If you’ve spent time with Heather Griffiths of The Nest Egg, you know the excitement she displays for her business and for serving the community. A downtown staple for well over thirty years, The Nest Egg was owned first by her mother before Heather took over in 2013. Today, Heather expresses a simple but impactful mission statement, one that could apply to any of our local businesses: “Get the people here, acquaint them with the variety of shops and restaurants we have and hope they come back!”

The Nest Egg is known for its variety of gift items and appealing price point. Keuka-branded apparel, scented candles, greeting cards and home decor are just some of the products Heather stocks; she recently carried beautiful Pride stickers that raised funds for June’s successful inaugural Pride events.

“We’ve tried hard over the past few years to find local makers, which has been fun! It’s a great feeling for us and for our customers to support other small businesses,” Heather said. She emphasized that if they don’t have an item, they’ll try to find it, and are happy to ship.

She attributes her store’s enduring success to her employees. “I have some really great girls working for me and they are the backbone of my business. Not only are they knowledgeable about the products we sell, they will go out of their way to make sure our customers leave the store happy.” The Nest Egg staff is dedicated to above-and-beyond service, offering complimentary gift wrapping; Heather also emphasized, “If you ever need a gift and cannot make it or it’s after hours, just shoot us a message or give me a call. We’re always here and happy to help!”

Heather loves downtown Penn Yan, citing the sense of community our business owners cultivate. As a business owner and a leader in the Downtown Business Council, Heather has contributed to the outgoing and welcoming vibe in our community, which she believes customers notice & appreciate.

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What is Rotary?

Rotary is an organization formed in Chicago in 1905, of business and community leaders united worldwide who provide ethical, humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace in the world. The Penn Yan Rotary Club was chartered March 1, 1922. The Penn Yan Rotary club places a high emphasis on our youth through our Interact Club, Rotaract Club, youth exchange programs; vocal and oratorical contests; supporting 4-H, and Scouts; and supplying free books to the children of our community. We have supported the special needs camp, Camp Onseyawa, for over 50 years. We also address hunger and poverty by working with Yates County Christmas, Milly’s Pantry, and the Living Well. During the first years of the Covid-19 pandemic, we participated in project, ‘Grateful Hearts’ which provided free groceries to our local workers at Clinton Crest and the Manor. We support the Friends of the Outlet and have supplied benches and flowers along the trail, as well as helping to clean up a section of SR54A and along the outlet. Most recently at the June 3rd "Bash at the Bines", held to celebrate Penn Yan Rotary's 100th Birthday, Lois Hall was presented the honor of “Community Paul Harris Fellow”. This is the highest honor a local club bestows in the namesake of Rotary International founder, Paul Harris. It signifies the ultimate level of "Service Above Self" which Ms. Hall exemplifies in her everyday life. On Saturday, June 4th, the Rotary continued the celebration in downtown Penn Yan, complete with a bounce house, magician, dunk booth, petting zoo, and face painter. It was a beautiful day to celebrate Rotary and thank the community for 100 years of support to the local club. In addition, we had over 300 young people from the Penn Yan Elementary and Middle Schools color and submit peace signs throughout the community to celebrate the 100th year anniversary.

The Nest Egg Continued...

The future of business in Penn Yan is bright, Heather said. “As the popularity of the Finger Lakes grows, so do the number of new faces we see, and so many of them return year after year. It’s been really cool to watch how things have changed over the past 34 years. Our business has grown like crazy, and I truly believe there are lots of great things on the horizon. With the addition of so many great restaurants downtown, Penn Yan is becoming quite a destination!” She’s particularly excited about a new service started at the Nest Egg in just the past few weeks, a gift basket service for a local vacation rental enterprise. It sounds like the innovation never quits at the Nest Egg or in downtown Penn Yan!

The Nest Egg is located at 125 Main Street and can be reached at (315) 536-3488, as well as on Facebook.