



Photo by Robert Erickson

DEWAR'S INN

Relaxation by the river in Prescott

By Lisa Crandall

At first glance, Dewar's Inn presents an understated façade, apparently an ordinary motel by the side of the road that used to be known as The King's Highway. That impression quickly gives way to the reality of a lush and serene water front haven.

Located on 1649 County Road 2 W, just slightly west of Prescott, the Inn specializes in quiet and calm with an adult only, no noise policy. Offering 18 units, the range of accommodations includes; individual cabins, a limited number of efficiency units, as well as regular motel style rooms. Each one positioned to enjoy views of the St. Lawrence River and garden spaces that evoke a slower pace, away from ordinary cares and concerns.

It was the sense of peacefulness that inspired the new owners, Frank and Judy, to take on the ownership of this thriving business that has such a long history. Originally from Beijing, the husband and wife duo were drawn to the history of this part of Ontario. They travelled extensively across Canada before settling down in this area, searching for a new way of life after the hustle and bustle of big city living in contemporary China. They are convinced they have found exactly what they were searching for when they purchased the Inn in 2015. They live on site and are part of the daily routine of running the Inn, striving to keep the experience of each guest as personal as possible.

The buildings are situated on the former site of the Grenville Brewery, a source of local employment during the 19th century and wealth in the pre-prohibition era. The Brewery was forced to close during prohibition (1916-1927 in Ontario) and the buildings were torn down in the 1920s.

The history of the location lingers in the red bricks, which were used to construct the individual cabins that now line the water front. In the remains of the old wharf, just barely visible poking above the water, where it is still possible to find old bottles hiding in the mud of the river bottom.

Dewar's Inn has been accommodating travellers since the mid-1930s. The original cabins on the site were built by Edgar Roy and his son Lindsay. They ran it under the evocative name Isle of Rest Cottages.

A more recent proprietor Paul Dewar put his talent as a woodworker to good use by carefully renovating each of the cabins currently in use. Two of the original eight cottages were converted into a set of four efficiency suites, which include small kitchenettes. It was during his 28 year tenure that the lush greenscaping gradually evolved. What started as a Friendship Garden built with donations from friends, has grown to include several plum and apple trees, as well as a colorful array of shrubs and flowering plants. Guests are encouraged to sample offerings of the trees if they are lucky enough to be on hand during the harvest season. A recent experimental addition is a Goji Berry bush, happily thriving just outside the communal kitchen in the main building. The greenery and seasonal blooms soften the edges of the many outdoor spaces, including a lengthy boardwalk that links the various cottages. It is dotted with comfortable looking chairs that beckon guests to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds of the St. Lawrence River, while unwinding as time slips quietly by.

The carefully monitored environment of no kids, no pets, no noise is what makes a stay at Dewar's Inn unique. It is the destination of choice for parents who need a short escape, harried and stressed city folk who crave a brief respite from busy lives and for seniors who prefer a slower pace. Many guests are repeat visitors. If you're in need of a brief get away with a timeless, gracious ambiance, you need not look any further than Dewar's Inn, in Prescott. [LH](#)



Photo by Robert Erickson