

# Just call me Casino Rama Ruthie ... I've got the fever



## Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

Just a week ago the Big Guy and I decided to drive north to Orillia and discover the joys of Casino Rama.

Now, I must admit, I am the first person to say that gambling is like throwing money down the drain. I also see lottery tickets as a big waste of funds.

Ask the Big Guy how many times I have told him that if I had every dollar that he has spent on tickets, I would be giving him a barrelful of money today.

Gambling and I have never mixed. The closest I have come to seeing the inside of a casino is on a travel brochure for Las Vegas.

Throwing my puritanical behavior to the wind, I felt a surge of excitement as we pulled into the massive casino parking lot.

Walking through the door it felt like Wayne Newton should be standing there to greet us. The place is huge and sparkling and filled with patrons.

There are rows upon rows of noisy slot machines aglow with lights.

There are tables waiting for the more serious gamblers where the big money stakes are played. Those we passed on.

Upon getting our money converted to casino coin, the Big Guy and I set out to try our luck and win a million dollars and live happily ever after.

Sitting before a loud slot machine called Wild Cherry, I fell in love. Something happened to me as I sat before my silver friend. As I fed it coins, I became dizzy with excitement while the wheels went round and round.

With beginner's luck I won time after time. My small white bucket which every player collects their winnings in was overflowing.

By this time the Big Guy was far out of sight and I could hardly wait to show him how well I had done.

A small crowd of two gathered as I fed coin after coin into the slot machine.

Feeling like Casino Rama Ruthie, I began playing the vacant machines on

either side of me as well. As quick as you can say gambling fever — my once overflowing bucket rattled with scarcely a coin left.

Like a fisherman that let the big one get away, all that remained to show the Big Guy was my empty pail.

Undaunted, I tried to hide my glazed eyes as I begged for just a few more dollars. Mission accomplished, as I raced back and proceeded to lose that in record time.

Wandering around, I happened to spot some familiar Rural Routers trying their luck. Most averted their eyes as we shared somewhat guilty smiles.

Dragging me out the door I begged for just one more chance.

Driving home, I planned my return in a day or so.

Harmless fun, I explained, a healthy new hobby for me. In the voice reserved for serious discussions, the Big Guy told me

that maybe I liked it just a little too much.

What's not to like? It's big, it's exciting and I have caught the fever.

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