

PRICE 10 CENTS.

The Free Press.

ILLUSTRATED
HISTORICAL

Stouffville

PROFESSIONAL
and BUSINESS.

The Free Press.

Messrs. Covington Bros.

AFTER the rebellion of 1837 John Boyer purchased Wm. Lyon Mackenzie's wooden press and set it up in Stouffville. For years it was the only press in this part of the country north of Toronto. For about ten years it was operated by the Wheelers, who took it to Uxbridge. It found its last resting place in Prince Albert. For many years after, Mr. T. Shaw, jr., conducted a job office in the village. Eighteen years ago Mr. J. Wightman published the Stouffville



Mr. W. C. Covington.

Alert. For several years R. J. Daley conducted the Boot & Shoe Dealer, a quarterly, full of fun and fact. Later came the Stouffville Advance, published by Mr. Pemberton.

Less than two years ago the FREE PRESS was established by Messrs. Covington Bros. It is a live local journal, is rapidly extending its subscription list and widening the circle of its readers. The proprietors are Stouffville boys and practical printers. They both served their apprenticeship in the Economist office, Markham. The senior partner, in order to further perfect himself in the art of Fine

Printing, served in several of the best offices in Toronto before graduation. They believed the community would support them in the production of a bright newsy Reform paper. They ventured therefore to "open out" at home, and have not been disappointed in the venture. They have a fine office in Mertens' Block, with a store front which is replete with a very choice stock of Stationery. Several months ago they opened a branch office in Claremont. They make a specialty of Fine Printing, and extend the season's greetings to the many readers of this Illustrated Number.



Mr. W. J. Covington.

STOUFFVILLE, NOVEMBER, 1895.

COVINGTON BROS., Proprietors.

A Good Place to Live.

AS a place of residence, Stouffville has many advantages. It is near Toronto and has four trains each way daily. We have churches of all the leading denominations, good schools and a public library. There are fine stores, some of them quite metropolitan in character. The municipal rates are low and there is a splendid weekly market. If you are thinking of changing your place of residence, we recommend Stouffville as a good place in which to build a home. Look it up.

The history of Stouffville marks the advancement of the prohibition sentiment of the country generally. Years ago when there was only half the present population and half the volume of business the village had five licensed taverns and two shops for the sale of strong drink. To-day there are only two hotels, and shop licenses have long since been banished. A proportionate reduction has been made in the number of drinking places in the country districts surrounding the town.

SEND a copy of the Stouffville Illustrated FREE PRESS as a Christmas present to your friend.

Stouffville Homes.

ANY observant stranger visiting Stouffville would not fail to note its many comfortable and attractive houses. We are permitted to give views of some of these in this paper. O'Brien Avenue is represented by Mr. Daley's, Mr. Elliott's (Manager of the Standard Bank), Mr. R. Underhill's and Mr. Barclay's. Church street is also well represented by several fine residences, Mr. S. Burkholder's, Mr. D. Stouffer's, Mr. N. Forsyth's and Mr. McDonald's. A number of Main street houses are presented, as are also representatives from several other streets. Lack of space forbids any description of these homes, but the views will give an idea of the kind in which many of our people live.

Thomas Brownlee, wife and daughter, Annie, who still occupies the old home, were early citizens.

William Roddick was one of the chief advisers of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie in the stirring times of the rebellion of 1837. For the capture of Roddick £500 were offered, but he eluded his pursuers until peace was restored.

Beautiful shadows, sombre and still!
Fringing the margin of river and rill;
Hiding by rock, under low-bending tree;
Seeking lone nooks which the sun cannot see;
Nursing the plantlet too tender to grow
E'en where the sun sheds his mellowest glow;
Cooling retreat for the up-rising bass,
Where the doves dip the hot wing as they pass;
Shelter for Age as he dreams of the past:
Bower for sweet-hearts whose visions forecast
Wonderful joys that the future years fill;
Beautiful shadows, sombre and still!
Who could abide in the glimmer and sheen
If in this world not a shadow were seen!

Don't Forget Your Friends.

COPIES of the Illustrated FREE PRESS, wrapped and ready for mailing to distant friends and relatives, can be had at the FREE PRESS Office. It will give former Stouffvilleites a good idea of Stouffville of to-day.

The newspaper is one of the great educators of the people. The local paper gives us a chat with our neighbors at our own fireside, and for distant friends is a weekly letter from home.

JOHNNY BURGESS, the cooper, and his wee wife were among the early comers. Johnny was a great trout fisher and was always ready to spin a good fish yarn.

Music and Art.

OUR people are giving more attention to Music and Art in the home than in former years. The pioneers who had to make homes for themselves in this new land had little time for the luxuries of life. Many ladies now-a-days like to do their own bits of fancy painting for home decoration. Mrs. J. J. Baker, whose ready pen has helped to make these pages readable, will devote her time during the winter to classes in Music and Art.

Power first came about 97 years ago

The history of power in Stouffville covers a period of ninety seven years and divides itself into three stages of development. The first of these covers those years when Stouffville was served by privately owned, steam driven plants.

Ontario Hydro came into the picture to supplant the private plants and be administered by the municipal council for approximately 30 years. The final period, up to the present, includes the history of Hydro in Stouffville, as operated by the

Public Utilities Commission, commencing in 1953.

Until 1880 there was no electricity for the operation of machinery and oil lamps were the only means of lighting. In that year, Richardson Samuel George erected the first steam-driven power plant at the corner of Second and William Streets. This marked the beginning of electric power in Stouffville.

Basically Mr. George was interested in supplying power to operate a lumber mill he owned nearby, but the

surplus was made available to home owners in the section of the village west of the railroad.

About twelve years later, a second and larger steam-powered plant was erected at the corner of Market and Somerville Streets, by Jonas Byer. He installed much heavier equipment that would supply all the homes whose occupants wished service. Street lights were erected for the first time. The service ended at midnight each day. The building used for the power plant is still

standing and is being used by Walter Smith as a welding shop. The Byer plant continued to operate for more than 20 years, as a steam driven power plant, but as the demand for service grew, an English plant was installed, which produced gas from burning coal to drive the generator.

It was not until 1927 that Ontario Hydro really entered the picture and Stouffville became a full-fledged user of Niagara-generated power. The first Hydro employee was Charles Ward and

he received \$100 a month for his services. His duty was to take care of the distribution system.

In 1926 Ontario Hydro became the sole supplier of Stouffville power.

Joseph Borinsky and A. J. Ward were named as the first Hydro committee in 1928.

During the next ten years the system continued to expand. Many parts of the community were re-wired by N.W. Byer, and Ontario Hydro was asked to help provide better voltage to handle customers on the east

side of town. In 1934, coloured lights were first installed on Main St. for use during the Christmas season.

In 1952 Stouffville council voted to establish the Public Utilities Commission, comprising a three-man body to handle Hydro and water services.

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. Edward Maddock, of the

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 cost of the installation of Hydro in their developments. That same year, the commission engaged Gordon Brown as a full-time lineman at a salary of \$260 per month.

On September 27, 1961, the Public Utilities moved from the municipal buildings to a new building at the corner of Blake and Main