

The Holiday Inn Waterloo proudly announces the addition of Chef Fonda Chronis as its new executive chef. Chef Fonda will be responsible for all culinary operations for the hotel.

Chef Fonda was literally born in the restaurant business. Both his father and grandfather owned restaurants, and although Chef is an accomplished talent, he credits the “bottom-up” training process of these familial elders for his culinary senses. Says Chef Fonda, “I scrubbed a lot of toilets by the time I was 12, but I also cooked hundreds of steaks!”

Chef worked diligently throughout his high school years in his father’s restaurant, and commuted as often as possible while in college. He dabbled in the world of politics in Washington, DC for a short period right after college but knew where his passion lied – in the culinary arts.

When he was 25 years old Chef Fonda returned to his hometown and purchased his father’s restaurant. Chef’s youth and enthusiasm re-energized the clientele and took the fledgling business to new levels of success. In fact his hard work and determination was rewarded in 2003 when he was named “Small Business Person of the Year” by the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce.

During his years as a restaurateur, Chef Fonda started a family. The pride of his life, son Reed, was born in 1998, and it changed the way Fonda looked at the world and his role in it. Chef realized that the riggers of restaurant ownership and the 100-hour work week interfered with his ability to be a good father, and in the fall of 2007 he decided to close his restaurant to spend better time with his son.

But with such a passion for food, Chef felt it vital to his persona to keep in the restaurant business. Before accepting the executive chef position at the Holiday Inn he spent a short stint at the upscale Aurora Inn, where he continued to hone his skills by working with some of the most creative culinary minds in the region. And at the beginning of this year, Chef Fonda officially took over the reins at the Holiday Inn.

Chef Fonda has a simple plan for the food at the Holiday Inn – bring elegance back to its banquets and enhance good, home style, “scratch” cooking in its restaurant. And he will not rest until this is accomplished.

Please join Chef Fonda at Our Heritage Café located at in the Holiday Inn Waterloo. He may be reached at the hotel at (315) 539-5011.