

In 1833 when A.M. Sheldon opened his drug store in Belleville, the town was little more than a pioneer settlement. Sheldon sold the store to Dr. Rufus Holden and partner Merrick Sawyer in 1835 and Holden bought Sawyer's share in 1852. Holden ran the company until 1871 when employee Albert L. Geen purchased it.

Although the name of that drug store has changed, the business carries on as Geen's Pharmasave; still owned and operated by Albert Geen's direct descendants. Albert Geen, besides being a business man, was also an ordained minister, so it is not surprising that his store was much more a general store than a pharmacy. In those days Geen's Drug Store was the meeting place where Albert greeted his customers and loved having them visit for awhile. He sold hymn books and bibles as well as coal oil and fancy glass imported from Belgium.

Albert's son Percival (now deceased) began working in the family business at age 8. One of the earliest jobs his father gave Percival was delivering the coal oil to customers using a little wagon. That was the early 1900's and farmers were a major part of the store business. They sold and ground livestock medicine and conditioners using a coffee grinder to mill the ingredients. Percival recalled the store once made it's

own pills, tinctures, essences and sedlitz powders. By World War II, a large part of the business was the sale of patented medicines such as Dodd's Kidney pills, William's Pink Pills and Fellow's Syrup.

Alwyn Geen, the grandson of Albert, began working in the business part-time in 1931 at age 12, a beginning that would end 70 years later with his death in 2001. Alwyn recalled making a cough syrup called Holden's Expectorant that had been carried over from Dr. Rufus Holden's days.

At the centennial convention of the Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1971, Geen's Drug Store was awarded a plaque for operating more than 100 years and a second plaque for being family owned for 100 years.

David Geen, the current owner and great grandson of Albert Geen, began working in the business part-time when he was a high school student. His first job was similar to his grandfather's first job, that of delivery boy. David worked along side his father for 35 years before taking over as owner. David is inspired by the goodwill established by his family and is committed to your health and well being.

**Geen's Since 1835**

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Trevina Billo  
Pharmacist



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**NORTH FRONT CENTRE**

Rita Krysak  
Pharmacist



**962-4576**

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