

A LOOK INTO THE PAST AT BUSINESSES AND BOATS ON THE SCUGOG AT LINDSAY

A fire at the Willis milk depot last week recalled the fact that many years ago Kent street east and Ridout street constituted Lindsay's first business section. Purdy's Mills was a pioneer industry on the Scugog River and for a time close by was a foundry operated by a citizen called Mowry. The late Brad Mowry and his sister will be remembered by many citizens. The foundry was founded by this gentleman's father. The store at Ridout and Simcoe streets has been in business for half a century and is still "going strong". The late Sam Howe, tinsmith, owned and operated a tinsmith shop off Ridout street and for many years Wileman's Bakery was in business on Kent street east.

The Fitzsimmons auto body industry was carried on for several years in the building or location, now occupied by the Board of Works department.

The Needley-Flavelle grist mill was one of the largest industries in this part of Ontario and the staff and employees numbered fifty or more. This firm had an annual picnic for employees and their families, which was also open to the general public.

Large side-wheel steamers carried upwards of four hundred people to Sturgeon Point

and back and at times an extra barge was towed by the steamer to carry the large crowd.

Later on the grist mill was taken over by the Lindsay Brewery Company, owned and operated by Sir Henry Pellett of Toronto who built the famous Casa Loma, which is still one of the sights of Toronto.

Many years ago Lindsay boasted of having one of the finest boat clubs in Eastern Ontario and the club had quarters in a large frame building on the site of the present Willis transport building. The club accomodation extended to the edge of the Scugog and many boats, canoes and sailing craft were stored at the club. Boating was one of the popular sports and regattas were held at Lindsay, at Sturgeon Point and at Port Perry.

Later on as the enthusiasm of the club fraternity waned,

the club house was purchased by Jesse Perrin who became widely known for the canoes he manufactured. The Perrin craftsmanship was equal to that found anywhere else in Ontario. The business passed into the hands of Sam Botting who in his prime was also widely known for the boats he manufactured, particularly in later years for his beautiful yachts.

With the advent of the motor car the boating business began to lag and Botting found it adviseable to move to the northern parts of Ontario.

In recent years boating has come back into its own and many hundreds of boats of all types and designs, some demanding fabulous prices, are to be seen on the Kawartha waters. The biggest majority of these pleasure craft are manufactured in Peterboro.