

upfront

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Steakout at Bruce Hotel

Bruce Hotel owners Debbie Boyd and Karl Pickup serve the tastiest sirloins in the northeast.

GREAT STEAKS, no fussy decor. You know the drill when dining out in small-town Alberta. One of rural Alberta's best chophouses is the Bruce Hotel in the town of Bruce, 125 kilometres southeast of Edmonton. Every Friday, owners Debbie Boyd and Karl Pickup serve succulent steaks to a packed house of around 200 diners, for under \$20 a head.

"The key to the flavour is we serve fresh meat, not frozen. Our butcher cuts it every morning," says Boyd. The restaurant serves 16-ounce top

sirloins, but those who don't want to bite off more than they can chew can go for a manageable six-ounce.

While it's true that many high-end steakhouses are prettier, it's hard to imagine any as charming. Boyd and Pickup's wedding photo hangs on a wall, along with a framed Johnny Cash and Elvis tour poster. Antique cookie jars, an old typewriter and a vintage clock add to the ambiance. Reservations are required.

brucehotel.ca —Tracy Hyatt

