



HOME  
*Sweet*  
HOME

HAILEYBURY FEATURED HOME  
*IF WALLS COULD TALK*

EVANTUREL FEATURED HOME  
*THE ART OF ADDING TO  
PERFECTION*

**SPEAKER**  
PRINTING, PUBLISHING  
AND PROMOTIONS

**HOME BUYERS' GUIDE**



# HOME *Sweet* HOME

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# If walls *could* *talk*

Story & Photos by  
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## HAILEYBURY

Homes are more than roofs and walls. Often they are the repositories of history. Such is the case for 620 Lakeshore Road in Haileybury. The man who built and owned this home until his death in 1922 was Arthur Ferland.



## THE PAST

At the turn of the century Mr. Ferland was a supplier for the railway. Arriving in Haileybury in 1903, he became aware of the opportunity to purchase the Matabanick Hotel. After a life-risking trek across the softening ice of Lake Temiskaming in April to Mattawa, he secured funding and became the proprietor of the Matabanick Hotel. As such, Mr. Ferland heard many things,

including the earliest rumours of strange rocks found near Cobalt. Tom Hebert shared his rock find with Mr. Ferland who in turn showed the rocks to an associate from the railway, Robert Galbraith, as well as Ontario Bureau of Mines director T.W. Gibson. The following morning the men ventured out together to the site at what is now known as Cobalt Lake.





Other railway contacts were brought in and together a syndicate was formed and the property known as the Nipissing Mine was established.

Mr. Ferland's brothers-in-law Noah and Henry Timmins were advised of the discovery, and through Fred Larose they too became involved in the historic silver boom.

Mr. Ferland's growing wealth allowed him to purchase undeveloped property between Probyn Street and Foster Street which he had divided into lots he



intended to sell. Florence Street, running adjacent to the property he chose for himself on Lakeshore Road, was named for his own daughter.

The home he constructed was very similar to the Mattawa home of his brother-in-law Henry Timmins, (still standing and lovingly maintained in the style of the past, and run as a bed and breakfast business). B.C. fir, known for its durability, was shipped in for use in the interior. Situated directly across the road from the electrical plant, his home was one of the first to have electricity.

A photograph of an outdoor patio area. In the foreground, there is a black metal table and two matching chairs with intricate, lattice-like designs. The patio is covered with fallen yellow and orange leaves. In the background, there is a stone wall and a dense canopy of trees with green and yellow foliage. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

*"We want to be  
a catalyst for groups  
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a beautiful community."*

**Ms. Guertin**



Mr. Ferland died in 1922 and Louisa followed not too long after.

The home was then purchased by A.J. Murphy who wished to move his family away from the devastation left by the Great Fire of 1922 which destroyed much of Haileybury.

Modifications to the home included the addition of the solarium on the south side of the house.

### **THE PRESENT**

About 2003, Haileybury harbourmaster Jack Perry pointed the home out to Nicole Guertin, who was at that time a Destination Du Nord director developing tourism in the north. "I felt an attachment to the house," she recalls upon that first viewing. A year later she was passing the house and saw it was still for sale. She decided to purchase it.

"I wanted to do a bed and breakfast or a bed and office for executive clientele," she said.

Zoning complications meant the house had to be turned into apartments, or suites, rather than a bed and breakfast.



Major work followed to create the layout required for the type of venture Ms. Guertin envisioned possible for the setting.

Steve Belanger of *Belanger Construction* in Haileybury carried out the renovations, started in January, 2004.

Mr. Belanger said effort was made to leave as much original as possible. "We had to make it work," he said.

While carrying out the work, he also could appreciate the work that had gone into the original construction of the building in 1906, nearly 100 years earlier. The type of construction, the woodwork and trim, the areas where B.C. fir had been used, all were areas a modern-day professional would admire.

Rather than precut studs as would be used today in the construction of a home, for example, in the Ferland home all studes were pieced to fit, said Mr. Belanger.

Mr. Belanger and his team worked to save everything they could, while recognizing that the layout had to be changed somewhat for the new venture. Firewalls also had to be installed. The beams had to be covered to fireproof them, said Mr. Belanger. "Sometimes we had to remove walls."

A full kitchen was installed in each of the suites. The home went from having one bathroom to now having four. The servants' staircase was removed and two of the three new bathrooms were constructed in that space. The building also received all new lighting.

Where the baseboard had to be removed, effort was made to match it. The layout of the rooms was kept as much as possible. The front entrance, the French doors, windows, and exterior were all maintained to keep the feeling of an older home, said Ms. Guertin.

A year ago Ms. Guertin had the gas-heated hot-water heating system replaced by a forced air heating system. "Now I find it much more comfortable," she commented.





## THE FUTURE

Recently Ms. Guertin and her partner Jocelyn Blais took up full-time residence in the house, while they continue to rent out suites to guests. Mr. Blais, a native of Hearst, brings into the equation an engineering background, with experience in working on a variety of projects. He also brings a love of cooking and gardening.

The couple enjoy their proximity to the beautiful Lake Temiskaming. Ms. Guertin says of Mr. Blais, "It fascinates him to be by the lake and see how it changes."



Ms. Guertin likens Haileybury to Niagara-on-the-Lake which has over 180 bed and breakfast establishments.

She believes there is an opportunity for about ten bed and breakfast establishments in Haileybury. "If you don't do bed and breakfasts, it will end up being apartments which don't cover expenses," she commented. This in turn would create a new market, she said.

"People going into bed and breakfasts really like history," she added.

"We want to be a catalyst for groups to do things," she said of the future plans for the Ferland home setting. "It is such a beautiful community."