

ACTON'S VEGAN RESTAURANT CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

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A downtown Acton eatery is continuing to thrive as it heads into its second year.

"Eighty per cent of people that walk in our doors are omnivores," Holly Atkinson, co-owner of The Plant Society Kitchen, said. "The fact that they come in and have a plant-based meal is a success."

The downtown Acton restaurant celebrated its first year in business with a small gathering of friends and family.

Atkinson and her business partner, Allie Mateo, said they had always talked about starting a business in the 20 years they'd known each other, and the opportunity to start their own vegan restaurant was hard to turn down.

"We've been non-meat eaters for most of our lives," Holly Atkinson, co-owner of The Plant Society said. "Jobs in a kitchen where you don't have to work with animal flesh are very hard to come by."

While both partners lived in Guelph, the decision to locate in Acton was driven by demand.

"There's actually a lot of vegans in Acton," Atkinson said. "Vegan food is hard to



Plant Society photo
Allie Mateo, left, and Holly Atkinson, owners of The Plant Society Kitchen in Acton. The plant-based eatery celebrated its first year in business at the beginning of December.

find, especially if you want to find vegan restaurants run by vegan people."

Attracting curious omnivores is a challenge on its own.

"People were hesitant to come in because they weren't sure if they were 'allowed' to be here because they weren't vegan," Mateo said. "Come in and take a look, it's just food to us."

On Dec. 29, the Plant Society Kitchen will host the second annual Nailed It

competition.

Similar to the popular Netflix game show, two contestants will face off in the restaurant's kitchen to re-create an elaborate cake, prepared by Alyson Gibbs of Vegan Sweets.

The contestant who comes closest to recreating the cake will win a \$100 gift certificate for The Plant Society.

The plant society is located at 37 Mill St. E. in Acton.



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