

# Have a five-star experience with just a quick visit

Gerry is writing today.

In our retirement, we are finding out how to travel like a retired person and a senior. In the United States, a senior is classified as anyone over 55. In Canada, you must be 60 or 65 for most benefits and certainly discounts.

My first experience being mistaken for senior was in a Florida restaurant traveling south. I was a 49-year-old with gray hair, sitting beside my nearly grey-haired husband. The waitress looked at me and said that I qualified for the senior discount! Was I surprised? I didn't know what to say, so I quietly gave her my order and then bitched about it to my husband for days. But I did accept the 10% discount.

When you have the time, the option is available to dine out at any of the three meals a day. This enables you to experience some very elegant, expensive and ritzy restaurants for lunch or breakfast without the expense of dinner and drinks.

Lori  
Gysel  
&  
Gerry  
Kentner



You may find that choosing your meals earlier in the day and taking time to tour the facility can be as enjoyable as staying there.

A fabulous five-star resort we recently toured and enjoyed lunch at was The Greenbriar in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. This 200-plus year old resort is a fabulous, first class facility, very worth the visit. Being somewhat out of our budget as accommodation, we decided to visit late in the morning, look around and have lunch.

So we parked the car by the golf course parking and walked

the paths through the grounds of the resort. We arrived at the main building shortly after and toured the inside. Soon we spotted the restaurant we chose to have lunch in— Draper's Café. This restaurant was named after the designer and decorator, Dorothy Draper, and it was a well-deserved recognition. The pink and white striped wallpaper, floral pink rose-patterned chair covers on the wicker furniture and the fresh flowers and abundance of greenery gave the air of calm, warmth and comfort.

The menu was creative and very delicious. One of us had warm peppered smoked mountain trout, the other had chilled Greenbriar peach soup and chilled jumbo shrimp, crab and smoked salmon salad. A couple of glasses of iced tea and we were pleasantly sated.

As we do in a restaurant we enjoy, we conversed with the staff, received signed copies of their menu and one waiter even gave me one of their custom-made sugar bowls, shaped and coloured like a watermelon!

A fabulous experience and a lot less money than dinner would have been! Have fun and keep cooking!

(Lori and Gerry can be reached at [whatscookin@independentfreepress.com](mailto:whatscookin@independentfreepress.com))

## Caramel Pecan Brownies

### Ingredients

- 1 roll (52grams) Rolo or Caramilk
- 4 oz bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 2 oz unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup chopped toasted pecans
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- pinch salt
- 2 tbsp. butterscotch sauce



### Method

Line an 8-inch square pan with foil and grease. Cut caramel chocolates into quarters. Melt both chocolates with butter. Cool slightly. Whisk in sugar and vanilla. Whisk in eggs one at a time till shiny.

In a bowl, combine flour, half of the pecans, baking powder and salt. Stir into chocolate mixture just until combined. Scrape into prepared pan.

Drizzle with half the butterscotch sauce.

Scatter remaining pecans and candy over the top. Lightly press into batter without submerging. Drizzle with rest of butterscotch sauce.

Bake in 350 degree preheated oven 35 minutes. Makes 16.

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