

**Celebrating 15th Anniversary in Whitchurch-Stouffville**

# Historical Society seeks input from community

By Ruth Burkholder  
Stouffville This Month

Shortly after moving to Stouffville I met Jean Barkey in the old Guaranty Trust office, and asked if there was a Historical Society in town, as I would like to learn some more about the history of the community I had just moved into. I was told that there had been when "the book" (Stouffville 1877-1977) was written, but that nothing was happening at present.

Some time later I received a phone call from Jim Sanders, Councillor of Ward 6, saying that he had

heard I was asking about a historical society, and he had heard this from some others, and was calling a meeting in his home on March 11, 1987, inviting Bryan Milsip and Vic Sanders to come as well. This group of four decided two things: there was interest in town to have a historical group; and that we would hold another meeting.

Two weeks later an enlarged group met at the library to hear Heather Broadbent discuss the difference between a historical society and a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

(LACAC). She offered to come and speak at a public meeting.

Our first meeting was held May 27, 1987 in the Latcham Gallery with Heather Broadbent, heritage resource officer from the Town of Caledon and Jean Barkey, with slides of historic buildings, as the guests of the evening. There were 18 present. The second meeting, Sept 23, was in the Pine Orchard Union Church with the topic of Quaker Heritage on the agenda. For the first couple of years meetings moved around Whitchurch-Stouffville, depending on how the

topic blended with the setting.

One unforgettable "highlight" was our meeting about the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion. The feature of the evening, "LOUNT", a docu-drama created by the CBC, for some reason never did arrive. We had also invited Dr. Ron Stagg, an authority on the Rebellion, to be present, and he was able to take over so that the 60 people in attendance did not go home disappointed.

Notable events and achievements:

We had a hand in securing the painting of

Roy Brown's air fight with the Red Baron that is hanging in the high school.

We participated in the Strawberry Festival from 1988-1999, with bake sales and a historic photo competition in the *Stouffville Sun* office window.

We have placed historic markers at Sangster's Grove, the site of the Stouffville Creamery, Ratcliff Lumber, Schell Lumber and Stouffville Monument Works.

We have conducted two historic walking tours a year since 1992.

We instituted our summer picnic in 1988 and have visited a different

museum each summer since.

Our Christmas meeting in 1988 was a full dinner with entertainment following; 1991 was the first year we served dessert only.

As we enter our sixteenth year, we are looking to the community of Whitchurch-Stouffville for support and direction. Our membership is approaching 100 and we want to hear from you. Is there a continuing need for a group of people to promote the history of this community with regular meetings and events?

See "Survey" page 21

# bridal wishes

## Planning Your Wedding Transportation Early

One aspect of a wedding that is often overlooked during the planning stage is transportation on your wedding day. However, this should be planned at least six months in advance, even earlier if you are looking to rent limousines or antique vehicles. So if you are a newlywed who wants to be driven to the church in the car of your dreams, it's better to reserve early than to be disappointed.

It's only natural to want to be spoiled on your wedding day, but you also need to think about your guests. Some may not have

access to a mode of transportation, so try to arrange for extra vehicles to make sure everyone can get to the church and reception. It's not uncommon to also provide a special car for both sets of parents. You should reserve all the vehicles you will need as soon as you know the total number of people who will require help with transportation.

Your wedding day is not the best time to find out that the car company you rented from is notorious for not showing up, so do some research before laying down a deposit.

If possible, get referrals from friends or family members to assure its reliability and find out about the rental company's costs and quality of service.

As with everything else involved in planning a wedding, be sure to call and confirm your reservations a few days before the ceremony. This is also a great time to confirm all the aspects of your service agreement.

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