

Kim Holmes



Sanders 1907 is one of the more popular restaurants in Grand Forks. Owner Kim Holmes is right where he wants to be - downtown. "In my opinion, the heart and soul of a city is its downtown," he said.

Unfortunately, the heart and soul along with the rest of Grand Forks, was nearly washed away 10 years ago during the flood of 1997. That spring, the Red River of the North swelled over its banks to the highest water levels in the river's history.

Holmes fought to save his restaurant to the very end but the water was just too powerful. "The manhole cover on the street shot six, eight feet in the air from the water pressure. I said I got to get out of here," Holmes remembers.

Holmes was allowed back downtown once the waters receded. The scene inside his restaurant was devastating. "It was like somebody turned a blender on in there," he said.

Like many other business owners in Grand Forks, Holmes had a decision to make: should he rebuild? For him, the decision was a no-brainer. "This flood wasn't going to beat us as a community and it certainly wasn't going to kick my booty out of town," Holmes said proudly.

That kind of resolve has helped Grand Forks rebuild as a community. In 2000, *Sanders 1907* reopened downtown at a new location, and in 2007, the restaurant celebrates 25 years of business.

"Here we are 10 years later and it's spectacular," Holmes said. "Everyone's scarred from this. We all had our lives set back and changed forever but the way we approached it - and came back - makes a big success story for Grand Forks, ND."

