

SPRING 2008 UPDATE

Yes it is true, This past week, I was talking to Helena and as I told those who came out to the meeting last night that Helena and I have had a change of roles. Helena has taken on a full time commitment with the Gallery and we agreed that I should take on the role as president for her commitments really limit her role as the president. Though Helena will always be a large part of the HDSCC, we agreed that this was a good way to go. I hope to do the HDSCC proud and hope to bring some excitement to Hamilton and along the way encourage the students to do well. A lot hasn't changed for the hopes of the HDSCC in that we want to be an active part in encouraging the students and hopefully get more community involved.

Last night we had a great turn out with Helena bringing a couple of her new employees, and Wanda attended from Kingston Liaison College. Murlene of course whom was our host for the night at Liaison College, has committed to helping us get involved with not just her students, but the students as a whole from Hamilton and areas surrounding. One of our newest members Sidney, from Niagara Parks Commission, Queen Victoria Place joined us as well and through discussion in the meeting (though details are still to be put together) will possibly be hosting our June meeting at his restaurant in Niagara in place of the BBQ which was previously discussed. Also joining us was Rob, one of the chef instructors from Hamilton Liaison College was attending too and was great to have him there.

We did mention at the meeting last night some things/events we are planning for the HDSCC in the coming months, which are as follows:

May - Robert Bateman High School with hosts Doug Cooper, Chris Cavalier will be the location of our next meeting. A lot of talk is brought up with Robert Bateman regarding the wonderful things they are doing with the students there and the awesome faculties they have to work with. So we look forward to hearing and seeing them next month.

June - As above mentioned details still need to be worked out, but we will be going Niagara bound in June to wrap up before the Summer.

September - Our September meeting, though mentioned the location in the meeting, I plan to have a kitchen tour and dinner of a great location for this month but due to the honest fact that I haven't contacted the chef of this location, I hesitate to put it on here till verified. Thank you all for your understanding on this.

October - As mentioned at the meeting, though no details are confirmed for this...there may be a new competition in Hamilton.

- Within October is the International Chef's Day, where we would like to get involved with a sponsor (yet to be confirmed) where we do an event and the proceeds go to a local charity. Details are yet to follow, but we will let you all know of this event as we get closer to it.

November - In discussion from members of what to do for this month. In the past we had put on a Gala Christmas dinner and also accepting donations for FoodShare. This year, I'd like to put out to the membership what your thoughts are.

- With all this going on, it is additional to our monthly meeting which will be a "black box meeting" where at least for this meeting, will be set up by the Liaison College students. They will be setting up ingredients for me to create something like as mentioned, I won't know until I get there what it is. This could be good or bad, depending on my skills, but I think a great way to respond to showing or demonstrating or bringing in a speaker for the students. This way they come up with what the chef will be working with, in a way it is a black box demo of whatever they set up for me that month.

Also we had discussed our website and what would be the best way to make it member friendly and useful. And also email address in the regards of having it be more of a community email as opposed to going to a "personal" account. Some great discussion came from this in the form of possibly using FaceBook and setting up what we already use...the Yahoo Group system in which we use in some capacity right now.

One thing mentioned near the end of the meeting is possibly having a theme or topic of discussion for each meeting, not to take over the meeting per say, but as a part of the meeting. This could be set up the meeting prior, or via email before the meetings by students/junior members are anyone for that matter. Just another way if someone wants to discuss something and get thoughts/ideas from other members. We all come from different backgrounds and different experiences which could help learn and grow. It could even be on what Ontario is doing for the industry and apprenticeships and certifications and how it will effect us and our students going into this industry now. Something to think about. All great discussions and ideas.

I look forward to seeing you all at Robert Bateman and please RSVP to let host know how much to expect as chefs and professionals we all can appreciate. RSVP via the chefs yahoo group email.
Thank you and Bon Appetit,

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