

New Business for the Port Of Argentia

Today, March 19, 2009, at 1300 hours, the M/V Don Pasquale arrived at the Port of Argentia carrying a cargo of trucks and cars destined for the Newfoundland and Labrador market.

The vessel in the harbour on a partly cloudy day, in bold Irish colours that showed the bottom half of the ship in green and the top half in white. Painted in green letters on the white background, you could see written, WALLENIUS WILHELMSSEN.

Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics (WWL) is a leading independent provider of global factory-to-dealer transport solutions for the automotive, agricultural and construction equipment industries. Decades ago, WWL pioneered the designs that led to today's state-of-the-art pure car truck carriers (PCTC) and roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) vessels.

The M/V Don Pasquale is known as the Large Car Truck Carrier (LCTC), and its' stature is quite imposing as you view it from the Southside of Argentia. The vessel has a capacity of 8,000 cars, or a combination of 3,484 cars and 466 buses. With her 228 metres and 67,141 gross tonnage, she is one of the world's largest car carrier, and now she sits at the dock in Argentia, ready for offloading by **Oceanex Inc.** (A Canadian leader in intermodal transportation, transporting virtually anything to Newfoundland from anywhere in North America) and **Harvey's Autocarriers** (the major auto carrier for the island portion of Newfoundland and Labrador).

As soon as the ship was docked with the assistance of a pilot and two tug boats, the job of moving 1,995 trucks and cars to the storage area located adjacent to the docking facilities began.

How do you ensure that the cargo is kept in place during the voyage? All cars are driven aboard, parked (loaded), and secured in a special way. There are very high standards as to how this is carried out. Moreover, the instructions for loading staff state lay down practices that act to ensure that the cars will not be scratched or suffer any superficial or serious damage.

The unloading of the vehicles will mean employment for 83 people for one day, and approximately three to four weeks work for 4 security personnel, in addition to the transporting of the trucks and cars to island-wide retail distributors.

Of course, it's great to see this type of new activity taking place at the Port of Argentia. The management of the Argentia Port Corporation Inc. (APC) is working hard with its' many tenants and shipping network contacts to attract new business to this area while maintaining existing business at the Port.