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There is an old saying that "if you save an article seven years it will still prove to be useful. Few citizens can remember seeing Kent Street stores lined with verandahs and awnings, as it once was. Today there is a slight movement to have store owners build awnings of a permanent type.

Some fashions have a habit of being resurrected. Wooden awnings were great when showers of rain fell, especially liked by pedestrians. One of the largest verandahs was one with a walk out deck in front of the Hotel Benson. It was frequently used by roomers and travellers at this popular hostelry. For a number of years after wooden verandahs disappeared, one still remained at the Benson Hotel. These old verandahs were followed by the canvas awning which could be rolled up with a crank and there are a few of these still in use.

Kent Street merchants at one time displayed their patriotism by decorating their stores with flags and colorful bunting on special days such as the first of July as Confederation day and the twelfth of July as Orange day and for many years on Queen Victoria day.

Tenants and owners on the main street had the habit of

decorating places of business on days when big parades were held and at one time some energetic salesman sold a combination to merchants — a hole at the curb and a beautiful flag and a pole to fit the hole. It was a colorful sight to see Kent Street decorated with flags from Lindsay to Cambridge Street.

The Old Home Week booklet issued in 1924 contains a picture of Kent Street showing decorations and cross street banners and many evergreen decorations, the days when soldiers returned from the Boer War in South Africa, when the returning "conquering heroes" included the then Colonel Sam Hughes.

These were the days before the roads were paved with asphalt, the days when at times Kent Street was a muddy mess and horses sank to the fetlocks and wagons sank almost to the hub caps and half the load had to be removed before the horses could haul the wagon to harder ground.

These were the days when the three hotels operated passenger buses to and from the railway stations to accommodate travellers and citizens. These were the days when Kent and William Streets were lighted up at night by large carbon-arc lights suspended in the air and lowered by means of a long rope tied to the Light, Heat and Power Plant lowered the lights every week to replace the carbons.

Incidentally the old carbon lights were taken down and replaced by incandescent lights in the days of Mayor R. M. Beal and they were modelled after the street lights in Buffalo. Members of the Town Council accompanied Mayor Beal to Buffalo at the time. It is worthy to note that back in the struggling days in the town's history that town councils were composed of many fine progressive, ratepayers. The pioneer councillors might be termed the "unsung heroes of the past".