

The Inn at Scituate Harbor celebrates 10th anniversary

By [Ruth Thompson](#)

rthompson@wickedlocal.com

Posted Aug 8, 2019 at 11:00 AM

The Inn at Scituate Harbor, located on the incline across from the Town Pier, has been a pillar of the Harbor community since the late 1960s. Through the years it has been known by different names and has had different owners at its helm.

Then, 10 years ago, a few friends and business associates formed a partnership to purchase and manage the Inn. Since that time, through numerous renovations, harmonies and tragedies, the Inn has flourished. It has become somewhat of a landmark at the harbor, and attracts visitors from around the world, whether they are those with a strong connection to Scituate--returning to visit family, friends or the memories of their youth--or whether it is someone discovering the town for the first time, and is eager to explore.

An inn is a part of the hospitality industry, and hospitality always comes down to its people. It is the people of the Inn that are its driving force, and the faces behind its success.

Bruce Leaver and his wife, Karen, along with David and Lynda Ferguson, and Michael Cooney formed the core partnership of the Inn.

“Ten years is a long time in a small business community, and it’s great we have been able to succeed,” David Ferguson said. “We look forward to another 10 years.”

Ferguson credits Bruce Leaver, who passed away five years ago, as being the motivator for getting the others involved.

“His enthusiasm for getting the Inn grabbed us all,” Ferguson said.

The team is proud of the accomplishment in celebrating its 10 year anniversary, Leaver said. But it is also bittersweet for her family having lost Bruce.

“It was his dream to own this inn with his friends, and he would have been thrilled to celebrate this milestone,” she said.

Cooney is “thrilled and proud” to be celebrating this anniversary.

He became involved as a partner after two friends from different parts of his life approached him with the idea.

“The Inn is the gateway to the harbor on one side and it was an eyesore,” he said. “I saw both an investment opportunity, and also an opportunity to help start to improve the look and feel of Scituate. I jumped in with both feet.”

A lifelong Scituate resident, Cooney is honored to have been a part of the revitalization of the harbor that has gone on over the past 10 years.

“Shops, restaurants, residences are all popping up and thriving and to be a small part of that makes me very happy,” he said.

Each of the partners brought a special expertise to the table. The Leavers and the Fergusons all had extensive experience in the hospitality industry and hotel management.

“Our partners bring a wealth of experience to the financial side of the business,” Karen said “It is a good marriage.”

David Ferguson agreed.

“Our team has a vast amount of diverse knowledge from hotels and small businesses that compliments all aspects of our operations.”

As a CPA, Cooney has had experience in dealing with hotels.

“Knowing a bit about the financial side helped with my decision to join the group,” he said.

Lynda Ferguson is the general manager of the Inn and handles its day-to-day operations.

She has also overseen many of the renovation projects that have taken place in the past decade. These projects have included building and structural improvements; the replacing of furniture, linens, carpets and drapes; an upgrade to the restaurant space and the parking area; and more.

Leaver tends to the floral displays and gardens. She also works with local landscapers to keep the grounds looking pretty.

“When we first were handed the keys to the Inn in July, we opened the doors and found all the Christmas decorations were still up from the previous owners,” Leaver said. “We had to quickly renovate from top to bottom to get it re-opened. We are now looking to start to renovate and refresh all the rooms again in the next year.”

Some of the challenges facing the Inn are parking, and the brutal winters.

“Winters in Scituate are a challenge,” Cooney said. “My hope is that Scituate can continue to promote the harbor as a yearlong destination rather than shutting down for three months.”

The people

“The Inn would not be where it is today without the hard work of our staff,” Lynda Ferguson said “The people I work with care about the Inn and our guests as much as the owners do, and it shows. I have made so many friends, from our staff to guests and vendors. I am truly grateful for their dedication, support and friendship.”

The partners all share her feelings when it comes to the people at the Inn. There has been some very dedicated staff members over the years, a few are still there.

Terry Gulinello has been working at the Inn for almost 20 years – longer than the current owners have been involved with it.

“The Inn is like an old friend,” she said, “comfortable to be around, and you know it inside and out. People come and go but the Inn is always there.”

She said she enjoys working at the front desk because every day is a surprise.

“I like to meet new people, but it’s the folks that come back again and again that I enjoy most,” she said.

Chris Kazlousky has worked at the Inn for 20 years as a guest service agent.

“There are perks with this job,” she said. “Being able to look out the window at our beautiful harbor is one.”

What keeps her here are the friendships she has made, she said.

“It’s almost like a second family, complete with quirks, drama and all.”

The Inn could never have enjoyed the success it has without the help and dedication of its hardworking staff, Leaver said.

“Most of them are from Scituate, and have worked tirelessly to keep our business running smoothly 24/7,” she said. “We owe them all a debt of gratitude.”

The team would like to continue to be a terrific inn where guests from all over the world come to support Scituate in many ways – through the restaurants, shopping and the beaches.

“Keeping the guests here in Scituate is best for all,” David Ferguson said.

An anniversary celebration will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 11 at The Dogwatch at the Inn at Scituate Harbor, 7 Beaver Dam

Road. There will be live music by Jenny and the Nightlife, food, and bar with beer and wine. Everyone is welcome to stop in and visit.

Follow Ruth Thompson on Twitter [@scituateruth](https://twitter.com/scituateruth)