

# Angel's Diner On The Corner Opens

By Linda Harrington

Crystal Blair has overcome a lot of obstacles over the last few years, so she wasn't about to let an impending hurricane keep her from opening day at her new diner, Angel's Diner on the Corner opened for business at noon on Friday, Sept. 23rd and despite the weather, there was a wonderful turn out.

Back in spring of 2020, when the world was thrown into a pandemic Crystal Blair kept the doors of her restaurant at the Glenholme Loop Petro Pass open for truckers who were having a difficult time finding showers and washrooms. She also served up hot complimentary meals for them and was named their Angel, with the restaurant given the new name of Angel's Diner. After weathering through two years of COVID and continued support from the community and truckers, Crystal just couldn't keep enough staff and the restaurant closed in April.

After a few months off, Crystal received a call from Joe Pinto who owns the Great Village Arts & Entertainment Centre (the former Saint James United Church on the corner in Great Village). The Wayside Café, located in the basement had recently closed and he wondered if she would be interested in opening a restaurant at this location. The Centre is close to home would give her a chance to get back to doing what she loved, so she decided to give it a try.

Crystal spent many hours renovating the space to her satisfaction, including the kitchen to help streamline the meal preparation. "I was here the last two nights until 1:30am and back at 8:00am," says Crystal, "I wanted to make sure everything was ready for opening day."



The evening meal on opening day had a lovely ambiance, beautiful antique furniture (from Clair Peers antique shop) and delightful music on the stage by Flip Side. The special was pan fried fish and Crystal's famous desserts were well stocked.

There is an extensive daily menu with items like traditional hot turkey sandwiches, burgers, salads and turkey dinner but also a few surprises like a taco dip plate and a cheeseburger clubhouse. There are even gluten free options!

Crystal is looking forward to what this new location has to offer. "It seats 66 downstairs, with lots of overflow room upstairs. There is a stage to have live music on the weekends and I am thinking of having a karaoke night." There is even a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre in the works for October 7th and 8th, with a three-course meal of Turkey or Ham Dinner.


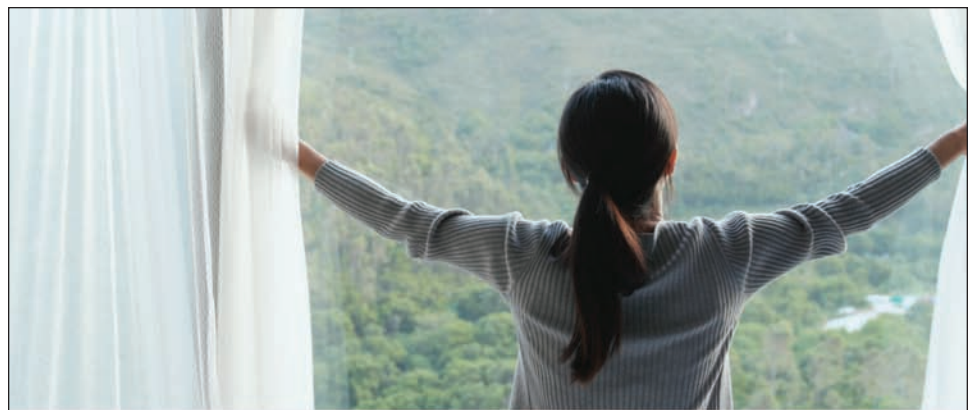
Angel's Diner on the Corner currently has a staff of ten full and part time employees, who were certainly kept busy on opening day. Hours are Thursday and Friday 12 pm to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am to 8pm., CLOSED MONDAY-WEDNESDAY.



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