

For immediate release:

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Historic Yonge St. business announces retirement.

After 108 years of business, Caruso & Company will be closing their doors on January 15th, 2021.

Established in 1913, founder Anthony Caruso supplied wholesale produce to merchants locally and the surrounding towns and villages. In the thirties, the business expanded to include Mary's Fruit Store, operated by daughters Mary & Rose, while son Frank worked on the wholesale side of the business with father Anthony.

The business expanded again in 1960 with the opening of Mary's Flower Shop. Frank's wife Phyllis developed her skills as a florist and managed the newest venture. The three businesses thrived for the ensuing years.

In 1997 Frank and Phyllis's youngest son Mike transitioned from being a self-employed carpenter /contractor and purchased the long-running family business.

Changes were made, which included the discontinuation of the wholesale and retail produce portion of the business.

The focus was now on the thriving floral side. A long-time friend of Mike,

Sue Wilbur, joined the business as manager and buyer. With her intuitive sense of style, the well-established floral business was expanded to include home décor, giftware, greeting cards, and personal accessories, creating the look, and feel of the store, that customers immediately embraced.

A large selection of merchandise for home and garden now filled the entire main floor of the building and also included a new showroom in the lower level, along with the addition of a rear entrance. Online floral ordering was also added as the internet began to influence consumer shopping habits.

Today, as it has been since inception, this family-owned business is a mainstay shopping destination in downtown Aurora. Customers travel from near and far to shop and experience this historic location.

In 2017, 15210 Yonge St., the original home of both the Caruso family and their businesses was sold.

After the sale of the property, Caruso & Company leased back the building and continued on, however now with an eye on retirement in the near future.

In the summer of 2019 after careful consideration, Mike decided that the end of 2020 would mark the end of an era, the time had come to retire and move on to the next chapter.

Over the years the Caruso family has supported the community through their donations to local charities, schools, churches, minor sports sponsorships, and countless local events.

Caruso's have also employed a countless number of people since 1913, it was not uncommon for members of the same family to make their right of passage into the working world with their first jobs at what was commonly known as "Mary's".

Since the early years of the 20th century, Caruso's have been a part of the lives of countless local and area residents, having provided, food, flowers, décor, and gifts for every imaginable occasion or event.

In the interim Caruso & Company will continue to offer their full compliment of quality and service you have come to know and expect.

The family and staff of Caruso & Company wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to all those who have made them part of their lives over the years.