

Press Release

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The Beech Tree Family Grows

It has been almost two years since the Beech Tree started cooking up scratch food in the charming Toronto neighborhood of Kingston Road Village. From the first few quiet nights in November of 2013, to a packed ice storm dinner party, to a perfect four stars in Canada's highest circulated newspaper, The Beech Tree has proven to be an unforgettable adventure for all involved.

Along with his dedicated staff, The Beech Tree's sole proprietor, Robert Maxwell has worked hard to ensure that his little bistro is everything he dreamt it would be: a place that defies expectations. It was a simple vision; to be a community hub of scratch made food; fine fare that provides a sense of occasion without the pretense.

Since opening, the Beech Tree has received accolades and praise from top critics to local foodies. Amy Pataki of the Toronto Star wrote, "*The Beech Tree is an astonishing place, a neighbourhood gastropub with a seemingly limitless ability to delight eaters and drinkers.*" The late Steve Davey of NOW magazine quipped, "*those who value substance over surface flash are bound to be impressed by the Beech Tree.*" The Huffington Post rated the Beech Tree as one of the best new restaurants in 2014. BlogTO deemed it one of the most romantic dining rooms in the city and Thrillist Magazine proclaimed them to have the best 'under the radar' burger in Toronto.

Before owning the Beech Tree, Robert Maxwell worked in broadcasting. He left that world to pursue his dream of running a restaurant. Now, after two years, that world is calling him back – the CBC has made an offer. The opportunity to work for Canada's national public broadcaster is too good to pass up. The Beech Tree however will live on with a new partnership being announced today.

Matthew Stone and Helder Cabral, owners of the Stone Pizza are joining forces with Robert Maxwell and The Beech Tree. This partnership will enhance both community eateries. Helder and Matthew will take the reins of the Beech Tree's operations to allow Robert his first steps back into the broadcasting industry. This is not to say that Robert has ridden off into the sunset, as his influence and oversight will remain strong, especially with the regard to the kitchen. The Beech Tree's menu will continue to provide the high quality, perfectly executed food and cocktails that the neighborhood has come to expect, along with new and exciting developments across the board. The Stone Pizza, over time, will get *the Beech Tree touch*: complimenting the already excellent pizzas coming out this plucky independent shop (rated one of the city's best slices by BlogTO).

It has been a glorious two years for the Beech Tree. Going forward in this new partnership, your friendly neighborhood bistro will continue to set the standard for excellent food and drink, while the Stone Pizza will continue to defy big corporate fast food with its unique homemade pies and the personal touch that only a true local can provide.

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