

# Stouffville, 1904: a glimpse into the life of a community

There was, of course, no newspaper in Whitchurch Township to record the arrival of Abraham Stouffer from Pennsylvania in 1804. As the community slowly grew, its numbers were few enough to allow word-of-mouth to spread the news.

Soon after the 1837 rebellion, however, the first one, "The Pay Advocate", was established — and it was printed on William Lyon MacKenzie's own infamous press, fished from the waters of Lake Ontario. Many others followed, under such banners as The Advance, The Alert, The Free Press Weekly, The Sentinel and The Pilot. The most recent, of course, is the publication you're now reading, which became part of our media history in 2001.

Longest-serving of the newspapers, of course, is the Tribune, and that was the most popular paper 100 years ago. We thought we would give you an idea of what life was like in our town back then, by reprinting a few select

excerpts from the Nov. 17, 1904 edition of the "Trib".

As you read, keep in mind that community newspapers reported much more than just local news in those days. They were "The Toronto Star", "The Reader's Digest" and "The National Enquirer", as well.

The excerpts below are in no particular order.

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**"Rhubarb grown in winter"** - Most farmers who have a garden at all usually have a good supply of the old-fashioned pie plant, or rhubarb. This vigorous growing plant provides a wholesome substitute for fruit early in

the spring before strawberries come in... H. L. Hutt, Horticulturist.

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**WOOL, WOOL, WOOL** - We have a good stock of blankets, sheeting, flannel, yarn, socks, etc. If we have not got what you want, leave your order... - Almira Woollen Mills

**Divorce in New Guinea** - There is no need of divorce courts in New Guinea. When a woman wearies of her husband, she simply leaves him and goes back to her mother. If she marries again, her former husband rallies all his friends and conducts a war dance in front of her new home.

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