

Sun-Tribune people

FACES & PLACES

Most famous name in Stouffville

Members of founding family
'few and far between'

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Geraldine Johnson's family has a lot to be proud of.

The former Geraldine Stouffer belongs to the family credited with founding Stouffville in the 1800s.

"They (my relatives) were always hard-working people," said Mrs. Johnson.

She has lived in Stouffville all her 83 years.

Abraham Stouffer, Johnson's great-great-grandfather, and wife Elizabeth Reesor Stouffer came here from Pennsylvania in 1804.

*'I'm proud to live here.
It's home to me.'*

Abraham ran several mills in town and, when he died, his son, Christian, inherited the businesses and properties and continued the family business.

According to Mrs. Johnson, each generation had an Abraham. She's related to the founder on her father's side.

The family was actively involved in farming, although now the land has been developed.

"There's nothing left of the old farms," said Mrs. Johnson.

She does have not have any siblings as her mother died while giving birth to her.

She and her father then moved from their farm on Tenth line into Stouffville where her father worked at a grocery store.

He then moved on to working for Tim O'Neill as an undertaker at O'Neill Funeral Home.

Despite having a large extended family, she doesn't have many immediate relatives.

"I got married later in life," she said. "I didn't have any children."

She married Frank Johnson in 1967 after he returned from the army.

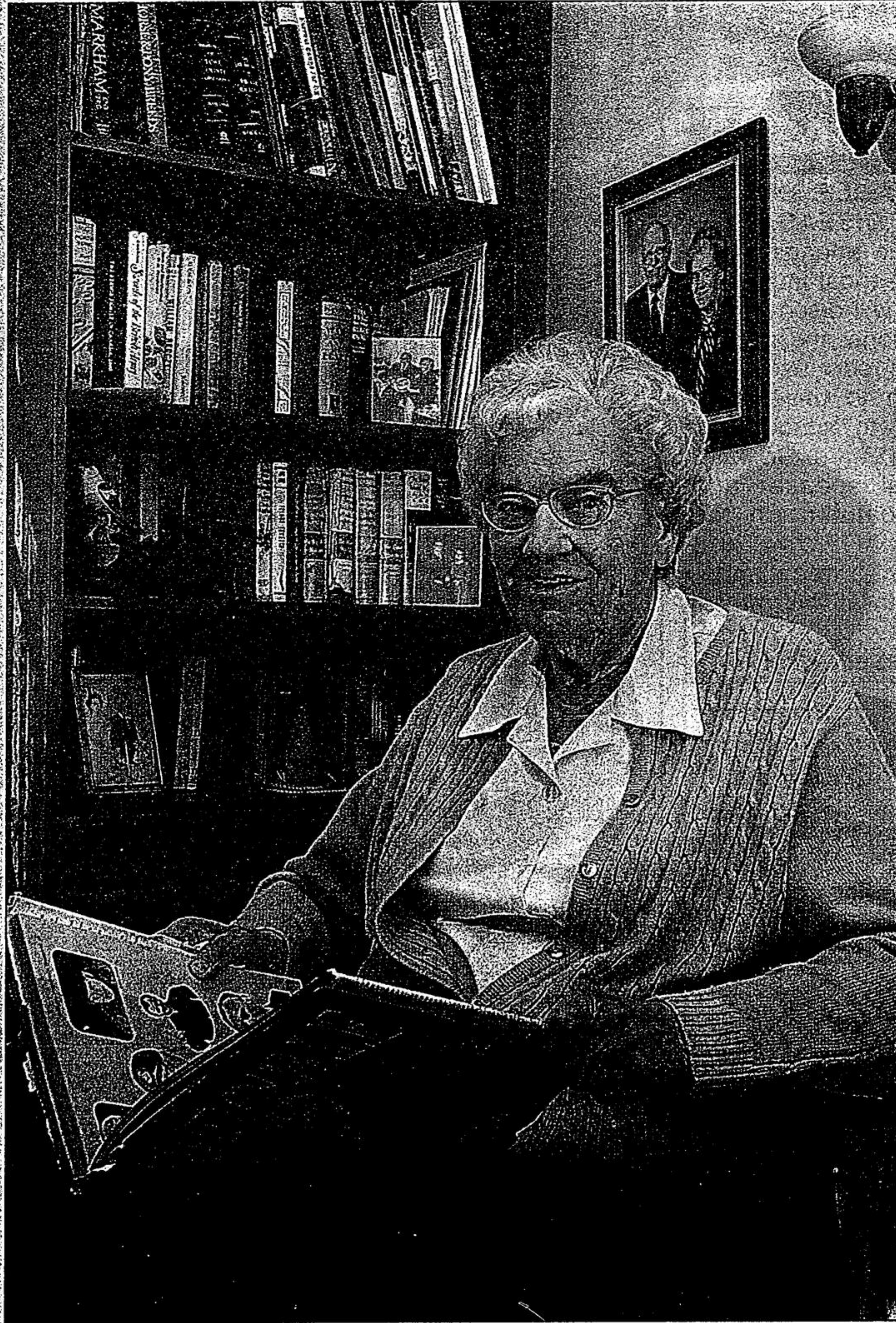
Although at one time there were many Stouffers in the town, many have married or moved away.

"We're getting few and far between" said Johnson.

"The name has sort of died off."

And, while she lived in Toronto for 18 years while working for Bell Canada, she says she can't imagine living anywhere else.

"I'm proud to live here. It's home to me."



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffer family member Geraldine Johnson in her Stouffville home.

Whitchurch-Stouffville News Digest

Visit yorkregion.com for more on these and other stories.

Contractor, employees fined in roof death

A Richmond Hill construction company and two of its employees have been fined in connection with the death of a man at Christ Church Anglican church two years ago.

A roofer fell 6.1 metres to his death while working on an addition at the Sunset Boulevard church Aug. 5, 2005.

Holes cut in the roof were not properly protected, Ministry of Labour investigators discovered.

Graydon Contractors Ltd., a company supervisor and carpenter pleaded guilty to violating the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The company was fined \$105,000 and the employees \$10,000 each in Newmarket court last week.

Wendel Clark helps re-open Shoeless Joe's

A Stouffville restaurant heavily damaged by fire last fall re-opens Monday.

Shoeless Joe's had about \$250,000 in damage from a kitchen fire.

Ex-Toronto Maple Leaf and former Whitchurch-Stouffville resident Wendel Clark will be on hand to sign autographs later this month at a grand opening party.

OMHA playoffs Sunday

Spring must be close at hand. Three Stouffville Clipper teams are playing in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association A-level semifinals.

The atom squad leads Whitby 1-0, heading into tomorrow's game at the Stouffville Arena. Game time is 4:30 p.m.

For more, see the story on page 14.

SOUND OFF

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