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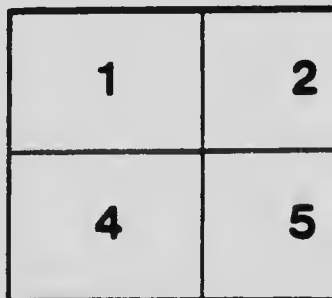
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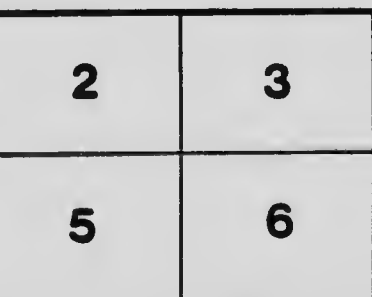
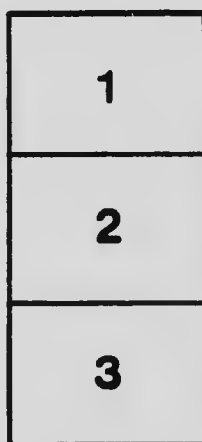
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## Barrie and Lake Simcoe

The beautiful situation of the town of Barrie and the grandeur of beauty of its surroundings, claim the admiration of every one who has had the good fortune to visit this town either in a business way or on pleasure bent. The location of the town is on the gently-sloping shore of Kempenfeldt Bay, the western arm of Lake Simcoe which is one of the finest bodies of water in Ontario. The limits of the town cover about three



Bathing at Monmouth Park, Big Bay Point.

miles of shore line on the harbor front, and embrace more than 2,000 acres of land containing a population of 7,000 people.

This town is one of the principal centres on the northern division of the Grand Trunk Railway System, 64 miles north of Toronto, and is fast becoming the objective point of hundreds of summer tourists who are looking for just such lovely spots, where fishing is good, boating safe and the atmosphere is pure. The town contains eleven churches, a collegiate institute and fine schools, Mechanics Library with 3,500 volumes, a public hall seating seven hundred, opera house and music hall, and Court House. It is lighted with gas and electric light, has good water-works, the water



supply being clear and pure. A good fire department is also a noticeable feature of the town.

From the bay, the town rises gently, by a series of narrow plateaus, to the crest of the Highlands, a mile or so from the shore and to an altitude of 120 feet above Lake Simcoe. These plateaus mark the shore line and beaches at different geological epochs, and the level opening at the head of the bay, through which a small stream now runs, clearly shows that a connection once existed between the Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe. Looking upon the map of Ontario at the section lying north of Toronto, including the districts in close contiguity to the town of Barrie, one is struck with the curious commingling of land and water. Islands of every size, and almost without number, dot the larger bodies of water, while lakes, big and little, diversify the surface of the land. It certainly suggests the idea of some prehistoric upheaval of the great deep, resulting in a nearly equal division of the surface, for many hundreds of square miles, into land and water.

It may readily be inferred that such a section of country must present many attractions to the tourist in search of scenery or sport, and the reader will not be surprised to learn that each year this locality is becoming more popular as is demonstrated by the fact that, during the season of 1902, the Grand Trunk Railway System carried up, into the several districts known as the "Highlands of Ontario" in which Barrie is included, nearly 40,000 tourists, and each successive year this enormous number is increasing as the country is becoming better known.

In the vicinity of Barrie, the conformation of the shore and the hills in the background, produces the delightful scenery which charms every beholder. There is a succession of undulations, with glade and tiny glen, carpeted with green and flanked with bits of forest, with grove and garden, studded here and there with cosy cottage or the more stately of Barrie's pleasant homes.

To the south, across the crystal waters of the bay, stretches a line of hills eastward, forming



View of Barrie from Grand Trunk Railway track.

the Innisfil shore, with alternate forest, garden and cultivated fields, making a picture of beauty on calm summer mornings that words are inadequate to describe. Beneath the glacial drift, the underlying rock of the locality is the Trenton group, consisting of Bird's Eye and Black River limestones, some 600 or 700 feet thick, of a grey or black color; some of it susceptible of a high polish. These rocks are rich in fossil remains of deep interest to the amateur geologist.

From many points on the slopes, the hill crests and shores of the bay, bits of scenery may be found that will be a joy to the lover of beauty. At some of these, the town from different points of view presents to the eye its many charms. Instances are Creswicke's hill, the Simidale road, the heights north of Toronto street, and the Court-House tower.

Kempenfeldt Bay is nine miles long, with an average width of one and a half miles, and reaches from its head to Big Bay Point, where it opens into Lake Simcoe. It is without doubt one of the finest bodies of water in the province of Ontario. The water is as clear as crystal, and owing to the fact that hundreds of springs open into its deep bed, it is always cool. A sail from one end of the bay to the other, is one of the delights of a summer day, the lover of nature being charmed with vistas of land and waterscapes that rivet the attention and leave a lasting impression on the mind to return at some future day. These pleasures are available every week-day by means of steamboats which ply these waters, and other craft such as sail-boats, steam yachts, row-boats and canoes may be had at most reasonable rates. The boating is perhaps better and safer here than at most lake resorts, and it is of rare occurrence that a drowning accident is heard of. Everybody, including old and young, boys and maidens, enjoy this exercise with great pleasure.

Barrie being at an altitude of 714 feet above sea level, the atmosphere is pure and laden with ozone, making the locality healthful and invigorating, and a couple of weeks stay in the district will brace up

the physically or mentally tired denizen of the city and make a new man of him.

Barrie has an abundant supply of water from two artesian wells. The water, by analysis, is shown to be among the purest in the Dominion, containing but a small percentage of organic or inorganic matter; this, with a pretty general sewerage system, affords the very best sanitary conditions. Neither epidemic nor endemic diseases find a resting place here. Cases are on record, of people debilitated and wasted by residence in the south who have come to Barrie to spend the winter and



Regatta on Kempenfeldt Bay, Barrie.

returned to their homes in the spring, strong, healthy and increased largely in weight.

Few places within the confines of civilization, offer to the disciple of Izaak Walton so good opportunities of indulging in his favorite pastime as do the waters of this district. Lake Simcoe itself is in reality a great fish preserve and hatchery, as netting is strictly prohibited and the number of fish that can be taken out of its teeming waters by rod and line is insignificant and makes no impression. Kempenfeldt Bay, being part of Lake Simcoe, is equally as good. First among the fish that are caught in this lake, should be included the kingly maskinongé. These magnificent game fish

are found both in Lake Simcoe and Kempeneldt Bay. They sometimes attain a weight of forty pounds, while fifteen and twenty pounds is not at all uncommon. To hook one of these monsters, is to insure sport of a kind that will give "the man



Residence of N. Dymont, Barrie.

behind the rod" the keenest pleasure for the half hour or so that it may take to land it, panting but still defiant, in his canoe, and will also afford gratification for many a day to come, to say nothing of furnishing the material for a story that should never lose in the telling. The "lunge" (short for maskinongé) is a strong and fierce fighter; yet there is nothing coarse either in his methods or his appearance. He is a knightly opponent, a foeman worthy of your steel, who fights fair and dies game. The lunge is caught by trolling with a spoon along the edge of the weed beds where he makes his home.

While not to be compared with the lunge in size, weight or strength, it is a debatable question whether for fighting qualities the larger fish can outdo the black bass. This plucky and toothsome fish abounds in both lakes, and it is doubtful whether better bass fishing can be enjoyed anywhere than that to be found in the neighborhood of Strawberry Island in Lake Simcoe, a short journey by steamer from Barrie. The specimens caught

there usually weigh from one and a half to four pounds, and ten or fifteen of such are not infrequently caught in the course of a few hours, each one of which can be relied upon to give the angler some minutes of exciting sport. There is no trick or subtlety known to fish that is not known and practised by the black bass, and provided he be not depending upon main strength, stont tackle and a good hold, the angler will need all his skill for the conflict. Caught upon a light line and rod, no fish will furnish better sport. There are also several streams within a few miles of the town from which the skilful angler may, in the proper season, fill his basket with the coveted speckled beauty. In the open season, deer are often killed within eight and ten miles of the town, while rabbits, squirrels, partridge and other game birds are plentiful in the vicinity of the town.

The hotel accommodation of Barrie is excellent. There are, in all, eleven hotels in the town, some of them fitted up with all modern improvements. The best of Barrie's hotels, is the Queen's, owned and operated by the Lake Simcoe Hotel Company. This hotel is within two minntes' walk of the water's edge and a stone's throw from the railway station. It is a handsome brick building located on the main street. The bedrooms are large, airy and



Dunlop Street, Barrie—The Queen's Hotel to right.

cheerful, and the entire house is well furnished throughout. The cuisine is good, and the dining-room service excellent. The hotel accommodates one hundred people, and every attention is shown



Monmouth Park Hotel.

guests who register at this house. The rates are most reasonable for the accommodation given. The steamboat wharf is within three minutes' walk of the hotel.

A charming spot reached from Barrie, and a most popular summer resort, is Monmouth Park, a summer resort situated at Big Bay Point, nine miles across the bay from Barrie, and is easy of access by steamer. A commodious hotel has been erected here for the reception of summer tourists, and no stone is left unturned to make it pleasant for visitors. The Park comprises 140 acres of a pine grove directly behind the hotel, and in front of the house there is a beautiful ten-acre lawn. Big Bay Point itself projects into Lake Simcoe, and commands a view singularly unique on all sides. The view from the verandahs of the hotel, is very beautiful, and many picturesque vistas greet the eye on every side. Good bathing, fishing and boating can be had at this point. Here, and only here, is it possible to enjoy the richness and beauty of nature, the trees in their massive foliage, "the

murmuring pines and hemlocks," the sweet flowers, the secluded walks and the shady groves.

The fishing at this point is unexcelled, black bass in particular being in abundance; a boat-house well supplied with boats, canoes and skiffs, is in charge of an attentive and obliging man who will supply you with reliable guides who know the waters and best fishing places.

Several amusements are provided for the guests at Monmouth Park, among which are dancing in the pavilion, golf, lawn-tennis and bicycling. The bathing is good and there are excellent facilities for boating, sailing and canoeing. The table at the hotel is given special attention, and dairy products are supplied fresh from the farm which adjoins the property. The hotel accommodates seventy-five guests. For full particulars and further information, apply to the manager, "Monmouth Park" Summer Resort, Barrie, Ont.



Geo. Vicker's Departmental Store.

The shops and stores of Barrie will compare favorably with similar establishments in any city in Ontario. They are large and well stocked. Among the principal establishments, is the large departmental store of George Vickers, which is well conducted and up-to-date.

A pleasant sail from Barrie, is down Kempenfeldt Bay and across Lake Simcoe to Jackson's Point, where is situated the large and commodious Lakeview House, owned by Mr. H. W. Saunders. The hotel has accommodation for two hundred guests, and during the summer months a gay and happy throng gather here to enjoy the cool breezes wafted from the bosom of the lake, and drink in the healthful and invigorating tonic which is in the pure atmosphere. The locality is a most



popular resort, and each year the tourist travel is far in excess of the previous one. Within close proximity to the hotel, are beautiful sandy bathing beaches, good boating, excellent fishing, secluded walks among shady groves of hemlock and pine, beautiful drives—in fact all the natural facilities to bring happiness and pleasure to the brain-taxed denizen of the city. The rates at the above hotel are \$1 per day or \$6 per week. For all information, apply to Mr. H. W. Saunders, Jackson's Point, Ontario. Jackson's Point is also reached from Toronto by Grand Trunk Railway.

### **How to reach Barrie**

From points in the South, passengers reach the Grand Trunk Railway, either by way of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, or by way of Detroit. From each of these points, the trains of the Grand Trunk Railway convey the passengers to Barrie.

In the West, from Chicago and points in the Western States, passengers are carried over the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway System by way of Port Huron and Toronto, passing through some of the principal cities of the United States and the western part of Ontario.

From Buffalo, trains are run solid over the Lehigh Valley and Grand Trunk, crossing the Grand Trunk's single-arch double-track steel bridge over Niagara River.



Grand Trunk Railway Station Barrie.

From Toronto, fast express trains are run solid to Barrie.

Passengers from Eastern points, such as Quebec, Portland, and intermediate stations, proceed via the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway through Montreal to Toronto, and those from Boston and



The King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

all New England points by connecting lines via the same route, and thence on to Barrie by the Grand Trunk Railway System.

Tourists from the Maritime Provinces, reach the Grand Trunk via the Intercolonial Railway, via Montreal, and proceed over the main line as above described.

From points in the East, and south of Buffalo, including the States of New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, etc., the route is by the way of Niagara Falls, thence Grand Trunk Railway.

### **General Information**

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