

ON THE MAIN STREET

With Confederation on the lips of hundreds of speakers, and being used by all news media, do you remember when Sir John A. MacDonald, Prime Minister of Canada, visited Lindsay and addressed a gathering from a small balcony located at the east end of the Old Opera House, the present Town Hall At the time there were no offices on the second floor of the hall. The entire upper story was used as an Opera House and there was a small gallery over the stairs at the east end.

Do you remember when a tight wire acrobat fell to his death off a wire suspended from the present Academy Theatre to the Royal Hotel?

Do you remember when the first Lindsay Fair was held on the ground bounded by Kent, Sussex, Russell and Victoria Ave.? There was a race track and a drill shed for the volunteer brigade and drills were held regularly.

Do you remember when Canada was divided geographically as Upper and Lower Canada? The first bank in Lindsay, the Bank of Montreal, was located at the north-east corner of Russell and Mill Streets and the first Registry office was located at the north-east corner of William and Glenelg Streets?

The first Post Office was located on Lindsay Street South, opposite the Kent Hotel,

the second P.O. was on Kent street and was later a butcher shop and the third P.O. was where the Dominion Store is now situated.

The Evening or Canadian Post, was one of the first newspapers in the district east of Toronto to install a plant operated by steam.

Richard and Bob Sylvester were pioneers in Canada in manufacturing plows, plow points and binders and one of the first firms in Canada to develop the combine thrasher for use in Western Canada.

Dougal Sinclair was the first manufacturer of buggies, cutters, wagons and sleighs in the area, as was James Hamilton.

Jesse Perrin was a pioneer boat maker and a man named Dennis was the manufacturer of fine pumps.

The first Mechanic's Library was located over the present Dominion Bank and the present Carnegie Library was donated to the town over half a century ago.

Do you remember sewers, seamstresses and dressmakers in town when women made their own garments and the Misses Sarah and Lizzi Stewart were experts and Nancy Mitchell was one of the best known Milliners? Her brother Peter Mitchell was the Bailiff. Other officials of a different type included Archie Bradshaw, a liquor inspector, Port. Conquer-good and Norman Kennedy as



Bailiffs and Division Court Clerks, John Short as Police Chief, preceeded by Albert Palen and a gentleman named Lownsbrough was in the Customs and Excise, followed by James Glass and H. J. Williamson. The Lockmaster was John Makins who was also a machinist at the corner of William and Wellington Streets; Miss Reazin was the Librarian and Henry Reazin was a school inspector as was a gentleman named A. A. Knight.

Town officials included the names of Fred Knowlson, George Aldred, Geo. Donaldson, Duncan Ray, H. J. Lytle, Hugil Dobson and Rhys Williams.

Do you remember when there was a fire bell in the tower at the corner of Lindsay and Kent street east and another one on St. Paul and King Street and when the fire hall was located where the Star Cafe was recently situated, which for years previously was the restaurant operated by Fred Taylor and Fred Martin?

Tom McConnell was the progressive hotelman who ran the Royal Hotel. He visited New York at this time and was so impressed with the new style flush toilet that he had the first one in Lindsay installed

in the hotel. He was threatened by the Health Officer at the time with a court action if he did not get rid of the unsanitary article.

Sam Parkin is said to have been the first to develop electricity and electric motors in Lindsay and Mayor R. M. Beal was the one who signed the document which rid Lindsay of Obsolete light poles on Kent Street.

Do you remember when a man named Brown was the leader of the Lindsay Band and when his six sons (the Brown Brothers) toured United States and Europe as a saxophone sextette?

Do you remember when the Pepper twins of Lindsay were also world wide theatrical performers? Other talented artists included Wilbert McWatters and Missie Newton; James Meehan (widely known in U.S.A. theatricals); Mae Edwards and Charles Smith; Jim Perrin; Alf Roberts who was a basso-profundo in New York; Hi Meehan; Jack Fullerton; Joe Paton and others.

One hundred years ago Lindsay had a Button Manufacturing Factory on William Street north.

Lindsay, like practically every other place located in or near water had several lumber mills and logs were floated to Lindsay from as far away places as Dorset and Lake of Bays in Muskoka.

Barrels, Staves, hoops and cheese boxes were made in Lindsay close to a century ago.

Rev. John Sanderson was probably the first itinerent Minister to locate in Lindsay with the old Methodist Church. He travelled to and from Cavan on horseback and at times

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encountered friendly Indians.

One of the earliest baseball diamonds in Lindsay was in the South Ward and included the block bounded by Victoria Ave., Melbourne, Cambridge and Glenelg.

Masonry is over One hundred years old in Lindsay. The first Lodge was moved from Manilla to Lindsay and was located on Kent Street over the recent Star Cafe.