



It is the season when I look backwards with gratitude and forward with hope, joy and anticipation. I am fortunate not to feel like a footnote at age 75, but rather that I am living a wonderful zany life, dancing sometimes in a comfortable pair of slippers but also zip-lined at other times into an unrehearsed three-act comedy, well named MADolyn's (Studio, Tea Room, and RoseSea Bed and Breakfast).

Once again, we welcomed many unique guests who made the right turn off the ferry at Port Aux Basques to visit us and who were amazed at the stunning beauty and authenticity of Newfoundland's Rose Blanche.

Our five-year old business continues to grow, thanks to word of mouth from guests who realized that they had experienced the real Newfoundland, and who appreciated what we offer in friendliness and excellence, as well as being facilitators in problem solving. We are so pleased by the number of guests who are returning to RoseSea and that some are staying longer. The studio has become a hub meeting place for summer people and guests, where the most off the wall brainstorming, discussions and planning take place.

Motorcyclists have discovered that the drive from Port Aux Basque along the coastal barrens is a cyclist's dream. This year we had four motorcyclists from Pennsylvania, as well as a chap who had come all the way from B.C. and a 75-year-old lady who arrived on her BMW from Vermont. We have also welcomed return yachters. One couple paid a visit in June and then again in September, after circumnavigating Newfoundland.

Also of importance to me are the number of people who have recently experienced a crisis in their lives and who came here to think things through. I am humbly chuffed by the number of people who write to tell us that we were the highlight of their trip.

This year there were many happy examples of the goodness of people. When I acquired Little Rosie, an older hand-crafted rowboat, an ole salt of the wharf fixed her up and made her sea worthy, then guided me and my grandniece on the safe ways to row and navigate the Rose Blanche harbour. Bobbing along the water at seagull eye level offers another perspective and is delightfully mesmerizing.

Another out of the blue kindness was a return visit by an 80-year-old guest who created a stunning hooked rug of the Rose Blanche lighthouse, which will be raffled off as a source of fund raising for the local fire department.

Many kindnesses were also offered to John and Julia Breckenridge, of Ontario, who are restoring the oldest Methodist church in North America, just down the coast in an abandoned outport called Petites. This project has brought out genuine goodness in people and it has been heartwarming to see those who donated supplies or offered their time to work on the repairs. On the July 1, 2017 Canada Day long weekend, we hope to offer a working holiday for those who wish to volunteer with the continued restoration of the Petite's church. Please visit <http://roseblanche.ca> for further details.

Our business continues to be a passion, not for monetary reasons, but for the camaraderie felt with the many unique people who come and find something exceptionally real here. And they leave us feeling gratified for what has been shared.

We wish you and yours a Christmas to celebrate many good memories and a healthy New Year where you will evolve with passion and fulfill your own zany and eccentric dreams.

*Lynne Sawford (owner) Norman Gentner (other half) Lorna Clarke (assistant manager)*