

associate at Trafalgar,—Meaford, Owen Sound—formerly Sydenham, and Wiarton—these are the towns which lie upon the shores of the modern Georgian Bay. In point of historic interest and importance, however, Penetanguishene—in some quarters curtailed and degraded into the cacophonous “Penetang”—is without either competitor or peer. To her belong the crown of the metropolis and the honors of the matriarch; and it is entirely fitting that her children should break forth in the popular chorus:—

“O, sing the song of Penetanguishene,  
She’s been so long the Mistress and the  
Queen

Of all the Georgian waters with the lands  
that intervene,  
And she reigned o’er all Huronia!”

As early as 1793, not long after the purchase of the first 250,000 acres of land from the Ojibways, Penetanguishene was selected by Governor Simcoe (who, in honor of the then reigning sovereign conferred the title of “Georgian Bay” upon the storied and island-studded wing of Lake Huron,) for the establishment of a naval and military post. The harbor, being land-locked and easily protected, explains his choice. Troublesome times followed the war of Independence; and it had become necessary to defend the waters of the Upper Lakes. For various reasons, the Governor’s plans were not, however, immediately put into execution. Indeed, the war of 1812—the last great fratricidal struggle which the sun will ever blush to look down upon in this quarter of the globe—was being waged before the military road was constructed across the country from York (now Toronto) and