

LARSEN ACE HARDWARE

Largest Grossing ACE Hardware Store in Connecticut



Canton is home to Connecticut’s largest grossing ACE hardware store and one of the top 100 Ace Hardware locations nationwide. Larsen ACE Hardware, owned by Fred Larsen Sr. and Jr., is known for everything that big box stores are not: personal service. Customers sing the store’s praises, recounting experience after experience of helpful employees who guide them to the exact paint, tool, part or fixture they need. The Larsen ACE employees “explain differences between products and even how to install them,” says longtime customer Jennifer Diederich. “It’s an unbelievable store that consistently delivers great service.”

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Larsen ACE Hardware has been a fixture in Canton since 1999 when Fred Sr., a former executive at OTIS Elevator, partnered with the previous owner. In early 2002, the father-son partnership bought out the business and began to build on an already successful business known for customer service.



The Larsens recently doubled the store’s footprint to 10,000 square feet, rebuilt the entire space and installed solar panels, thanks to a CL&P Zero-Emissions Renewable Energy Certificate (ZREC) and financing through the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program with the CT Green Bank.

Fred Larsen Jr., a graduate of Cornell University with a degree in civil engineering, credits the continuous and growing success of his business to the Canton community. He believes that the lack of big box businesses, combined with fierce customer and town loyalty, have helped propel this once mom and pop shop to one of the premier ACE Hardware businesses in the nation.

“Canton is a place where people live and shop and bring their business. Personal service is the name of the game in this town and it has rewarded us with loyalty.”

-Fred Larsen Sr., co-owner

Repaying that loyalty is paramount to these owners, who donate to a myriad of organizations including the Canton and Barkhamsted Little Leagues, the Canton Public Schools, the Earth Day spring clean-up and Eagle Scout programs. Nationally, they participate in the Children’s Miracle Network with all their funds remaining in the state at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

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