

Will dawn of millennium spell end of the world?

Doomsday fears dismissed by most

BY DAWN LIERSCH
Staff Writer

They're heading for the hills, with campers stocked with canned goods, hunkering down in rural outposts for what they believe are the last grim days on Earth.

They're converging on Israel in droves, expecting to witness Armageddon prophecies come to life drawn by the promise of a new heaven and Earth.

They're spouting predictions of world chaos and government conspiracies, causing security officials to fear cultists are stockpiling weapons to hasten the arrival of doomsday.

Millennium fever appears to have hit with a vengeance. A *Newsweek* poll last month revealed 40 per cent of American adults believe the world will one day end. Some evangelical groups fear the last hurrah will occur as soon as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve.

But according to the Costa Rica-based online gambling firm NASA International, the odds of the world coming to an end at that time are a million to one.



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Dave Forfar of Markham will likely celebrate the new millennium with a bottle of champagne in his hot tub.

By comparison, the chance that aliens will land on the White House is 100,000 to one.

And plenty of York residents believe the doomsday dronings are all a load of hog wash.

"I don't believe in that stuff. I won't even let my thoughts go there," said a woman who appeared more concerned about her Christmas shopping than impending doom.

But when pressed, many say they know what they'd like to be doing if the world was to end.

"There's this spot in Hawaii, where you can look out at the islands. The water

is turquoise and you can watch the whales going by. It's so beautiful," said Newmarket's Sandy Epp.

And Tony of Markham (who asked that his last name not be used) would travel to Edinburgh, Scotland to spend his last days partying with family and friends.

Shirley Rodrigues of Richmond Hill has no special plans. Her last wish would be to continue living each day to the fullest.

"I'd just enjoy every day — make it count."

That sounds like good advice, considering the odds you'll be struck dead by lightning tomorrow are 600,000 to one.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Anthony Bungaro**

Markham Real Estate Broker, Anthony Bungaro Sutton Group Franchise Realty Inc. wins position for "Director at Large" at the recent election for the Toronto Real Estate Board, Board of Directors. Since 1977, Mr. Bungaro has been an active member of the Board and has volunteered his time to many TREB Committees including Ethics and Arbitration and also a Director in 1998.

Other prominent Markham Brokers representing the Nominees for T.R.E.B., Ms. Cynthia K. Lai, FRI Manager for Re/MAX Gateway Realty Inc. and President of the Real Estate Institute of Markham and Mr. Alan Fok, C.A. President of Times Square Realty are bringing many years of experience and knowledge to the Board of Directors.

The Toronto Real Estate Board has 16 Directors and is the largest Board in Canada with a citizen membership of over 15,000 members spanning all over Greater Metropolitan Toronto.

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Season's Greetings

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We wish you a Happy Holiday and Health & Prosperity in the New Millennium



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