

Thanks from Espresso Legato

Dear Friends,

It has been a few months since the close of Espresso Legato in downtown Bowmanville. If you are not aware of what happened, a new lease offer was submitted, rejected, and no counter-offer was received. Further attempts to restart negotiations were not successful, and the shop doors were closed October 24, 2009.

Since 1995, and through three owners, it has been the warm and accepting community atmosphere that has kept Espresso Legato strong. It always felt good to be there. Thanks must go to our amazing patrons, whose routines became such an important part of our day, and whose wonderful lives touched ours with the shared stories, laughter, pain and uniqueness that defines us: a first date that led to a marriage, weekly gatherings of good friends, dealing with the passing of friends, and daily verbal banter with those who dared. From the daily regulars to the weekend visitors from out of town, the high-maintenance few, and the occasional visits from world travelers and celebrities, you have all helped define the atmosphere of the shop.

To all past and recent staff: I am certain that I will never again meet a group of people more willing to dress up for any occasion. It was always difficult to explain how such a mixed bag of nuts could work so well together. Each group of staff that moved in and out (and sometimes in again) was incredible to watch as they got to know the regulars, brought their own style to the shop, contributed to business decisions and processes, and grew to be part of the legacy. Each of you made profound impacts on the other side of the counter, and became an important part of everyone's day, especially mine. Thank you for all your creativity, humour, insight, and willingness to work in a very different kind of place.

To the kids: You have all been such a treat. We have watched many of you grow up, laughed with you, and enjoyed being part of your lives through your stories,

adventures, pictures and letters. I can honestly say that I miss the kids (and the sprinkles!) the most.

Special thanks goes to the local businesses, patrons, vendors, staff, family and friends who helped me move out of the shop, especially to Kevin and Kathy Anyan and their staff, Raisin Bagel Bill, Merna and Norm Vella (who were there at the start and at the end) and my husband, Shawn, for his unwavering support.

Looking toward the future, Espresso Legato is very much alive as a business; it just has a different kind of home at www.espressolegato.com. I continue to carry our coffee beans, seasonal flavours, Mighty Leaf Teas, and the fresh-baked Rocky Mountain Cookies you enjoyed so much. Email your requests for orders to espressolegato@gmail.com.

Thank you all for your feedback, ideas, offers and suggestions through email and in person. And yes, I am still working on the book!

On a very important note, I ask that you continue to support your downtown businesses. My absence from the downtown core is not of my choice. In an increasingly large-scale world, connecting with your “downtown” is the easiest way to become a meaningful part of your community, and your personal interaction defines the good heart of a great neighbourhood.

With love,

Mary-Ann Kalotai