

Kempenfelt Kelly



Does a Sea Serpent Live in Kempenfelt Bay?

Igopogo

A mysterious creature may live in the depths of Kempenfelt Bay, known to be the deepest part of Lake Simcoe. The scientific community calls it 'Igopogo' - a legendary cryptozoological creature that is rumoured to dwell in Lake Simcoe. Sightings have been published in Lake Simcoe area newspapers since the mid-nineteenth century.

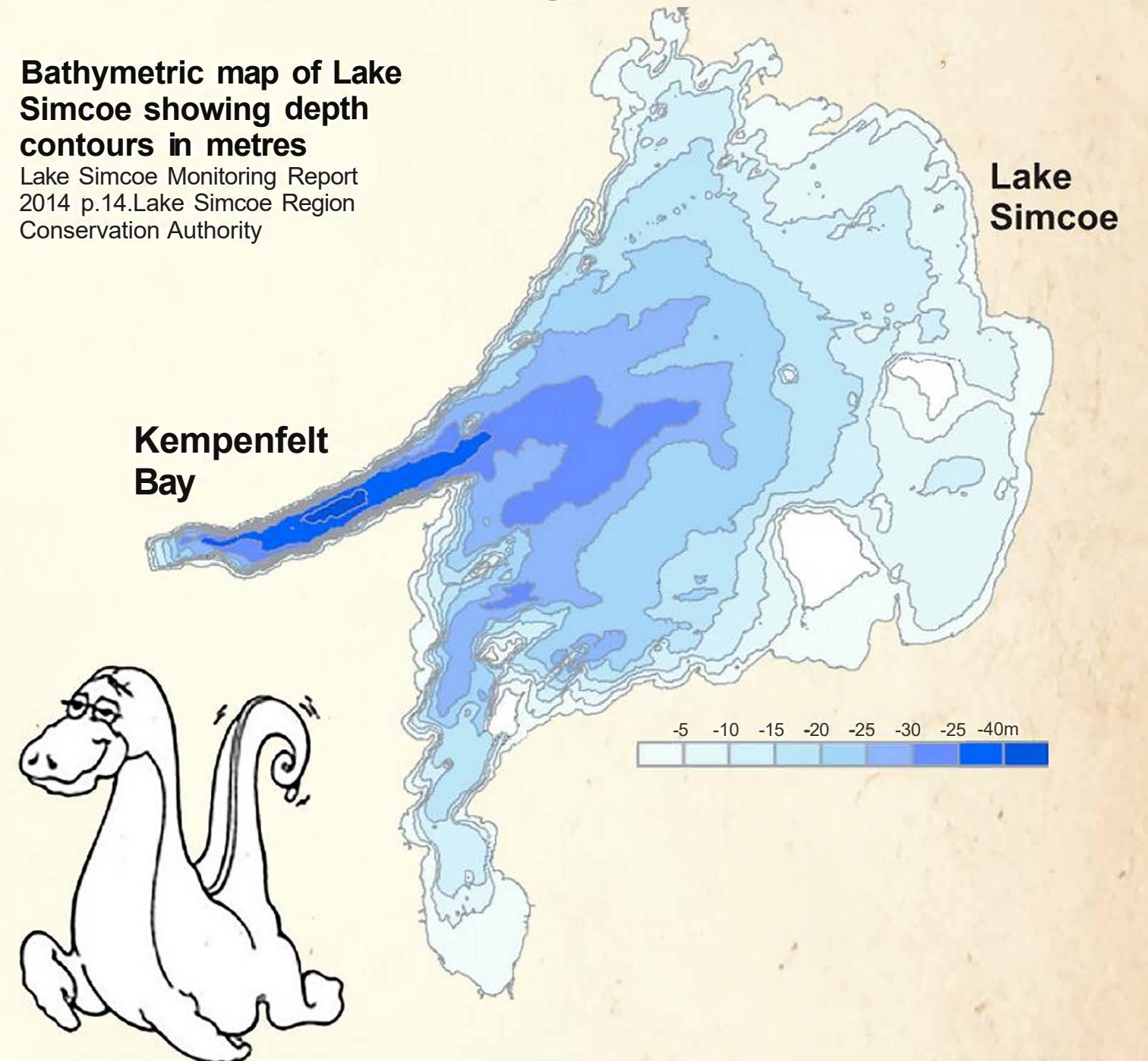
Mulcaster Wharf Sighting

The Northern Advance reported an appearance by the wharf at the foot of Mulcaster Street on May 3, 1900. Several boys fishing from the Mulcaster Street wharf saw a dark object in the water approaching them. As it came near, it lifted itself partly out of the water. The boys dropped their rods and bolted, attracting the attention of a passerby who followed them back to the scene.

Horse Head, Fan Tail

The creature lifted from the water a head like that of a horse, and flapped the surface from time to time with its huge fan like tail. Its length was not more than eight or ten feet. Some stones were thrown, but the sea creature took its time to finally sink beneath the surface and disappear in the bay. It was similar to a serpent seen at Raikes Point near Shanty Bay five years earlier and ten years earlier near Orillia.

Bathymetric map of Lake Simcoe showing depth contours in metres
Lake Simcoe Monitoring Report
2014 p.14.Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation Authority



Barrie's Official Mascot

Sightings continued during the twentieth century in Lake Simcoe. To capture the imagination of local children, Barrie businessman Arch Brown commissioned a cartoon logo in 1967 that named the sea serpent as Kempenfelt Kelly, and became the official City of Barrie mascot in 1990. The legend continues to be celebrated in parkland around the waterfront today.

Sea Serpent Sculpture, Heritage Park



Kempenfelt Kelly mascot in Centennial Park



Sea Serpent Climber, Minet's Point Park

