

Food banks in good shape for Christmas

BY LAURA NELLES
Special

Local food bank representatives have a word for Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville residents: Amazing.

Due to the generosity of residents and businesses, both the Markham and the Whitchurch-Stouffville food banks have plenty of food for the holiday season.

"We are well looked after," said Whitchurch-Stouffville representative Esther Powell.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville bank has about 55 families using it on a regular basis.

And no matter what time of year, Mrs. Powell says the facility has plenty of food on hand.

On the other hand, while the Markham Food Bank has enough food right now, there is a concern for the future.

'We have a flood of donations from Thanksgiving to Christmas and then after new year's they all just stop.'

There are about 75 more people (not families) using the food bank now than at this time last year.

"Our numbers have gone up quite significantly," said representative Sheila Spinks.

In an average month, about 500 people use the Markham Food Bank.

"We have a flood of donations from Thanksgiving to Christmas and then after new year's they all just stop."

Ms Spinks says the facility is always looking for baby formula, diapers of all sizes, canned fruits and vegetables, powdered milk and toiletries.

Both the Markham and Stouffville food banks welcome volunteers — they're good for high school students looking to obtain the community service hours required for graduation.

Ms Spinks called her industry a "peculiar business" since it is impossible to predict what is going to happen from one day to the next.

Usage can vary widely — from nobody next week to 50 people the week after, she noted.

Anyone interested in helping the food bank should phone 905-294-6046.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Locust Hill United Church
7668 Hwy. 7 East
7:30 pm
Everyone welcome.



PHOTO/FRANCINE MORRISON

SO, DO YOU LIKE POINSETTIAS?

Markham's Yvette Rousseau celebrated her 75th birthday on Dec. 14 in style — Christmas style, that is. Friends gave her a whopping 19 poinsettias. "They're in the bathrooms, the kitchen, everywhere," said husband Jake.

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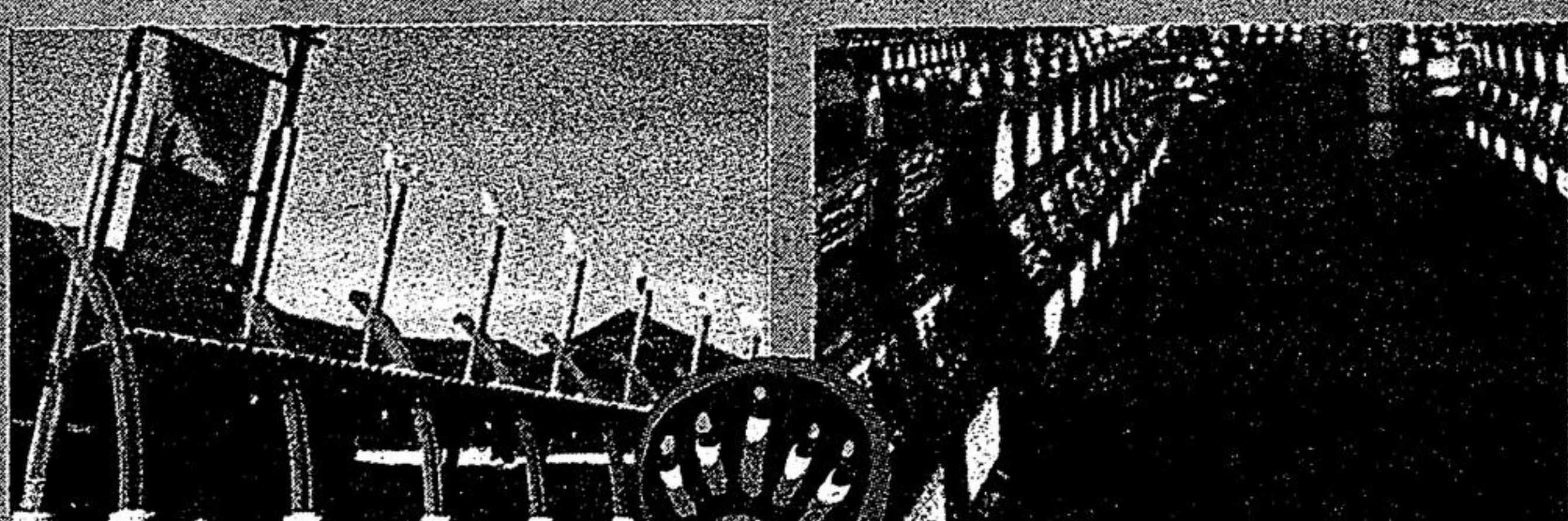
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, December 22nd - 9:00 am & 10:45 am

Tuesday, December 24th - 6:30 pm & 8:00 pm

Children's Christmas Programs:

- Sunday, December 22nd - infants to grade 6
- Tuesday, December 24th - 6:30 pm - Christmas Programs: infants to sk.
- 8:00 pm - NO CHILDCARE



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