**Storied Restaurant Reopens by Celebrating Local History**

Captain Roberts’ Table has reopened its doors to the community. The beloved restaurant, located at historic Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene, has been revived under new management who are excited to welcome visitors into the reimagined space that celebrates their local community’s past and present.

New owners, Nicole Fairley and Michelle Forget, have carefully crafted not only a new menu to warm the souls of restaurant guests old and new, but also a unique experience for visitors as they take in Penetanguishene’s rich and vibrant history.

Captain Roberts’ Table sits at the entrance to Discovery Harbour, a former British Naval base and operational hub for the Upper Great Lakes during the War of 1812, that is now a living museum operated by Huronia Historical Parks. The restaurant itself is named after Captain Charles Roberts, who rose to fame during the War of 1812 for leading the capture of the American stronghold at Fort Mackinac.

The Fort Mackinac campaign relied heavily on the service of local Métis militiamen, many of whom were relocated to Penetanguishene with their families following the War of 1812, when the British government ceded Drummond Island, home to the Métis community following the war, to the United States.

That history is alive in the minds of both Fairley and Forget, who are descendants of Métis families who relocated from Drummond Island and rebuilt their community in Penetanguishene. It’s a story they are passionate about sharing with visitors to Captain Roberts’ Table.

Upon entering the restaurant, patrons are greeted by Captain Roberts’ uniform, an ode to his connection to their Métis ancestors, not only through their allyship during the Mackinac campaign, but also through Roberts’ role in commissioning now-famous Mackinaw jackets for his soldiers, that were designed and sewn by Métis women.

The décor is complemented by nods to the local Georgian Bay Métis Community, including colourful Métis sashes displayed behind the counter, as well as photographs of beautiful wooden Gidley boats, honouring the new owners' renowned boat building family.

The restaurant’s Métis and military history has already been a draw for both local and visiting patrons, say Fairley and Forget, cousins who have a combined experience of over 25 years in the food service industry.

“People come for the history,” says Fairley. “Locals come up to us all the time and say, ‘Did you know the people were relocated from Drummond Island to get here?’ And we say, ‘Yes, our family was one of them.’”

It is because of these deep enduring ties and the pride they share that the cousins want to root their business in the community.

“We don’t want to be the type of place that turns people away who ask for a glass of water,” adds Fairley. “We want people to be comfortable here and stay as long as they want.”

To keep the sense of community alive, the cousins are dedicated to maximizing local economic benefits, including through employment. In addition to drawing visitors from near and far to the Discovery Harbour complex, which includes the storied King’s Wharf Theatre, they are championing Indigenous employment with nearly 100% of their staff being local Métis citizens.

“We wanted to provide opportunities for the community who may have faced barriers to employment in the food service industry,” says Michelle Forget. “The skills they learn here they can take anywhere.”

With Captain Roberts’ Table being closed since the beginning of Covid, the cousins saw an opportunity to bring back the beloved eatery that has served the community for generations. They know the restaurant will be packed with people during tourist season, but right now they are enjoying the company of locals who have missed the spot.

Captain Roberts’ Table is located at 93 Jury Drive, Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene.