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COVER:

Winnipeg, Portage Avenue looking east from Har-  
grave, circa 1912.

Photo: Manitoba Archives, Winnipeg

COUVERTURE:

Winnipeg, Avenue Portage, vue à l'est de Har-  
grave, circa 1912.

Photo: Archives du Manitoba, Winnipeg

# CANOMA

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## CHIEF GEOGRAPHER'S PLACE NAME SURVEY

1905-1909

### IV. MANITOBA

Alan Rayburn\*

This survey of Manitoba's place names from 1905 to 1909 is the fourth in the series. Earlier papers were published on British Columbia's names in CANOMA, Volume 4, Number 1, July 1978, on Alberta's names in Volume 5, Number 1, July 1979, and on Saskatchewan's names in Volume 6, Number 2, December 1980.

In 1905 the province of Manitoba was served with 542 post offices. To each of these James White mailed a questionnaire requesting information on the origin and use of local names. He received and filed 338 replies, representing a response from almost two of every three postmasters or their designated respondents. No letters, however, are on file from some prominent places, among them being Winnipeg, Brandon, St. Boniface, Dauphin, Minnedosa and Selkirk.

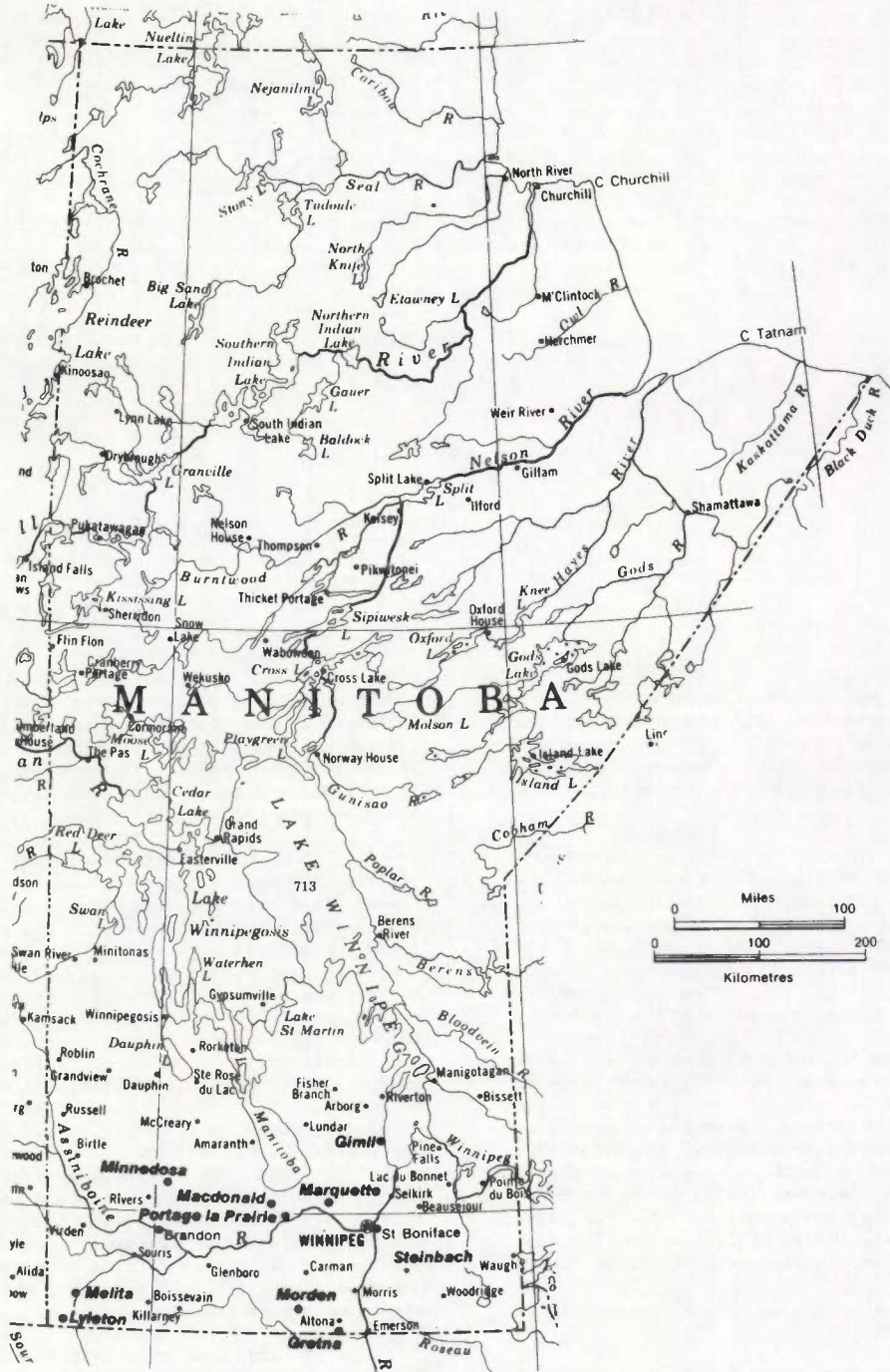
Although most of the Manitoba post offices had been in service for only 20 to 30 years by 1905, many postmasters had no idea why their offices were so named, and some even provided incorrect interpretations. Examples of errors submitted include the information from *Sidney*, which the postmaster claimed was for Sidney Smith, a companion of the Prince of Wales, when the place was really named for Sidney Austin, a newspaper reporter who accompanied the Marquess of Lorne party across the Prairies in 1881. *Austin*, the adjoining station and post office, is also reported to be named for

Sidney Austin, although the postmaster in 1905, Walter Clifford, stated that it was given for an engineer on the railway survey staff. The postmaster of *La Rivière* assumed his office was named because it was French for "the river", when it in reality honoured A.A.C. La Rivière (1842-1925), a prominent Manitoba political figure.

Some of the returns are not without their touches of humour. The postmaster of *Marquette*, H.O. Smith, said he believed his office honoured General Marquette and wryly suggested that if he had had "as sticky a nature as the alkali gumbo in Marquette, he should have been buried right here, & a tomb erected, so that people around here would know that he had got what he richly deserved for ever putting a depot in such a mire hole." CPCGN records indicate it was named about 1882 for the Jesuit missionary, Jacques Marquette (1637-1675). R.C. Bayliss, the postmaster of *Wakeham*, explained that he was discouraged by the lack of political awareness among the local Mennonites. "Speaking to them about local improvements such as school, roads, post office, etc., I frequently made use of the expression 'it is time for you people to wake up', and when we had the post office granted us [1898] I named it *Wakeham*, which was intended to be an abbreviation of wake them up." Unfortunately, the *Wakeham* post office remained awake for only ten years, closing in November, 1908. The name was also used for the school in this farming community 21 km southeast of Morden at the North Dakota border, but it has never been identified on topographical maps.

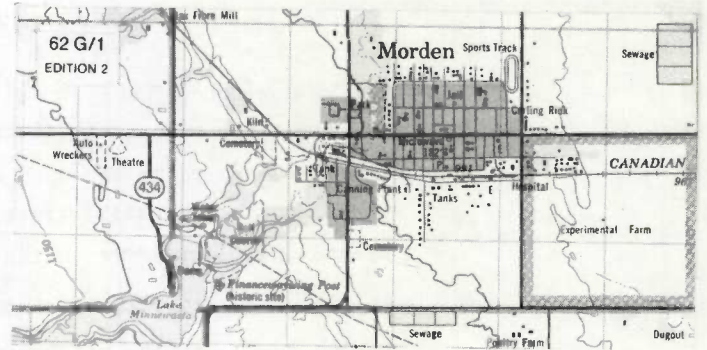
\* Alan Rayburn, Executive Secretary, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

A large number of letters received by Mr. White were from places named for persons who had distinguished themselves within Manitoba. Among these were letters from *Roblin* (for



Manitoba: showing communities for which details of replies to James White's circulars are discussed

Premier R.P. Roblin), *Morris* (for Lieutenant Governor A. Morris), and *Winkler* (for V. Winkler, prominent landowner and MLA). Two letters have been chosen to indicate the very valuable information provided in some letters on the history and early development of populated places named for settlers prominent in their particular areas. The MORDEN postmaster, James Stirton, may have had the reply written on his behalf, since the letter was submitted unsigned. The details of the migration by Alvey Morden and his ancestors from Wales, through the United States and Canada provide a useful insight into the historical geography of Manitoba. The notes provided by R.B. Lyle on the establishment of LYLETON also reveal specific dates of the arrival of the first settlers and the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway through the village in the southwestern part of the province.



The town of Morden is named after Alvey Morden, who settled in Manitoba in 1874; homesteading the north-west quarter section nine, Township three, range five, west of the principal meridian of Manitoba. He lived here continuously till his death which occurred October 8<sup>th</sup> 1891. The Morden family are originally of Welsh extraction; first settling in York State in 1690, and remaining there until the close of the war in 1777, when the States gained their independence. Being much averse to the new order of things they migrated to New Brunswick, and from there they moved to Prince Edward County Ontario in 1849. The subject of this sketch then went to reside in Bruce County, living there until 1874, when he came to Manitoba as mentioned above.

LYLETON, MAN.

The town of Lyleton was named in honor of Andrew Lyle, who was the first settler in this district. He came from Smiths Falls, Ont., and settled here in the summer of 1881, on section 10, township I, range 28, where he still lives. He was the first post master of Lyleton, the post office which was established in 1890, was kept at his house until 1900. Owing to the growth of the settlement northward, the office was removed in that year to the residence of Robert Murray, the present post master, on section 22, township I, until July 1st 1903, range 28, when it was again moved to its present location in the village of Lyleton, on the C.P.R. which was extended to this point in September 1902.

Yours truly,

 Asst. P.M.

Reply to circular: from Lyleton

Many names in Manitoba are derived from persons who had distinguished careers beyond the borders of Manitoba. Such a name is *Macdonald*, a small community 19 km northwest of Portage la Prairie, named for Canada's first prime minister. In 1884 Elias Brown was appointed postmaster there and the place was given the name Drumconner. Presumably the residents disliked the name because, Mr. Brown relates, "some 10 years later the ratepayers petitioned the Depart. to change the name to *Macdonald* - it is known by that name and will be for all time to come." *Sifton*, another small community 26 km north of Dauphin, is generally believed to be named for Sir Clifford Sifton, who played a prominent role in bringing immigrants to Canada at the turn of the century. He himself opposed the use of this commemorative name, even though it was given in honour of his uncle, William Sifton, who was involved in the construction of the railway north from Dauphin and was the first resident of Minitonas. Canadian Northern officials proposed changing Sifton to Lemberg, for the capital of Galicia, but this name was given to a station and post office in Saskatchewan in 1905. *Carman* was named in 1879 for the Reverend Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada.

Names specially constructed to designate new post offices have a particular fascination for toponymists. An example of such a name is *Hamiota*, created by the postal inspector (possibly W.W. McLeod<sup>1</sup> of Winnipeg), from the personal name Hamilton and an Indian word for "too many". A similar name, for which a letter from the postmaster of 1905 is also on file, is *Miniota*, meaning "much water". Another unusual toponymic formation is *Birtle*. When H.H. Wood applied about

1879 for a post office beside Birdtail Creek, to be called St. Clair City, the name was rejected because of duplication. In its place Mr. Wood devised "Birtle" from the name of the creek, a tributary of the Assiniboine River.

There are several names of Cree, Ojibway, Sioux and Chipewyan origin in Manitoba. Among names from Cree are *Winnipeg* ("murky water"), *Winnipegosis* ("little lake of murky water"), *The Pas* ("narrows between wooded banks") and *Wasagamung* ("clear water"). The postmaster of *Minitonas* noted that that name, derived from the Ojibway, was used by the *Saulteaux* to mean "home of the little god". In 1879 Joseph S. Armitage chose the name *Minnedosa* for his mill site, having been informed that "Minnedouza" was Sioux for "rapid water". His daughter, born the following year was also named *Minnedosa*. The post office was opened in 1881. Among other names conceived from elements of native languages are *Napinka* (Sioux for "double") and *Neepawa* (Ojibway for "abundance").

Many settlers had a fondness for the names of places in their homelands. Prominent, of course were names from England, Scotland and Ireland. In 1882 the Canadian Pacific Railway proposed honouring one of its directors, the Duke of Manchester, by replacing the postal name Gopher Creek with Manchester. Because the name had already been registered as a townsite on Whitewater Lake near present Deloraine, the railway authorities chose the name *Virden*, from one of the duke's seats in England.<sup>2</sup> A place named from a similar source was *Carberry*, derived from a seat of Lord Elpinstone, who accompanied the directors of the Great Northern Railway on the route

<sup>1</sup> Mr. McLeod also devised the name *Ninga*, from the Ojibway word for "mother", to replace the duplicated proposal, Stanley.

<sup>2</sup> P. Ham reports that Ida Clingan, a local historian, believed the name probably originated from the German town from which the Duke of Manchester's wife had come. (*Place Names of Manitoba*, 1980, p. 133).

James White Esq.  
Respectfully - Ottawa.

Gretna April 17/08

Dear Sir

In the Spring of 1883, the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. connected their railway system in Manitoba with the Great Eastern Railroad of the United States, at Gretna, Manitoba, the point of intersection on the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel of Latitude which divides, here, Canada from the United States, and forms the International Boundary Line, between the two countries. Town sites were laid out. One a little to the south of the Boundary Line in United States territory was called Beche, an Indian word signifying "friend". The other right on the border in British possessions was named by the C.P.R. officials Gretna. Both towns are now prosperous business centres for their respective districts. Gretna was surveyed and laid out on a virgin section of rich, green prairie, broad lands, and from the similarity of its location, and surroundings to the historical "Gretna Green", on the Scottish border in Great Britain, famed in legend and song for its many marriages of long-away-couples, the name was suggested and accepted.

Reference to the name of Gretna Manitoba is to be found in one of Agnes Lam's works viz "Lords of the North".

Yours truly  
J. J. Stewart.

Gretna. Manitoba.

in 1882. Writing on behalf of the GRETNA postmaster J.F. Tennant explained that the name was chosen because its location on the Manitoba-North Dakota border was similar to its counterpart on the Scotland-England border.

Iceland was the source of a large number of names for populated places, especially in the area between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba. Among such names are *Arborg*, *Baldur*, *Hnausa*, *Lundar*, *Reykjavik* and *Hecla*. The letter from GIMLI, reproduced here, describes the choice of the name for the home of Odin, the chief Norse god.

A number of Germanic names were transferred from Mennonite settlements in Russia. The postmaster of STEINBACH, A.S. Friesen, apologized for his ability in English, but still provided a good detailed account of the origin and meaning of the name and of the first settlement at Steinbach in 1874. Mennonite settlers also brought the Ukrainian name *Chortitz*. Ukrainian settlers provided several names for communities, among them being *Ukrainia* and *Komarno*. Unfortunately, no letters suitable for reproduction were received from any of the Ukrainian-named post offices.

The physical landscape of Manitoba is reflected in a large number of names of populated places. *Rapid City* recalls the name Rapid River, one of the variants of Little Saskatchewan River; *Pilot Mound* is named for a prominent landmark important to the first settlers travelling across the Prairies. *Plum Coulee* derives its name from a local coulee or valley where, according to the postmaster in 1905, there were a large number of wild plum trees growing. On behalf of the postmaster at *Portage la Prairie*, W. Scott Garrioch gave Mr. White some valuable information on the name of the city and of several local geographical features. Among these is *High Bluff*, the word "bluff" signifying a grove of

trees rising conspicuously from the surrounding countryside. Perhaps for the first settlers many groves of trees on the horizon reminded them of the abrupt change in elevation identified as a "bluff" in their previous experience of describing the landscape. This term occurs in many names in southern Manitoba. Similar bluffs are described in letters from *Oak Bluff* and *Woodlea*.

Several postmasters reported to Mr. White that they were given names by the Post Office Department, although other names had been requested. The residents of *Mekiwin* wanted *McGregor*, after the first settlers, but *MacGregor* had already been assigned to a station 35 km west of *Portage la Prairie* by the Marquis of Lorne, for the chaplain of St. Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh.

The postmaster of *Richland*, 37 km east of Winnipeg, could see no particular reason for that designation, and in 1923 it was changed to *Anola*, said to be an invented name. Six kilometres further east the early settlers wanted the name *Evergreen*, but the postal authorities provided *Queens Valley*, which the postmaster in 1905 claimed had no relationship to the district. The postmaster at MELITA, R.M. Graham, expressed a wish to change that name, presumably derived from the ancient name of Malta, to *Menota*, a former post office on the east bank of the *Souris River* near *Melita*.

Many places along with their names have completely disappeared. *Nelson* is one example. A.P. Stevenson explained in his letter that it was named for Adam Nelson, who settled there in 1877 and established grist and saw mills.

"A village soon began to grow up. A post office was opened and named *Nelsonville* after Adam Nelson the builder of the mill. In 1879-80 *Nelsonville* was incorporated as a town and

Re the name: Gimli

The first Icelandic settlers, coming to soil place in 1874, named the place Gimli, which is the name of the residence of Odin, the "Father of Gods and men" according to the Scandinavian Mythology.

According to some Mythology all "good and brave men" should come to Gimli after death and stay there with "Alfader" = Odin.

Reply to circular: from Gimli



The word Steinbach comes from a brook where  
stones was in the water it would be about Stone Brook,  
in English. Steinbach should be in 2 words (Stein-Bach)  
Stone-Brook. This name Steinbach here in Manitoba  
come from the old Country: Russia while nearly all Settlers  
in this Village who settled here at first in the fall ad. 1874.  
Came from Russia out of a Village of Steinbach in there  
for the give this Village the same name, and we also found  
a small caulee here where some Stone, where in the caulee  
ore brook, so it made the name Steinhadore (Stone Brook)  
here in Russia was 2 Village of the same name Steinbach  
one was in the Government Taurien the other in the Government  
(or as we call it here Province) of Cherson, and I think that old  
people told me that she came from Germanie out of a place  
called Steinbach (Stone-Brook) it is a German name for  
Stone-Brook that is all i could write about, this name  
but I do not know if this is what you like to know, or  
what i should write i am not good educated in English

Yours truly

A. S. Friesen

P.M. of Steinbach

Melita was evidently named after the Island (now Malta) The first syllable mal - meaning honey - the last syllable I am not sure of ~~their~~ meaning - The Bible pronunciation is mēlita - accent on first syllable. This pron. is however seldom used here. Generally mēlita - all vowels short and accent on second syllable - Some pronounce the i as e thus meleeta. This pronunciation gives rise to bad spelling such as maleta - which is an objection. Personally I'd like to have the name changed to say menota - a P.O. just across de river in early times contemporary as a little before melita. Menota (Indians much as pure water) would be appropriate - Menota is now defunct

Yours truly  
R.M. Graham

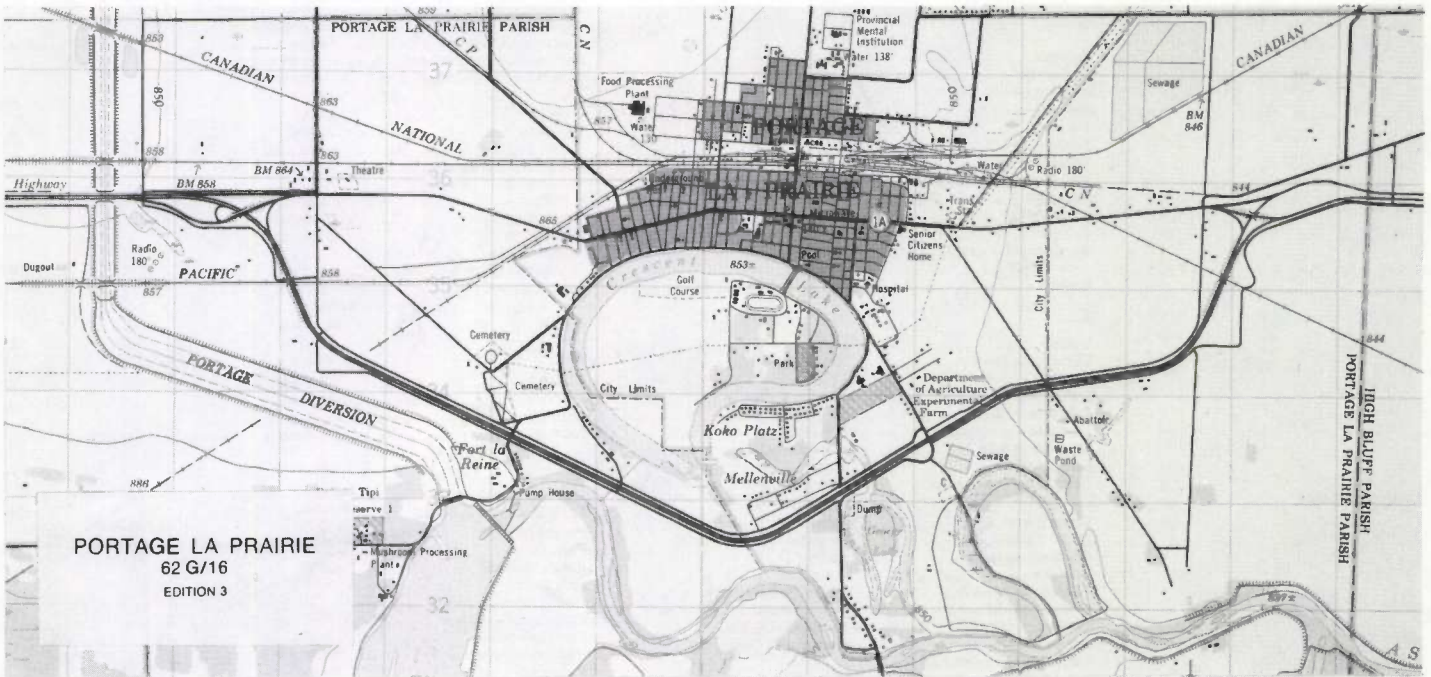
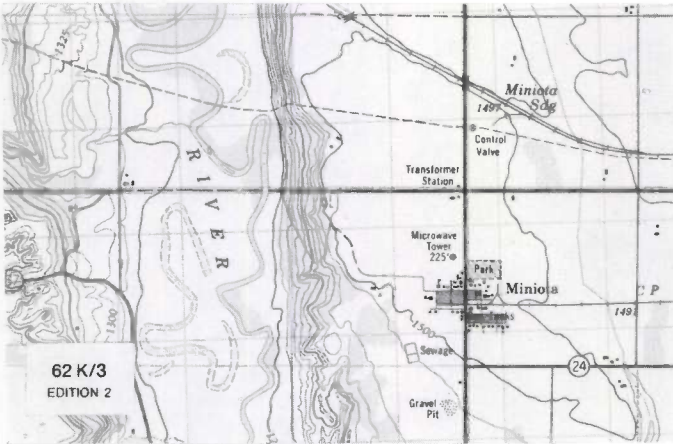
P.S. Is the creek here called Graham Creek on your official maps? or what?

R.M.G.

the name was shortened to Nelson. On the advent of railways these all missed the town by about 6 miles."

The buildings were moved, mostly to Morden on the Canadian Pacific Railway 10 kilometres to the south, and the post office was closed in 1908.

This selection of details in the letters from the Chief Geographer's Place Name Survey of 1905 to 1909 represents a cross section of the variety of ways that places were named in Manitoba. The letters received from Ontario postmasters from 1905 to 1909 will be reviewed in CANOMA, Volume 8, Number 1.



The White letters for the four western provinces are available on microfiche from Micromedia Limited, 165 Hôtel de Ville, Place du Portage, Hull, Québec, J8X 3X2. Attention: Paul Caldwell. Enquiries on single names may be directed to the CPCGN Secretariat but those wishing to have a full set of the letters should write to Micromedia.

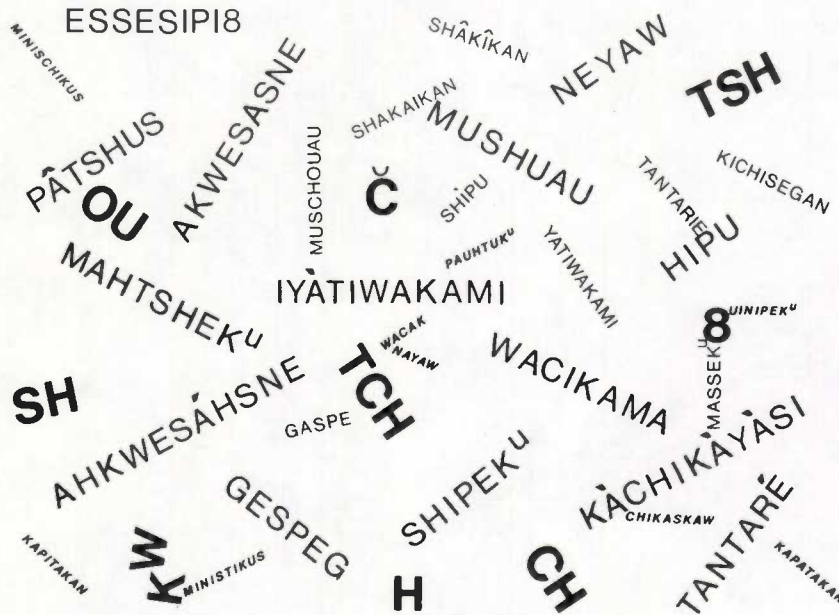
ATELIER SUR L'ÉCRITURE DES NOMS DE LIEUX AMÉRINDIENS  
WORKSHOP ON THE WRITING OF AMERINDIAN PLACE NAMES

La Commission de toponymie du Québec a organisé et tenue, les 7, 8 et 9 mars 1979, un Atelier sur l'écriture des noms de lieux amérindiens, auquel ont participé une quarantaine de personnes: autochtones, spécialistes et utilisateurs.

Par la suite la Commission a publié les documents de travail et les résolutions qui ont émané au terme des journées de travail. Le Secrétariat du CPCNG tient à remercier la Commission d'avoir accordé l'autorisation de reproduire les résolutions dans CANOMA avec les paroles de bienvenue de M. Henri Dorion, alors président de la Commission de toponymie.

On March 7, 8 and 9, 1979 the Commission de toponymie du Québec hosted a workshop on the writing of Amerindian place names. About forty participated, including native people, specialists and users.

Subsequently the Commission published the working documents together with the resolutions resulting from the three days of discussion. The Secretariat of the CPCGN is grateful to the Commission for its permission to reproduce in CANOMA these resolutions and the words of welcome of Henri Dorion, then President of the Commission de toponymie.



PAROLES DE BIENVENUE PRONONCÉES PAR LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA COMMISSION DE TOPONYMIE, MONSIEUR HENRI DORION

Bien avant que l'homme européen ne vienne dans ces territoires qui constituent aujourd'hui le Québec, les premiers occupants avaient créé et utilisé des milliers de noms pour désigner leurs lacs, leurs rivières, leurs points de rassemblement. Malheureusement, un grand nombre ont sombré dans l'oubli; mais plusieurs - des milliers sans doute - sont encore utilisés bien qu'ils n'aient pas tous, loin de là, été

inventoriés et officialisés.

Cependant, la tradition orale a souvent constitué le seul mode de transmission de ces noms, de génération en génération; en même temps, des cartographes, ignorant les langues amérindiennes, en ont inscrit un grand nombre sur des cartes de façon approximative ou fautive. Ajoutons que, nonobstant la

qualité des travaux récents des linguistes préoccupés de la normalisation de l'écriture des langues amérindiennes, celles-ci n'ont pas encore de systèmes syllabiques ou alphabétiques unanimement reconnus. Ces différents facteurs font qu'aujourd'hui la Commission de toponymie du Québec est confrontée à un problème très délicat, celui de l'écriture des noms de lieux amérindiens.

La Commission de toponymie s'est vu confier par la Loi le mandat d'inventorier, de normaliser, de choisir, d'officialiser et de diffuser les noms de lieux du Québec. Des enquêtes toponymiques effectuées aux quatre coins de notre territoire, ont permis d'inventorier des milliers de noms géographiques de langue amérindiennes; d'autres enquêtes sont en voie de réalisation ou prévues pour l'avenir immédiat. La politique de la Commission de toponymie est de respecter dans la plus large mesure possible les noms en usage dans les différentes régions du Québec. Plus spécifiquement, elle s'est donnée comme règle: "Dans les régions habitées ou fréquentées par les populations autochtones, préséance doit être donnée aux noms amérindiens, surtout s'ils sont consacrés par un usage ancien ou actuel, à condition que ces noms répondent aux autres critères"<sup>1</sup>. Mais avant d'officialiser ces noms géographiques, il est important de s'assurer que les toponymes adoptés sont conformes à des systèmes d'écriture acceptés par les usagers, les spécialistes linguistiques et cartographes, mais d'abord et avant tout par les groupes autochtones.

Cet objectif, pour difficile qu'il soit à atteindre, n'en demeure pas moins le but poursuivi par la Commission de toponymie en organisant les 7, 8 et 9 mars 1979, un *Atelier sur l'écriture des noms de lieux amérindiens*. Les travaux de cet atelier, qui groupe autochtones et spécialistes, contribueront, nous l'espérons, à dégager un consensus relatif à la difficile question de l'écriture des noms de lieux amérindiens. Ce consensus doit nécessairement tenir compte de deux aspects fondamentaux de la science des noms de lieux, la toponymie.

1 *Guide toponymique du Québec*, p. 17, critère de choix n° 10.

- (1) Un premier aspect constitue la règle d'or de la toponymie: le respect de l'histoire en même temps que des conditions socio-culturelles présentes. Cet objectif, dans le cas spécifique de la toponymie amérindienne, peut s'exprimer sans équivoque: la Commission de toponymie estime que c'est son rôle de participer à ce mouvement historique qui consiste à reconnaître sans restriction, les droits des autochtones du Québec dont celui, à vrai dire fondamental, de dénommer leur propre pays.
- (2) Un autre aspect fondamental du consensus recherché tient à des questions d'un ordre bien différent, c'est-à-dire les problèmes techniques qu'implique la normalisation des noms de lieux. Aujourd'hui, tout nom de lieu est susceptible d'apparaître sur des cartes géographiques, d'être classé dans des répertoires, d'être mis en mémoire dans des ordinateurs, d'être diffusé et souvent "prononcé" par les médias d'information. L'on devine que ce sort, maintenant réservé aux noms de lieux, ne va pas sans contrainte. Ainsi, l'utilisation de tous les signes que souhaitent utiliser les linguistes peut représenter des coûts prohibitifs ou poser des problèmes de classement alphabétique pratiquement insolubles. Par ailleurs, il se peut que se pose le dilemme d'avoir à choisir entre, d'une part, une forme écrite qui satisfasse les linguistes qui ont le souci de la précision phonétique en même temps que la logique interne de la langue et, d'autre part, une forme qui permette aux non-initiés (c'est-à-dire la très grande majorité des utilisateurs) de prononcer les noms en question de la façon la moins incorrecte possible.

Voilà, simplement exprimé, un des dilemmes qui s'offrent à ceux qui ont la difficile tâche de normaliser les noms de lieux amérindiens, comme d'ailleurs l'ensemble de la toponymie du Québec. La Commission de toponymie s'est vu confier cette tâche et elle entend respecter le mandat qui lui a été donné. Aussi, compte-t-elle sur l'appui des autochtones, spécialistes et utilisateurs, pour identifier puis appliquer des moyens satisfaisants à tous égards qui nous permettent à la fois de normaliser la nomenclature de notre patrimoine culturel dont la toponymie est l'un des éléments les plus vivants.

D'avance, je remercie tous les participants à cet atelier de leur expertise et de leur précieuse collaboration.

★★★★

## RÉSOLUTIONS

### RÉSOLUTION 1: DISTRIBUTION DE LA DOCUMENTATION COLLIGÉE

CONSIDÉRANT l'intérêt de la documentation préparée pour l'Atelier sur l'écriture des noms de lieux amérindiens, tant par les participants que par les personnes de la Commission de toponymie;

CONSIDÉRANT le fait que plusieurs autres spécialistes et utilisateurs auraient intérêt à consulter et évaluer ces documents et que leur opinion relativement au problème étudié serait précieuse pour la Commission;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE la documentation relative à l'atelier et aux questions qui y ont été soulevées soit colligée puis distribuée à toutes les personnes et organismes préoccupés par le sujet.

## RESOLUTIONS

### RESOLUTION 1: DISTRIBUTION OF COLLECTED DOCUMENTATION

CONSIDERING the interest the members of the Commission de toponymie and the people who took part in the workshop on the writing of Amerindian place names showed in the documentation prepared for the workshop;

CONSIDERING that several other experts and users would be interested in consulting and assessing the documents, and that their opinions on the matter would be valuable to the Commission;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT all documentation relating to the workshop and to the matters raised there be collected, then distributed to all persons and organizations concerned.

RÉSOLUTION 2: DIFFUSION DE L'INFORMATION SUR LES LANGUES AMÉRINDIENNES

CONSIDÉRANT que les langues amérindiennes au Québec sont trop peu connues;

CONSIDÉRANT que cette ignorance entraîne de nombreux problèmes, notamment quant à l'utilisation et au respect des noms de lieux amérindiens;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE des efforts particuliers soient entrepris pour faire connaître davantage à la population du Québec la situation relative aux langues amérindiennes, leur répartition et leurs caractéristiques, notamment en alimentant suffisamment sur ces sujets les responsables des programmes scolaires de même que les média d'information.

RÉSOLUTION 3: ÉLABORATION D'UN GUIDE DE PRONONCIATION DES LANGUES AUTOCHTONES

CONSIDÉRANT que, par leur nombre et leur importance, les noms de lieux amérindiens du Québec sont largement utilisés tant par la population que par l'Administration et les média d'information;

CONSIDÉRANT que ces noms amérindiens sont souvent mal prononcés et par voie de conséquence fréquemment écrits de façon erronée;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QU'un guide de prononciation des langues autochtones soit élaboré et largement diffusé.

RÉSOLUTION 4: RELEVÉ DES ÉLÉMENTS AMÉRINDIENS DANS LA COMPOSITION DES NOMS DE LIEUX

CONSIDÉRANT que le sens des éléments amérindiens (y compris les termes génériques) entrant dans la composition des noms de lieux au Québec est trop peu connu et est pourtant essentiel au traitement et à la normalisation de ces noms;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE des mesures appropriées soient prises pour poursuivre l'analyse des systèmes toponymiques amérindiens de manière à compléter le relevé des éléments (termes génériques, morphèmes référant à des accidents topographiques, racines) qui sont utilisés en toponymie dans les différentes langues amérindiennes du Québec.

RÉSOLUTION 5: COMPILATION ET CENTRALISATION DES INVENTAIRES TOPONYMIQUES AMÉRINDIENS

CONSIDÉRANT qu'il existe déjà un certain nombre d'inventaires, de recherches et d'études sur la toponymie amérindienne dans différentes localités ou régions du Québec;

CONSIDÉRANT que l'information contenue dans ces travaux est fort précieuse;

CONSIDÉRANT qu'il y a lieu d'utiliser et de mettre en valeur l'information existante et d'éviter les duplications inutiles;

RESOLUTION 2: DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION ON THE AMERINDIAN LANGUAGES

CONSIDERING that the Amerindian languages of Québec are very little known;

CONSIDERING that this lack of knowledge leads to many difficulties, in particular with regard to the use of and respect for Amerindian place names;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT special efforts be made to make the Québec population more aware of the situation with respect to the Amerindian languages and their distribution and characteristics, especially by making sufficient information on these subjects available to news media and to those responsible for school programs.

RESOLUTION 3: PREPARATION OF A GUIDE FOR THE PRONUNCIATION OF NATIVE NAMES

CONSIDERING that owing to their number and importance, Québec Amerindian place names are used to a great extent by the population, the Administration and news media;

CONSIDERING that these Amerindian names are often poorly pronounced and, consequently, incorrectly written;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT a guide for the pronunciation of native languages be prepared and widely distributed.

RESOLUTION 4: SURVEY OF AMERINDIAN LANGUAGE ELEMENTS IN PLACE NAMES

CONSIDERING that the meanings of the Amerindian language elements (including generics) which make up Québec place names, although essential to the treatment and standardization of such names, are not sufficiently known;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT appropriate measures be taken to continue the analysis of Amerindian toponymic systems, so as to complete the survey of the elements (generics, morphemes, roots) used in place names in Québec's various Amerindian languages.

RESOLUTION 5: COMPILATION AND CENTRALIZATION OF INVENTORIES OF AMERINDIAN PLACE NAMES

CONSIDERING that inventories and studies have been prepared and research carried out on Amerindian place names in various localities and regions in Québec;

CONSIDERING that the information contained in these reports is very valuable;

CONSIDERING that all existing information should be put to use, and needless duplication avoided;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE la Commission de toponymie du Québec soit chargée de recueillir tous ces inventaires, recherches et études existants;

QUE, dès que de telles études sont connues ou entreprises, la Commission de toponymie en soit informée;

QUE la Commission rende ces études disponibles aux chercheurs et à toutes autres personnes intéressées par le sujet.

RÉSOLUTION 6: NORMES D'ÉCRITURE DES NOMS DE LIEUX AMÉRINDIENS

CONSIDÉRANT que l'écriture des noms de lieux amérindiens pose divers problèmes;

CONSIDÉRANT que ni la Commission de toponymie ni les enquêteurs chargés de faire des inventaires toponymiques ne disposent de normes objectives pour résoudre ces problèmes, lorsqu'il s'agit d'en fixer la forme écrite;

CONSIDÉRANT, par ailleurs, que plusieurs problèmes d'écriture sont spécifiques à l'un ou l'autre des groupes linguistiques;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

DE susciter des rencontres et des travaux afin de faciliter la rédaction de normes d'écriture des noms de lieux amérindiens au niveau de chacun des groupes linguistiques et de diffuser ces normes à toutes personnes et organismes impliqués dans le processus d'inventaire de ces noms géographiques.

RÉSOLUTION 7: DICTIONNAIRE DES LIEUX DU QUÉBEC

CONSIDÉRANT que les toponymes amérindiens représentent une partie importante du corpus toponymique québécois;

CONSIDÉRANT le fait que la connaissance étymologique de ces toponymes apparaît comme essentielle à la compréhension de la toponymie québécoise contemporaine;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

DANS le cadre de l'élaboration du *Dictionnaire des lieux du Québec* qui sera réalisé par la Commission de toponymie, de fournir, pour les toponymes amérindiens, toute l'information relative à leur écriture, à leur prononciation, à leur origine et à leur signification.

RÉSOLUTION 8: CRÉATION D'UN COMITÉ CONSULTATIF SUR LA TOPONYMIE AMÉRINDIENNE

CONSIDÉRANT que la toponymie amérindienne constitue un apport important au patrimoine géographique, linguistique et culturel du Québec;

CONSIDÉRANT que la normalisation de l'écriture des toponymes amérindiens s'inscrit dans une problématique très complexe;

CONSIDÉRANT qu'un consensus général implique une connaissance approfondie des structures propres aux langues amérindiennes

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the Commission de toponymie du Québec be entrusted with compiling the inventories, research and studies referred to;

THAT, the Commission de toponymie be informed as soon as any such studies are undertaken or become known;

THAT the Commission make these studies available to researchers and to any other person interested in this subject.

RESOLUTION 6: WRITING STANDARDS FOR AMERINDIAN PLACE NAMES

CONSIDERING that the writing of Amerindian place names causes various problems;

CONSIDERING that neither the Commission de toponymie nor the researchers entrusted with compiling inventories of place names have any objective standards concerning the written forms of such place names;

CONSIDERING that several writing problems are peculiar to specific languages;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT meetings and projects be promoted, to facilitate the establishment of standards for writing place names in each Amerindian language, and that these standards be made known to all persons and organizations involved in compiling inventories of geographical names.

RESOLUTION 7: DICTIONARY OF QUÉBEC PLACE NAMES

CONSIDERING that Amerindian toponyms represent an important part of the Québec toponymy;

CONSIDERING that knowledge of the etymology of these place names appears to be essential to the understanding of Québec contemporary toponymy;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT, within the framework of the preparation of the *Dictionnaire des lieux du Québec* to be published by the Commission de toponymie, any information related to the writing, pronunciation, origin and meaning of Amerindian place names be made available.

RESOLUTION 8: CREATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AMERINDIAN TOPONYMY

CONSIDERING that Amerindian place names contribute to a large extent to Québec geographical, linguistic and cultural heritage;

CONSIDERING that standardization of the writing of Amerindian place names involves great problems;

CONSIDERING that there is a general consensus calling for an in-depth knowledge of the structures peculiar to the Amerindian

et des besoins exprimés par les diverses communautés qui les utilisent;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QU'un comité consultatif en matière de toponymie amérindienne soit mis sur pied afin de conseiller la Commission de toponymie sur toutes questions relatives aux noms de lieux amérindiens notamment:

- (a) la normalisation de l'orthographe des langues amérindiennes,
- (b) l'élaboration d'un guide de prononciation des noms de lieux amérindiens,
- (c) l'élaboration d'un lexique des éléments (termes génériques, morphèmes référant à des accidents topographiques, racines) qui sont utilisés en toponymie dans les différentes langues amérindiennes du Québec,
- (d) la formulation des recommandations quant au choix des noms de lieux dans les aires de chevauchement linguistique.

QUE ce comité soit composé, d'une part d'un représentant de chacune des communautés linguistiques amérindiennes du Québec, d'autre part d'un spécialiste en linguistique amérindienne, ainsi que d'un membre du personnel de la Commission de toponymie, ce dernier ayant comme mission d'assurer le lien entre le comité et la Commission.

RÉSOLUTION 9: ADOPTION D'UN ORTHOGRAPHE NORMALISÉ POUR L'ÉCRITURE DES NOMS GÉOGRAPHIQUES MICMACS

CONSIDÉRANT qu'il existe huit (8) systèmes orthographiques pour la transcription de la langue micmac;

CONSIDÉRANT la difficulté de s'entendre sur un système particulier propre à tous les utilisateurs des cinq (5) provinces concernées;

CONSIDÉRANT que le système orthographique utilisé en milieu micmac au Québec semble rencontrer à la fois les exigences linguistiques de la transcription des noms micmacs et l'assentiment des communautés concernées;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

D'ENVISAGER l'adoption du système orthographique en usage pour l'écriture des noms géographiques micmacs.

RÉSOLUTION 10: SIGNES DIACRITIQUES POUR LES NOMS GÉOGRAPHIQUES MONTAGNAIS, CRIS ET NASKAPIS

CONSIDÉRANT la nécessité et l'utilité de connaître la prononciation exacte des toponymes montagnais, cris et naskapis;

CONSIDÉRANT que l'usage traditionnel n'indique généralement pas les signes diacritiques;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE, sur les cartes géographiques, dans les répertoires toponymiques de même que dans l'affichage, les noms montagnais, cris et naskapis apparaissent sans signes diacritiques;

languages and of the needs expressed by the various communities which use them;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT an advisory committee on Amerindian toponymy be established to advise the Commission de toponymie on all matters related to Amerindian place names, particularly:

- (a) the standardization of the spelling used in Amerindian languages;
- (b) the preparation of a guide for the pronunciation of Amerindian place names;
- (c) the preparation of a lexicon of the elements (generics, morphemes, roots) used in place names in Québec's various Amerindian languages;
- (d) the preparation of recommendations concerning the choice of place names for areas where two or more languages are used;

THAT this Committee be composed of one representative from each of Québec's Amerindian linguistic communities, one expert in Amerindian linguistics, and one member of the staff of the Commission de toponymie who will be responsible for the communication between the committee and the Commission.

RESOLUTION 9: AGREEMENT ON A STANDARDIZED SPELLING FOR MICMAC PLACE NAMES

CONSIDERING that there are eight Micmac orthographies in use;

CONSIDERING that it is difficult to agree on any particular orthography for all users in the five (5) provinces concerned;

CONSIDERING that the Micmac orthography used in Québec seems to meet the linguistic requirements for the writing of Micmac names and to be acceptable to the communities concerned;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT consideration be given to an agreement on the spelling systems now in use for the writing of Micmac place names.

RESOLUTION 10: DIACRITICS FOR MONTAGNAIS, CREE AND NASKAPI PLACE NAMES

CONSIDERING the importance of knowing how to pronounce the Montagnais, Cree and Naskapi place names;

CONSIDERING that, traditionally, diacritics have not been used very often;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT, on geographic maps, in indexes to place names and on signs, Montagnais, Cree and Naskapi names be written without diacritics;



QUE, par ailleurs, lors des relevés de terrain, les signes diacritiques soient systématiquement notés et consignés dans les registres de la Commission de toponymie, lesquels demeureront à la disposition des chercheurs et autres utilisateurs.

RÉSOLUTION 11: PROBLÈME DE LA LABIALISATION EN MONTAGNAIS

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE la labialisation des consonnes en finale de mots en montagnais ne soit pas notée dans la transcription officielle des toponymes.

RÉSOLUTION 12: L'USAGE DE DEUX SYSTÈMES DE TRANSCRIPTION POUR LES LANGUES CRIE, NASKAPIE ET MONTAGNAISE

CONSIDÉRANT que les systèmes d'orthographe présentement en usage chez les Cris et Naskapis d'une part et chez les Montagnais d'autre part varient légèrement quant à la présentation des phonèmes w, y, s, ś et ě;

CONSIDÉRANT qu'il est difficile pour l'instant d'envisager la réduction de ces disparités;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE les deux systèmes actuellement en usage soient utilisés pour transcrire d'une part les toponymes cris et naskapis et d'autre part les toponymes montagnais.

RÉSOLUTION 13: PRÉSERVATION DE LA TOPONYMIE ABÉNAQUISE

CONSIDÉRANT que la langue abénaquise est en voie de disparition;

CONSIDÉRANT qu'il n'y a pas, pour l'abénaquis, de système orthographique adopté par l'ensemble des utilisateurs;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

DE mobiliser les compétences disponibles pour mettre au point un système orthographique approprié aux besoins de la communauté linguistique abénaquise et de procéder à un inventaire des noms de lieux abénaquis actuels et passés.

RÉSOLUTION 14: UTILISATION DES TERMES GÉNÉRIQUES

CONSIDÉRANT que les normes et critères suivis par la Commission de toponymie exigent qu'un nom de lieu soit accompagné d'un terme générique français;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

POUR les toponymes amérindiens d'indiquer un terme générique français, même dans les cas où il y a redondance avec un élément du terme spécifique amérindien.

RÉSOLUTION 15: LE LOCATIF ET LE NOMINATIF DANS LES LANGUES ALGONQUIENNES

CONSIDÉRANT que le problème du locatif ou du nominatif se présente dans les langues algonquiennes;

THAT, when land surveys are made, diacritics be systematically noted and entered in the registers of the Commission de toponymie, to be available to researchers and other users.

RESOLUTION 11: LABIALIZATION

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT labialization of the final consonants of Montagnais words not be noted in the official form of place names.

RESOLUTION 12: USE OF TWO METHODS OF WRITING FOR THE CREE, NASKAPI AND MONTAGNAIS LANGUAGES

CONSIDERING that the orthography now used by the Cree and Naskapi differs slightly from that used by the Montagnais for the phonemes w, y, s, ś and ě;

CONSIDERING that for the moment it would be difficult to lessen the differences;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the two different orthographies continue to be used for the writing of Cree and Naskapi place names on the one hand, and Montagnais place names on the other.

RESOLUTION 13: PRESERVATION OF ABENAKI PLACE NAMES

CONSIDERING that the Abenaki language is less and less used;

CONSIDERING that no common Abenaki spelling system is used;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT available resources be used to determine an orthography suited to the needs of the Abenaki linguistic community, and that an inventory be made of present and past Abenaki place names.

RESOLUTION 14: USE OF GENERICS

CONSIDERING that the standards and criteria observed by the Commission de toponymie require that every place name be accompanied by a generic in French;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT a French generic accompany each Amerindian place name, even where there is a redundancy with an element of the specific Amerindian name.

RESOLUTION 15: LOCATIVE AND NOMINATIVE CASES IN THE ALGONQUIN LANGUAGES

CONSIDERING that in the Algonquin languages there is a problem with regard to the locative and nominative cases;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

- (a) QU'en règle générale, on ait recours à l'emploi du nominatif, sauf dans les cas où l'usage a consacré le locatif;
- (b) DE soumettre l'étude générale et plus approfondie de ce problème à un comité d'experts.

RÉSOLUTION 16: LES TERMES "ALGONQUIEN" ET "ALGONQUIN"

CONSIDÉRANT qu'il existe un certain flottement au sujet des termes "algonquien" et "algonquin";

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

DE retenir la graphie "algonquien(ne)" pour la famille linguistique et "algonquin(e)" pour cette langue particulière.

RÉSOLUTION 17: PRÉSERVATION DE LA TOPONYMIE MOHAWK

CONSIDÉRANT que la langue mohawk est actuellement menacée d'extinction;

CONSIDÉRANT que le corpus toponymique mohawk au Québec est limité;

CONSIDÉRANT que les signes diacritiques sont importants relativement au contenu sémantique des toponymes mohawk;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE l'on envisage de colliger la toponymie mohawk de la façon la plus exacte possible en gardant les signes diacritiques;

QU'un effort particulier soit fait dans les plus brefs délais pour promouvoir la toponymie mohawk.

RÉSOLUTION 18: TOPONYMES AMÉRINDIENS IDENTIFIANT DES ENTITÉS PHYSIQUES

CONSIDÉRANT que des milliers de lacs, de rivières, de ruisseaux, etc., au Québec, n'ont pas encore de noms officiels;

CONSIDÉRANT que, sur les cartes et dans divers documents, beaucoup de toponymes amérindiens sont transcrits de façon incorrecte ou attribués à des accidents géographiques auxquels ils ne correspondent pas;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QU'à l'occasion de recherches, d'inventaires et de relevés sur le terrain,

- (a) les noms utilisés par les autochtones fréquentant ces lieux soient privilégiés au moment de l'officialisation;
- (b) les corrections appropriées soient notées quant aux toponymes déjà inventoriés de façon à les rendre compatibles avec les traditions locales;
- (c) l'inventaire des erreurs relevées soit fait et soumis à la Commission de toponymie pour correction.

IT IS RESOLVED:

- (a) THAT as a general rule the nominative case be used, except where the locative case has been customarily used;
- (b) THAT a committee of experts be entrusted with a general and more in-depth study of this problem.

RESOLUTION 16: "ALGONQUIEN" AND "ALGONQUIN"

CONSIDERING that uncertainty persists in French with regard to the use of the names "Algonquien" and "Algonquin";

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT "Algonquien" be used to designate the linguistic group and "Algonquin" to designate the language.

RESOLUTION 17: PRESERVATION OF MOHAWK PLACE NAMES

CONSIDERING that the Mohawk language is threatened with extinction;

CONSIDERING that the Mohawk place names in Québec are few;

CONSIDERING that diacritics have importance in the meaning of Mohawk place names;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT consideration be given to collecting Mohawk place names as precisely as possible, retaining the diacritics;

THAT a special effort be made as soon as possible to promote Mohawk place names.

RESOLUTION 18: AMERINDIAN PLACE NAMES IDENTIFYING GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

CONSIDERING that thousands of Québec lakes, rivers, streams and so forth have no official names;

CONSIDERING that on maps and in various documents, many Amerindian place names are incorrectly written or are assigned to geographical phenomena to which they do not correspond;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT, whenever research, inventories or land surveys are made,

- (a) the names used by local natives be favoured when official names are being given;
- (b) appropriate corrections be noted with regard to the place names already in use, always taking into account local usage;
- (c) the errors found be drawn up and submitted to the Commission de toponymie for correction.

RÉSOLUTION 19: INDICATION DE LA LONGUEUR VOCALIQUE EN ALGONQUIN

CONSIDÉRANT qu'il existe deux possibilités de représenter la longueur vocalique en algonquin, soit en redoublant les voyelles, soit en utilisant un signe diacritique;

IL EST PROPOSÉ:

QUE l'emploi de signes diacritiques pour indiquer la longueur vocalique soit envisagé et qu'une évaluation soit faite de l'acceptabilité de cette résolution.

RESOLUTION 19: INDICATION OF VOWEL LENGTH IN ALGONQUIN

CONSIDERING that vowel length in Algonquin can be represented either by doubling the vowels or by using diacritics;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT consideration be given to using diacritics to indicate vowel length, and that an assessment be made of the acceptability of this resolution.

A NOTE ON THE ETYMON OF ONTARIO\*

Rev. Dr. Scadding\*\*

Father Louis Hennepin in his account of a "New Discovery of a vast Country in America, (1679-82) extending above 4000 miles between New France and New Mexico", says, (p. 31, French version), that among the Iroquois tribes the name *Ontario* has the signification of "Beau Lac", Beautiful Lake; and in another part of his book he says they also call it *Skannadario*, "Fort beau Lac", (p. 42) *Skannadario* being supposed to be the same name as *Ontario* with a prefix of intensity.

Hennepin's book being not uncommon both in English and French, the statement has been very generally received that the familiar term by which we designate the great sheet of water which forms our southern horizon, signifies "Beautiful Lake". This interpretation did not originate with Hennepin. He probably heard or read of it at Quebec before his visit to the western regions, for we see (p. 63) a similar statement made in Bressani's *Relation Abrégée*, in 1642; and also subsequently in 1663 in a Report of the Baron d'Avangour, a Governor General of Canada, (*Vide* the Colonial

History of the State of New York, ix. 16). We may hence suppose that this interpretation of *Ontario* was the one current at Quebec in Hennepin's time. Still some uncertainty about it is observable, for in a note to an account of De Courcelles' Voyage to Lake Ontario in 1671, the writer professes to explain the term in question as signifying "The Great Lake" — from the Huron *Iontare* lake and *io* great. While more recently, Schoolcraft (vol. v. 594) has stated that the original appellation of the Lake was *Onontario*, which he conjectures to be compounded of *io*, an exclamation of surprise or delight, *onon* hills, and *dar* rocks. The precise applicability of the epithet thus interpreted is not manifest. The form of the word is also otherwise varied. On a "Plan of the Early Forts on the Richelieu River", given in vol. iii. of the *Relation des Jesuites* it is given as *Ondiara*, and in the "Documentary History of the State of New York", (v. 709) it figures as *Untarie*.

*Ontario*, outspread in silvery calm, as we often see it, or when reflecting back from its "unnumbered dimples" the pure azure of the heavens, is doubtless beautiful; but so are all our lakes, under similar circumstances. Hence the name, as commonly understood, does not seem to be sufficiently distinct-

\* Reproduced from *The Canadian Journal of Industry, Science and Art*, New Series No. XLII, November, 1862, Toronto, p. 502-508. The paper had been read at a conversazione at Trinity College, Toronto, May 23, 1862.

\*\* Henry Scadding (1813-1901), author of several papers on the history and geography of early Ontario.

tive. Certainly it is not impossible that a word in the Huron and Iroquois dialect, expressive of beauty generally, may have been caught up by some early French explorer, and applied erroneously as a proper name. For popular and poetic purposes "Beautiful Lake" answers well enough; but I think we shall see directly, that a truer and better account of the appellation may be given.

Before proceeding to explain, it may not be uninteresting to mention that our Lake has borne a variety of names. In an "Account of Encroachments of the English on the Territories of New France, 1699," (*Vide* Doct. Hist. N.Y., ix. 702), it is called the "Lake of the Iroquois." And so also in the Plan of Early Forts above referred to. It has also been called, no doubt locally, Lake Cataraqui, Lake Oswego, (this is said to be the Iroquois appellation) and Lake Neageh. Governor Dongan, of New York, in a communication to Mons. de la Barre, in 1683, styles it, for convenience probably, the Lake of Canada. Once it was known as Lake Frontenac, in honour of the Count de Frontenac, a distinguished Governor General of Canada in 1672, from whom the

Fort which formed the original nucleus of Kingston was named, and from whom the County in which Kingston is situated, is still named. On Hennepin's map it is marked "Lac Ontario ou de Frontenac". It has also borne the name of St. Louis; it is so designated in Champlain's map, 1632; and in the map accompanying the *Historia Canadensis*, by the Jesuit du Creux, 1662. In this last mentioned map (which may be seen in Bressani's "Abridged Narrative of the Jesuit Missions in New France", published in Montreal in 1852), our Lake figures as *Lacus Ontario seu S. Ludovici*. But then, in a "Chorographia Regionum Huronum" on a larger scale, given in the corner of the same map, the name appears as *Lacus* — not *Ontarius* — but *Ouentaronius* — a circumstance to which in a few moments I shall draw your especial attention, inasmuch as, I think, we have here a clue to a more legitimate mode of accounting for the word *Ontario* than any of those that have already been described.

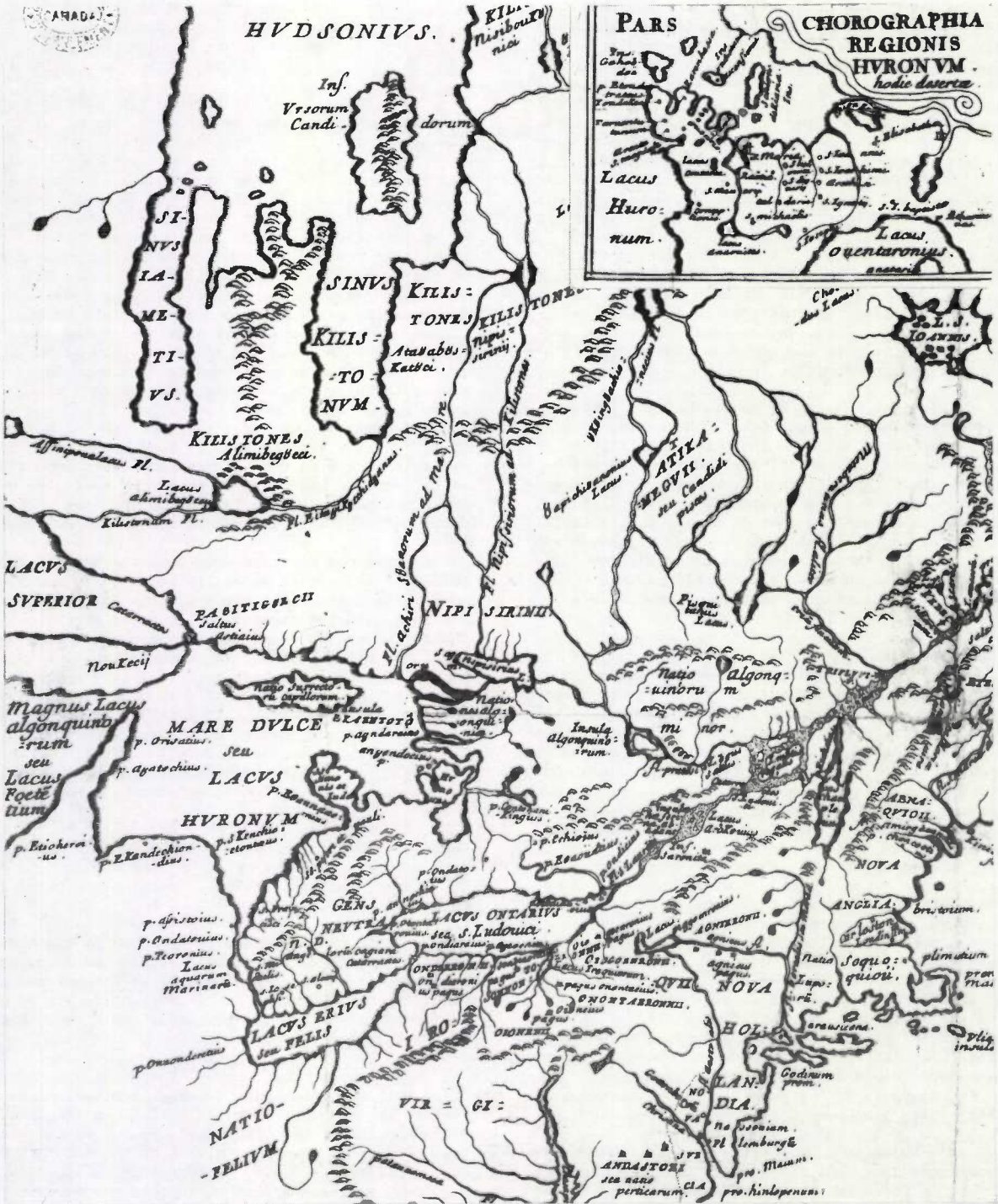
Our Lakes generally, have received appellations from tribes inhabiting their borders.

Erie is an aboriginal name curtailed and disguised.



The Great Lakes as portrayed on Champlain's "Carte de la nouvelle France ...." (1632)

(National Map Collection, Public Archives Canada)



Part of Du Creux's "Tabula Novae Franciae Anno 1660" and inset (1660), showing the Great Lakes (National Map Collection, Public Archives Canada)

The French maps give it as *Erié*, with an accent, (said to be softened from *Erigé* or *Eriké*), and they interpret it to mean *Lac du Chat*, "Cat Lake", from a tribe which speedily disappeared, at least, under that designation, whose totem probably was the lynx or wild cat, or who may thus have been nicknamed by their enemies. In du Creux's map it is *Lacus Erius seu Felis*. So in Hennepin's map it is *Lac Erié ou du Chat*. This appears to have been the Huron name; whilst among the Iroquois it was known as the Lake of the *Tejocharontiong*, (Hennepin) or *Techaronkion*, (de Courcelles). In Champlain's map Lake Erie does not appear: a rather broad stream connecting Lakes Huron and Ontario occupies its place. In Lewis Morgan's Aboriginal Map (1851) the Lake is marked *Doshoweh Tecarneodi*, evidently a local appellation from *Doshoweh* the name of the entrance to Buffalo Creek, where the city of Buffalo now stands. This *Doshoweh* is stated by Morgan to mean "Splitting the Fork", although earlier writers, giving the word *Deoseowa*, (Seneca) or *Tehoseroro*, (Mohawk) deduce from it the more elegant signification of "Place of the Linden or Basswood tree".

Lake Michigan retains an aboriginal name, having the vague signification of "Great Lake". Hennepin, however, informs us that it possessed also the more distinctive appellation of "Lac des Illinois", derived from the neighboring native tribes. And "Illinois", he assures us, signifies — like the ancient German Teutones, — "people", braves, perhaps, or heroes; so that du Creux, in his Latin map, instead of naming this lake *Magnus Lacus Algonquinoxum* as he does, might have termed it *Magnus Lacus Virorum*. (*Algonquinoxum* seems to be an error, as the Algonquins, i.e., the Objibwas, &c., were situated farther to the North and West).

Lake Huron means the "Lake of the Hurons", as it figures on du Creux's map — *Mare Dulce seu Lacus Huronum*. *Mare Dulce* is evidently the designation given to this lake by Champlain, who, struck by the purity and excellence and vast volume of its waters, called it *Mer Douce*; while *Huronum* reminds us of one of the mongrel Latinized appellations to be met with in Tacitus; for under an aboriginal guise and sound the term "Huron" is in fact French, being simply a sobriquet for the Wyandots, — derived from "Hure", as Bressani and Hennepin rightly say — and "Hure", Boyer informs us, is a term applied to a *tête d'un sanglier, d'un ours, d'un brochet*, (a great Pike); also he gives it as a coarse term for a *tête mal peignée, cheveux rudes, et mal en ordre*. The Wyandots living on the eastern borders of this lake, were accustomed, it appears, by way of ornament to singe their hair until their heads had the bristly, unkempt aspect of those prefixed to wild boars. Hence the French jestingly applied to them the appellation of "Hurons", Boar-heads, above somewhat amusingly Latinized into *Hurones*. Charlevoix calls this Lake "the Lake of the Attigouotans", (Attigouotan is one of the very varied forms of Wyandot) and Livingston, a United States Secretary for Indian Affairs, in "Observations on a Tour to Onondaga in 1700", calls it Lake Ottawawa, and Lake Erie, Lake Sweege — examples, again, probably, of local names given to lakes which also bore more general appellations.

Of Lake Superior I do not find given in the maps any specific aboriginal name; but in Baraga's Otchipwe Dictionary I find it named in the usual way from the tribes inhabiting its shores: he styles it *Otchipwe-Kitchigami*, "Sea of the Chippewas". In "Hiawatha", we shall remember, this lake figures as "Gitche-Gumee", conveniently, but not elegantly, translated "Big-sea-water", — another of those general appellations applicable, and doubtless applied, on certain occasions, to any of the Great Lakes. Here was drowned Chibiabos, the "most-beloved" of Hiawatha: Chibiabos "the sweetest of all singers:"—

"Unktakee, the god of waters,  
He the god of the Dacotahs,  
Drowned him in the deep abysses  
Of the Lake of Gitche-Gumee." (xv.)

It was probably because this lake was thus haunted, that it was deemed sacred; although, according to the Jesuit Claude Allouez, it may have been for other reasons: "Les Sauvages respectent ce lac comme un Divinité; et lui font des sacrifices, soit à cause de sa grandeur, ... soit à cause de sa bonté, fournissant du poisson, qui nourrit tons ces peuples au défaut de la chasse, qui est rare aux environs", (Rel. 1667-8). We may congratulate ourselves that this lake did not retain the name "Lake Tracy", which was once conferred upon it in honour of the Marquis de Tracy, a Viceroy of Louis XIV, in 1665, — in whose time Mr. F.X. Garneau (History of Canada, i. 216), informs us, horses were first imported into Canada. Father Claude Allouez speaks of it under this name (anno 1667), and in the map given by Bancroft in his History of the United States (vol. iii. 153), it is marked *Lac Tracy ou Superieur*. Du Creux simply Latinizes it *Lacus Superior*, which, though denoting vaguely the "Upper Lake", has produced the name which has such a grand sound in our ears, in comparison with which "Lake Tracy" seems a kind of bathos, somewhat similar to that which presents itself on the maps in those very unpoetic designations of two conspicuous peaks of the Rocky Mountains — Mount Brown and Mount Hooker. Champlain gives the name of Lake Superior as *Grand Lac* — a literal translation of *Gitche-Gumee*.

I now return to our own lake and its appellation. I have said that it is generally received to mean *Beautiful*; but on comparing the title borne by this lake in several of the old maps with the name of a celebrated aboriginal tribe once inhabiting its southern shore, and bearing in mind the tendency which has evinced itself in other instances to describe lakes by the names of neighboring tribes, it has struck me that another interpretation of Ontario is more probable; and that its supposed signification of "Beautiful" — if that sense can be traced in its composition at all — is perhaps as fanciful as the discovery of *Áopvis bird-less*, in the Phoenician *Avernus*, indicating in reality, we are told, nothing relating to "birds", but the gloom and darkness characteristic of a volcanic crater.

Du Creux gives, as I have said, *Lacus Ontarius* and *Lacus Ouentaronius*. Now I think this last term *Lacus Ouentaronius* comes the nearest to the name intended to be expressed by Ontario; that it, in fact, contains the original of Ontario.

On the map given by Brodhead in his History of the State of New York, 1609-1664, the name borne by our lake in 1615 was "Lac des Entouhonorons", — Lake of the Entouhonorons. Champlain, also, in his account of his Expedition with the Wyandots against the Iroquois, calls it "The Great Lake of the Entouhonorons".

Now who were these? They were one of the celebrated "Five Nations" inhabiting the region between Lake Ontario and the New England states — the well-known league of tribes called by the French "Iroquois", — not by the satirical use, this time, of a French term, but by the manufacture of a word out of native materials, — from *hiro*, dixi, "I have said", and *koué*, a French effort to express the favorite formula of assent, given more at large in *Hiawatha*, as "hi-au-ha!"

The Entouhonorons are better known to us as the Senecas. How it happened that a portion of the sons of our far western forests came to possess a name identical with that of the Emperor Nero's respectable tutor, used at one time to be a mystery to me; and its solution, when I discovered it, gave me great delight. The origin of the term I found to be



The Great Lakes as shown on "Carte d'un tres grand pais nouvellement decouvert dans l'Amerique Septentrionale entre le Nouveau Mexique et la Mer Glaciale ...", included by Father Louis Hennepin in his book "Nouvelle Decouverte d'un Tres Grand Pays ..." (1697)

(National Map Collection, Public Archives Canada)

this: — the termination *eca* — variously written *eca*, *aca*, *aga*, *equa*, — according to Pownall, — a learned philological Governor, in succession, of New York, Massachusetts, and South Carolina, about a hundred years ago, (1753-1) — denotes a tribe or people: and *sen* has the meaning of *farther*. Hence *Seneca* signifies "the farther nation", without stating their name. In like manner the familiar term *Mohawk* has, according to the same authority, the meaning of "the hither or nearer nation" — the particle *mo* or *ma* having the sense of *hitherward*, *hithermost*, — the actual name of these *Mo-acs*, *Mo-ages*, *Ma-quas*, &c., being *Ka-ying-e-ha-aga*, "the people that are at the head of men", — a name compressed by the French into *Agniers*. "Hither" and "farther" are here used relatively, of course, to New England.

The real name of the Senecas or "Farther Tribe", as given on the southern or Iroquois side of the lake, was *Nundawauga* or *Nundawaono*, "the-great-hill-people", from a hill at the head of Lake Canandaigua, where was their original settlement, (Morgan, 51.) But on the northern or Wyandot side they were known as the *Entouhonorons*, *Sonnontouans*, &c., terms by which perhaps a similar sense may be conveyed, as we know that in the Algonquin dialect, *Onnontio* = Montmagny = Great Mountain. On Champlain's map the Seneca District is marked as occupied by the *Antouhonorons*, and in du Creux's by the *Ondieronii* and *Sonnontouanienii*. In *Ondieronii* we may recognize the Iroquois *Nundawa-ono*, — *ono* and *eronon* in the northern and southern dialects respectively implying "people".

The Wyandots or Hurons, inhabiting the regions where we now find our home — in their hostile expeditions against their hereditary foes and ultimate conquerers, the Five Nations, — had to cross our lake; and the first of these nations upon whom they would descend was this tribe of Entouhonorons, as they would style them. Hence they spoke of the lake which was the highway to the country of their enemies, and which probably at the time bore no general geographical appellation in our sense of the term, as the Lake of the Entouhonorons.

Disguised, then, through the difficulty which the early and generally unphilological European settlers experienced in catching and rendering the exact sounds and syllables of a nasally-pronounced unwritten language, divided into dialects, some admitting, some rejecting, labials and liquids, — do we not see in du Creux's *Lacus Ouentaronius* an effort to express in Latin phrase the "Lake of the Ondierons", as he seems to have caught the sound, (compare his *Ondieronii*) who were plainly the same as the Nundawa-ono, the Sonnonotonans, Isonontonans, Antouhonorons, or Entouhonorons? Just as in his *Lacus Erius* he expressed "Lac des

Erigés" or "Eriés". And then in this *Ouentaronius*, pronounced according to the French phonetic system, do we not detect *Ontario*? Have we not here a transition-term to that familiar household word?

Then, if so, our lake becomes at once historic in its appellation; it retains within its syllables an interesting memento of by-gone times and it falls into the category of the other great lakes in respect to nomenclature. As the Upper Lake derived a name from the Ojibwas on its borders, and the next in descending order was designated from the Wyandots or Hurons, the next from the Illinois, and the next from the Erigés or Eriés, so the next was the lake of the distinguished tribe of the Eutouhonorons or Senecas.

And if any etymological element seeming to signify "beautiful", has been discovered in "Ontario", by those who have had some acquaintance with the local aboriginal dialects, the coincidence has been most probably accidental — one of those chance literal or syllabic resemblances which are so frequently to be met with in the comparison of languages, and on which it is generally unsafe to build.

AN EXTRACT REPRINTED FROM *NATURAL RESOURCES, CANADA, VOL. 4, NO. 6,*  
PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OTTAWA, JUNE 1925

..... SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BORE ANOTHER NAME .....

..... Early Explorers Called Western River, Pasquia - Differences In Naming Branches .....

Robert Douglas\*

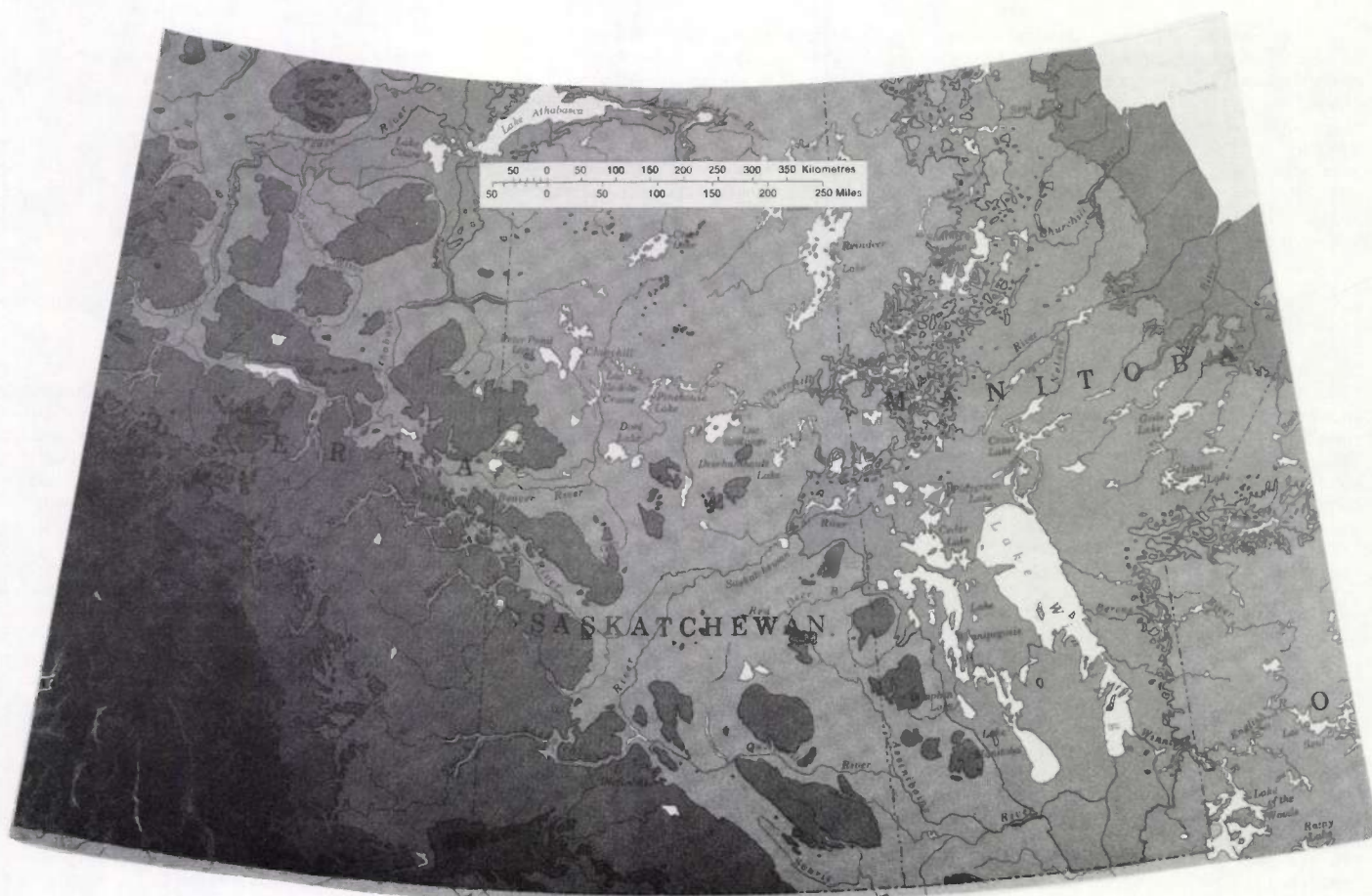
"Saskatchewan is an Indian name meaning 'swift-flowing' or 'rapid', and although it is the name now borne by the great river which rises in Alberta and flows through Saskatchewan and Manitoba into lake Winnipeg, it was not its original name. Saskatchewan was given by the Indians to more than one stream. For example, it was an early appellation of the present Minnedosa river,<sup>1</sup> in Manitoba, while Saskatchewan is the name of a tributary to Severn river, Ontario.

"On a map showing the discoveries of the Vérendryes sent to France in or about 1750 the present Saskatchewan river is called Poskaiaio. In his diary from this same year Legardeur de St. Pierre calls it the 'rivière du Paskoya'. Peter Pond on his map of 1785 has Pasquia. The name Pasquia which is now borne by a small tributary to the Saskatchewan river from the south at The Pas seems to mean 'narrows between wooded banks' and to refer to the characteristics of the Sas-

\* Robert Douglas (1881-1930) was Secretary of the Geographic Board of Canada from 1916 to 1930.

1. Minnedosa River was changed to Little Saskatchewan River, January 4, 1978.





The present designation of the Saskatchewan River and its tributaries (MCR 88, 1976)

katchewan river at that point, the only place for miles on either side where it is fordable.

"The first map to apply the name Saskatchewan to the river is that prepared by Philip Turner<sup>2</sup> of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1790. Turner applies the name to the North branch, but to the South branch he gives no name. However, he shows on the latter, 'South Branch house', a Hudson's Bay Company trading post, the exact date of the foundation of which is not known. On the map prepared by Aaron Arrowsmith to illustrate Alexander Mackenzie's voyages published in 1801, the present North Saskatchewan river is called Saskashawin and the present South Saskatchewan is given the name South branch as far up as the junction of Red Deer river and Askow or Bad river, the present Bow river. The map prepared by G. Taylor from the observations of Peter Fidler, the Hudson's Bay Company surveyor, names the branches of the Saskatchewan river, North branch and South branch. David Thompson, who began his

career in the Hudson's Bay Company in 1784 and transferred to the North West Company in 1797, applies the name Saskatchewan in his 1814 map to the river from the head of the North branch to the mouth of the Nelson river at Port Nelson. The South Saskatchewan he calls Bow river. In his writings Thompson applies the name Saskatchewan river to that portion of Nelson river between lake Winnipeg and Split lake. In doing so he follows the nomenclature of Nicolas Jérémie whose account of the Hudson Bay region published in Amsterdam in 1724 applies the name Quisisquatchwen to this same portion of the Nelson river.

"Present usage calls the two branches of the Saskatchewan, North Saskatchewan river and South Saskatchewan river as far as their junction, whence the combined waters are called Saskatchewan river as far as lake Winnipeg. There are many who think that it would have been less confusing to have carried the name Saskatchewan river to the head of the North Saskatchewan and to have continued to use David Thompson's name for the South Saskatchewan, namely Bow river.

"It is interesting to note that the name of Swift Current the Saskatchewan city is derived from that of the Saskatchewan river."

2 The spelling Turnor is more frequently used.

JOHN MACOUN (1831-1920) - PIONEER NATURALIST

Helen Kerfoot\*

On July 22, 1981 a 17-cent stamp was due to be issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the distinguished Canadian naturalist John Macoun.

Born in County Down, Ireland on April 17, 1831, Macoun emigrated to Canada in 1850. While pioneer farming near Belleville, Ontario he acquired a knowledge of botany and after six years on the land started a career as a teacher. By 1868 he had expanded his horizons in botany and geology and was appointed to teach natural history at Albert College in Belleville.

In the 1870s John Macoun participated in the search for a route to western Canada for the present Canadian Pacific Railway. During 1872 he accompanied Sandford Fleming and survey staff west through Edmonton to the Pacific coast via the valleys of the Peace and Fraser. Again in 1875 he crossed the Rocky Mountains, this time from west to east with Alfred Selwyn of the Geological Survey of Canada. The exploring party travelled from Victoria to Quesnel by steamer and the Cariboo Road, and thence by canoe and pack train across to the headwaters of the Peace River. At Fort St. John, Macoun left Selwyn's party and made an arduous journey down the Peace to Fort Chipewyan. There he learned from Hudson's Bay Company personnel of the conditions for growing field crops and vegetables in communities, such as Fort Liard and Fort Yukon, further to the northwest. Macoun's return route took him via Methye Portage to the Saskatchewan River, Lake Winnipeg and Fort Garry. Again in 1879, 1880 and 1881 he was sent west by the Government to report upon the country soon to be opened up by the railway.

At the end of the 1870s the Geological Survey expanded its fields of endeavour to include botanical and anthropological investigations. As a result, in 1882 Professor Macoun was welcomed into the realm of the Survey, as the first appointee with professional experience in natural sciences outside geology.

During the next thirty-eight years his many studies included plant and soil conditions of the Prairies and agricultural possibilities of the Yukon. Macoun, as Naturalist to the Survey, became an Assistant Director and Head of the Biological Division. He was author of numerous reports, catalogues and books, one of the best known being his work "Manitoba and the Great North-West" (1882). Macoun and his staff contributed significantly to the excellent botanical collection, gathered from across Canada and housed in the Victoria Memorial Museum, even then referred to as the "National Museum".

Although still on the Survey's payroll, Macoun lived on Vancouver Island for his last eight years, making detailed collections of island flora, mosses, etc., before his death in Sidney on July 18, 1920.

In addition to numerous species of flora and fauna named in honour of John Macoun, Canada has today ten geographical features bearing the name "Macoun": an island in Québec, a cape in the Northwest Territories, a creek and a mountain in British Columbia, a village and a lake in Saskatchewan, and a rock, a lake, an island and a group of islands in Ontario. All but the Ontario and Québec islands can be substantiated in CPCGN records as being named to commemorate John Macoun, rather than either of his sons (also of considerable national renown)<sup>1</sup> or other family members.

In British Columbia, *Macoun Creek*, in the Peace River District traversed by Macoun in 1875, was proposed by provincial surveyors in 1964. *Mount Macoun*, located in Glacier National Park, overlooks Illecillewaet Nève and the Beaver River, a tributary of the Columbia. Close by is Mount Selwyn, climbed by Macoun and Alfred Selwyn on July 11, 1875 during their search for a trans-Canada railway route. *Mount Macoun* is recorded officially in the Geographic Board of Canada records as far back as 1901.

The two geographical names in Saskatchewan related to Macoun are the village of *Macoun*, northwest of Estevan and *Macoun Lake*, northeast of La Ronge. The village, originally in Assiniboia, was named by CPR officials upon completion of the line, thereby commemorating John Macoun's contribution to the study of soils and agricultural possibilities in the southern Prairies. Macoun's conclusions on the agricultural suitability of the land north of the 49th parallel contributed to the selection of the southern route for the CPR. For the same reason *Macoun Lake* was proposed in 1931 by Public Archives personnel.

*Macoun Rock*, in Georgian Bay, Ontario was labelled on topographic maps in the 1930s, whereas *Macoun Lake* in Algonquin Park was not approved until 1973, following a proposal by Park staff. *Macoun Islands* in Lake Nipigon was not formalized until 1954, but The Ontario Geographic Names Board records associate the name with John Macoun. *Macoun Island* near Thunder Bay was used on charts prior to 1910, but CPCGN records can only claim that the name refers to an Ottawa family.

\* Helen Kerfoot, CPCGN Secretariat, EMR.

<sup>1</sup> James M. Macoun (1862-1920), Chief of the Biological Division of the Geological Survey and W.T. Macoun (1869-1933), First Dominion Horticulturalist.



The Survey's naturalists in the field. John Macoun (centre) with specimen preparator, C.H. Young (left) and assistant collector, William Spreadborough (right).

Source: Geological Survey of Canada, photo 202423.

In Manitoba a "Macoun Point" on the western side of Lake Winnipegosis is named on Sectional Map 271 (1908). However, in 1952 this name was discarded in favour of Hunters Point, which according to local usage was "a favourite point to conduct a moose drive".

John Macoun was associated personally with the Rocky Mountain and Prairie landscapes where features were named for him. However, *Cape Macoun* on Ellesmere Island, NWT, does not fall within the sphere of his first-hand investigations. In 1913-17 W. Elmer Ekblaw, geologist/botanist, participated in Donald B. MacMillan's expedition to explore Peary's "Crocker Land", then thought to exist north of Axel Heiberg Island. Almost ten years later, when he was finalizing his report for the American Museum of Natural History, Ekblaw wrote from Worcester, Massachusetts to James White, Secretary of the Geographic Board of Canada, to obtain official recognition of the geographic names he was putting on his sketch maps of today's Tanquary Fiord - Greely Fiord area of Ellesmere Island. His correspondence<sup>2</sup> indicates how he assigned names to many coastal features: "The mountains were generally named for geologists, the capes for botanists, the bays and islands and

minor features for personal friends or those who contributed advice or financial support to our expedition." And, he added: "As you will note, by far the larger number of names are for scientists."

*Cape Macoun* is thus found in association with features named for other botanists - all American - viz. Cape Fernald (Merritt Lyndon Fernald), Cape Gleason (Henry Allan Gleason), Hottes Terrace (Charles F. Hottes), Mount Sherwood (George H. Sherwood) and Mount Burrill (Thomas J. Burrill).

John Macoun's work as a pioneer naturalist in Canada will not be forgotten, nor indeed will his magnetism, determination and sympathetic understanding of his fellow scientists.

#### References

Macoun, J. (1922): *Autobiography of John Macoun*, M.A. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Ottawa. 305 p.

Zaslow, M. (1975): *Reading the Rocks: the story of the Geological Survey of Canada 1842-1972*. Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa. 599 p.

<sup>2</sup> January 5, 1928 (CPCGN file 1112).

- CANADA AND ITS PROVINCES -  
THE ORIGINS OF THEIR NAMES

AS NOTED IN  
THE MACMILLAN BOOK OF CANADIAN PLACE NAMES\*

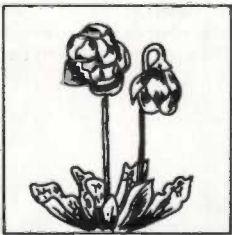
William B. Hamilton\*\*

CANADA

Although time has indelibly imprinted "Canada" on the map of the northern half of the continent of North America, numerous other names were suggested for the proposed confederation in 1867. Among these were: Albertsland, Albionora, Borealia, Britannia, Cabotia, Colonia, Efiga (a combination of the first letters of England, France, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, and Aboriginal lands), Hochelaga, Norland, Superior, Transatlantia, Tuponia (an acrostic for the United Provinces of North America), and Victorialand. The debate was placed in perspective by Thomas D'Arcy McGee, who declared (February 9, 1865), "I read in one newspaper not less than a dozen attempts to derive a new name. One individual chooses Tuponia and another Hochelaga as a suitable name for the new nationality. Now I ask any honourable member of this House how he would feel if he woke up some fine morning and found himself instead of a Canadian, a Tusonian or a Hochelagander." Fortunately for posterity, McGee's wit and reasoning, along with common sense, prevailed, and on July 1, 1867, "the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick" became "one Dominion under the name of Canada".

While the *Dictionary of Canadianisms* lists ten possible explanations for the word (ranging from Spanish *Acan Nada* to a form of *Canara* or *Canata*, a place name in southern India), the generally accepted origin may be traced to the writings of Jacques Cartier in 1536. While sailing up the St. Lawrence River, Cartier noticed that the Indians referred to their settlements as *kanata*, which, from its repetition, the French took to be the name of the entire country. Such it was destined to become in 1867.

NEWFOUNDLAND



Although Newfoundland is one of the oldest place names on the eastern seaboard, its evolution may be easily followed. It was the "new founde isle" of John Cabot who sailed westward from Bristol in 1497; although Norsemen, Basques, and Bretons (among others) had undoubtedly preceded him. By 1502 "New found launde" was being used in official English documents with the French version "Terre Neuve"

appearing as early as 1510 - a clear indication of the acceptance of the designation. Giovanni da Verrazano used the term "Terra Nova" on his map of 1529. Newfoundland entered Confederation as the tenth province of Canada on March 31, 1949.

Labrador

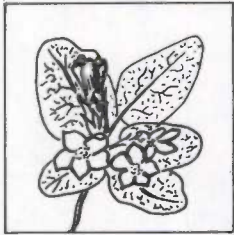
There remains an element of uncertainty, but most authorities credit the origin of the name Labrador to João Fernandes, a

\* Published by Macmillan of Canada, Toronto, 1978, 340 p.

\*\* Dr. W.B. Hamilton, Director, Atlantic Institute of Education, Halifax and Chairman, Advisory Committee on Toponymy Research, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

Portuguese explorer and *lavrador*, or "landholder", in the Azores. It was probably first applied to a section of the coast of modern Greenland and later transferred by cartographers to the northeastern coast of the continent. The *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Volume 1, quotes an inscription (near Greenland) on the Weimar map of 1530: "...And as the one who first gave notice of it was a labrador of the Azores (João Fernandes), they gave it the name."

NOVA SCOTIA

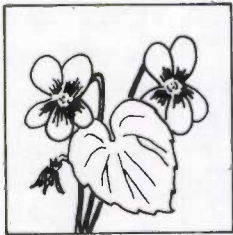


Although applied first on September 29, 1621, when Sir William Alexander (1567?-1640) received a grant of "the lands lying between New England and Newfoundland ... to be known as Nova Scotia, or New Scotland", the name did not become fixed on the map until after the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

Prior to this, the name *Acadia* was generally used by the French to denote the Maritime provinces along

with adjacent portions of New England and Quebec. The origin of the word *Acadia* is in dispute. It is generally accepted to be from *Archadia* (*Acadia*), assigned by Giovanni da Verrazano in 1524 and suggested by the classical name for a land of rustic peace (Rayburn). The claim that it is of Micmac origin is probably coincidental. The Micmac word *Quoddy* or *Cady* was rendered by the French as *cadie* and meant "a piece of land or territory" (Clark).

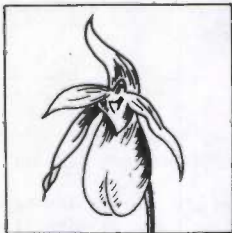
NEW BRUNSWICK



Originally the territory included in modern New Brunswick was part of Nova Scotia. The American Revolution from 1775 to 1783 resulted in a large influx of Loyalist settlers, and agitation arose for the creation of a new province. On September 10, 1784, the partition took place and the "name was chosen as a compliment to King George III (1760-1820) who was descended from the House of Brunswick." Earlier proposals for naming the new

province were: New Ireland (suggested by William Knox, Under-Secretary of State, but rejected "because Ireland was out of royal favour"), and Pittsylvania, for William Pitt.

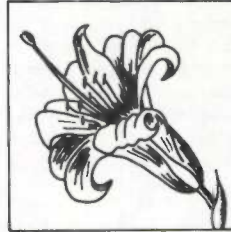
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



The island appears under the name *Île de Saint Jean* in Champlain's narrative (1604) and on his map (1632); however, according to Ganong, the name is of earlier origin. After its acquisition by the British in 1759 the island was known as St. John's Island until the name was changed in 1798 to honour Prince Edward, Duke of Kent (1767-1820), father of Queen Victoria, then in command of the British forces at Halifax. Separated from Nova Scotia

in 1769, Prince Edward Island entered Confederation on July 1, 1873.

QUEBEC



The name was applied first to the region of the modern city and the word is of undoubted Algonquin origin. Early spellings: *Quebecq* (Levasseur, 1601); *Kébec* (Lescarbot, 1609); *Quebec* (Champlain, 1613). Champlain wrote of the location in 1632: "It ... is a strait of the river, so called by the Indians"

- a reference to the Algonquin word for "narrow passage" or "strait" to indicate the narrowing of the river at Cape Diamond. The term is common to the Algon-

ONTARIO



The name was first applied to the lake (1641) and is traceable to Amerindian sources. It may be a corruption of *Onitariio*, meaning "beautiful lake" (Johnson Papers, PAC), or *Kanadario*, variously translated as "sparkling" or "beautiful" water. Later European settlers gave the name to the land along the lakeshore and then to an ever extending area. "Old Ontario" was a term sometimes loosely applied to the southern portion of the province. Entered Confed-

eration as the province of Ontario, 1867.

MANITOBA



Created as a province in 1870, the name was probably first applied to Lake Manitoba. (1) Douglas suggests that the name is of Assiniboine origin: *Mini* and *tobow* meaning "Lake of the Prairie", or in French "*Lac des Prairies*", the name used by La Vérendrye. (2) The more probable source is the Cree *maniot-wapow*, "the strait of the spirit or *manitobau*". This refers to the roaring sound produced by pebbles on a beach on Manitoba Island in Lake Manitoba. The

noise "gave rise to the superstition among the Indians that a *manito* or spirit beats a drum" (Douglas).

SASKATCHEWAN



The name is derived from that which was first applied to the Saskatchewan River. In the Cree language it was known as *Kisiskatchewan* *Sipi* (Tyrrell), or "swift-flowing river". Henday's spelling was *Keiskatchewan*, with the modern rendering, *Saskatchewan*, being officially adopted in 1882 when a portion of the present-day province was designated a provisional district of the North West Territories. Achieved provincial status in 1905.

ALBERTA



The district of Alberta was created in 1882, and enlarged to become a province of Canada on September 1, 1905. The name was suggested by the Marquess of Lorne, Governor General of Canada from 1878 to 1883, in honour of his wife, H.R.H. Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, daughter of Queen Victoria.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



Historically, the term was loosely applied to the vast lands north and west of Lake Superior; later it signified the administrative district which predated Saskatchewan and Alberta; and from January 1, 1920, it has meant "that part of Northern Canada between the Yukon Territory and Hudson Bay, including Baffin Island, the islands in James Bay, Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, and the Arctic Archipelago."

BRITISH COLUMBIA



Much of the mainland region was originally known as New Caledonia; however, this name (duplicated in the South Pacific) was discarded in favour of British Columbia. The designation appears to have originated with Queen Victoria and was officially proclaimed in 1858. Columbia (after the Columbia River which was named by the American Captain Robert Gray for his ship *Columbia*) had previously been loosely applied to the southern por-

tion of the colony.

YUKON TERRITORY



The territory was established on June 13, 1898, although the name, of Amerindian origin, was first applied to the river and is from *Yu-kun-ah*, meaning "great river". It was first noted in 1846 by John Bell (1799-1868) an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, "who called it by what he understood to be its Indian appellation" (*Geological Survey Report*, 1887-8).

SOME MEETINGS CONCERNING NAMES	1981		1981	QUELQUES RÉUNIONS SUR LES NOMS
Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and Advisory Committees	Sept. 17,18	Thunder Bay, Ont.	17,18 sep.	Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques et des comités consultatifs
Northeast Regional Names Institute (Theme: Names and Folklore of the Northeastern United States and adjacent Canada)	Sept. 19	Saranac Lake, N.Y.	19 sep.	Northeast Regional Names Institute (Sujet: Noms et folklore du nord-est des États-Unis et du Canada adjacent)
American Name Society	Dec. 27-30	New York, N.Y.	27-30 déc.	American Name Society
	1982		1982	
Canadian Society for the Study of Names	June	Ottawa	juin	Société canadienne pour l'étude des noms
Fourth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names	August	Genève	août	Quatrième Conférence des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques
American Name Society	Dec. 27-30	Los Angeles	27-30 déc.	American Name Society

NEW GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



MOUNT TERRY FOX

Premier William Bennett of British Columbia announced on July 6, 1981 that the provincial government had named a mountain to honour Terry Fox. His heroic battle with cancer and his inspirational Marathon of Hope will be everlastingly symbolized.

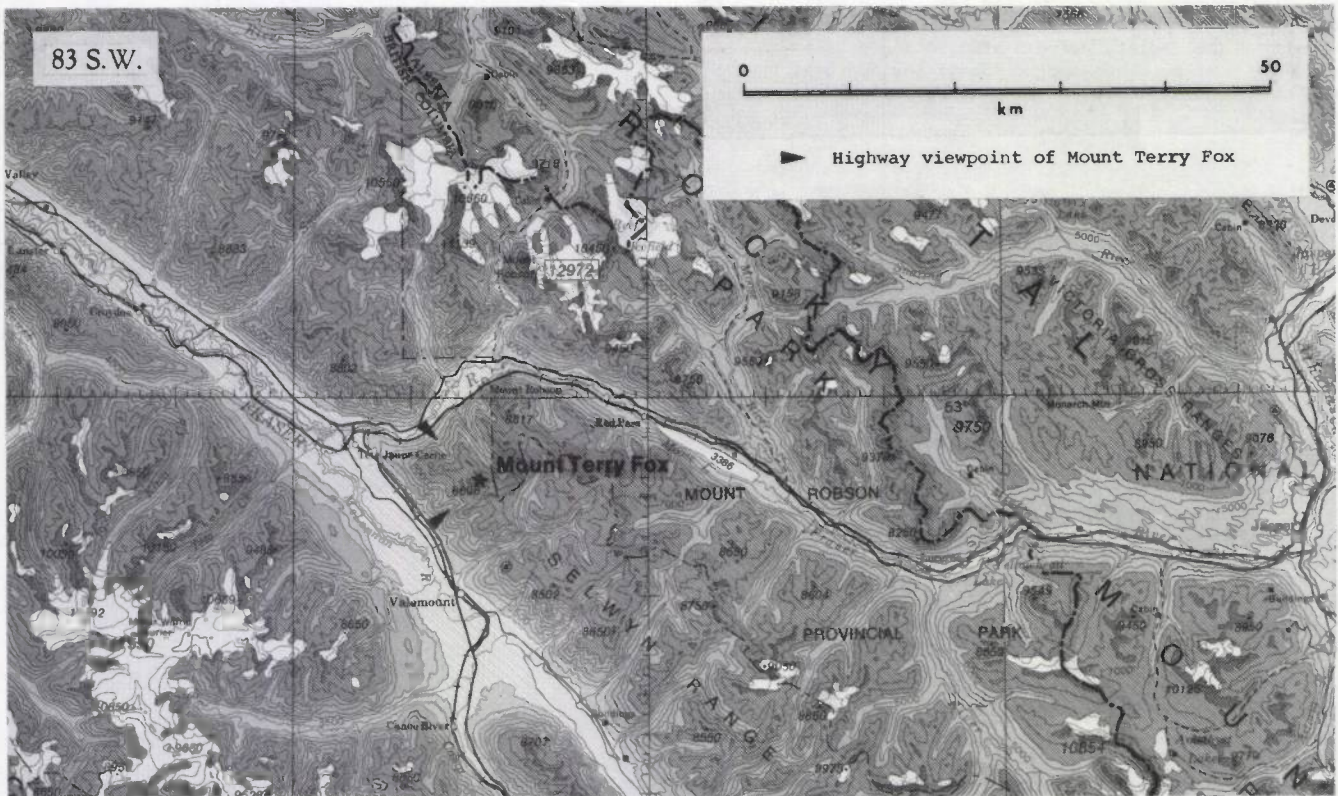
The geographic coordinates of the feature are 52° 56'N - 119° 14'W, west of the Yellowhead Pass; this is 11 km (7 miles) north of the community of Valemount and 21 km (13 miles) south-southwest of Mount Robson.

An official press release was made on July 10 from the office of the Honourable Stephen Rogers, the British Columbia Minister of the Environment. It included the following information:

*"Mount Terry Fox is appropriately named as it is located in the same range as Overlander Mountain named after a group of courageous Canadians, men, women and children, who travelled from eastern Canada to the western gold fields in 1862.*

*"The mountain includes a series of summits above 7500 [feet] elevation and culminates in a peak that towers 8696 feet or 2651 metres. It was the province's highest unnamed mountain that could be seen from a public highway, and it is believed that it has never been climbed."*

Travellers can get an excellent view of the mountain from both Highway 5 and Highway 16 (see accompanying map). The Ministry of Highways has already installed directional





signs at these viewpoints, and will also be clearing a site for a permanent memorial cairn at the Highway 5 location.

Both Premier Bennett and Mr. Rogers emphasized British Columbia's pride in being able to honour Terry Fox by adding his name to one of the province's most scenic and majestic mountains.

Mount Terry Fox

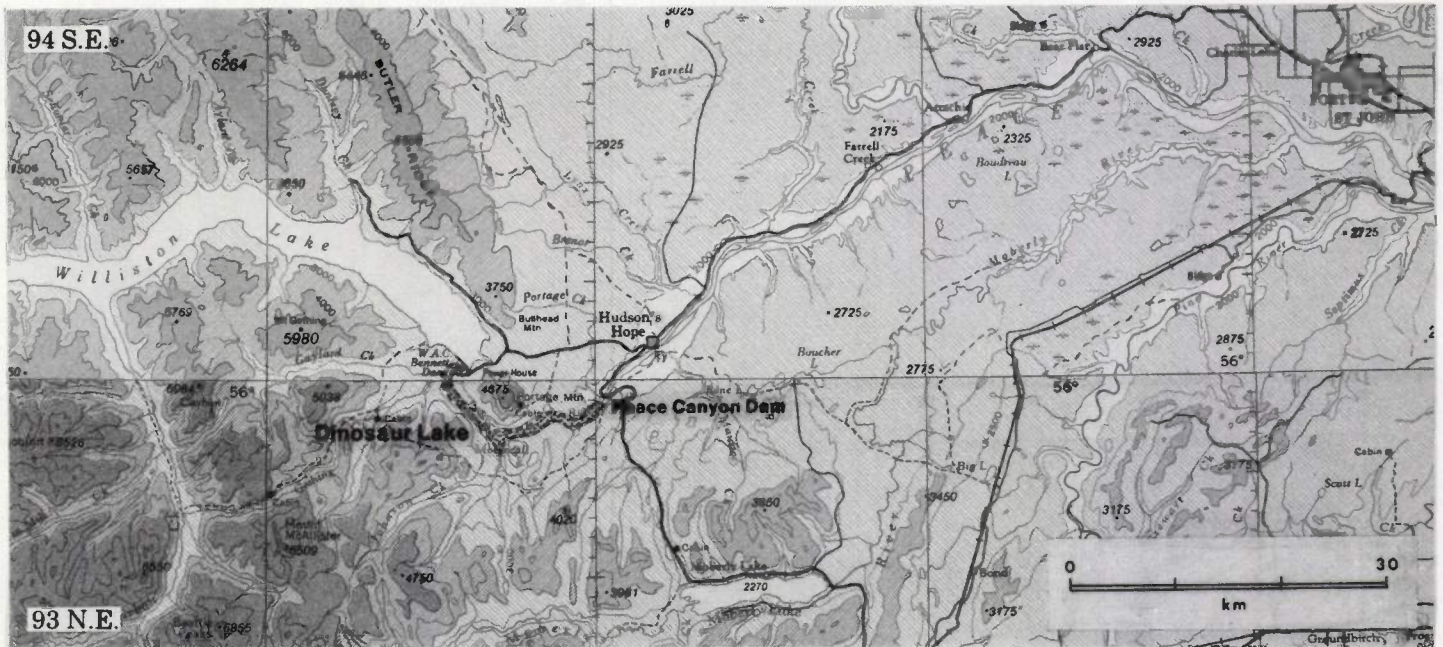
Photo: Province of British Columbia

**DINOSAUR LAKE**

Since the construction of the Peace Canyon Dam at Hudson's Hope, a number of local residents have expressed concern that an appropriate name should be selected for the newly created reservoir behind the dam. To elicit ideas the Hudson's Hope Historical Society sponsored a contest in the community. The Society members studied the entries and selected the most popular name to submit for approval by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

*Dinosaur Lake* sent in by 12 year-old Kathy Hamanishi was voted the winner. Many million years ago dinosaurs and other now extinct life forms roamed the area. In 1979 dinosaur tracks were found near the generating station, and a full-sized model of a duck-billed dinosaur now highlights the prehistoric display at the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority Peace Canyon visitors centre.

On May 21, 1981 *Dinosaur Lake* was given official recognition by the CPCGN.





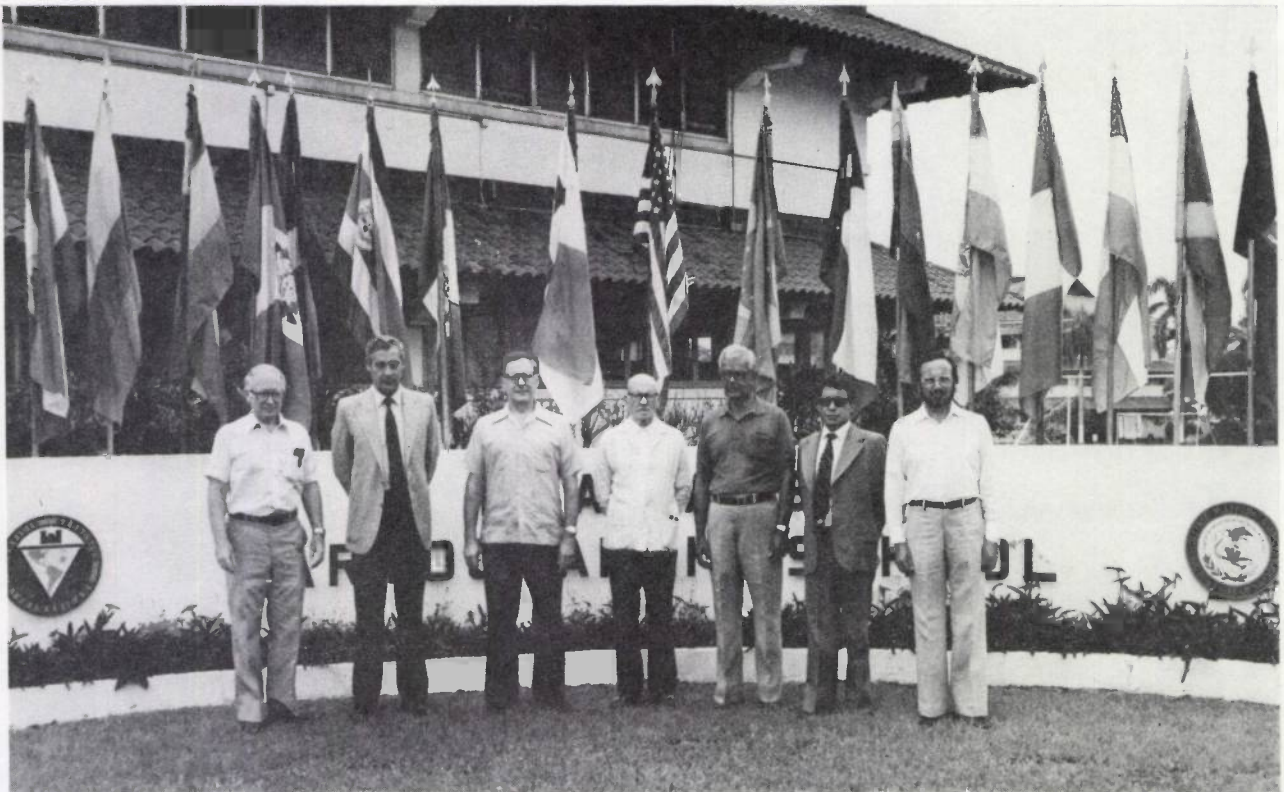
PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY:  
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GAZETTEERS, 1981

Alan Rayburn\*

The first meeting of the Working Group on Gazetteers of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was held at the Inter American Geodetic Survey (IAGS) Cartographic School in Panama, July 27-31, 1981. Under the direction of the Project Coordinator, Dr. Richard Randall, the group agreed that encouragement should be given to the production of a PAIGH series of gazetteers and that there should be standard specifications for the series.

\* Alan Rayburn, Executive Secretary, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

In the listings of geographical names it was agreed that the following elements are essential for each entry: 1) the full name (specific and generic); 2) the kind of feature, indicated by a brief designation or abbreviation; 3) the geographic coordinates in degrees and minutes; 4) the appropriate administrative area; and 5) the 1:250 000 map sheet on which the coordinates are found. It was agreed that all names should be listed in strict alphabetical arrangement (e.g., Sainte-Marie before Saint-Louis). No consensus was reached on including UTM coordinates, nor on the place of other details such as area, altitude, length and population, in the PAIGH series. Points were discussed in regard to size, layout,



Working Group, PAIGH Series of Gazetteers, Left to Right: A. Rayburn (Canada), C. Carvallo Yanez (Chile), R. Randall (USA), J. Ronchetti (Argentina), J. Varela (Costa Rica), H. Sanchez V. (Colombia), L. Vences Romero (Mexico)  
(Photo: IAGS Cartographic School)

arrangement of introductory material and inclusion of a reference map in each volume.

Regional coordinators were appointed for groups of countries in Latin America to transmit details about the specifications, to collect data on developments in mapping and gazetteer production in those countries and to gather information on activities relating to the mandate of the working group.

The participants agreed that maximum adherence to specifications was highly desirable, and that efforts to

reach concurrence among all PAIGH countries should be pursued as a priority. To achieve this goal Dr. Randall requested the members of the group to express their views by November 1, 1981 on the points not fully resolved at the meeting in Panama. When the working group has reached agreement, the specifications and an accompanying report will be circulated to other PAIGH members for comments and/or acceptance. In the meantime, the members of the group were asked to circulate the report to appropriate officials in their countries and to initiate activities, as feasible, to implement the proposed PAIGH gazetteer program.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN TOPONYMY/  
RÉCENTE PUBLICATIONS TRAITANT DE TOPONYMIE

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Lapierre, André (1981): *Toponymie française en Ontario*, Éditions Études Vivantes, Montréal. 120 p. \$6.95

Mika, Nick and Helma (1981): *Places in Ontario - their name origins and history*, Part II, F-M, Mika Publishing Company, Belleville, Ontario. 718 p. \$27.50

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