

BUSINESS

Sunday, April 9, 2006

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GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

New owners at Bowers Inn

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OLD MISSION — Business partners Jon Carlson and Greg Lobdell remember childhood family dinners at historic Bowers Harbor Inn.

Now they can sit at the owner's table.

Lobdell and Carlson purchased Bowers Harbor Inn and The Bowery from Schelde Enterprises, and said they're planning several upgrades to the landmark restaurant, originally built in the 1880s as a summer getaway for a Chicago lumberman.

"We wanted to make sure

it stayed a restaurant," Lobdell said. "We've both admired the inn since we grew up on the peninsula."

The purchase price was not disclosed. The deal includes 11 acres with 750 feet of West Grand Traverse Bay shoreline.

The new owners plan immediate upgrades to dining rooms and upstairs restrooms, with major renovations and a possible expansion planned by the fall. Both restaurants will be open normal hours through the spring and summer seasons.

Carlson and Lobdell have

a long business relationship with Schelde chairman Howard Schelde, who owned Bowers Harbor Inn since 1974. They're among the partners in North Peak Brewing Co. in Traverse City. Lobdell and Carlson also have restaurants in Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor.

The partners also continue to work on acquiring historic Dill's Olde Towne Saloon on Union Street in Traverse City. The deal remains tied up as part of the bankruptcy case of former owner Barry Boone. Lobdell said they still hope to re-open the Dill's by this summer.



Record-Eagle/Douglas Tesner

Bowers Harbor Inn on Old Mission Peninsula was recently sold to Jon Carlson and Greg Lobdell.