



Meet Cheryl Davis, owner of The Red Kettle Inn Bed & Breakfast...

1. Describe Your Business:

Red Kettle Inn is a Bed and Breakfast located on 4th Street in Watkins Glen. Cheryl's focus is on serving farm-to-table breakfasts and using local ingredients. "Mindi {Beheydt, owner of Seneca Sunrise Coffee} will be making a special blend of coffee for me." Cheryl elaborated. "And the house sells itself. It is really pretty and amazing."

2. Tell us your story:

Cheryl worked in a Bed and Breakfast in college and really enjoyed it. She lived in Toronto, Canada, for a while and would often end up driving through Finger Lakes region and always loved the aesthetics of the area. More recently, she has been working in the animation industry for twenty years, with fifteen of those years spent at Disney. "I've lived in LA for a long time, but it isn't really my taste. I like seasons. The fall here is a perfect weather for me!" Cheryl explained. When the house came on market, Cheryl was in

the perfect place in her life to purchase it. She knew she would be moving on and was ready for it. She was ready to have a slower pace of life, and believes running The Red Kettle Inn will be perfect. Cheryl enjoys the freedom her business provides; mornings are busy of course, but for the rest of the day her time is more flexible. "That it was already a bed and breakfast made it almost a no-brainer. I was coming into something that was already established. Sally and Martin [Rigden, the former owners of the house] have been really helpful," she said. Cheryl added that everyone in the area has been really great. She has purchased a lot of the décor for the house at local antique stores, where the proprietors have been incredibly helpful. She added that Brian Eslinger and David Hertel, owners of The Blackberry Inn Bed & Breakfast have been helpful in giving her recommendations and advice.

3. What has helped you succeed and gain experience?

"Sally [Rigden] is a big part of it," Cheryl stated. "She has given me a lot of tips for decorating and buying things for the house. Guests of Sally's are already booking for next year." She added that her experience working at Disney has also been helpful, as she implements their methods of customer service and hospitality. "And just being myself - professional, but comfortable and welcoming," she said. "I love to bake, and I have been testing things out with the guests and seeing what they like and don't like. I have only had a handful of guests on my own, so next year will be the real test. But, I think the house and town sell themselves!"

4. What inspires you?

"Nature," Cheryl stated. "I love hiking and just being here. It's so pretty with the hills and changing colors of autumn." She added that she also loves art. "When we would visit [prior to buying the house] it would just be family, so I didn't meet a lot of people then. "It's really cool to see the art community here. And I love reading. There's a bookstore, Old Scrolls in Canadaigua, that is in an old farmhouse that I want to visit. One of the things I want to add here [in The Red Kettle Inn] is a book shelf with a collection of old books. I love the look and smell of them."

5. What keeps you up at night? What are your challenges?

"Because it is all new to me, I want to make sure the food is good in the morning," Cheryl said. "I am sometimes up at 2:00 a.m. looking up recipes!" She added that leaving job with steady income is also nerve-wracking, and she hoping to be able to make ends meet with just the with income she makes from the Red Kettle Inn. "When I'm back in California, what keeps me up is not being here!" she added. "I miss the house!"

6. What is your favorite local activity?

"So far, I haven't been able to do much!" Cheryl exclaimed. "I've done a little bit of wine tasting. I love the lake and the gorge. I enjoy antiquing and hitting up the local shops. But I haven't done a lot of things on my list. I feel like I've found my Stars Hollow. I can't wait to explore more."

7. Is there anything else we should know about you?

"I'm just really excited to be part of the community! It'll be easier when I'm out here full-time," she said. She explained that she is currently still spending most of her time in California, but is hoping to be living in Watkins Glen full-time come March of 2018. "I think in the long run it will be a good change," she said. "I feel really positive about everything."