

business

Newhooks have big plans for Garden Patch Café

By PAUL DICKINSON

Lillooet News

Tracey and Sean Newhook sit comfortably around a large café table, with a cup of coffee and a glass of orange juice to quench their thirst.

The couple owns and operates the new Garden Patch Café, located at 824 Main St., which boasts “good coffee and healthy foods” for its customers.

Those foods currently include soups and muffins from scratch, cheesecake, bread baked in their own oven and freshly cooked roast beef for sandwiches, to name a few items. They’re also hoping to add milkshakes, quiches, pasta dishes, salads, and panini.

“We’re trying to get the flow going now,” they say, “and we’ll add to the menu bit by bit.”

Originally from Ontario, the Newhooks arrived in Lillooet from Burnaby in October of last year. Tracey says the couple was looking for a business opportunity while remaining within driving distance of the Lower Mainland – and Lillooet seemed like a perfect fit.

“When we first stepped into the town, we liked it automatically,” she says.

“It reminded us of home,” Sean adds.

After several months of renovations, the café was ready to be opened by May – but Sean says it took plenty of work to get the building ready to go.

The entire kitchen was re-done, and Sean removed the wallpaper that covered the walls. All counters were replaced, and new stoves, refrigerators, tables, and chairs were added and installed.

Another concern was ensuring everyone was welcome and comfortable in their café – the doorway is now wheelchair accessible, and they’ve installed a baby-changing station in the bathroom.

“We basically bought the shell,” says Tracey.

The furnishings that didn’t get used, Sean says, were



Sean and Tracey Newhook with their son, Mac.

donated to the Legion.

The couple says the café is essentially Tracey’s venture, while the newly-created Liquid Self art gallery is Sean’s.

Currently, Liquid Self is a few walls of the café, displaying artwork of all types from local artisans. However, Sean hopes to expand the business and move it to the small cabin located next to the café.

“There’s a lot of hidden talent here,” says Sean. As a current director of the Burnaby Arts Council, he says he’s planning to focus on Lillooet artists once his volunteer term is finished later this year.

And with the birth of their son, Mac, in January, the Newhooks hope to be here for a long time.

“This is a beautiful place to raise children,” Sean says. “It has everything we’re looking for.”



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