

The Name Game in the History of Bruce County

Bruce County was officially designated on January 1st, 1850 to honour James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Baron Bruce of Kinloss, Governor-General of Canada (1846-1854). **Bruce** and **Kinloss townships** are also named in honour of the Earl.

Albemarle Township is named after Lord Bury, the 7th Earl of Albemarle.

Allenford, originally called Driftwood Crossing by the Indians because of the natural bridge created by debris collecting in the shallows of the Sauble River, was named after James Allen, the second settler in Amabel Township.

Amabel Township is the namesake of Lady Amabel, wife of Sir Edmund Walker Head, Governor-General of Canada in 1855.

Arran Township is named after the Isle of Arran, Scotland.

Baie de Dore, just south of **Inverhuron**, is said to be a corruption of the French "Baie du Dard" (Bay of Darts) because of the mass of pointed reeds growing at the south end of the bay.

Brant Township honours Joseph Brant, the celebrated Pinetree Chief of the Six Nations Indians.

Cabot Head was named by Governor Simcoe in 1790 to honour the discoverer of Canada, Jean Cabot.

Cape Croker was named after John Wilson Croker, Secretary to the British Admiralty, by Capt. Bayfield who did the first hydrographic survey of Lake Huron and its shores in 1822.

Cargill was named after its principal citizen, Henry Cargill, timber baron, mill owner and politician.

Carrick Township is the namesake of Robert the Bruce, Earl of Carrick.

Chepstow. The area's Irish settlers petitioned the government to open a post office named "Emmett" in memory of an Irish patriot who was hanged for rebellion against the English in 1803. However, some civil servant, recognizing the name, changed the application to read Chepstow, which was the residence of Earl Strongbow, the first English invader of Ireland!

Chesley, known as Sconeville from 1855 to 1868, was named after Solomon Chesley, a prominent civil servant of the day.

Colpo's Bay was named after Sir John Colpo, an admiral in the Royal Navy in the early 19th Century.

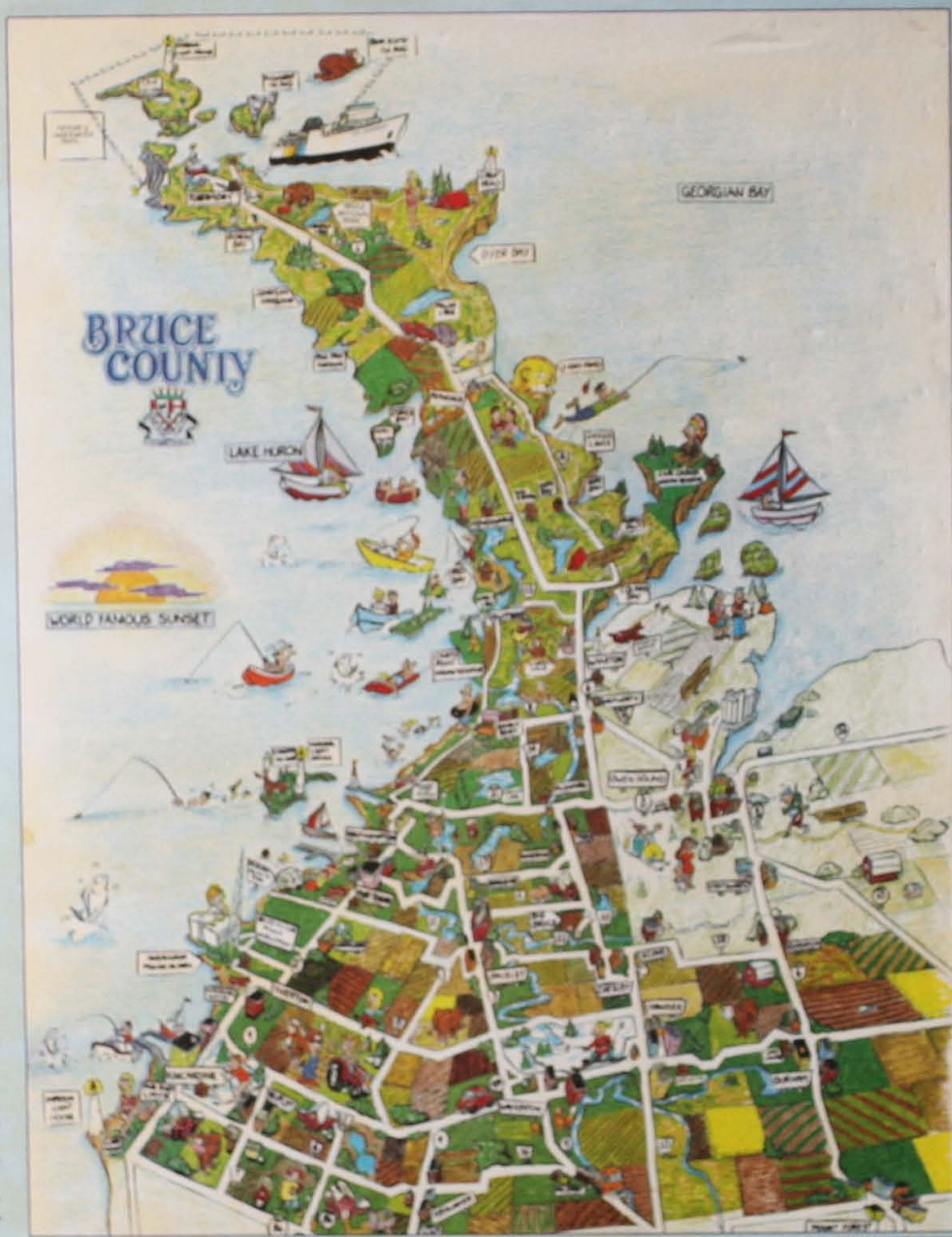
Culross Township is named after a royal burgh in Perthshire, Scotland and reputedly, one of the estates of James Bruce, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine.

Dyer's Bay in **Lindsay Township** (named after Earl Lindsay) is thought to be the site of the French Jesuit mission of St. Simon and St. Jude, marked on a map dated 1660.

Eastnor Township compliments John Somers Cocks, Earl of Somers, Viscount Eastnor of Eastnor Castle, a relative of Governor-General Head's wife.

Elderslie Township honours Scotland's patriot, Sir William Wallace, Knight of Elderslie.

Georgian Bay, originally called "la mer Douce" by Samuel de Champlain who explored it in 1616, was later called Sturgeon Lake, on a 1792 map, because of the mammoth sturgeon which once cruised its depths.



Produced by the Bruce County Planning and Economic Department as part of the Bruce County Yearbook 1987. Special thanks to Mr. Don White of Ontario Hydro Information Centre for assistance with base map. For further information contact: Mr. Don Scott, Director of Planning and Economic Development, P.O. Box 842, 30 Park Street, Walkerton, Ontario, N0G 2V0 (519) 861-1152 or P.O. Box 129, Bedford Street, Walkerton, Ontario, N0H 2T0 (519) 534-2592.

Gillies Lake, once called Ghost Lake because of a tribe which perished on its shores, is named after John Gillies, pioneer and M.P. for North Bruce in the 1870's and '80's.

Glamis (Glamis) is named after Glamis Castle, Forfarshire, Scotland, mentioned in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Greenock Township is named after the seaport town on the Clyde, Scotland.

Hepworth honours the birthplace of John Wesley in Epworth, England, but is spelled the way it was pronounced by the village's English settlers—with an "H".

Judge Creek is named after Patrick Judge who built a sawmill at **Barrow Bay** in 1874.

Kincardine, originally called Penetangore, was named after Governor-General James Bruce, as was **Kincardine Township**. The first post office in Bruce County was opened here in 1851.

Lake Huron and **Huron Township** are named after the peaceful Indian Nation which was almost obliterated by the warring Iroquois around 1650.

Lion's Head is so-called because of the profile of a lion's head on the magnificent white cliffs on the east side of **Isthmus Bay**.

Lucknow commemorates the city in India, besieged during the Indian Mutiny and defended by British troops. Several of the town's streets are named after prominent generals in the Indian Army at the time of the Mutiny.

Miller Lake takes its name from B.B. Miller, the first Indian Land Agent in Wiarton.

Oliphant is named after Laurence Oliphant, Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs in 1854. Oliphant is the Gaelic derivative of "elephant" meaning "great strength".

Paisley is named after a town in Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Penetangore River comes from the Indian name meaning "the river with sand on one side".

Port Elgin is the namesake of James Bruce, Earl of Elgin.

Rankin River honours Charles Rankin, the first surveyor to work on Bruce County. He ran the survey line from Owen Sound to the mouth of the Saugeen River in 1846.

Sauble River means "river of the sands". Sauble is a derivative of the French word, "sable", meaning sand.

Saugeen is a form of the Indian word meaning "mouth of the river", and is the name given to the **Township of Saugeen**, the river itself and, at one time, the **Bruce Peninsula**.

Southampton, named after the famous seacoast town in England, was first settled in 1848 by Capt. John Spence and Capt. William Kennedy, formerly with the Hudson's Bay Company.

Tara, originally called Eblena, is named after the ancient seat of royalty in Ireland.

Tobermory in **St. Edmunds Township** (after Bury St. Edmunds, England) has also been called The Tub, Bury and Collins' Inlet. It is named after the principal town on the Isle of Mull, Scotland and the two towns look remarkably alike.

Walkerton is named after one of its first settlers, Joseph Walker, who successfully won the political battle to have his town declared the county seat in 1867.

Warton honours the birthplace of Sir Edmund Walker Head. He was born at Warton Place in Maidstone, Kent.

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