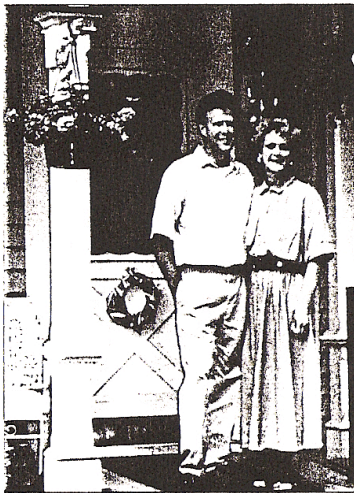


The Sutherland House in Canandaigua



Story and photos
by Elena M. Cambio

As the first rays of dawn spread over the waving corn fields, Henry Sutherland stepped off the porch of his new home, breathing in the morning air. The year was 1885 and the Sutherland home was a beautiful new addition to the growing Canandaigua community.

Over 100 years later, the Victorian Gothic house still stands proudly amidst the corn fields and pastures. Now owned by Cor and Diane Van Der Woude, the house is a delightful bed and breakfast called The Sutherland House.

"It took us seven years to open this bed and breakfast. We were waiting for our sons to finish high school, and we did a lot of research," Cor explained. "We found this house in a realty book. It needed a lot of work, but we fell in love with it right away."

The house, rundown in 1993 when the Van Der Woude's pur-

chased it, still glowed with an inner splendor.

The transformation from rickety house to charming bed and breakfast took the Van Der Woude's and their crew 18 months. Dutch-born Cor is a maintenance worker at the University of Rochester, and a carpenter by trade. His expertise was a real plus in the restoration, which included replacing the furnace, most of the roof, new beams and posts, and re-wiring the electricity.

Diane oversaw and completed most of the decorating herself, giving the house a cozy country feeling with muted colors and detailed stenciling in every room. The woodwork has been restored to its natural luster, including the mantel hutch in the dining room and the

Left: Cor and Diane Van Der Woude waited for their children to finish high school before opening the Sutherland House in Canandaigua.

winding cherrywood staircase.

"All this wood was covered in black dirt," Diane said. "But thankfully they never painted over it. It just needed a good cleaning."

As the house neared completion in summer 1994, Diane had already begun marketing for their August opening. Her background as a human resource management specialist for Wegmans provided her with valuable marketing skills that she put to work for the new B&B.

Since the Finger Lakes' economy is heavily dependent upon tourism, The Sutherland House bed and breakfast fit right in. Local tourism boards, chambers of commerce, travel agencies, and other associations refer visitors to the Sutherland. Concerts at the Finger Lakes Performing Arts Center, skiing at nearby Bristol Mountain, events at Sonnenberg Gardens, and of course the New York state wineries all provide a steady flow of patrons.

The Van Der Woudes' business slogan is "Arrive as a stranger, depart as a friend."

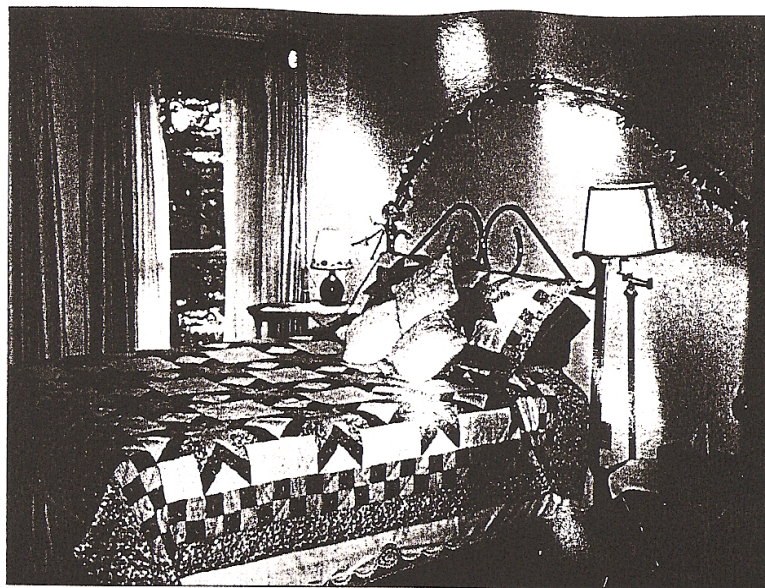
"We get all types of people here," Cor said. "People come to just get away for a weekend, or for birthdays or honeymoons. We've even had two small weddings here."

With their many visitors, the Van Der Woudes never tire of meeting new people and making new friends.

"It's amazing how much you have in common with people," Cor said.

From first time B&B-ers to seasoned travelers, folks come to The Sutherland House to enjoy country elegance and the congenial innkeepers. Hospitality and attention to detail are Cor and Diane's principles in running their bed and breakfast, and it appears to be working.

"We were booked even before



we opened," Diane said.

The Sutherland House offers five rooms: Lillian's Loft, The Dutch Treat Suite, Henry's Haven, the Parkerhouse Suite and Rose Fever. Suites include queen and king-size beds and two-person whirlpools; each room has a guest log in which the Van Der Woudes

as the Pickering Pub and Sonnenberg Gardens, as well as special corporate rates for frequent patrons on weekdays.

With one full season behind them, the Van Der Woudes look forward to the future. What's next for the owners of this popular bed and breakfast? Cor disclosed with

a twinkling eye that the carriage house barn will be his next renova-

'It's amazing how much you have in common with people.'

Cor Van Der Woude, innkeeper

encourage their guests to write. All rooms feature full baths, luxurious bedding, and plenty of closet space.

Guests can enjoy the warmly appointed parlor, the lovely grounds, and partake of a candle-light breakfast in the dining room. Breakfast is prepared by Diane, who serves fresh fruit, luscious pastries, eggs and bacon, juices and coffee.

"Everyone seems to enjoy the baked apple, especially," Cor observed of their winter specialty.

The Van Der Woudes like to recommend local restaurants and points of interest to their guests, supporting other local tourist business. The Sutherland House also offers packages with local restaurants and tourist attractions, such

tion target. "Maybe we'll rent the top floor out for business meetings," he mused.

Whatever becomes of the barn, The Sutherland House certainly is enjoying a second childhood, basking in the renewed spirit that Cor and Diane Van Der Woude have created in their charming bed and breakfast. ♣

If you go: The Sutherland House Bed & Breakfast, 5285 Bristol St., Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424. Cor and Diane Van Der Woude, 800-396-0375. Rates range from \$75-\$140.

Elena Cambio is a Fairport freelance writer.