



# In search of the **PERFECT CUP OF COFFEE**

By Jan Murray

When one goes in search of a good cup of coffee, each individual's particular tastes come into play.

Some are looking for the typical 'wake me up and get me moving' strong or semi strong cup of java to wake them in the morning and provide them with enough caffeine to complete the day. Others however, may be in search of more flavours; perhaps something lighter with a hint of chocolate, or caramel or another sweet flavor they have been craving. Whilst others still may need a little more oomph and go in search of

an espresso shot to really get their blood pumping.

No matter what your particular taste, surely you will be able to find what suits you considering the abundance of coffee shops in and around the 1000 Islands.

Should you happen to find yourself in Gananoque, (and considering the multitude of summer activities going on in that neck of the woods, it would be

surprising if you didn't simply camp out there for days on end), there are a couple cozy shops that stand out above the rest.

The Socialist Pig, located directly across from Confederation Park. If you hit it at the right time of day you can even enjoy a hearty lunch with your savory cup of coffee. Offering everything from Americano style coffee to espressos and cappuccinos, they are determined to please your taste buds. Taking special care to ask what flavours and strength you prefer, your satisfaction is clearly their top priority. A step back in time of sorts, you'll find the unusual décor rather amusing and quite a conversation starter.

Toddle down the main drag just a wee bit and you will find the Hot Roast Coffee House. Again, an establishment that clearly strives to put the customer first and fulfills their tastes. A wide variety menu of sandwiches, soups and salads, a great place to relax, read a paper and sample what they have to offer.

Also on King St E, All about Books Internet Café, used book store that you can sit read the book you just bought and try some of their specialty coffees: espresso, mocha, latte, and Fair Trade Organic coffee you can purchase by the pound. For tea lovers

they have it all from regular tea to Fair Trade Organic.

For those looking to take a step back in time, you might want to take a short drive to Athens. Lainee's on Main Street might be just the spot you are looking for. Depending on the time of day that you visit, the atmosphere may be quite different. Should you visit early in the day, before work, you will see a hubbub of friends and community gathered for their morning coffee and chat session. There is even an oversized 'living room' setting available just inside where many gather and begin their day, telling stories and reminiscing of adventures of days gone by. Visit a little later in the day for a more peaceful, tranquil cup of coffee, either alone or shared with the shop owner, who is more than happy to stop and chat. It's a handy spot to stop off for a bag of milk on the way home from work and take advantage of a few moments to unwind with a relaxing cup of coffee before venturing home to the kids.

Should your next stop be in downtown Brockville, you will have a variety of choices and where you stop certainly depends on what you are looking for. For a quick bite you might want to try Boboli's on King Street. The shop is usually quite packed, with seating for roughly 30. Coffee varieties are quite limited, but they do serve a delicious blueberry pie, if that happens to tickle your taste buds.

Almost directly across the street is another fine choice, Ogies, with a few more varieties of coffee to choose from. (Hazelnut vanilla being the most popular) The shop is a bit smaller, seating approximately 15. The Owners are friendly and welcoming, taking the time to ask your preferences and ensuring you get the perfect blend for your afternoon break.

When you visit the 1000 Islands Mall doing some shopping at their varied shops and venues, why not stop in at The Sleepless Monkey for a quick brew. They offer many specialty coffees, as well as your average cup of java and a great selection of loose leaf tea. They also offer a tantalizing array of homemade menu items to satisfy those hunger pangs from a day out shopping. They are conveniently located almost in the center of the mall, so a perfect spot for people watching or meeting with friends.

For years many have enjoyed the friendly and welcoming setting of Tait's. Be it uptown or downtown, the service and



products have always been a favorite of many locals. Some may put them more in the 'bakery' setting than coffee houses and yet customer satisfaction has never been doubted. They have, over the years, acquired a rather dedicated following, and for good reason.

Venturing even further down hwy 2, the spot to stop in Prescott is surely Piccolo's. Located right on King Street, your only issue might be parking once word gets out about this little gem. Quiet and relaxing, the shop is the perfect stop, be it after a long day at the office, or a much needed break in the middle of the day. A menu is available if you require a snack and the service is top notch.

*Top: Phyllis O'gilvie (owner, Ogie's Cafe Deli, Brockville,On) enjoying her special blend coffee*

*Above: Magdalena Duris (owner Piccolo cafe, Prescott,On) enjoying her specialty Caramel Cappuccino*

Another Coffee shop just opened in Prescott called Katrina's (King St W) and offers a nice menu of lunch choices and delicious treats of baked items.

The possibilities are endless. One must only decide if it is a regular coffee, old fashioned type of coffee or a newer, more flavorful type that the pallet so desires. Once that decision is out of the way, you are pretty much home free. **LH**