

# Willowtree Farm

## Port Perry

BY ALISON SCOWCROFT



Left to Right - Alyson, Jordan, Alex, Kelty and of course Roddie

Willowtree Farm is a family run business dating back to 1969 whose original owners were Rod and Marlene McKay. Rod, who always dreamed of being a farmer, began growing cash crops and dairy farming. He met and married Marlene, who grew up on a strawberry farm, and naturally she brought with her a passion for strawberries. They planted four acres of strawberry plants and Marlene began selling them on the side of the road from a wagon.

Skip forward 50 years. Sadly Rod and Marlene have passed away, but their sons and spouses have continued the business. Jordan, Alyson, Alex and Kelty (along with grandchildren, Ian and Roddie) now own and run the farm. On their 150 acres they raise 35 different fruits and vegetables, beef cattle and sheep.

Willowtree Farm is a destination everyone should put on their "to do" list. It's a lovely country drive to the farm, where you will be greeted with an authentic Farm Store that sells all their produce, beef products, baked goods, their own maple syrup and apple cider, along with gifts made by local artisans. Take the time to appreciate the building that houses the Farm Store. It was built in 2016, and the attention to detail is impressive. Egg baskets have been re-purposed as lamp shades, the wood is original, and many other pieces come from the original building that housed their store.

They also have an in-store café where you can enjoy soups, meat pies, deli sandwiches, wraps, hand-made burgers and the above-mentioned home baked goods. Every week they host burger and fry Fridays. They also feature live music every Sunday, beginning the Sunday after Mother's Day. They run a variety of events throughout the year. For example, in November they have a Bacon, Brussels Sprouts and Brews event where you can sample a taste flight of courses paired with ciders and local craft brews.

Along with the Farm Store, the McKays also offer a Community Supported Agriculture Farm Share or CSA. Weekly you can have fresh fruit and vegetables delivered right to your door, or you can choose to pick them up at the farm. Their meat share provides a monthly basket including a variety of their top-quality meats that are pasture raised, hormone and antibiotic free.

The McKays are very proud to have won the provincial Agro Innovation Award for how they grow garlic, as well as in 2018, the Ontario & Canada Outstanding Young Farmers Award. Their love and passion for their business is apparent from the moment you arrive. Everything is immaculate and beautifully displayed. Delectable aromas surround you, while the produce, baked goods, meats and flowers are a feast for the eyes. It really is worth the drive to Port Perry!



### WILLOWTREE FARM

975 Regional Road 21  
Port Perry, Ontario  
ON, L9L 1B5  
905-985-4973

### HOURS OF OPERATION:

Summer: Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Winter: Monday to Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

You can "Dig us on Social Media" at: [willowtreefarm.ca](http://willowtreefarm.ca)