



STOUFFVILLE — In this area, the Ratcliff family is almost synonymous with Stouffville as the Stovers from which the town derived its name. Branches of the original Ratcliff immigrants have established farms throughout the district and all have proven prosperous under good management.

One of these is at lot 35, concession 6; Markham Township, the property of Floyd Ratcliff, a great grandson of William Ratcliff who came to Canada from Essex, England in 1846 and acquired 135 acres at that site. William Ratcliff and his wife, Sarah Polley had six children, five sons and one daughter. He built the saw mill on the farm.

Henry Ratcliff took over the property after the death of his father. He had three sons, William, Robert and Tom and one daughter, Hattie.

Robert and William Ratcliff worked the farm following the death of their father. William later purchased a farm at Baker Hill in the early 1920's. Robert and his first wife, Della Baker had four sons, Donald, Charles, Floyd and Howard. Charles entered the teaching profession while Donald, Floyd and Howard assisted in the operation of the farm and mill. Following the death of his wife, Robert married Stella Drewery who resides on Lloyd Avenue in Stouffville.

Donald, Floyd and Howard Ratcliff took over the farm and mill when their father died in 1954. Later, Donald and Howard formed a separate company with the mill and originated the Ratcliff Lumber Co. Floyd continued on with the farm where he resides today with his wife, the former Doris Baker. They have two daughters, Mary Lou (Mrs. David Hisey) of Markham, Janice who lives with her parents and one son, Malcolm, a commercial pilot with Austin Airways in Northern Ontario.

A centennial sign is prominently displayed at the laneway entrance. After 121 years, the award is well deserved.

# Farm Tribune

## FARMING REPORT Sixty At Picnic

by AL WALL

The amount of rain we have had isn't news to anyone but it's still by far the most important factor on farms these days. The total is now up around twelve inches.

My guess is that close to half the spring crop is having a hard time due to excess moisture. Plants just can't get nitrogen and other nutrients, turn yellow as a result, and growth is severely stunted.

The important question is what chance have these plants got to produce a reasonable yield. I don't think anyone knows for sure. With water saturation lasting for so long a period, the prospects certainly aren't good. Root growth is poor, and without a decent root, a plant hasn't much of a chance.

On the other side, with good weather from now on, there may be enough late tillering to give some kind of a crop at last.

There's not much a person can do but wait and hope for the best. There have been a lot of ideas about re-seeding to buckwheat or oats for green feed, or turnips but these to me are a bigger gamble than leaving the crop as is.

The story with hay is different. There is lots of it but the trick is to get it cured and baled. I can only suggest patience, sympathy and a lot of luck in at least getting a few breaks with the weather.

It's a good idea this year to watch hay in the barn carefully for a good long time after it has been put in. Hay baled up to now has been immature and not likely completely cured. Over heating is a definite risk, and the fire hazard much higher than normal.

Vegetable crops in our marsh areas are having quite a struggle too. Potatoes have been affected most, with hundreds of acres a complete loss. Many other crops are still in the doubtful stage. The interruption of spray schedules for weed, insect and disease control, adds to the general problem of poor growth with too much moisture.

STREETS NAMED CLAREMONT — The Claremont trustees have completed one of their centennial projects, the naming of all streets in the village. Signs have now been erected.

By RUTH HUTCHINGS

GREEN RIVER — There were over sixty present at the Sunday School picnic held at Woodland park.

Included in the centennial parade at Markham, Saturday was Mr. Russell Gostick. Not only was he dressed in old fashioned costume but also sported a fine flowing beard to match. Also in the parade from here were Miss Edith Gostick and Mrs. Hopkins.

Recent callers at the home of Mrs. J. Hood were Mr. and Mrs. Hector Bouey of Regina, Saskatchewan. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hutchings of Claremont, also Mr. H. Hutchings of Pickering had dinner Sunday with their niece Ruth Hutchings.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Jones and family, Toronto visited with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. White, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Postill and family enjoyed a birthday dinner at the home of their daughter and family, Mrs. D. Haynes of Markham, Mrs. Postill was the guest of honor.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Duncan attended the family reunion held at Myrtle Sunday.

Miss Terry White, spent the holiday with friends at Bon-Echo.

## Re-development Planned For Lake Wilcox Area

VANDORF — The Lake Wilcox area, often cynically referred to as 'the Riviera of North America', could become just that, through the combined efforts of the Federal and Provincial Governments, the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Township of Whitechurch (12½%).

The plan was unanimously approved by Whitechurch.

The proposal to redevelop the resort centre and eliminate much of the cottage buildup that has downgraded the area, was discussed as a special meeting between Authority representatives and council members June 22. Officials of the Metro Planning Board also attended.

If approved, the study of the lake district would be paid for by the governments (75%); the Conservation Authority (12½%)

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## GARDEN GUIDE

By JOHN BRADSHAW Garden Editor

How well do you mow your lawn?

Mowing a lawn — a job usually left to the boy in the family least able to fight the assignment — is usually poorly done. Because faulty mowing means thin turf, diseased grass and heavy weed infestation, attention to this operation is an important step in developing a good lawn.

First, the surface must be as smooth as possible. If it is bumpy mower wheels will drop in holes so that the moving blade cuts off a ridge of soil. This scalped area is just where crab grass likes to grow, as well as other weeds. Too, if a mower wheel rides a high spot, this will leave long uncut spots. Here is where the dangerous lawn diseases and insects, such as sod web worm, love to propagate.

Once the lawn is level, the height of cut must be decided. In the past this was juggled up and down on the theory that long grass in midsummer discouraged crab grass. Today there are much better ways to control crab grass. Since long grass encourages diseases and lawn insect, a closer cut is recommended, as close as the grass will stand.

For Merion Bluegrass, cutting at 1 inch the year around is best. For Common Kentucky Bluegrass and other named bluegrasses, 1½ inches is best. This is probably the best height for mixed lawns, except if they contain Merion, in which case cut to favor that variety. Fescues should be cut at 1½ inches. Bent grasses, though seldom used in home lawns, are usually cut too high. They should be no shorter than ½ inch nor longer than ¾ inch. The worst thing that can be done to a lawn is to allow it to grow to 2 to 3 inches, then cut it back short. Once mowing is started it must be done regularly and often. In spring, when grass is growing rapidly, this means twice a week; one a week in summer and perhaps twice a week when cool weather returns in fall.

Pattern of cut is important. When grass is mowed every time in the same direction it gets "set" in a definite pattern. Instead, the direction of cut should change each time. If mowed north and south one time, change to east and west the next. Another time, go round and round as though winding a coil. Then try criss-crossing at an angle to the other cuts.

By constantly changing the path of cut, small irregularities in the surface are gradually broken down; the texture and colour of the grass are uniform and diseases, weeds and insects suppressed.

## Centennial Service

By ELEANOR BUNKER  
ALTONA — A special centennial service was conducted at the Altona United Missionary Church, Sunday evening. Numbers by the centennial choir, were enjoyed in addition to a mouth organ selection by Mrs. Norman Bunker. Several in the congregation gave their testimony, and Mrs. Fred Byer presented a reading. Many wore centennial costumes.

Miss Edith Nighswander left Milton Sunday morning for New York where she joined a group of American friends then on to Europe for a one-month conducted tour.

Barry Williams celebrated the end of school by entertaining his classmates and friends at a birthday party. On Sunday his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Williams Sr. of Toronto and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Hills were invited guests.

Monday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Britton and family were Mr. and Mrs. Ron Moore and children of Willowdale and Miss Henrietta LeBlanc from near Chicoutimi, Quebec. Henrietta is working this summer as a mothers' helper for the Moore family to help her learn English.

Altona was well represented at the Stouffville Centennial celebration on the holiday weekend. We congratulate the committee in charge for a most memorable celebration of Canada's one hundredth birthday in spite of all the rain.

We were proud of our local girls Nancy Wideman, Stouffville's Centennial Queen and her sister Sharon and Kathy Cumming, who took part in the entertainment.

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