



One of the major undertakings of Research Stouffville was creation of an hour-long documentary for Classcomm Cable TV. Here a scene is being filmed. At left is camera man Kim Wildfong. Members of the group

left to right are Jo-Ellen Smith, Derek Armstrong, Wendy Wilkes and Linda Lafleur. The OFY project winds up this week with much work left to be done. John Montgomery

## OFY group unanimous that project a valuable experience

STOUFFVILLE — The Research Stouffville program terminates tomorrow but the work does not. Somebody must carry on where they leave off.

"We have only scratched the surface," commented Wendy Wilkes on behalf of the group. "The history of Stouffville is far too involved to hope for comprehensive files in one summer." She does feel, however, that they have contributed their utmost towards this end.

The project began in May and has lasted 15 weeks. But what exactly is Research Stouffville?

"We're a group of five students," explained Wendy, "and are employed under an Opportunities for Youth grant to research the history of Stouffville."

And what is to be done with the information collected?

"Copies of our files will go to the Whitchurch-Stouffville library, Museum and Historical Society though ultimately the information will be used to compile a book on Stouffville's history to be published in 1977, the year of Stouffville's centennial."

The group was provided with a grant of \$860 dollars and aside from financial advice were pretty well left on their own.

"I don't think many people realize the full responsibility given an OFY project such as Research Stouffville," Miss Wilkes continued.

"It's not merely historical research. The group is a self-functioning organization and is charged with obtaining headquarters, managing financial affairs, purchasing materials, dealing with the media, establishing contacts within the community and fulfilling the specifications of the contract with the department of Manpower and Immigration."

The other members of the group are Jo-Ellen Smith, Linda Lafleur, Clavin Rae and Derek Armstrong. And with so much freedom their greatest fear was always personal conflicts.

"We have no executive, no one in charge

of operations, and this is sometimes a problem in deciding what to do," remarked Jo-Ellen Smith. "Ideally, resolutions are made by unanimous vote but unfortunately this is not always the case. This is the reason for having five, rather than six working on the project; there can be no stalemates."

"Of course, we were warned of the personal implications of such a system but as it turns out we had no cause for worry. Usually all of us are in agreement over the issues and we rarely take offense if we're not."

The members of Research Stouffville seem satisfied with their work and pleased for the experience.

"For me, this job has been both rewarding and fulfilling," stated Linda Lafleur in an interview, "not only from a historical perspective, but also in terms of the people I've met."

"The program has involved far more than I ever anticipated," she continued. "An hour documentary for Classcomm, a radio broadcast on CFGM, a weekly column in The Tribune, a buggy ride and a drive in a 1923 Packard touring car are hardly what one would expect of a team researching the history of Stouffville."

The members of the group admit that summer employment was their original reason for joining Research Stouffville but claim that since then they have developed a deeper appreciation and understanding for Stouffville and its inhabitants.

"I don't really think I had that much interest in Stouffville's past at the outset of the project, but I'd be less than honest if I said the same now," observed Derek Armstrong. "Now, when I hear about such things as the Railway station closing after almost a century of service and the strong possibility of it being torn down, it makes me mad. After all it's the oldest building in Stouffville."

"It's ironical though," he pointed out, "that we share a building with the Save Stouffville group. They're concerned with

saving Stouffville's present while we are attempting to rescue the town's past."

"One thing I'm certain of, anyway, is that I'll never forget Research Stouffville, though most outstanding in my mind will always be our film, 'All Things Must Pass.'" He added that "the documentary involved much work in our spare time, but it was worth it."

The film, to be aired Sept. 3, is an hour long and, of course, concerns Stouffville's history and Research Stouffville's attempts to preserve it.

"We hope it will encourage people to become more active and concerned, especially now that Stouffville's centennial is only two years away," Derek said. "And we certainly hope people will enjoy it as much as we did in making it."

Dave Smith, in charge of editing the film, seemed to enjoy it. He feels that "All Things Must Pass" is a very entertaining look at Stouffville's past and present."

But aside from making films and doing radio interviews what does Research Stouffville do?

Throughout the summer we have developed several methods of investigation and have found many sources of information," answered Jo-Ellen Smith. "We've gone through old municipal records, going as far back as January 1877, back issues of The Tribune from 1888 and the Tweedsmuir histories of the Women's Institute. We are continually interviewing local citizens and borrowing physical artifacts of historical interest for copy and examination. We have also corresponded with the CNR, the Ontario Historical Society, Bell Telephone, the Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville museums, and with the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs."

"It was hard work," she admitted. "But we found the citizens of Stouffville very helpful and that made things easier."



Filming highlights summer

Pausing during a break in shooting are Derek Armstrong, Wendy Wilkes and Jo-Ellen Smith. Below, Kim Wildfong operates the camera as Wendy Wilkes reads an old copy of

The Tribune. Going through back copies of the newspaper proved a valuable way of compiling historical data for Research Stouffville.



Some very beautiful flowers were on display at the Horticultural Society flower show last week. Here a Celosia, grown by Lillian Byer, shows off beautiful fine red foliage, contrasting with the green leaves.

—Don Bernard

## This vintage car holds its own

STOUFFVILLE — Most of us dream of someday owning a car that when parked on the street will draw an admiring crowd of car buffs.

Such a car, a 1957 T-Bird in show condition, is owned by Ron Myers of Stouffville Sound and Music.

It is not all sweetness and light possessing such a vehicle though. It cost Mr. Myers, on top of the purchase price of \$1,200, close to \$5,000 to restore the car.

"It was in horrible shape," he reminisced. The car has been restored with all original parts and Mr. Myers has journeyed to the states several times in search of parts and accessories.

Even the antennae, upholstery, and side mirror were replaced with original stock.

He said when he purchased it the engine was running but the body and interior were in sad shape.

The convertible is equipped with a Continental back end, softop, and hardtop. He was recently offered a brand new T-Bird in trade but turned it down.

"His depreciates \$500 every year but mine goes up that much," he smilingly points out. He has no interest in selling unless someone offers him "a fabulous amount."

He stores the car in Gravenhurst and consequently it is seldom seen around Stouffville.

"I just enjoy pattering around with this thing," he said.

According to Mr. Myers this is one vintage car that has no problem in keeping up with today's fast-paced traffic.



Ron Myers of Stouffville Sound and Music stands beside his pride and joy a 1957 Thunderbird in show condition. John Montgomery