

# Thailand comes to Markham

The sights and sounds of Thailand have come to Markham at White Rose Nurseries.

All 10 locations are featuring a salute to Thailand with a Bangkok Flower Festival as part of the nursery's annual exotic plant show.

Thousands of colorful orchids, Thailand's national flower, have been imported for the occasion. Hundreds of other exotic plants and flowers are for sale until Feb. 14.

Each store has been converted to an open market, featuring fresh produce, Thai foods, spices and crafts. Authentic-looking temples stand guard by the market, and White Rose's staff has dressed in brightly-colored national costumes, with orchids adorning the hair of the cashiers.

The overall feeling is that of entering another climate, another world. For plant lovers, this is truly paradise. The flower festival is a rare chance to purchase expensive, exotic and rarely-available plants for reasonable prices.

The obvious highlight of the show is the orchid, a flowering plant, that, despite its beauty, has a parasitic nature, as it thrives on other species of horticulture.

The Cattleya Orchid is the most popular of the species, and perhaps the most colorful. The rich, purple, pink and white flowers are available at the festival freshly-cut, for

\$1.44 per bunch. According to publicity manager Gary Toombs, the cut orchids can last from one to two weeks if kept in a warm environment, with plenty of water.

Other kinds of orchids can be bought already potted in bark chips from \$12.99 to about \$25. Complete growing instructions are supplied for four kinds of orchids. Now is the blooming time for most of the plants, and the flowers can last from six to eight weeks.

Besides orchids, other plants and trees can be had, including bougainvillea, orange trees for about \$8, Achmea, a beautiful cactus-like plant for \$19.99 on sale, and the lovely hibiscus plant. Flowers will be brought in from Florida and California each few days to ensure freshness in every bloom.

For those not interested in horticulture, demonstrations in carving and silk umbrella painting will be given at different times, depending on the location.

White Rose also offers a chance to discover the city of Bangkok first-hand. Anyone can enter a contest to win a trip for two and a \$500 cash-voucher.

If the show is successful, another country will used in a theme for next year's flower festival. Mr. Toombs said response has been favorable so far. "It's worked out well," he said. "People are really get-

ting involved in the show," he added.

Among the visitors to the Unionville store last week was former Metro Parks Commissioner and White Rose Spokesman Tommy Thompson.

Mr. Thompson was Toronto's first park's commissioner, and held the position for 24 years. During that time, he helped develop 7,500 acres of parkland, five golf courses, The Toronto Islands and the Metro Zoo, of which he was director for three years.

He is also known for gardening columns in the Toronto Sun, and, most recently, as spokesman for White Rose Nurseries on radio advertising.

In an interview during his visit at the nursery, Mr. Thompson said his "claim to fame" is as originator of the familiar sign found in Metro parks: "Please Walk on the Grass."

Now 70-years-old, Mr. Thompson is recovering from an abdominal operation three months ago. Although he is still under his doctor's care, he said he is ready to continue writing and representing White Rose Nurseries.

"The changes in horticulture in the past 25 years are phenomenal," said Mr. Thompson, adding that flowers and plants were rarely available out of season even in nurseries.



Tom Thompson, former Metro Toronto Parks Commissioner, and White Rose Nurseries owner Jurgen Eichler (dressed as a farmer from Thailand) inspect an Orange Hibiscus plant at the White Rose showroom last week. The showroom has been decorated with plants and ornaments from Thailand as part of the annual exotic plant show currently on display. —Sjoerd Witteveen

## Business Briefs

### Good communication

The Markham Board of Trade will be holding its monthly meeting on Feb. 15 at the Fire Fighter's Club on 44 Esna Park Drive. Bill Meloche, President of Meloche Communications Inc., will be speaking on good communications and describe how to apply them.

The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. with wine, cheese and sandwiches, and the guest speaker will appear at 6 p.m. General meeting and seminar tickets are \$15 and should be paid for in advance, and can be obtained at the office on 8200 Woodbine Ave. any time prior to the meeting up to office closing time the day of the meeting. For further information, call 474-0730.

### How to Invest

Wood Gundy-Markham is sponsoring a free seminar on How to Maximize Personal Investment Income at the Markham Public Library on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Specialists from Wood Gundy will conduct the seminar, which is open to the public. To confirm attendance, call 294-9151.

### Harvey's Restaurant

A new Harvey's hamburger location opened last week in Markham. Located just east of McCowan Rd., the restaurant serves the hamburgers along with many other items, including: hot dogs, french fries, fish and chicken on a bun and steak on a bun. Breakfast is featured in the morning.

### Granny's

Granny's Fish and Chips just opened in Markham last week in the

Old Village Shops on Main St. just north of Hwy. 7.

Manager Gary Blokhuis says the restaurant's speciality is the halibut served with fresh, not frozen, chips. Also available is haddock and chips, scallops and chips, shrimps, and chicken with chips or on a bun.

The restaurant has a few stools set up for customers, or take-out is available. Hours are from 11 to 7 p.m. daily, closed on Sundays.

### Original Silkwork

Markham craftsperson Eileen Sweeney is offering handpainted, original design scarves, purses, cushions and wall hangings in 100 per cent oriental silk. All of her hand-made products are original designs, handpainted with french dyes.

An Ontario College of Art graduate, Mrs. Sweeney will custom-design quilted purses and cushions in her home to her customer's specifications. She designs in fabrics for people who enjoy wearing original artwork, or wish to give a special gift. For further information, telephone 294-6911.

### Printers' Service

Printers' Service, a manufacturer and supplier of Prisco products and printing supplies, has opened a branch office in Markham at 173 Idema Road, Unit 6.

The office will be managed by Mr. Gary Bray and will consist of sales offices and warehouse facilities. Besides offering Prisco supplies such as blanket and roller wash, fountain solutions and printing blankets, the facility will inventory a line of printing supplies from all major graphic arts manufacturers.

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## Summer job search begins for Markham area students

Markham students have begun their search for summer jobs. The Town's Department of Parks and Recreation has been taking applications for more than a month for jobs in maintenance, day camps and sports camps, says director Brian Wrigglesworth.

And an employment centre for students will be set up sometime in April on Main St. Markham, but in the meantime, students can apply for jobs at the Employment and Immigration Canada Employment Centre at 1200 Markham Rd.

Several government programs provide summer work for students such as Summer Career-Access, a federal wage-

subsidy program that provides jobs for students with companies in public, private and non-private sectors. Students can develop skills and acquire experience through these internships.

Other federal programs include the Geological Survey of Canada which provides positions with Energy, Mines and Resources; the Summer Student Customs Officer Program which staffs jobs with Revenue Canada, Customs and Excise; and the Career Oriented Summer Employment Program which involves general positions.

While most of the government jobs are geared towards college and university students, high school students can find out ab-

out suitable jobs at their schools. The Markham District High School guidance department works closely with the Canada Employment Centre for Students. The centre will set up a desk to provide information and applications in the foyer of the school sometime before their opening in April.

Bulletin boards informing students of job prospects are maintained throughout the school. Some students, especially the younger ones, can apply for their social insurance numbers through the guidance office, says Helen Grant, assistant head of guidance.

Municipal and other government job applications are also available at the guidance office as well as information about summer camp counselling jobs.

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