

form the largest portion of the population; the Scotch rank next in number, and English last.

In the year 1848 the County of Simcoe was set apart for judicial and municipal purposes, being then styled the District of Simcoe. The usual officers were appointed, and a Gaol and Court-house erected.

Lake Simcoe, which, for its extent, may in some respects be, without partiality, considered the finest sheet of water in Canada, forms, with its beautiful little outlet, Lake Couchiching and the River Severn, a source of attraction of great benefit to the county. The shores in many places rise to a considerable height, and are entirely free from swamp and beautifully wooded with birch, poplar and evergreens of various kinds; the silvery bark of the former forming at all seasons a matchless contrast with the deep coloring of the latter. The water is very deep, clear and transparent, and, flowing over a hard bottom of sand and stones, never loses its sparkling brilliancy.

Several islands of various extent render the scenery of the eastern shore extremely picturesque, especially about the Narrows, by which the waters of Lake Simcoe empty into Lake Couchiching, and from thence by the Severn into Lake Huron. Lake Couchiching extends due north from the Narrows for about ten miles. It varies in width from one to four miles, and is studded with numerous well wooded islands of all shapes and sizes, which, with its high sloping shores, render it extremely rich in that quiet though picturesque beauty so peculiar to Canadian waters.

The principal rivers in this county are the Nottawasaga and the Severn, the former rising to the south of the county, and flowing through the Townships of Tecumseth, Essa, Vespra, Flos, and Sunnidale into Nottawasaga Bay. The Severn connects Lake Simcoe with Lake Huron, emptying into the eastern extremity of the great Georgian Bay. It is interrupted by several falls and rapids, all exceedingly beautiful, as well as capable of being easily turned to account for manufacturing purposes. The land through which it passes is very rugged and broken, composed principally of ridges of granite, and is entirely uninhabited, being on the eastern shore only partially surveyed. The Nottawasaga, with the exception of two or three rapids, is navigable for a long distance. The Holland River, emptying into Cook's Bay, at the southern extremity of