

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David A. Kahley
President & CEO
The Progress Fund
(724) 216-9160 Ext. 310
dkahley@progressfund.org

Raymond and Cynthia Driscoll
Co-owners
Driscoll & Sons Café
2101 Douglas Run Road
Elizabeth Township, PA 15037
(412) 384-3313
rdriscoll01@comcast.net

Driscoll & Sons Cafe adds a new twist to trailside dining

Restaurant along Great Allegheny Passage gets boost from The Progress Fund

Elizabeth Township, PA – March 25, 2013 – Allegheny County residents and Great Allegheny Passage users can now enjoy classic American fare at Driscoll & Sons Cafe, the latest development along the Pittsburgh-to-Washington, D.C., trail network. The cafe will hold its Grand Opening Thursday, March 28, and media and community members are invited.

Driscoll & Sons Cafe features creekside dining on a deck overlooking Douglas Run. The cafe is the brainchild of Raymond and Cynthia Driscoll, who have operated the Yough Twister ice cream business for 20 years.

Yough Twister saw its customer base grow by 20 percent following the 1995 opening of the nearby section of the Great Allegheny Passage, and gained fame through its appearance in the 2011 film *Abduction*. Increasing trail traffic inspired the Driscolls to add a restaurant, and Raymond's retirement from the steel industry in 2006 gave him time to plan the expansion. The Driscolls asked hundreds of Yough Twister clients if they'd patronize a restaurant, and what they'd order. "I can tell you this," says Raymond. "People like chicken."

For business planning help, the Driscolls turned to the University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center. In search of financing, they tried four banks. "They weren't excited about getting into the restaurant business," says Raymond.

Their SBDC advisor told them about The Progress Fund, which runs the Trail Town Program that spurs development along the Great Allegheny Passage. The Progress Fund loaned the Driscolls \$245,000, and arranged a \$200,000 loan from the state's First Industries Tourism Program.

The Grand Opening on March 28 will feature American Contemporary Classic food ranging from a House Burger, Monte Cristo, Salads, New York Strip to a Children's Menu.

True to the cafe's name, the couple is joined by sons Jason, Justin and Josh, and it is expected to employ around a dozen people.

“We've always raised our sons to work hard and play hard,” says Raymond. “We just don't like sitting idle, and we see a lot of opportunity there.”

To interview Raymond and Cynthia, call 412-384-3313, or email rdriscoll01@comcast.net.

For further information on The Progress Fund, call (724) 216-9160, or visit www.progressfund.org.

The Progress Fund is a vigorous non-profit loan fund that creates jobs and improves communities by providing entrepreneurial coaching and capital to small businesses in the travel & tourism industry. The Progress Fund serves 40 counties of Pennsylvania, the State of West Virginia, Western Maryland, and Appalachian Ohio. The Progress Fund was founded in 1997, and has made 404 loans totaling more than \$45.4 million to 247 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 2,819 jobs. The Progress Fund is an Equal Opportunity Lender.