

Not infrequently the sun goes down in skies which beggar the powers of description, flecked as they are by fleecy clouds of opalescent tints, contrasting with rich crimsons, lakes, carmines and other brilliant colors, thrown upon golden-green backgrounds, and shading through all the tints of blue, from the faintest hues in the west to the deepest tones overhead, and to almost black purples in the east."

The water in Muskoka is particularly pure. The rivers and lakes show in the sunlight a mass of blue and silver, but looking into their depths, especially in the rivers, they possess a brownish aspect. Throughout northern Ontario the rivers are dark, due to the vegetable matter in solution taken up from their sources and along their beds, and remaining unprecipitated owing to the softness of the water and the absence of metallic salts. Rushing over rocks and boulders, and passing through a sparsely settled country with little possibility of contamination the waters are free from impurities. They are, too, peculiarly free of any degree of hardness owing to the absence of lime in the Laurentian rock, which is the only system in the district. Even the well water is comparatively soft. The following table shows an analysis of the water of Lake Muskoka, made by Dr. J. A. Amyot, Provincial Bacteriologist. I have also tabulated analyses of well water taken from a 12-foot well in the woods about eighteen feet from the shore of the lake, and that of a seepage spring passing through meadow and wooded land. These three sources form the water supply of the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium and the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives, Gravenhurst.

	1	2	3
	Well Water	Lake	Free Hospital
	M. C. S.	Water.	Supply.
Color	None	Straw	Yellower
		yellow	than No. 2
Odor (cold)	None	None	None
Odor (after heating)	None	None	None
Albuminoid ammonia	.085	.19	.095
Free ammonia	.055	.04	.085
Nitrogen, as nitrites and nitrates	.20	.08	.345
Oxygen consumed	4.00	13.20	11.40
Chlorine	4.00	4.00	4.00
Total hardness	13.00	5.00	8.00

No iron was found in residue from 200 c.c. water evaporated in dryness.

A bacteriological examination of three samples taken from Gull Lake showed no colon bacilli, and of bacteria of all kinds 33, 34 and 23 colonies per c.c. respectively.

The town of Gravenhurst (pop. 2,500) lies between these two lakes, touching both of them.

One very noticeable feature in Muskoka is that in the hottest summer weather it is perfectly safe to go about with the