

# Business

## New Georgetown company to provide ideal Mother's Day gift—breakfast in bed

Moms Sheri Martincourt and Lara Pollock will be celebrating Mother's Day a little differently this year—by providing meals on that special day for other moms.

The two young mothers have formed a new company, Fine Catering by Fraises et Framboises, and offer a number of products including full-service catering, boxed gifts of signature chocolate-dipped strawberries and cookies and for Mother's Day, gourmet chef-prepared meals—gift wrapped and delivered to clients' homes.

Martincourt, a marketing expert and Lara Pollock, an experienced fine dining chef and caterer first met when their two oldest children began attending Ecole Sacre-Coeur. Both had been on maternity leave at the time, and instead of going back to work they decided to start a company together.

"We have a good time together. That's probably why we went into business, other than the fact we wanted stay home with our kids (a combined total of five, all under the age of six)," said Martincourt, "so Lara doesn't have to go back to the restaurant life and I don't have

to go back to sales. And you got to do something you love. If you don't do something you love, it feels like work, and this definitely doesn't feel like work.

"It was coming up to Valentine's Day and I said why don't we see if could sell (their signature chocolate-dipped berries and cookies)," explained Martincourt. "That's how we really started, although I had been helping her out with catering over the holiday season."

The two printed out flyers and stood outside the GO Train from 5:30-6:30 a.m. handing them out to every morning commuters (not knowing that's against GO rules), and a short time later the phone began ringing.

"The phone never stopped ringing," Pollock said. "The e-mail kept going ding, ding."

"People started calling from the train on their cellphones. Husbands who had forgotten gifts called and by the time

they (the commuters) got to their offices, it was insane," Martincourt said. "We had three kids at home, Lara was in her (professional) kitchen cooking and I was taking

orders like a crazy person.

"We didn't think we'd get so many orders. We're already getting repeat orders for Mother's Day."



Georgetown women, Lara Pollock (left) and Sheri Martincourt have started a new business, Fine Catering by Fraises and Framboises. Here their children Duncan Pollock, 6 and Jamie Martincourt, 5, give their moms an early Mother's Day gift—the company's signature chocolate-dipped berries.

Photo by Ted Brown

This time the duo is offering boxed gifts of signature chocolate-dipped strawberries and chocolate chip cookies or a mix of each. Prices vary from \$16.99 to \$42. The two-inch berries are specially imported from California and Lindt Swiss chocolate is used for the dipping.

As well, chef Pollock is preparing gift-wrapped gourmet meals this Mother's Day.

"We, as mothers, thought what would you want for Mother's Day. You wouldn't want to cook," said Pollock, "but you don't have to step foot into a restaurant, the busiest restaurant day of the year."

Brunch in Bed consists of three-cheese quiche, organic salad in a champagne vinaigrette and

their signature chocolate-dipped strawberries or exotic fruit and international cheese plate served with a baquette and signature berries. Dinner include authentic French Canadian tortiere, or rigatoni with peppers and sweet sausage in a fresh tomato sauce or roasted breast of chicken with lemon and artichoke glaze and wild and white rice pilaf. Salad, roll, and a berry accompany each dinner meal. Prices vary from \$12.50 to \$16 per person.

The goal, said Pollock, is to package the meals so simply that husbands can follow the instructions and give their wives a meal to remember.

Meanwhile the bulk of their work is catering. "This community seems to have a need for caterers; there's a lot of medium-sized parties such as first communions or showers, etc.," said Martincourt.

The company provides full-service catering, and Pollock said she will custom design a menu to suit the particular event. They provide complimentary quotes.

For more information about the company call 905-873-5200 or e-mail fraisesetframboises@yahoo.ca

## We Appreciate Your Patience

The Government of Ontario thanks everyone affected by the recent OPSEU strike for their patience. We would also like to welcome our OPSEU bargaining unit employees back to their jobs. The government values the work all civil servants do to serve the people of Ontario. It was not "business as usual" during the eight-week strike. Many of the services

the government provides to the public were disrupted. We look forward to fully restoring those services as quickly as possible, but it may take some time before all services are operating at the levels they were before the strike. Please check the Blue Pages in your telephone directory and call ahead, or check the list below for key information.

### Driver & Vehicle Licensing

- Driver's licences and driver instructor's licences with an expiry date of March 13, 2002 or later, will be extended to August 2, 2002.
- Disabled Persons Parking Permits, Oversize/Overweight Permits (annual), and Safety Standards and Safety Inspection certificates (partial list) will be extended to August 2, 2002.
- Driver exams missed as a result of the labour disruption will be rebooked on a priority basis.
- Vehicle licence plate stickers need to be renewed, as usual.
- ServiceOntario kiosk transactions will be available beginning May 21.
- For a complete list of driver and vehicle licensing services, please refer to [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca) or call the MTO Info Line at 1-800-268-4686.

### Health Care Services

- If you require health services prior to renewing your health card or before you receive your new card, you will still be able to get health services and you may still use your expired card or health card number in most cases. For further information regarding health coverage, please call: toll-free: 1-800-268-1154, in Toronto: 416-314-5518, or TTY: 1-800-387-5559.
- The Assistive Devices Program will be accepting and processing all applications for funding on a first come first serve basis. Applications can be mailed, as usual, or couriered or dropped off at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care offices at 5700 Yonge Street, seventh floor, Toronto, M2M 4K5.
- The Assistive Devices Program will be processing invoices for vendors. These should be sent directly to the ministry offices in Kingston.

### Services to Business and Consumers

- The following services are available May 6 to May 10, 12 noon to 5 p.m.:
  - Office of the Registrar General for birth-death-marriage certificates. (Emergency requests: proof of emergency circumstances must be presented.)
  - Business Registration or Incorporation.
  - Consumer mediation and consumer advice by telephone.
  - Land Registry Offices for essential and time-sensitive land registration transactions and searching; application review and emergency requests for birth-death-marriage certificates; and Personal Property Security Registrations and Incorporations (drop off for couriers at land registry offices to be sent to Toronto).
- Normal business hours resume May 13, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for all services including searching of personal property liens and Ontario Business Connects.

### Social Services

- All Regional Offices of the Ministry of Community, Family and Children Services, including Ontario Disability Support Program and probation services, will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- In addition, probation services for young offenders may be arranged outside of these hours by appointment.
- The Family Responsibility Office will continue to process payments and resolve urgent issues. New issues can be faxed to (416) 240-2401. For payment or enforcement information, please use the automated information system: (416) 326-1818 or 1-800-267-7263.
- Adoption disclosure activities, approvals of international home studies and licences for private or international adoptions will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Justice Services

- Some courthouses may have reduced court counter hours from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for up to a week, while other locations may have extended counter hours. Hours will be posted locally at each courthouse.
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Board offices will not conduct hearings until the week beginning May 27.
- All other services will continue to be provided.

### Education and Training Facilities and Programs

- W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind and Deafblind will re-open Tuesday morning, May 7. All other Provincial and Demonstration Schools and residences will re-open Wednesday morning, May 8.
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) services for students studying in Ontario are available through financial aid offices at their institutions. All OSAP applications will be processed as they are received starting May 13. OSAP telephone services for students studying outside Ontario will resume on June 3. All students are reminded that they can apply for OSAP funding and check the status of their accounts through the web site at <http://osap.gov.on.ca>.
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship award winners will be informed of the outcome of the 2002-03 competition on or about May 27.
- Apprenticeship: some regional offices of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will have reduced hours. Expect delays due to high volume of requests.

### Environmental Services

- Air Quality Index reports will be available within two

weeks on the Ministry of Environment and Energy's web site at: [www.airqualityontario.com/](http://www.airqualityontario.com/)

- There will be delays in processing approvals, permits, licences, water well records, Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) information, and Environmental Assessment (EA) decisions.

### Workplace and Employment Services

- Employment Standards: if you have filed an employment standards claim during the strike, you will be advised in writing of the approximate length of time it will take to begin the processing of your claim.

### Government-owned and Operated Tourist Attractions and Parks

- Ontario Parks: Some provincial parks will re-open in time for the May 17 long weekend. Call your provincial park or visit [www.OntarioParks.com](http://www.OntarioParks.com) for the latest information.
- Hunters who want to renew their Outdoors Card or purchase a Moose Licence and enter the adult tag validation draw can now call the automated system at 1-800-288-1155. Please note: the deadline for applications to the draw is extended to June 14.

### Government Publications and General Information

- Publications Ontario telephone, online ordering and government bookstores - May 6 to 10: services available 12 noon to 5 p.m.
- Normal business hours resume May 13, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Government Information Centres are open.