

Markham boy chosen to give Queen flowers at airport

BY LAURA NELLES
Special

Nine-year-old Markham resident John Michael Lee presented a floral gift to the Queen as she arrived in Pearson International Airport on Wednesday afternoon.

A student at St. Patrick's Elementary school, Lee was chosen out of a multitude of kids across the Greater Toronto Area. John Michael was selected by local MPP Dave Tsubouchi after representing Canada in an inter-

national mathematics competition.

John said he was "150 per cent" excited about meeting the Queen.

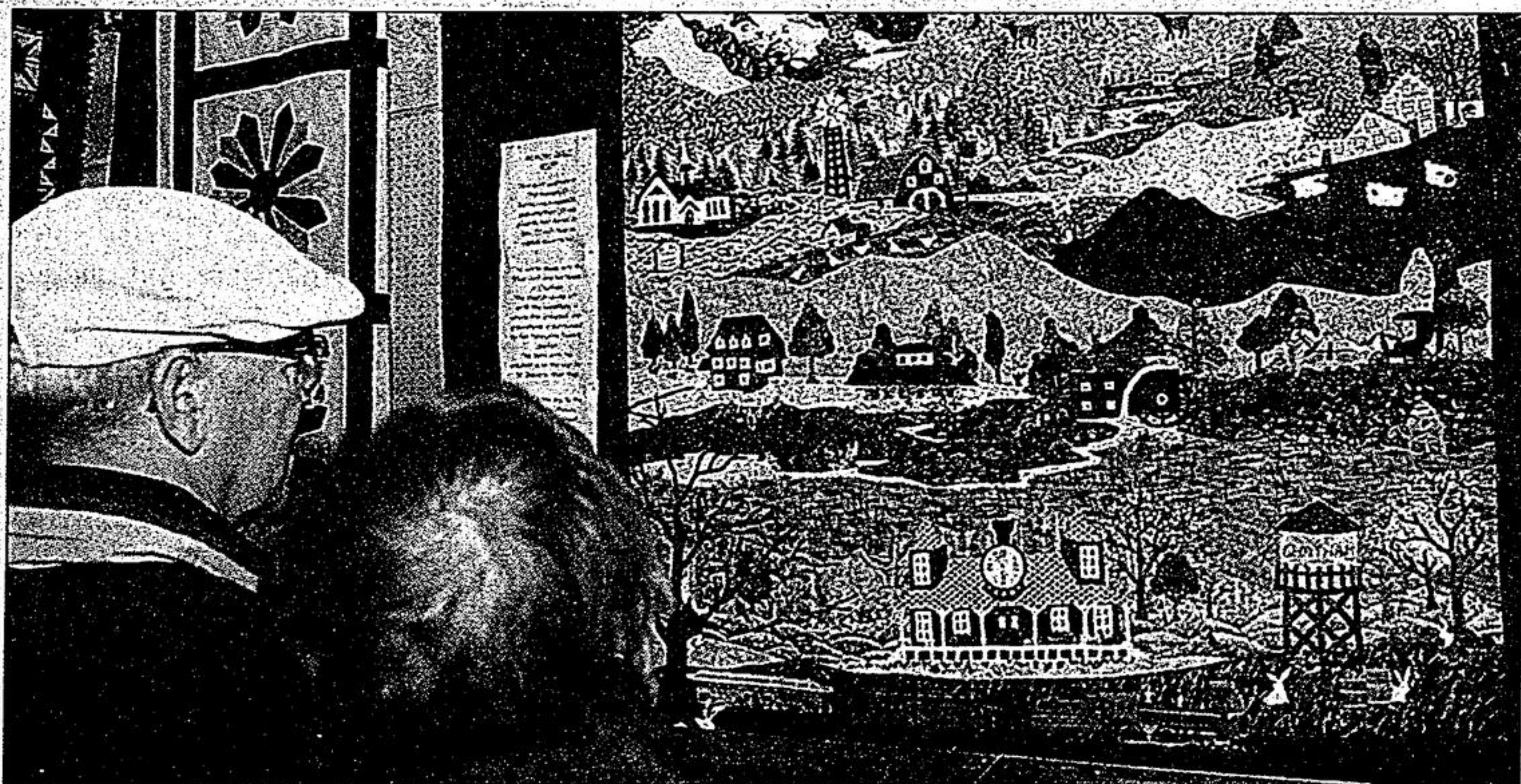
This, however, is not his family's first royal encounter. His mother Theresa Lee, was presented with a Canada 125 award ten years ago by the Governor General.

John explained that to prepare for the event, he "pretended my mum was the Queen" and practised handing her flowers.

When asked if he was scared or nervous, he replied with a confident "nope!"

Also part of festivities honouring the Queen's visit to Toronto was Stouffville resident Mylene Freeman.

Ms Freeman, who is 13, is a member of the Bach Children's Chorus which performed for Elizabeth Wednesday afternoon during the Festival Of Ontario at the National Trade Centre on the Canadian National Exhibition grounds.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Alex Craigie and Ann Tonner admire the first-place Memory Quilt at the Markham Fair. Generally good weather made for pleasing attendance figures, according to manager David Morrison.

Fair attendance up from last year

The 2002 Markham Fair was a "fabulous" success, with more than 70,000 visitors enjoying the four-day event last weekend.

About 400 more people attended the fair compared to last year, but that number would have been higher if it wasn't for windy weather Friday.

Dire predictions of 90 km/hr winds hampered attendance that day.

"It was the media warnings about the winds on Friday more than anything," said general manager David Morrison.

"The wind really didn't amount to any levels that would do damage."

Thursday attendance was up, with tours by school children and seniors' groups and people jammed the McCowan Road fairgrounds that night for open-

ing ceremonies and the demolition derby.

New events like the Firefighters' Challenge and chuck wagon races proved popular on the weekend and the beautiful weather helped boost attendance.

"All in all we are really pleased," Mr. Morrison said. "We're very happy with the outcome."

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