

On The Main Street



Fifty years ago on March 14, the Lindsay Kiwanis Club was born. The two citizens directly responsible were the late T. H. Stinson, barrister, and the late John W. Deyell, publisher of *The Watchman Warder*.

The birth actually took place in a passenger coach on the old Grand Trunk Railway as the two men were returning from a business trip to Toronto.

The Club was sponsored by the Peterborough Club, founded a few weeks before March 14. The first meeting was held in the hall above the *Daily Post* on William Street North, and the presiding officer was John McKone, President of the Peterborough Club and founder of the Peterborough Business College.

The Club shortly afterwards held weekly meetings in a dance hall, over Arnold's Garage on Kent Street. With a membership of 50, the Club moved to more attractive quarters in the Hotel Benson. In recent months the Club has been meeting in the officer's mess in the Armoury.

It is worthy of noting that the Lindsay Club has been closely linked with welfare work in the community dating back to the day in 1929 when the Club presented the Ross Memorial Hospital with a beautiful motorized ambulance, and the days when the Club equipped and furnished the maternity wing at the Ross Memorial Hospital.

Club activities and projects included the building and subscribing to a Kiwanis hut at the Bowmanville Boys' Training School; paying the tuition fees for underprivileged boys and girls at the Baker Business College in Lindsay and sponsoring boys at summer camps in the area.

The Kiwanis Club carried on a financial drive for funds when the gigantic task of building a skating rink and hockey arena was undertaken in 1933. The estimated cost at the time was \$7,000 but before the rink was opened the figure totalled \$17,000. and, after successfully running the rink for many years, the Club handed the rink over to the town at an estimated value of \$30,000.

One of the "brightest stars in the Kiwanis crown" was the founding and operating of the Victoria Music Festival which afforded an excellent competition in vocal and instrumental training as well as in poetry speaking for hundreds of participants.

The planting of the first trees in the auto camp on Lindsay Street South was handled by Kiwanians.

On this, the 50th anniversary of the Club, citizens will no doubt join in extending hearty congratulations for a community service well done.