

# Heritage home restored to new glory

MORRISBURG - The Russell Manor was built 136 years ago, in 1872, meant as a show case home for Thomas Russell and his family.

However, in the latter part of the 20th century, like many stately old homes, it went through some

challenging times.

In the 1950's, it served as a boarding home for 17 workers on the St. Lawrence Seaway, and later as a group home for 12 developmentally delayed adult women and their care givers.

On May 17, 2002, the Russell

Manor was purchased by Ron Currie and Michael Burton who undertook the daunting task of restoring the house to its former glory.

"We camped with friends and sledge hammers that first weekend," recalls designer Burton, "and just waded in."

"The house was a rabbit warren," explains Currie.

The results of six years of extensive and beautiful renovations were unveiled to appreciative guests during the Russell Manor Bed & Breakfast official opening on May 18, 2008.

MP Guy Lauzon and MPP Jim Brownell were among those who attended the opening.

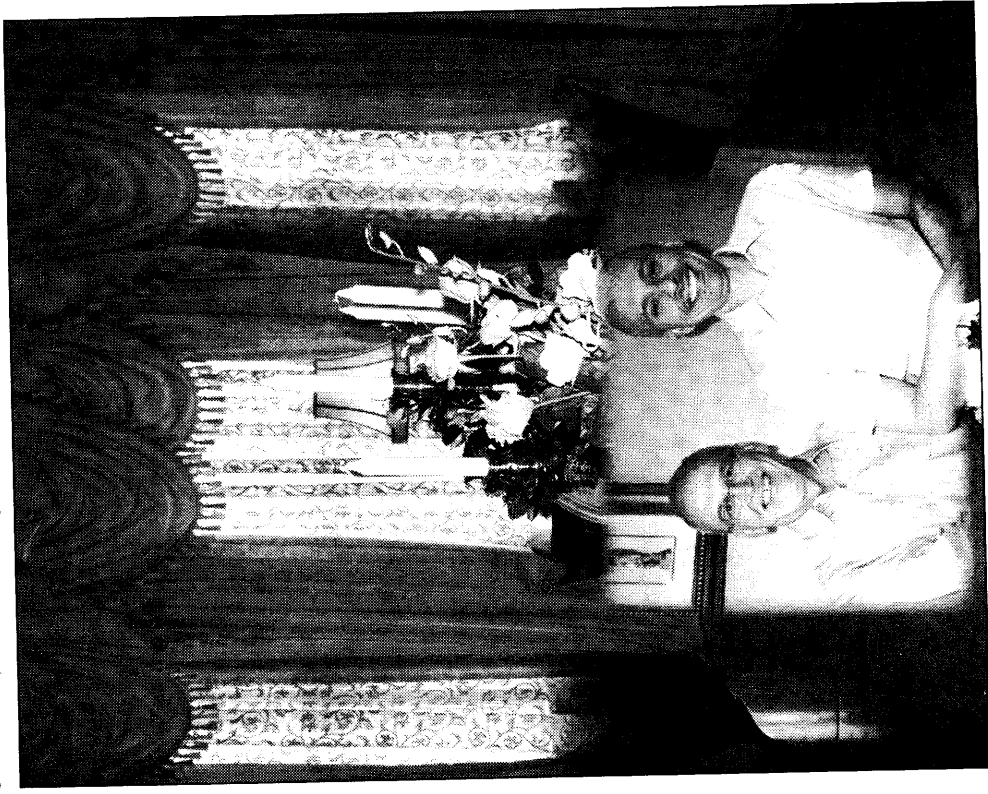
Now a "destination" for visitors from across Canada, the United States and Europe, the Russell House has become a prominent

business in the Morrisburg community.

"The workmen locally, that we have met and dealt with are just wonderful," said Burton. "Al Casselman and Herold Moore were both very knowledgeable about old houses, and knew how to rewire them and make them sound. We could not have done this without them."

The four suites available to guests are equipped with every modern convenience, yet each is also a breathtaking experience in itself.

The owners have skillfully recreated the Manor's heritage in the furnishings and art work they have chosen for their home and business. They have restored the Victorian look, sense and feel of the majestic old home on First Street, preserving a bit of old Morrisburg's past.



## Heritage architects

Ron Currie, left, and Michael Burton, right, officially opened the doors of the Russell Manor Bed & Breakfast following nearly six years of extensive and beautiful renovations to Thomas Russell's original 1872 mansion in Morrisburg.

Gibb photos

