

# TASTES OF OUR TOWN

By Graziella Vander Baaren

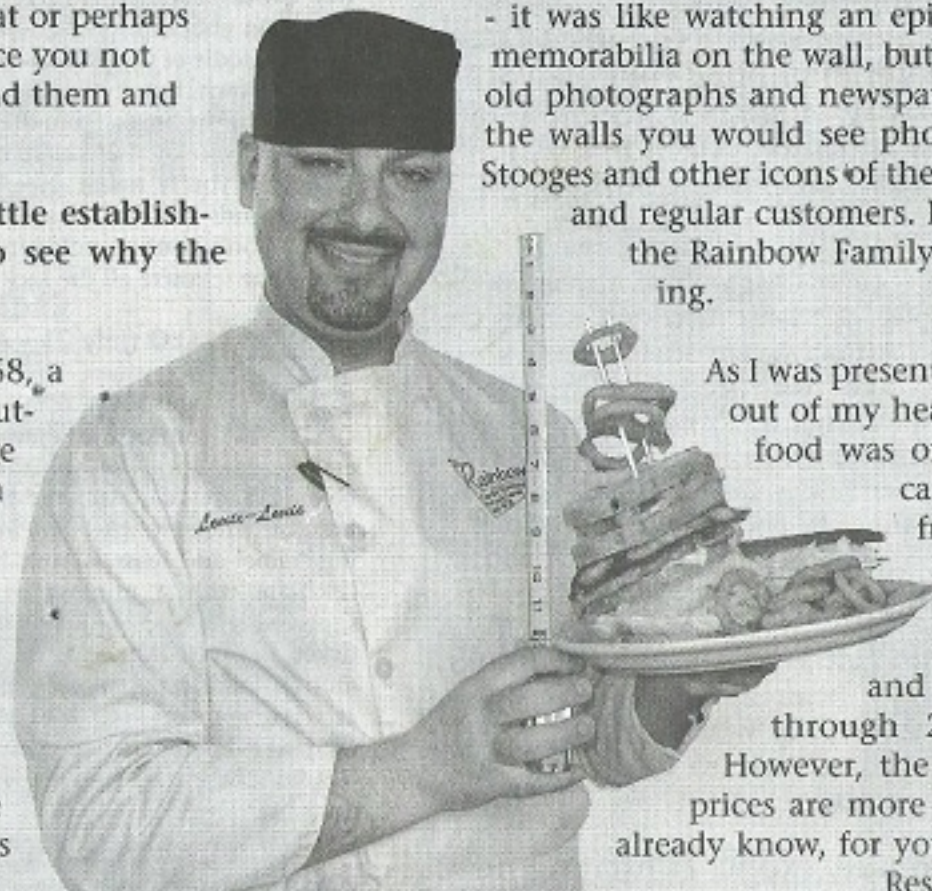
As part of our commitment in providing you with the 'happenings' around town and the best of what Oshawa has to offer, we felt it was essential to include a restaurant review. Each month we will try to uncover a new place to eat or perhaps rediscover an old favorite. We hope to introduce you not only to the restaurants but to the people behind them and how they fit in to our community.

I had been hearing quite a bit about this little establishment recently, so I decided it was time to see why the buzz...

Step back in time with me, if you will, to 1958, a time when people weren't glued to their computers or were so preoccupied to even acknowledge each other. It wouldn't be unusual to go into a shop or diner and know everyone on a first name basis. Well this is exactly how I felt when I stepped through the doors of the Rainbow Family Restaurant at 82 Simcoe St. N.

Now run by Louie Givelas, the Rainbow Family Restaurant has maintained the same atmosphere and service that you would have received when it was originally opened by his family almost 50 years ago. This community hub has seen regular clients over the years from fire and police services to GM employees; in fact, there is even a GMC Breakfast on the menu. And while breakfast is known to be an extremely popular time for this establishment, they cook up all kinds of comfort foods like mom used to make (before she became a working woman!) There are also daily specials that run on a weekly basis so Louie's clients can rely on coming in for their favorites on certain days of the week.

Louie only had a few minutes to sit and chat between the breakfast and



Louie with the infamous quadruple decker Tree house sandwich

lunch crowd, and while we did, I was amazed to see people walk in, say hello and just strike up a conversation with anyone. Everyone knew each other on a first name basis, both staff and other clients - it was like watching an episode of 'Cheers!' There was even memorabilia on the wall, but instead of sports items they were old photographs and newspaper clippings. If you were to scan the walls you would see photos of Marilyn, James Dean, the Stooges and other icons of the past, as well as photos of the staff and regular customers. Even the music and décor adds to the Rainbow Family Restaurant's 50's style diner feeling.

As I was presented with breakfast my eyes popped out of my head when I discovered that all that food was only \$5.99. Eight ounces of hand carved Peameal bacon, 3 eggs, home fries and toast - well there was no way anyone could walk away from that feeling hungry! It certainly gets you through the day, and maybe that's why Louie goes through 2500 to 3000 eggs per week. However, the menu is very extensive and the prices are more than reasonable, as many of you already know, for you have voted the Rainbow Family Restaurant as one of Oshawa's best places to "grab lunch." The Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce also honoured the restaurant with

'Business of the Month' for February.

It's nice to see places like this thrive in our franchise, chain store driven economy and be recognized for it. It is also evident how passionate Louie Givelas is about providing our community with a place like home, for it has been home to him all his life - since he was tall enough to stand at the sink and wash dishes.