

The King's Landing Bar & Grill Stouffville

BY ALISON
SCOWCROFT



I recently sat down with Justin Shim, the owner of King's Landing in Stouffville, a favourite spot for many Ballantrae residents. After spending time with Justin, it was apparent to me that his passion and enthusiasm for food, his employees, his parents and his business acumen in general were all responsible for making it such a special place.

Surprisingly, Justin has a finance background and a commerce degree from McMaster. He was geared up for a career in finance, and he did in fact work for some of the larger institutions, but then life got in the way. While a student at McMaster, he took a job at a restaurant to make spending money. He has worked and managed a variety of restaurants throughout his career, including Ontario's busiest Pizza Pizza located at Canada's Wonderland (when he was still a student),

as well as Jack Astor's and Canyon Creek. He also has had experience opening restaurants in BC for SIR Corporation. He got hooked on the food business and realized that working for a financial giant was not challenging enough. After some soul searching and with support and encouragement from his parents, he opened King's Landing.

Justin has always had a great love of food. He loved being in the kitchen with his mom and continues to enjoy trying different foods and flavours. Everything at King's Landing is made in-house—the burgers, sauces, breads and pizza are all freshly made.

An interesting starter, "Seoul" Poutine combines Justin's Korean background with a Canadian staple and incorporates ribeye, kimchi, cheese curds, spicy mayo, Korean barbecue and fresh cut fries. On a recent outing for dinner, I ordered the Buffalo Chicken Wrap, a delightful combination of crispy chicken, smoky bacon and ranch dressing. The menu includes a selection to satisfy everyone's cravings: burgers, wings, sandwiches, wraps, pizza and a whole lot more. Justin also offers entree specials on Friday and Saturday nights. Beyond the specials, there are daily deals: Mondays, select appetizers and domestic draft cost \$5; Tuesdays, wings are half price; Wednesdays, a pint of domestic draft, a pound of wings and fries cost \$14; Thursdays, stone-baked medium pizza and a pitcher of beer cost \$25; Monday to Friday happy hour includes mixed drinks and domestic bottle beer for \$4.

The chef, Rob Salviato, has had a long career in the restaurant industry and he and Justin have known each other and worked together for years. They collaborate on creating and tasting different dishes and come up with new ideas for the menu, which they update twice a year.

Justin recently opened a second franchised location in Hamilton, the city where his culinary career began.

THE KING'S LANDING

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HOURS OF BUSINESS

Monday to Wednesday: 11:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.,
Thursday to Saturday: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Sunday: 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.