

Does the name BELL "ring a bell" to use the vernacular? One of the earliest policemen in Lindsay was named Bell. He was of medium height but well built and muscular. This "strong arm of the law" must have been good in the position he held as he was later in life a member of the police staff at the Toronto Union Station.

There were a number of Bells in Lindsay and the prominent ones included Henry Bell, who lived in a small humble home on Wellington Street, a short distance from Cambridge Street. Henry Bell was succeeded as Chief of the vounteer fire brigade by his son Jim Bell. The latter was employed in the Adams and Sparling grocery warehouse, now George McCombe's billiard parlor.

He was handy to the fire hall and was able to dash out and grab the brass railing at the rear of the truck as it was being pulled out of the fire hall. The truck which carried fire hose as well as hooks and ladders, was hauled by a team of well groomed horses. The horses stood in separate stalls at the rear of the hall and were trained to dash from the stalls at the sound of the loud alarm bell and stood motionless in exactly the right spot and directly under the harness which was suspended ~~from the ceiling~~. Quick and alert firement loosened a snap and the harness fell on the backs of the team and they dashed out of the hall and down to the main street. The fire bell clanged for several minutes and at one time the sound of the fire bell was the only way brigade members learned there was a fire. Some of the brigade worked close by and by dropping all work they dashed out of buildings and to the fire. Members of the force knew exactly what to do at the scene of the fire. There were no face masks but the men wore heavy helmets in case they were hit by falling timbers.

At the alarm of fire, storekeepers, clerks and customers dropped whatever they were doing, raced to the front door and many followed the truck to the scene of the fire. The majority of fires seemed to take place in the east ward or in the east side of the south ward. The help of spectators to run out the hose was always accepted and many citizens were pressed into service at a fire.

Two of the most spectacular fires of years ago was one at the Flavelle cold storage, butter, egg and poultry plant on King Street when melted cheese and butter flowed down the bank of the river and down the stream to the locks.

The river was covered from shore to shore with a blanket of melted butter and thousands of eggs. This fire was so furious and dangerous that residents in the area were kept busy dousing flying embers.

Another disastrous fire took place when the Horn Bros. Woollen factory at William and Bond Streets was gutted, when the loss included tons of wool and hundreds of blankets. The Horn fire was very disastrous in that the plant never reopened and one hundred men and women became jobless.

Incidentally the Horn blanket was in great demand in Canada and parts of the United States.