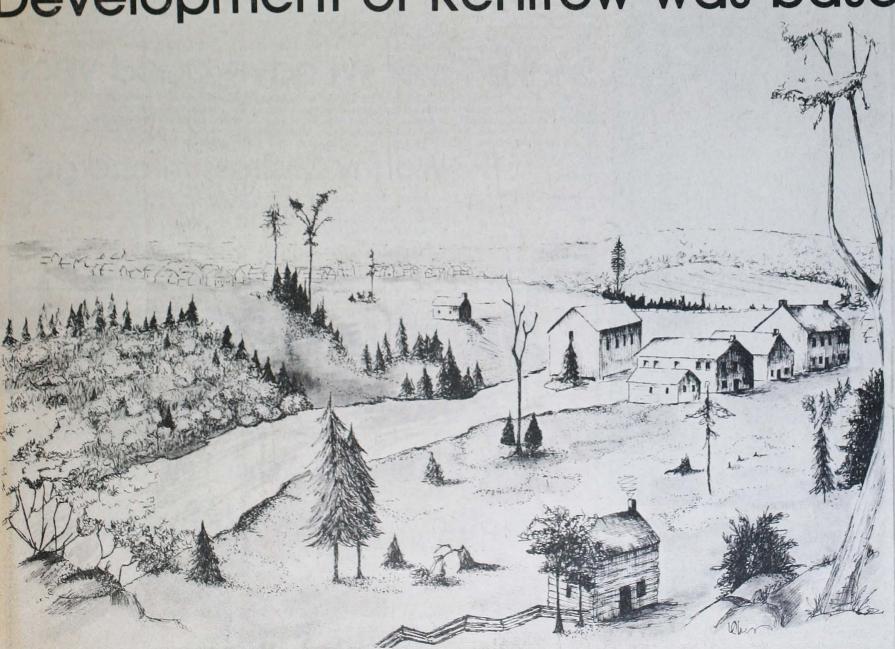
## Development of Renfrew was based on water



Renfrew in 1850's. The town as a Village when Sir Francis Hincks shifted industrial activity from Smiths Creek to the Bonnechere River, shown in foreground. He had Donald Kennedy prepare this plan which shows Logans

Woollen Mill, McRae's and McDougall's grist mills and Francis' axe factory clustered by the river with the Village straggling south in the background. At upper right is shown Opeongo Hill. (Re-drawn by Veronica Chenier).

by Harry Hinchley

second chute of the Bon- river that he had bought for five nechere) improved it or shillings. In a row just east of disposed of it to those who would the McDougall Mill other our village would have been establishments were built - the double its size and population." John McRae Grist Mill, the So wrote John Munro of the William Logan Carding Mill, Township of Horton in a report and the Samuel Francis Axe to the Minister of Agriculture in Factory. On higher ground back

Canada, a man with a sharp eye sawmill of William Ross. for business, had bought the property. He had it surveyed celebrate the opening of the into a sub-division - now the McDougall and the McRae mills Hincks Section of Renfrew - and a public dinner was held. set about developing a town.

In 1854 because of political difficulties, Hincks resigned as head of the government. Later he sailed to England. In 1856 he wide publicity campaign was was appointed Governor of Barbadoes. His property in development of Renfrew and to Renfrew was left in charge of an advertise the sale of 100

tractive offers were made to from the Township of Horton prospective mill operators. and incorporated as a village. John Lorn McDougall, a big

land owner of the settlement, "Had the possessor of our agreed to build a large grist mill splendid water power (the on the quarter-acre lot at the from the river stood the Munro Before the middle of the Plow and Carriage Factory and summer Hon Francis Hincks, Wright's Hotel. On the south Premier of the Province of bank of the river was the

> In September, 1857, to Invitations were sent to prominent citizens as far away as Perth.

At the same time a provincecarried on to promote the valuable building lots. The next To attract industry, at- year, 1858, Renfrew separated