

## Village Box Meats

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## Town site for film



St. James Presbyterian Church, 101 Main Street East, Stouffville, was the location, Thursday, for the filming of a movie segment to be aired later this fall. In the story, the church serves as both a

sanctuary and a movie theatre. The location is "small town U.S.A." with mostly American actors and actresses.

—Jim Thomas

## Scratch identity for U.S. location

STOUFFVILLE — Move over Hollywood, Stouffville is coming through.

St. James Presbyterian Church at 101 Main Street East was the location of a scene for a full-length feature film to be aired this November.

Scenes done at the church, Thursday, included an interior shot of a Baptist congregation, and an exterior shot of a local theatre.

Woody Sidarous, the location manager, said, "We chose it (Stouffville) as a convenience. We shot as close as possible to Toronto since that's where we're based."

We wanted 'small-town America' and it fit the bill," he explained.

The crew has also shot scenes in downtown Toronto, Caledon, Whitchurch and Kleinburg as well as at a studio in Scarborough.

The movie, *The House of Dies Drear*, is funded partly

by the Children's Television Workshop for the Public Broadcasting System.

It's all about a family that moves from North Carolina to Ohio when the father, a college professor, changes jobs. The family moves into a house which they later discover belonged to Dies Drear, an abolitionist in the days of slavery.

The children discover tunnels and caves that provided safe lodgings and passage for liberated slaves.

Filming started about a month ago and ended Aug. 9.

Executive producer Chiz Schultz said the film will probably be shown Nov. 5 or 12 during a PBS series called *Wonderworks*. "I would prefer that it be shown in February during Black History Week," he said.

The American film used a Canadian crew and a predominantly American cast.

## Bloomington Plan

## "Kill it, kill it" some demand

BLOOMINGTON — "We don't want it. Kill it."

These and other expressions of opposition were used by a group of about 30 rural residents attending a public meeting concerning proposed subdivision development at Bloomington.

The session, held at Latcham Hall, Aug. 7, dealt with an amendment to the Town's Official Plan, which, if passed, would permit development on 79 lots in the hamlet, Bloomington Road and Ninth Line North.

The lands in question are owned by Cecil Schiavello, Jas. Sabiston Ltd. and Wm. Popovich.

David Bourne, R.R. 2, Stouffville, presented a list of objections that were supported by about a dozen other Bloomington residents.

A major concern is water problems because the local aquifer is sensitive and could be polluted by sewage originating from the new homes, according to Bourne.

Further development could also result in a water shortage for existing households, he said. Other concerns were hazards caused by increased traffic; higher noise levels plus the loss of the area's historic tradition and other rural benefits.

"The tradition of a small community will be completely lost," Bourne, a Bloomington resident for the past 17 years, told Council. "We wanted to live in a rural hamlet, and you people are doing your best to eliminate these existing communities." He used Markham and Unionville as examples of areas where the rural flavor has been lost through massive development.

Two people had earlier spoken in favor of the Bloomington proposal.

After hearing the public comments, Council planned to await the minutes of the meeting, at which time they'd make their decision.

However, Bourne and the other residents felt this would deny them further input. They pressured Council to reject the amendment proposal on the spot.

"Reject it now!" Bourne said loudly. "We don't want it. What's clearer than that? Kill it."

The fact that the applicants "didn't have the courtesy to appear tonight" is reason enough to reject it, the angry citizen said.

Councillor Tom Wood was applauded by residents after indicating he was prepared to vote against it that evening.

"I personally think this area is unsuitable," Councillor Wood said. "I've been against this from the start and I still am."

However, Mayor Eldred King noted that this group of ratepayers wasn't necessarily representative of all the hamlet's residents.

"Those are not all the valid reasons we need to turn it down," the mayor added.

Other councillors expressed disappointment that some of the applicants weren't present at the meeting. They also agreed that more information needs to be gathered from various government agencies, at which time another public forum can be held.

Councillor Wilf Morley said he hoped the applicants would be present at the next meeting so they can directly address citizens' concerns.

No letters in support nor any formal objections had been received by the Town prior to last week's hearing.

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