

BUSINESS

New owners, same great dining experience



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

TOASTING THEIR TAKEOVER: Former Harrop owner Robert Goderre (right) toasts to the restaurant's continued success under new owners, and brothers, Oswaldo (left) and Luis Andocilla, with one of their signature special occasion desserts in the foreground.

No major changes planned for Harrop

By **Melanie Hennessey**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

While the Harrop Restaurant is now in new hands, both the old and new owners want faithful customers to rest assured that's the only major thing changing at the fine dining establishment.

Long-time owner Robert Goderre turned over the keys to brothers Luis and Oswaldo Andocilla earlier this month — a duo that's no stranger to the Harrop.

Both have experience working in the Steeles Avenue restaurant, with Luis on staff for almost two years and Oswaldo since last July.

They've been able to see first-hand the popularity of the menu items and say they're only planning to add some special features.

"We have a very good menu going on," noted Oswaldo.

Menu just fine: clientele

That comes as welcome news to Goderre, who heard loud and clear from the Harrop's long-time customers that they're very happy with the food selection offered.

"I was getting e-mails saying, 'Don't you dare change the menu,'" Goderre said with a smile. "Everything on our menu is selling well, so there'll just be some additions. The old and new together will make a nice marriage."

Luis — who previously opened a bar at Yonge Street and Steeles Avenue — said it was always his dream to own a restaurant, noting there's something special about the Harrop.

"It was the house that basically cap-

tured me," he said. "I feel myself in here."

Meanwhile, Oswaldo has been working in the industry for the past 14 years.

"I just enjoy the restaurant business," he said. "And I see working with my brother as the right connection."

Both expressed enthusiasm about their new joint venture and the staff they'll have helping them along the way.

"The team we have is just incredible," Luis remarked.

The art gallery that shares space with the restaurant continues to operate as usual on the property.

So after 10 years of running the Harrop, why did Goderre decide it's time to leave?

New venture abroad

His best friends are opening a resort on the north coast of Trinidad and he's going over to support the endeavour.


"I've known for a while I'd like to move on," he said. "There are a couple projects in Trinidad I'm very interested in. I'd like to open a restaurant there someday."

He said he has great confidence in Luis and Oswaldo, noting he thinks their expertise is very complementary.

Goderre said that he'll greatly miss the Harrop and its customers, whom he thanked for their many years of patronage.

"This is my third restaurant and by far my favourite," he said. "There's just something about Harrop's — when you walk in the door, you're home."

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