Salvage is famous for being one of northeastern Newfoundland's oldest fishing villages, but its human occupations began thousands of years before Europeans landed there. Two aboriginal sites are located in Sailor's Harbour, on the community's western entrance. Maritime Archaic Indians camped or performed other activities on the west-facing bank sometime before 3000 years ago. Paleoeskimos, the Groswater and/or Dorset groups, visited here after the Maritime Archaic and Beothuk people landed here after the Paleoeskimos. Unfortunately, most of the Sailor site was destroyed when road-builders excavated a gravel quarry early in the 1950s and we will never know much about most of its aboriginal occupants. A small part of the Paleoeskimo component is all that remains of the Sailor site.

The Burnside Heritage Foundation Inc. discovered a Dorset Paleoeskimo 60 metres south of the Sailor site in 2002. This site has been dated to 1180 - 930 years ago,

making it a very late Newfoundland Dorset site. The BHF has performed six excavations at Sailor South which have recovered 9500 stone artifacts made by its Dorset occupants. No evidence for houses and associated features have been found yet and it seems such structures were destroyed by the historic settlers of Sailor's Harbour. The BHF excavates the Salvage sites on days that are too windy to travel by boat to the Beaches, Bloody Bay Cove and other sites not accessible by road.