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## Inn at Mystic unveils new restaurant

[Lee Howard](#)

**Mystic** — An 11-week renovation of the former Flood Tide Restaurant culminated today in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that unveiled the Inn at Mystic's newly opened Harbour House restaurant that is part of a nearly \$1 million restoration of the landmark property.

About 100 people this morning walked past three penguins from Mystic Aquarium that greeted them just inside the Harbour House doors following the official opening, which featured a ribbon cutting by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut. Inside the new 160-seat Harbour House, they enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres as they commented about the lightened up space that takes full advantage of breathtaking water views.

"I really get the feeling that this will appeal to all kinds of visitors," said Ed Dombroskas, executive director of the Eastern Connecticut Regional Tourism District. "It's great, because this is an icon of the region."

"I'm highly impressed and excited that this facility is back in the game," added Tony Sheridan, chief executive and president of the chamber.

Co-owner Timothy J. Brown of Noank, who is the resort's president and general manager, said he has been dreaming of owning the 14-acre Inn at Mystic property ever since he moved to the area more than two decades ago. He initially considered buying the resort when it went on the market at \$8.5 million, but waited until the price dropped substantially before closing on the property in March for \$5.35 million.

Brown, at the ribbon cutting, recalled sitting with business partner Michael D'Amato in Miami when they hatched plans to make a bid on the Inn at Mystic.

"We're going to bring this place back to the glory it deserves," Brown said during the ceremony.

D'Amato, a Niantic resident and local builder, said he and Brown expected it would take four to six months to reopen the restaurant, but thanks to the hard work of local contractors the timeline was sped up considerably.

"It took a lot of hard work," he said. "It took a lot of local support."

Brown said the restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner initially. Within about a week, it will begin serving breakfast as well, he added, and a Sunday brunch is being planned in the near future.

In addition to work on the restaurant, which eventually will include a new 50-seat deck, Brown said he is working in stages to fully renovate the inn's 60 rooms before tackling additional repairs to the Gate House and mansion in the back of the property sometime in the fall. He expects once the inn is fully up and running that the location will require about 80 employees.

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