

Russell Manor B & B holds grand opening

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THE CHIEFTAIN

It is doubtful that the 17 workers who boarded in the attic during the building of the Seaway, nor the numerous residents who lived there during its years as a group home, would recognize the Russell Manor that held its Grand Opening on Sunday, May 18. Perhaps even Thomas Russell, who built the Morrisburg house in 1872, would have been awestruck to see the beauty and refinement that has been brought to the Manor by the hard work and exceptional taste

of owners Ron Currie and Michael Burton.

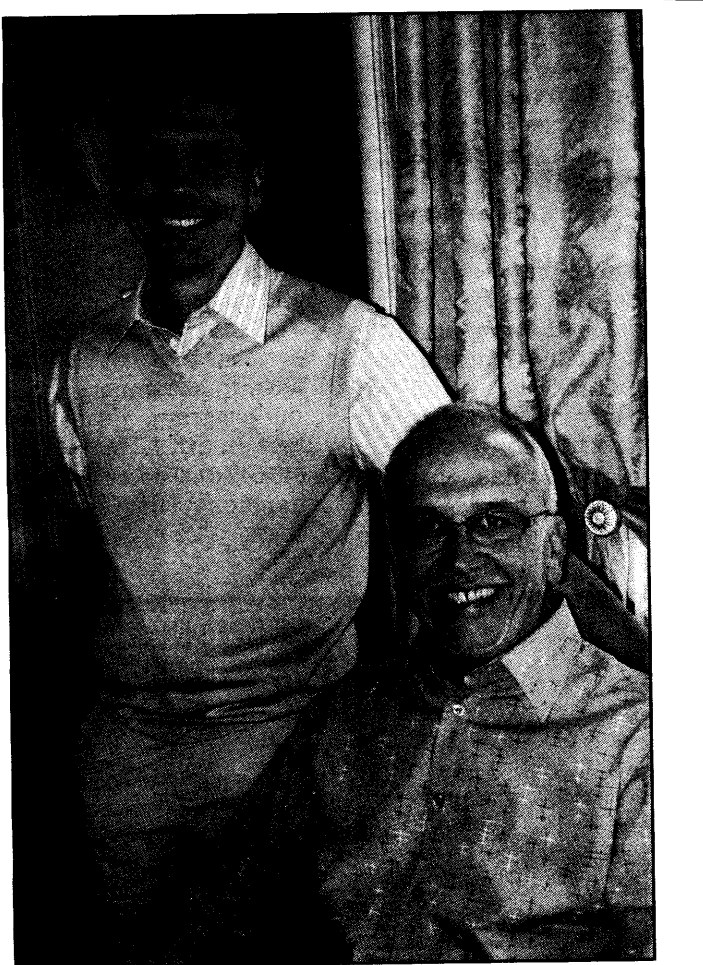
6 years ago to the day, Currie and Burton took possession of the house that they purchased after a year-long hunt. "We were initially looking in the Carleton Place and Perth areas but everything was too expensive," stated Currie. When they first visited Russell Manor they knew they had found what they were looking for. After 30 years as a group home the house had been divided into many small rooms and the original charm of the building must have been hard to perceive. "It was a rabbit warren," explained Burton. "I understand why no one wanted to buy it, but I had a vision from the first weekend."

Now, six years and a great deal of money and hard work later, the house is a showpiece of luxury and taste and true to the Victorian Mansion it once was. Russell Manor offers 4 beautiful suites of rooms and business at the B & B is booming. "Most of our guests are from Canada but we have some

from Europe," explained Burton. One of the changes in clientele that the owners of Russell Manor have noticed is that South Dundas is becoming a destination rather than just a place to stop along the way.

The many people who visited Russell Manor to help celebrate the Grand Opening could have no trouble understanding why it would be a destination. Over 100 people toured the house, giving their sincere compliments and best wishes to Michael Burton and Ron Currie for their continued success. "Today has been spectacular," stated Currie who among other well-wishers welcomed MP Guy Lauzon, MPP Jim Brownell and Councillor Del Jones to the Manor.

Asked what the most rewarding part of the renovation experience had been, Burton stated, "Honestly, the trades people I have met who work in this community have been wonderful. We couldn't have done this without them."



Russell Manor B & B held its Grand Opening on Sunday, May 18. Owners Michael Burton (standing) and Ron Currie were pleased to welcome over 100 well-wishers and community members to their gracious home for the event.

CHIEFTAIN PHOTO - A. CARTIER