

Gordon Parsons still geo-caching - Grab your GPS and let him lead you to Golgotha

NEW LANDMARKS ON THE TRANS LABRADOR A little something to break up the trip

Drive east on the Trans Labrador Highway now and, if you dare lift your eyes from the road, you'll see new landmarks to help break up the long trip.

53 North readers will remember the first appearance of a



Just For Men

Will be closed for staff vacations from August 29th to September 19th *Thank you!* buddha along the highway. In a minor mystery resolved, a statue that was propped atop a large boulder last year was traced back through Tom Hawco and Aiden Morriarity, who found it abandoned behind N&N Convenience and placed it atop the rock. It got behind N&N when a pair of young people stole it from a local garden, hid it in their basement, and, upon being discovered by their mom, were told to take it back. The buddha was a concrete statue. and heavier than it appeared. The pair decided it was too much effort to lug it all the way back to Lakeside, and dumped it behind the store. Once accurate measurements and a better picture were obtained, the owner, the Longpre family then operating a McDonald's restaurant in Labrador City, recognized their property and headed off down the highway to get it back.

Loathe to lose the unusual landmark, 53 North called up Gordon Parsons – who was the person who provided the original picture and description – then on vacation in New Brunswick and asked him to see if he might not be able to find a buddha to replace the one being shipped to the Longpre's home in Quebec. He did,



Buddha is back -- back on his rock out on the Trans Labrador Highway. Keep your eye out, then maybe stop and rub his belly for luck as you travel!

some money exchanged hands, and buddha watched over the *53 North* office all winter, waiting a chance to be taken back out over the highway.

Last week, after a few touchups, buddha went back to his rock. He's a lot easier to spot now – he has a bright red hat. We won't tell you where the boulder is exactly, but, observant travelers should be able to see him somewhere between Wabush and Churchill Falls.

Parsons, meanwhile, was working on a roadside installation of his own. An avid geo-cacher – they play an elaborate, high-tech version of hide and seek by caching objects, a log book, or some combination of items at a specific location for others to find – Parsons erected a "waypoint" marker in the shape of a cross not far from buddha. His new waypoint is called Golgotha.

According to the waypoint description on www.geocaching. com, Golgotha can be found at North 53 20.599 and West 65 42.745 and contains three special treasures for the first three people to discover the cleverly hidden cache.

If you're a high-tech sort of traveller, surf your way to the geocaching website, then get out your GPS and see if you can't find Golgotha and, from there, buddha. If you're a little more low-tech, just keep your eyes open and carry a pair of good hiking shoes.