



HOTEL GUEST MENU

Tuesday - Sunday 9 Am to 1 Pm Closed Mondays



Please be so kind
as to review the Inn &
Café separately

Please choose one breakfast item or two sides, plus a small beverage (large beverage, add \$2)

TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST

Chase's Breakfast

One egg any style, hash browns, choice of 2 bacon, ½ ham or 2 sausage patties, choice of bread

EGGS BENEDICT

Edie Rae's Bene

Two poached eggs, fresh biscuit, back bacon, Hollandaise, hash browns

BREAKFAST SANDWICH

BOMB Squad Sandwich

Fresh biscuit, fried egg, cheese, choice of bacon, ham or sausage patty, hash browns

PANCAKES & FRENCH TOAST

Kelly's Cakes

Two large buttermilk pancakes, syrup, butter

Lil Leo's Cakes

Four small buttermilk pancakes, syrup, butter

Kelsey's French Toast

Two Texas toast dipped in cinnamon egg mix, syrup, butter

Carla's French Toast

One Texas toast dipped in cinnamon egg mix, syrup, butter

SIDES

Toast, 2 slices (gluten-free available)

Hash browns

Tomatoes, fresh or grilled

Bacon, 3 strips

Ham, 2 slices

Sausage, 3 patties

Back bacon, 3 slices

One egg, any style

Biscuit

Thank You

BEVERAGES
JUICE • large or small
MILK • large or small
CHOCOLATE MILK
• large or small
COFFEE, TEA
HOT CHOCOLATE
w/ a dollop of whipped cream

Please feel free to choose your breakfast from our public menu at 50% discount

Gratuities are graciously accepted

LOVE IN THE TOWNSITE



In the fall of 1954 Edie Rae Olson was hired to work as a waitress at The Avenue shop in The Powell Stores on Ash and Walnut in The Townsite, just up from the mill. "It was definitely a step up from The Fiesta Grill on Marine Avenue where I had been working and it was a privilege to be able to work in such a beautiful setting. For its time, the mall had such variety; anything and everything was available."

It was there, at the lunch counter, that one day a tall, lean young Frenchman from Quebec came sauntering in for lunch. Leo Brosseau had left his hometown in Portage du Fort shortly after returning from service overseas. He arrived in Vancouver and there was so much work available then that people were literally pulling men by the arm to give them a job. Only a day or two later he started in the mill and even got promoted on his first day.

Living across the street from The Powell Stores in the Walnut Lodge that housed the single men, it was easy for Leo to go in for lunch. After a few lunches served by Edie Rae, Leo asked her out on a date. He would even walk her home from work, up the hill to Cranberry and down the hill to her home across from Lindsay Park on Cranberry Lake, where she shared the home with her parents and seven siblings.

They got engaged, and then married on February 24, 1956. That December their first child Yvonne Denise was born and the new family settled into a home in Mowat Bay. In May of 1958 Edie Rae gave birth to their first son, Dennis Raymond. Eight years later Raymond David was brought in to the world. In September of 1967, I was born and brought home from the hospital in The Townsite to the home they still live in, some 45-plus years later, on Drake and Nelson.

Over the years Leo became known throughout the community and the mill as the man who would fight for workers' rights pertaining to wage negotiations and safety standards. He founded the Commercial Hockey League, running it for over 10 years and spent a lot of volunteer hours helping out with minor baseball. Edie Rae worked as a waitress at The Marine Inn for almost 20 years before leaving due to her first bout of cancer when I was 12 in the summer of 1980. She had a hysterectomy, and a tumour the size of a grapefruit was removed. Once home to convalesce, Leo supported her every wish, even combing her hair that ultimately all fell out from the chemotherapy and radiation. I remember her wearing scarves and wigs, but then when her hair started growing back in she would wear her short hair as a badge of honour; a cancer survivor. Photos from their 25th wedding anniversary party show her beaming at the camera, so beautiful even as she fought to keep her spirits up.

Edie Rae fought cancer again in the spring of 1991 while I was studying in Montreal and had the top third of her left lung removed. Leo was always by her side, bringing her drinks and meals in bed when she was too tired to get up. He is a loud, gregarious character in Powell River, and he is calm and loving when it comes to looking after her. He even fought and won a battle with bowel cancer, himself, in 2004, and then it was Edie Rae's turn to do the coddling and supporting. In all my years, I have never heard my parents fight or use cross words with each other. They tease each other, but they still look at each other with teenage puppy dog eyes.

Almost 60 years has passed since they met and now my partner Kelly Belanger and I own and live in The Old Courthouse Inn right next to The Powell Stores. On November 1, 2012 we opened Edie Rae's Café in her honour. The enlarged swimsuit photos taken at Mahood's and Palm beaches by local photographer Frank Dixon hang as homage to my beautiful mother. It was a complete surprise to her and the video on Edie Rae's Café

Facebook page says it all. She cried, Leo's eyes welled up as did mine, and still do, every time I watch it. She is so modest and humble and newcomers to the café who might not know of her think the young woman in the photos must have been a model or a movie star. "No, she is my mother, a local girl born and raised in Cranberry and Riverside," I tell them, "But with a name like Edie Rae Olson, and looking like that, she could have been." Movie studios paid people to come up with catchy names like that.

Looking out the kitchen window of the inn each day at the old Powell Stores building and thinking of Mom going in to work in her freshly laundered and starched, white uniform or Dad crossing the street excitedly, knowing Edie Rae will be there with fresh coffee and the soup of the day makes my heart soar.

Two weeks after we opened the café we found out Edie Rae has cancer again. She had a kidney removed on January 29 in Comox at St Joseph's hospital. My sister Yvonne and I were be there to support her and Leo held down the fort at home, awaiting our arrival back in Cranberry to pick up the torch to pamper and nurse his wife following her operation.

My parent's story is not unlike that of many others who have met, married, raised a family, worked hard and had to overcome illness and tragedy, but their story is special to me because they are my parents and I think they did an amazing job raising four kids who went on to do very different things with their lives, but were made aware early on to treat others with kindness and respect and if they did that, that would be offered back in return.

I appreciate my parent's love for each other and their community. I hope that someday Kelly and I can sit down and laugh like they do when reminiscing about their history together — stories never-ending — and a love to match.

Story by JP Brosseau, First Date by Brad Colliins

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT EDIE RAE...

It's hard to write in words the feelings and emotions tied to the relationship between my Mom and me. She was my best friend and confidant through all my ups and downs and sideways mistakes that I made over and over again until I learned and tried a new path. In my heart she is never far away.

She was so loving and caring to others and strangers intrigued her — she always said that everyone had a story and even a new employee could teach the boss a thing or two....

Edie Rae never lived outside of Powell River, but she soulfully soaked up her extensive travels around most of North America and drew from outside of Powell River to shape her mind and opinions in her life here in town. Her varied jobs: paper girl, bowling pin setter, telephone operator, waitress and store owner polished her people skills and she definitely had the gift of the gab.

She and I would garage sale, when I was a youngster, then sell our polished up items on red silk sheets for 4 times the price to make spending money. We were always in conversation with buyers and sellers alike. Surviving four counts and 35+ years of cancer enabled Edie Rae to live her life without judgement, hatred or callousness.

She was an avid curler in her day and became a swimming, multi-medal winner in the BC Senior Olympics in her later years. She loved Bingo, her pets, playing Scrabble and *The Young & The Restless*. Her favourite drink was Gin & Tonic; she enjoyed watching tennis — "Go Nadal" and her favourite singers were Neil Diamond, Tom Jones and Koko Taylor.

On the walls are photos taken at local beaches and in her family home by Frank Dixon, a mill-worker and avid photographer, a few months before her 15th birthday in July 1953. Edie Rae Olson was working in The Powell Stores, next to The Old



Courthouse Inn, as a waitress at the lunch counter, when he approached her to model for him.

Literally, she was a tomboy, not aware of her timeless Hollywood glamour. The photoshoot was done and the photos were put in a box.

A year later, my Dad, Leo Brosseau, moved to town, living across the street from The Powell Stores in the Walnut Lodge and working in the mill. He would go to the lunch counter often and that is where he met Edie Rae, his waitress, nervously telling the suave French man the daily special. He was five years older, but she knew he was a keeper.

They married in 1956, had four children: Yvonne, Dennis, Raymond and (JP) Jean-Paul, and lived in the same home at 5702 Nelson Avenue in Cranberry for almost 50 years.

Edie Rae passed away on St Patrick's Day, 2015, while Canadian music legend Burton Cummings

played a concert at The Evergreen Theatre through the woods at The PR Recreation Complex, his first here in over 30 years. I'd like to think he serenaded her to the next adventure; her energy whisking high over the coastal mountains to some point beyond our realm of understanding yet. Her signature drink (Gin & Tonic) is part of the café's signature drink — The Connie Sour — but with lime sorbet with fresh basil pureed into it, making it green; thus we will drink it every St Patrick's Day in her honour, and gladly so!

The café Kelly and I created in her honour was enjoyed immensely by her when her health was good — we definitely had memorable parties! For the first year or so Edie Rae's eyes would well up as she'd enter and everyone would clap, until she got used to being a local icon, smiling graciously while chatting to strangers like old friends.

Now, she has touched thousands of people all over the world, via the café and the inn, and the internet is filled with many experiences and stories.

Even with her passing, her images, the ambiance of the café and the amazing food will continue to allow people to relax, either reminiscing about "the olden days" of their youth or get younger people to feel a glimpse of a bygone era. Their stories about Edie Rae and the café will be told. I believe the best are yet to be written.

Edie Rae's and Leo's First date By Brad Collins, Story By JP Brosseau