



*Out on the breakwater this lighthouse marks the way for passing boats big and small.  
Photo Credit: Rob Chaffart*



*Donated by an early 20th century mayor this clock tower chimes out the hours at the corner of King and Centre Streets.  
Photo Credit: Robert Erickson*

# PRESCOTT ROAD TRIP

## A Comfortable Blend of Culture and Casual for Visitors

By Lisa Crandall

Prescott, Ontario is much more than just The Fort Town, which is in reference to historic Fort Wellington, located right in the town. With a population of just under 4,000 people, it offers a comfortable blend of culture and casual, epitomized by the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival presenting unique adaptations of the bard in a cozy outdoor amphitheatre located beside the local marina.

When visitors come, there are many sights to be seen. Many of them found along County Road 2, which runs parallel to the St. Lawrence River, while running directly through Prescott west to east.

On the western edge of town is the Blue Church. Located at the corner of County Road 2 and Blue Church Road, it is a historic church known for its vibrant blue color, but perhaps better appreciated for its historical

graveyard. The church was built in 1826, burned down in 1840 and then rebuilt in 1845. It has one of the oldest functioning cemeteries in Ontario, serving the Anglican community. Because of its age, there are many interesting grave stones to be discovered for curious explorers.

Moving eastward along County Road 2, visitors will pass many iconic stone houses, large and small, indicative of the long history of the town.

Near the center of town, at the corner of King (County Road 2) and Centre Streets, stands The Clock Tower, presented to the town in 1927 by businessman and two-time mayor Louis Daniels and his wife Harriet. It was rebuilt in the 1980's, and most recently refurbished and rededicated in 2016. During the summer and fall the local farmers market takes place in the adjacent parking lot.

Just steps away, is the Forwards Museum, a tiny free museum housed in an historical building. There are many items that reflect life of the late 18th and 19th century. It also functions as a tourist information center.

From there it is just a brief walk downhill to Riverwalk Park, which features a unique play structure shaped like a pirate ship. There are also picnic tables and benches overlooking the water. From here visitors can embark upon a leisurely stroll along the waterfront. Waterfront Trail, crossing the Sandra S. Lawn Harbour and Marina (with 148 slips), along the breakwater and across the green space that ends near the local golf course. This stroll takes you past two different lighthouses. One is located along the pathway, which offers refreshments and souvenirs, a fundraiser run by the local Rotary Club. Further along you'll discover another lighthouse situated out on the breakwater.

As you continue your journey, you'll discover the Shakespeare Garden where the shade of the mature evergreens and spray of the fountain can offer respite from the heat of a summer day. There might even be some live entertainment taking place at the Rotary Pavilion, site of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival. This year's plays will be "As You Like It" and "The Taming of the Shrew", presented between July 13 - August 18.

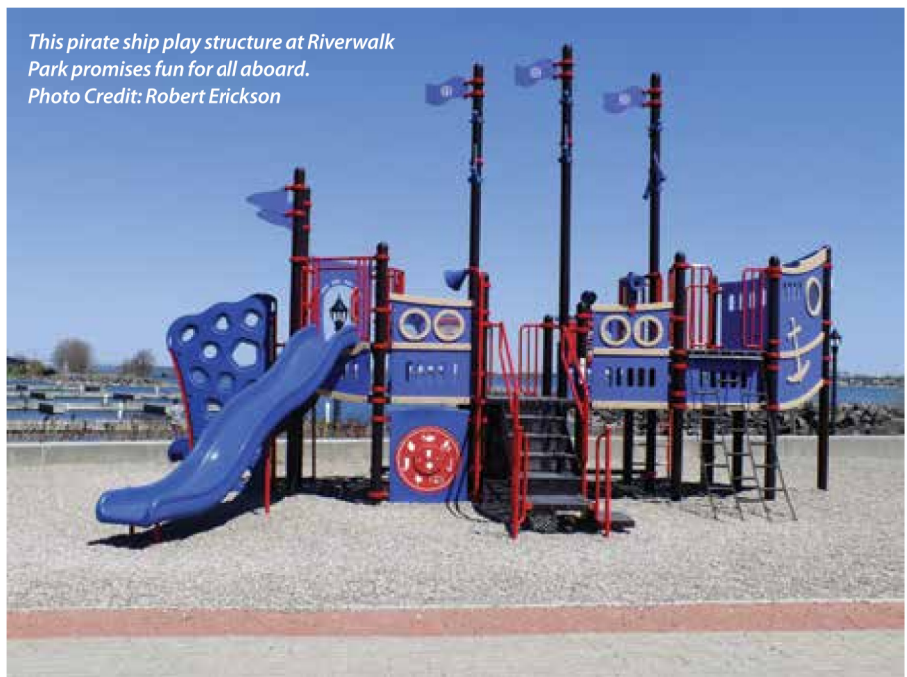
A little further outside the village, just a quick drive to the east, visitors will discover the Windmill Lighthouse, which stands at the site of the historical battle known as the Battle of the Windmill, commemorating its 180th anniversary this year. Keep in mind they are only open Thursday through Monday.

The Kings Lock Craft Distillery, Windmill Brewery and Newport BBQ & Bakery are also located nearby. An easy place to stop for a bite to eat and a taste of hand crafted small batch beers and liquors.

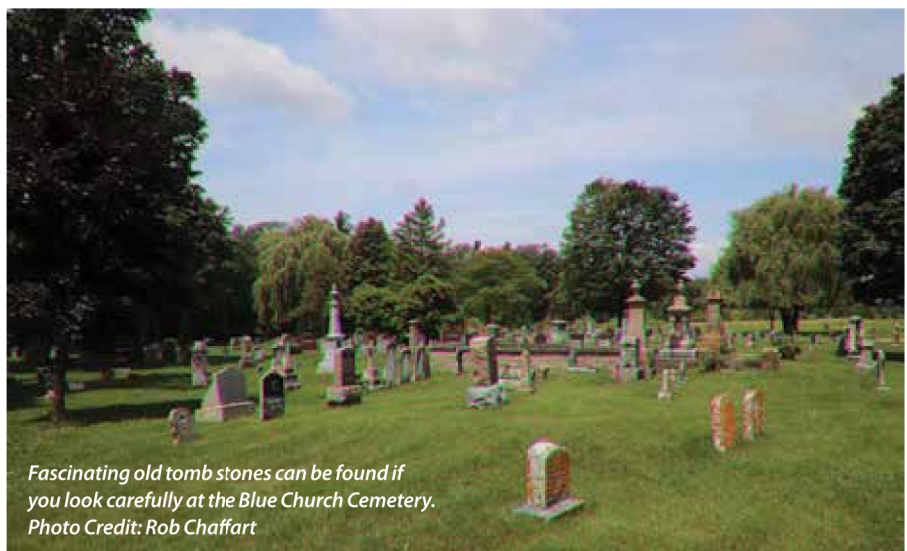
This is only a sampling of the things to explore while you visit Prescott. There are also a variety of events and festivals throughout the summer months. **LH**



*A tourist information center as well as a tiny museum about the shipping along the St. Lawrence.*  
**Photo Credit: Robert Erickson**



*This pirate ship play structure at Riverwalk Park promises fun for all aboard.*  
**Photo Credit: Robert Erickson**



*Fascinating old tomb stones can be found if you look carefully at the Blue Church Cemetery.*  
**Photo Credit: Rob Chaffart**