

## 2398 Queen Mary St Mount Pleasant Century Farmhouse History

Built in 1885, this century farmhouse has a varied history. Home to people with a dream from Irish immigrants, moneylenders, farmers, an artist, the previous owners opened a B&B and the current owners created a cooking school, B&B and yoga/meditation retreat.

If walls could talk: The farmer who grew up in the house stopped by one day, toured the house and reminisced. His great-grandparents, the Websters, emigrated from Ireland, landed in Picton and were granted the land by the Crown (he has the original deeds). They were intrepid pioneers, arriving at a sometimes hostile, undeveloped land; they came here as farmers and to be farmers. The Crown gave them the land for free with a stipulation: "You have to clear so much land each year or it may be taken away."

They built this house, which would have been considered large at the time. He isn't sure how many acres they were granted by the Crown, but he still owns 140 acres of them!

The farmer's great-grandparents had a son and daughter. His great-grandparents moved north to Kirkfield, later retiring in Millbrook. Their daughter, Annie Webster, the farmer's grandmother, got married and remained in the house and had 6 boys, his father being one of them. Eventually Annie left the house and moved into a house in the village.

The farmer's father moved into this house and had 3 boys. He thinks that his brothers might have been born in the house with a midwife. He bought the farmhouse and land from his brothers. His daughter, an artist and previous B&B owner continued living at the house.

The stairs are the original stairs. The master bedroom was always the master bedroom...massive!! His parents didn't sleep in the room, however, because it was warm in the summer and they of course didn't have A/C, so they slept in the attic room. His bedroom was where the bathroom is now (they didn't have plumbing back then either). The small bedroom wasn't there before, it was a large hallway sitting area and the attic above kitchen was a storeroom with attic beams all hand-hewn by axe. This house would have been quite a labour of love with so much of the work done by hand...in the olden days.

The farmer then moved on to tell more family history...the family didn't seem to venture far. His Uncle (Dad's brother) delivered the mail by horse and lived in the Village, with another brother living across the street from him on a farm.

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He went on to tell of how his relatives had hired help, younger less-fortunate teenagers would come up on the train from Toronto for the summer to help out on the farm and in the kitchen. They also had 'Barnardo Homeboys' (as he called them) live and work here. 'Barnardo Children' were orphans who came from England to Peterborough to a home run by Dr. Barnardo. He would 'farm' them out to area farmers to work for them. They'd typically stay for a year and then leave to go to the big city to chase their dreams. Many of his 'Barnardo children' went on to do some amazing things in their lives.

He told of how they also had a summer kitchen right outside the existing kitchen. The now massive grand old maple trees that grace the front lawn were a 'buggy whip' size according to his grandmother when she was first married - which makes the trees as old and solid as the house and perfect for maple syrup tapping. They're absolutely beautiful, with trunks so massive they'd need two or more people just to hug them.

The conversation shifted to the artist, Jérémie Giles, who had lived in the house until 2005, the farmer spoke of how, "He had ambition-galore, working on his art 'til 1:00 am and up early the next morning at daylight." The fireplace mantle, an old beam hand-hewn by axe, was found in the attic and mounted by Jérémie. Also a skilled landscape artist, the yard is like a greenhouse, surrounded by perennial gardens, artfully designed with trees, flowers, all perfectly positioned with grassed areas, stone walkways, a peaceful pond with stone waterfall and a huge screened-in gazebo, large enough for dance parties, that he designed and built. In fact the gardens were once part of the local Garden Tour! Driving up the long treed drive, one is struck by the sea of colourful perennial flowers that surround the house.

This Renaissance Man who called this farmhouse home was the colourful visionary behind the farmhouse's massive additions, built in 2000, the bright cherry red dining room, the bright mustard yellow artist studio...he LOVED colour...he left his artistic stamp everywhere.

Checking Google to find out more about this man, the artist...

Art is a Mirror. "For me, art in all its forms is truly a reflection of what we are."

"The greatness of a society is measured by the diversity and the quality of its cultural institutions. But above all by its desire to recognize the excellence of the career of those who come from it." ~ Jérémie Giles.

Throughout his life, Jérémie was a builder, leaving traces of his work from north to south of Quebec, from east to west to Ontario.

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An artist with talent and determination, he was both a painter and sculptor, an amazing feat with only one arm. Born 1927, J r mie was a builder, leaving traces of his work from north to south of Quebec, from east to west to Ontario. There's a plaque honouring his work on the exterior wall of the old water tower in Gatineau.

Wherever he lived, he left his mark as a designer and 'safe guarder' of local heritage. He is the creator of many bronze public monuments and sculptures in cities throughout Quebec. He sculpted many faces from history, politics and hockey: Samuel de Champlain, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and hockey player Pierre Pilote de K nognami...to name a few. A prolific painter of more than 5,000 paintings, he mounted more than 50 solo exhibitions. They say about him: "The greatness of a man is measured by the diversity and the quality of his actions. But above all by his desire to recognize the excellence of those who, like him, contribute to our cultural and artistic wealth."

One could search for ten years for a century farmhouse like this, a perfect country retreat, a dream farmhouse ... before a property like this might appear. Stately, historic with limitless rustic, century charm tucked into every nook and cranny and with so much potential, a perfect location, massive spaces, hardwood floors, wraparound porch, a perfect place in the country. A refuge for country-life filled with yoga, meditation, zero stress, an oasis of peace & tranquility.

This century dream-house sits on just over an acre of beautiful land perched in the pleasant, charming Hamlet of Mount Pleasant. With incredible panoramic views of the lush, green rolling hills of Cavan and farmland as far as the eye can see, peeking right into the heart of Mother Nature's bounty and offering delicious farm-fresh air to drink in. A neighbouring tobogganing hill paints a perfect Norman Rockwell country scene. A beautiful abutting field of wheat leads to an old-growth cedar forest on the other side of the farmer's field aptly nicknamed the Enchanted Forest.

The farmhouse is large, with 4 bedrooms, more than enough space for B&B guests in the two downstairs bedrooms plus plenty of personal space. The warmth of the living room with its cozy wood burning fireplace, wide wooden floors, high ceilings and intricate mouldings reflect a solid, well-built home designed with a wrap-around covered veranda ideal for a big ole double rocker.

A major renovation created a Chef's kitchen, designed and built to host cooking classes while retaining rustic charm and modern convenience. A place to welcome foodies to learn to cook, to eat and to stay over! The massive dining room with its deep-red walls, huge chandelier, beautiful bay window and bank seating captures stunning views of the rolling hills.

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The current owners also renovated the two bathrooms, upstairs laundry, wet bar and installed dual Cat 5E cables in many rooms of the house.

The master bedroom is massive, airy and with beautiful garden views. The second upper bedroom is sweet and perfect for children, study or more B&B guests. The spa size bathroom is bright, spacious and was once a bedroom in days gone by.

The library, recording studio sits next to an even bigger studio, a fully self-contained space, painted in a bright, cheery yellow to match the beautiful light that comes into the room.

Previous owner, artist Jérémie Giles, built this massive studio as an art studio. He painted large works and sculpted figures here. The character of the bright, south-facing room with its incredible views, is perfect for yoga, meditation, dancing and even painting classes.

Welcome to Mount Pleasant, an idyllic hamlet of picture post card rolling hills, a tiny corner store, quaint farmhouses, farms, barns and cows mooing in the distance. The Women's Institute Community Hall, a church, one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop and former dance hall called the Silver Slipper, all hint at years gone by.