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# On The Main Street

Lindsay has never been considered a manufacturing or industrial town. Nevertheless, Lindsay has had a number of successful industries.

The Sylvester Manufacturing Company which was situated on the block bounded by Kent, Sussex and Russell Streets and on the east by Victoria Ave., was one of the first to manufacture plow points, cultivators and binders, with the plow points being shipped to many areas in Ontario.

The Sylvester threshing machine, known as a combine, was apparently the first of its kind to operate in the prairies of Western Canada, and at the time it was a marvelous machine, the invention of Richard Sylvester. Thousands of dollars were spent on constantly improving the combine and by the time the machine was becoming popular, other manufacturers began to launch tough competition. The Company operated a plant which covered the entire block.

Richard Sylvester was a public spirited citizen and at one time financed the Sylvester brass band which became known as the Lindsay Citizens Band. With a membership of 35, this band was the winner of several competitions. Bandsmen from other towns were induced to locate in Lindsay.

This Band became the regimental band of the Victoria and Haliburton Regiment and bandsmen were able to leave their jobs to follow the band to military camps and the last rally of the band ended in one of the World War One military camps on Salisbury Plains in England.

Richard Sylvester built the large white brick house, now an apartment building, at the corner of Victoria Ave. and Peel Streets. The same philinthropic gentleman owned the present Victoria Park and presented this park land to the Town of Lindsay — too bad the property was not named Sylvester Park.

MacDonald Park, along the Scugog River west of the Lindsay Street locks and bridge, was named after Squire William MacDonnell, also spelled McDonald, or MacDonnell. The present Canadian Legion Hall was the home of the Squire whose name appears on the list of mayors at the town hall.