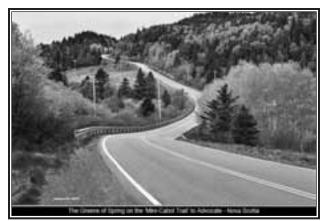
Fall and Winter activities along Hwy 209



In April Lawrence Nicoll caputured the "Greens of Spring on Rte 209 to Advocate, which is often described as the "mini-Cabot Trail of Nova Scotia. (Lawrence R. Nicoll – Maritime Landscape Photographer)

By Gayle Shaw

"About 2 or three months ago I wrote an article for the Shoreline Journal on the majestic beauty of Highway 209, from Parrsboro to Advocate and beyond. The response from this article was so overwhelming; I have asked Maurice for permission to continue on with this article, featuring fall and winter. He has graciously allowed me to do this.

My first article was to bring to readers attention of just what is down "along the shore", this one hopefully will help dispense with the idea that rural Nova Scotia shuts their doors in the fall and winter, or go into hibernation or fly off to warm climates. Yes, some of the above exists, but not everywhere or everyone.

The fall and winter beauty that develops and unfolds along the shore drive is similar to an IMAX movie. (Time exposure of life unfolding, developing and then rejuvenating once again).

Summer fades quickly, days become shorter, stars become brighter, sounds of the tides become louder, leaves change from green to tinges of gold, brown and then reds, blueberry fields produce mass ground cover blossoms of red foliage, preparing themselves for life in the spring. Along the drive, millions of colors unfold before your eyes on the rolling hillsides. The Bay remains the same, spring, summer, fall and winter; one can always visit the shoreline to walk along the beaches, which never remain the same.

The contours of the beaches, gravel and sand are always changing. Try taking a spring picture at Fox Point Beach, and then compare it with your fall picture. You will be hard pressed to find "landmarks on your prints". I have always maintained that this area is the "best kept secret in North America".

In our ten years here from the West Coast, I have learned so very much. Tourism promoters just do not get the picture of what the whole world is looking for Promotions are done for Cruises, City Travel, Casinos and the like, but what many people are looking for and are desperate for is a safe place of solitude, serenity and "back to sanity".

Think about it, we are so sensory overloaded with technology, news reports (which are never good), the "world is going to fall apart", economic news and after awhile the whole

body, soul and mind hurt big time.
So enter stage right, the beautiful shore drive along highway

So enter stage right, the beautiful shore drive along highway 209 west from Parrsboro towards Port Greville, Advocate, Cape D'Or, Cape Chignecto, and Joggins.

Plan a day trip or better still plan a fall or winter getaway. There are a number of places which remain open all year for the getaways, i.e. The Beach House on Hatfield Road, The Old School House Inn, The Coach House, Ebb Tide Bed and Breakfast, The Wild Caraway Bed and Breakfast, Nova Tours Bed and Breakfast, and Reid's Century Farm, are all open year round.

Now, if you are doing a day trip, cameras in hand, binoculars are a great idea, as well. If you are wondering what is "still open" along this shore in the lines of things to do, well here is a sampling. Pencil ready?? In Diligent River, Arlene Collins Studio Art Gallery (open all year), in Port Greville, Shaw's Country Antique Market (open all year) The Studio Gallery on Albert's Corner, Port Greville (open all year) and The Wild Caraway Cafe, Advocate, (open all year, and 5 star food and dining, plus lunches).

"By the time this article goes to print, a full array of fall colours will have adorned the hills and valleys of this area. It is truly a photographers dream. Take as many of the side roads as you possibly can and find the hidden treasures for photographers. Take Ramshead River Road to Yorke Settlement or Glasgow Mountain, or right over the top to Woods Mountain, (coming out at Fox River).

Others roads that you might want to venture along are Fox Point Road, Seal Brook Road (or as it is now named Fox River Road), Hatfield Road, Cochrane Road, Wagstaff Road, North Greville Road, Wards Brook Beach Road, Spencer's Island Beach Road, Cape D'Or and so many more. Just keep your eyes peeled to the left and right all along 209.

In December the famous Living Christmas Tree Concerts will once again be taking place at Grace United Church, Port Greville. This year will be the 21st anniversary of this wonderful production under the direction of Judy Wheaton. There are several Christmas teas and sales in November and Dec. (watch for announcements in this paper) and there is a Saturday Morning Market every weekend in Advocate Harbour.

On November 11th there is the annual Veterans Day Memorial Service at one of our local churches followed by a hot luncheon at the FPW Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend this moving service at our beautiful Robert Cochrane Memorial Park, as we honour our war veterans and Peace Keepers.

The Annual Christmas Show and Sale begins at Shaw's Market in Mid November through to Dec. 24th. I hope this fall and winter news will entice more travellers to visit our area throughout the fall and winter. Regardless of where we live in the Maritimes, we all should support our local areas throughout the year.

The only way rural Nova Scotia is going to survive is if we become more than a summer area. True, summers are glorious here, (if you can forget about the black flies and mosquitoes), but fall and winter also present wonderful adventures. My husband and I enjoy the beach front on a windy cold winters day, when walking presents a challenge unlike summer.

I would like to add some words of congratulations to all the business operators and tourist accommodation businesses, as well as the Age of Sail Museum on the tremendous effort they put in to promoting this beautiful area.

It is these people who have brought this area out of being "the best kept secret" in North America. Hopefully some new life will be breathed in. It has already started. Change is in the wind and change is good. Welcome to Highway 209, along "Our Shore".



Fall arrives in the Moose River area in this photo. (Lawrence R. Nicoll – Maritime Landscape Photographer)



Standing against the Storm – Cape d'Or, Nova Scotia. (Lawrence R. Nicoll – Maritime Landscape Photographer)

Lawrence R. Nicoll

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