

Busy Markham hosts art show, 2 festivals

One of Ontario's premier fine art shows, a ribfest and an Asian festival are vying for public attention this weekend in Markham.

The 10th annual Art in the Park, showcasing more than 100 artists, is on today and tomorrow at the Markham Museum at Hwy. 48 just north of 16th Avenue.

The show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The younger set can create their own masterpieces in the Kreative Kids area.

A silent auction will be held both days. Proceeds go to Princess Margaret Hospital's Weekend to End Breast Cancer.

Admission to Art in the Park is \$5

for adults and \$3 for seniors and youth 13 to 18.

Jeff Healey and the Jazz Wizards headline the third annual Markham Rotary Ribfest and Blues festival today and tomorrow at the Markham Fairgrounds on McCowan Road.

Ribbers from as far away as Alabama, Wisconsin and Florida are showing off their ribs and sauces.

Today's entertainment includes up and coming star Colin Amey. Eight other blues bands and artists are performing from 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. today and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. tomorrow.

Proceeds from the ribfest go toward the cost of an MRI unit at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Performances, games and activities are part of the fourth annual Asian Night Market.

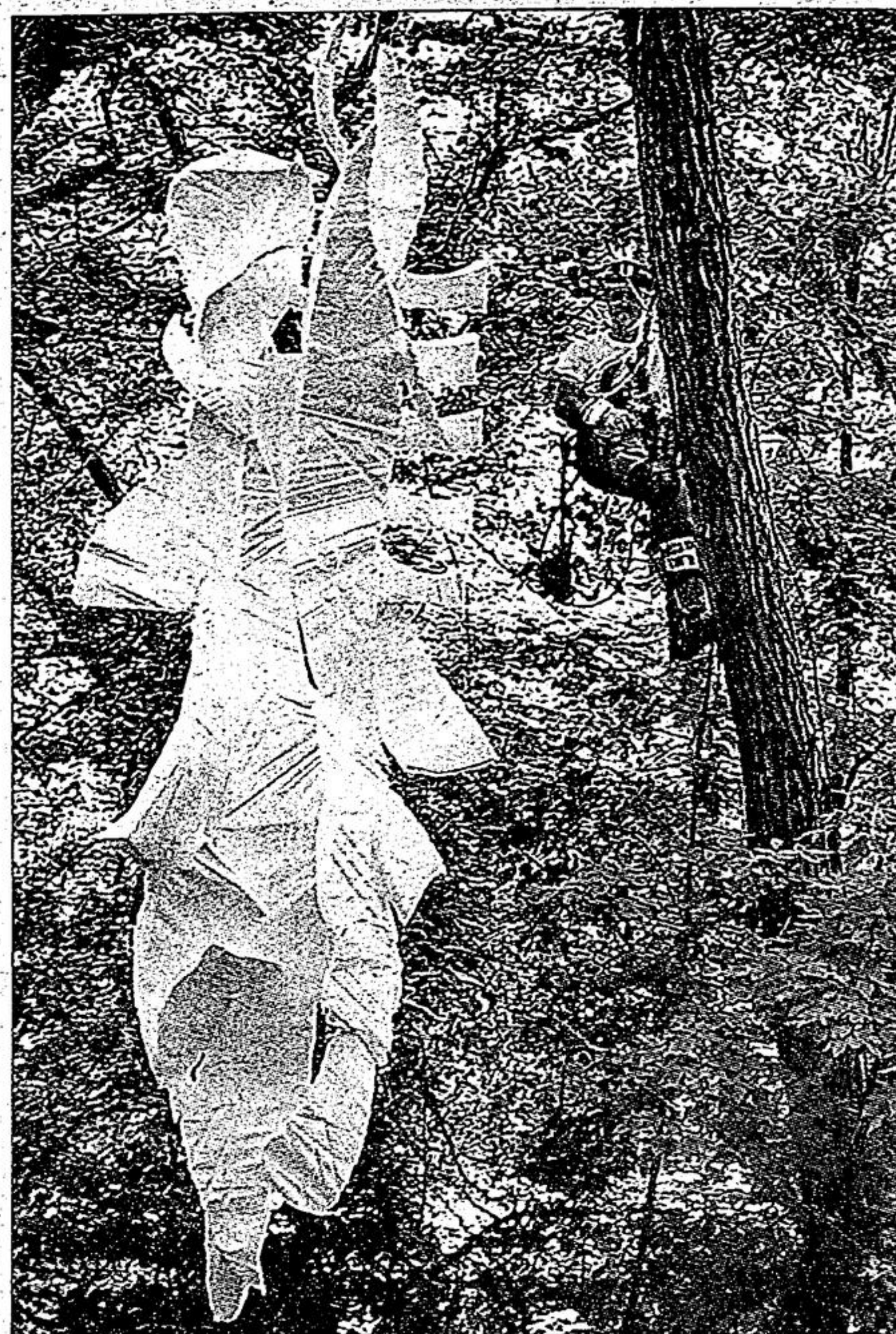
It began Friday and returns today from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Metro Square Plaza, 3636 Steeles Ave.

The event includes an array of oriental finger food plus the Shake It Up Dance Battle, showcasing talent from across the Greater Toronto Area.

Proceeds go to Harmony Place Services, a group helping young adults with developmental and/or physical challenges.

For more information, check out yrinteractive.com/artinthepark/show.html, dove-powerunit.com (for the Asian Nite Market) and markhamribfest.com

RAISING ART TO NEW HEIGHTS



A worker from Van Dyke's Tree Service in Whitchurch-Stouffville raises a piece of art to complete a public installation at Unionville's Toogood Pond for Markham's environmental art event beginning this weekend. Four artists created works in Toogood Pond, Beaupre Park in Milliken, Markham Museum, Markham Village and Thornhill's German Mills Settlers Park. The art is on exhibit throughout the summer.

Role-playing game features old-school action

JADE EMPIRE

for Xbox

Rated M for mature \$40

Graphics-10, sound-8, action-9

Game play-10, overall score-9

Call it old school with some sparkling new twists.

Jade Empire is an amazing role playing game with classic arcade fighting thrown in to make one incredible ride.

Travel across harsh mountainous terrain as the hero. Learn exotic and magical martial moves as you fight to free your master from death's hand. Learn and discover new fighting styles to crush foes and conquer their lands. This is Jade Empire.



Ryan Mason

Game On

Select the path you wish to follow by making choices that will affect your character's ability to frighten, intimidate and crush enemies in brutal martial and magical combat. Learn fighting

styles that will work with your character's attributes.

Choose to either follow the way of the open palm or the way of the closed fist, each with its own faults, benefits and down sides.

As well as martial styles, there are weapons that can be obtained through fights and at shops in the villages and cities you visit.

During your quest, you will gather followers to fight by your side. Although you can only have one member of your pack with you at a time, the others will stay close by.

The Empire is definitely one to get.

Check it out at http://jade.bioware.com/index_home.html

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