

October 7, 2021



Dear Pen Pal,

My name is Ron Smith, and I am seventy-four years old. I live in Long Island, New York. After fifty-five years, I am still trying to finish a bachelor's degree through a distant learning program at Washington State University. One of my classes offered an opportunity to write to people all over the country and share some experiences, which I thought might be enjoyable and informative for both of us.

My wife and I are both native New Yorkers and have lived here all of our entire lives. Are you originally from New York? We have traveled throughout the state over the years while vacationing and visiting friends and family, but we are not familiar with Grandville. Is Grandville in the northern part of the state?

Now that we are retired, we have more time to travel. Recently we revisited Saratoga, Lake George and Niagara Falls. When you are busy with work and family, it is easy to forget how stunning the landscapes and wildlife are in New York, especially now, when the leaves begin to



exhibit all of their fall colors. What is there to see in Grandville, lake, mountains, river?

Our hobbies are fishing, boating, hiking and once in a while, I hit a lot of small white balls around large lawns, but what I do should not be considered golf, I've been told.

We have two sons and two granddaughters, Kelsey – eight, and Tara – twelve who also keep us busy. Do you have grand children?

My wife and I are also bird watchers, with a feeder outside our kitchen window, so we usually have visitors throughout the day. What kind of birds are there in Grandville? Do you see other wildlife like bears or deer where you are located? We also have a golden retriever named Yogi, who is like a part of the family. Have you ever had any pets?

I hope my short letter finds you in good health and spirit, and adds a few pleasant moments to your day.



Sincerely,

Ron