

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE MARKHAM FEDERAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

A 1998 PC membership is required to vote in the leadership selection on Oct. 24. Applications for membership may be mailed to:

Box 227, 4981 Hwy. #7
Unit 12A
Markham, Ontario
L3R 1N1

and will be accepted until
11:59 p.m. on Sept. 29, 1998.

An Adult membership is \$10.00, Youth \$5.00

Arrangements for late drop-off or questions may be referred to the Membership Secretary, L.M. Watson, at 905-294-3737.

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LAST CHANCE OF THE SEASON FOR 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 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 September 22 - September 27 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 once again barbecued a giant hip of beef at 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 640-8494.



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

HEALTH: Hospital deficits total \$300 million in province

Two York hospitals running in the red

Markham Stouffville only local facility without a deficit

BY JENNIFER BROWN
STAFF WRITER

York County and York Central are among the growing number of Ontario hospitals that are running a deficit.

The Ontario Hospital Association is to release a report later this month that states the province's hospitals are short about \$300 million.

Hospitals are coping with costs such as settling new contracts with nurses and addressing the year 2000 computer problem.

But locally, the deficits are also a result of coping with a growing population. Provincial funding isn't keeping up with the number of people using York Region hospitals.

York County Hospital in Newmarket is facing a \$3-million deficit — the cost of paying for beds opened to address increasing demand for service. Since last October, the hospital has spent about \$250,000 per month to handle the overflow demands.

"For us, it is the continued pressure from the community. We're not surprised but we don't

know how it is going to play itself out," York County president Dan Carriere said.

But Carriere continues to place his faith in the Ministry of Health. Despite receiving some growth funding in June, he is hopeful a more substantial answer is coming soon.

"I'm confident there will be a recovery plan for this hospital," he said.

The situation is not as bleak at York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill, which is running a \$1.5-million deficit. That's because a request for funds to support the ever-growing regional dialysis program has not been answered.

"If the ministry comes through and we remain hopeful they will, we'll be okay," York Central president Frank Lussing said. "We have met with them many, many times on this issue and talked a fair bit about that component and we think the ministry has listened."

Markham Stouffville Hospital president Elizabeth Woodbury said her hospital does not have a deficit problem at the moment, but is concerned about meeting demands down the road.

"We do feel underfunded, but the amount of money we need to address our population needs is different than having enough to maintain operations and the availability of cash to meet commitments as they come due," she said.

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