

# Tumble Inn Bed & Breakfast

Nancy Belluscio - Owner/Innkeeper

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**Success Magazine: What was your background prior to becoming the owner and innkeeper at the Tumble Inn?**

Nancy Belluscio: I have bachelor's degrees in psychology and physical education as well as master's degrees in physical education and health. I was in a clinical doctoral program for sport psychology until motherhood demanded my attention. I taught physical education and health at Haldane High School in Cold Spring, NY for thirty-three years. I also coached volleyball for over thirty years, and I have been a competitive athlete as well.

I have been coming to the Adirondacks since I was four years old for vacations, and later worked as a camp counselor and lifeguard in the Schroon/Paradox area. My parents lived in Schroon Lake, so I know the Adirondacks well.

**SM: How has your past helped to pave the way for your success as an innkeeper?**

NB: Teachers have many skills that can be applied to a vast number of other professions. A teacher must be observant of her students and figure out what it takes for each child to learn. An innkeeper needs to figure out what her guests need to make them feel comfortable and satisfied. Both professions require good listening and communication skills, organization, planning, bookkeeping, creativity, a sense of humor, and the ability to facilitate the unexpected. Knowing Schroon Lake and the surrounding area helps me guide my guests to a wide variety of age appropriate activities, many of which I have experienced here with my own family and friends over the years.

**SM: What can guests expect from their stay at the Tumble Inn?**

NB: A friend of mine gave me a sign that says, "Enter as Strangers--Leave as Friends" which now hangs above the entrance to the inn. She thought her gift summarized how my guests felt. I treat my guests like they are friends or family coming to visit me.

A guest can expect a warm welcome; a comfortable, finely decorated room; and delicious (mostly locally grown) food.

**SM: For those unfamiliar with the area, does the Tumble Inn provide a true Adirondack experience?**

NB: Absolutely! The house and barn are two of the oldest structures in Schroon Lake. The realtor had our property listed as an authentic Adirondack

farmhouse when we bought it. We have carefully mixed modern conveniences with those original to the inn. For example, our kitchen stove is an electrified 1920's Windsor stove that I use daily. We use many of the furnishings that were in the house when we bought it and I searched antique stores, flea markets, auctions and my family's heirlooms for the little extras that speak Adirondack. In addition, I can help clients expand their knowledge of the Adirondacks beyond the immediate areas surrounding Lake George and Lake Placid. There's a whole Adirondack Park out there and my goal is to have my guests experience what I get to enjoy every day

**SM: What does the Tumble Inn offer guests that the "cookie cutter" hotels do not?**

NB: We've included many of the amenities hotels have in our rooms, while remaining true to the character of a bed and breakfast. Our rooms are quiet sanctuaries, free from the sounds of televisions or ringing telephones. Our guests can watch cable TV or view a DVD in the guest living room while others opt to read a book, play Adirondack Monopoly, Scrabble, cards, horseshoes, badminton or croquet. They can soak in the hot tub and view the night sky or sit around the fieldstone fireplace with a glass of wine and some snacks. They can converse with other guests and sometimes that means meeting people from foreign lands. Guests also share their experiences and tend to guide each other through activities. I enjoy talking with my guests and getting to know them as well. I encourage them to get out and take pleasure in the outdoors no matter what the season. I am the concierge extraordinaire!

**SM: With the world moving at an all time record pace, and time a most precious commodity, why is the Tumble Inn a great place to slow down?**

NB: At the Tumble Inn, you can set a slower pace very easily. We are very informal! You can dress as you like. Many of our guests come down to breakfast or the living room in their flannels and I've had many guests fall asleep on the "couch of no return!"

**SM: What does the Tumble Inn mean to you?**

NB: To me, the Tumble Inn is my home first and foremost. I take great pride in our home because my family's blood, sweat and tears, and creativity went into making it what it is today. The inn is a reflection of my family and friends. I set high standards. Secondly, I want to share my home, my family and friends, my experiences, and Schroon Lake with others so they too can enjoy Adirondack living, even if only for a few hours.

