

# Hakim Optical opens in Markham

Hakim Optical, one of the fastest growing manufacturers of glasses and frames in Canada, has opened a store in Markham. Karim Hakim, who started as a lens grinder 22 years ago, opened his 34th store last week on Wellington St. W. at McPhillips Ave. It employs 10 people.

Mr. Hakim said he noticed people coming from Markham to his Lawrence Ave. lab and decided the number of customers from this area was enough to warrant a new outlet.

"I decided to buy this corner and build this building," he said.

Mr. Hakim has built his business on service and the new Markham location will be no exception. He said Hakim Optical offers free frames and customers will have more than six-thousand frames to choose from.

"We also give (the customer) a certificate to guarantee (the frames) for a year against breakage," added Mr. Hakim.

This customer-first approach has paid off. Of the 34 stores, 30 in Ontario and four in Nova Scotia. Added to these are five optical factories which have the capacity to produce 2,000 pairs of glasses each day.

"Unfortunately, we only get 1,000 pairs per day," Mr. Hakim joked.

Mr. Hakim has come a long way in 22 years. He moved to Canada from Iran, via Germany and Switzerland. He began his career as a tradesman lens grinder and machine repairman and four years later opened his own retail optical outlet.

He would sell up to 80 pairs of glasses per day and stay after the store closed to produce new glasses. Now, 18 years later he still plays a visible role in the company. He works 18-hour days, six days a week.

Mr. Hakim is the sole owner of the \$25 million business.



Karim Hakim, owner of the Hakim Optical Company, recently opened its 34th store on Wellington Way (Hwy 7) in Markham. Mr. Hakim was welcomed to town by Mayor Carole Bell at the official opening of the store last Thursday.

## New dance studio get their 'Kicks'

Jo-Ann Niven gets a kick out of dancing. She hopes it's catching.

Mrs. Niven will soon open a dance studio called Kicks. She will teach tap and jazz dancing to anyone four years or older. Classes will take place on Saturdays in the lower hall of St. Andrew's United Church at 32 Main St. in Markham.

Classes will run in 10-week sessions from Sept. 8 to June 15. Each session costs \$37 for 10 1/2-hour or 45-minute classes, depending

on the age of the dancers. Mrs. Niven will be assisted by instructor Cookie Mauer. They will teach classes from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The owner is an associate member of the British Association of Teachers of Dance (BATD). This means examiners from Britain will judge the dancers' performance.

Registration will take place Thursday, Aug. 23 and Friday, Aug. 24 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the church.

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- October 19th, 1984 -

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The PENALTY charged for non payment of 1984 taxes is one and one-quarter (1 1/4) percent imposed on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter.

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