

## Thornhill's Indian store treasure trove of goodies

By NAZNEEN SADIQ Hirabhai Mistry is the coowner of Kalpana, Thornhill's

first East Indian store. 8236 Yonge Street, nestled between an upholstery and variety store, is a treasure trove of Indian goodies.

Mistry arrived from India five years ago armed with a diploma in technical engineering. Finding the employment market a bit unwelcoming he has settled in Canada as a part-time machinist and store-owner.

Thornhill, according to him is a very good place to have an East-Indian store. "People are very good here and business is steadily going up" says Mistri. "I have never felt any racial discrimination in Thornhill".

Kalpana stocks groceries which are hot items on any exotic cuisine. Sacks of the fragrant long grained 'Basmati' rice are flown directly from India. Coriander and green chillies are imported from California, Pickles, lentils, and canned vegetables from South India.

For the adventurous shopper

there is a concoction of pure Indian spices to add fire to a curry. Tins of mango pulp which can be used as a thirst quencher throughout the year, are available.

There are also Sandalwood soap from Mysore, India, perfumed coconut oil and natural henna, a reddish-brown dye.

Cooking utensils which are required for some East Indian dishes are also available at Kalpana, including Noodle making machines, and the stainless steel seven-spice boxes. Indian woks (frying pans) and the traditional tawas which are an iron skillet used to cook bread

For the purist there are Indian cosmetics and hair grooming aids which seem to be gathering dust at the Kalpana shelves, foresaken for their more refined and synthetic Canadian counterparts.

A popular item being sold at Mr. Mistry's store these days is the "Rakhi" which is a tinselled wrist corsage.

August 18, explained Mistry, is Rakhi day for all Hindus. It is a

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festival dedicated to the celebration of the love of a sister for her brother. On that day all hindu females who have a brother will tie the corsage on her brother's wrist to symbolize good luck and success in life.

Hirabhai's wife Hansa has also worked at the store, and their two-year-old daughter Deepa is quite a beguiling saleslady.

Mistry says that he has a large Jewish and English clientele as well as East Indian.

Giving recipes and tips for the use of spices are a key part of salesmanship practiced by Mistry. Rounding out the bill to the penny is often done for old customers.

Kalpana to many residents is more than a convenience it is a necessity and its success may be due to its owners' personalized

Mistri says, "in winter, if there is a lady who cannot drive needs something urgently, I will deliver it to her.

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### Teachers prepare for expanded French program

About 40 York County Josette Neely, who starts primary and junior at Keswick Public School teachers cut their summer short last week because of a burning desire to learn French.

On September 5, the board will initiate a 40minute-a-day French program for pupils starting in grade one. throughout its schools. Though it may take some of these teachers two or French because they are three years to upgrade not certified," said Mrs. their facility in the spoken France "They must language, they know upgrade themselves so there will be a need for they can obtain acspecialists in language creditation from the instruction.

professional development teaching specialists. workshop to get them Money for the credit

started on a French courses comes out of the improvement program teachers pockets. doesn't finish until this subsidizes the summer Friday, is being run by workshop (for which it two elementary Master gets grant from the Teachers - Alma France Ministry) and it pays an (who will teach at honorarium to each of the Markham's Reesor Park Master Teachers who

next month.

They spent as much time as possible speaking French with the teachers going over basic speech patterns and common phrases and verb conjugations.

"These are elementary teachers, who, at this point, cannot teach Ministry.

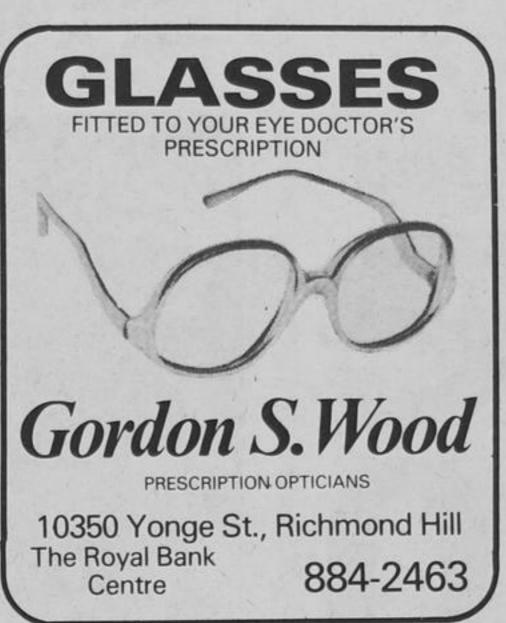
That accreditation The planning and comes in the form of development department, winter French courses headed by Steve Bac- which are split into three salmasi, recognized parts. Once teachers get potential in these the credits from these elementary teachers and courses, they become set up an in-service qualified as certified

The workshop, which However, the board Public School) and preside over the course.

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