

The Verona Festival had special visitors this year, and we didn't even know it. Korner Stone Kastle proprietor Stephen Johnston says that he had B & B guests from France for five days spanning the Festival. "It was their first time in Canada," he says. "They went to Montreal, Toronto...and Verona." Stephen says he thinks the family, who live about ½ an hour from Paris, booked their stay here because it was on a route between the two major cities, and they loved it. They especially loved swimming in Rock Lake, which they were delighted to discover was a short walk away. They visited Kingston, but also ate lunches at MOM and Bravo, and enjoyed the Festival weekend.

We heard a disappointing story from Aziz Murji the other day. Villagers will know Aziz and Nasim as the friendly and supportive proprietors of the Verona Convenience Store. Recently, they were in Toronto for two (!) children's weddings, and Aziz made a flying trip home between them to check on the store. While he was here he planted a beautiful strip of flowers along the side of the store as a surprise for Nasim, and its crowning pieces were a rose bush and a thriving hibiscus. Fortunately, Nasim was able to see the gift her husband had created, but alas, only once. Within the space of a couple of days thieves made off with both the hibiscus and the rose. The geraniums and other bedding plants are still thriving, but the Murjis are surprised and saddened by the loss of their prize plants. Garden thievery has to be almost as low as it gets.

Save Saturday September 1 for the Verona Garlic Fest. Among the many attractions will be a series of garlic cooking shows and seminars, including "Garlic for Breakfast" with Ted Mazcka, whom many know as "The Fish Lake Garlic Man" and "Two Organic Ladies Cooking Show. Be sure to catch the Mayor's Challenge Garlic Cook-Off at 1:00. Mayor Janet Gutowski of Central Frontenac and our own Mayor Gary Davison will square off, and as an added bonus, well-known Sharbot Lake Lion Dave Hansen will challenge them both to see who has the best garlic recipe. These are just a small sample of what's in store that day. Watch the ads and posters for more detail. Sept. 1, 9:00 – 5:00. \$5 admission (adults). Special multicourse sit down garlic lunch - \$17.

Watch for the exciting new Verona signs at either end of the village. For many months Verona Community Association volunteers have been hard at work constructing these special pieces which will complement the Verona Kiosk on Main St. We should be seeing the first stages go up on Road 38 sometime this week.