

Hello from TableTalk in Port Hope and Garden Retreat in Cobourg...

This week was Ground Hog Day and although the first part of the week was warm and sunny, it is bone-chilling cold outside today so the ground hog might be right with the prediction of 6 more weeks of winter. That can only mean good news at TableTalk as we are having several great events to get us through the last of the winter doldrums. The first event starts tomorrow (Feb. 7th) and it is...

The Great Winter White Sale:

Maxwell and Williams is on SALE... for one week only at 25% OFF. If you print out this page of the newsletter and bring it in with you, you will receive an extra 5% off (email customers only). Maxwell and Williams is a wonderful line of durable china with unique styling and functional uses. In addition to carrying a full line of dish sets, serving pieces, glass accent pieces, and accessories for the cook (salt/pepper grinders and mortar/pestle etc.) we have added their cookware with covered and open casseroles and square bakers in a charcoal black .. fabulous !! I invite you to come in and spruce up your own kitchen... if you don't already have white dishes, now is the time to make the leap. Food looks great served on white and it is very versatile to create a dressed-up or casual tablescape when paired with linens and stemware.

The second way to get through the long winter month of February is to join us for a cooking class. "Cabin Fever" (February 26th) might be just the thing.. an evening out sipping wine with comfort food. The menu for that night starts with a hearty Roasted Sun choke Soup over smoked trout and milkweed pods, followed by Panko Roasted Haddock; Scalloped potatoes with Chevre and Roasted Leeks; Sautéed Broccoli and Sweet Red Peppers with Toasted Almonds and to end the event, a Berry Cobbler with Chantilly Cream. Come out and join us.. we will end the winter in style !!!

If that night just doesn't fit into your schedule, please check out our classes for March.. We are offering a tribute to famous women chefs, a menu for the busy family, vegetarian and finally a taste of French bistro. The classes and descriptions of each can be found on the website www.shoptabletalk.com.

One Million Acts of Green:

This season, CBC and The Hour with George Stroumboulopoulos want to mobilize Canadians to do One Million Acts of Green. The idea behind the campaign is that one small act can make a big difference. It's not about overhauling your life; it's about one act from each individual amassing to a million. It can be as simple as switching to compact fluorescent lightbulbs, starting a recycling program, or walking to work. You can do one act – or you can do all one million! It's up to you. This week, in just 3 months, one million acts of green were realized, reducing over 59 tons of greenhouse gas in our planet. It has motivated us at TableTalk to add our act of green in the area of packaging. We are going to be using plastic bags made from recycled plastics and we will be offering re-useable shopping bags that can fold up and store in your purse or

pocket. Of course, if your purchase is a gift, we will still be offering gift-wrapping with tissue but you will now need to ask for that. If you are interested in One Million Acts of Green, google it or go to the CBC website ... it is really amazing what can happen when everyone pitches in to do one small thing.

TableTalk Recipe of the Month:

Pineapple Gems

This is one of my all time favorite muffin recipes. They don't keep well so enjoy them right out of the oven with butter and a drizzle of honey.

Temp: 350 degrees
Time: 20-25 minutes
Makes: 12-14 large muffins

½ cup butter or margarine (room temp)
2/3 cup white sugar
1 egg
2 cups all purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
½ tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp ground clove
1 cup crushed pineapple with juice

cream butter, sugar and egg until light
sift dry ingredients together
add to creamed mixture alternately with pineapple (begin and end with dry ingredients)
fill muffin cups and bake

I adjust the batter with extra pineapple/juice if I think it is too thick. Email me and let me know if you like this recipe as much as my family does...

Garden Retreat:

We are only open on Fridays and Saturdays until mid-March. We have spring and summer garden décor items in stock and of course the ever-popular Crabtree and Evelyn, scented candles and stationary available for any upcoming birthdays. For the Cobourg WinterFest Weekend, February 20/21, we will be having a 20% off sale storewide and a free gift with purchase over \$20. Join in the winter fun and dream of your spring garden !!!

Valentine's Day is next week and so we have great ideas at both stores that say "You are Special"... truffles, teas and hot chocolates, candles and home décor items, garden accessories, Canadian art and of course gift certificates/cards. I am working this weekend at TableTalk and will be happy to help you with classes, the Maxwell and Williams sale or to make you a great cappuccino if you are on-the-run ...

Nikki

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