

A few days ago a special tribute was paid to the late Sir Joseph Flavelle by a Toronto broadcaster and the writer of "Main Street" was inspired to chronicle the following short sketch of brothers, J. D. Flavelle and William Flavelle, who were prominent citizens of Lindsay.

J. D. Flavelle gained prominence as the head of the firm which operated the large and ancient stone mill on the bank of the Scugog River at the foot of Mill Street. The old mill employed a large number of men and every summer the mill closed down for a single holiday when the wives of millers packed a large basket, walked to the town wharf and climbed on board the large two wheeler steamer, Crandella, or the Estureon, cruised down seven miles on the Scugog and docked at the public wharf at Sturgeon Point.

While the women spread a pure white table cloth on the green grass on the bank of the lake, the men folk organized foot races for the young folk and boat races and water sports.

Owners of gasoline boats placed the crafts at the disposal of the "City Folk" and other enthusiasts organized land events — three legged races, hop, skip and jump events, and the boat enthusiasts organized canoe and row boat races, sail boat races to and around a black topped buoy, a distance of a mile or longer. The cruise back to Lindsay was a wonderful climax to a long exciting day.

Another thrilling water trip took place when the large two wheeler steamer Esturion carried picnickers to the Peterborough Lift Locks — the largest in Canada. Leaving the steamer at Peterborough, picnickers hopped on board a Grand Trunk train and safely “disembarked” at the old Grand Trunk Station at the south end of William Street — tired and somewhat weary but everyone agreed it was a gala event.

Occasionally water excursions travelled in the opposite direction, a cruise down the winding, submerged stump channel to Sturgeon Lake — thence passing through the Lift Lock at Fenelon Falls, crossing Cameron Lake and through the canal at Rosedale and thence a jaunt across Balsam Lake to the Trent Canal north of Kirkfield, the location of one of the largest lift locks in the world.

History recalls that Sir Sam Hughes, Lindsay's Minister of Militia, fought a hard fight in the Ottawa House of Commons before Parliament bowed to Sir Sam's vigorous arguments to build the canal — a venture costing thousands and thousands of dollars.

Thanks to this gallant gentleman's “stick-to-it-iveness” and an undiminished determination, the lift lock north of Kirkfield became a reality. Hundreds of water crafts have glided silently through the locks . . . “Hats off” to a hero of the Boer War in South Africa, to the man, when Minister of Militia, had the courage and

fighting tenacity that resulted in recruiting and despatching the Anadrian Army overseas and thence to the battles in France.