



For Immediate Release
May 8, 2009

De Dutch Hamburger Poll

De Dutch Hamburger Poll Officially Closes on Monday, May 11th to Encourage “Official” Voting

Surrey, BC: The original De Dutch Hamburger Polls, providing an unofficial prediction of the pending provincial election, will end at closing on Monday, May 11th with the last poll results to be removed from the signage at all 18 De Dutch locations and from the De Dutch website at that time.

De Dutch President Bill Waring states, “Watching the daily updates of the De Dutch Hamburger Poll at each location and chain-wide, has certainly been fascinating. However to encourage BC residents to participate in the official provincial election on General Voting Day - Tuesday, May 12th, between 8 am and 8 pm - and follow election protocol, our De Dutch Hamburger Poll will officially end at store closing on Monday, May 11th. We will remove the posted poll results from our restaurant signage and website at this time. Customers can however most definitely still enjoy one of their favourite political burgers right until closing day on May 12th to savour the flavour of an anticipated win!”

On Wednesday, May 13th check www.dedutch.com for the reveal of the final De Dutch Hamburger Poll results recorded up until closing on May 11th along side the actual election results. See first-hand if this year’s Hamburger Poll results follow history when most of the original Hamburger Polls were within 10% of the actual election results.

De Dutch Pannekoek House Restaurants Inc. reports the following results, up until 6:00 am on May 8th of the De Dutch Hamburger Polls:

Campbell (Liberal) Burger:	43 %
James (NDP) Burger:	25 %
Sterk (Green) Burger:	12 %
“Other” Burger:	20 %

The Hamburger Poll was re-introduced at all 18 De Dutch locations in BC on Wednesday, April 22nd and will continue until restaurant closing on Monday, May 11th encouraging British Columbians to cast their official vote at their designated polling station on General Voting Day, May 12th. De Dutch customers can vote for their political flavour as they order their burger of choice: Campbell (Liberal) Burger, James (NDP) Burger, Sterk (Green) Burger or the Other Burger as relevant is select ridings. Each famous, original gourmet “Frying Dutchman” burger available in the Hamburger Poll is priced at \$5.00 and available for eating in or taking out. While each candidate burger features the same ingredients including an all-beef patty (1/3 pound), Dill pickle slices, mayo and special De Dutch relish on a fresh sesame seeded bun, additional toppings are available to create the ultimate Frying Dutchman burger including melted Edam cheese, special DeBakon, sautéed onions and mushrooms, all-beef wiener, fried egg and more.



As was customary in the polls between the 1960s and 1980s, each De Dutch restaurant features signage in-store to track the current results for their location as well as all 18 locations combined in British Columbia. Results as of closing of the previous business day are also posted on the restaurant's website at www.dedutch.com.

The first Hamburger Poll was conducted in 1963 by John Dys at his two Frying Dutchman Hamburger House locations in Vancouver and continued for almost 20 years at the Frying Dutchman, his concessions at the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) and then later at the new De Dutch Pannekoek House Restaurants. Results were updated regularly and posted in the windows for all to see.

The polls gained such recognition and popularity since conducting a straw poll during an election campaign was illegal in British Columbia between 1939 and 1982. Under the guise of simply selling hamburgers by a given name, the Hamburger Polls continued to exist and gain increasing fame and a loyal following nation-wide.

One of the most memorable incidents during the historic Hamburger Polls occurred in 1972. The occasion was described in the *Globe and Mail* on Wednesday, May 22nd, 1979 as follows, "The aging W.A.C. Bennett had been premier then for 20 years, and was losing to the NDP. With the premier's knowledge, aides set out to cook the illegal hamburger poll. They offered to buy the poll but Mr. Dys insisted that they actually take delivery of the food and refused to tell them how many orders it would take to alter their standings. Three days before the election, his cooks were called in at 5 am to start filling the Sacred orders. During the day the Sacreds used a truck to cart away more than 3,000 hamburgers which were given to welfare organizations and party workers – and the Sacreds finally jumped ahead of the NDP in the poll. On election night, after this crushing defeat by the NDP, the premier, with tears in his eyes, murmured to an aide: "We won the poll but we lost the election." " Following that election, John Dys reported "no fiddling" with four burgers being the most ordered at one time.

The six original Frying Dutchman Hamburgers are still featured on the De Dutch menu today and are a popular choice among customers of all ages: Canadian, Gentle John, Humble Helen, Meek Myrtle, Plain Jane and Simple Simon.

The thirty-four year old De Dutch franchise with 19 locations in Calgary, Alberta and BC's Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Fraser Valley, Okanagan, and Cariboo has successfully carved a niche in the competitive food service industry. While offering dinner at its Strawberry Hill location, De Dutch Pannekoek House specializes in breakfast, brunch and lunch, offering their customers a unique blend of European ethnicity in its menu items. The Pannekoek, a 12" in diameter Dutch-style pancake, is their signature dish and continues to draw loyal customers.

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