

Beautiful

Penetanguishene

The Historic Town



Gateway to the
30,000 Islands of
the Georgian Bay

Penetanguishene



The
Historic
Town



Gateway to the 30,000 Islands of the
Georgian Bay

1898
1899
1899/1900

CHARLES McGIBBON

MAYOR

GEORGE E. COPELAND

REEVE

A. TESSIER

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COUNCILLORS

1907

60399

PENETANGUISHENE

BY
A. C. OSBORNE

THE HISTORIC TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE, noted as the former site of a British naval and military station in the early days of Canada, is charmingly situated on the eastern shore of a picturesque bay of the same name, a southern extension of Georgian Bay.

Penetanguishene signifies "The Place of the White Rolling Sands," so named from an extensive bank of sand on Pinery Point to the right on entering the harbor, which glistens like gold in the summer's sun and which, like the Sand Dunes of Ontario, is ever shifting, changing, rolling to the waters beneath. . . . This poetic designation, which is of A-ben-a-ki origin slightly modified by the exigencies of changing dialects, already swayed its magic sceptre over these waters when the Huron savage first appeared upon the scene, and is one of the few names—melancholy relics, sparsely scattered here and there north of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes—which remain to tell of Abenaki occupation.

Penetanguishene Bay, in the "Land of the Hurons," first became known to white men as early as 1615 by Champlain's voyages, and subsequently by the Jesuit and Recollet Fathers. That intrepid explorer, as pioneer of this region, visited, among many others, the Indian town of To-a-guan-chain, near the head of the bay, Penetanguishene's Huron prototype, during his famous progress through the country in September of that year. This remarkable name and location—a sort of "land of enchantment"—is at once the centre of a vast region replete with historic memories, interwoven with romantic legend, venerable traditions, story and tragedy.

Near Colborne Basin is the former site of Ihonatiria, where the devoted Brebeuf started the first Jesuit Mission among the Hurons in 1632—the opening scenes in one long, thrilling drama of seventeen years, concluding with the tragedy of St. Ignace, in which Brebeuf and his companions perished, and the Mission became extinguished. Dominating the town and the magnificent scenery of the bay, stands the Memorial Church, an imposing edifice destined to be one of the grandest ecclesiastical structures in Canada, erected to perpetuate the story of these early French Missions, and as a grateful tribute to the sufferings and death of these heroic men. The savage conflict between the Hurons and the Iroquois having culminated in the bloody battle of St. Louis and the dispersion of the former nation in 1649, the remnant of Hurons and French retired to Christian Island and finally to Quebec. An interregnum of one hundred and ten years followed, in which the "Land of the Huron" was devoid of history and almost without tradition, except that the savage conqueror in turn gave way and was gradually replaced by the Ojibway of the north, who ruled lords of this domain till the conquest and the advent of the English, which changed the course of savage empire.

During the autumn of 1793, Governor Simcoe visited the bay with a view to establish a military naval station as a base of supplies and for defence, a complete survey of the harbor being made by his deputy Aitken before the close of the year. In 1798 the bay and islands were purchased from the Chippewas under Treaty No. 5 for £101 worth of goods. The old Military Road, a noted institution of Penetanguishene's pioneer days, having for its northern terminus the present site of the Ontario Reformatory grounds was opened from Kempenfeldt Bay by the famous Surgeon Dunlop, known as "Tiger Dunlop," in November 1814. Its history is linked with the little Military Cemetery on the hill-side and with the story of the ill-fated Duke of Richmond, as well as many others.

The first domicile was erected where the old officers' quarters now stand, so long occupied by Mr. Band, late Bursar, forty feet long, eight feet wide, six feet high in front and four feet high in the rear, of poles covered with cedar boughs, open in front, rather unpretentious, it is true, but above which floated the Red Flag of Commodore Collier of the Royal Navy, the "Meteor Flag of England," to guard these inland seas. It was built by Capt. Payne of the Royal Engineers, following quickly on the heels of Dunlop, accompanied with Sappers and Miners and a detachment of Canadian Fencibles, axemen and English ship-wrights. The first block-house, twenty-one feet by eighteen feet, was erected by Sir George Head, the first week in March, 1815, on the site now occupied by the Superintendent's handsome private residence and commodious grounds. The sharp contrast carries us back to Britain's pioneer military operations in Canada and the strenuous war times of Wellington and Waterloo. The remains of extensive docks, long since swept away, may still be seen beneath the water, connecting Magazine Island with the mainland. At the head of these docks stood the "Depot of Naval Supplies," known as the "Old Red Store," once a noted landmark in the military demesne. Half way up the bank stood the old guard-house, with the sentry box on the terrace above, while on the pinnacle of the hill perched for many years a noted caravansary, the "Masonic Arms," where some distinguished travellers were entertained at various times, among them the Dukes of Northumberland and Richmond, Lord Sydenham, Sir John Ross of the Royal Navy, and Sir John Franklin, the ill-fated explorer, on his way to the Arctic regions. Near the dock, in front of Mr. Band's residence (originally the officers' quarters) is the former site of the old Block-house Fort and Soldiers' Barracks, which was later superseded by stone, and ultimately dismantled, the material being transferred to the Asylum building. The officers' quarters, still standing, have been converted into a private residence for the Bursar.

Of peculiar interest is "Gordon's Post" on the point a short distance east, where Sir George Head procured cedar for shingles for his block-house. The "Post" was established ten years later, and was first known as "The Place of Pen-e-tan-gou-shene." Traces of the foundations and outlines of graves may still be seen. Among the many points of interest to tourists and visitors, none exceeds that of "Magazine Island," originally Beaver Island, "A gem in a setting of emerald green and cerulean blue, she sits 'Queen of the Bay,'" and the pride of Penetanguishene. Upon it stands the remains of the old powder magazine, from which the island receives its name, a genuine block-house laid in mortar built by James Warren in 1815 for storing powder for military and naval purposes. On its walls some heroes of the Revolution and the American War, among many others, have carved their names. Beside it are three graves, among them that of the first Surgeon of the Regiment. In 1822-6 Admiral Bayfield of the British Navy, from this station, compiled "Bayfield's Chart" of the North Shore, laying down 30,000 islands. Commander Bolton recently completed a marine survey in which 34,560 islands exclusive of rocks without verdure are enumerated, forming a gigantic net work of labyrinthine channels of still waters and freshening breezes, stretching the entire length of the North Shore, where the tiniest craft may float in safety, protected from boisterous winds and turbulent waves by the eternal barrier of granite islands.

In 1828 the British Military Post at Drummond Island was transferred to Penetanguishene, followed by the French voyageurs, fur traders and retired officers, among the latter being Surgeon Mitchell, who built the first store, near McGibbon's mill, and Capt. James M. Hamilton of the 5th Regiment of Foot Guards, who became first postmaster in January, 1830. In the old mill in Copeland's valley, and picturesque Highland Point, once Laville's and Trudeau's Point, and others, we have notable relics of French voyageur days.

St. Anne's Church, the modest predecessor of the Memorial Church, was begun in 1832, and commemorates the visit of Bishop MacDonnell, the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Ontario, to Penetanguishene. Old St. James' Church, built for the military in 1837, is one of the town's most important landmarks. It was built principally through the exertions of Capt. Moberly, a naval officer stationed here, and consecrated by Bishop Strachan in 1840. Rev. George Hallen, Chaplain to the Military, was first rector, whose remains, with those of Capt. Moberly, lie deposited in the church yard. Beyond the precincts of the Garrison, on the brow of St. Andrew's Lake, is the former site of the old Military Cricket Grounds, now obliterated, opened under direction of Colonel Osborne West, a patron of sport once stationed here. The merest taste of English art "strong in exile" transplanted to a Huron wilderness, Penetanguishene boasted for many years the rare spectacle of a "Cricket Lawn in a Canadian Forest."

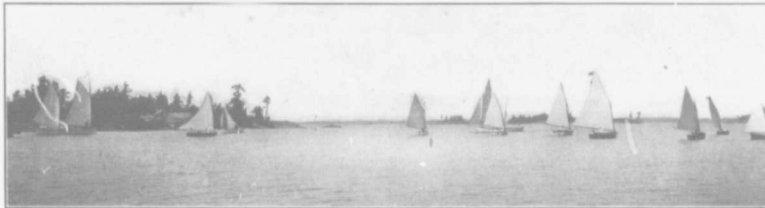
Near the entrance to the harbor, occupying a salubrious and commanding elevation on the old military grounds, stands a handsome group of buildings, the Asylum for the Insane, formerly the Ontario Reformatory for Boys, not the least interesting of Penetanguishene's many attractions. The buildings of stone, partly from the old barracks, were erected in 1858, since enlarged and improved. The late Wm. Moore Kelly was installed as first Warden of the latter and Dr. Spohn first Medical Superintendent of the former. The officers and attendants are efficient and obliging, and the institute is among the finest of which Ontario can boast.

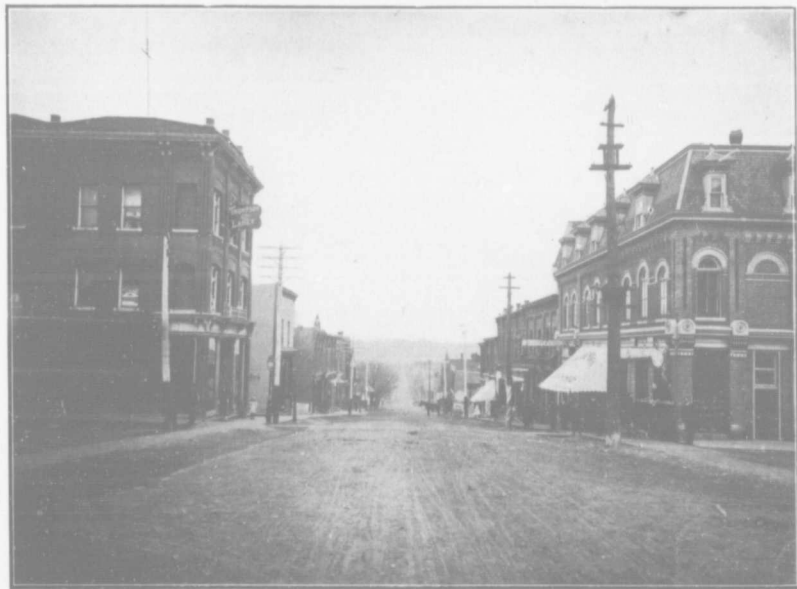
Penetanguishene Bay, from the military standpoint, is seven miles long and from two to three wide, containing nearly seventeen square miles of surface, and constitutes, in the opinion of competent naval authorities, one of the finest harbors for defence, shelter and protection, in Canadian waters. Encircled on all sides by terraced hills, gently sloping banks, shelving beaches and sandy shores, it affords perfect safety for boating, bathing and fishing, while rivalling the famous Loch Katrine of Scotland, or the classic scenes on the German Rhine in picturesque beauty and grandeur.

Penetanguishene is the natural entrepot and its fine harbor the gateway to the 30,000 islands of Muskoka and the North Shore, that mystic realm of the far-famed "Inside Channel," where the bark of the voyager floats in calm security, undisturbed by storms, borne on the bosom of the blue waters peacefully reposing in the everlasting embraces of primeval rocks, gliding gently onward over illimitable stretches of miniature seas, gulfs and bays, past countless islands, rocky headlands and fantastic boulders, and on through wonderful regions of land and wave touched by the "Master Hand" of the universe. Here is the paradise of the sportsman, tourist and camper, where the maskinonge, trout and black bass, the deer and wild fowl revel in all their pride, and where the many intricate passages, sylvan nooks, opening vistas and winding shores, present an ever shifting and varying panorama of the finest scenery on the continent. Among the many beauty spots and points of interest may be mentioned, Beausoleil Island and the Chimnies, where the Hurons fled for refuge after the bloody conflict of St. Louis, Minniekaiganashene, Go Home River, San Souce, Waubatassie, Ahoendoe or Christian Island, where the Jesuits found refuge after three days on a raft, Honey Harbor, etc.

In Colborne Basin, opposite "The Penetanguishene," the memory of one of Canada's most honored Governors, that of Sir John Colborne, is perpetuated. Among the interesting wrecks sunken in the harbor is the Tecumseh, lying near the Island, the Tigress and Scorpion near the Basin; the latter having played an important part in the battle of Lake Erie, 1813.

Penetanguishene, 102 miles north of Toronto by rail, was incorporated as a town in 1881, with a population of 2,000, the late Alfred Thompson being elected first Mayor. Several of the historical references in the above sketch will be found illustrated in the following pages; also some of the select views of picturesque scenery, together with the leading business concerns of the town.





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A Georgian Bay Terminal
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Ten Miles of Water Front
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PENETANGUISHENE boasts of a number of important manufacturing industries, including six saw mills, two box factories, planing mills, sash and door factories, pail and tub factory and other wood-working mills, an excellent foundry and machine shop, launch and canoe factory and ware rooms, gasoline engine works, carriage shops, very large tannery, and other industrial works; but it has plenty of room for many more.

We have ten miles and upwards of water front, including either side of the bay, affording several of the best elevator sites on the Georgian Bay, with deep water close up to shore, and hard, firm bottom, and giving an excellent location for mills, factories, docks and shipping yards, with ample piling grounds.

Hotels—We have four excellent all-the-year-round hotels, besides "The Penetanguishene," which is recognized as one of the finest summer resorts in Canada.

Churches—There are five churches in the town, consisting of two Anglican, one Presbyterian, one Methodist, and the large Catholic Church erected as a memorial to the martyred Jesuit Priests.

Schools—The Public School has at present seven departments or forms, and the School Board have this past year erected a modern new school house, at a cost of \$15,000. The Protestant Separate School, with four departments, is one of the best schools in the Province.

High School—This past year a new High School has been erected at a cost, with equipment, of \$25,000, and is one of the finest modern school buildings in Canada.

Public Library—We also boast amongst our educational institutions a very excellent Free Public Library, containing some ten thousand volumes of standard authors.

Banks—Our banking facilities are all that can be desired, with The Western Bank and The Sovereign Bank established here, under capable and courteous management.

Passenger and Freight Boats—Large steam barges and other vessel craft make Penetanguishene a regular port of call.

In addition to the Grand Trunk Railway, which affords a very efficient service, other railway connection is confidently expected at an early date.

Cheap Power for Manufactories—Cheap Power is a boon to manufacturers, and electric energy, transmitted from a water power, is probably the nearest approach to an Ideal Power, when cost and convenience are considered.

The municipality has taken the preliminary steps to secure a water power within a reasonable distance from the town, whence 2,000 horse power may be developed by electric generators and thence transmitted for the use of our factories and workshops.

It is anticipated from the preliminary investigations of Engineers, that this power can be supplied to our local factories at from \$15 to \$20 per horse power, per annum.

Manufacturers will be given every encouragement, and all enquiries will be cheerfully answered by the Mayor, Clerk, or any other town official to whom they may be addressed. They invite correspondence and only ask intending manufacturers to investigate the facilities afforded by Penetanguishene-before deciding upon location elsewhere.

Just one word on the name of the town. It is "Penetanguishene"—that is the full name, the correct name—but the Grand Trunk Railway people have abbreviated it on their time tables and printed matter to "Penetang," cutting it off in the middle and destroying the meaning and the sound to economize on printers' ink.



Penetanguishene Harbor



The Penetanguishene

Canada's Popular
Summer Resort



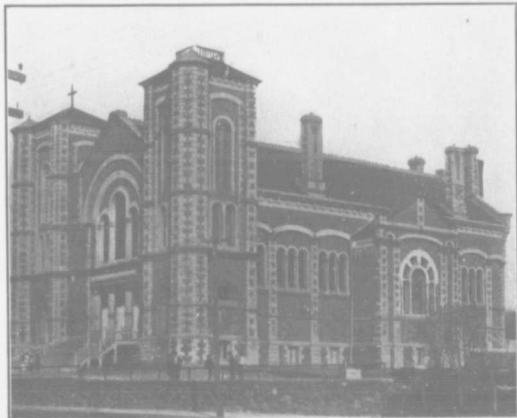
GEO. ROBINSON, MANAGER
Penetanguishene, Ont.



Grand Trunk Station



The Martyr Brebeuf



The Jesuit Memorial Church





Old Military Church

Methodist Church

All Saints' Church

The Sovereign Bank of Canada

RANDOLPH MACDONALD, President

A. A. ALLAN, Vice-President

D. M. STEWART, General Manager

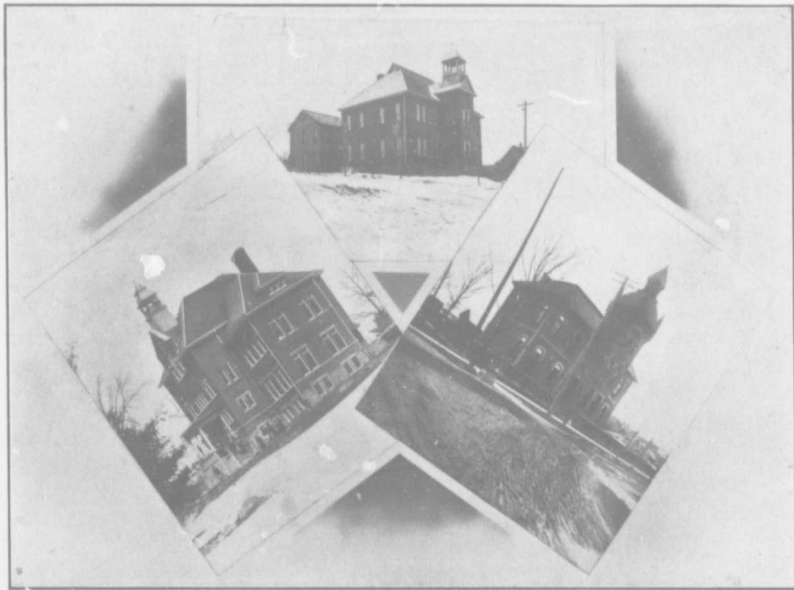
PENETANGUISHENE BRANCH

A. S. CHILLAS, Manager

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED	-	\$4,000,000.00	RESERVE FUND	-	-	\$1,255,000.00
CAPITAL PAID UP	-	\$3,993,000.00	TOTAL ASSETS, OVER	-	-	\$25,000,000.00

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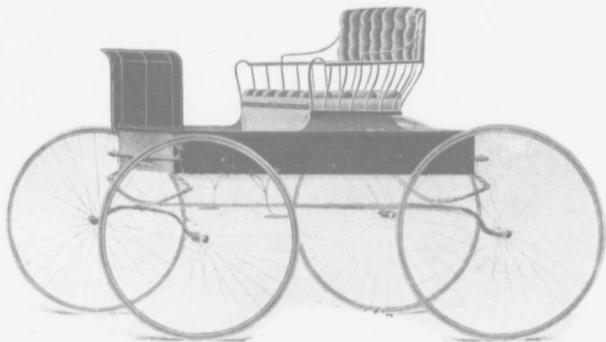
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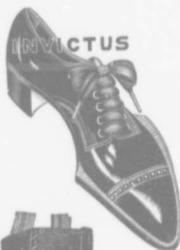
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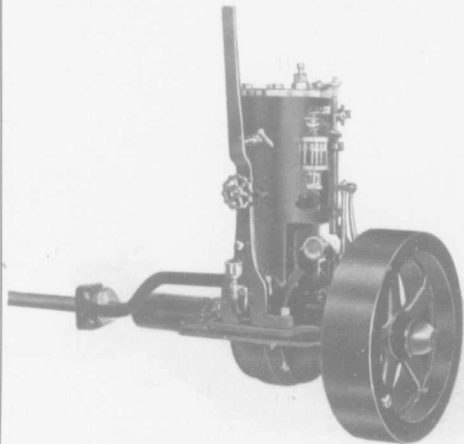
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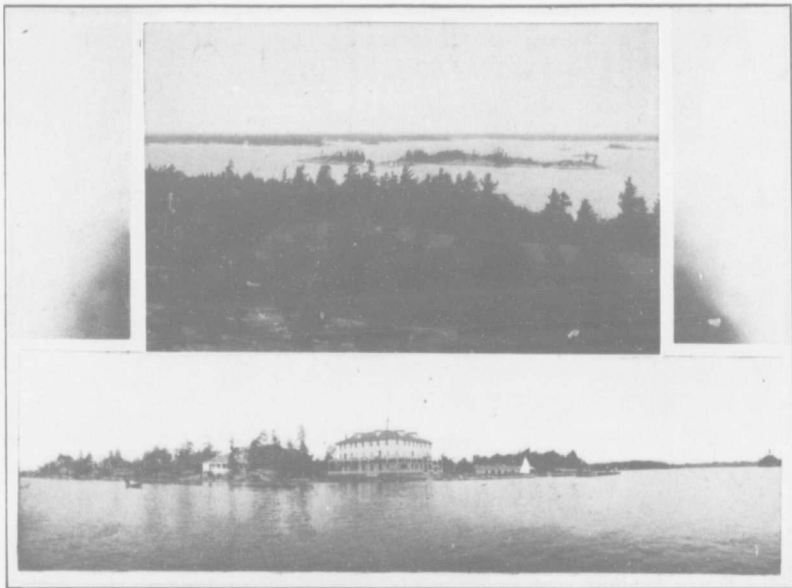


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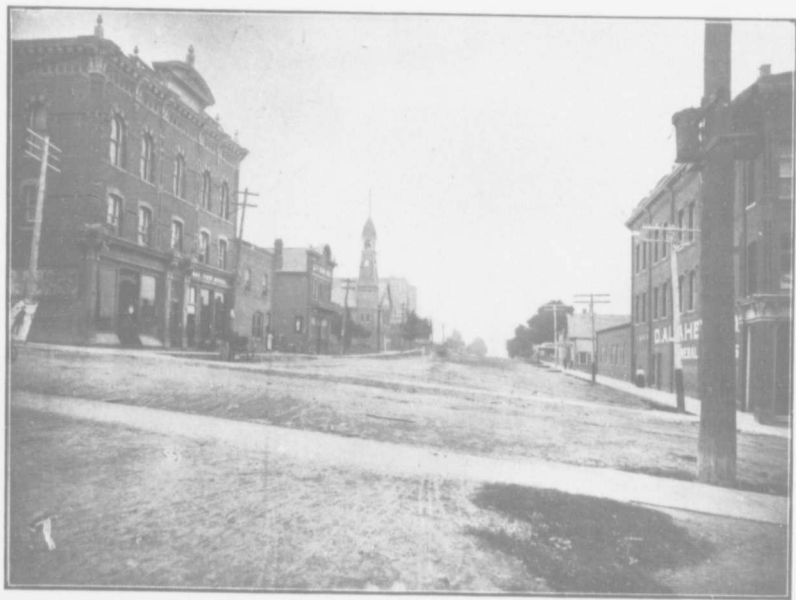
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View of Robert Street, Penetanguishene

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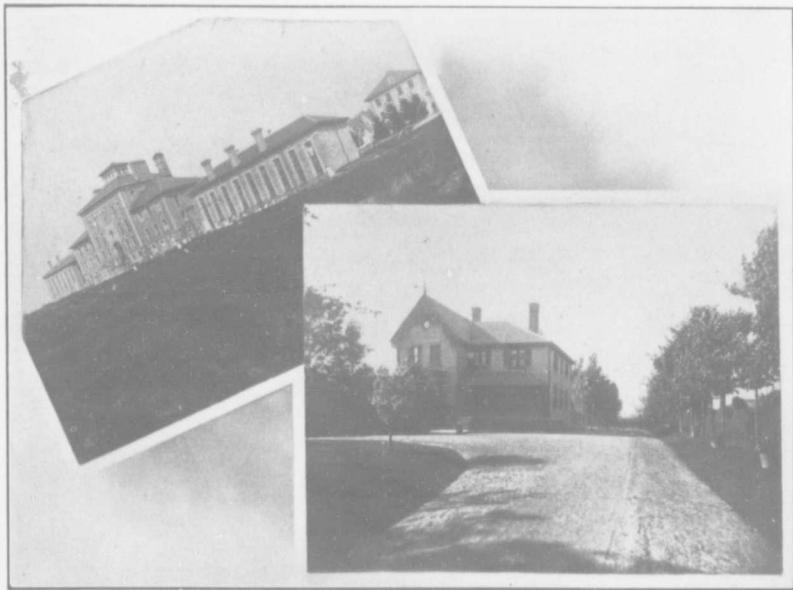
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View from "The Minnicoganashene" Summer Resort near Penetanguishene, an Island Resort on the open waters of the Georgian Bay
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(See also page 21)



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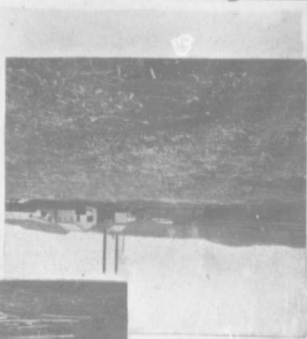
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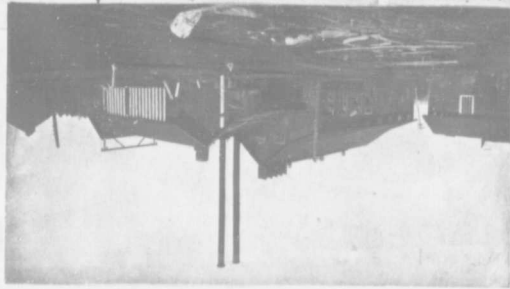
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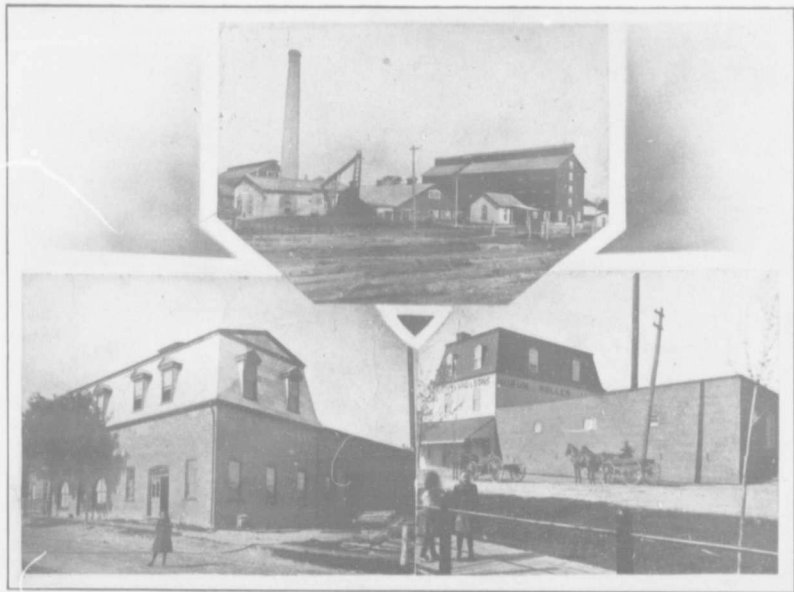
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Bathing Scene—
The Penetanguishene Beach

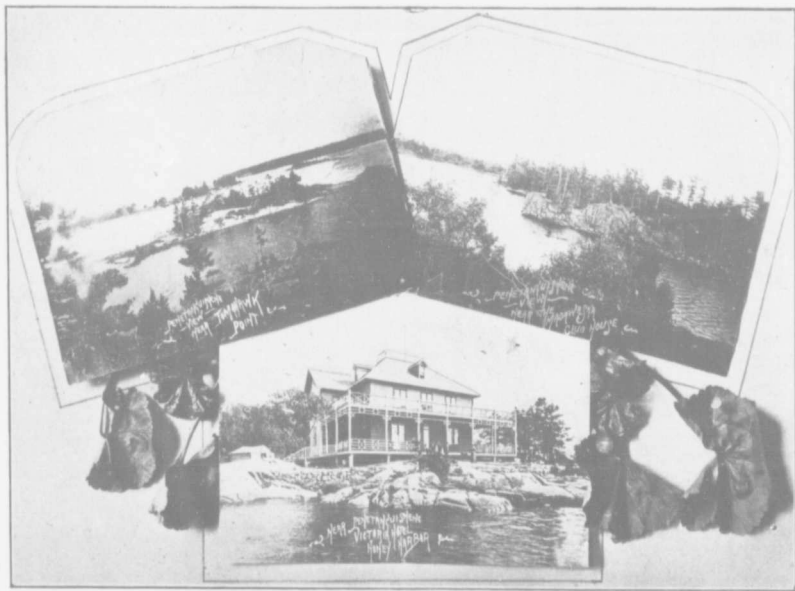


Balcony View—
The Penetanguishene Hotel

The Fisherman's Retreat



The Canoeist's Paradise

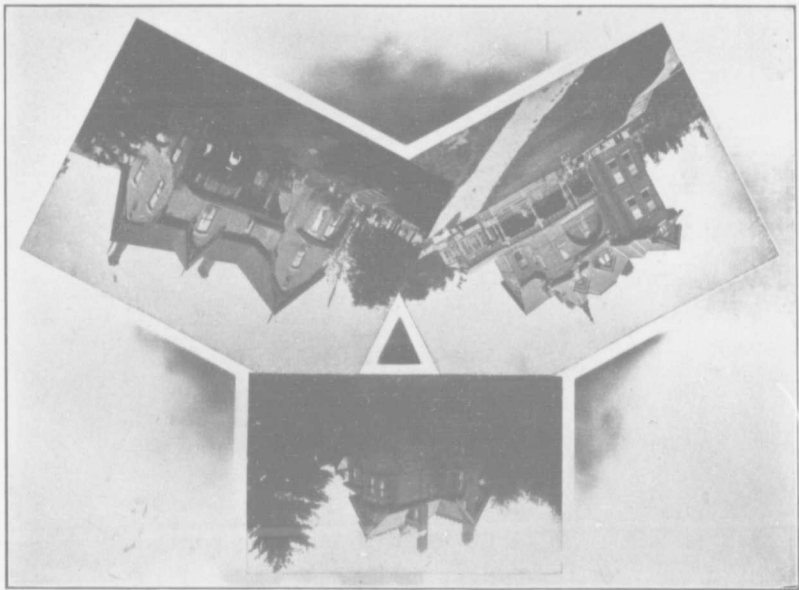


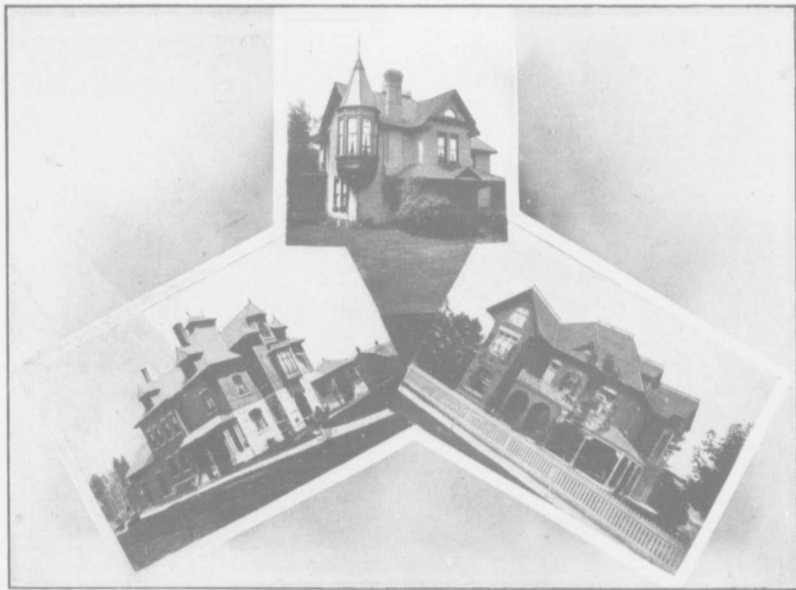
Island Views near Penetanguishene

C. Beck's Residence

W. M. Thompson's Residence

Dr. Spohn's Residence





C. Copeland's Residence

J. B. Jenning's Residence

C. G. Gendron's Residence

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INSURANCE
NOTARY PUBLIC
MARRIAGE LICENSES
TIMBER LANDS
ETC., ETC.

Penetanguishene - Canada



Northern House

SOME OF THE HOTELS
Canada House

Georgian Bay House

Established 1886

Phones Nos. 15 and 50

Chas. A. Nettleton

The Corner Drug Store



PENETANGUISHENE, ONT.

STATIONERY, FANCY AND SOUVENIR GOODS

Ganong's and Huyler's Choice Confectionery
Soda Water Fountain

Kodaks and Kodak Supplies Always on Hand

Ticket Agent Canadian Pacific Railway and Ocean Steamship Lines from Canadian or
American Ports

G. H. Wright

Shelf and Heavy

Hardware



STOVES, TIN AND GRANITE WARE, CUTLERY
PAINTS, OILS AND VARNISHES
FISHING TACKLE

Plumbing and Gas Fitting

CAMPERS' SUPPLIES

Opposite Wright's Meat Mart

Penetanguishene

FIRST CLASS
BAKERY IN
CONNECTION



G. Copeland & Sons



Merchant MILLERS and Dealers
in Flour, Feed, Chop Feed, Grain
etc.

Huron Mills, Penetanguishene
City Mills, Midland
Flos Mills, Elmvalle



PENETANGUISHENE
ONTARIO

W. BLANCHARD

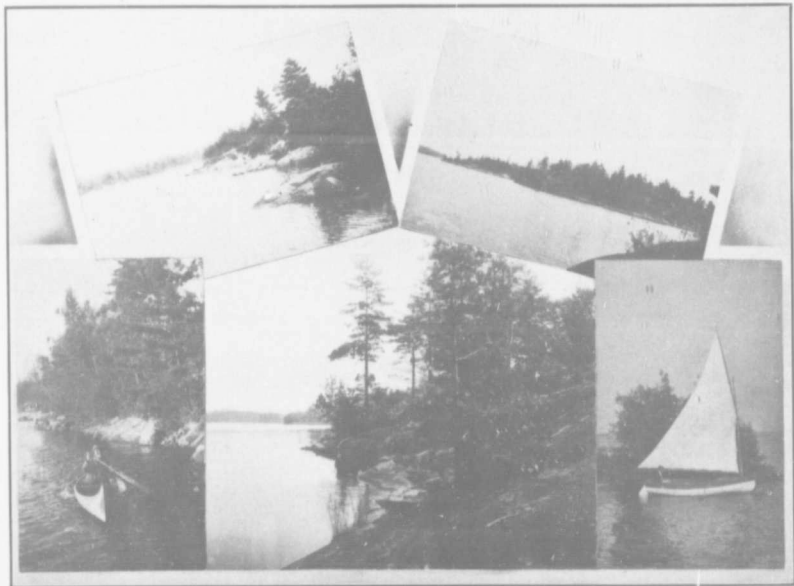
Brick Manufacturer

Reasonable Terms
Satisfaction Guaranteed

PENETANGUISHENE
ONTARIO

Brickwork, Stonework and Finishing
a Specialty

Full Lines of Brick, Cement and
Masons' Supplies always on hand



Among the Islands—Penetanguishene

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