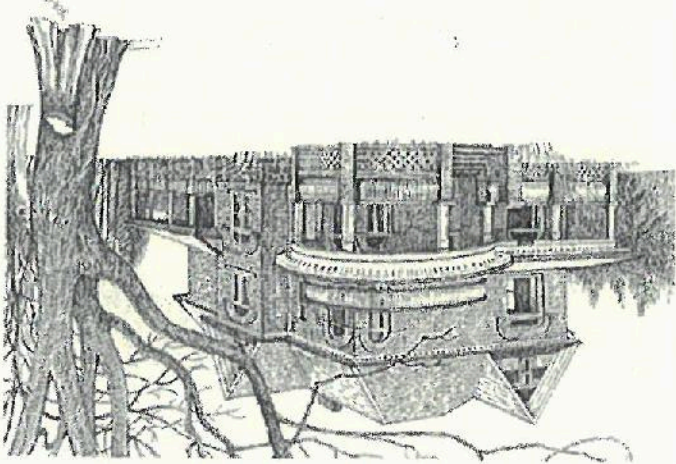


6082 Main Street



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

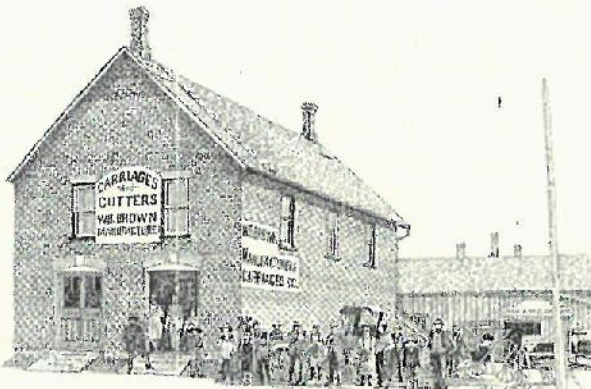
Main Street West

9

STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE
WALKING TOUR

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



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

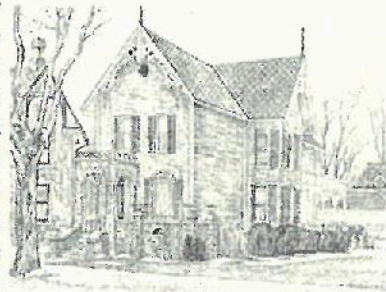
to "over-extension" and in 1893 his creditors foreclosed. John S. Todd took over this property.

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



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

- 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

Other Brochures:

John Roberts
Illustrations by

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

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.

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

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.