



Hirabhai Mistry owns first Indian store.

Thornhill's Indian store treasure trove of goodies

By NAZNEEN SADIQ
Hirabhai Mistry is the co-owner of Kalpana, Thornhill's first 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 Mistry. "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, forsaken 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

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

Teachers prepare for expanded French program

About 40 York County primary and junior teachers cut their summer short last week because of a burning desire to learn French.
On September 5, the board will initiate a 40-minute-a-day French program for pupils starting in grade one, throughout its schools. Though it may take some of these teachers two or three years to upgrade their facility in the spoken language, they know there will be a need for specialists in language instruction.
Josette Neely, who starts at Keswick Public School 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 French because they are not certified," said Mrs. France. "They must upgrade themselves so they can obtain accreditation from the Ministry."
That accreditation comes in the form of winter French courses which are split into three parts. Once teachers get the credits from these courses, they become qualified as certified teaching specialists.
Money for the credit courses comes out of the teachers' pockets. However, the board subsidizes the summer workshop (for which it gets grant from the Ministry) and it pays an honorarium to each of the Master Teachers who preside over the course.

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