

THE VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE

Stouffville was founded by Abraham and Elizabeth Stouffer who came from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in 1804 and purchased land on both sides of the Town Line in Concession 9. Here they built a mill around which this community developed.

Earliest development took place in what is now the east end, around the 10th Line crossroads

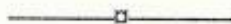
A second development focus centred on mills near Stouffville Creek in the vicinity of Mill and Market Streets. The railway line came through in the 1870s and brought prosperity and development further west.



Following the creation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in 1971, a crest was developed as a symbol of the Town. Its images represent the three entities which contributed land and population to the new Town, Whitchurch and Markham Townships and the Village of Stouffville. A white church represents the former, the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew symbolize the earliest founders of Markham, and the star and chalice are from the family crest of Stouffville's founding Stouffer family.

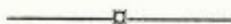
THE WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Society was founded in 1987. Its purpose is to make the community more aware of its heritage through entertainment, education and participation. We encourage you to join us at our bi-monthly meetings. Further information is available in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.



The Whitchurch-Stouffville Historical Society hopes that you enjoy this walking tour, and asks you to respect the privacy and property of the residents by keeping to the roads and sidewalks.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this brochure. Corrections and additional information will be gratefully received.



Illustrations by
John Roberts

Other Brochures:

- 1 Stouffville Centre North
- 2 Stouffville Centre South
- 3 Brimstone Point North
- 4 The Slough of Despond
- 5a Heart of Stouffville - W
- 5b Heart of Stouffville - E
- 6 Brimstone Point South
- 7 Stouffville Junction South
- 8 Stouffville Junction North

STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

9

Main Street West

covering the residential area along both sides of Main Street, from the Railway Tracks to the Ninth Line, also including the Royal Canadian Legion and Richardson Masonic Lodge



6082 Main Street

Produced by the
Whitchurch-Stouffville
Historical Society
2002

The walk begins at the railway tracks. We recommend walking along the south side of Main Street while viewing the north side. Let's use our imagination as we stand here and think of Stouffville Junction as it was 75 - 100 years ago. The train station, Stouffville's second, was of a different sort ... built like a two story house with sheds and wooden platforms surrounding it. There was a water tower a little further up the tracks. On the west side of the tracks were the grain elevators, coal and wood dealers, etc. On the street corner, at 6162 Main Street was the MANSION HOUSE... and the hotel truly deserved its name. The first Mansion house was built by Elijah Miller about 1875 to serve the traveling salesmen who went from place to place by train. Following a fire five years later, Elijah erected the building you see in front of you. Think of how modern it was with hot water, heat, electric light, and electric bells throughout. The sanitation was good, and it had every convenience for the comfort of its guests. The cuisine was above the ordinary and the exterior decorations of lovely shade trees and beautiful flowering baskets all helped make it "one of the best hotels of the first grade north of Toronto". The sheds and stables were along the north property line and down the tracks towards the building. They were destroyed by fire.



TODD BLOCK 6132-6148 Main Street: While this line of stores looks like one building, it is actually two groups or blocks with three businesses in each. John Hopkins built the first commercial enterprise in this area in 1876. The Todds bought the property in 1886 and by 1889 a block of 3 stores replaced the original building. Joseph A Todd was a dealer in grain, flour, feed, coal, wood, seeds, potatoes, pork, corn, beans, felt roofing, salt in barrels, bulk lime, cement, plaster, fire brick, tile, wool, etc. He operated the grain elevators at the station and had his office in the corner store. A scale was set into the road in front of that store for weighing wagons of grain, etc. He had two houses across the road built at the same time. This lead

to "over-extension" and in 1893 his creditors foreclosed. John S. Todd took over this property.

The second block of three stores is where William B. Brown started his carriage works in 1878. He was succeeded by Samuel and John Raymer. During the tenure of John Raymer, a fire "station", consisting of a manned hose reel, was located here to provide fire protection to the West End. This changed when Joseph A. Todd took over the property and built these stores in 1890.

Over the years, occupants in the first block have been: Joseph Hunter, general merchant; Michael Yake, jeweller; David Sypher, laundryman; Ed Pearson, barber; Wm. Burkholder's mill office and then Stiver Feedmill office; and the Bank of Nova Scotia. In the second block was George Lawson, grocer; James and John Ratcliff, grocers, with the *Bethesda and Stouffville* telephone exchange at the back; the Odd-lot store; Art Weldon, shoes; Pickhardt and Renfrew who sold farm supplies and home made medicines for farm animals; John Monkhouse Tailors; and others whose names have long gone. This was the spawning ground for many successful businesses which later moved downtown.

All the lots on the north side of Main Street are one block deep, with back entrances from Second Street. The carriage houses or back portions of these lots have now been sold and houses built.

The Sangster House at 6128/30 Main Street was built about 1886 for Robert Sangster to bring his large family into town from the west part of Uxbridge township. It remained in the Sangster family until 1944, a period of 58 years. This family produced 2 doctors, 2 dentists, a farmer and a lawyer. Dr. Walter and Dr. Alex both practiced in Stouffville. Their offices were likely in the brick addition at



the back, built c.1895. Dr. Walt was a reeve of the village and donated the west side of Memorial Park, known as Sangster's Grove, to the town. The dentists went to Michigan and the lawyer Frank went to northern Ontario before he returned to help found the United Farmers of Ontario.

Albert Street was formerly Centre Street.

6120 Main Street (Baker House): This large, Victorian

house was built in the spring of 1889 for John L. Baker who had a lumber mill on Edward Street. It has many interesting architectural features, with circular upper windows and extensive gingerbread. The cobblestone verandah which extends from the original single-storey covered porch over the front door, was added in the 1920s by Jacob Jennings. Subsequent owners have been Ed Lloyd and Jack Smits, a co-owner of Stouffville Machine and Tool.

6114 Main Street (Beebe House): This home was built c1890 for Joseph & John Park, owners of the Sash and Door factory on Edward Street. In 1893 it was sold to Lorinda Beebe, wife of Byron Beebe who owned the blacksmith shop on the north side of Main Street east of the creek. It remained in the Beebe family for over 50 years. A beautifully maintained Victorian home, it displays many of the features seen in the Baker house next door.

6108 Main Street: Built c1877 for John and Rachel Sanders, a grain and coal dealer in the west side of the station yard. Their son, William, was the village photographer from 1905-1950. The Mansard-style roof on the front and sides is unusual in Stouffville. An addition to the west was built in keeping with the original house. The verandah has been restored.

6102 Main Street: The stylized 'E' in the keystones over the windows appears to be a symbol for the builder and first owner Emanuel Horner. Built c1878 the home was the Methodist parsonage from 1880-1904. Among the many typical Victorian features are the stained glass and arched windows. A later verandah replaced and enlarged the original porch.

6096 Main Street: This 2 story Gothic-style home with Victorian features was built in 1885 for Joel Baker, owner of the lumber yard at the north end of Edward St. An

interesting design with identical front bays and identical side wings on the west. The addition to the east blends beautifully with the original home.

William Street was originally named Miller Street for Walter Miller, private banker.

6082 Main Street (Heise House - see cover): this large 2 ½ story red brick home was built c1890. Note the construction details: square cut stone foundation, and soldier brick over the windows. The large curved verandah with the upper balcony may have been added by the Stiver Bros in the 1920s. The brick carriage house at Second Street is now a charming home (see tour #8).

6072 Main Street: Built c1901 for Hiram Lott, a grocer from the Todd Block, this house was the longtime (1913-54) home of the family of A.C. Burkholder, manager of the Standard Bank. This house is a large, elegant 2-storey house with elaborate brick-work over arched windows and front entrance, and fine stained glass. The circular verandah is another Stiver 1920s replacement.



6060 Main St: Built about 1885 for Nelson Patterson, the village veterinarian, who had a large brick stable and office built on the west part of the lot. The old house has changed greatly over the years, but is still one of Stouffville's stately homes. The stable was used as the vet office for many years, then in 1942 the lot was divided and the stable demolished to make way for the modern stucco bungalow built for Milt and Hattie Storry.

Charles Street was originally Baker Street.

6038 Main St: Built by Jacob Heise for Henry Brillinger c1913, this home had the latest feature... fishscale shingles in the gables, which have since been removed. The

verandah is a 1920s replacement. Other longtime owners include Thomas Birkett and Robert Winterstein.

6034/32/30 Main Street: This triplex is one of Stouffville's replacement dwellings built about 1971 to replace the long time home of Charlotte Chapman, a former village librarian when the library was at 6328 Main St. (The Carnegie Building).

6018 and 6024 Main Street: Both these homes were built about 1916 and were purchased by the Scott brothers, David and Alexander, who had a grocery store in the Merten Block downtown.

Cross Main Street with the traffic lights and GO NORTH on NINTH LINE:

LEGION (across on the west side): Local veteran volunteers built the Legion Hall, Home of Branch 459 of the Royal Canadian Legion in 1947. The land was donated by Win Timbers; the lumber and beams came from the driveway of a Ringwood Hotel; Schell Lumber donated the hardwood flooring; Buckles Construction Co laid the cement blocks; Bill Malloy did the plumbing and Walt Smith welded the steel beams. It was from the success of this venture that the "Veterans Construction Co" consisting of Bert Clarkson, Harold Morden and Fred Castle came into being.

Take a moment to pause by the "Princess Diana Garden" and remember those who served with our Armed Forces. The memorial stone was moved here in 1998 from Civic Square. Prior to that it was located in

Memorial Park.

MASONIC LODGE: Across the Ninth Line, on the corner of Second Street, is the home of the Richardson Lodge, No. 136. They first met in the inn at Cashel (18th and Kennedy Road) in 1860. In 1866 the Lodge moved to Stouffville, first to Knill's Hall (which burned down and was replaced by the Queen's Hotel) and then to the upper floor of the Daley Block (1876-1954). In 1953 plans were set in motion for a home of their own. The building was constructed largely through the efforts of members and volunteers, and was furnished by generous donations of several of the Masons. The first meeting in the new



building was held April 15, 1955, with a building dedication on May 30.

Back down at the corner of Main and 9th: On the south side of Main Street at the Ninth Line we find that in 1837 Abraham Stouffer sold John Degeer 2 acres of land, which was resold to J. Lemon Connor in 1851. Early maps show a pump shop and small frame dwelling on the corner of the property. In the 1880s Robert Laidley lived here, and the property became known

as the "zoo". Robert was a junk dealer who took various items [and animals] in trade. In 1926 Alex Grubin bought the building and moved it in pieces to the floodplain near the Baptist Church. Development of the farmland on both sides of Main Street west of the Ninth Line began in the 1950s.

6031 Main Street: Evidence indicates that this house may have been a barn built c1854 by pumpmaker J. Lemmon Connor, making this one of the oldest buildings in this part of town. When Ethel Storry was married in this home in 1899, it was numbered 1 Main Street. Long time owners have included Eli Raymer and Howard Mills, who operated his optometry business from the little building to the east of the house (6037).

6043 Main Street: This neo-Georgian home was built c1934 for station agent John Hodgins. Little change has occurred since it was built.

Note that **ORCHARD PARK BLVD.** is narrow at the north end, the width being determined by the pre-existing houses on either side. The houses on this street were built after 1946.

The three brick "Cottages," to the east of Orchard Park Blvd. were built in the 1920s, replacing the 4-room 1-storey frame house of Elizabeth Stouffer Wideman, daughter of the town's founder, Abraham Stouffer. 6063 Main Street was the home of Stouffville's last Postmaster, Gary Fisher, who served until 1993.

6077 Main Street: This large 2 ½ storey red brick home was built c1915 by Fred Betz and sold to James Bruce whose daughter, Luella Bruce Creighton, was the author of *High Bright Buggy Wheels*. Note how similar this

is to 6012 on the north side of Main Street.

6085 Main Street: This typical Victorian-style Stouffville home was built c1905 and in 1906 became the home of William T. Boynton. It remained in the family, through daughter Mabel Watt, owner of the Ladies' Wear Shop in the Todd Block, until 1944. It became an optometry office in 1979.

Clarke Street was named after James Clarke who created the subdivision to the south.

6097 Main Street: Francis Watson of Ringwood was the first owner of this large red brick Gothic style home built in 1892. For 50 years it was the home of the Stapleton family. The lot was divided in 1967 and a new house built for George Timbers on the south half of the property.



6105 Main Street: Built in 1893 for David and Sophia Latchford, this Victorian-style home remained in the family for nearly 80 years. Rumour has it that the original large porch was the site of a band concert during a church social.

6111 Main Street and 4 Victoria Street: Elijah Miller of the Mansion house left this property to his daughter Sophia and her husband David Latchford. David had worked in Brown's Carriage Works on the north side of Main and this presented an opportunity to open his own shop. His frame building was removed in the 1920s and these two houses were built, one on Main Street c1924 for Mrs Kester, (which has since been extensively revamped by Morley Simes) and the other in 1942 for Wes Schell of the Lumber Co.

Victoria Street was named for the Queen.

6131 Main Street: The Medical Centre was built in 1957 on property that has had many uses. In 1873 Hiram Johnson decided that a grocery store in the west end might be profitable and so built a large, rectangular 2-storey building. James Dougherty and Ludwig Wideman both conducted their marble works from that building. It was converted into apartments and used as dwellings until purchased by Doctors Button and Brodie, who used the site for their new medical office.

6139 Main Street: To be convenient to his business Ludwig Wideman purchased the 1873 cottage from Rev. J.B. Moore in December 1880. The home was greatly

expanded to the back around 1924 and the cobblestone porch added. The property remained in the Wideman family until 1962.

6147 Main Street: This new-looking home is actually over 120 years old! In April 1945 the lady of the house wanted a smaller home and her husband refused to move. So Charles Neal had the upstairs removed. In 1993, Antonio Zanet replaced the second storey, using the original windows which had been stored in the barn.

6153 Main Street: Built about 1872 for Robert Tranmer, a retired farmer from Whitchurch. This has been a rental property for at least 75 years.

Albert Street is one of the few streets that crosses Main Street and retains the same name.

6165: The building on the corner, constructed in 1999, replaces a large Victorian home built by the Todd family about 100 years earlier. The house burned and was subsequently demolished in December 1980.

6173 Main Street: This longtime home of Henry Woodgate, the first clerk of the Village of Stouffville, was built about 1872. It has been owned by only five families ... Musselman, Woodgate, Todd, Helmkey and Mowat.

6179 Main Street: This brick building was erected in 1918 by William Quantz to replace the frame residence of Thomas Williamson, a prominent Stouffville philanthropist. It was sold in 1942 to Ella Ratcliffe who lived here until 1961 when it was converted to a medical facility.

6185 Main Street: This multi-apartment home has seen better days. It was the home of William Blake Sanders, one of Stouffville's movers and shakers from the last part of the 19th century. Built c1876, the ornate verandahs and portico have long disappeared. After Isaac Boadway bought the property in 1931, he divided the lot and turned the house into a two family dwelling.

6193 Main Street: On this portion of the Sanders lot, Boadway built a garage which became the first Shell gas station in town. After the station closed, a medical lab and X-ray clinic were located in the building from 1973 to 1996.

This concludes our tour of Main Street West.

