



Published for distribution in the Shoreline Journal, Amherst Citizen, Oxford Journal, Tatamagouche Light and Truro Daily News

DISCOVER THE SENSATIONAL ...JUST AROUND THE CORNER



Day Trips and Weekend Excursions *The New Holiday Escape In Eastern Canada*



We had no idea...

By Gayle Shaw

The four words "We had no idea" are frequent comments that folks along the Shore Drive Area (Wharton to Brookville) hear frequently. Tourists, travelers and indeed many local folks from surrounding areas are amazed at what they find when they take Highway 209, west of Parrsboro towards Advocate and Joggins. These sleepy little communities, once a network of shipbuilding, farming, lumbering, were transformed as the businesses and farming disappeared.

However, the beautiful scenery only became more enhanced as time went on, new people with new ideas and visions moved into the areas. For rural areas of Nova Scotia there seemed only to be one vision that would be sustainable over the long run, that of tourism.

The earmarks of tourism have been identified along the Shore Drive Area. Pride in community, pride in ownership of property, beautification wherever possible, enhancing historical venues, and quaint small businesses, along with tourist accommodations. These earmarks can only work in partnership with one and the other, not just one on its own merit.

As one drives along the Shore Drive area, each of these earmarks can be identified working in partnership with each other.

In 2000, the Millennium



The Bay of Fundy provides awesome sunsets each time the sun shines as shown above taken at Four Season's Retreat. (Roberts Photo)

Committee submitted a proposal for street banners for the area. In consultation with local and provincial governments and then approval, decorative street banners were purchased in the year 2000 and have been an ongoing program ever since. Initially these banners were purchased from UNICEF of Vancouver as part of their Save the Children Program and their recycling initiatives.

This was an exceptionally cost effective way to purchase top quality banners that would last for at least two years. Since UNICEF has now changed to

sending their banners overseas, The Shore Drive Community Development Assoc. has managed to develop a working relationship with a Richmond B.C. company to obtain the same quality banners at much below the regular cost.

When the two year period is up, the Shore Drive Association sells banners to individuals to help to fund new banners. Individuals use them for their summer residence, cottages, driveways, etc. Each year the banners denote an instant image of "someplace special, some-

thing special".

The banners are so popular a number of communities in N.S., N.B. and P.E.I. have contacted the Shore Drive Assoc. for information to have the same program in their areas. The key of course is quality of material and printing, and the Shore Drive does research on both of these.

The banners direct you through the rolling small hills and pasture fields of Wharton, Diligent River, Fox River, Port Greville, Wards Brook and Brookville.

Diligent River

In Diligent River, if you are lucky, you might hit it on a day when the ladies of the community are serving one of their famous casserole dinners at the quaint little community hall, the former Diligent River all grades schoolhouse. The hall is now under renovations, with mostly volunteer work by the community, with assistance from the Shore Drive Community Development Association and Murray Scott, MLA who is very supportive of initiatives in this area. Diligent River is home to our famous local nature and wildlife artist, Arlene Collins. Arlene and her husband, Corlas purchased the old community store, renovated it and now it is home to her gallery and art studio. Drop in to visit, they are never too busy to greet folks and have a chat.

Two beautiful little churches sit by the roadside, the Baptist and the Anglican. Although declining in membership numbers, the Baptist Church still holds services,

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