

*Wishing Our Competitor Great Success in Manchester, UK!*

## **Mackenzie Ferguson, Rôtisseur – International Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs Competition 2016**



Mackenzie Ferguson.

Imagine entering a room and being presented with a mystery basket containing seasonal ingredients, sometimes ones you have never seen before. You are then asked to compose and execute a three-course menu (first course, main course, and dessert) for four people using all of these ingredients, as well as drawing on a variety of staples from a pantry. Your written menu must be completed within the first half-hour, and then three and a half hours are allowed for preparation, after which the finished dishes are presented to be judged in fifteen minute intervals. It is an extremely challenging competition.

On September 30, 2016, in conjunction with the Grand Chapitre of the Bailliage of Great Britain, our own Mackenzie Ferguson will be in Manchester to meet that challenge at the 40th

Concours International des Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs, competing against entrants from as many as 20 other countries. Mackenzie has been practicing long and hard at the St. Charles Golf & Country Club in Winnipeg, working under the guidance of Executive Chef Takashi Murakami, C.M., Conseiller Culinaire. At the 2015 Canadian National Competition, Mackenzie was also recognized for having the highest kitchen score and received the Chef Paul Mastalir Award for Kitchen Excellence along with a Wüsthof Knife attaché set.

Competitors from Bailliages around the world will meet to experience a week of educational culinary experiences, as well as to take part in the 2016 competition. The participants will compete to win a five-week culinary course at le Cordon Bleu, Wüsthof chefs' knives, a Valrhona learning experience, and a La Cornue rotissoire.

### **Mackenzie Ferguson, from St. Charles Golf & Country Club in Winnipeg, MB**

A graduate of Kildonan East Collegiate in Winnipeg with a dual diploma in Culinary Arts and Biology, Mackenzie attended Red River College and completed the Cooks Level Two Apprenticeship course in 2011. He achieved his Red Seal in 2012. During those years, Mackenzie was busy entering competitions, leading off with a bronze in Skills Manitoba in

2008. He followed that up with gold medals in the Culinary Arts Salon Competition and at Skills Manitoba in 2009; and a bronze at Skills Canada in the same year. Mackenzie earned the right to compete at the Canadian National Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseurs competition in both 2014 and 2015 by winning the local Manitoba regional competition in both those years, emerging victorious at the national level this year.

His professional experience has been no less varied in his short career to date. Mackenzie currently serves as Dining Room Chef at the St. Charles Golf & Country Club in Winnipeg, working under the guidance of Executive Chef Takashi Murakami. Mackenzie previously held the position of Line Supervisor at the Pine Ridge Golf Club in Winnipeg from 2009 to 2012 while also serving as Garde Manger Cook at the Winnipeg Convention Centre from 2007 to 2012. He started off as Line Cook at Gaffers Restaurant in Lockport Manitoba during the summer of 2008.

Following the competition, he was quick to attribute his success to this broad experience, honed by his opportunity to work under the guidance of Chef Murakami: "Having already participated in the national competition last year, I knew what I had to do to better prepare myself for 2015. Chef Murakami's advice and guidance were invaluable in achieving my goal. Our on-going practice runs

with a variety of black boxes and day to day experience at the Course prepared me for almost any eventuality when I first saw the black box that morning.” Mackenzie also went on to comment on the latest competition and national meeting, “The competition itself isn’t just a great opportunity to try to stretch your culinary skills,

it’s also a great opportunity to meet a wide range of outstanding culinary professionals and my fellow competitors. I look very forward to training for/and representing Canada in the upcoming Internationals next fall.”



Mackenzie as the action heats up at the Canadian Nationals.



Mackenzie puts the finishing touches to his appetizer.



Slicing the pork loin.



Mackenzie (far right) awaits the judges' comments along with his six fellow competitors.

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