

on the MAIN STREET

Jan 20/71



Historical facts regarding the Town of Lindsay at all times appear to be acceptable to a countless number of readers and repetition is sometimes liable to happen in relating to the past.

It will, no doubt, be news to many readers to learn that years ago Lindsay was looked upon by many visitors, desirous of seeing the charming back lakes of the County of Victoria, and Sturgeon Lake area in particular, as the stepping off center leading to the then, perhaps, sparsely populated summer area.

An article published many years ago reads in part as follows: "Lindsay is what is termed a 'Government Town', the site being selected because of its central position and natural advantages. The Government selected four hundred acres on the banks of the Scugog River — where there was a mill site — in the township of Ops, as a site for the Town of Lindsay.

Two hundred acres were surveyed into 345 lots, each half-an-acre and in the centre a market square of about six acres was reserved. The price

of the town lots was from ten to fourteen pounds (\$40 to \$56 each). The streets are sixty-six feet wide and Kent Street and the street now called Victoria Avenue, after the Queen, are each 100 feet in width. The Town was incorporated in 1857 and on the 5th of July, 1861, a great fire took place, which destroyed nearly the whole town, then composed of almost all wooden buildings.

Besides the railroads, Lindsay is highly favored by water communication with other places — with the northern back lakes via Fenelon Falls, eastward to Bobcaygeon and onward down the lakes to within seven miles of Peterborough, and then to the south about thirty miles to Port Perry . . . The future of Lindsay is undoubtedly secured by its being nearly in the centre of one of the best agricultural counties in the Dominion, the land being mostly of excellent quality and all kinds of agricultural produce — particularly wheat, barley and oats being raised in great abundance."

Many decades ago the manufacturing plants included: Syl-

vester's agricultural implement works being one of the largest in Ontario which was located on Kent Street west and included the area bounded by Sussex Street, Russell and Victoria Avenue; The Grand Trunk railway workshops; custom house and excise office.

Today Lindsay has the industrial commission and the chamber of commerce but years ago the town had a board of trade.

Lindsay has always been blessed with good churches. The original cost of the Collegiate Institute was over thirty thousand dollars and at the same time the town had a fine Mechanics' Institute and public library, located over the Dominion Bank and citizens were served by three newspapers, The Lindsay Daily Post, The Watchman and the Warder.

The Town was also blessed with a fine band, an organization which served the people of Lindsay for many years with weekly concerts being held on the public square.

An important link with the past was the operation of a number of passenger steamboats as well as industrial tugs and barges on the Scugog River and adjacent lakes.

The summer resort of Sturgeon Point, years ago, was recognized as one of the finest in Ontario and that reputation has been maintained. A well conducted hotel was located on the Point with many rooms

and at times was well patronized.

An historical booklet contains many pictures including: Kent Street looking east, a lawn tennis club which was located at the corner of Mill and Russell Streets, the registry office and court house, the jail, Lindsay waterworks pumping station, Cambridge Street Methodist Church and parsonage, Presbyterian Church, Queen Street Methodist Church at the corner of Caroline and Queen Streets, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Baptist Church, Bank of Montreal, Dundas and Flavelle Bros.'s Store at the corner of Kent and York Streets, operated by Wm. Flavelle, J. D. Flavelle and Wm. Dundas, Dundas and Flavelle Bros. egg house on King Street, S. G. Parkin's Sawmill, E. W. M'Gaffery's Store, now the Olympia, R. B. Allan Store,

now Zeller's, J. Neeland's Dental Parlor.

The 'Post' Printing Office at the foot of Kent Street, Lindsay planing mill, corner of Cambridge and Wellington Streets, A. Primeau's grocery and butcher store, John Carew's mill, Sylvester Bros., Implement Works, Robt. Neill's shoe store, W. F. McCarty's jewellery store, Sadler, Dundas and Flavelle's flour mill, Fox's brick and tile yard, Gough's clothing house, corner of Kent and William, A. Campbell's butcher shop, now Lindsay Glass Works store.

The Victoria Curling Club with members including T. McConnell of the Royal Hotel, Geo. Little of the Little Book Shop, M. Sisson, boots and shoes, J. G. Edwards (Hardware), L. McIntosh, tobacco store and J. D. Flavelle, the 'Dean of Curlers'.