

The walking tour of Lindsay starts at the front of the Victoria Park Armory located at 210 Kent Street. The tour continues East on Kent Street towards the downtown area. South on Cambridge Street South towards Russell Street and East on Russell Street until William Street. North on William Street until it meets again with Kent Street West and the tour continues East on Kent Street. At the end of Kent Street West continue North on Lindsay Street until the Wellington Street Bridge. Follow Wellington Street to William Street and walk North on William Street until you reach Bond Street. Continue the tour West on Bond Street ending at 46 Bond Street. To return to the beginning of the tour at the Victoria Park Armory walk South on Victoria Ave until you reach Kent Street. Approximate length of tour is 45 minutes.



**The Old Mill, Lindsay**

### The Founding of Lindsay

It is said that Lindsay was named when the grave site of a worker at the mill by the name of Lindsay was mistaken on a map for the name of the town ... hence the town came to be known as Lindsay.

The Lindsay & District Chamber of Commerce added to the colourful history of Lindsay with its 1958 organization of a bullfight. What started as an idea to “put Lindsay on the map” by a few of the Chamber directors, became a North American wide story. Authentic Mexican matadors were brought from Mexico, bulls were purchased only to be quarantined at the border between the US and Mexico, and animal rights activists did everything in their power to put a stop to the bullfight. They even went so far as to try to release the bulls after their arrival ... organizers were forced to constantly move the bulls from one farm to another in order to avoid their capture.

Leslie Miscampbell Frost was born on September 20, 1895 in Orillia Ontario. Following service in WWI he attended Osgoode Hall, graduating in 1921. He then purchased a law practice in Lindsay and became an active member of the Conservative Party and Premier of Ontario from 1949 – 1961. He developed the Ontario Hospital Insurance Program, greatly expanded hospitals, highways and schools and developed equal pay for women. Leslie M. Frost died May 4, 1973 in Lindsay. His funeral was broadcast from Cambridge Street United Church via CKLY radio and this broadcast of the funeral proceedings is now at the National Archives of Canada.

# Lindsay Walking Tour



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## **Points of Interest**

### **1. Victoria Park Armory**

The Armory was built in 1913, its cornerstone being laid by one of our most famous residents, Sir Sam Hughes. The building was encouraged by Sir Sam Hughes, who became the Minister of Militia in 1911, and one of his priorities was to build substantial armories all across Canada. The Minister said that the buildings should serve as a place for military training and also provide a place to host community events. He believed armories should contain a supply of blankets, cooking utensils, tools and other apparatus that would be used to turn the buildings into relief centers in case of fires, floods or other emergencies. The Armoury is also the starting point of his funeral procession on August 26, 1921 when 20,000 people came to Lindsay.

### **2. Kent Street**

Kent Street is said to be the widest main street in Ontario. The majority of its buildings were built in 1862, following a great fire that destroyed 91 buildings in the downtown core. At the time of the fire, most residents and merchants had gathered to hear the election results in the vicinity of the now town hall, therefore no one was in their shops or homes to alert the townspeople to the fire. A strong wind quickly spread the flames and at the end of the night 400 people were left homeless. A tent city was created to provide shelter while the town quickly rebuilt.

### **3. Lindsay Public Library**

The original section was completed in 1904 with a \$13,500 grant from Andrew Carnegie. This Library, which features classical detailing on the façade, is one of the few Carnegie structures with a multi-sided half rotunda at the rear. The interior still features the original wainscoting, elaborate cornice moldings and fireplaces.

### **4. Lindsay Town Hall**

The Town Hall was designed by William Kauffman and built in 1864 by Messrs. Sutton & Co. and later Messrs. Drake & Foley. The west wing was added in 1865. The Italianate window design, combining with the classical revival style of architecture, gives the building a very distinguishable character. The Town Hall has housed the administrative offices since it was built. It is part of the original public Queen's Square along with the Library and Armory.

### **5. Newspapers/ Sir Sam Hughes**

Now known as the Daily Post, this newspaper is over 100 years old. Archives can be found in the building dating back to the early 1900's. The Victoria Warder, first published in Omemee moved to Lindsay at 19 Cambridge St.S. – the present location of Joel's fine restaurant. The Victoria Warder was purchased in 1885 by Sir Sam Hughes. Hughes would go on to become a controversial editor and politician but would represent the area on Parliament Hill as a conservative Member of Parliament from 1892 until his death in 1922. He is probably best known for the scandals and faulty equipment used by Canadians in the first world war – including a shovel that was to double as a tool to dig the trenches and a shield ... and the famous Ross Rifle – which served as an ineffective rifle during combat. Although it was not his government that ordered the manufacture of the rifle, Sir Sam Hughes was on the committee that tested the weapon and recommended it for issue. To his credit, Sir Sam Hughes managed to mobilize an army of 33,000 in six weeks – the largest military camp ever built on Canadian soil; he foresaw the beginning of a war long before other statesmen; and he was responsible for taking Canadian soldiers out of the eye-catching scarlet uniforms and putting them in the better camouflaged khakis.

### **6. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 29 Russell Street East**

St. Mary's is the oldest existing church building in Lindsay. The building was designed by Charles McCarthy, and the main portion erected in 1858 followed by the spire and cross above the bell tower in 1890. St. Mary's is a fine example of the Gothic style of church architecture in Upper Canada.

### **7. 12 Russell Street East**

This impressive building was constructed in 1857 to house the Bank of Upper Canada. In 1863 this bank failed and was absorbed by the Ontario Bank. In 1873 it became a private residence. Notable features include the pediment frontispiece and elegant hoods over the windows

### **8. More Kent Street**

Kent Street now boasts a variety of recognized chain stores, financial institutions and services as well as unique boutiques that have been developed by enterprising entrepreneurs. However what few people know is that Kent Street was chopped out of a swamp in 1840. It was the first street in the downtown area and was considered a "bottomless bog". In 1837 a Charles Britton ran a pole 20 feet straight down in the

middle of the street and never hit solid ground.

### **9. Academy Theatre**

The Academy Theatre was designed by W. Blackwell of Peterborough and built in 1892 by William White of Lindsay. Erected as a "modern opera house" the theatre is still the cultural house of the community. It is the home of the Kawartha Summer Theatre.

### **10. The Wilson Boardwalk**

Running from the Old Mill ruin to North of Wellington Street bridge, this boardwalk is the main building block in Lindsay's long term linear park plans. Officially opened July 28, 1990, its \$1.2 million cost came from a \$400,000 Provincial grant and \$800,000 from the Wilson estate.

### **11. The Old Mill**

The stone structure was built to replace earlier mills destroyed in the fire of 1861. The old mill, containing a stone flour mill as well as a lumber mill, was built in 1869 by William Needler and Thomas Sadler. There was a tramway built across the river to the railway tracks and from there the finished lumber and flour were transported to larger centers. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1978 which left the building in a state of total ruin.

### **14. 40 Bond Street**

This buff brick home was constructed about 1870. It exhibits Italianate elements in the single storey canted bays, the decorative brickwork and the round headed windows – some with double arched lights.

### **15. 46 Bond Street "The Garth"**

Built about 1853 by Charles Rubidge this home is a fine example of an Ontario Regency Cottage. In 1953 the property was named "The Garth", which means enclosure, when a stone fence was erected around the property.

### **Lindsay's Additional Designated Properties**

23 Adelaide Street North, 28 Albert Street South, 78 Bond Street, 31 & 51 Cambridge Street North, 19 & 21 Francis Street, 29 & 63 Regent Street, 171 & 435 Kent Street West, 86 Wellington Street, 8-12 & 73 William Street South, 17 Sussex Street North, 37 & 155 William Street North.