

SSP Canada brings Zak's Diner to Ottawa International Airport



Representatives from SSP Canada, Zak's Diner and Ottawa International Airport Authority mark the opening of Zak's Diner at Ottawa International Airport

[SSP Canada](#) has opened [Zak's Diner](#) at Ottawa International Airport ([YOW](#)), bringing one of the city's most recognizable local dining brands to passengers traveling through Canada's capital.

Located on Level 2 in the South Pier, the new airport restaurant brings Zak's retro diner experience airside, with a menu built around comfort food, all-day breakfast, hand-spun milkshakes and a full bar program.

Zak's Diner has been part of Ottawa's dining scene since 1986, when restaurateur John Borsten opened the original location in the ByWard Market. The brand has since become known for its retro atmosphere, generous portions and role as a gathering place for locals, visitors, families and late-night diners.

The YOW opening supports the airport's focus on a more local, passenger-centered terminal experience, with food and beverage options that reflect Ottawa's character.

"We are excited to welcome Zak's Diner to YOW and offer travelers another authentic taste of Ottawa while they're passing through the airport," said Joel Tkach, Vice President, Business Development and Marketing at Ottawa International Airport Authority. "Zak's is an iconic and well-loved local brand known for its fun atmosphere, comfort food and unmistakable personality."

The airport location takes inspiration from Zak's street-side diners, with retro neon, turquoise seating, throwback details, bar seating, patio-style seating and a classic-car feature. SSP Canada said the restaurant brings the spirit of the 24-hour diner into the airport environment, with service, comfort food and hospitality shaped by the original brand.

"We've been part of the fabric of this city since 1986, serving everyone from late-night revelers to families starting their day," said Borsten, Founder of Zak's Diner. "Opening at YOW feels like a natural next chapter."

Jennifer Juul, Vice President Development at SSP Canada, said Zak's is a natural fit for the airport because of its local identity and broad appeal.

"Zak's is one of those rare brands that feels instantly familiar and unmistakably local at the same time," said Juul. "It has the warmth, humor and staying power of a true Ottawa institution, and that makes it a perfect fit for YOW."

The menu includes Zak's Big Breakfast, breakfast poutine, buttermilk waffles, eggs Benedict, burgers, smoked meat poutine, a Nashville crispy chicken sandwich, wraps, salads and the brand's famous milkshakes made with premium ice cream. The beverage program includes local and Canadian beer, wine and cocktails, including selections from Ottawa's Dominion City