



Daytrips and Weekend Excursions

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has a wonderful interior and a historical cemetery adjacent to it.

Want to see inside? Just ask Janet Varner, she will be thrilled to show you about. The Anglican Church which resembles one that you would see in a storybook setting is not an active church at this time, but the adjacent cemetery too holds volumes of history.

Minutes west you will see a sign for the "Artware Gallery". You cannot miss the sign as it is constructed of two tree trunks. Follow the signs and the rambling trail through the former pasture fields, and you will come to a clearing and more signs directing you across the footbridge to a log cabin gallery/home that fronts onto the water.

How secluded and magical is this? Krista and Mike, proprietors of Pegasus Paragliding School, built this magical place some years ago, and now entertain gliders from around the world. Krista designs her own jewelry.

Visit their web site: www.pegasusparagliding.com and possibly entertain the idea of a tremendous tandem flight with Mike. I have done it, and it cannot be described.

Fox River & Fox Point

The next area you will come upon is Fox River and Fox Point. Follow the signs to the Fox Point Look Off at Fox Point Road and you will experience a photographic opportunity of Cape Split and Cape Blomindon. Fox Point Beach is home to the famous dulce rocks and world famous dulce tides.

Back to the highway and you approach Fox River, home of The Beach House on Hatfield Road, The Old School on Hatfield Road (now an Inn), and The Coach House Bed and Breakfast. Thinking of spending a day or two, just contact any of these three operators and hopefully, if they are not booked, you can unwind right in the area.

The Coach House is named after its namesake, having been the stop for the coaches from Advocate to Parrsboro prior to the automobile days. In Fox River, you will find the Holy Trinity

Anglican Church, again 100+ years of history are housed in its beautiful walls.

Another historic cemetery. This church was a home church for one of Port Goreville's famous residents, Bishop Leonard Hatfield, who even after he became well known and famous, adored coming "home" and holding services at this lovely little church.

Port Greville

Before you blink an eye, you are in Port Greville. Up until 1976 the Wagstaff and Hatfield Shipyards were nestled at the bottom of Merriam Road. Hurricane Andrew ended their days, taking with the tides of time, all of the buildings, the wharf and all other structures.

Make your way down to the shore line and if you listen very carefully, you can hear the ghosts of the crews working on the ships. I know I certainly can, as I used to go there with my sisters with our grampa Graham who worked there for many years.

Can you imagine in this day and age, little girls going out on a "ship launching"? Workman's Compensation would turn in their graves, but we did and it was glorious. On the beach of Port Greville, all that remains is nature, miles of it.

Test your skill and guessing how fast the tide rises or falls. You will not win. Listen carefully, and you can hear the shoreline changing, as it does every single day. Port Greville Beach is proof for those studying the effects of the erosion of the shorelines of Nova Scotia.

One day as we walked, heard a crash, and low and behold a whole tree came crumbling down the bank above us. You can walk along the beach as far as Fox River and Fox Point or westward to Brookville, if tide is out.

Port Greville welcomes you with a large sign of welcome to Port Greville, as well as the wonderful banners that are continuing westward. Shaw's Country Antique Market, The Ebb Tide Bed and Breakfast, The Studio Gallery on Albert's Corner, Port Greville Look Off.

A stop at the historic building of Shaw's Market will take you back in time, once you view the wonderful

historic second floor, which use to be the home of the Knights of Pythias. The curved ceiling and beautiful woodwork is the perfect setting for the grand antique furniture, and discontinued china selections.

Quilts by famous quilter, Dayle Finlay and other local quilters, afghans by Linda Manheim, art work by Arlene Collins and other artists adorn the wall of the two storey building. On the main floor try one of the delicious ice cream flavors, or old fashioned sundaes or banana splits, or just go out to the common area and take in the deafening quiet and peaceful sounds of the Bay.

This building is over 100 years old, and has been through the ownership eras of Bentley, Fletcher, Hatfield and Allen and now its future lays in the hands of the Shaw's. The friendly staff always makes time for travelers and customers.

War Memorial Park

Another addition to this wonderful area is the Robert Cochrane War Memorial Park, located just past Shaw's Market. The park was built a few years ago with the help of partnerships of local and provincial governments and hard working enthusiastic members of the community. When you visit the memorial area, you can look up the names of those from these communities who fought in both of the world wars, probably finding the names of lost relatives, if you have ancestor connections to the area.

It is worth noting, Chipman Kerr, Fox River was awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V. His family home remains in Fox River. You will find his name on one of the Memorial Slabs at this lovely park. Through local initiatives the park is expanded each year.

Ebb Tide Bed and Breakfast is just next door, and is another accommodations possibility on your travel. Just down Wagstaff Road, awaits the scenic Port Greville Look Off, with picnic tables and two seated "time to remember" bench and a spectacular view of the whole of the Minas Basin.

Look carefully eastward and you might now see the ghosts of the shipbuilders working away at the mouth of the Greville River. The Studio Gallery on Albert's Corner is just ahead. Take your time on the entrance to the gallery, it is a wild turn. However, this is a good thing, as it slows you down enough

to make entrance to the gallery.

At the gallery you will find Gerry and Sharon either busy framing, making their incredible jams and jellies, or mounting their black and white photographs into greeting card formats. Perhaps they might be outside working on their "grow local country gardens," where you can purchase fresh garden greens or plant cuttings.

Local scenes adorn the walls of their gallery and invite you in for a visit. During the months of summer, they cannot keep up with their orders of photos and preserves. They too are somewhat new residents to this area, having moved here from Ontario, and purchased the home of the Late Bishop Hatfield (remember him from the Anglican Church, back a few paragraphs). Sharon is now becoming famous for her cookbooks, which are being published. Ask her about them, buy one and get an autograph.

Shipbuilding Museum

Still eastward, you will come across our famous little Shipbuilding Museum, just around the corner in Ward's Brook. This is a jewel that you must not miss. Recorded here in the walls and the genealogy room are magnificent volumes of history of the area, the shipbuilding, the topography of the land.

Oralee will give you a wonderful tour, and then you can enjoy tea and treats in the little tea room overlooking the upper end of the Greville River. The Age of Sail is expanding once again this year and is absolute proof of how much a small community can do, once their minds are to it. Many local events are sponsored at the Age of Sail each year, just watch for their list of upcoming events on their web page at: www.ageofsailmuseum.ca

Be sure to stop at the beautiful beach in Wards Brook. Just follow the sign to "Ward's Brook Beach". Narrow road, hidden in trees, but eventually you will come out to the miles of untouched beach walking area where you walk right down the Brookville Rock, a favorite photo shoot spot for many photographers that have discovered it.

It is hard to describe the beauty of this walk, and one has to experience it to believe it. How many places in the world today can walk for hours, enjoy nature at its finest, feel completely safe, and renew your spirit and

soul? Not, too many.

Next Communities

Your trip through the Shore Drive Area is complete. There is plenty of scenery, history and hospitality to enjoy in the communities of Fraserville, Spencer's Island, Advocate, Apple River, and Joggins. They have so much to offer and so much history.

By the time you reach Advocate you will probably be very hungry, so make it a point to stop at the Wild Caraway Cafe for a delicious meal. Andrew and Sarah will greet you with their infectious welcomes and great food. Don't forget to drive out to spectacular Cape D'Oro, where Darcy and his family will welcome you as well, they too will provide a beautiful meal. You will eventually make your way around to our world famous Joggins Fossil Cliffs and expansive interpretive centre.

There is just so much

around "the loop" for you to see and do. My mission was to do a story on the Shore Drive Community Development Area, but I also firmly believe that each and every one of us, no matter our one or business, has to work with and promote one another. No one can win a baseball game if only the pitcher is playing in the game.

Since, we cannot turn back the hands of time, to when our area was a hive of commercial activity, we can only move forward by promoting our one and only and largest hope for new growth and revival.

I write this from a point of view of some knowledge, you see I grew up here and have "come back", remember when and see now, but also believe in the future.

Gayle Shaw co-owns Shaw's Country Market and Eddite B&B in Port Greville with her husband Terry. Both of them devote many hours to promoting the Shore Drive area.

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