

FRONT  
[POS?]  
49



TOURISTS'  
PARADISE



GLIMPSSES OF  
ORILLIA



15 11

---

---

# Orillia: *The Tourists' Paradise*

---

¶ From a little village, in 1867, Orillia has grown to be an industrial centre second only to the larger cities in the province. ≈

¶ The many fine drives, beautiful scenery, bass fishing and cool and healthy atmosphere makes it an ideal spot for tourists. ≈

---

---

Published by

The R. O. Smith Co., *Booksellers and Stationers*, Orillia, Ont.

---

c 19057

F5012  
[1905?]  
Ø69

115.00

June 1975

Mappi

52/11

---

---

## Picturesque Orillia



ORILLIA'S history goes back to the days of Champlain, and the Jesuit Missions to the Hurons. When the great Frenchman visited his Indian allies in 1615, their capital was situated near the site of the present thriving town. The white settlement began in 1832, at which time the site was occupied by a band of Chippewas, who were removed to Rama in 1839. The place was first called "The Narrows," subsequently Newtown, and finally assumed the much prettier name of the surrounding township. As to the origin of the name Orillia there has been much speculation and dispute. It would appear to be a Spanish word, meaning the lesser or smaller shore, as compared with Oro, which indicates the greater shore on the larger lake. The name was probably given by some of the officers who were with Wellington in Spain.

The growth of the hamlet was slow until the seventies, when the increasing importance of the lumber trade of the northern regions, combined with the arrival of the "iron horse," gave it a great fillip. It was incorporated as a village in 1867, and reached the status of a town in 1875. It is now a prosperous town of nearly six thousand inhabitants, with large suburbs. Though its importance as a lumber centre has declined, other interests have grown up, and, with the exception of a transition period, fortunately short, steady progress has been maintained. This happy condition is due in no small measure to the enterprise of the merchants, who have gained for the town a reputation for push and for close selling which has brought to the town the trade of the whole north country.

Orillia's claim to be the prettiest and most progressive town in Ontario will receive greater support from the photogravures in the following pages than from anything that can be said in cold type. Yet no photograph or collection of photographs can do justice to the beauty of the town and its environs. Perched upon a hillside it looks out over two lakes—Couchiching and Simcoe—which, besides giving to the landscape that completeness and charm which is never secured without a broad sheet of island-dotted water, add greatly to the pleasures of the dwellers on their shores.

Tourists never tire of singing the praises of Orillia and its pretty lake. Only one quotation can be given here: "Without fear of successful contradiction," wrote the editor of the *Belleville Ontario*, after a personal visit, "the good people of Orillia can claim to have the prettiest and liveliest town of its size in Canada."

---

302761

MS-20

June 1905

Magpie

50/14

---

Orillia has long been known as a summer resort, for which, in addition to its beautiful surroundings, it has exceptional qualifications. The town is at a high altitude, being seven hundred feet above the sea, and the air is clear and bracing. It is conveniently situated with regard to railway communication being at the junction of the Midland and Northern Division of the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific, now building their line directly through the town, giving us connection to the seaboard. Besides this, the Dominion Government at the last session of Parliament decided that the new transcontinental railway, the Grand Trunk Pacific, must make their southern terminal in Orillia. Connection with these four great railways will give us transportation facilities second to no other town in Canada.

It is a noted sporting centre, supporting strong lacrosse, cricket, golf, tennis and bowling clubs; and the fishing in the lakes is excellent. Daily steamboat excursions and sheltered shores for boating and bathing offer unlimited opportunities to those who seek health and renewed vigor through drinking in the pure lake breezes. The town is well supplied with playgrounds, Couchiching Beach Park being one of the most delightful lakeside resorts in the country; as well as Victoria Park situated in the centre of the residential part of the town. As the number of tourists to this district is increasing rapidly, year by year, additional summer hotel accommodation is being provided. Among the larger ones we might mention The Orchard-Point-Inn, Simcoe Lodge and Fern Cottage, all beautifully situated on the water's edge. This, it is expected, will meet the demands for all classes of summer visitors.

Orillia is the market town of a large and flourishing agricultural district. It is also growing in importance as a manufacturing centre, for which its proximity to timber supplies, its excellent railway facilities, and its cheap light, water and power, make it well fitted.

Of the public buildings it is unnecessary to speak, as views of the principal ones are given in this booklet. In the matter of municipal enterprise Orillia maintains a lead among the municipalities of the Province, having been the first to install a municipal arc and incandescent lighting plant, as well as an electrical power transmission plant. The source of the power is the Ragged Rapids on the Severn River, nineteen miles from the town. This plant, the first of its kind in the world to be installed by a municipality, will have a capacity of two thousand horse power and enables the town to offer to manufacturers the cheapest power known on the continent, \$16.00 per horse power for a 24-hour service. As these enterprises are all on a paying basis, Orillia enjoys the advantages of cheap light, water and power, with a comparatively low tax rate.

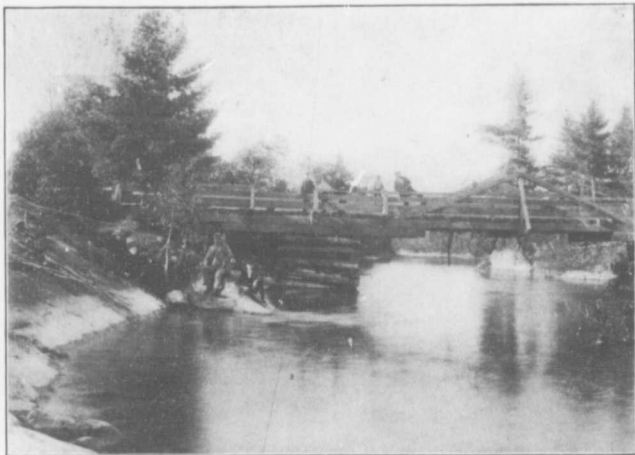
---



MISSASIGA STREET, ORILLIA LOOKING WEST FROM PETER STREET



STEAMER ISLAY, AT REGATTA ON LAKE COUCHICHING, ORILLIA



OLD BRIDGE OVER THE SEVERN RIVER





MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND OPERA HOUSE, ORILLIA



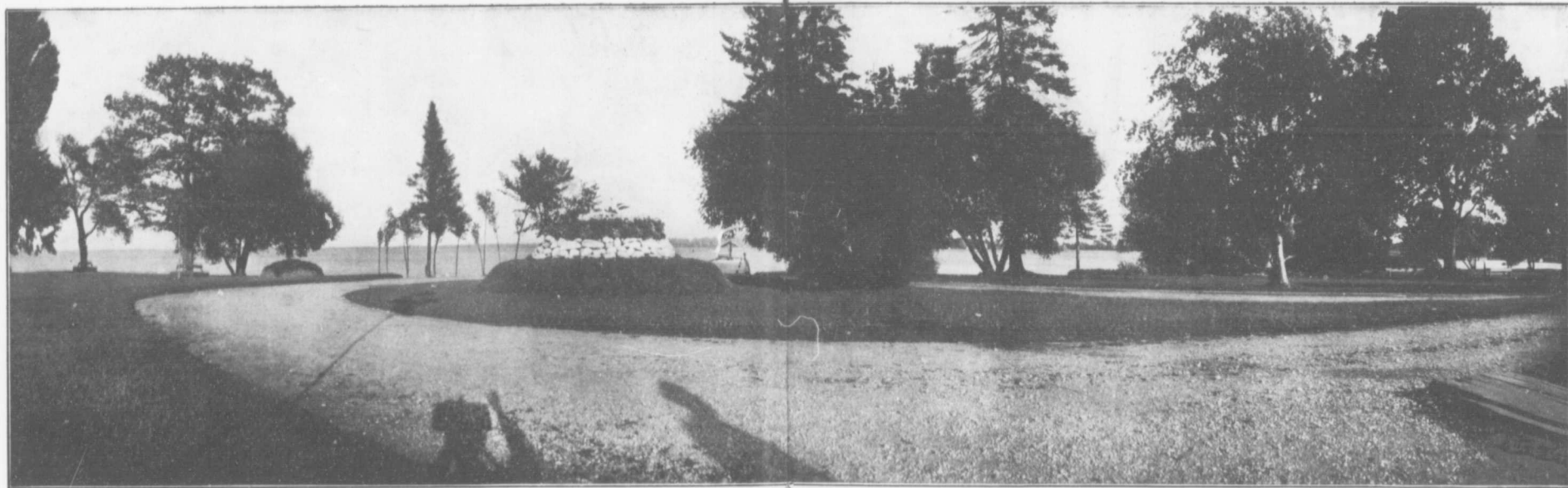
STEAMER GENEVA ON LAKE COUCHICHING, ORILLIA



FIRE HALL, ORILLIA



RAGGED RAPIDS ON SEVERN RIVER, THE SOURCE OF ORILLIA'S ELECTRIC POWER



COUCHICING BEACH PARK

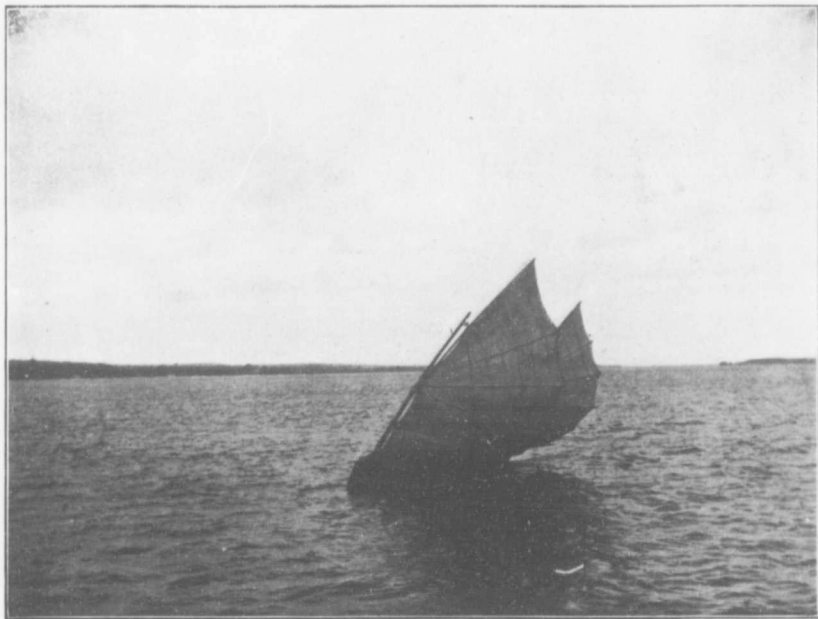
ORILLIA'S BEAUTIFUL PLAYGROUND, THREE MINUTES WALK FROM THE MAIN STREET



ORILLIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

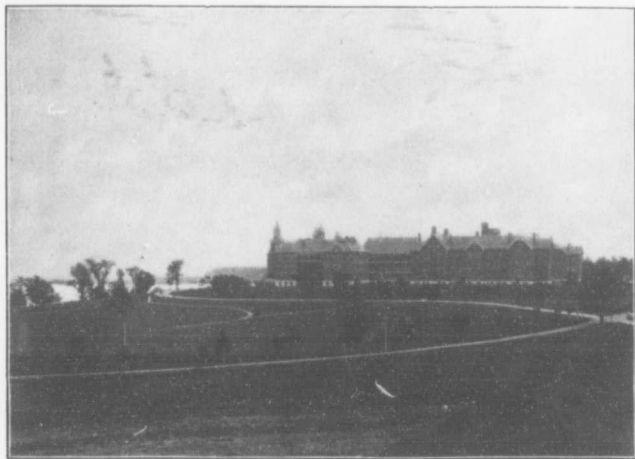


ORILLIA'S CHURCHES



AN AFTERNOON SAIL ON LAKE COUCHICHING, ORILLIA





PROVINCIAL ASYLUM, NEAR ORILLIA



FERN COTTAGE, ON SOUTH SHORE OF LAKE COUCHICHING, A POPULAR SUMMER RESORT NEAR ORILLIA



GENEVA PARK ON LAKE COUCHICHING



ORILLIA COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE REBUILT IN 1900



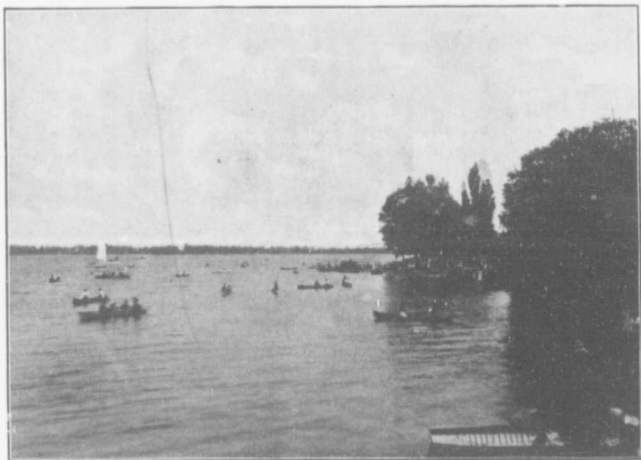
ORILLIA BAY LOOKING FROM COUCHICHING BEACH



CEDAR ISLAND, ORILLIA



"ON THE NARROWS" LOOKING UP LAKE SIMCOE

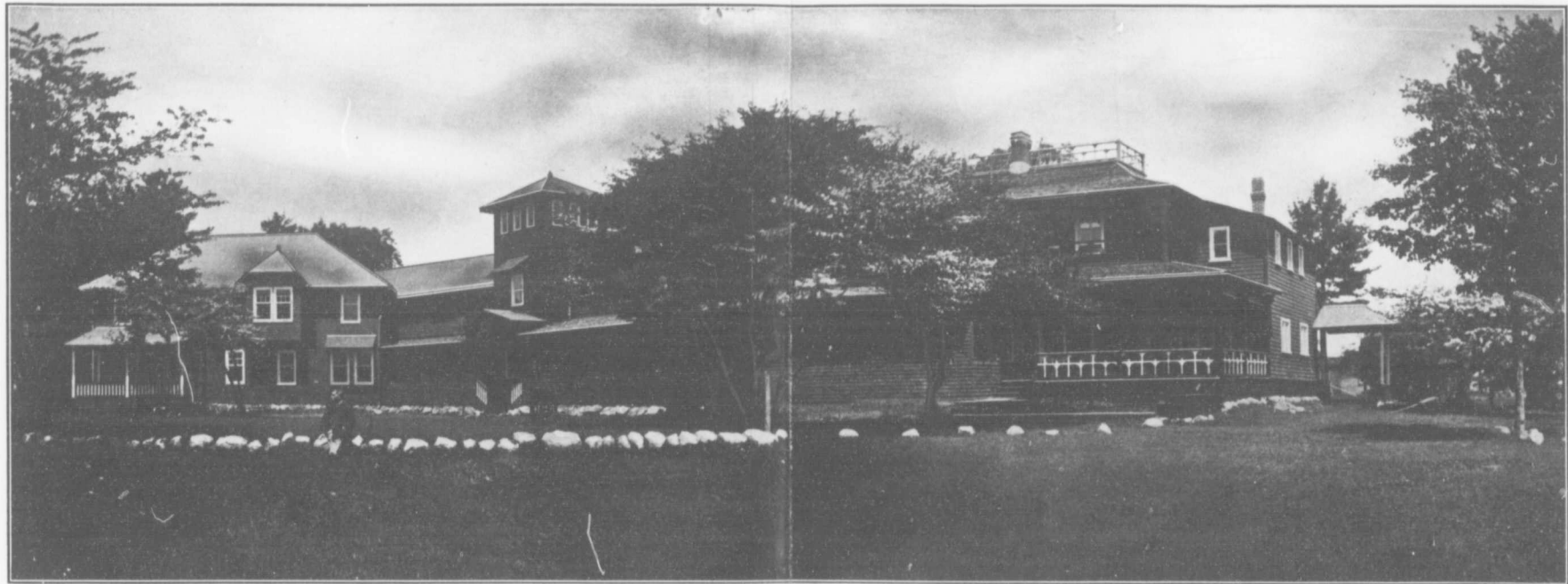


COUCHICHING BEACH





CEDAR ISLAND, ORILLIA'S SUBURBAN RESORT



ORCHARD POINT INN, ORILLIA

ON THE NARROWS, ONE OF ORILLIA'S PRETTY SUMMER RESORTS