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NEW OWNERS TAKE THE HELM AT ICONIC HANK'S RESTAURANT IN BROOKLYN CONNECTICUT.

Brooklyn, CT – Hank's Restaurant, Brooklyn's iconic family establishment for over 50 years, embarks on an exciting new chapter with passionate new owners at the helm. Steering this historic business into the future are Matt and Amy St. Laurent, representing the next generation of forward-looking local entrepreneurs.

Roland and Lyn LaCharite, the dynamic second-generation proprietors, assumed the reins of this cherished establishment in 1982. Stepping into the footsteps of Lyn's esteemed parents, Hank and Alice Comtois, they embraced the legacy while infusing their unique vision and dedication into the heart of the business. While Lyn has managed the front of the house and engaged in community activities, Roland, is truly the unsung hero. Roland has been the backbone behind the scenes, diligently trained by Alice and carrying forth her recipes, while also managing the kitchen. Over their tenure, Roland and Lyn have skillfully honored tradition while evolving the restaurant, ensuring its place as a favorite cornerstone of the community.

Hank's Restaurant carries a rich history. Prior to the establishment of Hank's, the Comtois family owned Times Square in Danielson from 1960 to 1968 and The Meadow Steak House in South Killingly from 1968 to 1970. In 1971 Hank and Alice, the determined duo, transformed the existing lounge (Twin B's) into Hank's Restaurant, initially a local hot spot bar offering a modest menu. Hank, a fixture behind the bar, and Alice, showcasing her culinary prowess in the kitchen, along with a humble staff, laid the foundation for what would become an adored establishment. The 1970s marked the era of the 'Hanky Panky Room,' resonating with a local, casual charm complete with shuffleboard and an inviting atmosphere. As Hank's popularity surged, expansions and enhancements transformed the landscape, elevating the lounge area, expanding the kitchen, and introducing two additional dining rooms. Not only were they known for the best fish and chips around, but Hank's fostered a vibrant community spirit not to be outdone by their very competitive bowling team.

Today, Hank's Restaurant is thriving, a testament to its unwavering presence in the hearts of locals and visitors alike. Through the years Hank's has had the distinct pleasure of hosting an array of joyous occasions like baby showers, bridal showers, wedding rehearsals, anniversaries, and birthdays, spreading happiness in every celebration hosted within its walls. Moreover,

Hank's has been a place of solace, honoring the lives of esteemed community members through heartfelt funeral receptions. Throughout the years, Hank's commitment to distinction has not gone unnoticed, as they have been honored with a myriad of awards, affirming their dedication to exceptional service and quality. From accolades celebrating their talented bartenders, awards in categories such as the best family restaurant, to recognition for their delectable pizza, enticing kids' menu, and succulent prime rib, these accolades stand as a testament to the ongoing commitment of excellence that Hank's continues to uphold.

As the baton of stewardship passes on, Hank's Restaurant embraces a new chapter under the ownership of Matt and Amy. Lyn, a lifelong resident of Northeast Connecticut, has been a steadfast pillar in the community, investing her time and expertise in various organizations including the Board of Finance, the Board of Economic Development, and as a founding member of the Brooklyn Business Association. Building upon this profound dedication to community service, Matt and Amy, the new proprietors, share a fervent promise to preserving and furthering these deep-rooted connections. Mirroring Lyn's admirable involvement, they aspire to immerse themselves in local organizations, fostering meaningful partnerships and actively contributing to the betterment of our vibrant community. Their vision aligns seamlessly with the community engagement that Hank's has proudly upheld throughout its storied history, promising a continued pledge to the growth and prosperity of our treasured neighborhood.

Matt and Amy's journey intertwines deeply with the fabric of Hank's Restaurant, marking the very place where their story began back in 2001. Fate drew them together within Hank's walls - Matt in the kitchen, while Amy, for over 20 years, has charmed patrons from behind the bar. It was here, within these familiar surroundings, that their romance blossomed, culminating in their first date at Hank's. Fast forward 22 years, with 15 of those spent in a beautiful marriage, their shared history resonates not only within these restaurant walls but also in their joint pursuit of local entrepreneurship. Matt brings his expertise as the owner of Eastern CT Home Improvement, while Amy flourishes in her role as a realtor with Byrnes Real Estate Group. Their commitment to their craft and community is palpable, and as parents to their daughter Jordyn, a senior at Woodstock Academy, their deep ties to the local area continue to flourish, underlining their dedication to the prosperity of the region they proudly call home.

As Matt and Amy begin on their ownership journey, planned for January 31st, they enter with a profound respect for Hank's legacy. Committed to preserving the essence of what makes Hank's a beloved establishment, Lyn and Roland will remain integral to ensuring a seamless transition. Amy affirms, 'Our goal is to maintain the solid foundation that defines Hank's. We aim for a transition so smooth that unless you're familiar with us personally, you won't notice a change at all.' Matt and Amy feel honored to continue the legacy that Hank, Alice, Lyn, and Roland have devoted their entire lives to. 'We have had the privilege of calling them our family for the past 23 years. The loyal staff and customers have made us feel so loved and supported during this transition and that has made this process that much easier.' At the heart of Hank's lies its dedicated staff. Matt and Amy's pledge to retain the entire staff stands as a testament to their appreciation for their team's excellence. Upholding tradition, they intend to preserve the menu and continue sourcing from trusted local suppliers, believing that the business is thriving in its current form. While their impact will be subtle, they envision reintroducing live music, offering a

late-night 'Hanky Panky Room' menu, and exploring the addition of enticing new specials, infusing the establishment with their own unique touch while honoring its timeless appeal.

As Lyn and Roland embrace their well-deserved retirement, their plans are centered around the joys of family. With a desire to relish precious moments alongside their daughter Stephanie, son-in-law Stephen, and granddaughter Brooklyn. Lyn values the unwavering support of true friends who have long been part of the Hank's family, gathering week after week to share laughter and support. Yet, the prospect of a more flexible lifestyle beckons, one free from the demands of the restaurant. Their retirement opens doors to travel adventures with friends, allowing them the liberty to explore and create new memories. Following the transition, Lyn and Roland will finally enjoy a well-earned break from the demanding industry that has been their life's work. 'Retirement is bittersweet when your job has been your whole life.' said Lynn. 'We are grateful to leave the Hanks legacy in very capable hands with the St Laurent Family. Hanks has been our family all these years. For almost 53 years, our employees, patrons, vendors, friends and family have supported us through this journey. Thank you to Amy and Matt for continuing our family's tradition, I'm sure Hank and Alice are very proud of all of us.'