

Travel

St. George will interest antique lovers

If a visit to Stratford, perhaps to see one of the excellent productions that are being staged there this season, is in your plans and you're not in a hurry, try this route. Drive along Highway 5 west through St. George to Highway 24, south here to Highway 2 — head west through the outskirts of Paris to Woodstock, north on Highway 59 through Hickson and Tavistock to Shakespeare and Highway 8, and head west from here into Stratford. The countryside is delightful, traffic is light and the small towns en route are full of interesting history.

St. George is always a pleasant town through which to stroll. Check out the antique shops on Main Street

and enjoy a light lunch or dinner in the Victorian setting of The Gourmette at The Inn St. George. Prices are reasonable and the food always good. Mrs. Brown's shop at the front of the Inn offers many delicious gourmet food items. Across the hallway, beautifully made replicas of Victorian nightwear and lingerie are for sale, as are many delightful gift items, including many almost irresistible teddies and soft toys. A delightful selection of greeting cards can be found here.

Happily this summer, Susan and Gloria Brown are fulfilling their ambition of turning the whole building back into an Inn, as bedrooms have been renovated and refurbished,

bathrooms have been installed and bed and breakfast is now available. Much hard work has produced comfortable, charming rooms, wallpapers and colors that are in keeping with a Victorian country establishment. Rates are presently \$25 single, \$35 double and \$45 for a suite. Breakfast which is included, is eaten in the Rose Garden dining room. Gloria Brown has great plans to enlarge and expand the inn in the next few years, and she seems to thrive on all the hard work and challenges involved, call (519) 448-1841 for reservations.

Antique lovers will enjoy the fair and sale to be held this holiday weekend in the St. George's Arena. Fifty dealers from Ontario and Quebec will be offering a diverse selection of antiques and collectables for sale, hours are from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. today.

Highways 24 and 2 wind their way through tobacco growing areas to Paris, which if time allows, should be explored. The main street has a good selection of shops and the cobblestone houses — many located close to St. James Anglican Church are very picturesque.

Turning onto Highway 59 in Woodstock you are in an area of the city that boasts some of the most elegant Victorian homes in the province. Park your car and walk along the streets that are lined with huge old trees and such delightful houses.

Woodstock was settled in the early years of the last century mainly by British immigrants whose political and conservative views were those of the government of the day. To encourage such settlers who had proven leadership qualities as well as

Side trips

by JEAN ROUND



land were offered to them. The area had taken on new importance at the end of the previous century when Governor Simcoe planned to build a new provincial capital — to be called London — on the banks of the River Thames.

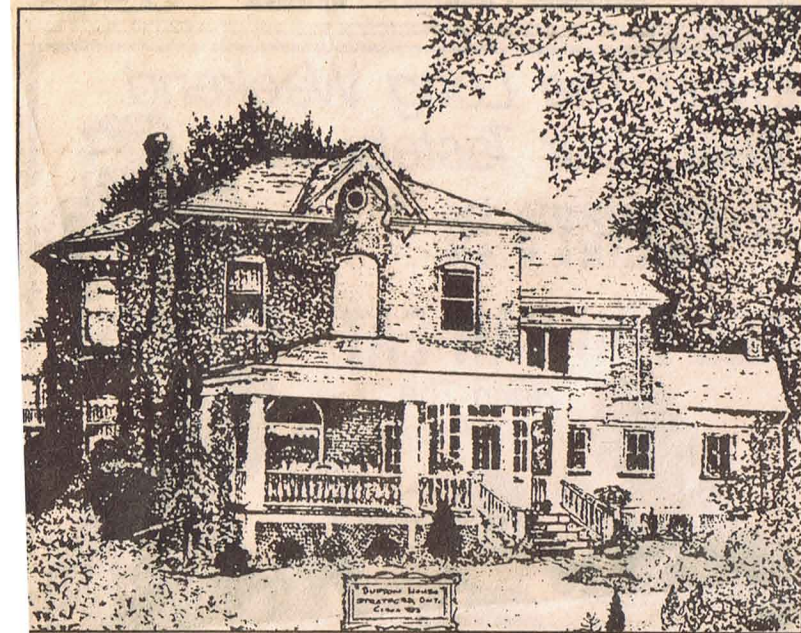
Three such men who settled in Woodstock in the 1830s were Captain Andrew Drew, Henry Vansittart and the Reverend William Bettridge, the latter had acted as interpreter for the Duke of Wellington when French prisoners were being interrogated.

All three men built fine homes in the area, were influential in the community and did much to develop the area serving the local citizens well. They were all known to each other before they came to Canada, involvement in various business ventures together caused some feuding and arguments about money especially between Drew and Vansittart. Much more about these men and their

times will be written another day.

St. Paul's Church should not be missed or the elegant Town Hall — modelled after the Town Hall in Woodstock, England.

If you can stay over in Stratford and enjoy the leisurely pace of this delightful town, Dufton House is highly recommended. Located at 12 Elizabeth St., it is only a few minutes drive to any of the theatres or a pleasant walk away. Dufton House is a large elegant Victorian house set in immaculate grounds. The rooms are tall and airy and beautifully equipped. Rates range from \$50-\$60 for two people. There are two-room suites available which have their own entrance from the outside, these are spacious and well furnished. A welcoming tray with sherry and aperitifs is set out for guests and everything is on hand to make breakfast when desired. Call (519) 271-7413 to make reservations with Judy Morley.



Dufton House, Stratford, Ont