

Denise Paré-Watson - Biography

Denise Paré-Watson is the second of five daughters born in Windsor, Ontario. She attributes her passion for the culinary industry to her French-Canadian parents, and a wonderfully supportive husband and two daughters.

Her first career encompassed office and teaching environments while traveling around Canada due to her husband's transfers, and included many interesting positions such as Federal Government in the area of Canadian Citizenship, Provincial Courts, School Boards and Public Library systems across Canada, where she has attained accreditations that include the fields of desktop publishing, library technical and para-professional training. Some of her most rewarding work in the past has been working as a resource teacher with special needs children. Her last position in an office environment was working as Assistant to the Dean in what was formally known as the Energy Department at SAIT.

Switching gears, Denise enrolled in SAIT's Professional Cooking Program and later, the Baking and Pastry Arts Program. Graduating in 2002, she was honoured with several scholarships, including the Louise McKinney Award. Denise has placed in several culinary competitions, including the 2006 Culinary Salon, in which a collaborative team effort from the Calgary Golf and Country Club won Grand Gold and Gold medals for their three-course entry.

Additional highlights in her career include travelling to the 2004 Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany as Pastry Assistant and support member for Culinary Team Alberta. Additionally, she has had the immense pleasure in the past few years to assist Anna Olson of Food Network Canada's show "Sugar" when she comes to Calgary.

Recent involvements include participating in the 1st Annual L'Arche Calgary Cakewalk, Bocuse D'Or fundraising activities, and dessert creation for Chaine de Rotisseurs members. This past year also included involvement in a Habitat for Humanity building project in St. Vicente, El Salvador, and a family planned annual Canadian Breast Cancer Run for the Cure.

Denise is a member of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Baking and Pastry Arts Advisory Committee.

She is currently delighted to be the Pastry Chef at the Calgary Golf and Country Club, working with an amazing staff that includes world-class chef, Vincent Parkinson.

Denise's favourite after work activity, besides sharing a glass of wine while cooking or baking with her husband, Harold, is planning the next adventure on their "life list".