

Old Chelsea B&B offers charm and a Funky Bunky

BY ROCHELLE LASH, SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE FEBRUARY 17, 2011



Red velvet curtains at the Old Chelsea B&B in the Gatineau region are a welcoming touch.

Photograph by: Auberge Old Chelsea B&B, Auberge Old Chelsea B&B

The Old Chelsea B&B in the Gatineau region a half-hour north of Ottawa is a new enterprise in a vintage country cottage. It is also the first foray into innkeeping for Manon Leblanc, a creative dynamo with a background in fashion and interior decor.

Leblanc turned her own home into a charming, unassuming three-room guest house, one of the Chelsea area's only lodging properties. Now she accommodates the many visitors who come for fine country dining, Le Nordik Nature Spa, the Camp Fortune snow sports area and Gatineau Park's terrific trails for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

The house was built more than 100 years ago, but indoors it is bright and modern with touches of antique charm such as crystal chandeliers and a tiny iron stove warming the living room.

"I call it casual chic," says Leblanc. "Nothing formal, nothing fancy – maybe a little quirky."

