

"The memory of the Red man,  
How can it pass away,  
While his names of music linger  
On each mount and stream and bay?"

### The Village Sites of Vespra

While the Township of Flos touches, at its northwest corner, the shores of Georgian Bay, the next township south (viz., Vespra) completes the span from lake to lake by having a small frontage at its southeast corner on the waters of Lake Simcoe. This small frontage is all included within the limits of the Town of Barrie; but for the territorial purposes required in this article, it may be regarded as a part of Vespra, with which it was originally surveyed.

### Physical Features of the Township

Vespra has physical features that come in three stages: (1) a tract of hilly ground along the east and south sides; (2) the Nottawasaga River with low ground along the west side; and (3) an intermediate belt between them having, however, but trifling interest, archaeologically. The west and northwest parts of the township near the Nottawasaga are very low, and lay until a recent time under a lake, or lake-expansion of the river. This inland lake covered a third of Vespra township and small parts of three others. Only a narrow strip of land three or four miles wide (in Flos township) separated this inland lake from the ancient waters of Georgian Bay, which came further south than they do now. We scarcely call this lake "prehistoric" because while there is no record of it preserved in the maps and narratives of the early white travellers, the Indians have preserved to this day a tradition or oral record of its former existence, their name "Minesing", (meaning "island"), for the large island in it, being still in use. Its abandoned shores all around the once-flooded space are well marked, and several village sites bear evidence that they stood on its margin when the lake existed, all of which were villages of the earlier or gouge-using people. Elsewhere gouges are always found beside waters of lakes and rivers, and in the present instance, although the sites where the gouges are found are now far from any shores, there is no exception to the rule, as the waters which once were beside them have since retreated.

Where the Nottawasaga leaves the inland flat ground at Edenvale, there is a terrace on each side of the river at about twenty feet, above the normal surface of the water or about thirty-five feet above Georgian Bay. Another terrace having broader plains, occurs about twenty feet higher than the last named. These terraces correspond in altitude with the similar abandoned shorelines in the Flos basin lower down the river. The space between the abandoned beaches, (at thirty-five and fifty-five feet above Georgian Bay) is also the outermost belt of the flat ground or lake-bed, whose shape is now covered on the surface of the ground by dry beds of marl mixed with fresh-water shells, deposits from the ancient lake which overlaid