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1904.

Picturesque Oakville



COLBORNE ST., OAKVILLE



DESCRIPTIVE OF LOCAL
ADVANTAGES AND
ATTRACTIIONS

ILLUSTRATED

1904-5

BRYAN & LONG, PUBLISHERS, TORONTO

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COLBORNE ST. OAKVILLE, ONT.

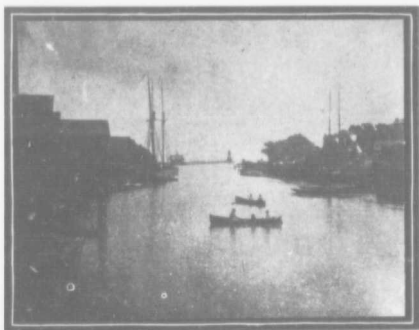
W. O. S.

OAKVILLE AND ITS ATTRACTIIONS



AMONG the thriving towns which dot the Province of Ontario, the town of Oakville is not the least conspicuous. This picturesque place, aptly termed "The Saratoga of Ontario," with a permanent population of 2,000, and largely augmented during the summer season, has had corporate existence since the year 1857, running close on to fifty years.

Prior to 1857, however, Oakville had a history which, it is not amiss to record briefly. In earlier days the town area was inhabited by Indians known as the Mississauga tribe, over which John Brant a celebrated redman was chief. Eventually, the Indian Reserve, comprising some 960 acres, was ceded to the Crown and later was auctioned off by the Government. This occurred in the year 1827, the final disposition taking place at Crook's Mills, on the Twelve Mile Creek, Nelson. The purchaser of this land was Colonel Wm. Chisholm, who, on securing a Provincial charter began the construction of Oakville Harbour, completing it in the year 1830, over seventy-four years ago.



Oakville Harbour Scene.

From an indian reserve and hunting ground to a live progressive town has been a long step through the space of time and within the period since Oakville was created a town extending onwards to the present day the character and reputation of the place have remained prominent always.

Geographically Oakville is situated half way between Toronto and Hamilton, on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway—a distance of twenty miles in either direction and bordering on the shore of Lake Ontario.

The approach from the lake coming in by steamer, shows a very picturesque harbor and surroundings, a feature which is best appreciated by a glance at illustration shown.

In earlier days the harbor presented a very busy aspect at a time when considerable shipping was carried on and when many sailing craft sought shelter screened from the stormy billows of the lake.

Notwithstanding the frequent changes of passing years, especially as regards the ship-building industry, the reputation of Oakville is well sustained by Captain J. Andrew, who as designer and builder of the famous Canada Cup defenders, namely the Canada and the Invader, has also built other well known yachts such as the Minota, the Beaver and the Strathcona, the latter one of which made such a gallant attempt as the defender in the Canada Cup races last year.



Launching the Yacht Strathcona.

To have been the builder of five boats as above named, all of which have sailed at various periods in international races and to have been successful with two of them as prize winner is a feat highly creditable to Captain Andrew and reflecting much renown on the place of his abode. The chief entrance into Oakville is via the Grand Trunk Railway which affords a cheap and rapid transit to or from East and West.

From the station into town the distance is about a mile, a bus meeting the arrival and departure of all passenger trains. Whilst passing the observer will be impressed with the delightful scenery all along the route, and the home-like, substantial appearance of the many fine residences to be seen. A pleasing feature are the numerous fruit and flower gardens surrounding the various homes. The roads too, are especially good and the walks chiefly of granolithic attest the spirit of local enterprise.

As one moves about the residential parts the first formed impression is strengthened and upon closer acquaintance the more attached you become to the old town and its people. Oakville and vicinity have long been famous as the centre of strawberries, that delicious fruit which commands the readiest sale and the best price if branded and called "Oakville strawberries." Beside strawberries, this section of Ontario grows in abundance raspberries, cherries, currants and apples. Of the first named fruit as much as four thousand quarts have been sent in one shipment per steamer to Toronto. One of the interesting sights during the picking season is the presence of vast numbers of Indians, white boys and girls engaged gathering fruit for the ever ready market.

The reputation of the fruit gathered from this section is so high that large shipments are exported annually to Glasgow and Liverpool.

The commercial situation of Oakville on a general survey is not unlike what may be observed in other progressive communities. The main business thoroughfare, Colborne street, is occupied with the same diverse businesses as elsewhere, though here such interests are conveniently centered making it especially advantageous for both buyers and sellers. The general character of the business element is one of solidity, an appearance of all being well to do, which is the case. An excellent proof of the financial standing of the local business men is the fact that, notwithstanding the heavy failure of two private banking concerns of the town, not long ago, and both happening close upon one another, there has not occurred a single business disaster.

An interesting fact worth noting in connection with Oakville business men is that not quite a few of them can claim to have been continuously tradesmen for a period close on to fifty years, while others have succeeded businesses, which were established so far back as the year 1835.

The principal industries of Oakville at this time are the following:

- MARLATT & ARMSTRONG, Tanners
- OAKVILLE BASKET CO., Basket and Fruit Packages
- W. T. CARSON & SONS, Builders' Supplies
- WM. WHITAKER & SONS, Carriage and Wagon Works
- COLIVER & CLARK, Apple Evaporators
- T. H. ASHBURY & SONS, Flour and Grout Mill
- McDERMOTT & CO., Cooperage Works
- OAKVILLE ELECTRIC LIGHT & POWER PLANT



Packing Apples for Market.

In these diversified industries quite an army of men, boys and girls are employed throughout the year.

So far as these particular industries are concerned, it is a common remark that never before in their history have they been so busy, a fact which speaks volumes for the enterprise and push of those so engaged.

What is sure to bring Oakville into greater prominence and in time make it a very desirable point for manufactur-

ing industries and homes for artisans, will be the introduction of cheap electric power, which, at no distant date is to be a reality. Already power cable towers have been constructed as far as Oakville by the Toronto and Niagara Power Company for conveying motive power to the chief centres of industry. For purely local purposes by the enterprise of Mr. A. B. Wass, manager of the Oakville Electric Light and Power Plant, arrangements have been concluded for the supply of sufficient power which will be available for all the present industries and for others about to locate, in the near future.

This important factor, cheap power and light, which Mr. Wass is combining to produce will be of immeasurable advantage to the town in every respect.

At the present time there is a system of incandescent lighting for both house and street purposes. For the latter there is a service of 1,500 lights including twenty-seven arc lights. As evidence of the low rate prevailing for house lighting only ten cents is charged per one thousand watts, the same being registered by metre.

The further development of the Light and Power Plant under Mr. Wass's management may be very soon looked forward to.

Another factor which will tend to develop Oakville and bring an increased population will be the new Electric Railway now within a distance of ten miles from the town on the West and fast approaching completion from the East. This through line, for both passengers and freight will also run a spur line right into the town. That this newer development will aid business and make available the many fine sites for homes and manufacturers is unquestioned.

As a residential spot there is no prettier and more enjoyable place than Oakville. It is really delightful. The enquiries for homes here have been many and frequent, house rent running from five to fifteen dollars per month. There are also many enquiries for fruit farms, all tending to show the popularity of this section as an abiding place.

There are several well-constructed public buildings in Oakville, notably the High School, which, during the past year has had an abnormal attendance of pupils, also a public and separate school.

Then, too, there is a very substantial Post Office building erected by Mr. W. S. Davis, an enthusiastic citizen of the town. Of churches there are four denominations, namely: Presbyterian, Episcopal, Roman Catholic and Methodist, and all of them thriving.

Of newspapers there are two, very bright and pushing Weeklies: The Star, and Raymond's Record.

Within the town, picturesquely situated are picnic grounds and other quiet spots much frequented by tourists and picnic parties who also avail themselves of the facilities for boating on the river nearby.

That Oakville is destined to reach much larger proportions is evident on all sides. For the business man and manufacturer, the attractions are many, good local administration, low taxation, cheap power and fuel and inexpensive living.

As a home for families, Oakville is unsurpassed. For transient visitors to Oakville, there are three hotels which afford all the necessary accommodation required, namely: The Oakville House, The Royal Exchange and the Murray House. The Oakville House, the proprietor of which is Mr. W. H. McDermott, is perhaps the oldest and best known. In this hotel, situated prominently in the business section, there are upwards of twenty comfortably furnished

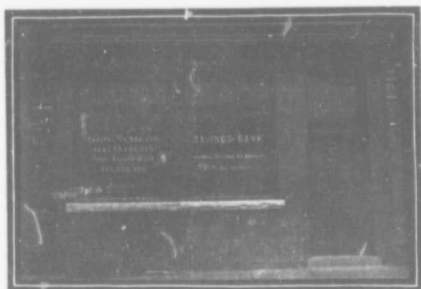
bed-rooms, in addition to commercial sample-rooms. The service is very good and guests can depend upon obtaining satisfactory treatment. For farmers, good stabling quarters are provided.



Oakville House, Oakville.

Another hotel of the same class is The Royal Exchange, also situated in the business section. The proprietor of this hotel is Mr. C. A. Decker, who personally looks after the comfort of his guests. Very good accommodation is afforded, and a really excellent meal provided. The bed-rooms here are large and airy and neatly furnished, and the rates, moderate. Conveniences are also provided for farmers and traveling men.

In a prosperous community like Oakville, banking facilities are of the greatest importance. In this respect Oakville is better equipped than it ever was. Situated on the south side of Colborne street in a rather pretty corner of the town, stands The Bank of Toronto. A very good illustration of which is shown.



Bank of Toronto, Oakville.

This institution was first opened to the public in December, 1902, and from the commencement of operations has transacted a very general and extensive banking business, and this in spite of considerable prejudice engendered owing to the failure of two local private banks.

The popularity of The Bank of Toronto is no doubt attributable to its excellent management and to the genial and courteous Mr. W. G. Wood, the local manager.

The interior of the bank is particularly well fitted and arranged, and being heated by steam and lighted by electricity makes it a decidedly comfortable and up-to-date office.

A striking building substantially built is the new Post Office block, one part of which is occupied as the Post Office and the other half by Mr. W. S. Davis, who, for upwards of ten years has been town clerk. In his business capacity, Mr. Davis is a conveyancer and insurance agent, also dealing in real estate and monies to loan. In regard to real estate, Mr. Davis disposes of and buys extensively, especially town lots, residences, fruit farms, etc., in which he reports an active demand, particularly for homes, on account of the desirable advantages Oakville has to offer. As a citizen, Mr. Davis has shown commendable enterprise and avails himself of every opportunity to bring Oakville into greater prominence.

Persons in quest of information regarding homes, farms, or factory sites, would do well by communicating with Mr. Davis.



Post Office Block, Oakville

The leading dry goods and furnishing house of Oakville is that of W. H. Robinson & Co., the senior member of which is Mayor of the town. This firm have been established for upwards of fifteen years, and during that period have extended their business to very large proportions. In general dry goods this house carries an extensive range of goods, and maintains several other departments, namely; merchant tailoring, ready-made clothing and men's furnishings, the entire stock being in every respect large, varied and particularly well selected.

In boys and men's clothing, especially of ordered clothing, the work of W. H. Robinson & Co. is equal to that of any city tailor and the prices charged are much more reasonable. The name of Robinson & Co. stands for straight dealing and among their many costumers the firm is regarded with the highest esteem.

In the grocery trade of the town, in which several persons are engaged, the business of Henry Wilson is undoubtedly the largest and most prosperous. In this com-

modious and well-lighted store is to be found a really excellent assortment of groceries, fruits, flour and feed, tobaccos and cigars.



Robinson's Dry Goods Store, Oakville.

Mr. Wilson began business in Oakville in 1871, thirty-three years ago, and has sustained a well deserved reputation for honest and generous treatment. Whenever practicable Mr. Wilson adopts modern methods in the conduct of his business and his highest aim is to retain the goodwill of his numerous patrons.



Wilson's Grocery Store, Oakville.

In the drug trade there are two favorably known concerns, namely: that of Dr. John Urquhart, who is situated on the south side of Colborne street, the business of which

was established as early as 1835, and a more recent establishment carried on by John R. Byers, Phm. B.

Of Mr. Byers' business there is every indication of an active trade done, especially in his prescription department, in which only the purest drugs and chemicals are used.



Interior of Byers' Drug Store, Oakville.

The appointments generally of this store are first class and the stock of toilet articles and other goods pertinent to every up-to-date drug store are exposed in handsome show cases. Mr. Byers also keeps in stock a fine line of optical goods all being carefully selected and suitable for all persons requiring attention in this direction.

The jewelry line, too, is well represented by W. Busby, who has been in business since 1881, and a resident since 1862. Besides a very fine assortment of jewelry, watches, etc., Busby keeps a full supply of stationary, and has an unique display of cut glass and fine china.

In these various branches, always well stocked, a considerable trade is done every year, especially in watch adjusting, which is a feature of the business, only the best skill is employed.



Busby's Jewelry Store, Oakville.

Here also is the central office of the Bell Telephone Company, of whom Mr. Busby is local manager. Along with his other duties Mr. Busby acts as agent for the Western Fire Insurance Company.



Views of Gulledge's Establishment, Oakville.

Probably the oldest establishment in Oakville is that of E. H. Gulledge, dealer in boots and shoes, harness and saddlery, robes, blankets, gloves, trunks, etc., which business came into existence in 1835, but since 1870 under the management of the present proprietor. A very extensive trade is transacted in every department of the business, which undoubtedly is one of the most progressive and enterprising concerns in Halton County.

Mr. Gulledge is a large property owner and takes a live interest in the development of his native place. A visit to the stores and an examination of the stock shown will not only please but afford a surprise. Everything is so neat and complete.



W. H. Carson & Sons' Planing Mill, Oakville.

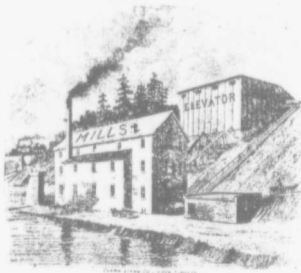
Among the older residents of the town who for upwards of forty-five years has been engaged in business is W. T. Carson, head of the firm of W. T. Carson & Sons, manufacturers and builders of stairs, sash, lumber, doors, blinds, flooring, etc. In their planing mill, which has a frontage of 100 feet by 150 feet in depth, there are between twenty and twenty-five hands constantly employed in turning out every variety of wood work which enters into building structures.

The work of this firm, however, is not all for local purposes but also for builders throughout Halton County.

The business in its entirety is a substantial one, and is regarded one of the mainstays of the vicinity.

Mr. Wm. H. Carson is the manager of this large mill which, under his charge has made remarkable progress in recent years.

Another old concern worthy of mention is that of Wm. Whitaker & Sons, established in 1869, manufacturers of carriages, buggies, express and farm waggons, cutters, sleight, etc., These are the largest carriage works in Oakville, comprising three buildings, including a repository used for show room. This firm do a large and profitable business throughout Halton County.



T. H. Ashbury & Sons' Flour Mills, Oakville.

A business concern which has had an active existence for over sixty years, and whose standing, commercially, is of the highest, is the firm of T. H. Ashbury & Sons, millers, Oakville.

Some ten years ago, the flour mills of this firm were considerably remodelled to meet the exigencies of their growing business, and now, owing to increasing necessities an entirely new plant is being installed, thus bringing their mills up-to-date in every particular.

Among the leading manufacturers of Canada, who are supplied with flour may be mentioned, Christie Brown & Company, of Toronto. The situation and premises of T. H. Ashbury & Sons are decidedly interesting, as illustration of same will indicate.

The largest industry in Oakville in point of importance and in the number of hands employed, is the business of Marlatt & Armstrong, tanners. The plant and premises are very extensive, and throughout Canada a very large trade is done.

The second largest and most productive industry in Oakville, and one of the greatest concerns manufacturing

baskets in the Dominion, is the Oakville Basket Company. The works of the company are located a short distance south of the Grand Trunk Railway, and comprise three buildings, with office nearby.



The Oakville Basket Co's Factory, Oakville.

The main building is devoted entirely to manufacturing and is fully equipped with modern machinery for the purpose required. The out-put of this company is remarkable. As an illustration, there are upwards of 5,000,000 baskets turned out annually. This includes clothes baskets, market and dinner baskets, fruit crates and packages, the daily output alone reaching the enormous number of 35,000. The facilities are such that not more than two hours elapse from the moment the log enters the veneering room till the finished basket is produced. The principal materials used in the making of baskets, etc., are elm, basswood, soft maple, hickory and ash. Mr. J. C. Ford is the manager of this extensive business which employs a force of fifty hands, and under his management has made great progress.

An institution which is regarded as the pioneer of its kind in Canada, and certainly the leading one, is the Lakehurst Sanitarium, for the treatment of alcohol, morphine, cocaine and tobacco additions. Since the establishment of Lakehurst, close upon fifteen years, a very large number of cases have been treated and results have shown according to a most accurate record, ninety per cent. of permanent cures. This is a very creditable record indeed.



Lakehurst Sanitarium, Oakville.

The situation which Lakehurst occupies in unsurpassed for an institute of its kind. The large mansion is surrounded by wide piazzas and the outlook is delightful. The interior arrangements at Lakehurst are in every way commodious and complete. Within the spacious grounds which slope toward the lake shore are many magnificent shade and fruit trees and

flower beds, whilst the walks are lined with shrubbery and rose bushes, the landscape effect being very beautiful. Facilities for lawn bowling, tennis and other out-door amusements are provided for, while for indoor recreation there is a large well lighted billiard room and also comfortable smoking quarters.

Altogether there is no finer place in Canada to which alcoholic or drug sufferers can be directed. Enquiries regarding Lakehurst will be promptly and confidentially answered by addressing "Manager". Box 215 Oakville, Ontario.

For the various illustrations pictured in this publication the publishers are indebted to Mr. Lewis, whose work has proved highly satisfactory.

Attention is directed to the advertisement of Jas. P. McDermott, whose hair dressing parlor is particularly clean and bright. In addition to his barber shop, Mr. McDermott has a fine billiard room, where a quiet game of billiards or - - can be enjoyed in comfort and ease.

Among the advertisements to which buyers are referred is that of Miss Baker, dealer in Wools and silks, books and stationary, etc. The stock here is very large and complete. In the legal profession of Oakville, no name is more prominent than that of Mr. W. Alex. Chisholm, Barrister and Solicitor, whose services in behalf of his clients are very generally appreciated.

Mr. Chisholm has all of his life resided in Oakville, and is most favorably regarded by all who have made his acquaintance.

FEW persons have any conception of the immense number and variety of fur bearing animals, the pelts of which, or rather the best parts of which, are skilfully cut, carefully sewed and stylishly fitted or conformed to human needs.



To enumerate these differing furs would occupy more space than is at our disposal, suffice to say, that with very few exceptions nearly every known fur is manufactured into some form or other; Jackets, Coats, blouses, cloakes, muffs, stoles, boas, gloves, mitts, robes, etc., etc., by the firm of Wm. E. Orr, & Co., 93 Yonge St., Toronto. To have the privilege of inspecting the beautiful display of fur garments produced by this firm is worth a great deal, especially to prospective buyers, who, undoubtedly can do very much better in the way of prices and secure satisfactory articles—the best to be had—by patronizing

Messrs. Orr & Company, than anywhere else in Toronto.



**Jas. P.
McDermott's
HAIR DRESSING
...PARLOR...**

Artistic appointments,
Brilliantly Lighted,
Thoroughly Anti-Septic,
and best equipped Barber
Shop in town.

Billiard Parlor in
connection,

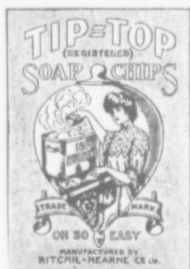
Colborne Street
Oakville, - Ont

W. ALEC. CHISHOLM

**BARRISTER &
SOLICITOR
NOTARY, ETC.**

Colborne St.

OAKVILLE, ONT.



MANUFACTURED BY
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BRYAN & LONG

13 Temperance St.
TORONTO, ONT.

Publishers of
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FOLDERS

Illustrated Municipal Publications

Picturesque Oakville



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