

# FOODSERVICE *news*

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Mark Zizek, a student at Liaison College, is pictured here putting the finishing touches on his award-winning watermelon carving at the 2005 Iron Watermelon Carving Competition.

## Watermelon carver makes a splash

Ten students from Liaison College were recently given the challenge of creating an artistic carving using just a single watermelon. Mark Zizek emerged as the day's champion carver at the 2005 Iron Watermelon Carving Competition. His rendering of a figure lounging in a hot tub caught the eye of the judges and propelled him to victory. The prize awarded was a set of professional Wüstopf Trident carving knives and the title of Iron Watermelon Carving Champion.

To create the delicate sculpture, Zizek carved the bather's silhouette out of the rind and simulated the hot tub's bubbles with balled watermelon. All this was accomplished in just one hour. Nine other students also participated in the challenge, working feverishly as the clock counted down the hour. Andy Cordova created a beer cooler, complete with beer bottle accents, and Claudia Cargill carved a peacock, using skewered balls of melon and sliced

kiwi for plumes. The students came in second and third place respectively.

Judging was based on presentation, design originality and functionality as a serving vessel. "We were so impressed with the creativity and ingenuity of these watermelon designs," said Leslie Coleman, event judge and Director of Communications for the National Watermelon Promotion Board. "Watermelon is a staple for summer entertaining and even simple carving designs can make dynamic centerpieces, enhancing any table."

Peak watermelon season is May to October and its popularity is on the rise according to Statistics Canada. From 2003 to 2004 imports increased by 23.7% (up to 38,000 tons). So, now is the perfect time to introduce this refreshing snack or dessert to your customers. For tips on choosing the best watermelons, visit [www.watermelon.org](http://www.watermelon.org).



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