

New bed and breakfast welcomed in one-hotel town

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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When Elizabeth Johnston and her husband, Garry, moved into their home 11 years ago, she knew the rural property would be a great place to raise their six children, but she also knew it would make an even better bed and breakfast.

Their youngest child graduated from high school last month and Mrs. Johnston wasted no time in transforming the teenager's bedroom into a traveller's respite.

Mrs. Johnston owns and operates Trail of the Woods Bed and Breakfast, which is located in the Trail of the Woods subdivision off Kennedy Road, just north of Aurora Road.

"As soon as you walk away from the house, you're in another world," Mrs. Johnston said of the one-acre of wooded trails just feet from her 1,200-square-foot back porch.

Upon entering the home, which is set back from the road and surrounded by trees, guests will be greeted by hostess Amanda Bisson, Mrs. Johnston's daughter as well as a travel and tourism graduate from Centennial College.

Guests have access to the main floor's rustic living and dining rooms as well as the modern kitchen and conservatory, which all overlook their vegetable garden, neatly trimmed lawn and forest.

Upstairs is where guests sleep in either the king room, which comes with an en suite bathroom, jacuzzi and sitting room.

The queen room is "a small room but with a to-die-for shower and bathroom," Mrs. Johnston noted.

There are books and board games for guests to use and family photos line the main floor walls but virtually everything else cherished by Mrs. Johnston has been removed.

"Clutter is horrible," she said. "It's a relaxed feeling. I don't want people to worry about touching things."

Mrs. Johnston is targeting primarily the business traveller as well as Ontarians, whom she said make up 81 per cent of the province's tourism.

The king suite rents for \$249/night, while the queen room is \$199/night. There is a 10-per-cent corporate discount.

"I don't think travellers or business people want to stick around my house all day," she said.

But they definitely do not want to miss out on breakfast, which Mrs. Johnston, the daughter of a Royal York Hotel chef, prepares.

The B&B's breakfast includes Canadian bacon, eggs, potatoes, tomatoes, oatmeal/granola, yogurt, fruit, a variety of bread and jams, as well as coffee and an assortment of teas.

Special diets, such as vegetarian or gluten-free can be accommodated.

Mrs. Johnston put her plan for the B&B into motion about five years ago when the province enabled municipalities to create their own bed and breakfast bylaws.

She is no stranger to start-ups. Mrs. Johnston is the founder and owner/operator of Kids Cash, which is a reward and redemption game for parents and children.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's zoning bylaw allows for B&Bs. No business licence is required from the municipality, according



STAFF PHOTO/SANDRA BOLAN

Elizabeth Johnston at her family's new bed and breakfast west of Ballantrae.

to Nirvana Champion, economic development officer for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"I think it's great to see more businesses, especially tourism businesses come into our community," Ms Champion said.

Because the B&B will feed less than 10 people, an inspection was not required by the region's health department, according to Mrs. Johnston.

York Region's health department was unable to verify this when contacted by The Sun-Tribune.

Trail of the Woods Bed and Breakfast, which officially opened this month, is one of only two B&Bs operating within Whitchurch-

Stouffville. The other is Linden on the Lake in Musselman's Lake.

The Stouffville Inn is the municipality's only hotel, with 50 rooms on Ringwood Drive.

In the 2009 accommodations needs study, Ms Champion said it determined that by 2031 if all employment and population targets were met, the town could potentially support a small hotel.

"The town is always keen to welcome accommodations," Ms Champion said.

For more information, go to www.bbcanda.com/13595.html

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FORM 6
Municipal Act, 2001

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on 8 August 2012, at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Municipal Offices, 111 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 0Z8.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Municipal Offices, 111 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville.

Description of Lands:

Roll No. 19 44 000 090 59900 0000; Executive Dr. S/S Gormley; PIN 03697-0111(LT) Parcel A-1 Section M41; Block A Plan M41; Whitchurch-Stouffville. File 12-01

Minimum Tender Amount: \$27,525.51

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a money order or of a bank draft or cheque certified by a bank or trust corporation payable to the municipality and representing at least 20 per cent of the tender amount.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and the relevant land transfer tax.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

Note: HST may be payable by successful purchaser.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender contact:

Brenda Van Essen
Manager, Revenue & Taxation Services
The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
111 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 0Z8
905-640-1910 Ext. 2238
brenda.vanessen@townofws.ca