



# The Stouffville Tribune

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## New Road Surface on Main Not Appreciated, Many Ratepayers Angered

### Fears Expressed that our Fine Macadam was being Reduced to a Gravel Top Road.

Stouffville residents, or many of them, were thrown into a perfect turmoil last Thursday, when a road construction gang descended upon the town, and in a few hours transformed our macadam top roadway, extending through the whole village, into a veritable gravel road. A rush was made to the office of the reeve, only to find that this official was quite unaware of what was going on. However, he promptly contacted the county road engineer in Toronto, and was assured by him that the job being done by the Toronto and York Road Commission would prove entirely satisfactory within a period of two or three weeks, when the oil applied to the surface before the small stone was laid, had a chance to penetrate to the surface.

The engineer said that a coating of Trinidad asphalt such as was used when the road was built, would cost \$30,000, if available, and since the price was out of bounds at present, the alternative was to apply the type of surface that has just been laid.

A similar new top has been placed on the fine road running through Sutton village, and it has turned to a black top, as the engineer said, and appears to be entirely satisfactory.

Had Trinidad asphalt been applied, Stouffville would have come in for a special assessment, no doubt, just before the debentures on the original road are paid off. The top applied last week, is comparatively new, and with the modern machinery used, the whole job was done in five or six hours, and will not necessitate a special assessment. The Toronto-York Commission will care for the expense in the usual way.

It was imperative that the road be surfaced before another winter to preserve the base.

Objection to the new surface, is the terrific dust, and observers prophesy that half the road will be blown away in a couple of weeks. Shop floors are white with the dust from the soft limestone chips, and town men are unable to clean the street to keep the dirt from getting into the sewers. Of course the overall appearance of a gravel top is inferior to the macadam surface that has been covered up.

"I had no intimation that such a top would be placed over the macadam," said Reeve Nolan. "I was however, informed that a top had to be built almost immediately, as the cracks in the road were regarded as dangerous to the base, but we were not told any more than that." However, the reeve says he is willing to be guided by the engineer and that he accepts his assurance that the top will be much the same as we are accustomed to, when the oil penetrates through the stone.

Many citizens are not aware that the Toronto & York Road Commission are responsible for the maintenance of the road, and as they have a big financial stake in the fine stretch of pavement which is regarded as the "show window of Stouffville," the Commission and Engineer Rose are anxious to preserve their financial interests, even if they are not sentimental about the pride that Stouffville took in the fine road surface now covered.

The reeve said that county officials should have instructed and informed the local officials so that they could have educated the people in advance, thus saving the turmoil caused here last Thursday, when the construction company thundered through the main artery, spreading oil and stone, to the embarrassment of onlookers who regarded them as a wrecking crew, or something more unwelcome.

### CAR BURNS AFTER CRASHING TRUCK

Travelling on Main street east Tuesday evening after dusk a car owned by Mrs. Ford who lives on the former Fred Pugh farm on the Pickering townline east of town, and driven by her son crashed into a standing truck owned by Earl Brillingler. The car a recently overhauled Ford burst into flames when the gasoline tank burst, and the outfit was a total loss. Brillingler's truck came off with little damage. The firemen were called but could do little since the car was doomed before they reached the scene.

## Six Forms and Seven Teachers Open High School Term Here

A peak enrolment of approximately one hundred and sixty students filed into Stouffville High School on opening day this week. There are fifty-six "first-timers," necessitating two Grade 9's. The school is equipped this year with seven teachers, the largest staff ever engaged here.

Principal L. C. Murphy B.A., will teach Chemistry and Mathematics; Mr. P. Sherk B.A., Mathematics, Agriculture and Physical Ed.; Mr. Thos. Pherrill B.A., English; Mr. Robinson B.A., Shop Work, Guidance, Geography and English; Miss E. Goodyear B.A., History, Physical Ed.; Miss B. Davis B.A., French; Miss G. Campbell B.A., Latin, Art, Home Economics.

Agricultural Science is being introduced this year in Grade 10 for the first time. The Upper School Grade will see a class of twenty.

While a large enrolment of beginners is expected in the Public School, accurate figures could not be arrived at this week, owing to sickness which was keeping as many as twenty pupils away from one Grade alone.

### SANG AT EXHIBITION

The Baker Hill double quartette sang at the CNE last Thursday during the afternoon program in the Woman's World Theatre at the Coliseum, and we hear they made a real hit with the large audience. Personnel of the group: Mrs. Oldham (leader), Mrs. Ken Wagg, Mrs. Keith Hutchinson, Mrs. Alex. Ratcliff, Mrs. Floyd Ratcliff, Mrs. Don Ratcliff, Mrs. Stewart Stouffer, Mrs. Howard Ratcliff, Mr. Clarion Baker, pianist.

## Unionville Farm Accepts Award of \$400 for Valuable Animal Killed

The year-old claim of Mr. W. James Russell for a pedigreed heifer claimed to have been killed on his Unionville farm as a result of being chased by dog or dogs, was finally settled on Tuesday when Markham council who had previously caused a cheque to be issued to Mr. Russell for \$300, now added \$100, to make the total payment of \$400. Reeve Chas. Hooper urged the settlement.

After a long discussion between council and Mr. Russell, Deputy Reeve D. Rumney said, "We are not coming to a settlement very fast, and I am going to make an offer. It will be for council and Mr. Russell to accept or reject." The offer was to pay Mr. Russell another hundred in addition to the previous amount of \$300.

Mr. Russell in accepting the offer said, "I am not much in favor, yet I am not going to fight the issue. If your dog tax however, is showing a profit, you are chiselling the fund for general taxes." In conclusion Mr. Russell said he didn't think the council handled the whole matter in a very business-like manner.

Last fall a valuable animal on the Russell place died and death was pronounced due to hemorrhage. A dog had been seen chasing an animal on the adjoining farm where council paid compensation for one dead beast. It was presumed that the Russell beast had been chased also, but nobody ever saw a dog at Russell place. Mr. Russell took an affidavit that he believed his cow was killed as a result of dogs. Council offered him \$300 and he appealed to the Department and was awarded \$700. The full award was never paid, and since that time the Sheep and Dog Act has been changed limiting any single animal claim to not more than \$250. However, this new statute is not retroactive to this claim. Tuesday's settlement proved an agreeable conclusion of a long-standing case that would have cost both parties more money had they allowed it to pass into a court action.

### WIDEMAN'S TO HEAR ABOUT RELIEF WORK

Miss Winger who is interested in the Mennonite Relief Committee work will speak in the Wideman Mennonite Church, Markham, on Thursday, Sept. 4th, at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Mutton-eating dogs killed a sheep on the farm of Harvey Schell, Stouffville, recently. On Monday, Markham Township council compensated the owner to the extent of \$15

## Two "Sweethearts" thrill Exhibition Crowd



Betty Rae of Unionville shown with her 5-year-old Hackney pony, "Dress Parade", never misses the C.N.E. One of her

proud admirers is her grandmother, Mrs. Davison who knows more about show ponies than would fill a book.

## Well-Liked Farm Hand At Gormley Absconded

Like a thief in the night Albert Denardo, employed by Mr. William Smith, Gormley farmer, folded up suddenly and left for parts unknown. He was supposed to be taking in the exhibition on Monday, but he never returned, and later it was discovered that he had taken a wrist watch valued at \$35, and a signet ring valued at \$15. Further, he had pried open a strong box in the home expecting to find money or other valuables, but was dis-

appointed in this effort.

A strange thing in connection with the man is that Denardo was well liked by the Smiths. He was an excellent worker, seldom left the farm, and when he did, it is now recalled that he always wore dark glasses. He never wore glasses about the farm, however.

Constable Clarence Wideman is investigating. He located a torn up letter giving the name of a person in Sault Ste Marie which may prove of help in locating the missing man.

Denardo was secured by Mr. Smith through the office of the Farm Service Force on the 28th of July, and from the first day, the new farm hand proved efficient and most agreeable about the place.

## Ratcliff Clan Celebrates 100 Years in Canada

First gathering of the Ratcliff clan, descendants of Mr. and Mrs. William Ratcliff who came to Canada in the fall of 1846, just over a hundred years ago, gathered on the identical farm that the pioneer Ratcliff bought when he came up from New York State to select the land, after landing his family there from the Old Country. This is the present well known Robert Ratcliff farm on the townline west of Stouffville, where picnic grounds and park facilities are available.

When the first William Ratcliff came to Markham, the township was very young, but had all been surveyed. Unquestionably the possibility of water power influenced the new comer to choose the farm he did.

The property had been deeded by the Crown to one who received it for military or other service, and from this individual William Ratcliff made his purchase obtaining the 100 acres for \$25 pounds, which undoubtedly represented a great deal more money in those times than it does today. Markham lands were selling at that time for an average of \$80 per acre, however.

The place was heavily timbered then, but in those early days that was no great asset. However, Ratcliff turned it to good account, for he set up a sawmill, which is still in operation, although hundreds of others have come and gone during the century. William had a careful business training before he came from England as was indicated at the picnic on Saturday when an account book kept by him was exhibited. The day book was started in England, and showed every item of expenditure, and every receipt day by day.

The same book was used when he came to Canada. It shows that he sold lumber at \$10 a thousand feet in 1856, the purchaser being Mat. Flint. This was one of the larger and more imposing entries.

Other exhibits at the centennial on Monday included parts of ward-

robes used by some of the first families. A deed was exhibited showing the sale of the Ratcliff sugar bush on the 6th concession of Whitchurch for only a hundred pounds, or \$486 in Canadian funds back in 1804. It was later acquired by William Ratcliff and in due course passed to his son, Henry, and now is owned by his great grandsons, but the fine old bush is a landmark in the township, and still has virgin trees which must have been known to the Indians whose village was nearby this property 300 years back.

The first William Ratcliff of whom we speak and who landed in 1846 in Markham township, had five sons. The eldest was Henry who became a mill hand and lumber merchant. He was the father of our present Robert Ratcliff and his sister Mrs. John Nicely.

Second son was Frederick, who became a preacher in the Baptist faith, was the father of two business men who made their mark in Stouffville, the late John and the late James Ratcliff.

Joseph, third son became a farmer and had a place on the 6th concession of Markham.

David was a farmer in Whitchurch on the 6th concession, and was the father of Mr. Ernest Ratcliff, Thos. became the publisher and editor of the Newmarket Era. He had a quality for writing, but died in middle life.

Sarah, the only daughter born to this pioneer couple became Mrs. Bowman.

Early records written at the time William Ratcliff died at an advanced age indicate that he was a man with a great religious zeal. Born into the State Church of England he early joined the Baptist faith in the Old Land, and when he located in Markham soon found friends holding his own religion beliefs. He gave the land where Second Markham Baptist church is located and which, of course, formed part of the present Ratcliff farm owned by the grandson Robert.

## Thieves Rob Theatre Find Only \$20 in Cash

### But Overlooked \$200 in Bills Wrapped in Envelope—Believed to be Work of Local Amateurs

Ransacking the Stanley Theatre over the weekend in search of money, thieves found the hidden cash drawer with about \$20 in silver but they overlooked \$200 hidden in a brown envelope, and which no doubt was the object of their search.

Manager Bob Bone had been leaving the receipts in the theatre, but he will not do so any more. Evidently persons who were familiar with what is done with the theatre receipts was in on the robbery, and if finger prints were taken this could ultimately be proven.

The thieves disturbed everything in the place in their search for money, and when they came upon the cash drawer with the silver, concluded that the main receipts were not in the building, and they departed through the main entrance where they forced their way in.

Manager Bone was out of town on Sunday and Monday, and the robbery was not discovered until the place was being opened for business Monday afternoon. Mr. Bone had not returned at that time, and Mrs. Bone assumed the total money left in the place had been stolen. However, later when the manager arrived, the discovery was made that the \$200 was intact, and had been overlooked by the sneaks.

## Local Couple Win Sinclair Trophy

Mr. and Mrs. Will Birkett, members of the Stouffville Bowling club are proud possessors of the Sinclair Trophy which they captured in doubles competition at Claremont on Saturday. This is the second time that the Birketts have won the Cup. Eddie Goodman's rink from Oshawa were runners-up.

There'll be a ladies' trebles tournament on the Stouffville greens this Thursday afternoon, beginning at 1.30.

## WRECK CHIMNEY TO RECOVER COAT FOR SANTA CLAUS SMALLER LADS HEAR

The presence of a lot of youngsters on Mill street on Tuesday morning watching the veteran Newt Hill demolish an unused chimney on the side of the Spofford block, is easily explained. Somehow, word was passed around that last Christmas Santa Claus lost his coat in that chimney, and the mason was tearing it down to recover the lost article.

You may laugh, but there are just as ridiculous yarns often passed around older people that are perhaps not so innocent though perhaps just as groundless.

## Mrs. Houck, Cashel, Dies at Ninety-one

Cashel community in the heart of Markham township was saddened on learning of the death of Martha Jane Houck who passed away at the great age of ninety-one years. She was the widow of the late John V. Houck who predeceased her nearly 22 years. Interment was made at Melville cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, in the presence of a great many friends and relatives and the members of the family.

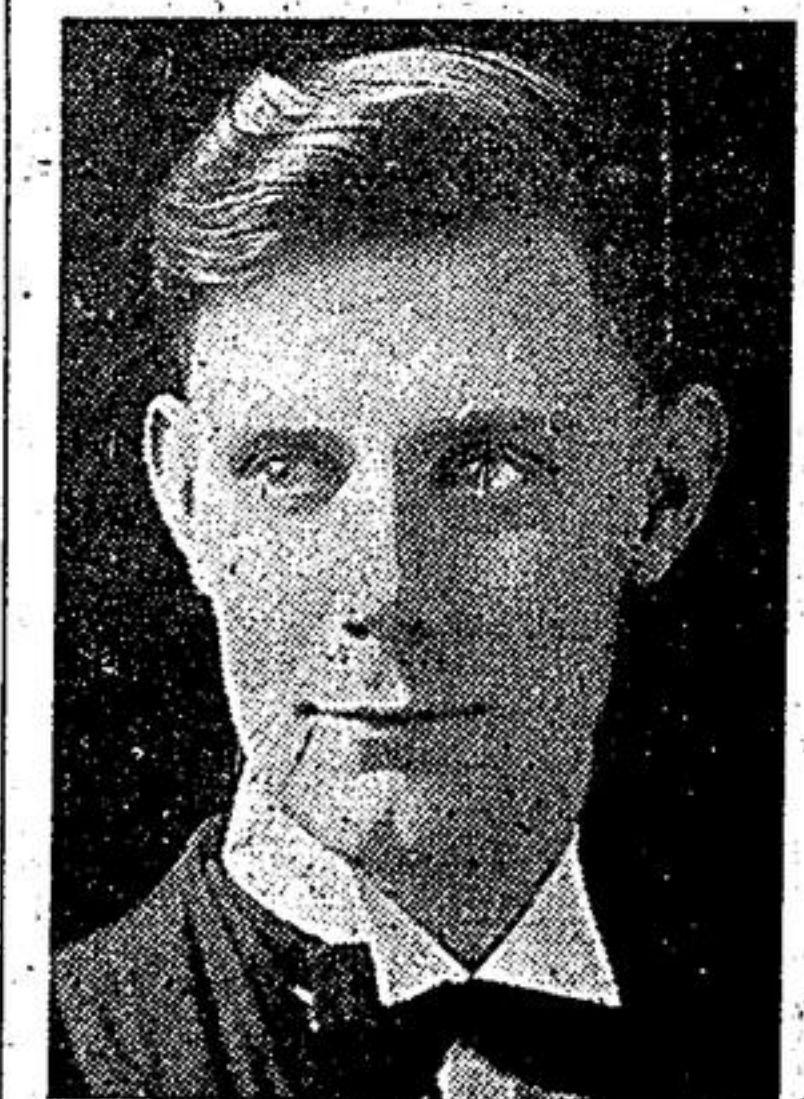
Mrs. Houck was a member of Melville United Church, a loving mother interested in her home and church activities. She was a lover of flowers and possessed a talent for music, things which occupied her spare moments. At one time she was a member of the Peaches choir, taught the Bible class, and was church organist. She was fond of needle work too.

The aged lady was born at Richmond Hill, a daughter of the late Frederick Quantz. At one time she assisted her parents in the store business at Keswick, North Gwillimbury, Aurora, and Bethesda. Then they took up farming at Cashel on what is known as "Rose Hill Farm", but later returned to their former residence in Richmond Hill. Here she was married from the home of her parents to John V. Houck, when the young couple took up farming at Cashel. She never forgot her wedding day and often related how because of impassable roads her husband-to-be had to walk from Cashel to Richmond Hill to keep this important appointment.

On the death of Mr. Houck their son Harvey assumed the farm. Mrs. Houck despite her great age, enjoyed good health all through life, and until she met with an accident when she received a fractured hip two years ago. However, despite this handicap she recovered sufficiently to be about again and kept in close companionship with her family. She was only in bed the last few months, but always retained an active mind.

There is left to revere the memory of this great mother, three daughters and one son. The girls are Mrs. Benson Meyers living with the mother, Mrs. Percy Puterbaugh of Maple, and Mrs. Earl Eate of Newmarket and the son Harvey of Cashel.

Nine grandchildren: Irene, Marion and Ruby Puterbaugh; Mrs. Carl Hoover of Markham (nee Earlene



Aside from his own church group Mr. Macgregor was greatly esteemed and enjoyed many personal contacts with the business life of the community.

Mr. Macgregor has accepted a call to First Baptist church at Sault Ste. Marie, which has a strong congregation and a wide field for work. He will make his farewell here this coming Sunday, and will then take over the new charge. Mrs. Macgregor and son Donald will move north when the new parsonage, in course of construction, is ready for occupancy.

A successor to Mr. Macgregor has not been named yet.

Tate), Lloyd Tate of Orangeville, Harvey and Neil Tate, John and Marilyn Houck two great grandchildren Carol Hoover and Connie Tate.

## Population Increases Over 1,400, All-Time Peak

When the assessment roll is revealed to the municipal council on Thursday night by E. R. Good, newly appointed assessor, it will show population figures of 1,436, largest in the history of Stouffville.

Mr. Good has just completed what is known as the assessment for the year 1948, which, under a recent change in law must be made in the previous year. Many municipalities issue their tax demands in February and March, and in their case the early assessment will be a great advantage. However, so far as Stouffville is concerned there is no advantage, since the assessment figures just completed will

not be used for taxing purposes until next mid-summer.

The sharp increase in population is gratifying, and indicates that the assessor has completed a thorough job, and that nobody has been overlooked, and this is as it should be.

Values and increased assessment added will be reported on after the roll is submitted to the council, when it may then become public.

Incidentally it might be interesting to say that a careful study of the trading area of Stouffville indicates that at least 8,000 people are served in and about this town. Merchants should ponder these figures, since it is their actual selling market figures just completed will ket.