

January 23, 1997.

The Back Kitchen - History
Part Lot 1, North Shore Concession
5660 Front Road, Stella, Amherst Island

The property description above is currently a seasonal take-out restaurant business owned and operated by Susan Sedore and Garry Filson. Garry is an original Islander, Susan grew up in Napanee and both lived in the Toronto area for a number of years before moving back to the Island about nine years ago.

The property including a trailer were purchased from Janet Bews on April 15th, 1994. The trailer was renovated, equipment was purchased and The Back Kitchen was open for business on June 1, 1994.

Improvements have been made every year since its opening, with 1997 earmarked for major improvements, including washrooms and an indoor seating area. These plans are now on hold until the future of this Island is determined.

Going back in history, there was a large two story brick building, formerly known as the "Marksman Hotel" that was operated by the Cousins family in the nineteenth Century. Later, under the ownership of Robert Glenn, it housed a machinery dealership and insurance agency. It has also served as central office for the telephone system and classrooms for Stella Continuation School from 1929-1948.

In 1955, it was sold to Ross and Tena Filson, who happened to be Garry Filson's Grandparents. Ross and Tena resided there as well as operating Rossena's Coffee Shop (Picture Enclosed) and gas station.

Many an Islander will now comment then they are in The Back Kitchen, with a sense of dejavu, having gathered at Rossena's.

The building also housed a Post Office, Legion Room., Hairdressing Salon and two more apartments.

In 1966, Chris and Mel Filson took over the operation of the restaurant while Ross and Tena still owned and resided there.