

Lincolnvile never actually designated a hamlet

A few weeks ago a reader suggested I do a story on Lincolnvile. I have to confess, I drew a complete blank. Feeling slightly embarrassed I asked where Lincolnvile is located.

In 1993 the Whitchurch History Book Committee published a book called *The Communities of Whitchurch*. They state the hamlet in question is at the corner of Bloomington Road and Highway 47 (also known as the Old 10th Concession Road).

Ken Aida with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Planning Department tells me many long-time residents still refer to this area as Lincolnvile. Officially, Ken says this area is no longer Lincolnvile, but designated part of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Even more interesting is the fact that this area does not have a hamlet designation. In fact, Ken says it never has.

In the past few years though, the town has renamed Old Bloomington Road where it runs east and west off Durham Road 30 as Lincolnvile Lane.

One local resident Jewel Jurasz says it will always be Lincolnvile to her. Jewel and her family have lived 15 years just north of Bloomington in what is probably the only pink house in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Like many of our historic treasures from the past little remains of the old Lincolnvile. A great many tall, majestic pines stood in the fields and meadows. Many of these pines were cut and taken to Lake Ontario where they were shipped to England to make masts for sailing ships. At one time the



Rural
Route
Ruth

Ruth
LeBlanc

10th Concession was even known as Mast Road.

On Sundays the residents would gather at the Methodist Church located on the west side of the 10th Line. We know the church was there in 1878, but its fate is a mystery.

Directly across the road was the Hammill Hotel. A part of the original hotel remains a part of an existing house in the community to this day. James Hammill was the proprietor and innkeeper of this rest stop and the Garibaldi Hotel in Uxbridge Township.

One of the last remains of the past in the area are the gravel pits. Many years ago pits were opened on both sides of the road. One pit is currently owned and has been operated by Lafarge since 1986. Prior to that it changed hands a number of times over the past 50 years. Mike Roxborough of Lafarge told me back in the late 19th century local Lincolnvile farmers came up with a creative way to pay taxes. The farmers would take their horse and wagon to the local gravel pit and load up the wagon with gravel. Slowly they would travel to township roads where they would dump it. The town accepted this work in lieu of paying their taxes. They didn't call it the good old

days for nothing.

The gravel pits remain a vital business in Lincolnvile, sending trucks down our rural roads daily. Like every community, there was the problem of schooling for the children. Lincolnvile was a small community with not enough children to support having

their own school. Parents would send their children to either a Bloomington or Uxbridge school to learn their ABCs.

Today there is a scattering of residential homes and the pine trees are making a reappearance. Lincolnvile people remain tied to the name that never really was.

Restaurateurs slam ban

(From page 1)

"I can't do the business," said Graham Hoad, owner of The Earl of Whitchurch.

"Drinking and smoking usually go hand in hand. The law would have to differentiate between restaurants and bars."

Here's a sample of what other owners are saying.

"It would affect us tremendously," said Sharron Gu, Coffee Way manager. "At least 75 per cent of my customers are smokers. I will do anything to prevent it from happening."

"It could improve business or we may lose customers," said Frank Casano, owner of Amaretto Restaurant and Banquet Hall. "It could be beneficial, a lot of people ask for the smoke-free section."

"It will affect our lounge area," said Kristine Finney, dining room manager at Maples of Ballantrae. "The golfers like to come in after their game to relax and have a beer and so that is where it is really going to hurt. But we know it is coming and if everyone does it, it will be a lot easier."

"It would knock our business down by 50 per cent," said George Petkopoulos, owner of G.G.'s Pub Cafe. "We might as well just lock the doors. We would suffer a severe financial loss."

"Being a typically British pub it would affect us," said Maureen Breen, owner of Town Crier. "We do have a large area for non-smokers but I think we would lose some business from the people at the bar. But we have no plans to switch to a totally smoke-free zone."

"It would greatly affect business," said Kathy Fullerton, owner of Fullerton's. "Most people who come in do smoke. I think the ones who don't smoke just accept that's the way it is. A test done by the Black Dog, a bar in Scarborough, found they lost business when they tried to turn smoke-free."

The Tobacco-Free Council in York Region has invited restaurants to go smoke-free on World No Tobacco Day, May 31.

Businesses will receive a sign notifying customers that their restaurants are celebrating the event by offering only non-smoking seating. As well the council plans to create a York Region smoke-free dining guide.

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