

Off the Lake

JUNE 30TH 2009



Professor Moe? Not Exactly...

Big News at The Willow! Co-owner & Executive Chef Moe Mathieu has accepted a position at the Kelsey campus of SIAST as Head Chef Instructor in their Journeymen Cooking Program. This is a big step for Moe and the team at The Willow because it was a long-term goal of our team from the start. The goal at Willow can be summed up in our mission statement; “*Changing the Culinary Landscape of Saskatchewan*”. It is a bold statement, but we’ve had success fulfilling it. That success is reflected in the influences and changes in the industry.

Over the past five years, Moe’s vision to bring the idea of the so-called 100-mile diet to reality in Saskatchewan has been successful. More local restaurants using locally produced ingredients is now commonplace. The

use of organically grown/raised produce has bust out of the quirky little vegetarian cafes and into mainstream fine dining. A culinary style has evolved that can be truly defined as “*Saskatchewan Cuisine*”.

These were goals of Chef Moe’s when we started, but he hasn’t finished. The Willow has been a certified teaching facility since Day One. Interning students from the Culinary Institute in P.E.I. have come each summer to learn and gain experience. This new role as a *teacher* will provide Moe with the opportunity to ingrain these principles into the next generation of chefs in our province. This gives Moe the forum to spread his creative force in an even wider scope.

Chef Moe is still very much a part of The Willow as an owner and as a creative resource. Former



Sous Chef Tim Davies is promoted to Head Chef at The Willow. Tim has been part of the team working with Moe for two years and shares in our vision and our principles. Chef Tim brings his own varied experiences to the vision and will elevate the experience of our guests, just as he has over the past two years. Chef Tim also has the support of the best kitchen team he could ask for.

It promises to be an exciting time for Chef Moe and for all of us. We’re looking forward to the adventure!

Introducing Chef Moe’s Blog. In each month’s edition of Off The Lake, Chef Moe will share with us updates and stories about life on the other side of the kitchen counter as he trains aspiring chefs at SIAST Kelsey. Look for the first installment in September!