

Ray and Rachel Gifford

These days they languish in their new home where “there’s no house-keeping or cooking to do. Rachel loved to cook and was always stirring up a batch of bread or treats,” he says, “but now we have all the time in the world to enjoy each other.”

“Giving up a certain amount of your independence is very difficult but we’re getting used to living here and finding it a very pleasant and caring place to be,” Gifford admits.

“You know I cared for my parents as long as possible and they spent their final days here. So we realized that’s the way things go I guess,” she concedes, her gaze turning to Ray for support. “They have lots of things going on here all the time and lots of music and we love music, And as we love to dance - have danced in all the country dance halls around here all our lives, we still get the chance for a waltz or two,” he says proudly and, humming a bit of an

old song, ‘Let Me Call You Sweetheart,’ they glide into a waltz, singing as they move to the music’s rhythm.

Life is good Ray says. “We’ve lots of friends who come to visit and we always have our daughter and son and grandchildren who come down from Ontario when they can. We’re doing just fine, actually,” he says as they walk, hand in hand, escorting me to the door and wishing me a safe return to town. “Thanks so much for the visit and do

come again,” they say, staying at the door to wave, standing at the window, now holding each other close, the light of an all-embracing love still shining in blue eyes where tears mist the twinkle as memories of so many years together flow and stories of children and family growing up to follow Father every spring to fish and every Fall to hunt, tales of those special times together, hunting, fishing, gardening and especially walking and dancing are being told.

“Cabane a Sucre” lunch – the sweet taste of Spring



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

Potton’s “Club des Retraites” seniors group in cooperation with the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB) held a “Cabane a sucre” lunch on Thursday, April 28 at the Catholic Church basement in Mansonville with close to 70 persons attending.

“The idea surfaced in February after a joint

event held by our two groups,” explained Angelle Laplume who is the Coordinator of SAPA services for seniors through the Volunteer Centre. “That event was such a success that we figured doing a lunch like this one to celebrate the arrival of spring and summer, would be a great idea,” she added.

The traditional “cabane a sucre” lunch was prepared by Lucie Renaud and her team. Lucie who used to run the Soleil Rouge restaurant in Mansonville was happy to cater the event which gave her a chance to see some of the local clientele that she used to have in her restaurant. The lunch was attended by many from the Potton area but also welcomed guests from as far away as Magog and Knowlton. Supporters from the local CLSC and Municipal staff and council members also came out to enjoy the meal.

The atmosphere was made complete with some traditional “sugaring” music playing in the background and people visited with one and other. For organizers, Christine Caron (President of the Club des Retraites) and Laplume just seeing the smiles on the faces of all who were in attendance made the event worthwhile.

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