

## They helped build the CPR line!

When the Canadian Pacific Railway Company decided to extend a line of track from Pontypool to Lindsay the decision involved a tremendous amount of engineering. When the line was extended to Bobcaygeon, some 56 years ago, surveyors and engineers had a big task in setting out stakes along the right of way, and locating a number of pilot rods and stakes along the shores of Sturgeon Lake, especially near Little Bob.

Many engineers and superintendents of operations visited Lindsay and the story is recalled of one distinguished gentleman who, because of his friendly disposition, had many friends among the businessmen in Lindsay. For one of his journeys down the Scugog River to Sturgeon Lake and on to Bobcaygeon he engaged the services of two young Lindsay men who were very fond of the water and who handled their own boat, a fast vessel which ordinarily could make the 24-mile trip in good time. There was no bargain regarding remuneration and the young men went along for the sheer enjoyment and to do a good turn. A fourth member of the party was a well-known Lindsay businessman. When the passengers lowered themselves into the waiting craft at the town wharf, the boys noticed they brought aboard a large wicker hamper which they believed filled with food. Their expectation of enjoying a good meal of sandwiches and milk was soon dispelled. When the speedy craft was out of sight of habitation the hamper was opened but instead of home made sandwiches, the contents proved to be an almost unlimited cargo of bottles containing sparkling liquids which brought forth a gurgling sound as the two passengers proceeded to imbibe to their heart's content.

In due time they reached Bobcaygeon and the engineer

although practically incapable of getting out at various points along the Bobcaygeon shoreline to examine the correctness of the surveyor's takes, was able to make scribbling notations in a small book he carried for the purpose.

At Bobcaygeon the two passengers managed to stretch their legs and reach the old Rockland House, where Village officials were waiting to welcome the railway authority and extend further hospitality. The food was always the best at "The Rockland", but sad to say, none of it reached the stomachs of the two river-lake pilots. Time dragged on and it was dusk and then dark night when the two passengers again boarded the boat and the journey started on the home voyage. Soon it was a case of cruising by moonlight and the boys had to be sharp to pick out landmarks, and finally the red-topped buoys. Hungry and weary the two boatsmen landed at the town wharf and the passengers disembarked and with a curt "thank you" disappeared in the dark surrounding Macdonnell Park, which at that time was a natural park of tall trees and a bit of underbrush. That is how these two youths helped, in their way of thinking, to build the CPR line to Bobcaygeon.