



June 2024

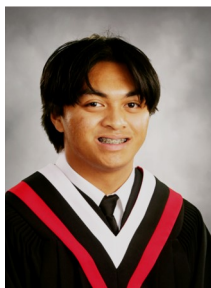
The Russell Inn Hotel & Conference Centre

# The INNside Scoop

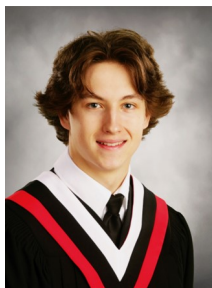
## Congratulations Russell Inn Grads of 2024



*Alyssa Bily*  
\$2000



*Kiefer Cabrera*  
\$1500



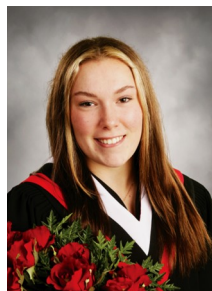
*Hayden Seib*  
\$750



*Taylor Cheyne*  
\$500



*Mykyta Koriukov*  
\$500



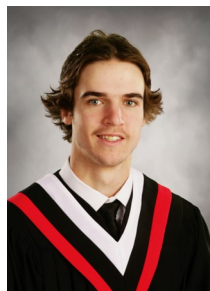
*Kamryn Boden*  
\$200



*Kara Bomback*  
\$200



*Morgan Burton*  
\$200



*Josh Edwards*  
\$200



*Tyler Huston*  
\$100

It is that time of year again where we send off another promising class of Graduates to a bright and exciting future! Grad ceremonies for Major Pratt will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

This year The Russell Inn is proud to congratulate 10 young people who worked/are working at the Russell Inn part time while attending school at Major Pratt. We are proud to say that this is the biggest group we have had since 2014!

We are pleased to offer scholarship money to those students who qualified under our bursary program, totaling \$6150 this year. Our scholarship program was revamped last year for the first time since its inception where qualifying students have the potential to now earn up to \$2000 upon graduation whether or not they choose to go onto post-secondary education as well as including Lifeguards in the program.

We are so very proud of you all and thank you for your hard work and effort you've put forth while working at the Russell Inn. We wish you all the very best going forward!

We also want to congratulate the parents amongst our staff who have a graduate this year; Leanne (Alyssa - pictured above), Angela (Tyler - pictured above), Valentyna (Mykyta - pictured above), Freda (Jordan), and Ma. Virginia (Criselda).

Grad this year will move indoors to the hall for the diploma and awards ceremony streamed live for any that want to watch from home. Following the ceremonies, there will be a town-wide parade. If you would like to attend the graduation ceremonies in person or virtually and/or the parade, please watch the Russell Banner for updates, parade route and more.

## Years Of Service Recognitions

1 Year: Kurt Deposoy (Tim Hortons)

Gary Horseman (Security)

Lara Mercado (Restaurant)

May Reodique (Tim Hortons)

2 Years: Pretzel Valdez (Tim Hortons)

6 Years: Federico Saguibo (Kitchen)

8 Years: Eric Dizon (Tim Hortons)

30 Years: Wes Osborne (Kitchen) ☺ WOW!!

Freda Bauereiss (Housekeeping) ☺ WOW!!

31 Years: Ed Piontek (Kitchen) ☺ WOW!!

Joe Boryskiewich (Maintenance) ☺ WOW!!

42 Years: Angela Huston (Accounts Receivable) ☺ WOW!!

*Congratulations and Thank You!*



## Happy Birthday!

June 1: Mark Penafiel

Nadiia Ostapchuk

June 5: Oliver Spurway

June 8: Freda Bauereiss

Alfred Mendoza

Jay-yel Pimentel

June 12: Lynn Spurway

June 14: Mark Limbaga

June 15: Chloe Mercer

Ma. Virginia Sales

June 16: Roselle Camero

June 19: Ivan Advincula

June 20: Gladees Cayanan



## Welcome/Welcome Back

A warm welcome to our new/returning staff:

Lezebel Conde - Housekeeping

Randy Tanghal - Housekeeping

Glenn Castro - Maintenance



## Smile Cookie raises \$19 000 for local Cancer Unit

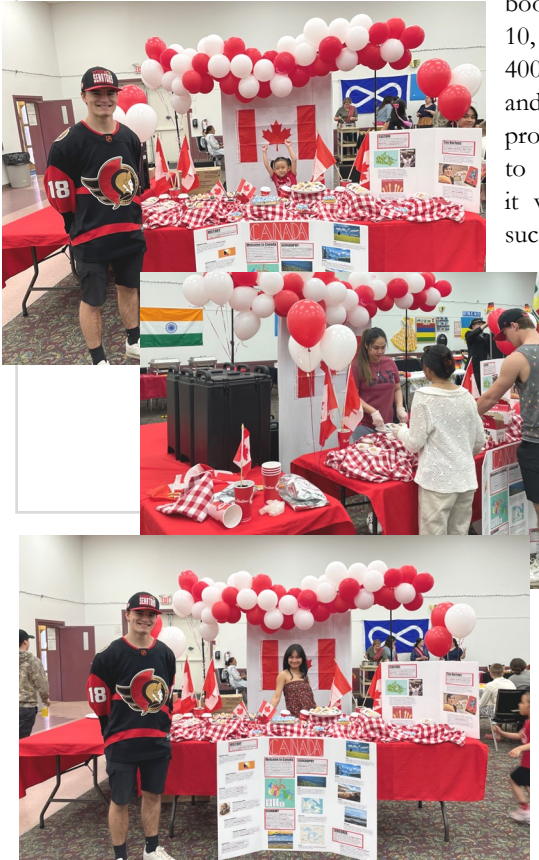
Our Smile Cookie crew was busy again during the week of April 29 - May 5. Volunteers from ECCC (Russell & Region’s Expanding Community Cancer Care), along with our Tim Hortons staff were putting on their biggest smiles to raise money for this great cause. Although Smile cookies sales were slightly down by about 500 this year, there was still an incredible amount of money raised considering the Cancer Care fundraising gala that was just held in April at the George P. Buleziuk Centre. This year’s donation from our little Russell kiosk was \$18 990! Pictured here from L-R: Ryan Ambion, Eric Dizon, Rheallyne Dizon, Jun Mae Ogawa, Andrea Glasman (ECCC Rep), Alison Stanchuk (Lead ECCC Volunteer Coordinator), Johann Ligot, Mark Penafiel and Leanne Bily.



100% of proceeds from every Smile Cookie support charities and community groups across Canada.

### Culturama 2024

- We were well represented this year as our Tim Hortons team [including even their youngest members!] represented the Canadian food booth [our awesome booth] on May 10, 2024. With 400 tickets sold and some of the proceeds going to local charities, it was deemed a success!



## Roof Repairs and the Big Sign

Our building is now 53 years old and it was moved in from Rocanville, SK, so it has had a lot of wear and tear on it. This beautiful building has carried us for decades. As we have said, all of the money at this time goes into the potash project, so we have very few funds to put back into the property, which will soon change. That said, last summer we spent \$150 000 on the roof of the main building and we have spent another \$100 000 this spring on the roof from rooms 201-212. Our roofer has run out of shingles. They will be back this fall to finish up to Route 83 and the 300 wing.

Meanwhile, for those of you who remember “*under the big sign*”, we lost our sign on May 29 due to the extreme winds that we have been having.

Many of you will be too young to remember, but back in the day, the BIG ESSO sign stood tall

above our competitors calling customers in off the highway to be the choice place to stop for fuel. A bit of a harrowing scene had us closing the drive-thru and Dennis and Gian going up on the lift to dismantle the sign before its pieces injured people or damaged property. Built in 1988 about 2 years after the C-Store opened, the iconic sign stands 60 feet tall; purposefully designed as just 5 feet taller would have required a beacon for airplanes! It looks a bit



naked now while we are in discussions about the sign’s future.

## Russell Inn Year End Review

As promised, we want to share with you the business results by department for 2023 our fiscal year ended on April 27, 2024.

VLTs		Rooms			
Coin in	+14.35%	Revenue	+8.65%	Subway	+4.89%
Russell Inn Net	+21.33%	Sold	+2.36%	Tim Hortons	+24.78%
Kristie’s	+9.30%	ADR	+\$6.21	Stag + Raven	-28.61% - because Janice is away at School.
Restaurant	+9.19%	Jolly Lodger	-0.70%	Stone Haus	+22.72%
Banquets	+22.98%	ATMs	+10.45%	Cedar House	+132.5%
Pizza Hut	+13.54%	C-Store	+1.44%		
Wing Sales	+4.10%	Gas Volume	-3.51%		
F & B Combined	+11.61%	Beer Store	+9.25%		

Overall, pretty fantastic! Thank you Team Russell Inn ☺ Cheers to another great year ahead!

## Message From Daymon...

To our Grads - what a huge moment in your lives and in your parents lives! It’s exciting for the grads but emotional and heartbreaking for parents. We’re so proud of all of these students and appreciate all of them. We know them all, are very thankful that they worked for us and are also very proud of them at the community level. We wish them all a wonderful graduation and an incredible next year in whatever path they choose.

Year-end numbers are included in this issue. As you can see, the year was fantastic! Last year’s newsletter compared year-end numbers from 2023/22 to 2019 because 2019 was our most normal year since COVID. THOSE numbers were all fantastic. Now we compare last year’s numbers to the 2023/22 numbers and we see incredible increases on top of that. That is remarkable considering we are a mature business. It is your hard work that gets these numbers. Be very proud of that! I am certainly very proud and thankful.

I am really pleased with response to Subway renovations and very pleased that the serious potholes at the Tim Hortons drive thru entrance and window are fixed, with the “troll” bridge (lol) being removed last week. The little bit of concrete used for this repair cost \$10 000!

Here’s looking forward to a great summer! DG