

# Discover Your Downtown

## Milton Greenhouses Flower and Gift Shop

I, Barry Burne came to Milton, population 2000 in 1946 at the age of five. I went to Bruce Street Public School where the present library is now and then I attended Martin Street High School. Later I moved to the new, Milton District High School. While in high school, one of my part time jobs was working at Milton Greenhouses. I went from high school to Guelph OAC and took a floral design course. One of the instructors hired me to work in his shop in Guelph. I was there for seven years. All the while, living in Milton and driving back and forth.

I later married Carol Mills in 1965.

In 1971, I purchased Milton Greenhouses, in name only, as the owners Bob and Norma Brown had sold the land. I opened a store beside the Presbyterian Church where Restivo's Fruit Market had been for many years.

After five years, we moved further downtown to where Quality Greens Grocery Store is now located. With the rent forever increasing, I decided to buy the building at 222 Main Street where we are now located. This building had previously been Mike's Restaurant and Pickett's Drugstore. I sometimes feel that I have renovated half of Main Street.

All through the years, we have been a member of FTD, which was the largest and best wire service in the world. Over the past few months, two competing wire services have combined and now out number FTD with a membership of 25,000 florists in North America. As you can see, we can get flowers sent for you to practically anywhere in the world.

When we opened back in 1971, there were two suppliers who came to town once a week with a limited

amount of stock as we were at the end of their runs. Now, there are seven suppliers that come three times a week or more often, depending on the demand. This allows us to offer a wider selection of our product which is fresher and a much better quality.

For the past thirty years, we have had 100% guarantee with our products. If you are not satisfied with what we have supplied, we will replace it or return your money without a hassle. The wire services have adopted this same policy so you have a 100% guarantee whether your flowers are sent across town or around the world.

One of our proudest moments was when Carol and I adopted a baby boy in 1978 whom we called Ryan. He has become a fine young man and is taking his Masters Degree in Sports Management at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Over the years we have sent flowers to many people. Some of our clients are the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth, the late Princess Diana, the Governor General, Lincoln Alexander, Julio Iglesias and just as important, a new baby at the hospital yesterday, a loved wife on her anniversary, a child's Mom on Mother's Day. I feel that each and every customer, whether famous or not, are equally important.

For the past thirty years, I have had the privilege of serving the people of Milton during very happy and very sad times. It is my hope that I have done this to your satisfaction and that I can continue to enjoy your support.



Lft: Barry Burne, owner of Milton Greenhouses located at 222 Main St. E, Milton.

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