

# Willow Lane Natural Foods celebrates 25 years in business

BY DANIELLE McISAAC

Next week marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Willow Lane Natural Foods in Acton. Although not the original owners, Annie and Harry Kerkhof are planning a special day to celebrate the occasion on Nov. 26, with draws and huge discounts.

Twenty-five years ago, Emily Lysholm opened the original store in the Acton

Mews building on Mill Street, only to sell the business later to Marge Thornton, who bought the building where the store stands today on Willow Street. When the Kerkhofs were presented with the opportunity to purchase the business, with only an interest in natural foods and herbs, the couple jumped in with both feet never to look back.

Lucky enough to have bought the business when everyone was beginning to become interested in a healthier way of life, Harry and Annie had to learn the business from the ground up. They learned along the way. They have managed to make the store a booming success, with

very loyal customers and friends who have supported the couple from day one.

Although they have the usual troubles that any small business faces, the natural food business has its own set of hurdles to get over with each year. With ever-changing regulations placed on products by the government to maintain standards in herbal supplements and preparations, rising costs and fierce competition, the couple has managed to keep the store going strong with lower prices and up-to-date products.

Willow Lane Natural Foods carries a wide variety of dried herbs and spices, decoctions and

tinctures, preparation and supplements, free-range chicken, free-range eggs, tofu and honey. The old fashion décor and rustic hardwood floors, worn with age, add to the charm and comfort of the store.

Supplements are a large part of the store's products; they carry everything for what ails you. Working in conjunction with a naturopathic doctor in Georgetown, the Kerkhofs can offer suggestions and guide the customer in the right direction, or refer them to the doctor where patients can receive a full diagnosis, something the Kerkhofs cannot do.

Their success rate is immeasurable. Over the years, numerous medical problems have been presented to the couple, heart troubles, allergies, irritable bowel, low energy, ADD, ADHD, the list goes on. All of which were referred to the naturopath with favourable results.

People from all walks of life visit Willow Lane, if only to chat. Part of the



25 YEARS: Owners of Willow Lane Natural Foods, Harry and Annie Kerkhof are celebrating the stores 25th anniversary on Nov. 26 -Danielle McIsaac photo

philosophy of the owners is "drop by, someone is always here to listen and help."

"We appreciate the nice people and customers here," says Annie. "They make Acton enjoyable."

The anniversary celebration for Willow Lane Natural Foods will be held on Nov. 26 at 15 Willow Street South. Call 853-3051 for more information.

## Let's make a difference

By Kasia Walasek

Keep your eyes peeled for this week's United Way flyer that's targeted

towards Halton Hills.

United Way is a service that devotes its resources and time to its community. With one-third of residents Halton Hills requiring assistance from the United Way, they can only depend on the help from their fellow community members. This brochure replaces the door to door campaign, where the pressure is not forced. Every donation makes a difference; for a troubled teen \$1/week offers them 2.5 hours of specialised counselling support, \$2/week gives four hours of help for seniors and disabled persons, \$10/week gives home health care equipment to 13 people needing assistance to recover.

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**WEDNESDAY**  
**26th November, 2003**

**25% off all supplements\***  
**25% of all bulk food items**  
**10% of all other items\***

\* Discounts are in addition to any other sale prices. Quantities while they last. Sorry, no rain checks.


We thank you for your patronage during the past 25 years. We will raffle off a number of items and baskets with values up to \$100.00 on our anniversary.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR SPECIALS**  
**AND YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!**

**Willow Lane Natural Foods**  
15 Willow St. S., Acton, ON L7J 1Z9  
Telephone: (519) 853-3051

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