

FALL NEWSLETTER BY KAREN SHUGHART



Hi, again.

Hope you all had a good summer and are enjoying the beauty of autumn. Here, on Lake Ontario, the farm markets are filled with bountiful crops of local produce: luscious apples, root vegetables, squashes and hearty greens. Mums with their rich fall colors add warmth and texture to the season, and most days the sun burns bright and warm in an azure sky.



I look forward to this season with its colorful leaves, mild daytime temperatures and cool nights. The air smells of earthy decay, lawns freshly mown and the fresh, clean smell of the lake.



Monarch butterflies make their journey through Sodus Point from Canada to Mexico this time of year, and recently our skies have been filled with these graceful, fearless, amazing creatures.

Birds fly noisily over the lake and glide through the water. On recent walks we've seen cormorants, herons, swans, gulls, ducks and geese, and from our open windows we can hear the songs of cardinals, robins and mourning doves. At night we hear the eerie cry of a screech owl while it's hunting prey. A chipmunk (and we've caught her in the act) has been feasting on the last of the cherry tomatoes planted in boxes on our deck; soon she'll be filling the pouches of her mouth with nuts and seeds to tide her through the winter.



As you might have guessed, this season is my favorite. It's a time of winding down and preparing for winter. A time for gathering around a fireplace with friends and glasses of wine. A time to savor hearty stews and roasted vegetables straight from the farm.



As you know, *Murder in the Museum: An Edmund DeCleryk Mystery* was published last year by Cozy Cat Press. Check out their [website](#). It includes all the publisher's authors and titles, and now you can also sign up for their newsletter- lots of information, puzzles, recipes and other fun "stuff".

I've completed the full first draft of book two in the series, *Murder in the Cemetery*, with not one but two murders and many twists and turns. I met with my beta readers last month. They had lots of questions and gave suggestions that will help improve the book. Thanks, Mary, Deb, Shelley, Jessica and Lyle. Now comes the hard work as I delete overused words and rewrite sentences, remove paragraphs extraneous to the plot, discover inconsistencies and polish, polish, polish. I'm coming down the home stretch, I think.



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REMEMBER, FALLING LEAVES ARE SUMMER WAVING GOODBYE.

