

## Author discusses vacationing overseas at Reed City library

REED CITY — Sleeping inside a pineapple is a unique experience author Randy Johnston vividly remembers.

But unlike Spongebob Squarepants, Johnston's pineapple home wasn't under the sea. It was in Central Scotland.

Johnston visited Reed City Area District Library Tuesday at 6 p.m. to talk about her various travel experiences across Europe and interesting places fea-

tured in her new guidebook, "I Slept in a Pineapple."

The guidebook is a description of historic vacation rentals in the United Kingdom and Ireland that took Johnston nearly six years to complete. Johnston said the title itself was inspired by a visit to a summerhouse built in the shape of a pineapple in 1761 in Dunmore, Central Scotland. Known as "The Pineapple," the two-story summerhouse was believed to be built for

the 4th Earl of Dunmore. During her vacation stay at "The Pineapple," Johnston, who goes by the pen name Rassoul, traveled along the northeast coast of Scotland to visit nearby fishing villages and even cruised Loch Ness in search of the Loch Ness Monster. Rassoul, traveled along the northeast coast of Scotland to visit nearby fishing villages and even cruised Loch Ness in search of the Loch Ness Monster.

"There are a lot of castles, museums and lakes in Scotland that really work to enhance its natural beauty," Johnston said.

Published by Chateau Press and released in July, the guidebook features cottages, castles, forts, follies, unusual buildings, towers and gatehouses. The guidebook features vacation rentals from agencies such as Irish Landmark Trust, Landmark Trust, Vivat Trust, Jersey Heritage,

English Heritage, National Trust and National Trust of Scotland.

Questions about the cost of traveling overseas, rental furnishings and the size of each property featured in the book are common questions Johnston said she finds herself answering quite often.

"These rentals can range from compact studio apartments up to villas and beautiful castles for groups of people or family reunions,"

Johnston said.

Johnston, who goes by the pen name, Rassoul, said she was inspired to write the book after numerous stays in one-of-a-kind rental properties changed her from being a hotel-based vacationer, to a traveler looking for historic rental properties for spectacular vacations. Rassoul said she wrote the book to reveal what she considers to be a "well-kept secret" to American tourists.