

Travel



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Writer explores the wonders of Ontario

By Iris Jones
contributing travel writer

IT IS ALWAYS great fun to travel through old haunts with a friend, especially a friend who shows you things you never noticed before.

That's why I enjoyed following my friend and neighbor Doris Scharfenberg around "The Long Blue Edge of Ontario" in her book of that title published this summer by William B. Eerdmans of Grand Rapids.



Iris Jones

Scharfenberg is an expert on Great Lakes coastlines, as you know if you have read "The Long Blue Edge of Summer: Vacation Guide to the Shorelines of Michigan," which won her Michigan's Ambassador of Tourism Award in 1985.

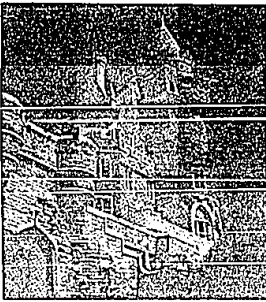
SHE LOVES to show you just how great the Great Lakes are by quoting this example: Michigan has a 3,117-mile lakeshore on four of the five Great Lakes, and Ontario faces the water for 4,700 miles, that total is further than the distance from Detroit to Shanghai, China.

Doris follows the lake line of Ontario into every village, city, bay, park and beach from the Quebec border on the St. Lawrence River to Thunder Bay on the western reaches of Lake Superior.

The route goes through English-tinted towns, the gleaming towers of Toronto, 40 provincial parks, a dozen restored forts and trading posts. It includes addresses and phone numbers that would help you enjoy some of the parties that are being thrown in Canada this year.

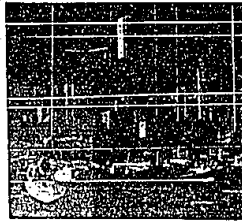
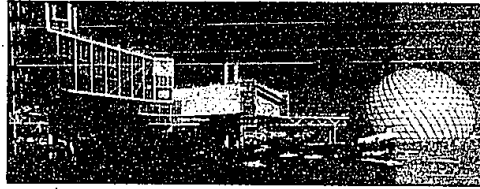
CANADA IS celebrating 450 years since ex-

Toronto — The Jewel of Ontario on the shores of Lake Erie boasts many attractions: Ontario Place (right), boats for hire and Casa Loma (below) an old castle which is a longtime draw.



plorer Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence River. Ontario celebrates a bicentennial this year, 200 years since the Loyalists who fled the American Revolution established their own political entity in Canada. Toronto celebrates its 150th birthday.

Whether you participate in any of the hun-



dreeds of events being held across the border, or you just want to do a little traveling, follow "The Long Blue Edge of Ontario" with us a moment.

Follow the St. Lawrence and you find places to book a cruise, or rent a houseboat, in the Thousand Islands. See Loyalist farmers and

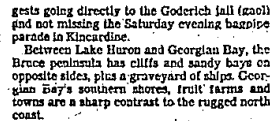
townfolk recreate the 1700s at Upper Canada Village, watch the military pageant at Fort Henry in Kingston, a name derived of course from "King's Town."

LAKE ONTARIO has the most populated of Canada's Great Lake coasts, with Toronto as the metropolis and capital of the province. Scharfenberg points out dozens of inexpensive pleasures in Toronto, including the ferry to Center Island and ways to wander through Harbourfront.

That wonder of falling water, Niagara Falls, is listed with what Doris calls "all its man-made attachments." Also, tranquil spots like the Niagara Gorge Trail and the floral gardens along the Niagara Parkway.

Her tour continues along Lake Erie, up the Detroit River, around Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River to Sarnia, visiting fishing sites, museums and picnic spots, places rarely mentioned in print.

MAGNIFICENT BEACHES are the main show along Lake Huron, but the author sug-



gests going directly to the Goderich fall (zoo) and not missing the Saturday evening barge parade in Kincardine.

Between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, the Bruce peninsula has cliffs and sandy bays on opposite sides, plus a graveyard of ships. Georgian Bay's southern shores, fruit farms and towns are a sharp contrast to the rugged north coast.

The book moves toward Sudbury, along the North Channel and Manitoulin Island, finally hitting the last stretch north of Lake Superior.

Forget your "nothing but wilderness" image. There are plenty of accommodations, good restaurants and golf courses in all of these remote areas.

"The Long Blue Edge of Ontario" was written from Doris Scharfenberg's personal experience. She lives now in Farmington, but her grandparents lived in Canada and Doris traveled the Great Lakes region many times with her four children. She repeated the entire circuit for this volume.

The book is available for \$9.95 from book-

March of Peabody ducks delights Memphis visitors

A lot of celebrities have been to Memphis. The Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto crossed the Mississippi near the Chickasaw bluff in the 16th century. President Andrew Jackson bought 5,000 acres on the bluff for \$500 in 1818. W.C. Handy gave birth to the blues here. Elvis Presley lived and died here.

They all had their fans, but if you want to see the flashbulbs popping now you must be in the lobby of the historic Peabody Hotel at 11 o'clock every morning when the most famous Memphians of all enter the lobby.

"The fresh flowers are in place above the huge marble fountain. The red carpet has been rolled out for 50 feet between the fountain and the elevator. Fans line up, cameras ready, the adults elbowing for room and the kids on the floor.

All eyes are on the lighted elevator marker, fixed now on the top floor. There is a rumble of voices as the light descends. The band starts playing the King Cotton March. The elevator doors open and out come the Peabody ducks, oblivious to the adoring crowd as they waddle down the red carpet, up the steps and into the fountain.

THERE IS wild applause but the ducks

ignore it. They swim round and round the fountain, climbing out on the edge occasionally to ruffle their feathers, until the next show.

That's exactly at five p.m. when they go back down the red carpet, into the elevator and are whisked away to their cage on the roof for the night.

The tradition of the Peabody ducks began in the 1930s when the hotel manager and a friend, both avid duck hunters, slipped a little too much Tennessee whiskey one night and decided to put three live duck decoys in the elegant hotel fountain.

The ducks were a sensation. Peabody duck-keeper Edward D. Pembroke has trained and changed generations of Peabody ducks since then. He and his ducks stayed around for the six years

that the Peabody was closed and threatened with demolition.

When the hotel was restored to its grand style and reopened in 1981, he and the ducks picked up the tradition where it had left off.

There are other things to do in Memphis of course: Mad Island, the restored cafes and clubs of Beale Street, Elvis Presley's Graceland. Lots of famous people still come to Memphis, some attracting large crowds.

If you want to see real stars however, be at the Peabody at 11 o'clock in the morning or at five in the afternoon when the King Cotton March begins, the flash bulb pop and the ducks march can be seen down the red carpet between their adoring fans.

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Every morning at 11 in the Peabody Hotel in Memphis the Peabody ducks take their march to the lobby's fountain.

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