

# Research plays key role in improving carrot's taste

FROM PAGE 20.

said. "You don't just go out and seed anymore — it's become a scientific thing. Our carrots are noted for having higher levels of beta carotene than they used to."

One of the Marsh's biggest strengths, said Van Luyk, is the farmer's relationship with the Muck Research Station.

"We've been able to improve our overall yields and it's really exciting that in the future, we'll be able to continue to provide to consumers safe and quality vegetables."

■ Carrot recipes, page 24.

That kind of research is vital to the reputation of the Marsh farmers when you consider vegetables grown in the Marsh don't just end up in your local market or grocery store.

Van Luyk's onions, for instance, are shipped to Peru. His carrots, meanwhile, make the long journey to the Caribbean, across Canada and into the United States.

"The quality of the crop is comparable to any in the world," Van Luyk said. The muck soil present in the Holland Marsh has always been a farmer's biggest asset.

"Our soil type lends itself to growing these crops. We're north of where a lot of this stuff is grown but it seems to have a real impact on taste and quality."

"The Holland Marsh was made for lettuce, carrots, onions and celery," he said. "And we have exceptionally good farmers out here."

And despite damage caused by El Niño-influenced storms this year, Van Luyk expects he will have an average yield.

Many Marsh farmers are currently harvesting their onions and still have

carrot crops in the ground. The final carrot crops will be taken off in the next week and into the end of October.

And Tuesday's rain brought much-needed moisture to carrots still in the ground.

"The yield could improve if there is additional moisture making them larger and they will fill out at the bottom," explained Mary Ruth McDonald, crops manager with the Muck Research Centre in Kettleby.

"For onions, we're going to have exceptionally good quality," Van Luyk said. "They thrive with sunlight and look like golden gems and the carrots go down looking for water so we should have long, very beautiful looking carrots."

"Now we just need some cool nights for carrots to mature."

Carrots vary in shape from wedge to cylinder and tend to grow long, but then need to fill out the bottom portion — that's where the moisture comes in.

"If they're narrow and pointy at the bottom, there isn't much of a yield," explained McDonald.

There are basically two kinds of carrots grown in Ontario — the imperator and the nantes.

The first is what McDonald refers to as the Bugs Bunny carrot — narrow at the end and wide at the top called imperator. The nantes is a long cylindrical carrot with a blunt end.

"Nantes is usually best in the garden — it's a sweet and good tasting carrot but there is also a lot of crossing between imperator and nantes," she explained.

When buying carrots, choose ones that are firm, smooth and free from blemishes or green colour. Avoid soft or wrinkled carrots. They may be stored for several weeks in a cool, moist place or in a plastic bag in the refrigerator.



## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

# Information Meeting For Businesses To Discuss Markham's Transportation Needs

Markham Council and staff are holding a Public Information Meeting to hear the concerns of local businesses about the transportation needs in Markham.

We want to hear from all business people about issues such as congestion, traffic infiltration, development, traffic calming and parking.

You are invited to meet with us.

Let us know what is important to you.

Information gathered will be part of the transportation plans being discussed by Council this fall.

Council and staff available from 9am - 12 noon.

For more information call Development Services

477-7000 ex. 810

## MEETING LOCATION FRIDAY-SEPTEMBER 18

Markham Theatre  
For Performing Arts

171 Town Centre Blvd. (Warden & Hwy #7)

Transportation Committee Chair  
Regional Councillor Gord Landon

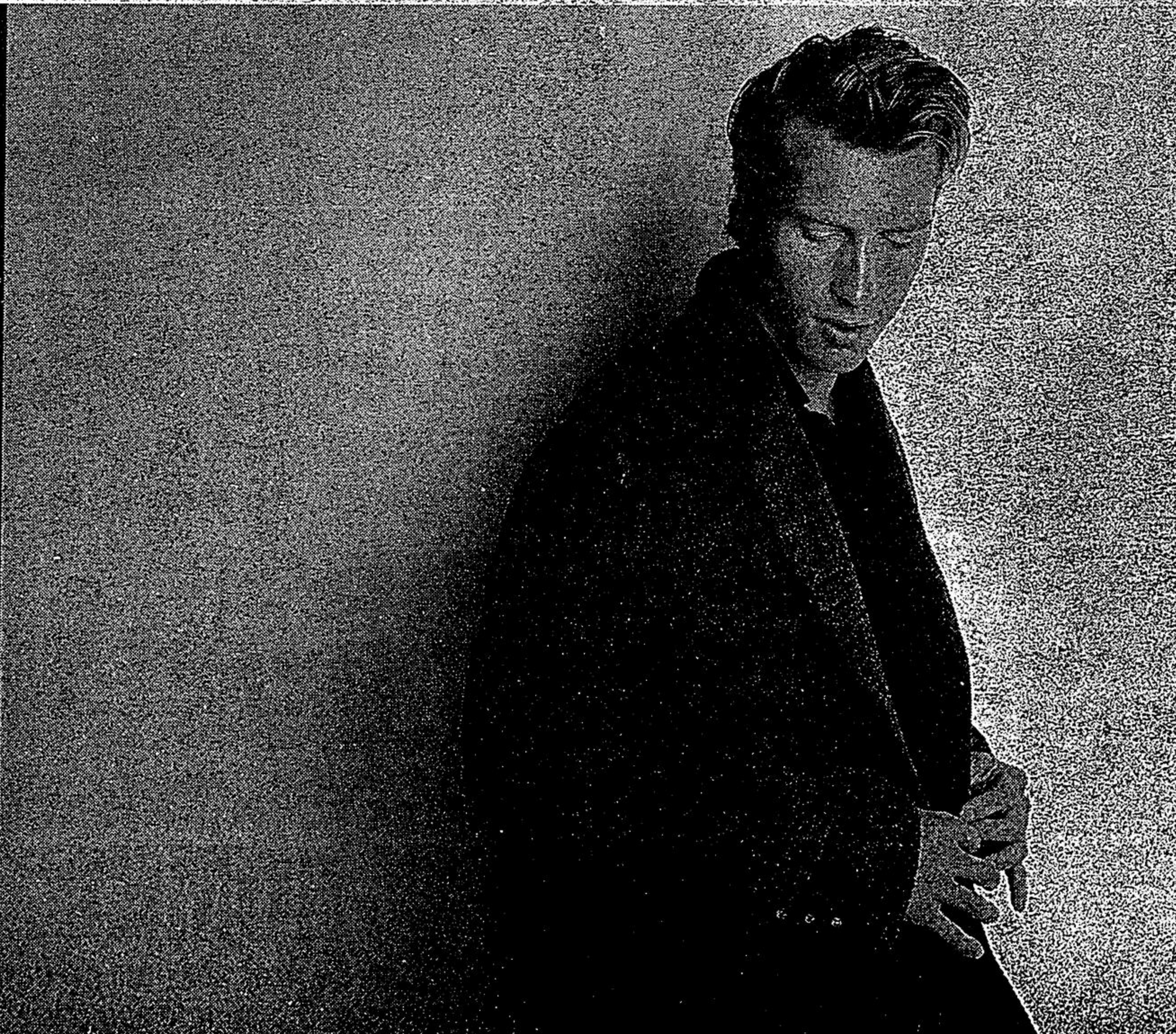


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