



First Electrical Plant — Now Smith Welding.

P.U.C. Inaugural Meeting 1953

(Continued from Page 20) Utilities Commission, a three-man board to handle hydro and water.

P.U.C. INAUGURAL JAN. 2, 1953

The inaugural meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held on January 2, 1953. The members were reeve Henry Ogden and elected members Reg. Stouffer and A. E. Weldon, the latter being elected reeve for the first year. Mr. Edward Maddock of the Ontario Hydro consumer service attended this meeting and presented the new Commission with a schedule of proposed new rates for the town. A modest annual salary of \$75 was approved for each Commission member.

Hydro's monthly billing to the Stouffville Commission had by now risen to \$3,700. However, the system was in a constant state of expansion and by the end of 1953, the town hydro department was showing a surplus of \$5,841.58.

Members by this time deemed it wise to launch into a much larger expansion program and debentures for \$20,000, were approved for this purpose. Elmer Daniels assumed the office of reeve with Reg. Stouffer and A. E. Weldon the other two Commission members.

Both council and commission were beginning to take note of the growth of the community in 1955, and it was agreed that henceforth all sub-dividers should be required to pay the full expense of the installation of hydro into their developments. This same year the Commission engaged Mr. Gordon Brown as full-time line-man at a salary of \$260 per month.

The Commission now found it was suffering not

only from pains of growth in the hydro department but in office accommodation. In mid-summer 1956 the Commission took its first move towards new and completely-separated quarters. The first move was to the second floor of what was the municipal building and fire-hall of that time.

Business continued good for the hydro department all during these mid-fifty years and the 1956 surplus was nearly \$10,000. Members time became more valuable and pay was raised from \$75 to \$150 a year.

In 1957 A. E. Weldon was forced through ill health to relinquish his position on the Commission after serving since its inception. Dr. S. S. Ball joined the Commission to serve out Mr. Weldon's unexpired term. The personnel was further changed at the year's end when Reg. Stouffer retired from service and Ed. Neville was elected. Mr. Geo. Storey, the Commission's first secretary agreed to continue at his post until 1959.

In 1958 the Commission was called upon to consider an expenditure of approximately \$60,000, which would cover the purchase of a site and erection of a new Public Utilities Commission building. Surplus funds in the hydro account had now grown to more than \$14,000.

Following Mr. Storey as secretary, Mr. Elmer Daniels, a former reeve took over the position. During this period the Commission was constantly occupied with plans for servicing new housing developments and the urge for more—and better street lighting continued as well.

The budget for 1960 totalled \$33,200, the greater proportion going for the

modernizing of the hydro distribution system.

OPEN NEW BUILDING

On September 27th, 1961 the new Public Utilities Office was opened at the corner of Blake and Main Streets. The first move towards new quarters had been made in 1958 but various delays held up the completion for three years.

The year 1962 saw Reeve Timbers filling council's position on the Commission with elected members E. H. Neville and W. D. Atkinson.

Much of the activity over this next period was of an internal nature. A clerk was added to the office staff, some bookkeeping routines were altered, and salaries and fringe benefits for employees reviewed. A new rate study was undertaken by Ontario Hydro at the latter part of 1963 and brought into force in the spring of 1964. This year also saw E. H. Neville retire from the Board.

In 1965 growth dictated the first move to obtain land for the erection of an additional sub-station, this one to be at the east end of town and estimated to cost \$41,000.

New types of street lights were altered continuously over several years and the service of much larger lights previously used only in the downtown business section, was extended.

In the fall of this year E. R. Daniels, the Commission secretary, passed away, and his position was filled by the engaging of Mr. Norman Baker, the present secretary.

Hydro has come a long way in Stouffville in the past seventy years. Most of the dark corners in the community have been eliminated.

Rural Postoffice Job In Dispute

Before Stouffville became an incorporated village and as far back as 1837 there was trouble in the hamlet concerning mail delivery. The mail was originally delivered by stage coach which at times was not too reliable. However the real trouble arose over the office of postmaster and brought the Deputy-Postmaster-General onto the scene.

The following account of correspondence on the matter appeared in an early provincial publication:

The running dispute concerning the appointment of Mr. William Doyle as postmaster of Stouffville has resulted in dismissal through the office of Chas. Berczy, Surveyor of Post Offices in Upper Canada. The new appointee is Mr. James Devine, and to whom the ex-postmaster takes grave exception.

The authorization for the dismissal by Mr. Berczy was recorded as follows: "I am directed by the Lieut. Governor to inform you that he considers William A. Doyle should no longer be continued in an office of trust such as the Post Office Department, and His Excellency therefore re-

quests you will make the necessary steps for his removal, in conformity with the instructions you have received from the Deputy Postmaster-General at Quebec."

Mr. Doyle has replied officially to the Dismissal as follows:

"Your favour of the 16th ultimo received, and on reply would beg to say, that all books, letters, etc. belonging to the Post Office department in Stouffville, have been delivered to Mr. Devine, as requested. This appointment should show the people the kind of men that hold positions under the despotic administration, Mr. Devine is altogether unfit and incapable of conducting the business of the Post Office. HE CAN NEITHER READ NOR WRITE AND BARELY SIGN HIS NAME. I do not mention this with any disrespect, but merely to shew you, Sir, and the public, what Upper Canada has come to at the present day. There are other men who could fill the position but unfortunately THEY ARE ALL REFORMERS LIKE MYSELF.

Mr. Devine will be a good and faithful tool to

answer to any wicked and deceitful purposes the government has. That, Sir, is the state of our public affairs at this present unhappy day, I would say without contradiction that I am as loyal to my native and adopted country as any person, and I will do everything in my power, TO REDEEM IT FROM SLAVERY AND RUIN."

W. H. Doyle. Memorandum—I forgot to mention that Mr. Devine said if he did not accept the Post Office it would be discontinued altogether.

W. H. Doyle

New Farmers Pass Through

On Sunday, April 13, 1882, two special trains passed through on the Belleville to Toronto line, carrying English farmers who will be going to the West. They had with them, besides a wealth of experience, about \$700,000 in cash. Three more special trains with new farmers are also on their way from Montreal.

Temperance Journal First Stouffville Weekly

The first weekly newspaper in Stouffville was known as the Stouffville Alert. It was issued for the first time on July 4, 1877 and sought to promote the cause of temperance. The paper lasted only one year.

The next newspaper effort here was 1882 when A. W. Pemberton printed a weekly known as the Stouffville Advance. It continued until 1892.

The paper which has survived to the present day is The Tribune, first published by Harry Hodge in 1888. A year later he

was succeeded by William Malloy, father of the late Howard Malloy who passed away in 1966.

Two other publications sprung up in Stouffville but were short-lived. The Stouffville Sentinel commenced publication in 1894 and continued to 1900 and the Stouffville Free Press only lasted two years, 1895-96.

FIRST PAPER IN 1829

The first weekly newspaper published in York County outside Toronto was printed in the little

settlement of Markham about 1829. The name of the publication has been forgotten, but the publisher was William Peterson. In 1851 Markham had grown to nine hundred persons and it was incorporated in 1872. Its real newspaper life began with the publication of the Economist in 1856. For many years the publisher was David Reesor, a member of one of the earliest families in Markham. In 1867 this publisher became a member of the Senate of Canada.



Public Utilities Commission, Main Street.