

Editor's Mail Strength

That the Doctors of Stouffville would go to such lengths to express their displeasure of Bill 94 as to demonstrate as a group at the opening of the Strawberry Festival should remind all local citizens of their concern and indignation.

According to accounts in your newspaper, it is the feeling they should be above such action. While most of us abhor orchestrated protests, we must recognize their right and ingenuity to seize on such an opportunity to make their point directly to the prime perpetrator of an unwise and discriminatory piece of legislation.

Perhaps Mr Peterson and Mr Rae, whose unique and precarious strength keeps the Liberals in power, will realize that our Doctors, who do not strike or extra-bill, have been aroused enough to expose themselves uncharacteristically to charges of militancy and extremism.

These professionals have been competently caring for our health and welfare and supporting our rights for most, if not all of their careers. Isn't it time we showed our concern for their rights and feelings?

I say congratulations Doctors of Stouffville. It took guts to do what you did! Thanks!

Robt. (Bud) Sanderson,
Orchard Park Boulevard,
Stouffville

Pleased

It delighted me to see the lovely photo of Jane Anderson in your June 25 issue.

You described her as a 'pleasant' teen. She's that and a whole lot more. The same goes for all members of the Anderson family, Don and Maris too.

Please don't use my name. It would only embarrass them. I am only a friend, one of hundreds.

J.F.J.
Stouffville



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ROAMING AROUND

A priceless purchase

BY JIM THOMAS



I enjoy things old. Not old-old, but old-new; ancient but well preserved.

Here are a few examples. A couple of weeks ago I met a 1939 LaSalle on Main Street in Stouffville. Ignoring all rules of the road, I did a U-turn, (in heavy Saturday traffic), just to obtain a second look at this refurbished GM beauty.

Old clocks put me in seventh heaven; lamps too.

I'm not a dedicated fan of Johnny Carson. However, when he tells me his guest is Zsa-Zsa Gabor, I'm glued to the TV screen like a beagle on the trail of a rabbit. In human terms, she's extremely well preserved.

Old records, magazines, newspapers and books make great listening and reading material. But here again, they must be in good condition. I have no patience piecing products together or trying to second-guess the missing parts.

In this regard, Saturday, I received the loan of a County of York Directory dated 1871. I consider it the 'find' of the century.

It's owner is Stouffville plumber Tom Winters. He purchased it for five dollars at a Sales Barn auction. It contains 130 pages of area history that makes for hours of interesting reading. It was compiled and published by James Randle Nason who, in the preface, asks the "generous public to overlook any errors

that may hereafter appear".

Quite naturally, the section related to Stouffville is of prime interest. The Village was then part of the Twp. of Markham. The description reads:

"STOUFFVILLE---Markham Township: A village situated on the town line of Markham and Whitchurch and a station on the Toronto and Nipissing Railway. First settled about 1800 by Abraham Stouffer. This village has, for several years, been a thriving business place, and will probably double its population which now amounts to about 700, in a few years. Stouffville owes its prosperity chiefly to the business enterprise of Edward Wheeler, Esq., J.P., Reeve, (Whitchurch). Distance from Toronto, 28 miles."

Established residents 115 years ago included--Richard Barnes, (carpenter); John Barry, (farmer); George Beesaw, (cooper); John R. Brown, (hotel-keeper); John Brownlee, (blacksmith); John A. Brules, (wagon-maker); Robert Clarkson, (hostler); Christopher Crozier, (tanner); Philip Davis, (cabinet-maker); Rev. B.W. Day, (Congregational pastor); Henry Digby, (painter); Thos. Dougall, (photographer); Thos. H. Eckardt, (merchant); Charles Fisher, (shoemaker); George Flint Jr., (cabinet-maker); George Flint Sr., (J.P., rake and bending factory operator); Matthew Flint, (mail-carrier); Sylvester Freel, (medical doctor); Rev. Dan Gee, (Wes-

leyan Methodist pastor); Johnston Gibney, (foundry operator); James Grant, (watchmaker); John Hand, (baker); John German, (blacksmith); James Johnston, (blacksmith); Levi Law, (merchant); Andrew Lloyd, (coroner); John Mann, (school teacher); Fred Martin, (mail-carrier); George McCallum, (tailor); Wm. McMullen, (farmer); Wm. Reynolds, (blacksmith); Wm. Roddick, (wheelwright); Wm. B. Sanders, (merchant); Thos. Tinkler, (butcher); John Urquhart, (wagon-maker); Abraham Yake, (hotel operator); John Yake, (storekeeper); William Yake, (farmer).

Here's what it says about Ringwood. Ringwood, (Markham Township), is a village located on the townline of Markham and Whitchurch. First settled about 1800 by the late Mr P. Wideman. Population about 80. Prominent names back then were--Newbury Button, (J.P., hotel-keeper); Robert Dickson, (miller); Patrick Gormley, (blacksmith); Wm. Holmes, (weaver); Christian Lehman, (farmer); Ludwig Lehman, (merchant); George Sylvester, (mechanic); Philip Wideman, (marble works); Wm. J. Smith, (marble-cutter).

Almira at that time had a population of 50; Box Grove, 150; Buttonville, 80; Markham Village, 1,000; Malvern, 100; Richmond Hill, 1,000; Scarboro Village, 100; Thornhill, 100; Victoria Square, 100 and Woodbridge, 600.

The book describes Markham Township as follows:

"The Township of Markham is bounded on the north by the Township of Whitchurch; on the south by the Township of Scarboro and York (East); on the east by the County of Ontario and on the west by the Township of Vaughan. Markham was first settled by Germans in 1794. It is one of the finest wheat-growing townships in the Dominion."

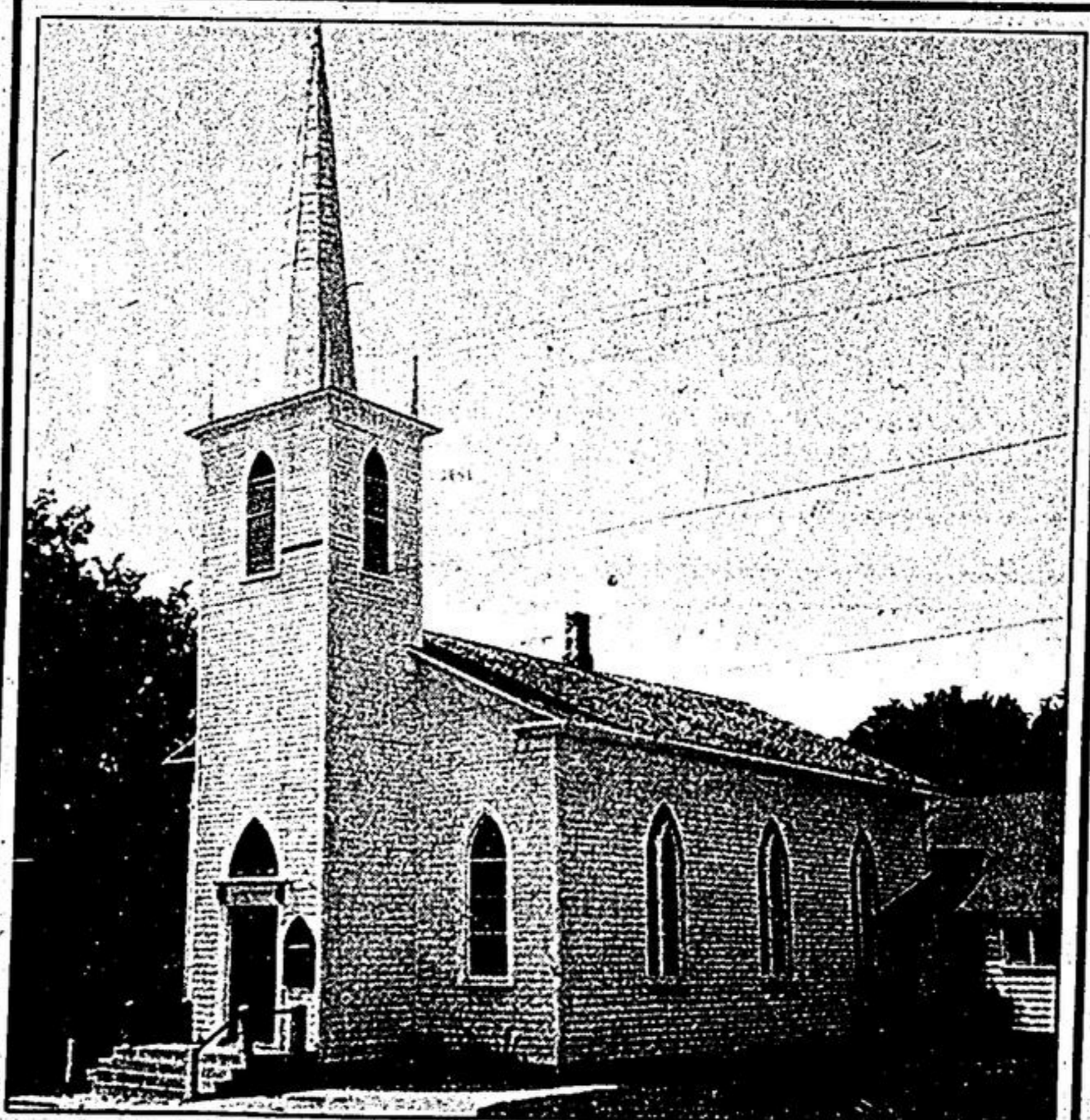
The Township of Scarboro is described in the town as follows:

"The late David Thomson Esq., was the first settler in Scarboro, (Conc. 1, Lot 24), where he arrived in 1796. Mr Thomson cleared the first land in the township. He died on the 22nd of June, 1834, aged 71, leaving his wife and eleven children. His wife, Mary, known as the "Mother of Scarboro", died on the 8th of November, 1847, aged 80 years, leaving behind her about 100 descendants. The soil of Scarboro is excellent, especially in the north-western part. In the vicinity of the Rouge, (north-eastern part), it is more rugged, some of it being almost unfit for cultivation."

Each community had its own post office. The postmaster at Agincourt was John Milne; Almira, Wm. Ayerst; Armadale, Robert Harrington; Box Grove, John McCaffrey; Buttonville, Thomas Thomson; Cashel, John Major; Cedar Grove, David Lapp; Gormley, Samuel Moorby; Markham, James Barker; Mongolia, Robert Curtis; Ringwood, George Sylvester; Scarboro, David Maclean; Stouffville, Edward Wheeler; Unionville, George Eakin and Victoria Square, Daniel Heise.

Although this 130-page booklet cost Stouffville's Tom Winters but five dollars, I feel it's worth its weight in gold.

Operators of the archives at York Region could be interested but Council may have to float a debenture to buy it.



This church still remembered by many

Long-time members within the congregation of Grace Anglican Church at Markham will remember this quaint frame chapel with the high spire located near the intersection of Hwys. 48 and 7. The landmark structure was removed after the new Anglican Church was built on Parkway Avenue.

—Jim Thomas

Editorials

A viable community

Yet another public meeting is scheduled with respect to proposed growth within the hamlet of Bloomington.

The date is Tues., Aug. 5 at 7:30 p.m., in Latham Hall.

Fine addition

The new Sanders Block building is a much appreciated addition to Stouffville's Main Street. It's everything we hoped it would be and more. The owner and builder are to be commended.

Old and obsolete is ugly. New and practical is attractive. The structure represents a major improvement to our downtown core. The same can be said for the new restaurant and service centre at Ringwood. We await their completion with much anticipation.

Smile of the week

This short story may be suitable for your newspaper's "Smile of the Week". You be the judge.

Last year, Town Council imposed restrictions on the use of water for lawns and gardens. A schedule was established and home-owners were expected to abide by it.

Our neighbor had the greenest grass anywhere. We thought he was 'cheating' so we watched. Sure enough, after midnight, he came out, turned on his sprinkler and let it run until early-morning.

When this occurred on several occasions, we decided to do something about it.

We hooked up our hose to his system and shoved it through his upstairs bedroom window. That night, between 12 and 1 a.m., he came out and turned the tap on full.

The next thing we saw was a thoroughly drenched wife, her head sticking out through the curtains, screaming at the top of her lungs, "turn it off you fool, turn it off!"

We were doubled up with laughter.

Cruel joke or not, our neighbor never cheated again. His lawn turned a desert brown during the summer just like all the rest.

W.S.C.
Stouffville

Previous discussions were held back in 1984.

We'd like to see Bloomington grow. Five hundred people in total, about double its present size, would make it a viable community.

Built-in safeguards have been arranged by the Town including minimum one-acre lots. New families can be accommodated at both Whitchurch-Highlands School and Stouffville High. The only problem as we see it, still to be overcome, is a psychological one. The "not-in-my-backyard syndrome" is as prevalent in Whitchurch-Stouffville as anywhere else in Ontario.

Until water and sewerage limitations are solved in urban Stouffville, hamlet expansion in rural Whitchurch is the only way to go. Ballantrae is a better place because of growth. So also is Vardorf.

On Aug. 5, Bloomington residents will be afforded another opportunity to comment on the future of their area. We trust the questions will relate to how and where rather than why.

The ball in teens' court

For years, the young people of Whitchurch-Stouffville, (Stouffville in particular), have complained concerning nothing to do in Town. And rightly so. For those, not attracted to team sports like softball and soccer, there's been an absence of activities here, especially during the summer.

With the opening of the new Rec. Centre last fall, we hoped all this would change. And it has.

Roller-skating is now provided Tuesday and Thursday evenings. And this Friday, (July 11), the first Teen Dance is planned.

Both programs have been initiated by The Parks and Recreation Department. The success of these and other events now depends on the response. If the Town's youth turn out as organizers hope, activities will continue. If they don't, then programs will be withdrawn and the experiment will die. We wish it success.