

Published by  
THE R. O. SMITH CO'Y  
Booksellers and Stationers  
ORILLIA, ONT.

*Engravings by  
Grip Printing and Publishing Co.  
Toronto*

## 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 five 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.

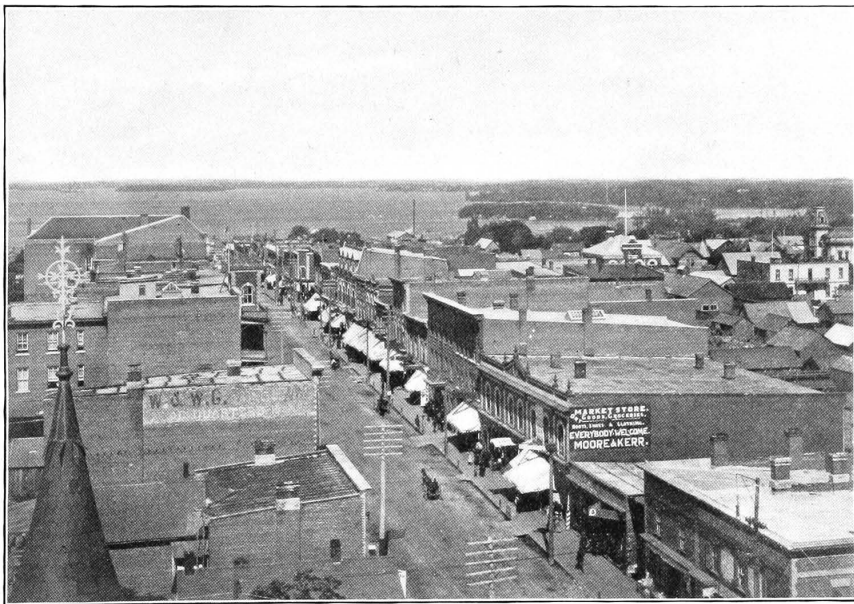
Tourists never tire of singing the praises of Orillia and its pretty lake. Only one quotation can be given here. "Without fear of successful controversion," wrote the editor of the Belleville *Ontario* after a personal visit, "the good people of Orillia can claim to have the prettiest and liveliest town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

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, at the junction of the Midland and Northern Divisions of the Grand Trunk; it is a noted sporting centre, supporting strong lacrosse, cricket, golf, tennis, and bowling clubs; and the fishing in the lakes is excellent, while 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 play-grounds, Couchiching Beach Park being one of the most delightful lakeside resorts in the country.

As the number of Tourists to this district is increasing rapidly year by year additional summer hotel accommodation is now being provided. This it is expected will meet the demands for all classes of summer visitors.

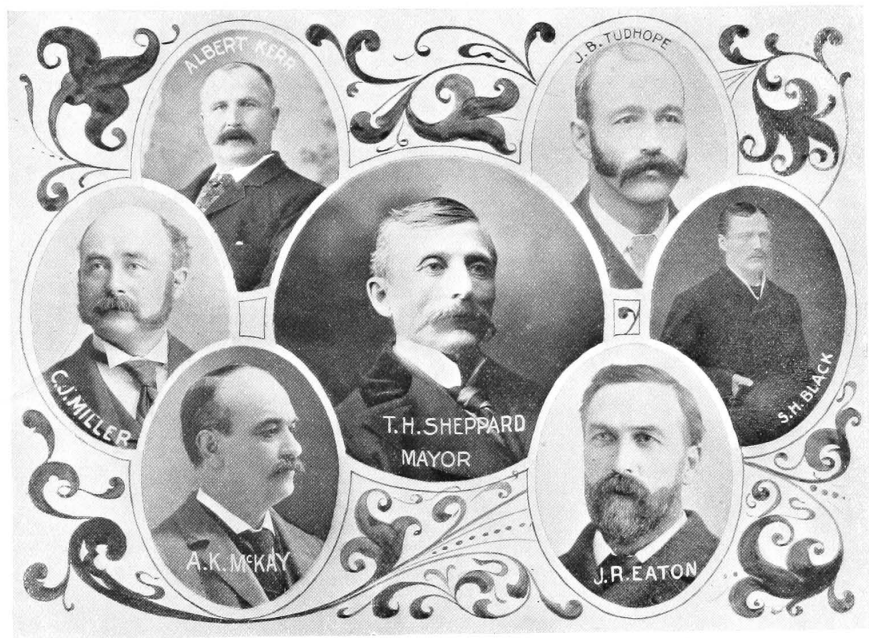
Orillia is the market town of a large and flourishing agricultural district. It is also growing in importance as a manufacturing centre, for which its proximity to timber supplies, its excellent railway facilities, and its cheap light, water and power, make it well fitted.

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 instal a municipal arc and incandescent lighting plant, and being now engaged in the installation of 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 a thousand horse-power, and will enable the town to offer to manufacturers the cheapest power on the continent. 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.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW FROM MUNICIPAL BUILDING

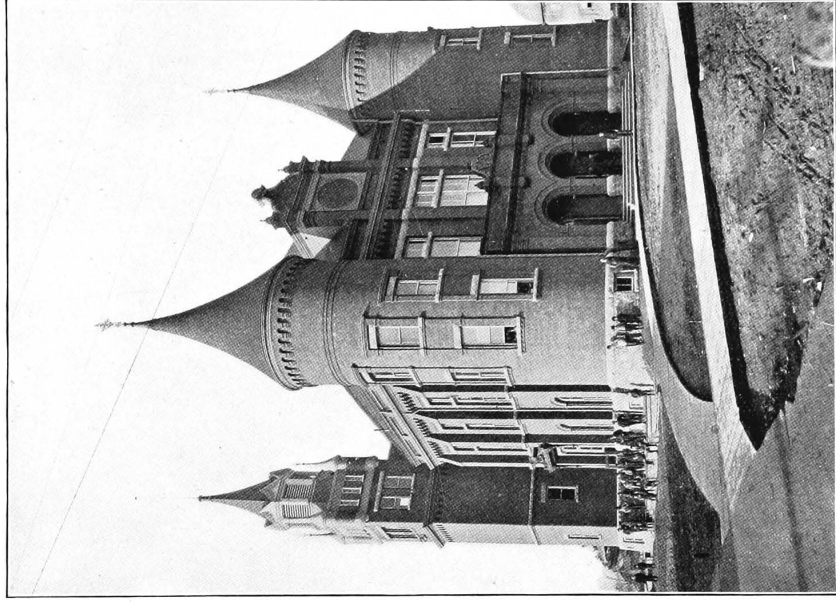




MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 1899.

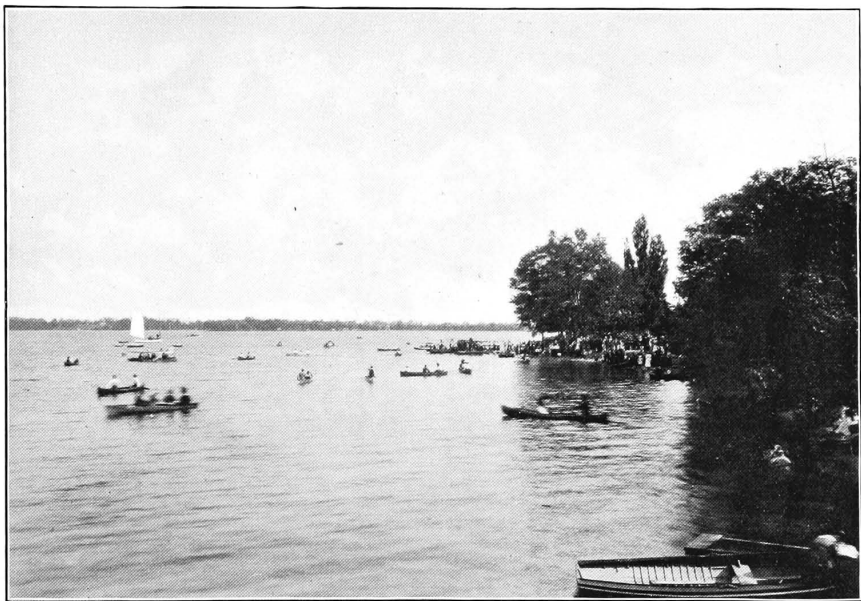






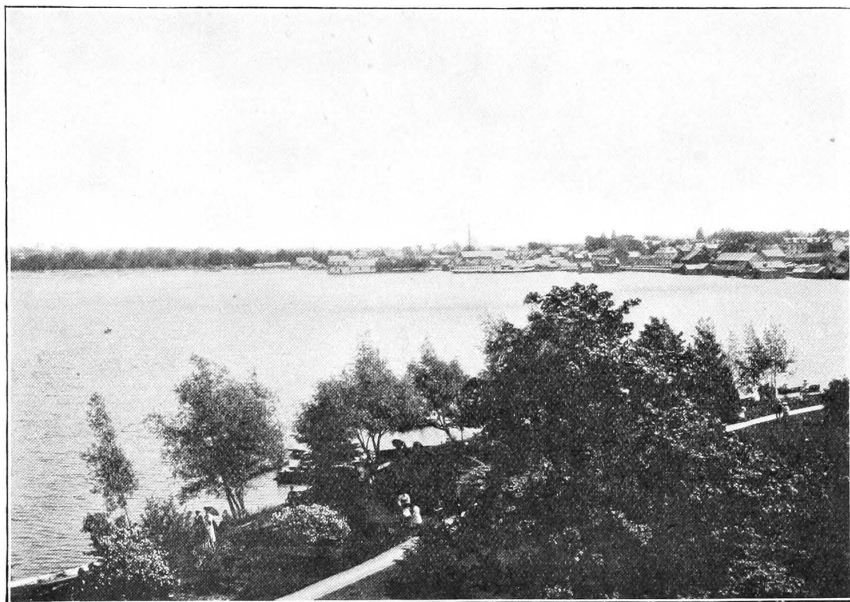
MUNICIPAL BUILDING





COUCHICHING BEACH PARK, ORILLIA





COUCHICHING BEACH PARK

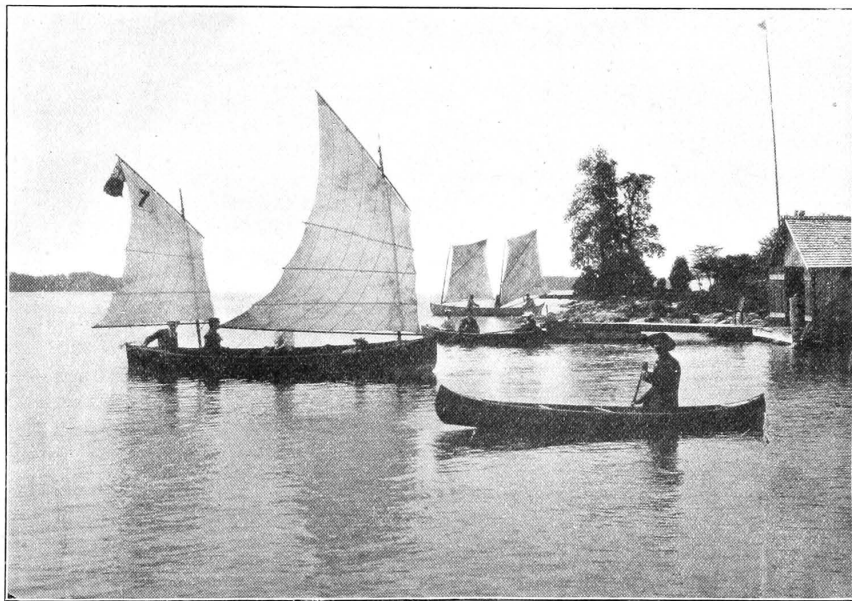




THE ASYLUM, ORILLIA







OAK ORCHARD POINT (Summer Resort)





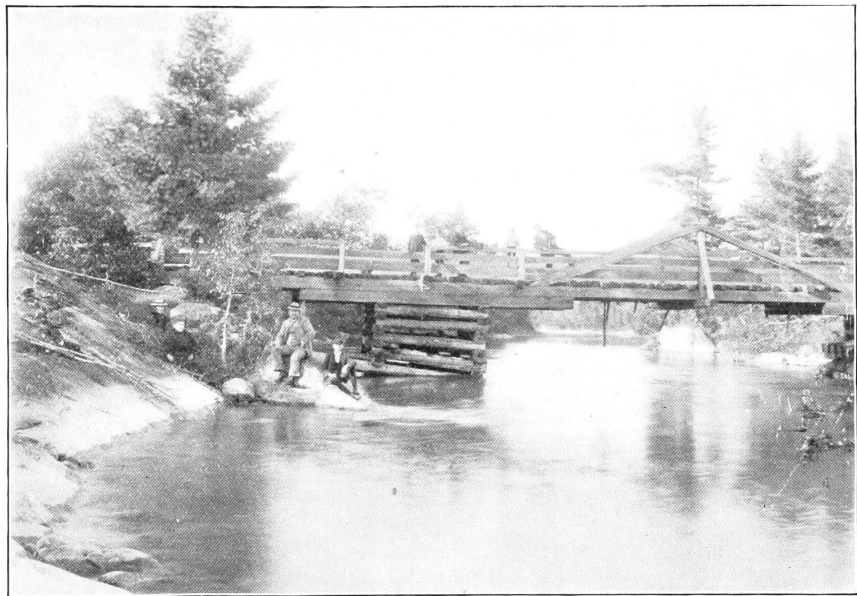
OAK ORCHARD POINT (Summer Resort)





"FLORAL VILLA," RESIDENCE OF J. W. SLAVEN

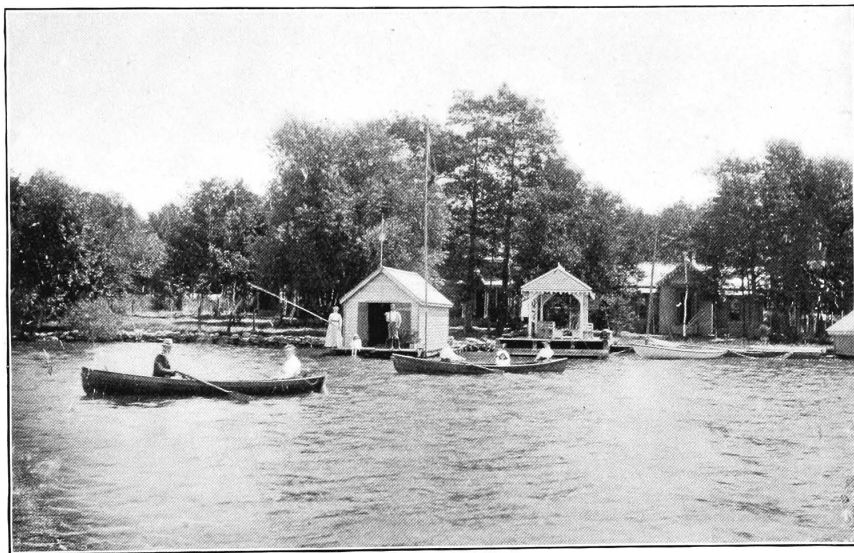




OLD BRIDGE CROSSING THE SEVERN

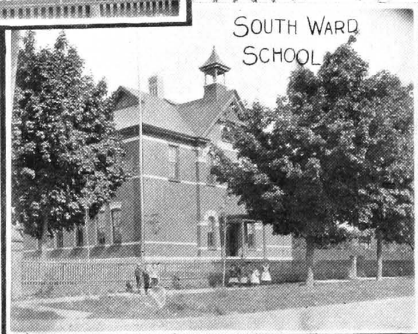
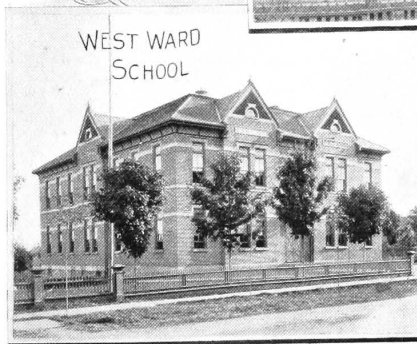
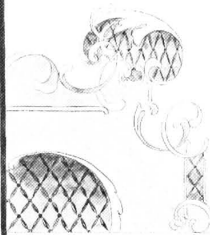
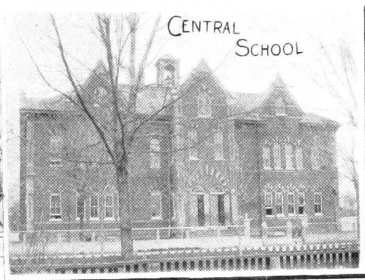
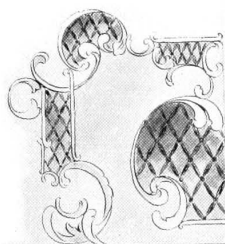






CEDAR ISLAND, ORILLIA





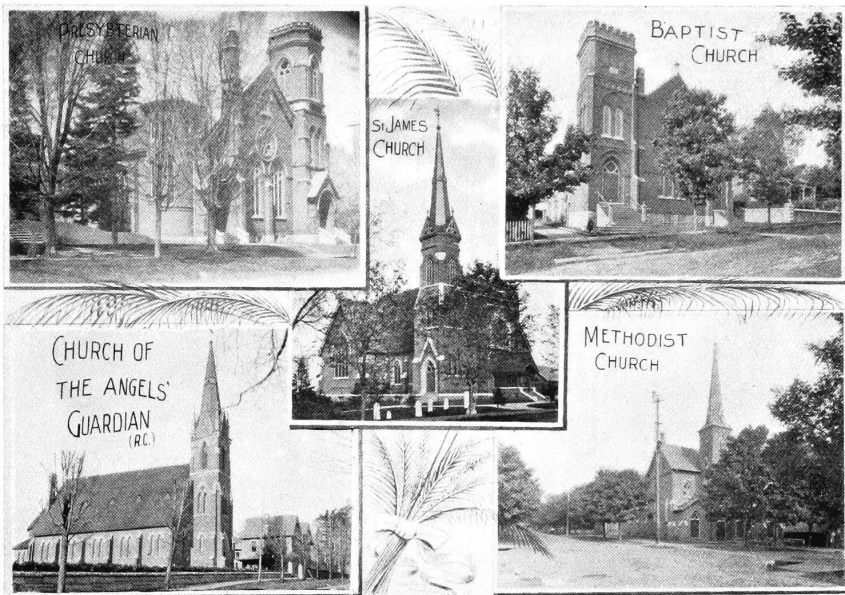
ORILLIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS





COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE (in course of erection)





ORILLIA'S CHURCHES