

## Burlington Bay, Beach

this embankment into an almost impregnable military site two hundred and fifty feet above the waters of the Bay.

In pioneer days, the Beach served as a portage and a barricade, over which freight and military stores were transported from the schooners anchored, at the head of the Lake, over Brant's trail, which led along the southern shore of the Bay (now covered by the Grand Trunk Railway) over the Heights, from which point the freight was sent by wagon, drawn by oxen over the Indian trails leading south, south-east or west as desired.

All naval supplies for Lake Erie had to be sent on from Burlington, after the Declaration of War of 1812.

1812. The Heights, in every campaign projected by the Americans, were laid down as the coveted vantage ground to be gained by the invaders, for what Sackett's Harbour was to them, so was Burlington Heights and the Head of the Lake, or Beach, to the British, a harbour of refuge in distress for repair and reinforcements, and the key to all N. W. possessions.

The Heights and the naval fort of Kingston can be bracketted together as having been most desirable to the Americans, and though both attacked, the colors of the Union Jack were not once, at either port, during the war, lowered to give way to the Stars and Stripes.

The transportation of heavy guns, rigging, anchors, naval and commissariat stores, for the little army on the lakes, cost England a very large sum of money. Guns, shot, cordage iron-work, even masts required for the equipment of the British squadrons, had to be brought from England to Quebec and from there drawn by horses over the ice-bound rivers or snow-packed roads through a wooded district, a distance of seven hundred or eight hundred miles.

The southern sweep of the Beach is known in official despatches, and in contemporary history, as the "Head of the Lake."

It is an historical fact that the Head of the Lake was a great gathering place of the Indians, and that in the days of Joseph Brant it must have been no uncommon sight to see the narrow strip of sand covered with hundreds of canoes drawn up to the glistening shores, sure sign of an Indian encampment, lasting days at a time, while the great Indian hero of the Revolutionary