

The Playgrounds of Canada

Good boats, and that best of all methods of navigation—a good canoe—can be easily obtained. Health stalks abroad on every vale and knoll; quiet peace, soothing in its calm, reigns everywhere; contentment and happiness are the handmaidens of the visitor.

It is far enough north to be cool in the hottest day in summer, and yet it is not so far as to be difficult of access. The Grand Trunk Railway runs special express trains during the summer season from Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Toronto to this region with the quaint name of Muskoka.

This vast region lies in the northern part of Ontario, east of the Georgian Bay, and north of Lake Ontario, and the point of embarkation for the trip on the lake is situated 112 miles from Toronto. The total area of the district covers a large tract of that portion of Ontario and some idea of its extent may be had when it is known that some 800 lakes and rivers are imbedded within its boundaries.

The bosoms of these sylvan gems are covered with innumerable islands, on which have been built cosy and comfortable cottages, and on the larger islands may be seen handsome and costly residences, the homes of the wealthy. To those in search of purely scenic beauty, there is no other spot in the universe to rival it; while those in search of health will find the purity of air and general surroundings most beneficial. Being at an altitude of 1,000 feet above the sea level, and over 500 feet above the city of Toronto, it is the very spot to invigorate exhausted physical nature. Good hotel accommodation is found in this district. A comprehensive booklet describing this district more fully is issued by the Grand Trunk Railway System and can be had for the asking.

LAKE OF BAYS

One hundred and forty-six miles north of Toronto, on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway, nestles Huntsville, a pretty town nearly in the centre of what is known as the "Lake of Bays" district. The region in this locality is replete with natural beauty and loveliness, and comprises some of the most beautiful water stretches and picturesque landscapes for which that vast portion of Northern Ontario is becoming so famous with the ever-increasing and fastidious army of tourists who each year are looking for fresh fields to explore.

Here are lakes and winding rivers and islands innumerable; water absolutely soft and without any admixture of minerals, as it percolates through the rocks and soil; for this portion of the country rests upon the primitive granite rock, which geologists repeatedly tell us contains no organic remains: and since the cooling of the earth's crust at that stage contained no soluble minerals there can be none here now in the waters of these lakes and rivers. The scenic grandeur of hill and mountain, the placid beauty of the lakes, the lovely rivers with their pellucid waters flowing through banks of delightfully variegated foliage, are not surpassed in any country.