

It is common knowledge that the Town of Lindsay was built on a swamp and mire, that wagons and teams of horses sunk to the knees and to the hub on the main street, that the crossings on Kent Street at Cambridge were built by driving long pine and cedar piles, or posts, six feet into the mud and that Lindsay dug itself out by eventually paving streets with concrete and asphalt. Those were the "good old days" say some oldtimers.

How many remember a few decades ago when the big Flavelle, now Silverwood's Dairy and Creamery was erected at Kent and Victoria Avenue? Remember the little frame houses, one on the corner lot and the one immediately east which was later used by Cresswell's Monumental Works? The small home was occupied by George and Fred Chamberlain, shoe repair men, before these two brothers moved into a store on Cambridge Street South. The ground at the old Silverwood building was low and swampy and at one time there was a small wooden foot bridge leading to the property.

Prior to the building of the Sylvester plant on Kent and Victoria Avenue, this block housed the first race track and buildings were used for storing military uniforms, red coats and blue pants.

Richard Sylvester was assisted in the business of manufacturing binders and plows by his brother Robert and Mrs. Chas. Squiers, now of Toronto, is a daughter of Richard Sylvester and Miss Tot Sylvester of Lindsay is a daughter of Robert Sylvester. The Sylvester Brothers were big men in the days when the Sylvester plow and binder were leaders in Ontario.. The firm gained added recognition with the combine, the first of its kind to work in the harvest fields in Western Canada.

Upwards of one hundred men worked in the Sylvester plant. It is understood that Richard Sylvester, who lived in a large white brick house at the corner of Peel Street and Victoria Avenue, donated the square now known as Victoria Park to the Town of Lindsay.

When Lindsay was noted for first class brass bands, probably the best band was the Sylvester band, an organization outfitted and maintained by Richard Sylvester.

As the years went by and gasoline engines came into being the firm turned its plant towards the manufacturing of lorries, used by the

hundreds by railway companies in Canada and the United States and this pioneer business was quite lucrative for many years. It is believed that this type of engine, the first of its kind, was the brain child of a man named Irwin, a resident of the South Ward. A machinist by the name of Percy Menzies, a Lindsay boy, had much to do with the manufacturing of the Sylvester gasoline engine.

There was a time when some Lindsay business men thought Victoria Park should have been named Sylvester Park in recognition of the good Richard Sylvester did for the Town.