

Teens in 30-hour famine this weekend

BY PATRICK MCALPINE
Special

It's not quite a national famine, but teens across Canada and York Region are going on a starvation diet this weekend.

It's all for the World Vision 30-Hour Famine.

The 31st annual event encourages teenagers to fight world hunger by temporarily experiencing it themselves.

Participants go without solid food for 30 hours, consuming nothing but water and juice.

By taking pledges, the teens raise money for children in the poorest countries around the globe and increase awareness of world hunger in their community.

"Every day 30,000 children die from hunger and preventable diseases planet-wide," says World Vision spokesperson Melinda Estbrookes.

About 250 high schools

and other organizations throughout the region are taking part in this year's event.

According to local World Vision spokesperson Raymond Onami, approximately 15 of those groups are in Markham.

The town's total turnout is expected to be about 750 people.

"That's a fantastic number," says Mr. Onami.

Participants began 6 p.m. Friday and refrain from eating until midnight today.

The program had humble Canadian beginnings in 1971.

But now, similar events have been planned in the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Malaysia, Japan and Hong Kong.

Last year's famine involved 165,000 Canadian participants and raised \$4.5 million.

This year, World Vision hopes to increase both

numbers, to \$5 million from 170,000 participants.

The money raised will support youth-focused programs in Africa, India, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Canada and Afghanistan.

These initiatives include child labour protection,

water cleaning services, education and emergency relief.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization active in more than 90 countries, providing help to upwards of 75 million people each year.

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Dr. Allen Turner, D.C. will be presenting a free lecture on Thursday, Apr. 11, 2002 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Stouffville Health Centre.

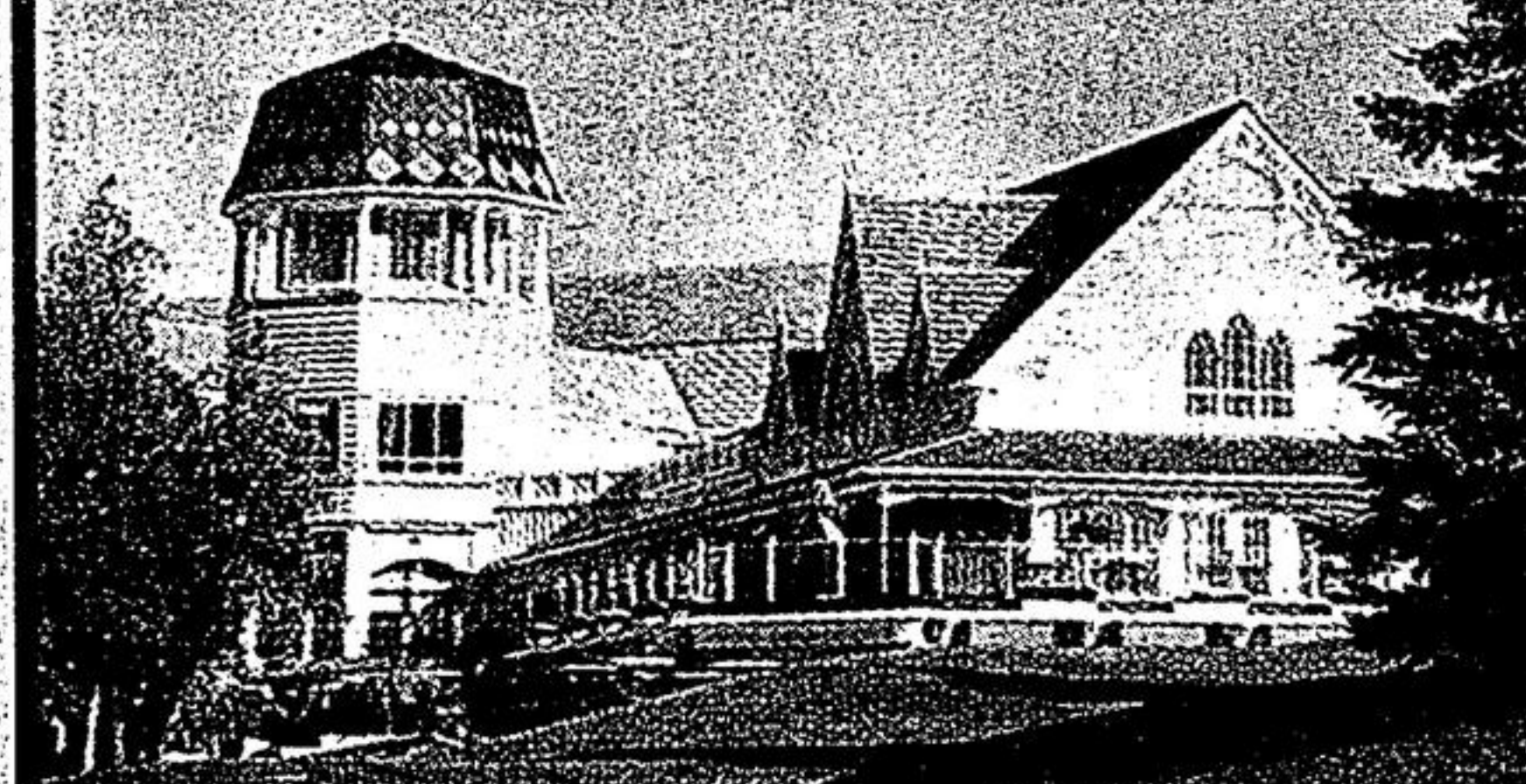
Dr. Turner's methods have been featured on Dini Petty, The National News and Canada AM.

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