

## Delicate lodgings in a rugged land

BY ROCHELLE LASH, SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE APRIL 7, 2010



Since the house's founding in 1829, the English Rose Inn has evolved into a mini-museum filled with ornaments and antiques.

The English Rose Inn appears too precious to be a mainstay of the rugged country of northern Vermont, but it has been welcoming sportsmen for decades.

The inn, in Montgomery Center, is a sweet yellow cottage close to the Jay Peak Ski & Summer Resort and the Catamount and Long Trails. It attracts skiers and hikers with its fine food and gracious accommodations.

The core of the English Rose was built in 1829, and the venerable old house speaks of its many historical eras. It has evolved into a mini-museum filled with hundreds of ornaments ranging from cute curios to authentic antiques.

No space is left unadorned. The bookshelves, piano and door frames hold colourful collections of porcelain figurines, ornate perfume bottles, fancy dolls dressed in lace, gold-trimmed decorative plates and fringed lamps.

"I put \$50 in my pocket every Wednesday for five years and headed out to the flea markets and antique auctions," said Mary Jane Bouchard-Pike, who runs the English Rose with her husband, Gary.

"I found some treasures that would sell for hundreds in New York."

If you only have seen a vintage parlour in movies like *Pride and Prejudice* or *The Young Victoria*, the English Rose is your chance to experience the turn of the 20th century. A grandfather clock ticks patiently, as it has for more than 180 years. The crystal chandeliers shimmer.

You can kick back on a pink velvet settee for afternoon tea. Bouchard-Pike pours loose-leaf Earl Grey from one of her 40 rare teapots and serves her own divine shortbread or macadamia nut cookies.

