

BISTRO BAROLO BRINGS TASTES OF ITALY AND MORE TO ROCKWOOD

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Some fine wine and some fine food are ready to be enjoyed at a new restaurant in Rockwood.

Scott Hull, owner and chef of the new Bistro Barolo pasta & wine bar, is asked if the spot on Alma Street might be considered fine dining.

He puts his hands in the air.

"I would call it 'finer dining,'" he says, with air quotes and a big smile.

Bistro Barolo opened in December. The restaurant, which seats 40, offers Italian fare and much more. The spot was previously the Casual Dining restaurant.

"We're mainly Italian, but not completely," says Hull. He says an Italian-based restaurant in Rockwood was much needed and that "Almost everybody likes Italian."

Hull, who lives in Georgetown and makes the regular 25-minute drive to Bistro Barolo, has quite a background in fine dining. He apprenticed at Winston's in Toronto, a restaurant that is no longer but one that he says in its prime was one of the best in the country, and he's travelled the world to cook.

He credits his sister, Shelley Riddall, for inspiring him to create Bistro Barolo. She moved to Rockwood and thought there weren't enough options as far as going out for dinner goes.



Ned Bekavac Photo

Scott Hull is owner and chef of the new Bistro Barolo in Rockwood.

"She said 'You should open a restaurant in Rockwood,'" says Hull. "And I was I was looking to do something, I just didn't know what."

And here he is.

Bistro Barolo, which will host a grand opening event some time this month, is open during dinner hours five days a week. Come April, Hull expects to extend those hours to include lunch.

The menu includes the likes of lamb shank, chicken parmigiana, pastas, salads, appetizers, wine, beer and more.

While Hull doesn't have an Italian background, the food at the restaurant speaks that language.

"No, I'm English, Canadian . . . But I think if you ask anyone who ate here, I make pretty wicked Italian food," he says.

A current food fave at the restaurant is the lamb shank, and Hull expects a favourite down the road to

wind up being his award-winning cedar smoked salmon.

And given the cold weather of late, a popular item on the menu has been his version of French onion soup, which includes fresh herbs, three cheeses and more.

While the cold weather has helped with the popularity of the soup, the cold, along with the age of the building, have presented some challenges for Hull at his new spot. Challenges have included the water and heat in the building.

One of the nights at Bistro Barolo saw them have issues with some of the lights. The ones near the bathrooms and in the kitchen weren't working, so they used painters' lights and coped quite well indeed with the situation.

"In this business, the show has to go on," says Hull, with a smile.

Bistro Barolo can be found at 295 Alma St. in Rockwood.

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