

April 8, 2004

From Farmhouse to Spa Village

Ste. Anne's Prepares for New Era as a Leading Wellness Destination Spa

GRAFTON, Ontario, Canada – The gardeners have been hard at work this month adding the finishing touches to the dramatic 15,000 square foot new wing onto Ste. Anne's Country Inn & Spa. This significant project brings the spa one step closer to becoming a "spa village" nestled in the midst of the rolling hills of Northumberland County, just 60 minutes east of Toronto.

Celebrated by British Vogue Magazine as one of the world's top 10 destination spas, Ste. Anne's is embarking on a series of developments that will transform this distinguished estate over the coming years. The vision of owner Jim Corcoran is to create an entire "wellness community". The concept derives from the growing numbers of people seeking change in their lives, whether it's just a change of pace or a complete lifestyle transformation. Ste. Anne's is known for its ability to deliver lasting therapeutic benefits through its customized spa and fitness programming.

"Ste. Anne's has always been a haven for those seeking a wellness retreat from their busy lives," says Jim Corcoran. "The drive to fully realize the healing quality of this special place has been embraced by everyone involved, including our guests, our staff, and by the community."

In keeping with the original 1850's fieldstone exterior, the new addition is clad in Kingston granite and features 6 new guest suites, 7 new treatment rooms, new men's and ladies' locker rooms, and an expansive new reception foyer. Third-floor suites possess a breath-taking view of Lake Ontario and the surrounding countryside, one of the calming benefits of this rambling 570-acre property.

Above the new entrance, a freshly installed stone encryption reads: "I have chosen this beautiful garden, where I will send many people to be healed." More than 20 years ago a prophet from Israel pronounced these words during a visit to Ste. Anne's. This special visitor, a friend of Jim's parents, Nan and Carl Corcoran, came to Ste. Anne's shortly after they bought the property in 1981, before it was a bed and breakfast. "We weren't sure how to interpret this statement at the time," says Nan Corcoran, "but over the years we've come to realize that all our work developing Ste. Anne's has led us to create a very special place centred on healing."

The new wing opened in December 2003, and the gardens will be completed in May 2004.

Ste. Anne's Spa in Grafton, and the Hillcrest Spa in Port Hope, ON are operated under the flagship company called Haldimand Hills Spas Village.

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For more information, please contact:
Brittany Cadence

R.R. 1 Grafton, ON K0K 2G0

"Bringing the power of healing through human touch to the world."

Marketing Manager
Haldimand Hills Spa Village

1-905-349-3704 ext. 271
e-mail: bcadence@steannes.com

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