

THE MUSKOKA LAKES



The Muskoka Lakes are among the most beautiful stretches of water to be found in any country, and they offer the greatest variety of vacation pleasures.

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THE MUSKOKA LAKES have won a commanding place among the summer playgrounds of this continent. They draw their devotees each season from every city of importance in Canada and the United States. Indeed, their fame has carried far beyond these shores, and they are recognized to-day as holding high place among the scenic-gems of the world's lakeland.

The visitor finds the reason for their renown immediately he enters the region. In Muskoka, Nature has been unusually lavish with her finest handiwork, and has given pine-scented forests, laughing streams and waterfalls, as well as island-studded lakes. When in Muskoka, you are at the very heart of one of the loveliest portions of Canada—"The Highlands of Ontario".

The Muskoka region was for centuries the chosen hunting-ground of the Hurons. It was the red man who gave the musical name Muskoka (signifying "clear sky") to this land which held supremacy over all others in his affections, and he christened the islands, promontories, massive rocks, lakes and rivers in a manner that showed his appreciation of the beauties of his forest home. No happier appellation than "clear sky" could have been adopted. The altitude of the region—one thousand feet above sea-level—gives splendid atmospheric conditions and, modifying the sun's rays, produces an ideal climate even in the height of midsummer.

The beautiful Muskoka resorts are within three and one-half hours' ride by the Grand Trunk from Toronto

and are easily accessible from all of the large centres of Canada and the United States. A pleasant journey by train; a delightful sail of from one to four hours through beautiful lake and island scenery; a sojourn at a well-conducted hotel or boarding-house, indulging in such recreations as are freely available in this great territory, makes a holiday that lingers in the memory.

MUSKOKA LAKES AND RIVERS.

The group known as the Muskoka Lakes comprises three large lakes and some smaller ones. The principal lakes, often called the "Three Graces", are Rosseau, Joseph and Muskoka. The largest of these is Muskoka, twenty-one miles in length, while Lake Rosseau is thirteen miles long and Lake Joseph is eighteen miles in length. They are comparatively narrow at places, then widen out to stretches of open water six miles across. On the various points on the shore-line nestle pretty cottages and summer villas, the owners of which have fallen in love with Muskoka. Trees deciduous, and trees evergreen commingle. Island folds back on island in innumerable shades of rich sunlit green. Tiny piers and boathouses jut out into the waters of the lakes. An occasional farmhouse may be seen in the clearing and substantial hotels and boarding-houses have taken possession of favorable locations. At times it would seem as if the steamer would be caught in the maze of islands, but always the boat takes a gentle turn and a new stretch of lake comes into view.