

Business in Pooles Corner is being reopened by second generation

by Stella Shepard

The **Whim Inn** has been a landmark at Pooles Corner in Kings County for decades. The doors were closed in 2008 when owner **Kennie Macdonald** retired.

The business is reopening in June under the new ownership of Kennie's daughter **Ambyr Macdonald** and it is now called **Red's Corner Inc.** Ambyr is no stranger to the business world, as she grew up in an entrepreneurial family environment. Ambyr has also owned and managed a café and a restaurant in the Montague area.

"I'm at a turning point in my life, and I wanted to start a long-lasting career with long-term goals," says Ambyr. "The idea of reopening had been on my mind for about two years. I finally put the plan in motion this year."

Red's Corner Inc. will feature a family dining area, a bar, a private lounge, a banquet facility, and long-term apartment rentals.



Ambyr Macdonald is excited about opening Red's Corner Inc. She hopes her son Rowan will be a third generation entrepreneur.

Third generation

"My three-year-old son, **Rowan**, will grow up being exposed to the business world like I was. My plan is to pass the business to him someday, if he wants it. Right now, he just wants to wash dishes," laughs Ambyr. "I have my dad to lean on for support and advice."

Staffing

"I will be hiring about 15 year-round workers and about 15 seasonal workers," says Ambyr. "Students are welcome to apply for seasonal employment and to work part-time, year-round. Experience is an asset for the front line staff and for the kitchen staff. Front line staff must be personable, well-organized and reliable. Training will be provided to meet our serving standards."

The positions are:

- Bar staff
- Diningroom wait staff
- Cook
- Prep Cook
- Dishwashers
- Cleaners

Business and community support

Before she opened the business, Ambyr contacted **Susan Hamilton**, a counsellor with **Career Development Services** in Montague. Susan provided support to Ambyr and assisted with the application process. She will be available to Ambyr throughout the year in a supportive role.

Ambyr approached **Karl Johnston**, Self Employment Manager of **Active Communities Inc.**, with her business idea. Karl assisted Ambyr with developing a business plan and offered advice.

For more information about **Red's Corner Inc.**, contact **Ambyr Macdonald** at **838-3488** or e-mail redscornerinc@yahoo.ca

For more information about **Career Development Services**, call **838-5453**.

For more information about **Active Communities Inc.**, contact **Karl Johnston** at **838-7034** or call toll free at **1-800-953-4030**.



Opening a business makes a dream come true

by Patricia Roy

Last September, Lindsay MacArthur was able to make her dream come true at the age of 29 when she opened **Mint Spa**.

Her business offers massage, manicures, pedicures, facials, body treatments and hair salon services.

How she got started

Lindsay worked in the industry for a number of years before branching out on her own. "I always had it in the back of my mind to open my own business," she says. About two years ago, Lindsay went to the **Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF)** for help to get her business started.

The **Community Business Development Corporation** in Summerside administers both the CYBF and the Self Employ PEI program which is from **SkillsPEI**.

Number of employees and staff needed

"I currently employ seven people including myself," she says. "I plan to expand and include wellness programs with a nutritionist and a registered massage therapist on staff."

"In the immediate future, I am looking for a part-time **Guest Service Representative** as well as part-time **Massage Therapists, Naturopaths, Nutritionists**, and other wellness therapy practitioners. It's a perfect opportunity for individuals looking to expand their services to the Summerside area once or twice a week."

She will also need to hire another **Hairstylist** in the next few months.

Training required

Lindsay says that Estheticians and Hairstylists need to have valid credentials. Employees working in guest services need to have retail management training or related experience.

"I highly value employees who are people-oriented and who make guests feel welcome and appreciated," she says. "At Mint Spa, our guest experience is our number one priority."

For more information about **Mint Spa**, call **436-6468** or visit www.mintspa.ca

For more information about **CBDC**, in Summerside, call **888-3793** in Alberton, call **853-3636** or visit www.cbdc.ca

For more information about the **Canadian Youth Business Foundation**, visit www.cybf.ca



Ambyr Macdonald, owner of Red's Corner Inc., and Lindsay MacArthur, owner of Mint Spa, were eligible for a program called **Self Employ PEI**, which is administered through **SkillsPEI**, a division of the **Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning**. The program assists individuals by providing financial support, business training and counselling during the development and implementation of their business plan.

Funded in whole or in part through the Canada-PEI Labour Market Development Agreement and/or the Labour Market Agreement.