

Short History of Deseronto.

Deseronto, Ontario, situated on the far-famed Bay of Quinte, in the south-east corner of the County of Hastings, is a manufacturing town. It was founded by the late H. B. Rathbun in 1848 on the site formerly known as Culbertson's Wharf, and called Mill Point. It was named Deseronto in 1881 after Captain John Deseronto, an Indian chief. It was incorporated into a town in 1889. On May 24th, 1896, it had a great fire, when nearly all the East Ward was burned and several hundred people were rendered homeless. But it was soon rebuilt better than before. It has had its periods of prosperity and depression, according to the activity of its industries. It has just passed through one of depression lasting three or four years, but is now beginning to flourish again. It is the seat of the Rathbun Company's industries, including lumber mills, sash factory, box factory, car works, locomotive works and machine shops. The Standard Chemical Company have an iron smelter making pig iron here, and the Dominion Match Company's plant is located here. Some of the industries have electric power. The town has electric light. Deseronto has the best deep water harbor on the Bay of Quinte, and vessels from the lake and bay ports call. The Canadian Northern Railway runs through the town, with connections with the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway. There are four churches—Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglican and Roman Catholic. There are also good high and public schools and a public library. The Deseronto 'Post' supplies the news. Owing to its splendid location and excellent shipping facilities by land and water, Deseronto is destined to become an important manufacturing centre.