

The Shoreline Journal

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Pleased to be serving the Glooscap Trail • From Truro to Parrsboro and beyond....



REGIONAL Tourism Feature Spring 2011

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The Beauty, Events and Discovery... ...Right In Our Own Backyard!

Drive, Ride, Hike and Consume the Best Along the Shore

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.



Portrait of Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Elizabeth Bishop as a child. Delight in the festivities within the Elizabeth Bishop Arts Festival in Great Village, August 19 – 21. See page 6.

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 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.



Port Greville Harbour at High Tide showing the Boat launching ramp. (Shaw Photo)

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

Want to see inside? Just ask Janet Varner, she will be thrilled to

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Glooscap Heritage Centre Mi'kmaq Museum & Gift Store

You've driven by...now it's time to stop in for a visit.

The Glooscap Heritage Centre is a premiere attraction sharing Nova Scotia's fascinating Mi'kmaq culture and heritage. Join staff on a guided tour, sign-up for a workshop, or shop the extensive gift store that's full of one-of-a-kind art, jewellery, bead work, handmade baskets and more!

FREE Admission June 21st - National Aboriginal Day

All are invited to join us for this spectacular celebration featuring Mi'kmaq art and crafts, drumming, dancing, and storytelling

Open Year Round - 7 days a week in the summer.

15% Off Gift Store Purchase

Valid until December 15, 2011

Hwy 102, Exit 13A
Truro Power Centre
(902) 843-3493
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2 for 1 Admission & Guided Tour

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