

When the founders of the once little hamlet of Purdy's Mills, the Lindsay of today, started building the town they "built better than they knew" to use an old saying. By and wide Kent Street is a striking illustration — one hundred feet wide and flanked in both sides by well built three storey buildings, and good places of business. Citizens take a lot of things for granted and it was not until a week ago when a representative from the Norwich planning consultants addressed a small audience in the Town Hall that this fact was realized and visualized.

This expert in his line stated that the top two stories on the main street were "beautiful" but the stores along the street "not so good". The statement can be challenged for Lindsay has one of the widest streets of any town, with many fine stores. Compared with any town in the province, Kent is a thoroughfare equalled by few, if any. Collingwood has a similar main street.

History records the fact that all the stores on the north side of Kent were laid low by a mighty conflagration in 1861, as well as dwellings north of the street as far distant as the Court House.

Lindsay pioneer business men had great faith in the future of the town, strikingly evidenced in the large and substantial stores lining the street. The steady growth of the town saw the removal of wooden sidewalks and many wooden awnings and the building of granolithic walks and erection of smart canvas awnings, and one by one small stores of frame construction gave way to structures of brick and mortar.

Queen Street in Niagara Falls has been cited as a modern main street. It was two years ago squalid, dirty and unkempt. A group of storekeepers and progressive business men banded together and decided to clean up and paint up, and the whole face of the street was "lifted" and today this once old unsightly street is held up as an example of practical beauty for other towns to follow. What is still more interesting to business

men is the recorded fact that business on the street has increased and benefitted to the extent of 22 per cent.

Queen Street in Niagara Falls, it is stated, has not the same degree of potentiality as Kent Street, Lindsay. Truly the early builders of Kent Street "built better than they knew". Some of the builders were named Doheny, Bigelow, Kempt, Kennedy, McDonnell, Keenan, Pilkey, Britton, Curtin, Baker, Smythe, Knowlson, Williams, Beall, Marshall and others.

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Remember the days when it was wrong to hop a fence and steal apples from a neighbor's orchard tree that was literally groaning with luscious fruit? Many a boy was scared pink when chased by an irate owner, but it was fun and lovely red apples seemed to taste better when they showered down from a neighbor's tree.

Remember how the farmer's wife had the job of twisting a chicken's neck, how skilled she was in stripping the bird of feathers and how in a matter of split seconds the chick was in the big black boiling pot. By the way, these black pots are now an antique

collector's item.

Remember the aroma arising from the chicken soup, today some times called by the name of broth. Remember how the wish bones were dried and then how many a wish was made as two people pulled at the bone and the wish made by the one having the longest piece of the broken bone was bound to come true?

Remember the hunk of suet that enriched the flavour of the soup. Remember how some wanted the white breast, others a leg and some the wish bone. but no one wanted the part that jumped over the fence last. Chickens did not have to be graded, nor were the eggs. "Those were the days."