

Jake the Puffin's Amazing Adventure



Images of Sal (Ring-billed Gull) and pod of whales generously provided by Lisa de Leon.

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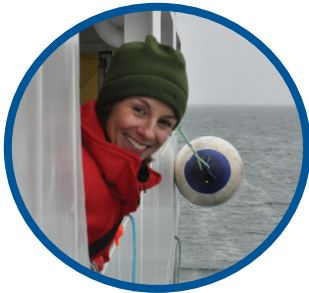
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Jake the Puffin's Amazing Adventure

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Jake the Puffin's Amazing Adventure is a made-up story based on a true event. In Christmas of 2011, a puffin was found in Montreal and some very kind people got him back home to Newfoundland and Labrador. His real name is Paddy, not Jake, and we do not know how he got to Montreal, so we made up this story.



Susan Fudge is a real scientist that works on a research vessel called the RV Celtic Explorer. She didn't save a puffin but she will if the opportunity ever comes up.





This is my family.

Chapter 1

Jake is a young puffin who lived with his family in a wonderful place called Witless Bay, in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Jake's best friend was a seagull named Sal. Jake and Sal would spend the day diving off the rocks and fishing in the cold, clean Atlantic Ocean for their dinner. Jake's favourite food in the whole world to eat is capelin.

One morning Sal came over to Jake and said:

"I am so excited, my parents just told me that I am old enough to go on my first adventure outside the bay."

"Wow," said Jake, "I will go ask my Mom if I can come too."

Sal started to laugh, and not in a nice way. "You can't go on an adventure."

"Why not? I am just as old as you," said Jake, getting just a little offended.



This is me and my best friend Sal.



This is me sort of flying.

“Because you can’t fly,” squawked Sal.

“I can fly!!!” said Jake, getting just a little more miffed.

“Okay, okay, don’t get your wings in a flap. What I mean is, you can fly sort of, but you can’t soar up in the clouds like seagulls.”

Jake realized that Sal was right. Puffins skim over the water and sometimes, just sometimes, get a little bit higher but mostly they dive for fish. Jake looked around and he saw all Sal’s family high up in the sky swooping and soaring in the wind.

Suddenly, Jake didn’t feel like fishing, he felt like going home. At home he asked his mother why puffins couldn’t soar. His mother, who is a very wise bird, said that puffins are designed to be swimmers, and that Jake is an excellent swimmer.

“I want to go on an adventure but Sal says I can’t because I can’t soar.”



This is me and my Mum.

“Jake my son, you can go on an adventure with my blessings. You are a very bright puffin and will just have to think of another way to do it. Be safe and I look forward to hearing all about it when you return.”

That’s how Jake the Puffin started his amazing adventure.



This is me flying to the tour boat. I am much smaller than the whales.

Chapter 2

Jake looked out over the water and wondered which direction he should go to begin his adventure. Then he saw it...there was a boat with people on it. They were all smiling and taking pictures. It came closer and closer and Jake tried to look like a brave puffin for the cameras.

Then it struck him, these people were on an adventure and they *didn't* fly. That's when Jake decided to begin his adventure by being a stow-away on the tour boat to see where it went.

Just at that moment, a pod of whales decided to swim up beside the boat and all the people rushed to take pictures of the family of whales. When no one was looking, Jake took off and flapped his little wings as hard as they could go.



People take lots of pictures.



Look how high I got, almost over to the tour boat.



Can you see me hiding?

Up...up... and, with a little more effort, up Jake went. He landed with a plop on the deck. Quickly he hid where no one could see a little puffin, crouched in the corner. Jake needed to catch his breath. Flying was a lot harder than swimming.

Jake wondered where the boat was going and realized his adventure had begun.



There I am, waiting patiently for the people to leave.

Chapter 3

It was a beautiful sunny day and Jake was enjoying watching the people on the tour boat. Before he knew it, the boat was slowing down and then it stopped completely. Jake looked around and all the people were walking off the boat.

When no one was looking, Jake hopped out and waddled across the deck and saw a plank connected to the land. But this wasn't land, this was made of wood and hard stuff. Jake remembered Sal talking about an exciting place called a wharf. Jake hopped and waddled and hopped and waddled down the plank and stepped onto the wharf.

With a beating heart he looked around at all the hustle and bustle and tried to stay out of the way. He wanted to remember everything he saw so he could tell his family and friends what happens on a wharf.



Snow Crab on the wharf - very exciting.

First he saw fishing boats. Some of them were unloading their catch. Although there are a lot of fish in the sea, it seemed that this boat had caught a lot of snow crab. Jake thought it was too bad it wasn't capelin, because as you may remember that is his very favourite food. Other fishing boats were getting all their gear ready so they could go out to sea and catch fish.



Bumping into Sal.

Jake continued to waddle down the wharf. He stayed close to the rails and he forgot to watch where he was going and BUMP!!! He squeaked an apology but all he heard was a very high pitched laugh. It was his best friend Sal.

"Sal, what are you doing here?" asked Jake.

"I am coming on your adventure," said Sal. "Friends don't let friends go on adventures alone."

"But I can't soar, so I will slow you down." said Jake.

"That's okay, I'd rather be with you. It will be more fun together. I'll soar some other time."



Here I am looking at the Celtic Explorer.

Jake thought he was very lucky to have such a good friend. Sal had been to the wharf before and could explain things to him. For instance, the big blue barrels filled with ice are used to put mussels in. The buoys in straight lines that Jake sometimes saw out in the bays are mussel farms. “People like to eat mussels,” said Sal. “They think they are delicious.” “Would I like them?” asked Jake. “You should try one,” said Sal. “You won’t know until you try.”

As the friends made their way down the wharf, they saw boats that looked like people lived on them. Sal said they were called sailboats because of their big sails. Sailboats use the wind to move through the water. Some boats use engines, some boats use sails and some boats use both.



Mussels grow on these green ropes.

Then Jake saw the largest boat he had ever seen. It was very, very big. Sal said it was because it wasn’t a boat, it was a *ship*. This ship was called the “RV Celtic Explorer.” It was green and white and it was beautiful.



Sal about to drop a yucky ol' green crab on my head.

Jake looked at Sal and said "I am an explorer on an adventure. I think we should go on this ship." Sal thought that was a grand idea and when no one was looking, a little puffin hopped up the gangplank and Sal flew aboard. They found a lifeboat and made a nest out of bits and pieces of anything they could find and settled down for the night.



Just as Jake's tummy started to rumble, Sal dropped something on his head. It was a green crab. "Yuck, nobody likes green crab," grumbled Jake. Sal laughed and gave Jake a capelin and ate the green crab. Seagulls will eat *anything*, thought Jake.

Capelin are my favourite fish!



The lifeboat where Sal and I made our nest. The first night it snowed!

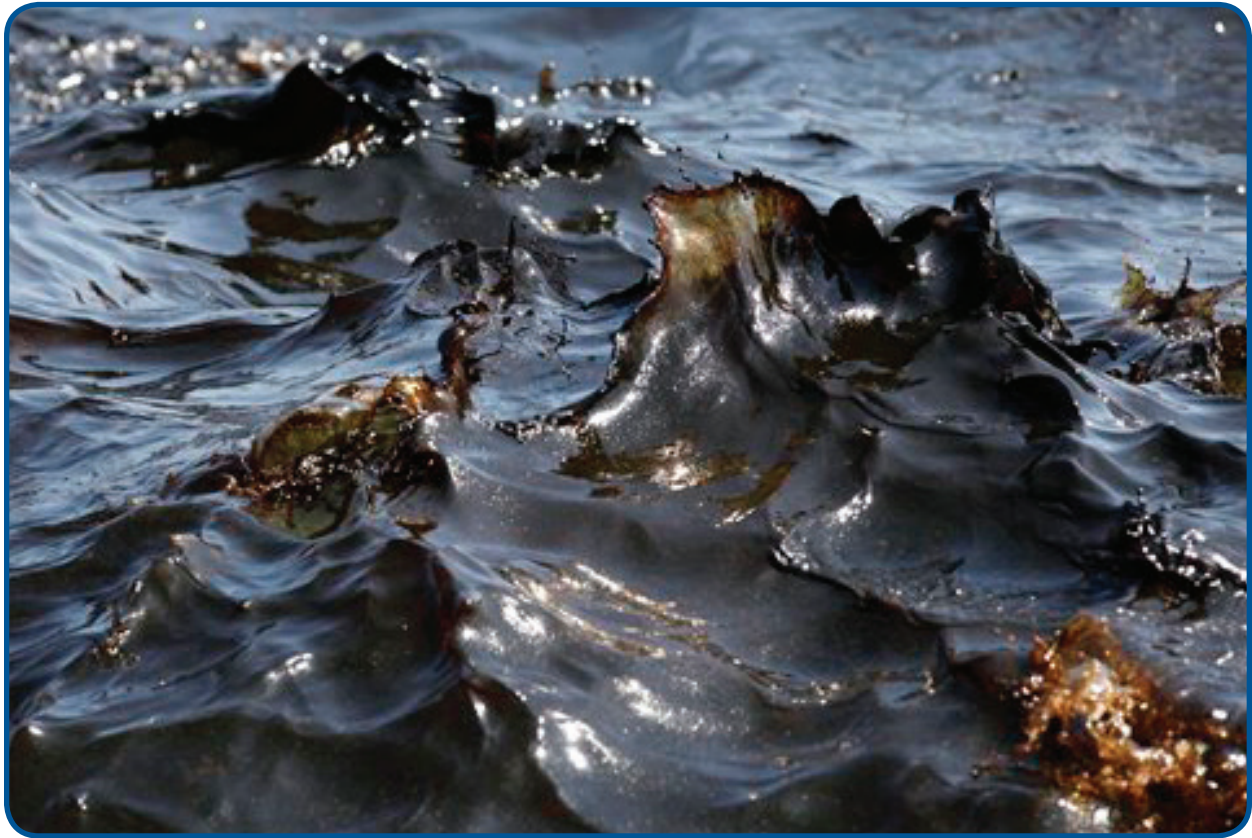
Chapter 4

When Jake and Sal woke up, they looked around the ship. Jake noticed right away that no one was catching fish in big nets or sightseeing like on the other boats. Jake nudged Sal. “What do they do on this ship?” Sal yawned sleepily and said, “They are called ‘scientists’ and they figure out what the fish are doing. That’s why this is my favourite ship in the whole wide world. They are making sure we don’t run out of fish.”

Jake got up and looked in the window. He saw lots of people with charts, making notes and looking at screens with flashing lights. Jake thought that making sure we don’t run out of fish looked like hard work and that made his tummy rumble. Time to go fishing for breakfast.



That’s me looking through the window.



Who would want to fish or swim in that water?

“Come on Sal - time for breakfast,” said Jake. Jake climbed up on the edge of the railing and was about to dive off when he heard a loud squawk from Sal.

“Stop!!!! There is something not right in the water.” Jake didn’t see anything. It looked okay to him. Sal took off and flew ahead, and came back shaking his head. “Jake, there is black slimy stuff on the water and it’s leaking out of that ship over there. I think it’s oil.”



Oil and birds do not mix.

Every bird’s worst nightmare is an oil spill. The black sludge sticks to your wings and you can’t fly and then you can’t swim and ... sometimes... if you are an unlucky bird you die. Sometimes you can be okay but the fish you eat has gotten sick from breathing polluted water and then you get sick too. This was not good at all.



Sal in mid squawk on the deck of the RV Celtic Explorer!

“Sal, you have to warn the people. Maybe they can help,” said Jake.

Sal started squawking and swooping and dancing around the deck. Jake had never heard such a racket or seen such a display of flying feathers. The people came out and looked at Sal and someone said, “Is that seagull trying to tell us something?”

Sal flew circles out over the oil-covered water and then did a dive bomb back on the deck, almost flying into one of the scientists, squawking as loudly as he could. This scientist was named Susan and she *knew* all about the sea and she *knew* all about birds, and Susan *knew* something was very wrong.

“Look out over the water!” Susan shouted.



Scientist Sue trying to understand what Sal was squawking about.



These boats are called skimmers and they help clean up oil spills.

Everyone sprang into action. Jake stayed hidden in his little nest as he watched the scientists put together a plan. They contacted other professionals to help clean up the oil and warn others of the danger. It went on into the night and two very hungry little birds, Sal and Jake, had to go to sleep without breakfast, lunch or supper because it wasn't safe to fish in this water.



As Jake finally fell asleep...he had to admit that maybe he missed his home, which is surrounded by clean water and lots of fish.

Dreaming of home.



Here I am looking at the biggest wharf I've ever seen. Those are container boxes filled with cargo.

Chapter 5

When Jake and Sal woke up the next morning they were very hungry. Sal flew out to see if it was safe to fish. Sal came back and said, "It's the biggest wharf I have ever seen in my whole life." They weren't at sea anymore. They were tied up to a wharf.

Jake looked out and he saw all sorts of ships and boats and people everywhere. Buildings, so many big, big buildings that Jake felt like a very small puffin. Sal flew back and dropped part of a half eaten fish on the deck next to him. Jake didn't know what type of fish it was but he was so hungry he ate it right away.

When you have a full tummy you feel braver, and Jake decided it was time to look around at this big wharf. He hopped down the gangplank and started waddling



Sue said a busy wharf is a dangerous place for a little puffin.

down the wharf. It was very noisy, with machines going this way and that way. Sal was flying overhead because he didn't want to walk because it was too crowded. Jake wished he could fly like that and wasn't watching where he was going. He heard a loud squealing of tires and all of a sudden he felt himself being swooped up in the air.

"Oh my dear little puffin, what are you doing here? This wharf in Montreal is no place for you."

It was Susan the scientist from the RV Celtic Explorer. She had saved him from being squashed by something called a forklift. Jake's heart was pounding as he nestled into Susan's warm coat.



The mean forklift that almost squashed me.

"I am flying back home for Christmas and I will take you with me," said Susan.



Me waiting in my carrier for Sue to give me capelin!

That is how Jake ended up in an airplane, sitting in a carrier next to Susan. Because Susan *knew* all about seabirds, Jake had a lot of yummy capelin to eat. Susan lifted the carrier up to the window so Jake could see out over the clouds, higher than any bird could fly.

Jake the Puffin was “soaring” over the clouds.



The view of St. John's out of our airplane window!



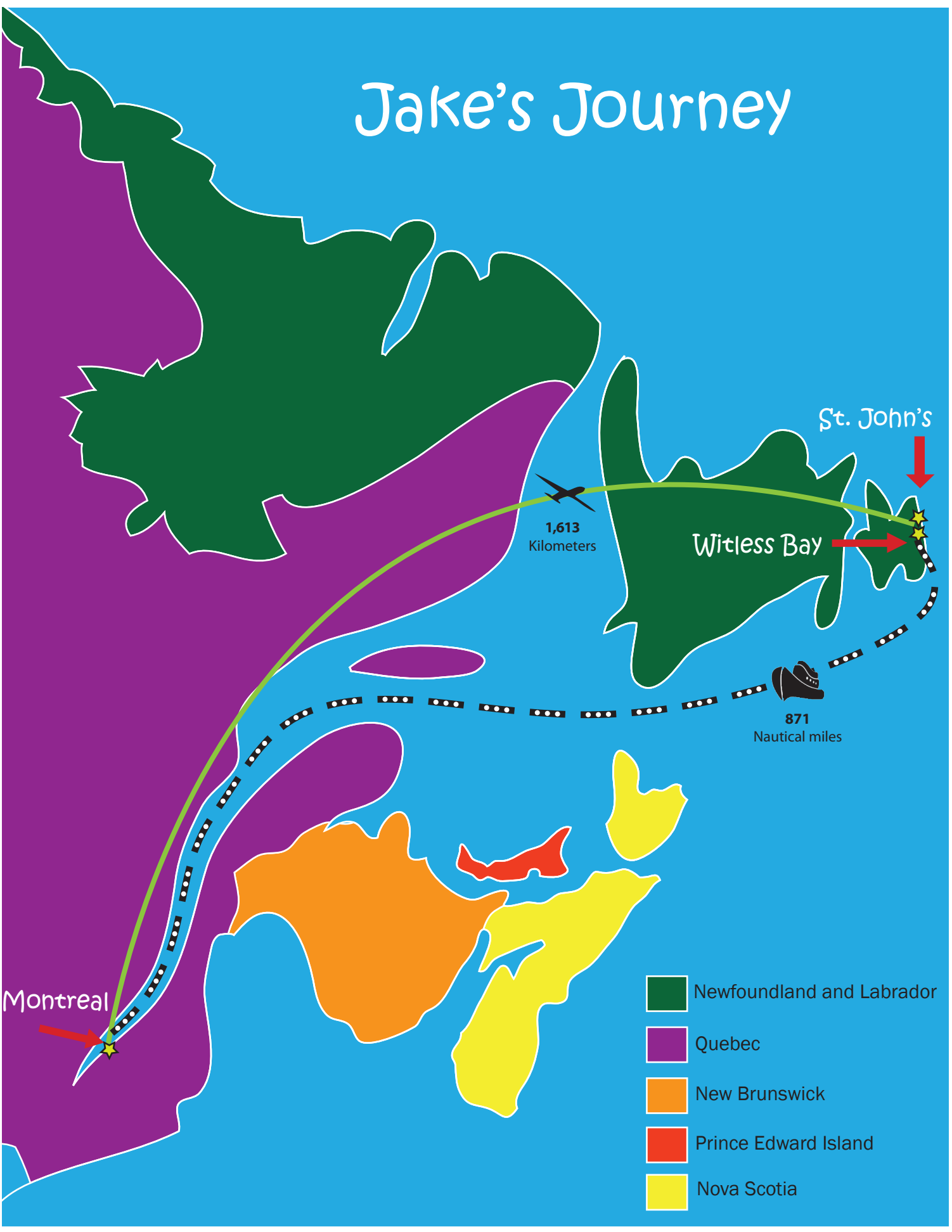
Me telling Mom and my relatives all about my adventure!

When Jake got home, thanks to Susan, he had an amazing tale to tell. Sal flew back on his own and said it wasn't nearly as much fun all by himself. Jake's mother was so proud of Jake and said, "Never let anyone tell you that you cannot soar, because...you...my son...did."

Jake wondered about his next adventure. Where should he go?

~The end~

Jake's Journey



Jake's Amazing Adventure is an imaginary story about how a little puffin went from Newfoundland and Labrador to Montreal. Based on a true event, it is a whimsical look at how the world appears through the eyes of a very brave puffin.

Find out more about the ocean and how we are working to protect it.
Go to www.gov.nl.ca/flr.

