

Milton • Means Business

Muddy Duck Restaurant is closing its doors after 24 years in business on Steeles Avenue

Owner prepares for retirement; will close up local eatery at end of June

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

Wolfgang Roessler is saying goodbye to his long-time business and hello to retirement.

The owner of the well-known Muddy Duck Restaurant will close its doors June 30. The property has been sold to Jim Gorman, owner of neighbouring businesses Gorrud's Auto and Milton Toyota.

"I decided I wanted to retire a few years ago," he said. "I want to travel. It's (retirement) sinking in slowly. It's sad to leave the town and the people. When customers hear I'm closing they get very upset and ask why. I tell them everyone retires one day."

Mr. Roessler bought the old A&W at 360 Steeles Ave. 24 years ago and turned it into a family restaurant. Later that year he added an additional dining area and built the banquet hall in 1982.

"I gave this place 10 years and then I said I was going to sell it. I didn't think I would stay here this long."

He believes what has attracted customers to his restaurant is the home cooking and friendly service.

"It's like home. People like a family restaurant and come in for the home cooked potatoes and soup. The liver and onions and turkey are favourites."

He'll be the first to admit it will take time getting used to retirement, but he's looking forward to travelling.

"I want to go home (Germany) and go to Africa. When I get tired of skiing I'll come back."

During the quiet closing planned at the end of the month, Mr. Roessler said he'll

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take time to reflect on his years in town. "I want to thank all my current and past employees. My customers were always the most important thing to me and I couldn't have done it without them."

Mr. Gorman told The Champion he bought the property because he needed to accommodate more space for cars at Milton Toyota, which has been operating for about a year.

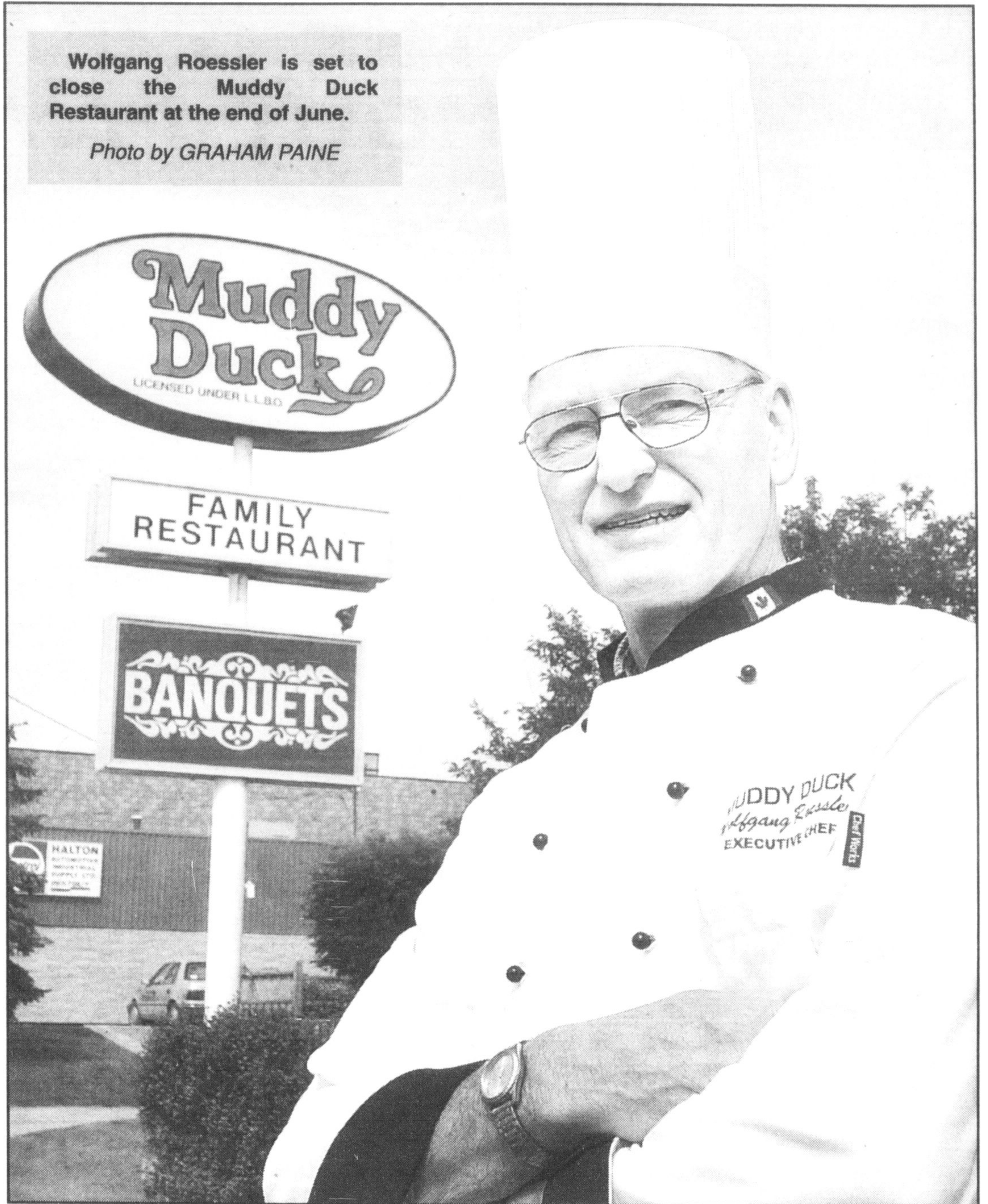
"Since January I've been utilizing the gravel area at the back of the Muddy Duck to store some cars but we need more space. I thought I would need five years before I would need more space but we're busting at the seams."

Besides adding light poles and changing the sign, he said he's planning to leave the building untouched.

"I have no great plans for development yet. For now I'm just going to use the space for storage."

Wolfgang Roessler is set to close the Muddy Duck Restaurant at the end of June.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



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