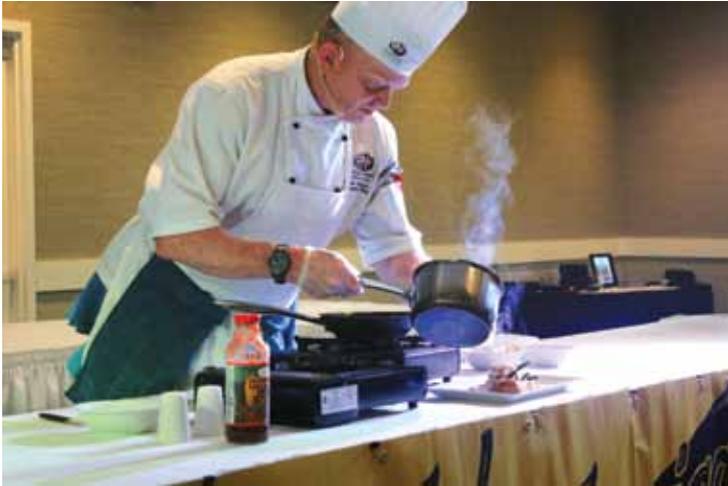


Let's go!

It's an extravaganza!



Sandra Phinney photos

by Sandra Phinney

Sometimes a simple conversation between friends can evolve into something special; serendipity steps in, and the magic continues. That is exactly what happened (and continues to happen) in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

Local residents Ken Langille and Carole Hill-Bojarski co-chaired the committee in 2011 when the town of Yarmouth started planning its 250th anniversary celebration. The idea of having something special to celebrate the area's fishing heritage came up. Someone suggested a one-day Seafood & Wine Extravaganza. It was a winner.

To everyone's surprise (and delight), it evolved into a three-day affair. The Extravaganza was so popular, it continued each August, and is now in its eighth year. The three main events include the Victoria Order of Nurses Surf or Turf dinner; a Seafood Splash offering fresh seafood dishes served by 10 service groups on the waterfront; and the Seafood & Wine Extravaganza featuring cooking demonstrations with celebrity chefs, and special offerings from local restaurants, wineries, and artisan breweries.

Although this annual August event was happening while *your Local* was going to press, a second round of Extravaganza is ready to roll out – again in Yarmouth – September 6-8. It's going to be a full-blown Jamaican food and cultural exchange.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE – JAMAICA

The September events will include On the Rocks, Jamaican style seafood at the Yarmouth Lighthouse on September 7, along with music, Mi'kmaq storytelling, a dark skies interpre-

tive program, and a guided tour of Leif Erikson Park.

The September 8 event, On the Shore, will be hosted at the West Pubnico Golf and Country Club (an Acadian landmark), featuring dishes prepared by both Jamaican and local chefs, with music, and of course, local wines, beers, and ciders.

JAMAICA ON THEIR MINDS

For those yearning for distant beaches, you could travel to Jamaica in the fall for events surrounding National Heroes Day on October 21, when Jamaicans celebrate the seven national heroes who contributed to the country's independence and advancement.

If you go to Treasure Beach, you can take part in the Hook N' Line fishing tournament, and the new Food, Rum and Reggae festival, part of the Jamaican end of the food and cultural exchange. Chefs and members of the Yarmouth Seafood & Wine Extravaganza Society will be there taking part in the festivities.

And the Yarmouth Seafood & Wine Extravaganza Society is planning for the future. The Society has already put into motion the next Jamaica exchange, with a plan to add Italy in 2020, and South Africa in 2021.

Hill-Bojarski hopes to "bring as many visitors as we can from around the world to our neck of the woods here in Yarmouth. We want them to learn how we live, work, and play, and then have the opportunity to do the same in a new and different country. It's all about sharing cultures and savouring the differences."