

Many newspaper articles have been written regarding the early history of Lindsay but the following information is quite factual. Mr. Geo. Beall, Albert Street, is a member of a pioneer family and he also has a retentive memory for stores he heard years ago. This fact, supported by a fine scrap book, accounts for the following interesting item:

“Lindsay is what was termed a ‘Government Town’ — that is, a town laid out by the Government — the site being selected because of its control position and natural advantages.

The Government selected 400 acres on the banks of the Scugog River — where there was a mill site, as a site for the town of Lindsay. Two hundred acres were surveyed into 345 lots, each half an acre, and the other 200 acres were subdivided into 30 park lots of about 5 acres each. In the centre of the plot a market square of about 6 acres was reserved.

The price of the town lots was from £10 to £14 (40 to 56 dollars each) and the park lots were about the same price.

The original plot of Lindsay was bounded on the north by Colborne Street, on the south by Durham Street, on the East by Lindsay Street and on the West by Angeline Street.

The only streets named at the time of the survey were those running east and west — Colborne Street after Sir John Colborne, then Lieut.-Governor of Upper Canada; Francis and Bond Street after Sir Francis Bond Head; Wellington Street after the Duke of Wellington; Peel Street after Sir Robert Peel; Kent

Street after the Duke of Kent; Russell Street after Lord John Russell; Glenelg Street after Lord Glenelg; Melbourne St. after Lord Melbourne and Durham Street after Lord Durham. The streets are 66 feet wide. Kent Street and the Street now called Victoria Avenue (after Queen Victoria) are each 100 feet wide. Most of the Government lots were sold, but even before these were disposed of, and before the first railroad to the town — that from Port Hope to Lindsay — which was completed in 1858, a company called the Lindsay Sand Company bought the mill property — east of Lindsay Street — and laid out several hundred more lots, many of which found ready sale, and month after month new settlers were added. In 1857 Lindsay was incorporated as a town and divided into 3 Wards — North, South and East. Subsequently other portions of land, north and south of the original plot were surveyed into lots.

In 1861 — the year of the great fire — by a vote of the inhabitants of the County of Victoria, Lindsay was made the County Town of the County of Victoria, the Town of Peterborough, up to that time having been the County Town of the United Counties of Peterborough and Victoria."

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With the tremendous amount of time and space given in recent years to the French and English bilingual topic, only a handful of people in Lindsay can recall the years gone by when this 115 year old Town had a section known as the "French Village". A colony of fine people of French extraction had their log and board homes in that section of the noble East Ward bounded

today by King Street, St. David Street, Kawartha Drive and the eastern boundary of the Town known as the Verulam Road. This was the French Village and some of the ancestors of this particular colony were proud to trace their forebears back to the days when the Robinson clan first settled in Peterboro and Victoria Counties, fifteen years before Lindsay was a hamlet. Many citizens today remember the French Village and they can recall that there once was a Protestant burying ground at the north-east corner of the French Village, which gives this story an unusual slant. The Roman Catholic cemetery was located in the Township of Ops, near the present Williamson property. Some of the family names recalled as residents of the old French Village include Peter Bisette, Francis Bisette, Charles Bisette, Pete Grozelle, J. Grozelle, Moses Grozelle, L. Labertie, Mrs. Michaud, Amie Frank, Labelle Gassien, O. Geroux, C. Shea.