

## Local Man Realizes Ambition Opens Art Shop In Thornhill

BY MARGARET GOVAN  
North Thornhill  
Correspondent

Paquet's Palette is opening on June 1 at the shopping plaza just north of the Langstaff School on the west side of Yonge Street. It is a gift boutique, an artist's supply shop, and an outlet for Raymond Paquet's large collection of his own pictures. These range in subject from landscapes, buildings, flower pictures and still life to figures.

He has travelled widely, throughout Europe, and the American continent, and he has chosen his subjects from all these countries.

**BORN IN QUEBEC**  
Raymond Paquet was born in Quebec City of English speaking Canadian parents. (The first Church of England Bishop of Quebec was one of his forebears.) After his preliminary school years he attended the Quebec School of Fine Arts.

When the war came he joined the R. H. L. Infantry and served overseas for two-and-a-half years. He brought a bride with him from Holland. (I asked him if he were bilingual. "Tri," he answered. "French, English and Dutch.")

In 1951 he came to Toronto. He worked in the shoe business but never gave up

on his painting. He took lessons from Adrian Dingle. He lived in Thornhill on Helen Avenue for three years—his two boys went to school here—then he moved to Aurora. Now he's back on Royal Orchard Boulevard and his family are grown-up. He is realizing his ambition: producing and teaching art, and running his own store.

**ATTRACTIVE INTERIOR**  
It is a very pleasant store to browse in. The owner, one son and a nephew have worked hard on the interior and the result is most attractive. His pictures are on the walls. This is not his first showing. He has exhibited in the Richmond Inn, the Skyline, Aurora, Newmarket and a couple of movie houses.

Besides his pictures there is everything for the artist, and most attractive and artistic gifts on shelves and counters. Many of these come from behind the iron curtain and are different. It would be well worth your time to come and see for yourself. We wish Mr. Paquet the best in his second career.

The opening is June 1, at 10 a.m. Thereafter it will open at the same hour, Tuesday to Sunday inclusive. The number on Yonge Street is 8238.

## Murray Smiths Of Thornhill At U.S. Iris Society Meet

BY MARGARET GOVAN  
Mr. and Mrs. Murray Smith of Thornhill attended the American Iris Society Convention in Roanoke, Virginia, May 14-18. He is the secretary of the Thornhill Horticultural Society and also the president of the Toronto Area Branch of the Canadian Iris Society. Here is his report of the convention.

We were part of a group of 10 Canadians from the Toronto area (Willowdale to Barrie) who attended the 1974 Iris Convention. The headquarters were Hotel Roanoke, one of the few remaining railroad hostels in the United States. The city is situated in a valley between the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east and the higher but more distant Appalachians on the west.

It seemed that green forested slopes were always facing us, providing scenic vistas in every direction. The weather was on the whole dry and hot with temperatures in the high 80's. It became a bit oppressive in the valley on one or two evenings when thunderclouds built up and provided some fireworks with just a little rain.

**20 SWISS THERE**  
The first two days were given over to registration and business sessions with a welcome dinner on the evening of the second day. We felt quite proud to stand up and be counted as the largest Canadian representation for many years. Even so, as a foreign delegation we were outnumbered by 20 from the Swiss society. The total registration was 507, most of course coming from various parts of the United States.

The last three days were largely given over to bus tours which took us to gardens in Roanoke and the surrounding area to a distance of 50-75 miles from the convention headquarters. In these gardens, most of which featured iris, could be seen not only iris which had been grown there for a number of years but also a considerable number of guest iris, usually new hybridized ones, some of which are still being grown under number. Altogether there were about 4,000 of these guest iris in the various gardens visited, many of these being sent by some of the most famous iris hybridizers in America to-day.

With two or three bus loads converging on to a garden at one time, one can imagine what a scramble there was to see the new

things, and get a picture if possible of those iris which just might become famous in the next ten years.

**CANADIAN NATIVES**  
Two of the gardens visited were those of Lloyd and Margaret Zurbrigg in Radford. The Zurbriggs were born in Canada. Both specialized in music (and iris) and later went to the U.S.A. where Lloyd obtained his doctorate. He is now director of music at Radford College where he had lunch. Lloyd is a hybridizer of note (he started this in Canada) and has made a name for himself in the field of reblooming iris. Both planned and assisted in the musical part of the entertainment at the dinners.

The three tour days were fairly strenuous. We rose at 5-5:30 am, got down to a buffet breakfast at 6-6:30 am and were seated in the bus around 7. An hour was left open for lunch. Otherwise until 4:30 pm it was into the bus, out of bus, across the rolling countryside or through the city streets and into and out of six or seven gardens a day. On Saturday there was an additional evening banquet which lasted until 10 pm.

**GREAT EXPERIENCE**  
It has been a great experience — seeing all those new iris in varying but beautiful garden settings; meeting enthusiastic and friendly gardeners from Texas to New Hampshire, from New Jersey to California; and glimpsing or shaking hands with some famous names in the iris world. But it was great too, to get back to our own garden and see how things had fared there.

Mr. Smith has about 800 varieties of iris in his own garden. He has successfully hybridized a most beautiful white iris, and is now working on another color.

**MARKHAM:** "Bold, imaginative and innovative directions," must be developed if the Markham and District Family Life Centre is to continue to properly serve this area. Executive Director Mario Bartoletti, said in his annual report. He said the Markham Centre has gone as far as it could go under its original goals set in 1966 and 1967.

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## Around Bayview Fairways

AND GERMAN MILLS  
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881-0169

**Homeowners' Meeting**  
The May 16 meeting of the German Mills Homeowners' Association was well attended in spite of the Stanley Cup playoff game. About 100 people came to this first meeting presented by the new board of directors under the leadership of President Peter Grosskurth. The new constitution was unanimously approved by the members present.

The German Mills area has undergone many changes since the association's formation two years ago and the directors had prepared reports on all matters of importance to the area's residents.

Bob Allison introduced his planning and zoning committee's reports. Peter Bryson described proposed residential development in several areas of the community as follows: townhouses planned for "Block A", a parcel of land on Simonton Boulevard, backing onto the proposed Highway 404; a proposal for single family dwellings on five acres adjoining the new German Mills Public School site; and a developer's proposal, not yet presented to Markham Town Council, for a high density townhouse development on the north side of John Street.

The planning and zoning committee will keep residents informed about these plans and also on plans regarding the Sabiston dump and the large trunk sewer system presently under discussion.

Ken Harvey attended Markham Council meetings concerning possible electoral ward changes and explained our local government organization of mayor, regional councillors and local councillors. With elections coming up this December, it is essential this matter be resolved soon. If a satisfactory solution cannot be reached by Markham Council, the matter will be referred to the Municipal Board for their opinion.

Spokesman for the shopping centre committee was Joe Pietroski. This matter has been the subject of much discussion during the past year. At the request of the CMHA many changes have been made to the developers' original plans. Mr. Pietroski emphasized the cooperation we have had from council, Planning Director Bill Power, and the developers in trying to work out compromises acceptable to the community and to the developers.

Tom Gilmour of Trisee Corporation was present with plans and answered questions about the plaza. The rezoning for the regional centre has been approved by Markham Council but must still be approved at the OMB level.

Clyde Reynolds of the parks and recreation committee reported on these matters. A summer recreation brochure will soon be distributed by the town. Some work will be done on the parks but some must wait for school site development. Plans and drawings of the community centre being built at John and Bayview were displayed.

Lion Bob Adams spoke on behalf of the Lions Club and asked area residents to support Lions Club efforts to raise money for the new complex. At least one arena should be ready for this September.

"This area is well serviced by public transportation." So said Alan Dessau in his report on bus services and "GO train" plans. Community Activities

Chairman Mrs. Rena Mazor described plans for a social event on June 22 at the "Old Schoolhouse" on German Mills Road. This is not a fund raising affair. It is an old-fashioned community get-together for food and fun, music and games, and the tickets are an old-fashioned 50¢ per person.

There is a great deal of interest in the school situation and Irwin Gould reports Perwin Construction has been awarded the contract to build the new German Mills Public School. Until it is ready for use, the German Mills children will be accommodated in portables at the Bayview Fairways Public School and will have their own principal and staff.

The GMHA was very pleased to have the new Principal Maunder, present at the meeting and he presented some of his views on education, stressing the importance of the teaching staff. He hopes to have a "community-involved" school and asked parents to let him know what their expectations are. He regards this fall's portable accommodation as "not a problem but a challenge". Mr. Maunder will meet again with the residents on Thursday, May 30, at Bayview Fairways Public School.

Ward 1 Councillor Gary Kay addressed the meeting about the redistribution issue, showing a map of present ward boundaries and the comparison of population figures in the wards. The evening's proceedings were recorded by Classic Communications for presentation on Cable 10 TV. Pres-

ident Grosskurth commented that we are fortunate in having local news coverage by Classic Communications and also drew the audience's attention to the excellent local reports carried in the Richmond Hill and Thornhill "Liberal".

Following a question period, the meeting adjourned for coffee and informal discussion. Interested persons were asked to fill in opinion poll sheets indicating their feelings on the various issues. The directors of the German Mills Homeowners' Association are sincerely interested in their community and would welcome the support of all German Mills residents.



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