

Waterford's Growing Business Community Is Great For Boaters

by **Pete Bardunias**

Senior Vice President, Membership and Community Advancement, Capital Region Chamber



These delicious brownies and more awaited the guests who came to Ze Cuisine & Café for their ribbon cutting ceremony. Everything made in house by owner Zineb Lefrouji.

A few weeks ago, representatives of the Capital Region Chamber and its Chamber of Southern Saratoga County affiliate joined Waterford Mayor J. Bert Mahoney, Deputy Town Supervisor Laurie Marble, Town Clerk Mary Shannon Carrigan, Harbormaster Jeff Cleary, State Senator Daphne Jordan and Assemblyman John McDonald for a walk down Broad Street, celebrating three new grand openings in the Village and one milestone anniversary for a local business. There is much to be excited about, and for boaters to look forward to as they plan their upstate voyages this summer. It is a good idea to allow for an extra day in Waterford to experience the scenery, history, and community!

The Village of Waterford has a new home – a dedicated building located at 73 Broad Street. The village hall will make it easier for residents and transients alike to learn more about the available services, as well as the history of America's oldest continuously-incorporated village, established in 1794. "Mayor Bert" cut the ribbon accompanied by the various dignitaries and many well-wishers from the community.

The group then walked over to Irresistible Nutrition (53 Broad Street, (518) 326-3008) to help owners Timmy VanSleet and fiancée Candace celebrate their official opening. The couple purchased the store during the winter and made many improvements, and they will offer tasty, nutritious smoothies and juices plus other healthy treats to guests throughout the year. Several generations of the VanSleet family were on hand to greet the delegation, including Tom's Mom Diana who owns Unbeatable Nutrition in Troy, plus other relatives.

Before cutting the final ribbon of the day, the group stopped in to see Rich Bronk at Port of Call Consignments (57 Broad Street, (518) 874-1643, portofcallconsignments.com), which celebrated 10 years in business in 2021 but missed out on a celebration due to the ongoing COVID crisis. Rich has been featured on these pages in past years, as his business features many used items

of interest to boaters, such as fishing rods, reels, lures, tackle boxes, used tools, and since we boaters love to play with toys, lots of things for our winter pursuits such as Lionel trains, bar lights, clothing, vinyl records, even lobster pots! Please make it a point to stop in and see Rich when you visit Waterford – its well worth the time to stop in and browse this store. And tell him that Pete sent you!!!

Finally, the morning's proceedings ended with a really exciting and energized ribbon cutting at Ze Cuisine & Café (49 Broad Street, (518) 326-2476, zecuisineandcafe.com). This small but special café offers full breakfast, wraps and bowls plus Gyros, kebabs, burgers, and some amazing specials especially their seafood entrees. Senator Jordan made sure everyone present knew the correct pronunciation of Gyro: It is not pronounced "gyro" as in gyroscope, but rather "hero" (with a tiny bit of "g" sound at the beginning sneaking in there). So now you know where the hero sandwich came from! It's a Greek and Mediterranean term, for those interested in the origin of the word. But by any name, the food is absolutely delicious! Owners Fouad Harajim and wife Zineb hail from Morocco, and "Ze", as she is nicknamed, bakes all the desserts herself. So don't miss out on this special place to eat, one of the more interesting ones you will find on your upstate boating excursion.

There's a lot more to see and do in Waterford, including other restaurants, a few other small stores, and of course the old Champlain Canal trail or a chance to observe the mighty Lock E-2 in action as it brings boaters into the Waterford Flight at the beginning of their Erie Canal journey. There are also special events, including the Canal Festival (May 21-22, 2022 by the Village in partnership with the Capital Region Chamber), and the July 4 celebration and Waterford Tugboat Roundup (September 9-11, 2022) presented by the Town of Waterford.

All ribbon cuttings of the Capital Region Chamber and its affiliates are sponsored by the Saratoga National Bank and Trust Company. For more information on Capital Region attractions and businesses on land and sea, visit capitalregionchamber.com.



above: The very moment the ribbon was cut inside Irresistible Nutrition. Owner Timmy VanSleet and his fiancée Candace were all smiles, as state Senator Daphne Jordan (front left), Assemblyman John McDonald, Deputy Mayor Russ Vandervoort, the author (green hat) and Deputy Town Supervisor Laurie Marble looked on. Also present were Chamber volunteer Ambassadors, and Chris Curtis, site manager of Momentive Performance Materials (www.momentive.com) and several generations of the VanSleet family.

below: The neon bar lighting made the photo a bit bright, but the gang stopped in to see Rich Bronk at Port of Call Consignments. Chamber volunteer Ambassadors John Lofrumento and Alan Baker (3rd, second from right) were accompanied by the author, Senator Jordan and Momentive Site Manager Curtis. Also on hand was "honorary Ambassador" Darlene McGraw, a local transportation advocate for the disabled and otherwise impaired, who made the way down from her home in Halfmoon on a specially designed tricycle for the occasion.

