

Tea Room recalls Spa's past

Miss Lodena's at historic Roseboro

By Patsy Nicosia

The Victorian-era history of Sharon Springs' Roseboro Hotel will take center stage in May when owner Ron Ketelsen opens his Miss Lodema's Tea Room.

The Roseboro was once famous for its high teas and tea dances; Miss Lodema's will give visitors a taste of what that life was like during that heyday, Mr. Ketelsen said.

Literally.

Though Mr. Ketelsen's plans are to eventually renovate the entire hotel, which he has been using portions of for event space, Miss Lodema's Tea Room will be a way to ease into that, he said.

Opening during Sharon Springs' Garden Party May 27-28, seating will be by reservation only, he said.

In addition to their choice of teas, tea sandwiches, scones and other high tea delicacies, visitors will be able to choose their own tea cups and pots—and take them home with them if they want.

There will also be a gift shop featuring tea-related ideas—including books on tea etiquette—of which there is plenty.

High teas, Mr. Ketelsen said were a good place for gossip—and woe to she who drank their tea the wrong way.

“You weren't supposed to look over the top of the tea cup, but rather into it. The whole thing with crooking your little finger? Very poor taste,” he said. “There's a whole set of rules over what you were and weren't supposed to do. It seems dated now, but it's really fascinating. And fun.”

Mr. Ketslsen has connected with the family of the Roseboro's former owners and plans to use some of the memorabilia of those times that they've saved in storage and attics to decorate Miss Lodema's walls.

Even the name—Miss Lodema's—is a nod to local history: Lodema Sanford was born just over the Schoharie County line



Miss Lodema's Tea Room will be opening in the historic Roseboro Hotel in Sharon Springs, by reservation only, just in time for the May 27-28 Sharon Springs Garden Party.

in Delaware County in 1873; her family came from Sussex, England.

“We wanted something unique, local, and historic,” Mr. Ketelsen said. “I think we found it.”

Though at first, tea will be by reservation only, Mr. Ketelsen said he envisions Miss Lodema's as a place for wedding or baby showers, garden club meetings, or just a place to lounge—on the porch.

Another unique piece of Miss Lodema's Tea Room, Mr. Ketelsen said, is that guests will likely be seated at tables (linen covered, of course) with people they don't know.

“It's a chance to make new friends,” he said. “And that's what Sharon Springs is all about. I always go for the wow factor and I think this is. It's unique, but it will be a nice addition to what Sharon Springs always has.”

Mr. Ketelsen has already been getting calls from people who want to visit Miss Lodema's in Victorian-era dress, much like they do during Sharon Springs' Christmas celebration.

His answer?

“Absolutely!”

Seating for the Sharon Springs Garden Party Weekend will be at (Reservation Only): 11:00 AM; 12:30 PM; 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM. Reservations can be made by calling **518-860-5513**.