

Church Life Goes Back Over One Hundred Years

Early History of the church in Stouffville from "The Illustrated Free Press" of November 1895. The Free Press was operated by Covington Bros. and located in the Mertens Block.

The Congregational Church

To the Congregationalists belong the honor of forming the first church organization in the village. The service was performed by the Rev. Ludwig Kribbs, at the home of Mr. Claus Mertens, west of the village. There were eight members, one of whom was Jemina Mertens. Then for five years services were held in the frame school house. In 1847, the first church building which stood in the east end, was erected. The Rev. Mr. Kribbs was both architect and builder, he having personally performed the principal part of the work. For 27 years the congregation continued to worship in this building. Due to increase in numbers it was necessary to erect a new church in 1874. This is the present Memorial Christian Congregational Church. In 1869 a temperance pledge was placed in the church book and the members requested to sign it. Prominent Members of this congregation were for years forward in the temperance cause. Several young men from this church became ministers in the denomination. The church was later sold to the Christian church.

The Methodist Church

As far back as 1841, the Rev. Edward Sallows, a young itinerant Methodist minister occasionally preached in the old school house at Stouffville. After 12 years of occasional service, a regular mission was organized with Rev. Cornelius Flummerfelt as minister. Two years later, it was known as the Methodist Church. In 1872, this building was found to be

insufficient to meet the needs of the growing congregation, and a substantial brick edifice was erected at a cost of \$4,000. After 20 years the church which had come to number nearly 200 members, was forced to make another forward move. The present church, now the United Church, was erected in 1892.

The Presbyterian Church

In 1859, representations were made to the Presbytery of Toronto in connection with the Free Church and arrangements were made to send students to supply Stouffville. For several years services were held in two temperance halls, one of which was later used by the Salvation Army. In 1863 the old frame building which stood on the site of the present church was dedicated in connection with the Church of Scotland in Canada. Stouffville with Markham formed one pastoral charge until 1878. A Sunday School was organized, and the Free Church and Scotch Church congregations united. After the union with Markham was dissolved, Stouffville became a Home Mission church under student supply. One of these students was Mr. Nixon, who later married Dr. Thos. Mitchell's sister. The present church was built previous to 1895.

The Disciple Church

About the year 1865, the Rev. Charles Lister came to Stouffville and preached in Freely's Hall; shortly afterwards services were held in John Yake's Ballroom. This was located in the East End and was known as Brimstone Point. Three years later, largely through Mr. Yake the little chapel on the tenth was erected. The last church was built on the corner of Second st. and William Street.

The Baptist Church

In the early days Bap-

tist ministers preached in Stouffville, but no regular work was established until the year 1873. The services of Rev. J. B. Moore were secured, who for a time preached in the old Temperance hall. A church was soon organized and erected in the following year. A church of considerable strength was led by Rev. T. Booker. This church was situated on the lot west of Mr. Bruce Winterstein's present home. The present church is on the corner of Main Street and O'Brien Avenue.

The English Church — now known as The Anglican Church

The church was organized by Rev. Mr. Hart in the year 1880. The church edifice was built in 1862 on Main Street, east of Church Street.

Stouffville United Missionary Church

Prior to 1903, members of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church living at Stouffville attended church at Dickson's Hill. An evangelistic campaign was held in the Congregational Church with evangelist Mr. Elthrington. As a result of this series of meetings which lasted for four weeks, it was felt that it was time to begin a Mennonite Church in Stouffville. An attempt to purchase the Congregational Church building was not so successful. The present lot was then purchased and church construction completed by the fall of 1903. Construction was carried out largely by local members of the congregation and the church was paid for by dedication Sunday. Mr. Elthrington became the first pastor of the church, preaching on alternate Sunday evenings at Altona. An addition was made to the rear of the church building in 1949 and to the front of the church in 1962. One charter member, Mrs. W. H. Connor of Stouffville, is still living.

Stouffville Celebrated In 1867 Too

We are indebted to the late David Stouffer, member of a pioneer family of the district for an account which he sketched many years ago, of the Confederation celebration in Stouffville in 1867, prior to incorporation.

"These old and tried leaders, Drs. Freely and Lloyd, Messrs. George Flint, Edward Wheeler and the younger Pete Kribbs and Jim O'Brien were a committee for the occasion, and they did things up in grand style. There was a big procession, headed by twenty

young men, painted and dressed and feathered like Indians, led by Chief Pete Kribbs, all on horseback. Then there were twenty young white men on horseback led by Captain Jim O'Brien. Next came the Sharon brass band led by their veteran and capable band master Jesse Doan. This is one of the finest bands in Upper Canada at the present time."

"The concourse of people that followed were mostly on foot, a few in buggies, but not a solitary automobile. When we got to Wm. Brown's beautiful

bush, the tables were already laid and ready for the hungry crowd. After dinner the public meeting was held. George Flint presiding. He opened with a rousing speech and then called upon a young man who became the principal of the Toronto Normal School, John Herbert Sangster, an uncle of Frank, Dr. W. Sangster and Miss E. Sangster of Stouffville. The most interested and proudest listener was his father John Alexander Sangster. It was a real patriotic speech and full of inspiration for the young people."

1845 1895
"Ye workin'-manes Book Societie" of
STOUFFER'S VILLAGE,
—WILL HOLD AN—
OLD FASHIONED ENTERTAINMENT

DALE'S HALL

Victoria's Birthday.

The Four-and-Twentieth Day of May, MDCCCXCV

All persons of good character are invited to come.

No money to pay for seats will be 9d. for gallery seats, 1s. 3d. for common seats and 1s. 9d. for kept seats.

The doors will be open as soon as the singin' house is cleaned out.

The musick will begin at 8 of the clock.

Plan of the Singin' House at the hardware store of Silvester & Dougherty.

From ye TRIBUNE Printing House, kept by one Master Malloy, Stouffville town.

St. Andrew's United Church, Markham

Markham's modern United Church building was originally erected in 1862, and has seen considerable renovation and expansion since that day. Rev. E. Wood, Conference president was the speaker at the inaugural service. The congregation was Wesleyan Methodist.

The church, at that time, was considered second to none in the province. A brick building with a belfry accommodated about 500 persons in the main auditorium with another 300 in the gallery. The original style was Grecian and the entire cost of the project was about \$6,500.

Opening Sunday services brought a \$148 collection. Today's membership is 700 and special services will see collections amount to several thousand dollars.



Stouffville Machine & Tool Works

First operated over 50 years ago as Barkey Foundry. Since acquiring the property the present owners have made several additions, including a large new department built on the north side two years ago.

The firm has done considerable maintenance machine work for Dunlop Rubber Co. Don Chadwick and Jack Smits originally took the business over from the late Isaac Barkey. Mr. Smits has since retired.

WAGG
JEWELLERY &
Established 1867
EV & KEN W
WATCHES — FIN
or JEWELL
"A Gift for Every
24 Main West
640-2022

TED
Your
MEN'S & BOYS
SHOP
SINCE NOV.
17 Main West
640-3214

Margue
The Shop For
Discriminating W
WISHES YOU
HAPPY
CENTENNIAL
55 Main West
640-3325

**CANADIAN IMP
BANK OF COM**
Our 100th Year of
Bank
15 Main West
T. E.

YORK CLE
Established
● Dry Cleaning ●
● Drapery & Slip Cover ●
● Invisible Mending ●
● Cold Storage for Cloth ●
● Expert Repairs & Alterations ●
(Professional Rug & Upholstery)
in Your Home or At Our
STOUFFVILLE
Main Store — 59 Main West
West End Plaza Branch
Branches in Uxbridge