

# Pharmacies join forces as Houston closes doors

## Wasseff decides to move after 36 years at location

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

After 36 years, pharmacist and clinical nutritionist Farid Wasseff is closing the doors of Houston Pharmacy and making a big move — down the street. At the beginning of March, he'll amalgamate his pharmacy and alternative therapy practice with Stouffville IDA Pharmacy at 6212 Main St. It has been operated by Rob Croxall

for 22 years. Although the distance the business is moving is small, the decision to make the change was major. Mr. Wasseff, 41, grew up in the pharmacy run by his dad, Lou Wasseff. After the senior Mr. Wasseff died late in 2004, Farid was at a crossroads. He spent much of last year contemplating how to proceed. "I was so attached to this place," said Mr. Wasseff, a pharmacist since 1989. Mr. Croxall and Mr. Wasseff have known each other for more than 20 years and have helped each other out

in business. They share similar philosophies about pharmaceutical and patient care. After about six months, Mr. Wasseff knew what he wanted to do. "We go about our lives," he said, "and then one day, something happens that says 'this makes sense'." "They have the vision," Mr. Wasseff said of the pharmacy team at the IDA, which includes Gord Davie and Barb Purificati. "They want to make sure that this works."



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Mr. Wasseff appreciates the loyalty his customers showed, especially when his dad's health began to fail. When his daughter, Kacie, was born two months ago, customers came by to offer good wishes and brought gifts.

Farid and Peggy Wasseff also have a son, Nicholas, who is 2 1/2 years old. The IDA will be offering services in alternative therapies, Mr. Croxall noted, "which we didn't have before. We are primarily a very traditional pharmacy."

The merged pharmacy will continue its family-oriented practice, but will be able to co-ordinate their patients' health care more comprehensively.

Mr. Wasseff does individual counselling and helps people through integration of traditional medicine, nutrition, lifestyle and dietary changes.

He has spent 20 years investigating the use of biological medicines, natural products and foods in treating disease and optimizing health.

In 2003, Mr. Wasseff and Sherry

Pharmacists Farid Wasseff and Rob Croxall have joined forces at the IDA Pharmacy on Main Street, Stouffville.

Torkos co-authored the book *Breaking the Age Barrier: Strategies for Optimum Health, Energy and Longevity*.

Mr. Wasseff is on the advisory council of the Institute for Functional Medicine, an editorial board member of the Journal of the American Nutraceutical Association and the International Journal of Integrative Medicine.

The pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, check out [www.prescription4nutrition.com](http://www.prescription4nutrition.com)

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