

# Christopher's Restaurant celebrates 25 years in Reading



**CHRISTOPHER'S RESTAURANT** celebrates its 25th Anniversary with special recognition awards from the Board of Selectmen and the Chamber of Commerce. Pictured l-r Chamber President, William F. Crowley, Esq., Owners Bill and Lori Cushing, Town Manager Peter Hechebleickner and Chamber Executive Director, Irene Collins. Courtesy photo

READING - Christopher's Restaurant, a downtown Reading landmark located at 580 Main Street, is celebrating 25 years in business this season. Both the Reading-North Reading Chamber of Commerce and the Reading Board of Selectmen presented owners Bill and Lori Cushing with awards to commemorate the achievement.

"Christopher's is an anchor in our town. It's a wonderful place to eat and socialize with Reading neighbors," said Chair of the Economic Development Committee Meghan Young. "It's a hometown restaurant with a hometown feel."

The restaurant is named after the Cushings' son Christopher and was originally opened in Wakefield. After five years in Wakefield, Bill and Lori decided to move the business to Reading where they have operated for 20 years. According to Lori, it was the best decision they ever made.

"The people who live and work in Reading are what make us successful," said Lori. "We have regulars who have been with us the entire 25 years and new residents who we meet all the time. Most of them. we

are proud to say, are not just our customers, but our friends."

Christopher's is a family-run business from top to bottom. Bill and Lori are at the helm running the business and the Cushings' daughter Jessica D'Amelio, currently on maternity leave, is a waitress. Brother-in-law Richard Cushing is a cook, cousins Robert and Erin Harney are also employed there. Dana Kourbetsos has been with them the entire 25 years.

"Running a restaurant is a true labor of love. Over the 25 years we have taken only one vacation, that was three years ago when our daughter Jessica got married. Other than that, we are here seven days a week and closed only for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter," said Lori.

"We take pride in our business and are glad to give back to the community supporting local causes and the local economy. We have held pancake breakfast fund-raisers for the local schools and a fund-raiser for the Washington Street Park Project.

We always look for ways to give back to the many people

who support us," said Lori.

Other organizations have benefited from their generosity as well - Reading seniors, the police and fire departments, several town faires and festivals and sometimes even private citizens. They support many organizations with cash, gift certificates or food donations.

"We support the local economy by buying local. We buy all our beef from our business neighbor, The Olde Redding Butcher Shoppe. Sometimes all it takes is to pick up our day's order is to open the back door of the restaurant and wheel a cart across the alley way to the butcher shop. This surely cuts down on shipping expenses," joked Lori.

"This is exactly the type of partnerships we like to see," said Chamber President Bill Crowley. "Doing business with your neighbor helps keep our local economy strong."

The Cushings renovated and expanded Christopher's in 2007 to accommodate more customers. With more tables, more people most likely mean more friends for the Cushings. How could they possibly go wrong?

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