

**Appendix A**

**Town of Brighton Historical Information and Assets**

### Town of Brighton History

The Town of Brighton was originally part of the Macomb Purchase, which encompassed the lands that are now Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, as well as portions of Herkimer and Oswego Counties. The Town of Brighton was split off from the Town of Duane in 1858. The earliest settlers in the town were Moses Follensby, Samuel Johnson, and Amos and Levi Rice. Oliver Keese and Thomas Tomlinson build Keese's Mill in 1851. Other prominent citizens who leant their names to our lakes, hotels and roads, including Arthur Osgood and James Wardner, arrived at around the same time (Collins 1977). The most famous and most influential Brighton settler, Apollos (Paul) Smith, purchased land for his hotel on the shore of Lower St. Regis Lake in 1858. The hotel, which later became Paul Smith's College, was operated by Paul Smith, his wife Lydia, and their descendents for nearly 100 years.

Other resorts and hotels sprung up in Brighton as hunting/fishing resorts or tuberculosis cure cottages, including Garondah Cottage, Wardner's Rainbow Inn, Northbrook Lodge, Clark-Wardner Camps, and McColloms Hotel. Brighton was also home to two tuberculosis sanatoriums: Gabriels Sanatorium (now Camp Gabriels Correctional Facility) and Rainbow Sanatorium. However, Paul Smith's Hotel was the most influential facility on the development of the town. Smith was responsible for bringing electricity, telephone/telegraph service, mail service, stagecoaches, and a rail line to the town in order to serve his guests (Collins 1977). The hamlet of Gabriels developed beginning in approximately 1892 around the railroad station where guests arrived and were taken by stagecoach to the hotel. The Town of Brighton was known for having the best roads in the area, a distinction that is more or less maintained to this day (Seaver 1918).

Many famous people frequented Paul Smith's Hotel in its fashionable resort heyday, including P.T. Barnum, William A. Rockefeller, Irving Berlin, E. H. Harriman Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau, and three different US presidents: Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, and Calvin Coolidge. In 1926, President Calvin Coolidge and his wife spent the entire summer at White Pine Camp in Paul Smiths, hence the nickname, the Summer White House (Collins 1977, Paul Smith's College 2007).

### Town of Brighton Assets

Brighton lies in two watersheds, the Ontario/St. Lawrence watershed and the Saranac/Champlain watershed. In the Ontario/St. Lawrence watershed are the St. Regis lakes chain, consisting of Upper St. Regis, Spitfire and Lower St. Regis which together are the headwaters of the middle branch of the St. Regis River, Rice Lake, the source of the east branch of the St. Regis River, and Osgood Pond, the source of the Osgood River. Rainbow Lake, located in the Saranac/Champlain watershed, drains into the north branch of the Saranac River. Other significant water bodies in the town are Jones Pond, the Spectacle Ponds, Black Pond, Barnum Pond, the Forestmere Lakes, Slush Pond, and Mountain Pond.

Portions of the Debar Mountain and Saranac Lake Wild Forests are located within the Town of Brighton and recreational opportunities abound. Public campsites on state land exist at Jones Pond, Rainbow Lake, Mountain Pond, and Hays Brook. Public hiking trails can be found at

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Jones Pond, the Red Dot Trail at Osgood Pond, Hays Brook, Jenkins Mountain, Black Pond, the Jackrabbit Trail, and the Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC), along with miles of old logging trails on Paul Smith's College conservation easement land and other trails on private lands. Many lakes and ponds in the town provide recreational paddling and boating opportunities, including Osgood Pond, Rainbow Lake, the St. Regis Lakes, Jones Pond, Mountain Pond, the St. Regis River, the Osgood River, Church Pond, Barnum Pond, and Black Pond.

### Town of Brighton Attractions

#### Winter:

Jackrabbit Trail Skiing

Snowshoeing and skiing at the Visitor Interpretive Center (327-3000)

Snowmobiling (<http://www.adirondacklakes.com/snowmobiling.cfm>)

Ice Fishing – Barnum Pond, Jones Pond, St. Regis Lakes, Rainbow Lake, Osgood Pond

#### Spring/Summer/Fall:

Hiking: VIC, Jenkins Mountain, Jones Hill, Red Dot Trail, Hayes Brook Trail, Jackrabbit Trail

Canoeing/Boating access: Barnum Pond, Mountain Pond, Black Pond (canoe only), St. Regis River, Upper St. Regis Lake, Lower St. Regis Lake, Church Pond (canoe only- access to Osgood Pond), Jones Pond, Rainbow Lake.

Fishing (trout stocked): Mountain Pond, Black Pond, Deer Pond, Long Pond, Loon Pond, Lost Pond, Upper St. Regis Lake (salmon), Upper Spectacle Pond.

Camping (primitive campsites): Jones Pond, Osgood Pond (lean-tos), Mountain Pond, nine carries canoe route, Rainbow Lake.

Nature observation/birding: Visitor Interpretive Center

Tucker Farms: strawberry picking (June-July), corn maze (August-October), pumpkin picking (October)

Horseback riding trails: Hayes Brook trails

Geocaching: use zip codes 12970, 12976, 12939

Annual Calendar of Brighton Events

Saturdays are for Kids programs (VIC) - year-round: 327-3000  
Chilly Ski and Snowshoe Festival (VIC) - mid-January: 327-3000  
Lasagna Dinner (Paul Smiths-Gabriels Fire Department)– March: 327-3600  
Maple Sugarhouse Breakfast (Paul Smiths College) – mid-April: 327-6430  
Farmers Market (Paul Smith’s College) – June-August: 891-7470  
Adirondack Birding Festival (VIC) – early June: 327-3000  
Guided Wilderness Canoe Paddles (VIC) - every other Wednesday, summer: 327-3000  
Adirondack Almanac Lecture Series (VIC): Wednesday evenings, summer only: 327-3000  
White Pine Camp Summer White House tours: Saturdays, July and August: 327-3030  
Brighton History Days (Town)– mid-July: 327-3202  
St. Regis Canoe Invitational Race (Paul Smiths College) - July: 327-6389  
Ice Cream Social (Town) – early August: 327-3202  
Adirondack Wildlife Festival (VIC) – early August: 327-3000  
Open Studio Weekend (Adirondack Artists’ Guild) – late September: 891-2615  
Corn Maze (Tucker Farms) – August-October: 637-1230  
Cut Your Own Christmas Tree (Moody’s Tree Farm) – November-December: 891-4147  
Joy of Giving Party (New & Improved) – second Saturday in December: 327-3554