

Rocky Raccoon Café

Rocky Raccoon Café on 2nd Avenue in Owen Sound is a long way from Kathmandu. And Robin Pradhan's journey to becoming its owner is a long story. Born and raised in Nepal, Robin moved to the Netherlands in 1986 where he worked on an organic farm and studied Dutch in his spare time. Years later when he arrived in Canada he took a job as a dishwasher and then as a cook at Rocky Raccoon Café which at the time was located in Dyers Bay on the Bruce Peninsula. Robin and his wife Shelly Bentz eventually bought the restaurant and moved it to Owen Sound in 2008.



The experience in Dyer's Bay sold Robin on local food. As a cook, and being somewhat isolated, Robin found that the easiest and most economical way to make sure he had a secure food supply was to work with farmers on the peninsula. He bought produce from **Ziggy's Farm** and **Elliott's Garden**, and other folks started growing food for him too. Robin says, "It was a really fun way to supply the restaurant. And this is what we do back home in Nepal. Go to the market and get produce from local farmers."

On the menu

Ontario Lamb (Forsyth Farm, Warton)
Georgian Bay Whitefish with Dill
Mango Tartar sauce
Elk Curry (100 Mile Market, Meaford)
Fresh Organic Mushroom Curry (Wylie Mycologicals, Warton)
Bio-Beef Vindaloo (Stoneleigh Farms, Annan)
Venison Striploin Steak, Thai Style
Root vegetable curry (Hemstock Mill Garden, Chatsworth)

Desserts....

Freshly Baked Pies (Williamsford Pie Company, Williamsford)
Mango Lassi (Saugeen Country Yogourt, Markdale)

When Robin opened at the Owen Sound location he vowed that 70 percent of his product would be from within 100 miles. He's kept that promise using local cheese, meat, yogourt, vegetables, flour and grains. He carries only Ontario beer and wines. The menu features a wide variety of Grey Bruce meats including bison, elk, lamb, beef and chicken. He explains, "I use local meat but I use the spices from my heritage... spices from all over Southeast Asia and the Caribbean". Check out a few of his dishes and you'll agree it's a perfect partnership.

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