

Sky's the limit for your loved one's valentine

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Winery and a Valentine's Day luncheon.

All packages include a lavish spread of chocolate and wine, featuring an award-winning raspberry dessert wine from York Region's Southbrook Farms winery, a box of Chelsea chocolates, two wine glasses in a rustic wooden gift box and a long-stemmed rose. Some packages also include a chilled bottle of Trés Brut. Prices range from \$350 to \$2,400.

And if your valentine is the jewel of your eye, there are countless ways to dazzle her with diamonds or gemstones.

"Diamond stud earrings or pendants are always popular," said Kirsten Hempen, co-owner of Hempen Jewellers on Main Street in Newmarket.

The store boasts diamond solitaire pendants ranging from \$390 for a 19-point diamond to \$1,100 for a 36-point diamond and stud earrings from \$149 for 11 points to \$1,850 for 72 points.

One of the more lavish items is a five-stone bezel-set necklace sparkling with sapphires and diamonds. The piece contains a total of a half-carat in diamonds made up of three diamonds interspersed with two medium-sized sapphires on a 14-carat gold herringbone chain. It costs \$2,200.

And there's no better way to show how your love has bloomed than with a big bouquet of flowers.

Tulips and roses traditionally signify love, while the exotic orchids say "love and you are beautiful" and honeysuckle represents the bonds of love and says "my affection for you is boundless."

Faranak Hosseini, owner of Ruby Florist in Richmond Hill, said red roses and baby's breath are usually the most

popular sellers.

"People usually want a dozen, but if it's an anniversary or something, I may be asked to put as many as 100 together in a bouquet," she said.

Bouquets will cost whatever you want to spend depending on the choice of flower, the number and extras included.

For a night to remember, many men will be flocking to lingerie stores for gifts for their valentines.

Deanna Zaruk, assistant manager of La Vie En Rose in Markham, said men practically buy out the store at Christmas or Valentine's Day.

"They come in and buy whole sets. They'll buy bra and panty sets and add a matching chemise and robe," she said, pointing out people can easily spend several hundred dollars in the store.

And, since chocolate is considered one of life's little luxuries, it's a logical pick for Valentine's Day.

Chocoholics can get a taste of heaven with handmade Belgian chocolate truffles from Charinda Belgian Chocolates located near Musselman's Lake.

"You know how some people say chocolate is better than sex, well, when some people try our chocolate, their eyes go back and they say, 'God, it's better than sex,'" said Linda Randazzo who runs the shop with her mother, Charlotte.

Their specialty is a wide assortment of ice wine truffles packed in chocolate boxes. A half-pound of truffles (20 chocolates) costs \$18.49 and a full pound (40 chocolates) costs \$32. You can even pack them in a chocolate

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Plans are underway for Markham Stouffville Hospital's Legacy Run/Walk



Sheri Evans, Legacy Race co-ordinator, gets measured for her T-shirt size by Legacy Race Director, Gerard Gervais top left, while Markham Stouffville Hospital promotions co-ordinator Pam Brodie and Refton Blair, Area Manager of the Running Room, look on. Legacy, the Hospital, and the Running Room are sponsors of the 3rd annual Legacy 5 km Run/Walk to be held on Sunday, April 30. Each registered runner will receive a T-shirt like the one Evans is wearing and there are other incentives, pledge incentive programs and school and team challenges.

Big Plans? Big Help.

Scotiabank
 Business Hours:
 Monday to Thursday 10 am to 4 pm
 Friday 10 am to 6 pm, Saturday 10 am to 2 pm
 RRSP Deadline is February 29th.

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