



What's Cooking

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President's Message



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I would like to convey a very sincere appreciation to the Edmonton Branch members who joined me in Banff for the first joint meeting of the three CCFCC Alberta branches on February 4th. Although our numbers were relatively low (52), we had a tremendous time and the highlight of the weekend was most certainly the dinner prepared by Culinary Team Alberta under the leadership of Vinod Varshney.

The first six months for your new Executive were very busy and full of new initiatives. The next six months promise to be as busy and exciting as well. Trevor West is working hard on a Sunday family event featuring a lobster

dinner. Tony Botelho is finalizing a CCI program for the spring and Marvin Karenko is communicating with our associate members to get feedback on what works for them and finding ways for them to participate in our meetings and workshops.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on May 7 for our Annual General Meeting where we want to present an update on new initiatives and, with your participation, set goals and objectives for our Branch.

I am sure that many of you watched *The Next Great Chef* on Global TV and, yes, the time has come for the 2007 Knorr/CCFCC Junior Culinary Challenge. Our Alberta competition will

take place at NAIT on May 19 with the winner competing at the National Convention in June. Please encourage your apprentices to participate. Applications will be on our website at www.edmontonchefs.ca in early March.

We do want and need feedback from all of you - so please do not hesitate to call me or drop me a line. I will be more than happy to answer any questions that you may have and to assist you in any way I can.

Culinarily yours.....

Simon Smotkowicz
President

Outstanding Member of the Year Award

At the June 2006 National convention rule changes to the *Chef of the Year* competition were adopted. The winner will now be selected through a competition process. Please visit the National website (www.ccfcc.ca) for competition details.

The *Outstanding Member of the Year* will take its place. This annual award recognizes and celebrates CCF Edmonton members

who, through their work and commitment, make a significant difference to the Branch and the profession of chef.

The Board is now accepting nominations for the Edmonton Branch award. Your completed nomination form may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the Branch office. Deadline for submission is the March 2007 dinner meeting. Voting and award will take place

at the CCF Edmonton Branch June 4/07 meeting.

Nominees must be CCF Edmonton members in good standing currently engaged in the profession. Included with this newsletter is a nomination form.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Simon Smotkowicz at 917-7617 or president@edmontonchefs.ca.

There will also be an *Outstanding Associate Member of the Year* award to recognize one of our associate members similarly. The recipient of this award is selected by the Board of Directors and will be awarded at the June 2007 meeting. Please contact one of your Board members if you would like to nominate an associate member for consideration.

Recent Events

On **January 8th** at the Shaw Conference Centre, Chef Michel Dhaibi (chef/owner of Mona Restaurant) exceeded all expectations with his **Lebanese Mezza workshop**. Not only did he donate all the product and do an enormous amount of prep work but he brought his lovely wife Ibtisam and his daughter Jehane to share with the group their love of Lebanese cuisine. Over 20 people attended the workshop with a good mix of juniors, chefs, life members and associate members. The consensus was that the 2-hour, hands-on workshop was very informative and entertaining. There was good food, good laughs and a lot of learning. An added bonus was that the participants discovered the equivalent of the Calgary /Edmonton rivalry between north and south Lebanon ably represented by Chef Michel Dhaibi and Chef Tony Abinander respectively.



Chef Michel talks about Lebanese Mezza while engaging in cheerful banter with Chef Tony



Several members of the Edmonton contingent enjoy breakfast at The Banff Centre

The **joint meeting** of the Calgary, Lethbridge and Edmonton branches took place on **February 4th** at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta. There was a reasonably good turnout of chefs, juniors, associate members and guests with the largest number coming from Calgary. The group was treated to a wonderful 4-course meal prepared by the chefs of Culinary Team Alberta. The guest speaker was Dee Hobsbawn-Smith, author and *Calgary Herald* writer, who gave a thoughtful and presentation on various culinary trends including slow cooking, organic growing and ethical cooking, to name a few. Beat Hegnauer was the host chef and took excellent care of everyone. The evening was full of good food, good cheer, spectacular ambience and great relaxation. We may try to expand on the joint meeting weekend next year to include some workshops.

The next event was the **Beer and Cheese workshop** on **February 12th**. Approximately 29 people braved the cold, cold weather to attend the workshop at NAIT and were not disappointed. Again, we had a good mix of chefs, juniors, life members, associate members and guests. Reg Hendrickson of the Dairy Bureau of Canada led the workshop, talking about and explaining the various types Canadian



Reg Hendrickson talking 'cheese' to Gaby Ramone, Leonard Albarda and Hans Meyer while Chris Cheung takes notes.

cheeses. He brought a good selection of cheeses from Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Participants then sat down and began tasting and comparing the various cheeses and beers.

Visit our website for photos www.edmontonchefs.ca/photo_gallery.

Stay Tuned!

- Plans are being finalized to run the CCI certification program in Edmonton this spring in conjunction with NAIT. Tony Botelho has been working hard to get this program off the ground in our Branch. Contact Tony at 298-9574 or 1stvicepresident@edmontonchefs.ca for more information.
- The Knorr Junior Culinary Challenge competition is scheduled to

take place at NAIT on May 19/07. The provincial winner of the this competition will participate in the national competition on June 1st in Toronto. The winner of the national competition will be awarded \$5,000 cash and an opportunity to travel with Culinary Team Canada to an international culinary event taking place in 2008. The rules and application form will be available on our website the first week

of March and at the March 5th dinner meeting.



- Bring the family and your appetite to our June 17th lobster fest!

Culinary Team Alberta



La Soirée Gastronomique – Culinary Team Alberta is hosting its annual major fundraiser April 13/07 in Hall D at the Shaw Conference Centre. The team will prepare a 5-course, 5-star menu paired with specially selected wines for 300-400 guests.

Our talented Alberta chefs will dazzle guests with their ice carving, vegetable carving, truffle-making and other specialty skills. The 2nd Annual Prix d'Or Celebrity Cooking Competition — with surprise ingredients, skill-challenging dishes, play-by-play commentary and in-

the-moment interviews with celeb competitors — will crown a new King and Queen of the Gourmet Prix d'Or. Last year's King, Rob Christie from Magic 99 radio, returns as host of the Café des Artistes festivities.

More importantly, this year the Team is supporting a great cause by donating \$75 of each ticket sold to the Canadian Culinary Federation Edmonton Branch scholarship endowment fund for NAIT culinary students. Visit www.culinaryteamalberta.ca for details.

Culinary Team Alberta Chefs Wanted!! – The Team is accepting applications from chefs who believe they have the right stuff. The Team's next competition is the World Culinary Olympics in Germany next year. Please visit www.culinaryteamalberta.ca or www.edmontonchefs.ca to download an application form.



Welcome New Members



John Bond inducting Ihab Rafah on February 12/07.

Please welcome the following new members to our association. We hope you will get to know them, and they us, as time goes on.

They are:

Perry Michetti - Federation

Ihab Rafah - Federation

Rick Wood-Samman - Dirt Willy Game Bird Farm & Hatchery - Associate Member

Upcoming Events

►► The CCFCC Western Conference takes place **Feb. 23-25, 2007**, at the *The Westin* in Calgary hosted by the Calgary Academy of Chefs and Cooks. There will be an ice-breaker reception featuring Culinary Team Alberta on Friday evening. The new *Chef of the Year* competition will take place Saturday where the Western Region competitor will be chosen to represent the region at the National competition later this spring. There will be meetings all day Saturday and a dinner Saturday evening featuring

meals prepared by the Western Region *Chef of the Year* competitors. Lastly, there will be a farewell brunch on Sunday morning. Please contact Blake Chapman for more information. He can be reached through the Calgary Academy of Chefs and Cooks website.

►► The second regular **dinner meeting** will happen **Monday, March 5, 2007** at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald. Cocktails are at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 7:00 p.m. To reserve your spot, please call the CCF Edmonton office at 475-2433 or

email admin@edmontonchefs.ca.

►► Plans are being finalized for the 4th **workshop** which takes place at NAIT on **April 2, 2007**. There will be an ice-carving demo and a pulled sugar demo with some hands-on opportunities. More details to follow shortly!



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We're on the Web!
www.edmontonchefs.ca



We want to know what you think about the website, about the workshops, about how we can make the association work for you. Please email or phone us with your thoughts, suggestion, ideas or comments. Feel free to contact any of your Board members.

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Claude Buzon	2ndvicepresident@edmontonchefs.ca
Stephen Kaiser	treasurer@edmontonchefs.ca
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Trevor West	assocrep@edmontonchefs.ca
Bonnie Malouin	admin@edmontonchefs.ca

Visit our website and check out the growing photo gallery.

Wellness Committee

Best wishes to Mike Bajger who is at home now and on the mend from his hip surgery and setback. Our thoughts are with Mike and Irene.

Michel Dhaibi reports that everyone else must be relatively well and in

good shape as he has received no other calls and we're thankful for that.

Just a reminder – please call Michel (Wellness Committee Chair) at 473-1555 or Simon Smotkowicz at

917-7617 if you know anyone who is ill, grieving or otherwise could use a kind word from us.

We would also like to hear from you if you want to share some good news!

Chef Jacket Pickup

A big 'thank you' to all the members and associate members who renewed their memberships prior to December 31, 2006.

Your exclusive CCF Edmonton chef jacket is in the office and ready for pickup. You may pick up your jacket at any workshop or meeting.

Alternatively, you may pick it up from the office on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Call 475-2433 for more information.

For those of you who missed the deadline, there will be one more opportunity with next year's dues.

