

Oyster Boy (at 872 Queen. St. W.) and **Swan** (892 Queen St.W.) These two popular restaurants — both with fewer than 50 seats each — share a common owner, Adam Colquhoun, 42. Before opening Swan in 1997, he got to know the neighbourhood as a beer rep for the Upper Canada Brewing Co.

So when he decided to open a restaurant, he knew where to go. Later, when he decided to turn his catering and wholesale oyster business into a restaurant venture, he relocated nearby when the New Harmony Diner closed.

Colquhoun's appraisal of his neighbourhood is simple and succinct. "It's cool," he says. "There are nice people around here. They're not uptight."

All good reasons.