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YOU'LL LOVE MAY LOBSTERFEST

When the Corner House in Stouffville opened eleven years ago, lovers of fine food were quick to appreciate their innovative menus and meticulous attention to quality and detail.

In addition to regular menu items, the Corner House also features special events throughout the year. "We've been doing a Lobster Fest in May, June, July and August since we opened and it's been our most popular special event," says Manager Jennifer Pennanen.

As always, live lobsters will be flown in from the east coast for the next festival, which runs May 19 - May 24 and for which reservations are strongly recommended. "We sold about 200 lobsters at the last event, in addition to our regular menu items."

This is something a lot of people seem to enjoy - they particularly like the fact that it's flown in fresh and cooked here.

"We cook it four different ways; steamed, broiled or in one of two sauces."

Lobster, Bonne Femme, and Lobster Thermidor. The restaurant also features periodic special events with the emphasis on international specialties including Italian, Cajun, Jamaican and Indian cuisine.

An Elizabethan feast, which is held each fall, attracts clients from a wide area. Outdoor barbecues are another customer favorite, and Pennanen and her staff will once again barbecue a giant hip of beef during this year's Strawberry Festival. "The quality of food here is always well above average and our prices are reasonable," Pennanen said.

"We have a fully stocked bar and a good selection of wines from different countries and we've just redecorated and renovated the restaurant." Rich hues of blue and plum lend a touch of European sophistication to the ambience, without detracting from the restaurant's country house charm.

The upper level features framed posters of jazz greats, while original paintings by area artists are displayed on the walls downstairs.

"We're featuring different artists every couple of months and the paintings are for sale."

Pennanen is an attentive and genial host, stopping at each table to chat to her guests, ensuring that everything is to their liking and exchanging friendly banter. "I try to make it feel as comfortable as I can, because I want everyone to come back again."

To make reservations for the Lobster Festival, call (905) 849-494.



Manager Jennifer Pennanen shows off one of the wine features of the Corner House. Photo: SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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Communities urged to take part in Oceans Day events

Canadians from coast to coast will celebrate Oceans Day on Monday, June 8 by raising awareness about the health of our oceans and taking action to ensure a secure future for them.

But it's not just a day of celebrations—as the International Year of the Ocean, individuals, groups, and communities are honouring our precious seas all year long.

Oceans Day was first declared in 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Its purpose is to inspire people to take better care of our precious marine habitats.

In honour of Oceans Day and the International Year of the Ocean, the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) has produced an educational package and poster to promote ocean awareness nationwide.

The CWF is working in cooperation with many sponsors to provide information and activities to encourage schools and community groups to learn more, and do what they can, to improve the state of our oceans.

Ocean-related events such as beach cleanups, exhibits, public tours, media promotions, and poster contests will take place at many different locations across Canada.

Communities will be participating in the wave of Blue Communities moving across the country.

This year's Oceans Day activities focuses on Canada's incredible coasts and the need to restore and protect them for the good of all creatures, from lobsters to leatherback turtles, from haddock to human beings.

Though our community is nowhere near an ocean, the health, good or ill, of our oceans matters to all of us. And what we all do affects their health.

Prairie, big city, mountain and coastal inhabitants alike, we all have a stake in conserving the life-sustaining role of oceans. They feed us, satisfy our thirst, give us air to breathe, cure us of disease, control the world's climate, and inspire us with their beauty and mystery.

In celebration of International Year of the Ocean, schools are being encouraged to register as Blue Schools.

By submitting a Blueprint for Ocean Action and meeting certain criteria, schools can determine if any activities taking place at their facilities are harming or helping the oceans, and what steps they can take to further help.

For more information, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Federation toll-free 1-800-563-WILD, or visit our Web site at www.cwf-fcf.org.

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