

# Enosburg's Historic Hotel Comes Back In Fine Style

by W.F. Cummings

ENOSBURG FALLS - After an unsettling period of dormancy, the grand dame of Enosburg commerce has opened her arms once again to a hungry and thirsty public.

The Somerset, formerly the Quincy, the Enosburgh Inn, and often simply referred to as "the hotel", is now open for business. In this case the business is serving fine food and drink to a patient and expectant public that has gone without a fully-licensed restaurant since a somewhat lesser hotel closed down over a year ago.

The new owners, Terry Durgin and Avis Gagnon, have spent the last year investing nearly \$100,000 and uncountable hours refurbishing the expansive three-story building on Depot St. The money has gone equally into structure and aesthetics.

The large front porch was totally rebuilt as were the fireplace and heating system. The interior of the first floor was totally gutted and three specific serving areas were built: a banquet room that can seat up to 100 people, a dining room that can accommodate 50 diners, and a pub with a three-sided copper-topped bar and 10 booths.

The decor is Victorian and many of the accoutrements bought at auctions and salvage companies are from that period. The walls are eggshell and the lighting, though subdued, gives the interior a brighter, less dingy atmosphere than in the past.

The offered cuisine is best described as traditional American with a few French and Italian offerings and a fresh seafood item. Entrees will include a fresh and varied salad bar and imported wines and beers will be on hand along with the favorite domestics. The dining room will open



A new fireplace in the dining room makes the room just that much cozier.

for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and feature club sandwiches and homemade soups in addition to the usual burger and fries fare. The pub will open at 4 p.m.

A word about the second floor: it has yet to be renovated. A tired but optimistic Terry Durgin says: "If we get the type of response from the public in the restaurant and the function room that we hope for, and need to stay in business, then the rooms upstairs will be our next project."

Durgin and Gagnon have definitely done their part. The Inn is as beautiful now as it has been at any time since steam engines puffed into the depot. It would be a boon to the community if they were allowed to finish the project, one the town could use to give tired travelers and tourists a well-cooked meal and a decent room for the night.

"We've got plenty of places to eat now in Enosburg, but still no place to sleep," said one local merchant.