



*July 25/72*

Links in the chain of time were strengthened at the gathering held at the Kirkfield lift locks on the Trent Canal system recently. The event was recognized as an historical occasion, and E. G. (Ted) Oke, of Lindsay, president of the Historical Society, presided in a capable manner.

One old timer had this valid comment: "Apparently everything went as planned. Hon. Leslie Frost, Wm. Scott MP and Glen Hodgson MPP, spoke briefly and well and all the affair lacked was some person from the past who had personal knowledge of the historical background.

There were a number of eligibles, such as the gentleman who ran a hardware store and did business with the McKenzies; and the gentleman present who recalled when the McKenzies built a beautiful old inn of English architecture on the main corner of the then busy village; the days when the McKenzies had a large summer home near the old Laidlaw Fort on Balsam Lake.

The days when the large McKenzie yacht was tied up in the canal near the high bridge. The days when the family had a large dairy herd on a farm near the old Grand Trunk railway station; the time when the McKenzie mansion was filled with visitors; the days when the quaint old Presbyterian Church was moved from close proximity to the McKenzie home, to a new location on the opposite side of the road.

These were the days when the busiest store was a hardware, and Staples, a young school teacher from Long Point, Balsam Lake, had hardware stores at Victoria Road and Kirkfield, and did a "whale of a business" with Lady McKenzie and family.

Kirkfield was "on the map" and several stores catered to the wants of the people.

What will the Reeve of the

Township do with the historical plaque and where will it find a suitable resting place?

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