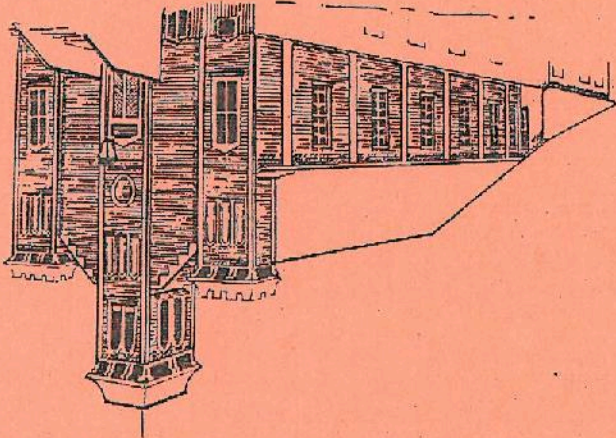


Produced by the
Whitchurch-Stouffville
Historical Society
1995

Daley's Hall
1885



Including Main Street
between Mill Street and Edward Street
and businesses adjacent to the railway

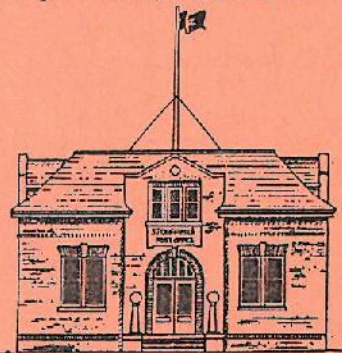
The Heart of Stouffville:
West
East

STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

The tour begins at the corner of Main and Market Streets, and will take the reader west to the tracks (looking at the south side) and back (looking at the north side). *The reader is advised to walk on the north side to observe buildings on the south and vice versa on the return trip.*

The Main, Mill & Market intersection has long been the primary crossroads of the business area of Stouffville, and the names indicate why. Market Street and the lots on either side were created in 1889 by R.J. Daley's plan of subdivision. This property appears to have been the site of Abraham Stouffer's third mill, later owned by Edward Wheeler (often spelt Wheeler).

On the southwest corner the Silver Jubilee seniors' club now occupies the former post office, built in 1926. It was



here that R.J. Daley had built Daley's Hall (pictured on the cover) in 1885. The famous frame hall was an imposing structure, and served as a market, public hall, skating and curling rink. In later years a livery stable occupied the lower level. When the hall burned in 1923, the fire took the lives of several horses.

The next building, #6291, was originally a house built in the 1890s for William and his son Wilfred E. Morden, who was later reeve of the Village. *The Tribune* office occupied this building for a number of years.

#6387/89 is a more recent building, constructed in the 1960s on the side lot of the Morden house.

The grassed area on either side of the creek is managed by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. One of the earliest businesses

in this area was a carriage shop, built right over the creek. It was torn down in the 1920s when Alex Grubin had four buildings constructed in its place. Among the businesses were the Bank of Nova Scotia, Dick Ward's garage, Strong and Schell's butcher shop, Red Forsyth's barber shop, the Stouffville Fruit Market and the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Co. which took over the bank building. Sarah Birkett's house, on the rear of this lot on what is now conservation land, was reached by a 12-foot wide lane from Main Street. At the time of Hurricane Hazel

Stouffville Mills and Early Development

In the early settlement of Stouffville, two centres of population developed: one in the east end near the 10th Line crossroads and one at the creek around the early mills. It is important to remember that until the incorporation of the village in 1877 the north side of Main Street was in Whitchurch Township and the south side in Markham Township.

Sometime after Abraham Stouffer arrived in 1805 he constructed a mud dam, just north-west of the current library, to create a mill pond and sawmill on the east side of Stouffville Creek in Whitchurch Township. A grist mill was added on the north side before long. After fire destroyed the grist mill, Stouffer had the help of neighbours in building a new one on the south side of the road. Specific dates for the sequence of mills in this area are hard to determine.

Smith's Gazetteer tells us that in 1846 Stouffville had "about 70 inhabitants, one physician and surgeon, two stores, two taverns, one blacksmith and wagon maker, one oatmeal mill, one tailor and one shoemaker".

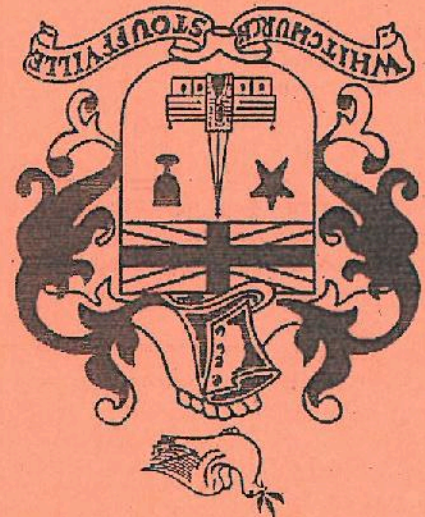
In 1871, Stouffville's population had reached about 700. Ed Wheeler, who had purchased Stouffer's mills, was operating a sawmill with steam power, and when the railway came through in the same year, Wheeler arranged to have a spur built to serve the mills, then located on both sides of Main Street at the creek.

(1954), these buildings were flooded. They were removed in the 1970s when the creek was rechannelled as part of the flood control plan.

The Baptist Church at #6273 occupies a lot that had a variety of uses in the early days of the village including Ed Wheeler's pig pen, a frog pond and a dump. The present church was built in 1926 using bricks from the congregation's earlier building at Pine Street.

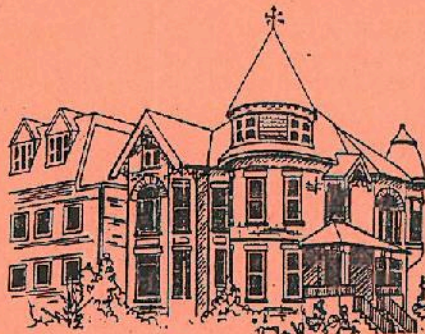
O'Brien Avenue is named for James O'Brien, a prominent businessman, the village assessor, and an active citizen.

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 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.



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.

THE VILLAGE OF STOUFFVILLE



#6357, now known as Buckingham Manor, is a retirement home which has been built around the original house of R.J. Daley. This ornate and commanding mansion was built in the Queen Anne style, c1891.

From the lane to the corner there were four houses. #6245 is a new building replacing a large brick house built by Matthew Flint, and later the home of Dr. Donald Smith, dentist. #6141/3 was the home of George McCallum, a retired tailor, in 1899.

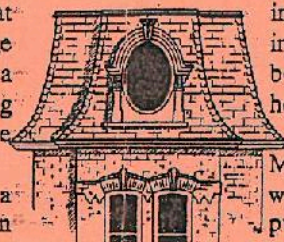
#6237 was built for Thomas Shaw Sr. and was later the retirement home of James Daley Sr., a shoe-maker. His daughter, Susan, lived here until her death in 1942.

From about the 1850s Thomas Shaw Sr. had a print shop where #6233 now stands. It was moved across the street in 1883 to #6198. At that time a house was built here by Jacob Yake. It was moved in 1929 to #6447 Main Street making way for the present house, built for Elijah Pennock.

Lloyd Street (Fair Street when it led to the village fairgrounds) was named for Ed Lloyd, who owned much of the property in this area.

On the west corner at Lloyd Street, #6223 is a rare Stouffville example of Italianate architecture with a mansard roof. Note the brick key-arches over the windows. The original owner was David Stouffer who had the house built in 1877. Henry Vanzant, an implement dealer, and his wife Julia bought the house in 1889 and lived here for many years.

#6219 was built in the 1870s by Matthew Flint in high-Victorian style with gingerbread in the gables. It was purchased by Alfred Johnson in 1880.



This Brochure has been published with the financial support of the Stouffville Downtown Business Association

- 1 Stouffville Centre North
- 2 Stouffville Centre South
- 3 Brimstone Point North
- 4 The Slough of Despond
- 5b Heart of Stouffville - E

Other Brochures:

Map and Illustrations by
Fenella Smith

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