

The Silver Palm Restaurant Opens - North Caicos

A new restaurant has opened in time for the Christmas season, but this one's not on Providenciales. The Silver Palm, at Ocean Beach Hotel on North Caicos' spectacular north shore, celebrated its grand opening on Saturday night, December 11th. The new eatery is a delightful Caribbean creation, complete with surround, screened in porches, fancifully painted gingerbread wood detail and a host of coral reef colours. Owner and chef Karen Preikschat is a long time resident of the island. She and her chef Sherry Williams served up traditional steamed conch, ribs, chicken, and baked grouper at the gala opening. Of course, all these dishes were complemented by peas 'n rice, coleslaw and potato salad.

The ribbon cutting ceremony, wine and cheese cocktail hour and dinner were attended by a veritable Who's Who on North Caicos. The Chief Minister, Hon. Mike Misick had planned to attend his long time friend's party, but government duty called. He did send a warm congratulatory message which Timothy Gardiner read to the dinner crowd. Preikschat, who moved to her family's hotel when she was 16, has managed the Ocean Beach for almost 21 years. During that period she provided meals for her guests and residents alike, from a small kitchen on the second floor of her condominium. That translated into literally thousands of trips up and down the stairs to keep her diners happy. Needless to say, Silver Palm's state of the art res-

taurant kitchen and bar has transformed meal preparation for Karen and her crew.

Preikschat looked radiant at the opening, in an elegant cream two piece evening suit and silver heels. She said "I think I really surprised the staff - usually I'm dressed pretty casually." Service Manager Desryn Richmond, just shook her head and continued to get things done throughout the evening. The restaurant, accented with sun yellow, burnt orange, royal blue and forest green napkins, was packed with well wishers who have waited patiently for four years for the restaurant to open.

Ferrington Gardiner's wife Barbara helped Karen cut the ribbon to officially open the restaurant. Christy and Pat Forbes, Clifford and Susan Gardiner, Hudson Gardiner, Holton Williams, Philip Misick, John Gray, Emmanuel Gardiner, Charmaine Clark and Garnet Jolly were also among the partiers. Many of them helped build the Silver Palm and pulled the restaurant together in a frenzied dash to complete it in time for the party. Karen's father, Peter Preikschat; the developer/ builder of Ocean Beach, sent his daughter a wonderful tribute to her tenacity and ability and congratulations and thanks to all those who helped her complete the new building and its fine restaurant bar. The Silver Palm is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We recommend that you stop in and enjoy the friendly excellent service and great island style meals.



The Silver Palm restaurant exterior



Susan Gardiner, Karen Preikschat and Clifford Gardiner



Diners