

# REKKERS GARDEN CENTRE - EXPANDING WHOLESALE DIVISION

Rekker's Garden Centre is expanding the production of their wholesale division to include a new second location - a few kilometres west of Orono.

The successful retail outlet on Hwy 2 at Maplegrove Road will continue to sell without interruption, direct from the grower, the highest quality and selection of annuals, planters, hanging baskets and poinsettias, at competitive prices.

"This new second location will allow us to expand our wholesale division to meet the needs of our many wholesale customers across Ontario," stated Gerard Prins, owner. "We thank God for his blessings and our success, and we acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all of our staff who have helped expand our business into what it is today," Gerard added.

Rekker's Garden Centre is a family business started by Mr. Jelle and Jessica Rekker more than 50 years ago.

Jelle dreamed of growing and selling vegetables. In the

early 1960's he fulfilled that dream with the purchase of 35 acres of land owned by the Snowden family of Maplegrove. He began growing and selling vegetables, while holding down a full time job at General Motors.

Thus began what has grown to be one of Clarington's most successful agricultural family businesses, now employing up to 80 people during the busy Spring season.

Rekker's wholesale division grows hundreds of trailer loads of plants and flowers each year, distributing them throughout Ontario to national retailers such as Costco, Metro, Food Basics, Canadian Tire and Home Hardware.

Recently, the current owners Richard & Lucy Rekker, and Gerard & Nancy Prins invited neighbours, friends, and business associates to join with their staff in celebrating this recent expansion, and tour the first of the many state-of-the-art greenhouses they plan to build on the Durham Region Road 42 location, in the years

to come.

Richard spoke of his father's vision and the history of changes the company has undergone over the last 50 years. "Over the course of my lifetime, I have witnessed many changes in the wholesale flower industry" said Richard Rekker, owner. "I remember our first delivery van held 100 flats of flowers. Today we grow and deliver approximately 500,000 flats and baskets of flowers each season, and our greenhouse operations allow us to have two growing seasons per year" he continued.

Rekker's Garden Centre on Hwy 2 at Maplegrove Road is open March to December and is committed to being your one-stop gardening source. They look forward to seeing familiar faces again this season, as well as meeting many of the new residents to this area. Please note the new wholesale division is strictly wholesale and not open to the general public.



Members of Rekker's Garden Centre retail staff Tracy Wood (L) and Lynn Roth(R) tour the new production facility with Gerard Prins(C).



Richard Rekker(L) discussing with guests and staff the many changes he has seen in the company over the last 50+ years, and Gerard Prins(R) acknowledging the high work ethic of staff.



Don & Gail Rickard, two of the many guests in attendance.



Guest mingle with staff members and tour the new state-of-art greenhouse.



Mitch Morawetz (MOC) chatting with Richard Rekker, Bonnie Wright (BOT), Tom Barrie and Henry Zekveld.



Richard and Gerard pose with Jim Abernethy (L), Tina Abernethy (C) and Steve Ritchie (R) Manager Agriculture and Commercial Banking.