



Tourist in Your
Own Town

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TWEED IN ITS TWILIGHT

ART, BEAUTY AND NATURE IN TWEED

The small town of Tweed, Ontario, just 20 minutes north of Belleville, is a tidy diamond in the rough. Surrounded by local farmland, Tweed rises from Stoco Lake, paying tribute to historic Loyalist days gone by, but still a provider of countless farm-fresh food options. Nestled into Hastings County, the community of approximately 6,000 people isn't a motoring metropolis, but instead is like stepping back in time, when the pace was slower and people stopped to appreciate the finer details of everyday life. Tweed is a town that invites visitors to come stay a while, unwind, and explore the local offerings in a friendly and unfussy locale.

Established in the 1830s, Tweed is loved by many, including international bestselling author, Michael Ondaatje, who has a holiday house in the area and is known to be seen about town. Tweed is also the site of the first Canadian all-female municipal council, making it a step ahead of its time. "For business, Tweed is a beautiful town, situated on a river and lake amidst farmland and forests," said Paul Dederer, owner of a local art gallery. The town is also home to an annual Elvis festival, and Our Backyard Feast to Farm festival, a delight for any foodie seeking local flavour provided by nearby farms. With art, history, and relaxing retreats nearby, Tweed should be on your next list of must-sees.

Start your trip at North America's tiniest jailhouse turned info centre. At the entrance of town is a pint-sized limestone jailhouse, complete with bars on the windows that harken to days where a stint in jail would have required sleeping standing up. Today the jail houses the information centre, where visitors can learn about the latest events, excursions, and places to stay in the bedroom community of Tweed. It's the perfect blend of history and education wrapped up in one tiny building! After your visit, while strolling through the downtown area, pay attention to the adorable painted fire hydrants that add an artistic appeal to purposeful items. The mini murals were painted by participants in the Canada World Youth program, with kids from across Canada and Pakistan involved in the project.

For those who love the writing, painting, and performances, Tweed is a refuge for art-loving visitors. Thanks to several thriving galleries and art

Tweed

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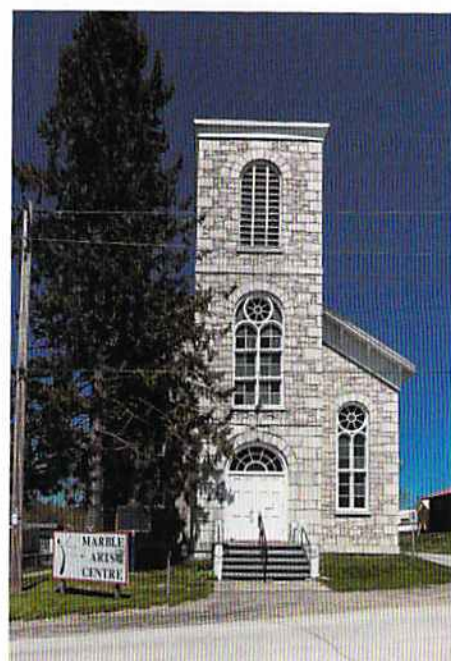


The Tweed Arts Council is at least partly responsible for the arts presence in the area. Their diligent work helped bring local projects to light, like coordinating with the elementary students to produce countless decorated buses that now dot the fence of the Boldrick's bus yard. "For every dollar spent on the arts, the return to the community is 3.8 times," said Don Herbertson, Co-Chair and Treasurer of the Tweed Arts Council. Don notes that partial dues are owed to the high level of volunteerism in the area, including youth theatre projects every spring and fall and the Art in the Park event, where local artisans sell and display their wares along with musical entertainment and food. www.tweedartscouncil.ca

Tweed exists in a bubble of natural beauty. Aligned so closely with Algonquin Park, Tweed is a natural haven that sits just shy of one of the most popular areas in Ontario but without the tourism bustle that can put

off some visitors. A visit to Vanderwater Conservation Area is an example of stunning outdoor ranges. At Vanderwater, hikers seeking to explore their 15 kilometres of trails will be impressed by the rushing Moira River, which bursts over limestone boulders and makes for a relaxing spot for a picnic. This beatific locale shouldn't be missed on sweltering summer days where spray from rushing water offers a relaxing place to fish, stroll, or snack.

For those looking for more action, take a kayak, canoe, or boat out to Butternut Island in Stoco Lake, which offers stunning scenery and a chance to explore local wildlife. If neither of these options stirs your fancy, check out some of the local farms for fresh produce, eggs, and meat directly from the healthiest source, all while learning about local farming practices, crops, and where our food comes from. www.twp.tweed.on.ca/parks

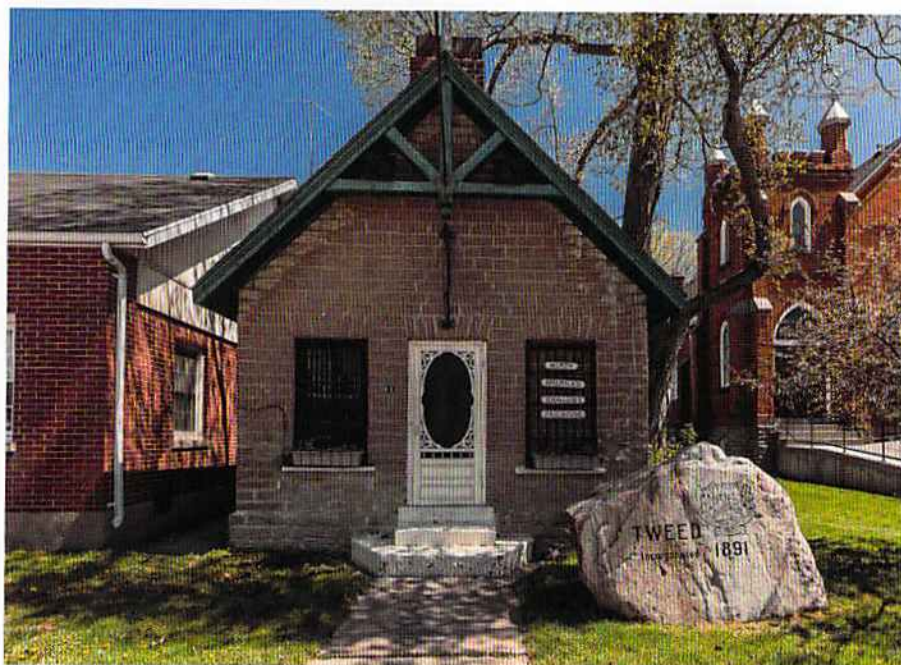


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shows, shops and centres, there's an artistic medium for everyone.

The Marble Arts Centre is one artistic entity. A former United Church, the Tweed Arts Council purchased the Marble Arts Centre in 2008. The organization installed lighting, sound, and visual projection equipment to make it the perfect location to take in a show and has become a hub of artistic appreciation. On top of the events and plays that take place there, it has also become a meeting facility available for rent, hosting weddings, gallery displays, and more. Most important of the events at the Marble Arts Centre are performances put on by the IANA Theatre Company, which puts on spectacular productions that brim with local talent. Fundraisers, comedies, dramas, and more are all on offer, with a new range of shows put on each season.



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There are many pleasant B&Bs offering local flavour full of insight into the inner workings of the town. Black River Retreat goes above and beyond. "Catering to just one couple at a time, we are able to create a private and peaceful getaway that allows our guests to enjoy romantic tranquility with the one they love, while pampering them with luxurious surroundings and delicious dining," said Trevor Telford, owner of Black River Retreat.

Central to the Black River Retreat experience is the town, which Trevor feels is vital to the getaway escape. "When looking for a location to build a couples resort, I stumbled upon Tweed and immediately fell

some of the most stunning sculptures and home wares. Winding through the aisle is like making friends with countless wooden artifacts all carved with the greatest care by local and distant artists. There are also stone sculptures to grace gardens and other unique finds that add something special to that drab corner of your living room. There are many handcrafted items from all over the world just waiting for the perfect owner.

If the arts don't pique your interest, then make the most of Tweed by indulging in some of the general store type shops, like the Old Cheese Factory. www.quinnsoftweed.ca
www.blackrivertradingcompany.ca



in love with the breathtakingly beautiful natural landscape of rocks, water, and trees." With an abundance of wildlife and a humble locale to call home, visitors flock to the escape, even those who live just three minutes away.

Continuing the trend of artistic promotion, many local businesses make their home in the arts. Proudly promoting the latest and greatest in artistic merit, Tweed houses Quinn's on Tweed, a gallery that boasts countless local artisans in the historical 1880s limestone and brick building. Exploring the 30 painters and more than 45 artisans is like stepping into a painted dream. Paul Dederer, owner of the gallery, opened it in 2011. "It is rare to find an elegant, superbly built, magnificent building like Quinn's of Tweed in its original condition," said Paul. "At Quinn's we strive to make our visitors feel welcome, to feel at ease and to know that this isn't a stuffy place where they'll feel out of place."

For another unique artistic flavour, visit Black River Trading Company, which houses

Undoubtedly, thanks to the location near one of Canada's oldest cities, Tweed thrives with historical flavour, evident on every street corner. Worth visiting are the many churches in the area, including St. John's United Church, a stunning limestone treasure that sports a beautiful bell, which rang continuously for one hour to mark the end of the Second World War. The bell also had the previous purpose of serving as the Tweed fire bell. Of course, don't miss St. Carthag's Roman Catholic Church, which lords over the town and offers spectacular views of the lake from its perch on top of the hill.

For an excellent source of historical information, visit the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre, a self-professed, "One-stop introduction to the heritage, past and present, natural and built, of the community and region." By paying a drop-in fee of \$5, visitors can access information, documents, and other historical data about the local area, giving further insight into the ways the Loyalists forged the community.

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