

On the Main Street

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In the last two or three decades there has been many prominent family names in Lindsay. Men and women who played a big part in the life of Lindsay have either departed for another world or have retired to the cushioned chairs in the family room.

As the years speeded by many of the foremost citizens of former years have moved out of active participation in public affairs, making more room for the new breed of politician.

To a degree there seems to be fewer persons getting into the act than two or three decades ago. Lively competition for a seat on municipal bodies has dwindled.

Another difference has taken place in the dollars and cents angle of Provincial and Dominion election. Years ago a candidate might spend a few hundred dollars at election time, while today an individual might spend thousands of dollars.

A recent enactment of parliament specifies the amount that candidates can spend but invariably the candidate spends double the amount, out of his own pocket at that.

Candidates are required to advertise in local papers a financial statement, but there has always been a suspicion that these statements have been doctored by no means falsified but in a man-

ner of speaking toned down.

It came as a surprise a few years ago when electors were shown a sheet of candidates and their expenses that some have been forced to exchange their homes for loans. Candidates who have the backing of big business are lucky.

It has been denied that votes are bought but there people. The idea of enforcing a rule where by a candidate must divulge his source of income and financial donations is good, but the word camouflage still crops up. Who wants to be a politician?