

Marathon Information Centre



P.O. Bag "TM", Marathon, ON P0T 2E0
Phone: (807) 229-0480 Fax: (807) 229-3201
Toll Free: 1(800) 621-1029

Peninsula Harbour

The first record of Mount Peninsula, on which the former Marathon Pulp Inc. Mill is built, is on a map drawn in 1650. This map is kept in Paris. Peninsula is also clearly outlined on a map published by the Jesuits and based on Father Claude Allouez's circumnavigation of Lake Superior in 1667.

In the early 1880's, due to the harbour's depth and sheltered location, Peninsula Harbour was chosen by William Van Horne as the main supply base of this area during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Large steamers came to the harbour pier bearing supplies and equipment. An estimated 12,000 men worked out of Peninsula, utilizing up to 5,000 horses. Sprawled along the shore of the bay were a collection of hovels, tents, shacks and clapboard houses, a hotel and a warehouse.

During the second Riel rebellion in 1885, troops were moved from Ottawa to Saskatchewan in eleven days, using the tracks from Peninsula to Red Rock.

Construction of the pulp mill started in 1944 by Marathon Paper Mills of Canada Ltd. The area previously known as Peninsula became Marathon.

Opposite the mill lies Hawkins Island, named after David Beacon Hawkins who kept the lighthouse at the turn of the century. David Coveney, the last lighthouse keeper, served the government from 1922 until his retirement twenty-six (26) years later. The lighthouse was blown up and replaced by a steel tower in 1975.

SOURCES: A Good Place..... To Live, To Work, To Play, Marathon, Ontario (by Marathon Corporation of Canada, Ltd.) Pic, Pulp and People, 1967