

Step back in time

MARCH 17

To Start

CHICKEN RILLETTES

*Central Park Farms' chicken, pickled mustard seeds,
Golden Ears' brie, fig jam*

To Enjoy

TRUFFLE MUSHROOM SOUP

Wild and cultivated mushrooms, truffle brioche croutons

Entrée

SALMON AND BEET RISOTTO

*Wild salmon filet, roasted Cropthorne Farms'
beets, horseradish crème fraîche*

Dessert

SPRING CRÈME BRÛLÉE

Lavender, white chocolate

\$75 PER PERSON

taxes & gratuity not included



The Pretty Family

The Pretty Family saga comes with many twists and turns. Charles Nelson Pretty and Rowena Elizabeth Peters were married on October 10, 1917, and had four children — Charles Watson, Rowena Charlotte, James Ivan, and Elizabeth Anne (also known as Betty-Anne). While residing in Vancouver, they were presented with an opportunity to purchase a 160-acre parcel of land in Harrison Mills. When Charles and Rowena decided to build a home here, they travelled by train from Vancouver to Harrison Mills and paddled by canoe to their home on the river!

Charles Nelson Pretty was entrepreneurial. Originally, he had a Timber Brokerage business with his father, and continued operations for many years after his father passed away. To earn additional income, he decided to turn the property into a dairy farm and purchased extra land from the First Nations community across the river. He also developed a large silvertip fox farm where our luxury, rustic cottages are located today. Charles entered the logging industry and, at one time, it was the largest privately-owned logging company in B.C.

Charles balanced his life by spending time with family and friends. If Charles and Rowena weren't hosting friends, as Rowena was known for her amazing culinary abilities, they would spend time at sea. Charles designed a 52-foot pleasure yacht called the 'Voyageur III', and Charles and Rowena spent several fun-filled days travelling up the river with their children. Charles and Rowena also belonged to the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club where the family enjoyed many wonderful excursions.

CONSTRUCTING THE MANOR AND TRAGEDY

Since BC Hydro had not made its way out to the Fraser Valley, Charles built a dam to produce electricity. In fact, it is still in existence today. During the winter of 1947-1948, the barn and workshop caught fire. Sadly, the cattle died and the loss was devastating for the family. The only items saved, other than the root-house made of stone, were the dairy walk-in fridge and the freezer room. It was assumed that the cause was from leaving too many heaters on. Following this disastrous winter, was the famous flood of 1948, which, mercifully, avoided the Pretty property due to its sloped land.

The eldest daughter, Rowena Charlotte, was killed in a car accident in April of 1968. She left behind her husband, Christopher Michael Foster Lepine, and six children. Five months later, the eldest son, Charles Watson, passed away due to a massive heart attack, leaving behind his wife and two children. In less than six months, Charles and his wife Rowena lost two of their children!

After living a long and wonderful life, Charles passed away in 1992 at 102 years of age. The remaining two siblings, James Ivan and Betty-Anne, decided to open their doors and invite the public into their home by converting the manor into a boutique hotel. Having had so many beautiful memories at the estate, they wanted others to enjoy its beauty and tranquility. In 1995, their dream became a reality and they built an 18-hole golf course, known as Sandpiper Golf Course. In memory of their mother and sister, they named the boutique hotel, Rowena's Inn on the River. After Ivan passed away in 2001, Betty-Anne bought out Ivan's share, and was the sole owner until recently. She is the only remaining child of the Pretty Family and resides at Rowena's Inn today. You will often see Betty Anne welcoming guests, golfing, or dining at the Clubhouse Restaurant.