

Co-owners Steve and Yvonne Sullivan and David Powers, partners in Longfellows Hotel, Restaurant and Conference Center, have decided it's time for someone else to take their property to the next level.

The announcement was officially made today that Longfellows will be closing its doors on Saturday, January 21, 2023. "After over 50 years in hospitality, it's time to step back," said Steve Sullivan (Sully), co-owner of the 9.5 acre property. Steve continued, "A few weeks ago an offer was accepted from a group of investors/operators to purchase the Longfellows property. My hope is that Longfellows is in good hands, and I believe it is. Going forward, we plan to continue to own and operate the Olde Bryan Inn (OBI) for many years to come. I also look forward to time spent coaching those around me, as well as working on social service projects, some that I've already been involved in for many years."

Sully continued, "My partner was 56 years old when we opened this business and Yvonne and I were 40. We've spent over a third of our lives being good stewards to this property. Believe me, this has been the toughest decision I've ever had to make. It's been a great 26-year run. Now it's time for someone else to bring this wonderful property forward."

When they first purchased Longfellows Restaurant in May of 1997, the Sullivans and Mr. Powers recognized the former dairy barn to have 'great bones' that they hoped to simply embellish. In 1998 they built the Longfellows Hotel, which added 18 rooms to the existing building. In 2003 they added another building with 32 additional rooms as well as a conference center, which together brought the total square footage to 60,000 square feet.

Over the 26 years in business, Longfellows has accommodated thousands of hotel guests and hosted over 2400 weddings and countless catering events. Longfellows has been the host venue for the Dickens Festival, Longfellows Wedding Show and other signature annual events.

Dining at Longfellows has been a tradition for so many couples and families who have celebrated New Year's Eve, Valentine's Day, Easter Dinner, Thanksgiving Dinner, and numerous other sacramental events year-after-year.

Philanthropists at heart, the Sullivans and Mr. Powers have hosted fundraising events for innumerable community organizations and non-profits such as Lifeworks Community Action (formerly EOC), AIM Services Inc., the Adirondack Trust Company Autumn of Giving, Center for the family, The Rotary Foundation scholarship program and Catholic Charities, among many others. In addition, Longfellows has been instrumental in community outreach by offering weekly dinners in season for Code Blue, donating weekly dinners on Wednesdays for Hospice patients and their families, and providing meals for guests of the Soup Kitchen at the Presbyterian Church every second and third Sunday of the month, year-round.

In respect to the Longfellows staff, Director of Human Resources, Gerri Thompson, emphasized, "We've been transparent with our staff of 78 employees and are working diligently with our partners in the hospitality industry to place our employees in alternative industry jobs. We will continue to assist our employees in finding other meaningful employment before we close." Referring to the transference of incentive-based programs at Longfellows, Sully said, "I'm not leaving the industry, Saratoga Springs, or the community. As we've done over the past 26 years, any and all Longfellows gift certificates will continue to be redeemable at the Olde Bryan Inn.

All frequent diner points will be transferred to the OBI and 'Mug Club' members can still fill their mugs at the OBI, they'll just have to bring their mugs with them."

"We're thankful for all the wonderful employees we've had the pleasure of working with over the years. They really did a great job serving each other as well as our guests. We're grateful for the wonderful vendors and suppliers we've worked beside and maintained relationships with. To all of our customers who stayed with us, dined with us, and celebrated with us, this is not goodbye. We look forward to seeing you at the Olde Bryan Inn!"

In closing, Sully added, "Our objective when we first opened Longfellows was first and foremost to be good stewards of this property and to those we were here to serve. I believe we've met those objectives. We are very grateful for the opportunities we've had over the past 26 years. We especially wish to thank the community for their continued support. May God bless you and your families."- Dave, Yvonne and Sully