

In solid company at character awards

It was an honour. On April 28, I responded to an invitation to attend the third annual York Region Character Community awards celebration.



Roaming Around with Jim Thomas

The event was held in the attractive and new Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. I was privileged to be one of 29 nominees in the Citizen of Character (adult) category.

Nominated in other classes were: Stouffville District Secondary, (School of Character); Jamie Hewitt, (Educator of Character); Eastern Gate Community and Sleepy Hollow Community, (Neighbourhood of Character) and the Care & Share Thrift Shop, (Change our World). Eastern Gate won in its category.

My nominator was Diana Bohemier of the Glad Park School Council. Supporters were council president Dalene Serebro, Rev. Kathryn Strachan of St. James Presbyterian Church and Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason.

The plaque holds a prominent place in my Room of Memories.

Sounds sacred

The 39th annual Sacred Music Night, a tradition at St. James Presbyterian, is on this Sunday at 7 p.m.

Participants are The Rouge Valley Male Quartet, The Believers children's chorus, soloists Susan Brown and A.J. deBoer and drummer Aaron Clubine.

The congregational hymn will be led by Bruce Vanderbent.

Proceeds from the free-will offering will go to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Student Music Scholarship Fund. The church is at 6432 Main St., between Park Drive and Stouffer Street.

Take a bow, Maniacs

Comparisons aside, the 49th edition of Music Mania was one of the best.

Friday evening's standing room-only audience laughed, cheered and applauded all aspects of the two-hour show.

It was just that good. The basis for the production, a cast trip to the British Isles, touched the hearts of those whose roots are still very much entwined with the customs of their native England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

Through skills employed by director Rick Lightfoot

and co-producers Cindy Duncan and Fenella Smith, the troupe transcended space, landing viewers squarely in the middle of traditions many still hold dear. It was 120 minutes of magic moments.

The best of the best?:

- The 'English Country Garden', colour-coded in blacklight, was magnificent. Hats off to directors Bruce and Bunny Burton.

- Tap-dancers Margo Bibby, Bunny Burton, Cindy Duncan, Valerie Starr, Valerie Cuthbertson and Lisa St.Germain were wonderful.

- So was the chorus in a medley of Tam O'Shanter Tunes. Guest vocalist Susan Brown captivated the audience with her voice.

If you were as caught up in the British Isles travelogue as I, please remember, the next time you travel Stouffville's Main Street, drive in the right-hand lane, rather than the left.

Evening of note

The 40-voice Men of Note chorus, celebrating its 10th anniversary, played to a full house Sunday at Christ Anglican Church. Soloist Susan Brown was outstanding.

Willy Wonderful

The production was entitled Willy Wonka. To 600 Glad Park Public School parents and grandparents, it was Willy Wonderful.

Two performances last week were roundly cheered by enthusiastic audiences.

Co-producers were teachers Melissa King and Brandy Bayley. Lead roles were brilliantly played by Alexander Craig-Sheldon, Bronte Anderson, Julie Bohemier and David Park.

More than 140 students in grades 1 to 8 took part.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

AT THE DELI

Not only will we have Salmon at the fish counter, we'll be cooking some ready-to-go in two different guises; the first is with a Citrus-Butter Sauce and the other is Salmon Wellington (this will be in our puff pastry with a dill seasoning). Speaking of Wellingtons, we'll be making some individual Beef Wellingtons as well, with a beautiful Mushroom Duxelle. Cooking directions will accompany these, just in case. Another item that we'll be making is a Sesame-Seed Encrusted Fresh Halibut Fillet, this with a Balsamic Glaze. While I was away this past weekend on a mini Golf Trip, I happened upon the Peller Estates Vineyard Dining Room for dinner, and one of the items that we were served was a Pesto Couscous which was delicious, another item that we'll be making this week. Off the topic a bit I know, but another dinner recommendation that we got from one of my Niagara-on-the-Lake Buddies was a restaurant in Niagara Falls called Casa D'Oro, a very unlikely old-time spot with AMAZING Prime Rib...and everything else, this just in case you are down that way and you're hungry. My golf...it will get better as the season goes on.

We'll be making...A big variety of Quiches, Prosciutto Wrapped Asparagus, French Beans, Grilled Vegetables, Spicy Garlic Shrimp Skewers, Double-Done Stuffed Potatoes, Grilled Balsamic Vegetable Skewers, Plum Tomatoes with Bocconcini Cheese & Basil, Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce, Jumbo Marinated Champagne Shrimps, Crabcakes & Beef tenderloin with Peppercorn Sauce.

~SAGE & ONION~ SAUSAGES

These are made with fairly coarsely ground fresh pork, with sautéed onions, some nice sage, salt and pepper, but no garlic, if that is important to you. You'll find these fairly mild, making them a good sausage on your dinner plate as well. Reg. \$3.99/lb

25% OFF THIS WEEK

FRESH LOCAL ASPARAGUS

The local product is now in...it's a great time of the year!

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' OUTSIDE!

Firstly, we've got a lot of options for container planting—and more to come. If you are looking for a living arrangement for this weekend, take a look at what we do, or get the 'stuff' to do-it-yourself...it's all good. For the weekend we will have our first shipment of Kimberly ferns, Gardenia standards and large Hibiscus, we have already received two shipments of Boston ferns, — and some ever-blooming Gardenia bushes and Elf Hydrangea. A good assortment of mixed baskets have arrived, lots of patio pots that are in nice bloom. Geranium hangers with or without trailing trim. A good selection of grasses (I invite you to compare the price). Lots of herbs — and herb planters, a large number of Bacopa hangers and 4" pots if you are a bit more patient. We have 8" red, white or pink Mandevillas, red & green spikes in various sizes, Rosemary pots and topiaries, 6" Hibiscus for planters, Fuchsia standards, Azaleas (both 6" and trees) and a nice selection of pansies. Something neat are the Ivy Topiaries just outside the exit door...and just so you know, we can usually custom plant about anything you wish.

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' INSIDE!

If you are in need of an indoor arrangement, we've got you covered as well. Not only will we have our beautiful long-lasting roses in red and cream that we normally carry, we will have special for Mother's Day, two varieties of pink; there will be a great many arrangements in both mixed or solid colours to choose from. You don't show up empty handed this week, boys!

T~STUFFED PORK~ TENDERLOINS

Men, if it's your turn to put the apron on, this is a good place to start; you can look (and sound) like a culinary star without a lot of work, worry or clean-up. We begin with pork tenderloins which have been trimmed nicely, and then we stuff them with either a bread mixture with fancy dried fruit or our Brie and Pear Stuffing. Not only do these present well, they taste even better. Cooking directions are on the label. Regular \$9.95/lb

25% OFF THIS WEEK

ORGANIC SALMON FILLETS

These are the Irish Salmon Fillets that we have sold for quite a while, weather permitting. These will be available only au naturel as I assume that you will want to do your own preparations. Salmon has such a laid-back culinary personality that almost anything goes. Reg. \$16.95/lb

25% OFF THIS WEEK

NEED A DIP?

We've got a new dip at the deli that has been very well received by all, including my kids. It's made with Asiago Cheese and Sun-Dried Tomatoes, and it's just waiting to meet your favourite cracker. Just to change things up a bit, it could be used instead of mayo in a sandwich as well..... perhaps with Italian Salami. Reg.\$2.39/100g

1/3 OFF THIS WEEK

SOUP'S ON!

Our frozen soup feature for this week will be our Cream of Cauliflower. The best selling job that I can do here is list the ingredients for you, and they are..... Cauliflower, Chicken Stock, Onions, Celery, Whipping Cream, Butter, White Wine, Salt and Pepper. There, just like you'd make at home if you had a great recipe in front of you, and the time. Regular \$6.49

25% OFF THIS WEEK

WHAT'S FOR DINNER!

In our big kitchen we've been making copious amounts of our beautiful Beef Stroganoff. It's great with mashed potatoes, egg noodles or spaetzle, or with rice — all you need to do is thaw it and warm it up. All the work's done! Reg. \$17.95

25% OFF THIS WEEK

WHAT'S BAKING! —FOR MOTHER'S DAY—

We may not have some of the regular items in order to concentrate on Mother's Day Treats and because the quarters are tight, there just isn't the room; for this we apologize. We'll be making.... Crème Brûlées in Vanilla Bean, Grand Marnier and Chocolate; Layer Cakes in Strawberry, Chocolate Ganache, Chocolate Raspberry in a Heart shape and a new Lemon Curd 'Hat Shaped' which is covered in rolled Fondant and decorated with Candied Edible Flowers, a 'Gift-Box' Cake which will be Vanilla with Chocolate Icing, and lastly, Coconut Cloud Cakes. That brings us to Cheesecakes; we'll be making Lemon Curd Swirl, Strawberry, Caramel Apple and more of our new Mini Cheesecakes. Pies will include Lemon Cream with a graham crust, Strawberry Cream with a graham crust as well, and an assortment of our traditional Fruit Pies. There'll be Mousse Cakes too, most notably our Black and White, but also Mango-Raspberry and Tiramisu. If you need Flourless, there will be our Chocolate Flourless and Mango Cheesecake. We'll also have Jelly Rolls, our Chocolate Raspberry Bundt Cake, Custard and Fresh Fruit Flans, Lemon-Slipper Puff Pastries as well as enough Hand-Painted Cookies to thrill all comers, big and small. There should be big Chocolate Stem Berries as well. Hungry yet?

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY MAY 10 TH

Hours:

Mon. 11:00-7:00 - Tues.-Thurs. 9:00-7:00 - Fri. 9:00-8:00
Sat. 9:00-6:00 - Sun. 10:00-5:00

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