



Phyllis Bedard, center, gets ready for the evening crowd at Trattoria Simpatico with staff members Mike Jacquard and Heather Dimon. Photo by Erin Brown

Join the family at the Trattoria

By Erin Brown

With elegant twinkling lights, graceful green canopies, and artistic wooden latticework, the Trattoria Simpatico is a tempting destination to all who pass by—whether long time patrons or new arrivals.

When Phyllis Bedard started the Trattoria 15 years ago, she said she was trying to make the restaurant a place that represented all the things she valued, and to present her guests with an atmosphere that made them feel “warm and united.” So she took the word *Trattoria*, which is a term for a small family restaurant, and combined it with *Simpatico*, meaning harmony or like-mindedness.

According to Bedard, the Trattoria was started for one reason, and that reason was, as she laughingly put it, “Necessity!” She explained that she didn’t have a lot of money when she started, but that she wanted to make “something attractive out of nothing.” She said the building, in its pre-Trattoria days, had been home to a real state office, among other things.

Bedard has a history in the field of human services, and has tried to incorporate those skills into a goal of the Trattoria. She said that she didn’t think of the people who ate at her restaurant as just customers. “They are guests in my home, and that’s what I want them to feel

like.”

Bedard pointed out that the Trattoria has a bit of a European flavor in its attitude and décor, and especially in the relaxed sit-down mentality encouraged and fostered at the restaurant. The live music played there four nights a week may lend itself to this image. The establishment also has a reputation for romance. “Oh, we have people get engaged here all the time,” Bedard said.

Bedard has also gained many kinds of “families” through running her business. First of all, there is her staff, which Bedard refers to as “just one big family.” She mentioned that many of her staff had been with her for years, saying that overall she didn’t really have much of a turnover in this area.

Bedard confided that it took her and her “incredible staff,” many hours of hard work to keep the restaurant on its toes. She said that while in the winter her “staff family” numbered at about 32 people, in the summer she expanded to anywhere between 75 and 80 employees, including eight cooks at one time. Bedard admitted that this was a bit of a change from when she first started out, when the restaurant only seated thirty people.

“The other family” is how Bedard refers to her guests, especially the summer crowd that descends on Jamestown each year. Over and

over, Bedard emphasized it’s all about the guests. She expressed that she wanted the Trattoria to be somewhere that people considered somewhat upscale, but still friendly.

Describing the workings of the restaurant, especially those involving the guests themselves, Bedard calls it a symphony. She explained that to her staff, the music starts the minute a guest walks through the door, and must be conducted down to every minute detail throughout a guest’s visit.

As a continuation of their reputation for service and caring, Trattoria Simpatico supports many charities throughout the year. Among them are the Jamestown Fire Department and the Make A Wish foundation.

The Trattoria has also slowly expanded in the last five years, branching into a fully licensed catering service, serving their extended guests for a variety of occasions. They happily serve for weddings, birthdays, and parties in general.

Trattoria Simpatico is open seven days a week, starting with lunch at noon, and serving dinner until 10 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, but staying open till 11 p.m. from Thursday to Saturday, as well as on holidays.

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Wind

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maximum number of turbines that could fit on each site. Beavertail, which emerged as one of the top three sites, might be large enough to accommodate up to five turbines, according to the consultant. Although Taylor Point and Fort Getty have significantly less acreage, they were also listed as top sites eligible for further evaluation.

A distinct difference in production was evident with more turbines. “The initial output of money is enormous, but it is much more economical,” Mendelsohn said. “You start putting back into the grid much more quickly, and you’re able to generate a profit more easily.”

Mendelsohn brought up questions that residents typically ask concerning wind turbine development. Considerations are whether the project would have economic, visual or green benefit. Most people think about developing an economic method that would outweigh the inconvenience of installing the structures. “Unfortunately green is last,” he added.

Committee member William Smith suggested that reduced taxes might be a result, adding strength to the argument of economic impact.

Mendelsohn said the tables and maps offered a coordinated approach to selection of the final three sites to choose for detailed analysis in the wind energy feasibility study.

The preliminary documents showed itemized limitations of the six sites eliminated from the list.

Fox Hill Farm and Dutch Island were restricted as conservation areas set aside for wildlife habitat. Fort Wetherill, Battery Lane and the school grounds, all limited in space, threatened shadow flicker that would fall on populated areas. Watershed farms, as well as Fox Hill Farm had deeds that restricted development.

The committee agreed that shadows created from turbines would be a heavily-weighted factor. Beavertail appeared to have the least flicker impact.

An additional cost consideration would be connection lines to the public electrical grid. “We are looking for proximity to transmission lines,” Mendelsohn explained. As detailed on the data sheet, Battery Lane was two miles away from an inter-connect location. He called the site “a poor choice.”

Another concern for turbines might be long-range radar issues with the Federal Aviation Association, Department of Defense and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. “The three radar systems want to keep channels clear, and turbines can interfere,” the consultant warned.

Roads are also a problem, Mendelsohn reported. He suggested exploring more sites. “National Grid has a right of way across all roads,” he said.

After a general review of the available data, Mendelsohn said that Dutch Island was a remote area and would cause less interference than other sites. “If the state doesn’t mind, it may still be in the picture,” he added.

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