

Gazebo Inn Ogunquit to reopen April 1

Year-round operation planned

By Jim Kanak
Staff Writer

OGUNQUIT—The Gazebo Inn, a familiar landmark on Route 1, changed ownership in early March.

Wells residents Scott Osgood and Bruce Senecal purchased the inn from Kevin and Robin Barnard on March 4. Osgood and Senecal plan to open for the season on April 1, and stay open year round.

As the opening date approaches, the new owners said they are hustling to get the inn in shape. The major project involves painting and decorating the living room and breakfast

room areas on the first floor. "We love remodeling," said Osgood. "We've lived in Wells for 11 years and have

done two houses over and were looking for another project. This was perfect. It's been one of our goals to get into this business since we moved here."

The inn, which Osgood and Senecal have renamed 'Gazebo Inn Ogunquit', features 10 rooms, eight with private baths and one with a shared bath that will be offered as a two-bedroom suite. There's also a suite that will be rented on a weekly basis only.

The bedrooms have antique-style beds and many have original, deco-

rative fireplaces. The bathrooms are tiled. All the rooms are air-conditioned and have cable television.

Common areas at the inn include a living room and breakfast room, where an expanded continental breakfast will be offered from 8 to 10 every morning. When guests wander outside, they'll be able to lounge on a patio by a 16-foot by 32-foot in-ground gunite pool, or enjoy the fish pond, admire the flower gardens that cover the backyard area, or sit in the gazebo from which the inn draws its name. There's also a balcony that offers distant ocean views.

Senecal noted that the inn is conveniently located. "There's a trolley stop at the end of our driveway," he said. "We're three-tenths of a mile from Footbridge Beach, and within walking distance to the Lobster Pound and Mehkong Thai restaurants."

The inn was built in 1847 by Woodbury Dickson and, according to the new owners, was built as a farm house with a barn. It became an inn, then served as an apartment building before becoming an inn for good in 1984. The barn, which still stands, will house Barnard's sign shop (Ocean Graphics) until August. Osgood said that he and Senecal have plans for the building. "We hope to restore the barn," he said.



Kevin A. Byron

Owners Scott Osgood and Bruce Senecal of the Gazebo Inn Ogunquit bed and breakfast.

"I'd like to restore it to the original, two tone colors and maybe have a function room for the inn." For now, he said, that is a project for another day.

In deciding to stay open all year, Osgood and Senecal plan to serve the local market. "One of the reasons to stay open in the winter is to market to local people when friends or family come to visit," Senecal said. "We can be an alternative if there's no room at home."

The inn will also be pet friendly, offering accommodations to people that like to travel with their animals. "We have four rooms that have inside and outside access," Osgood said. "Some people love bringing

their dogs, so they can stay in one of these rooms. We've found that if people care enough to bring their pets on vacation, they tend to be people who'll also [make sure the pet doesn't damage the room]."

Osgood and Senecal said that they are offering an opening rate special of \$45 per room every day in April and May, with a 10 percent discount for stays of four nights or more. "We want to get people to meet us," Osgood said.

Once they get rolling, there will be different rates for summer, fall/spring, and "quiet season" or winter. "We're interested in accommodating groups," Senecal noted. "We're already getting calls for

reservations." He said that a group has already reserved six rooms for the Columbus Day weekend.

In addition to having lived in Wells for 11 years, the new owners said they are thoroughly familiar with the area. "We've been camping here since the early 1990s," Osgood said. "My mother brought my family to the Footbridge beach since I was in elementary school. I've been passing the Gazebo since I was a kid. It's kind of neat to own it now."

For reservation information, contact the inn at 207-646-3733 or visit the website at www.gazeboinnogt.com.
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