



Presidents' Suites

After the development of five historic homes and an island, it's time that food be placed on the plate. Nicole Guertin and Jocelyn Blais took two years to reflect on this need for their clients, knowing the work that would be required to start a successful restaurant in a small community in Northern Ontario.

Café Meteor Bistro, located in Haileybury, part of Temiskaming Shores, will continue the theme that they have developed with their homes, the island and the historic activities. The Meteor was the famous steamship that transported pioneers from both sides of the lake for more than 40 years, starting in 1890. The mission of this steamship reflects very well the vision that the owners have toward making their restaurant a cultural hub for all of the residents around Lake Temiskaming and Northern Ontario.

The restaurant will also continue the tradition of the Meteor which was to source local foods. The Temiskaming region is very fortunate to have bison, beef, lamb,

the Meteor. Trained in France and England, Christian Anus Dei and the Commensal, a well-known vegetarian restaurant. His more recent experience running a small inn and restaurant adds

chicken and pork producers. The local abattoir makes it possible to source protein within 50 kilometres. The large Menonite community in the region also permits sourcing a variety of vegetables which will have a prominent place in the restaurant. Guertin has recently taken on the role of representing Northern Ontario on the Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Northeastern Ontario Foire Gourmande, held in Ville Marie for the past 15 years, which will facilitate the link with the producers and the added-value products in Quebec.

Chef Christian Coquière has been hired to oversee the operations of the kitchen, the catering, and the takeaway meals that will be served at

to the perfect fit with the Presidents' Suites Resort.

Blais and Guertin recruited Coquière after launching a video on social media and offering a \$1,000 prize to their Facebook friends to help find the perfect candidate. Friends in Hearst made the connection.

"We are truly excited to have been able to attract a chef with the experience and talent of Christian to our team. He will permit us to develop local healthy food with an urban twist," said Blais, the restaurants general manager and co-owner.

This level of quality in our food will permit us to compete with the Muskoka resorts for the corporate retreats, destination weddings and tourists. The community is eagerly awaiting the restaurants June opening by keeping updated on its progression through Facebook. Family, friends and clients along the Highway 11 corridor will be planning their travel to coincide with lunch or supper in the Temiskaming area.



Catering to the five historic homes and Farr Island will be an important aspect of the restaurant that was developed with a large kitchen to service these markets. Farr Island was purchased in 2014 from the founding family of Haileybury in 2014. The island is a gem, situated only two kilometres from the Haileybury marina. The large party tent and kitchen facilities make it ideal for corporate lunch meetings, brunch for family reunions, or gourmet suppers for destination weddings.

Guertin bought the first house in 2003 after discovering the Temiskaming region while doing tourism development across the North. In 2012, the pair moved to the region full time and started spending all of their time and money in renovating the homes and developing a unique product offering with historical evenings, scavenger hunts, and a lot more. Two of their five homes have won IDEA national decor awards.

Now with the historic homes, an island, and a restaurant under their belt, we can just imagine what type of ideas will be cooking in those creative minds. The Presidents' Suites: truly a place to discover for your corporate and personal needs.

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