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\$5.5 million Cambridge Mill



\$5.5 million Cambridge Mill. A two-storey solarium will be one of the restaurant's highlights.
Lauren Gilhula, Special to the Times
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With a \$5.5-million renovating project on the go, and 15 weddings already booked before the restaurant has opened, owners of the Cambridge Mill are confident in their formula for success.

"We don't market," said Leanne Ciancone, part owner and manager of the Cambridge Mill.

"Our marketing is word-of-mouth."

Scheduled to reopen next spring, guests will notice a tremendous number of changes to the former Riverbank Mill Restaurant.

Unlike the past, all four floors will be used for dining and special events.

The first floor, formerly used for storage, will have the bricked-over windows reopened, using materials similar to aquariums to provide protection against floods. It will seat 85 people for special events.

The second floor will be the main restaurant and will seat 140 people, including a solarium and outdoor patio.

The original solarium will be extended over the river for an ultimate view and will be two floors.

The patio will seat 100 people and will have a retractable canopy, so guests can enjoy it regardless of weather.

The third floor will be another special events room and will seat up to 180 people, with private access to the third floor solarium.

The fourth floor will be smaller and used for more intimate parties. Seating will be anywhere from 14 to 24 people.

Two windows on the top floor facing the river will be reopened and a small balcony will be constructed.

The special event rooms will be named after Cambridge's three communities: Galt, Hespeler and Preston.

"We're trying to use the different names of the communities because we think of the mill as being an important location for Cambridge, so we're trying to keep in that community feel as well," said Ciancone.

Along with the upgrades, guests can also enjoy the open glass structure on the Parkhill Road side, which will feature a full-glass staircase and elevator.

Changes for the outside landscaping will prove to be significantly different as well.

"They're bringing river water in front of the entrance. So there'll be a cobblestone driveway and there'll be a river that runs in front of the mill with a stone bridge that guests will cross to get to the stone stairs to get to the entrance of the restaurant," said Ciancone.

The Ciancone's are also the owners of the Ancaster Mill, Spencer's on the Waterfront in Burlington and the old post office in downtown Galt, which will be their next project after the Cambridge Mill.

"As a group, we're very excited to come to Cambridge and we've had a lot of great support, from the councillors, to the mayors, to the community itself, and we're looking forward to our opening," said Ciancone.

The Cambridge Mill is set to open in April of 2011.

For more information, visit www.cambridgemill.com.

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