



The bascule bridge over the Seungog at Wellington Street pictured about one year ago.—'Post' staff photo.

How long has the Scugog River been a navigable stream? That is a poser. Records at Ottawa divulge the fact that away back in 1844, there was a bridge across the river on Lindsay street, the span located between Kent and King streets.

Unauthentic stories are to the effect that many years ago large scows were hauled along the Scugog banks south and west to Port Perry by horse trudging along the bank of the water. The scows apparently were loaded with grist from the mill in Lindsay.

There are a number of Lindsay residents who can recall when there were three white painted swing bridges across the Scugog river, one on Lindsay Street south, one on Lindsay street north and the third across the river at Wellington street.

**Ops Bridge:** The present Ops bridge, which carries Highway 7-B over the Scugog River south of Lindsay, was built by the Department of Highways in about 1931. The Federal government made a contribution towards the cost of the new bridge. Records indicate that the first bridge at this location was built in 1861 and was subsequently rebuilt or replaced in 1880, 1892 and 1931.

**Lindsay Street bridge:** The present Lindsay Street bridge over the Scugog river was built in 1954 by the County of Victoria. The Federal government made a contribution towards the cost of this bridge. Records show that the first bridge at his location was built in 1844 and was subsequently rebuilt or replaced in 1864, 1871, 1879, 1890, 1903 and 1915.

**Wellington Street bridge:** The new bridge just completed by the town at Wellington Street replaces a bascule bridge that was built by the Department of Railways and

Canals in 1910 - 11. We have no record of when the first bridge at this location was built.

Records of dates regarding the old white bridge on Wellington Street previous to the

former bascule bridge are missing.

Several passenger steamers plied their way from Lindsay to Sturgeon Lake including large side wheelers. The bridges had a high clearance to allow for the big smoke stacks and the bridge and flag pole to pass underneath.

At one time there was a good size covered shelter near the old town and government wharf and it was used frequently by passengers. The whistles on different boats all had a different shriek and staccato note and they were quite recognizable by citizens. In fact, many set their watches by these whistles when they echoed and re-echoed for miles.

Incidentally, "Main Street" would welcome pictures of these early passenger steamers as well as other pictures and stories linking the past with the present.