

Driveshed is a 150-year Hockley treasure

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There's no secret map to find this carefully hidden treasure — it's just a driveshed away.

Nestled in the hills of Hockley Valley is the Driveshed: a country store, adjacent to the recently opened Hockley House Tea Room, both of which sit below the Little Women Bed and Breakfast.

The Driveshed was built in 1837 and has served the local people ever since. In September 1989 ownership changed hands once again and three women took to the helm.

Janet Dobrowski, Gay Halpenny and Heather Sheehan found themselves owning a large number of antique furnishings they had collected while travelling through Quebec visiting their children in school.

Janet was a dental assistant at the time and still sports her 'braces are beautiful' apron while doing the cooking for the tea room. Gay spent

her days planning trips and vacations in her role as travel agent while Heather runs her family's horse farm, still her primary occupation.

"She's kind of a gofer for us here," Janet said of her sister Heather.

The country store and the tea room are filled with antique and old style items which are all for sale.

"We had somebody come for tea on Sunday and they took their table with them," Gay said. "We've had people stay in the bed and breakfast and go home with their dresser."

So the antiques are always being replaced and furnishings aren't the only items available — lamps and accessories are also for sale.

The tea room's walls are lined with art from the Young Fox Art Gallery in Toronto. The paintings are all original works and can be purchased.

Right now, Gay said, she's featuring a print by Canadian artist Linda Evans who painted Hockley Valley as her winter scene in the Four Seasons

series.

Gay, who does most of the buying for the shop, said she likes to keep the shop stocked with as much local work as she can, while keeping in mind the environment.

She said she keeps the store stocked with everyday grocery items so locals who run out of milk or sugar don't have to drive all the way into town. But primarily the shop stocks art and other gift items as well as homemade preserves and teas.

Some of what's available at the store are: Batik on wood jewellery by Magda K, Marci Lipman sweatshirts, their own sweatshirts, environment friendly Soagen cosmetics from Italy, Rootham's gourmet preserves — made by a woman who lives near Alton, Chuck's Homemade Pickles of Snelgrove — which aren't just pickles and which list ingredients right on the jar, cleaning products from the Soap Factory in St. Catharines, Wellesley Apple Butter, assorted teas from Sri Lanka, and European style breads — which Gay brings from Toronto every Saturday morning.

The take-out food section is always busy. People come in for fresh baked goods (cookies, date squares, pastries, cakes and the famed butter tarts) or sandwiches, meat pies and the much talked-about pigs in a blanket.

Both Gay and Janet share the food responsibilities.

"I'm the meat and potatoes guy and Gay does all the fancy cakes and pastries," Janet said.

Sunday mornings are particularly grand at the Driveshed when local residents meet to catch up on the latest gossip and sip some tea or coffee. Dubbed "the Sunday morning club", the locals enjoy the atmosphere and the company.

Gay, who lives part-time between Toronto and the Driveshed said she's not ready to leave the city altogether and move to the country.

"I think I have the best of both

worlds," she said. "I also have the opportunity to bring things down from the city."

The three women also own the neighboring buildings which house Hockley finds like, Just For You, Back and Forth, Painter's Place and Little Wallflowers.

The Driveshed is open daily (except Monday) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Hockley House Tea Room is open Wednesday to Sunday for lunch from noon to 2 p.m. and for afternoon tea from 2:30-5 p.m.

The bed and breakfast is open seven days a week and reservations are recommended.

Take a trip to the hills

The Orangeville-Caledon area is blessed by two spectacular natural features.

One is the Hockley Valley. Visitors to the area can enjoy exceptional scenery — especially during the fall color season — by driving Hockley Valley Road.

Heading north east from Highway 10-24 just north of Orangeville, Hockley Valley Road winds through the Hockley hills, into the picturesque heart of Mono township, through Glen Cross to Hockley Village.

Caledon is cut by the Niagara Escarpment, which creates some

spectacular hill country through the town.

For a unique driving experience, take Forks of the Credit Road west from Highway 10. The road climbs the side of the escarpment into the settlement area of Belfountain, in what is almost mountainous terrain.

The north part of Caledon is dotted with these small settlement areas — places like Alton, Cheltenham, Caledon and Belfountain — that have a lot to offer to those seeking an escape from hectic city life. Many have specialty and antique shops offering a wide variety of interesting goods.



Two of the owners of the Driveshed in Hockley Valley, Gay Halpenny and Janet Dobrowski sit at one of the antique tables that line their tea room. The pair, along with Heather Sheehan, bought the building just over a year ago.

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