

Bringing The McKibbon House Back

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penry and Concrete in Cressey, Drew Harrison Construction and Quinte Roofing among them.

“Without their help, nothing would have happened to get my plans underway,” Kerry said. “I’m very grateful.”

But the problems didn’t disappear. The pandemic hit and progress ground to a halt. Once again tradesmen were not available and for Kerry, living in both Carleton Place and Milford didn’t help. It was time to make the move.

“It was my intention from the outset to move to Milford. Even though I had deep, 30-year roots in Carleton Place, it was time for a change.” The McKibbon House B&B turned the page. Milford offered a tranquility and atmosphere in an historic part of Ontario that he enjoyed. It was serendipitous. Who knows what might have happened to The McKibbon House had not Kerry been willing to invest in its future?

In addition to running the B&B, Kerry had always wanted to build his own home from the ground up. While the McKibbon House sits on its original footprint, the addition at the back of the structure is Kerry’s “from the ground up” home.

A widower, Kerry now shares the home and the dream with partner, Brigitte

Gagne, who also hails from eastern Ontario. Brigitte has helped to convert the vision to reality and in his words, “given me more stability and comfort here.” He found it lonely sometimes on his own, he confesses.

Brigitte, a Franco-Ontarian from a large Hawkesbury family of 10 – she’s the youngest – has a firm grasp on the reality of timing.

“There’s always tomorrow”, she says, pondering the many things that remain to be done before the B&B and the neighbouring Emporium can open. One of those exciting new features is a spa for pampering such as facials, waxing, manicures and pedicures. As an aesthetician, she plans to carve out a space for her spa on the second floor of the renovated Emporium, overlooking her spacious garden.

But that’s not all that’s planned for the historic Mil-



Artist rendering of renovated Emporium.



Kerry says while a great deal has been accomplished much remains to be done such as staining woodwork on the staircase. —Mirror photo.

ford Emporium. Originally slated for demolition to create parking, Kerry was persuaded by a tradesman: “fix it; it’s got good bones, just fix it,” he said. And with that, Kerry and Brigitte plan to return the structure to its recent past when it was a coffee shop/café in the early part of the 2000’s. The old building will also house leisure space for B&B guests such as a pool table and, of course, the spa for guests and local residents.

Meanwhile, The McKibbon House sports a new, fashionable style featuring vaulted ceilings and vast beds in the three guest bedrooms upstairs named The Capitan Morgan Room in commemoration of Kerry’s best friend who shared a love of fast boats and spiced rum, The Carriage Room and The Em-

porium Room. The gourmet kitchen sports a state-of-the-art gas stove and oven. The entrance staircase has been moved slightly to allow for a larger downstairs sitting room but remains grand. The once open porch has been closed in to create a more pleasing and comfortable entrance into the front of the house. Much of the original woodwork has been lovingly restored and where that was not possible replicated, with Kerry undertaking the milling work himself. The restoration certainly shows off his “labour of love.”

Before they open the doors of The McKibbon House B&B to their guests in

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