

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 Duffin's 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.

Map and Illustrations by
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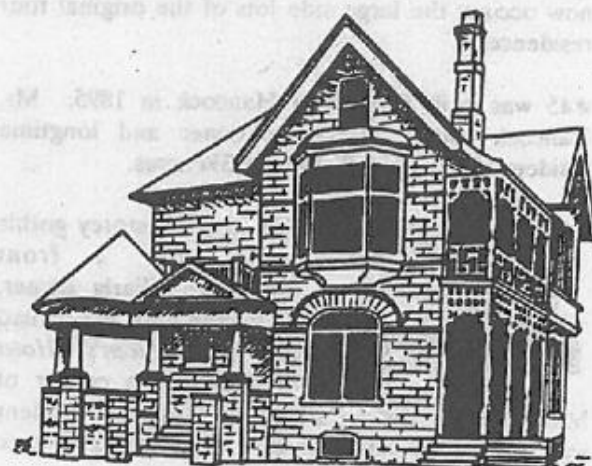


STOUFFVILLE VILLAGE WALKING TOUR

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Village Centre South

including Somerville, O'Brien,
Rose, Lloyd, & Blake Streets

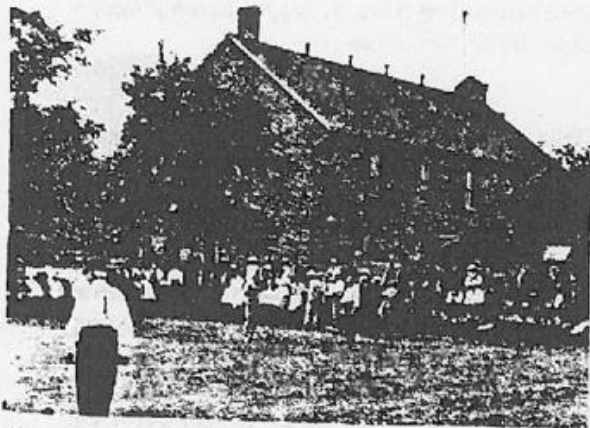


Underhill House, 82 O'Brien
1890

Produced by the
Whitchurch-Stouffville
Historical Society
1992

The tour begins at the **Town Municipal Offices**, which are located in the building set at the back of Civic Square, behind the Main Street Clock Tower.

This building, constructed c1895, was originally built to house a market on the main floor and a concert hall on the second. In 1923 Isaac Borinsky bought the building. Sydney Schmidt leased the upper floor and opened a silent movie cinema, the *Auditorium Theatre*. The theatre's first film was a Harold Lloyd, two-reel comedy shown on October 27, 1923. For a number of years in the 1920s a garage occupied the main floor, until a bowling alley and billiard parlor replaced it. Theatre seating was moved to the main floor in the 1930s when Syd Schmidt remodelled the theatre and renamed it the *Stanley Theatre*, after his son. It remained a theatre until 1959.

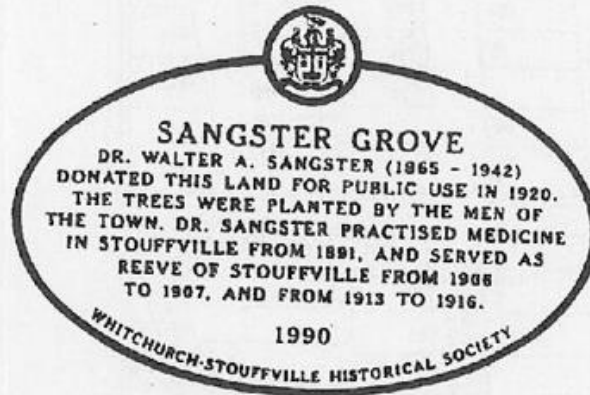


When taken over as the Village and later the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville municipal offices the building was again modified to the purpose and the stained glass window with the Town crest was created. A look at the brick work on the exterior walls as you go around the building will reveal various changes in window and door locations. The building is not architecturally exciting, but it is very solidly built

and stands with a certain, simple majesty in the open space created by the square.

South-east from the Town Hall the local lawn bowling club makes its home. The *Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club*, founded in the 1890s, has grown from two greens on the site of its present clubhouse. The men's club was formally created in 1907. The new green and two "good dirt [tennis] courts" were built in 1910.

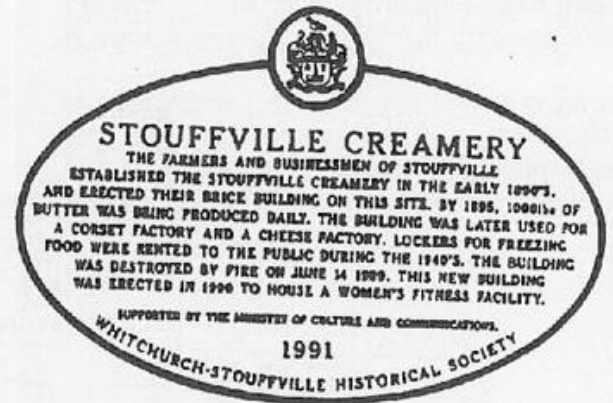
It boasts a lively history. Stouffville women bowlers (who were invited to participate in the club in 1929) have a particularly illustrious record, with regional and provincial titles, and even one national triples title, over the years.



The treed area on the west side of the creek has acquired the name *Sangster Grove*, in recognition of Dr. Walter Sangster who donated much of this parkland to the Town.

Leave the parking lot, heading west along **SOMERVILLE AVENUE**, named for William Somerville. The new fitness centre building, on the north side, occupies the site of the *Stouffville Creamery* which was lost to fire on June 14, 1989. Founded in the 1890s, the Creamery produced 1000 lbs. of butter daily by 1895 and handled eggs and poultry besides. For

a brief period, 1911-1918, it was a corset factory. In 1918 Isaac Borinsky reopened the Creamery.



Continue west along Somerville Avenue, across Duffin's Creek to **MARKET STREET**. The street is named for the farmers' markets which regularly took over the street in the vicinity of *Daley's Hall* at the corner of Main..

Few of the early Market Street buildings remain. Gone are the Livery stables (behind *Daley's Hall*), and the 1903 *Electric Light and Power Company* (from the northeast corner of Market and Somerville). When *Ontario Hydro* took over hydro supply, the latter building became *Griffith's Blacksmith Shop* until 1946, when this was replaced by a welding service. The building was torn down during the rechannelling of Duffin's Creek.

Still standing is the double house on the northwest corner (#34 & #36), which was built c1894, and owned by Main Street merchant, Fred Spofford.

The sculpture on the corner is one of a number along the creek, installed as part of the sculptural walk developed in 1983 by the Town's *Latham Gallery*. This piece, "Untitled", was created by sculptor Ted Bieler.

Somerville ends at O'BRIEN AVENUE, named for James O'Brien. Directly ahead, #48 was built, c1895, for Charles Radmore, foreman for the Grand Trunk Railway. Note the double window theme, carried through to the attic. Many of the ornate, wooden, Victorian verandahs were replaced by brick verandahs in a Greek Revival style during the 1920's. This is the first of a number of examples on the tour (#s 24, 36, 65, & 82 O'Brien & #35 Blake).



The tour turns south at #47, originally the home of harness-maker George Wallace. Later shoe-maker Morley Barker lived here.



#59 dates from c1920. The distinctive sweeping roof lines add charm to this cottage.

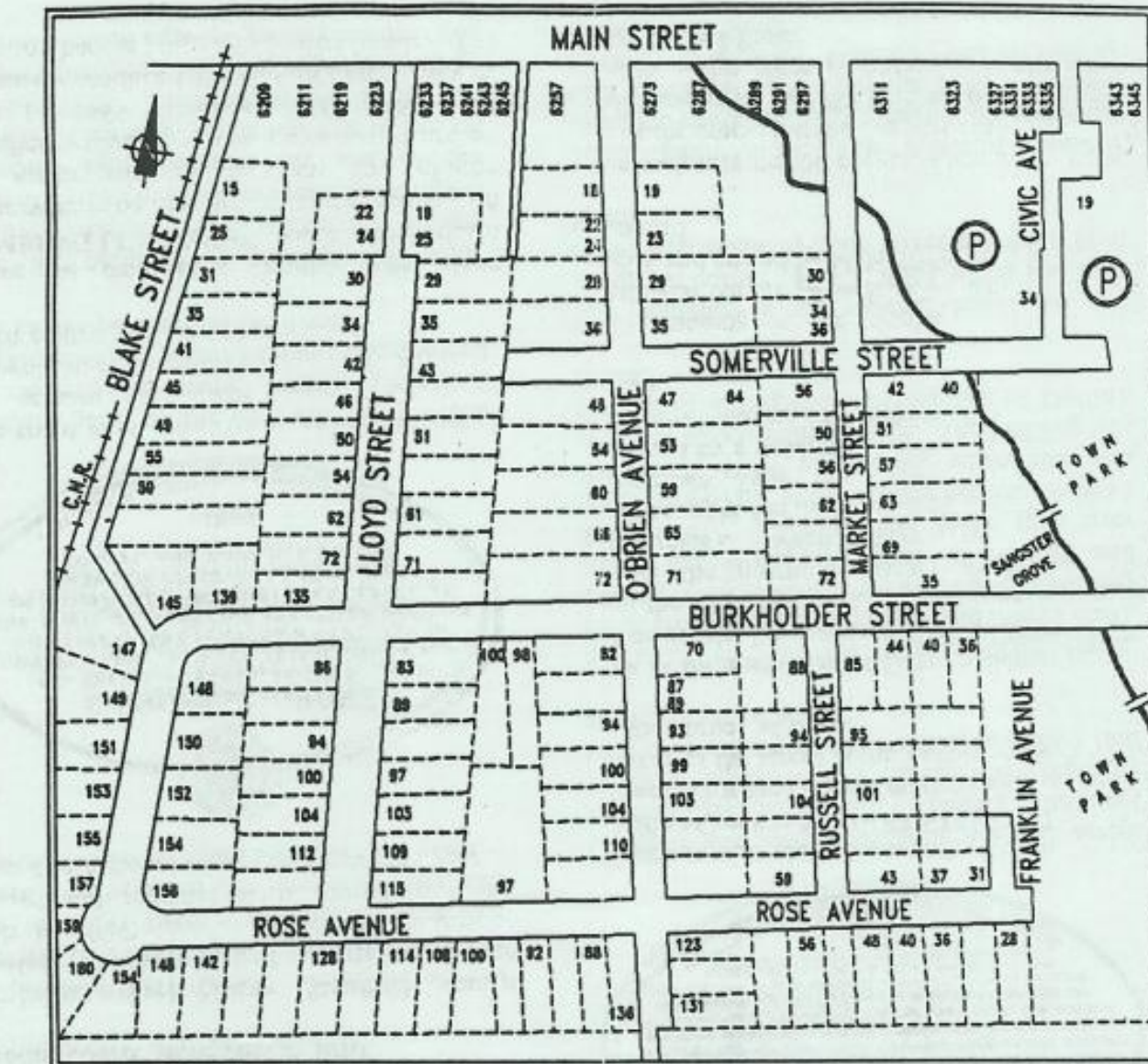
#65 was built c1894 as a wedding home for Mr. & Mrs. Reubin Stevens. The soldier brick and elliptical-arch windows with stained glass are typical of the style attributed to Nathan Forsyth, a well-known Stouffville builder. The brick verandah here features a conical corner roof (also to be seen elsewhere on this tour).

#71 was built by Bill Murphy in 1990 and blends very well with the surrounding older homes.

#82 (pictured on the cover) was built in 1890 for Richard Underhill, a Main Street shoe merchant. It also served as the Cameron Meabry Maternity Home during the 1940s, before reverting to single-family use. A minor fire in the 1970s led to the removal of the wooden north porch and the painting of the exterior brick.

#87 & 89 is a double house built c1895 and owned by Mr. Egbert Fleury. It was a rental property for many years.

#93 was built in 1896 for Mr. and Mrs. Amos



Lehman. Amos was a shoe store owner and Village Reeve in 1922. The store was operated by the Lehman family for three generations.

#94 is in the Gothic style, built c1894 for Sylvanus Woodard. Various changes have been made to its exterior over the years.

#104 was built c1910 by Jacob Heise (a prominent local builder) for Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hamilton, on

their retirement from farming. During the 1920s the house served as a boarding house for many male high school teachers (rules prohibited mixed boarding).

O'Brien ends at the entrance to the laneway to the Christian Hoover family farm whose fine, fieldstone house was built in 1855.

Turning west on ROSE AVENUE, pause at #97, a traditional wood frame, Gothic house built in



1895 for Henry Woodburn, labourer for the Toronto & Nipissing Railroad. A recent board & batten extension is in keeping with the original home.

Reaching **LLOYD STREET**, named after Stouffville's prominent Lloyd family, turn north toward Main Street. These recent homes occupy the former site of the Stouffville fairgrounds. From 1873 until 1890 agricultural fairs were held here annually.

At **BURKHOLDER STREET**, named for another prominent Stouffville family, turn left to reach **BLAKE STREET**, which follows the Railway line and was developed in response to the arrival of trains on the *Toronto & Nipissing Railway*. The property on the east side was once owned by William Blake Sanders. Homes built in the 1950s now occupy the large side lots of the original four residences.

#45 was built for Simon Hancock in 1895. Mr. Hancock was a market gardener and longtime resident who originally owned 5 3/4 acres.



#35 is a two-storey gothic house with a front verandah. Early owner, Richard Knill, also owned the the *Queen's Hotel* (located at the corner of

Main Street and Park Drive). A later resident was Dick Ward, engineer for the *Stouffville Electric Company* on Market Street.

Another two-storey gothic, #25 was built by George Bentley c1886, and later became the home of his children.

#15 is a white, two-storey clapboard house owned by George Macklem in 1895. The unchanged verandah shades the south and west sides.

At the corner of **MAIN STREET** and Blake, #6209

Main Street, we pass the *Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro office*, located on the site of *Frank Miller's* house, built in the 1880s. Mr. Miller was the manager of the *Mansion House Hotel* across the street.



Turning right, we arrive at #6211 Main Street, c1890s, originally the home of George Wagg, retired Bloomington farmer. The Byams opened the *Blue Bird Inn*, a tea room and guest house, in 1918.

Next door, #6219, was the home of Alfred Johnson in 1895. Note the gingerbread of this high-Victorian house.

Italianate #6223 has one of few true Mansard roofs in Stouffville. The original owner was Henry Vanzant, an implement dealer. The details of this 1877 house include the key-arched windows.



A brief sojourn down **LLOYD STREET**, formerly Fair Street, reveals an early, Gothic double house at

#22, 24, built in the 1870s by George Flint for George James. South of here the street widens where the old street reaches the site of the former fairgrounds.

Across the street, #19 sits on the site of Elijah Pennock's livery stables. Both #19 and #23 contain lumber from the original structure, which had been the *Eckardt Cheese Factory* at Stouffer and Main Streets.

Return to **MAIN STREET** and turn right. The four houses between Lloyd Street and *Buckingham Manor* were built between 1875 and 1905. All were once single-family dwellings.



#6257, *Buckingham Manor* retirement residence, has grown around the original house of R.J. Daley. This ornate and commanding mansion, was built in the Queen Anne style for the Stouffville businessman circa 1891.

Now back at **O'BRIEN**, turn right. #19, was built in a Victorian brick style by Peter Fleury (who also built #18 across the street) for J. Elliot of the *Standard Bank*. Creamery owner, Joseph Borinsky, lived here c1920s.

#29 was built in 1901 for Harold B. Sanders. Mr. Sanders owned *Lakeview House* at Jackson's Point (known as "Stouffville by the Lake"). The house is still in the Sanders family.



#28 is a white frame Gothic built in 1885 by Joel Nendick who owned it. Mr. Nendick was a railroad man and also worked for the Village.



#36 was designed by merchant, D.L. Barclay (c1890). The house was later owned by hardware store owner, E.A. Button. This large single family house has twin-bayed wings, and some of the original gingerbread has been maintained.

#35, a red brick, Victorian home, was originally owned by Christopher Turner of Toronto. About 1900 James McCullough, a partner in the law office of F. L. Button and McCullough, bought the house. In 1903, he was elected Village Reeve. From here, Somerville Street will lead you back to the starting point of the tour.