

COMMUNITY: Church popularity expected to rise after stroke of 12 in 2000

# Stockpile cash, food, churches warn

BY MIKE ADLER  
STAFF WRITER

In medieval Europe, a cold, desperate family of hungry peasants could look to their church for help. In darker times, it offered food, guidance and sanctuary.

And if the power goes off and the clock turns back on Jan. 1, 2000, cold, desperate suburbanites in York Region may find themselves at the church doors again.

But by then, St. John's Anglican in Oak Ridges should be running a dual-fuel generator, keeping a store of food for hungry Y2K victims, and holding a list of parishioners who can draw well water with hand-cranked pumps.

Rev. Paul Scuse said the preparations will make his

church more "disaster-friendly" for the public in case something big (another crippling ice storm, for instance) should ever happen.

"If anything, we're trying to keep calm about the whole thing."

The church is not blaming God for what happens Jan. 1, he said.

Churches can help the vulnerable in their congregations, those who cannot take steps to protect themselves against the millennium bug, said Heinz Haischt, who heads a Y2K advisory group at Bayview Glen Church of the Christian in Thornhill, and spoke to members of St. John's and three other Oak Ridges churches last week at a local arena.

He said he advised them, like everyone else, to have cash, water, staple foods and household goods on hand for the Year 2000.

"When everybody wants them, it's called hoarding. Today, it's stockpiling."

Haischt's committee will hand its report to elders at Bayview Glen, who will decide what measures the church takes.

"We may have to learn how to help each other, and live a little less high-tech than we are," Haischt said.

— look for more articles on how communities are preparing for the turn of the century.



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WATCH**

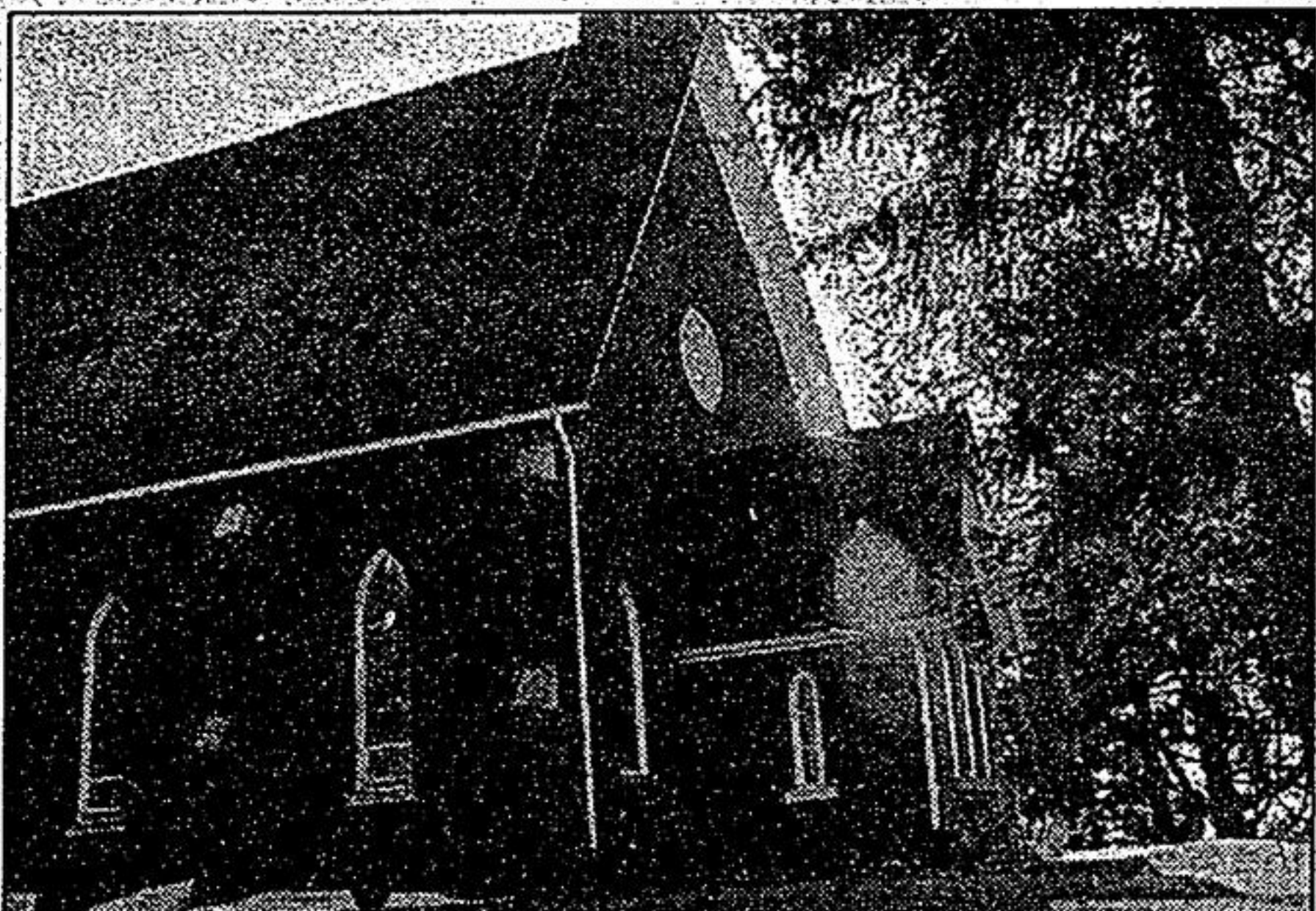


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St. John's Anglican Church in Oak Ridges will be ready to help residents in case of millennium bug problems come the Year 2000.



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