

her citizens as displayed in extensive and varied commerce, in her magnificent buildings, her palatial mansions, her unrivalled climate, and her beautiful natural surroundings, are her crowning glory and the source of her especial pride.

Lieut.-Col. John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, in 1793 selected the site on which the city of Toronto stands, with the view of building a Capital for the province. The first settlers of the prospective town were the Corps of Queen's Rangers who arrived from Queenston, in August, 1793, followed by the governor in the same month. During the fall of 1793 and the winter of 1794 Simcoe lived in a canvas tent which had belonged to Captain Cook, the famous navigator. Of this first "Government House" of Toronto the facetious Bouchette says that although its substance was but frail, "it was rendered exceedingly comfortable, and soon became as distinguished for the social and urbane hospitality of its venerated and gracious host, as for the peculiarity of its structure." On the 27th August, 1793, the Lieutenant-Governor changed the name of the place from Toronto—"A place of meeting*"—to York, in honor of the Duke of York, the second son of King George III., at that time engaged in the war with France. The camp was located near the mouth and on the western bank of the river Don. Two Indian families of the Mississauga tribe with their wattled wigwams had settled on the bay before Simcoe's survey was made, but no other human inhabitants were found. So energetically, however, did the Lieutenant-Governor set to work that before he had left the Province in 1796 the place had taken on the appearance of a growing town.

The original town plan was in the form of a parallelogram, the boundary streets being, on the west, George Street; on the south, Palace Street; on the east Ontario Street; on the north, Duchess Street. It may be interesting to recall the meaning of the early street nomenclature of the city. George Street was named after George, Prince of Wales (George IV.), Duchess Street, after the Duchess of York, Frederick Street, after the Duke of York, Caroline Street, after the Princess of Wales (Queen Caroline), Yonge Street, after Sir George Yonge, Secretary of State for War, and Simcoe Street, after the founder of the city.

*According to Rev. Dr. Scadding—"Toronto Past and Present"—the word "Toronto" is of Huron origin, and means, "A place of meeting." He quotes Sagard's "Dictionary of the Huron Language," published at Paris in 1632, in which "Toronton" is given as meaning in French, "beaucoup" or "plenty," applied to men as well as to things, and applicable to the rendezvous of the Indian tribes. Lake Simcoe, at that time was Lake Toronto, the Humber river, Toronto river, and by the name Toronto the Otonabee and the Trent rivers were also known.