



## Getaway to Tweed

By Mary Cook

Editor's Note: Because the price of gas could be an issue this year, and many people are opting to stay closer to home, Forever Young, for the summer months and into early Fall, will be offering suggestions for exciting day trips in Eastern Ontario and Quebec. These trips will help you explore our own region, and let you enjoy little-known nooks and crannies of the Ottawa and Seaway Valley, and Western Quebec, without the cost of gas needed for longer holiday excursions. This is a very historically rich part of Canada, and we are suggesting this is the year for you to get to know it better. We will make the directions as simple as possible, sometimes highlighting little known attractions, while drawing your attention to places well known, which just may be offering something new and different this year.

For convenience sake, we will make Ottawa the starting point, but if you live outside the National Capital area, it will be easy to hook up to the main roads we will be suggesting you take. And remember, if you decide to make the trip last more than one day, and want to stay overnight and continue on the day following, this part of the country is rich in quaint and inexpensive lodgings. Make this summer the year you are going to get to know Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec and its many treasures.

Not only is Tweed one of the prettiest towns in Eastern Ontario, the area around it is rich in heritage, and includes some of the most interesting sight-seeing spots in Canada. Today's day trip is taking you to Tweed and in doing so it will introduce you to some little known treasure-spots you will long remember.

With Ottawa as your starting point, go west on Highway 7, passing Kaladar. Travel about 14 km past and you will see Studio 737 Art Gallery. Don't drive by, because if you do, you will miss seeing the largest collection of original Canadian art in all of Canada!

Continue west to the Unconventional Moose, a wonderfully eclectic shop in what was once the West Wind Motel, just ½ km past the turn to Highway 37.

When your interest in the unusual has been sated at the Unconventional Moose,

backtrack to the Highway 37 turnoff, and turn south, and you will come to the internationally known sculptor Paul Shier's studio (#8264 on Hwy 37). Don't miss it!

Travel about 2 km further, still on highway 37, to The Chicken Coop, featuring EZZE casual clothing and local products produced right in the area. From there, welcome to the former village of Tweed, (now known as the Municipality of Tweed) and here you must stop at the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre, 40 Victoria Street North, on the west side of the street, and just south of the second set of traffic lights!! The museum is your introduction to this heritage-rich community.

Not only will you get tourist information, but for a mere \$3.00 per person, you will view arts, crafts, displays, the art gallery and the museum. If you have the will and the energy, invest in the book Tweed: a Centennial Mosaic, and set out for a walking tour of the town. And what a tour it will be. Here's what's ahead. Gaylord Forest Products has refurbished an old commercial building, using many different kinds of woods. If you have any interest in woods, and who hasn't who makes Canada his home, you will surely appreciate this experience.

Don't miss Quinn's of Tweed, offering a multitude of unusual gifts, all showcased in a lovely Victorian store, with all its original charm retained. Then there is Home Tweed Home, housed in the former bar of the old Queen's Hotel, where you can see a huge array of crafts. It's hard to imagine that this bar has a connection to the local convent. Ask about it!

The Home Colours shop has been recently redecorated, and offers an interesting array of unusual gifts and decorating ideas. Get some free tips while you are there.

The Old Cheese Factory, another building that has been unusually redecorated...and of course, you will surely want to go home with some samples. Then there's the House of Boutiques, an outlet store. Who doesn't love outlet stores? And this one is a jewel.

For those of you interested in ecclesiastical architecture, you will want to stop at the impressive St. Carthag's Roman Catholic Church, the gem of the Kingston Archdiocese.

Want to see the smallest jail in North America? Stop at the Tweed Jail, and have

your picture taken.

If you decide to spend more than a day in Tweed, there are wonderful Bed and Breakfast places, located in beautifully restored Victorian homes, plus motels, and a wonderful resort on Stoco Lake suitable for families, with a great sandy beach area.

There are many alternate routes for returning home. All you have to do is ask at the Museum or any other tourist spot. Maps of the immediate area are available, and don't hesitate to ask directions. Tweed is considered one of the friendliest towns in Eastern Ontario, and you will be a welcomed guest if you choose to come for a day, or stay a bit longer. Enjoy this jewel of a community right here in Eastern Ontario.

Next month, we'll take you in another direction in Eastern Ontario, and let you explore a part of our area unique in every way.

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