ERY few of the people who now spend their summers at the cottages scattered along the mainland and islands of Oliphant, and enjoy themselves on the waters of the "immense bright lake," realize that these same regions, not so many years ago, presented scenes of a very different nature, and were the homes of races, which are now almost gone!

Whether or not the intrepid, pioneer explorer of Canada, Samuel de Champlain, in his journey of long ago up the Ottawa River, touched on the eastern shores of the "Mer douce des Hurons", no one can now with certainty say. Or whether the unfortunate yet undaunted La Salle, when he made his voyage up Lac Huron in the Griffin, thought of taking shelter at the Islands, on his starboard, from the great storm that over-took him, the historian Father Hennepin does not record. But it is within the limits of the possible that even yet some day, the wreck of the long lost vessel, with her monster griffin prow, may be found hidden beneath the sands of our own shores, where so many known wrecks have since sunk into oblivion, and if such should be, we would then surely know that our shores were visited, though in misfortune, by the very early explorers of our country.

INDIAN OCCUPATION   Of the days of Indian occupation of the Saugeen Peninsula and its Islands, Time and Tradition have left us only a few traces. The first tribe known to have inhabited the region was a band of the Algonquins called the Ottawas, who were here in the sixteenth century, doubtless the "Cheveux relevez" (straight-up hair), mentioned by Champlain. Later this tribe gave way to a band of the Ojibway Indians from the Lake Superior district; and at the same time, at least one tribe of Hurons lived on the shore in the beautiful spot known as Red Bay. ¶In the beginning of the seventeenth century the two tribes came into conflict with each other and in a bloody battle on the shore of this bay, the Hurons killed so many of the Ojibways that their blood colored the water a deep red from whence came the name.