

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 24 1905

DEAR SIR,

I wish to obtain information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada—of the names of the villages, towns, cities and of the natural features, such as rivers, lakes, capes, bays, mountains, etc.—and shall be much obliged if you will give me any information that you may possess or can procure, respecting the below-mentioned name and also respecting the names of any other features in the vicinity of your residence concerning which you have knowledge.

In many localities, the older generation is passing, or has passed away, and unless steps are taken to collect this information, it will, in many instances, be too late. In most communities there are persons who take an interest in things of this nature or that have been connected with the early settlement of the locality. If there are any such in your neighbourhood, will you kindly submit this to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the commoner derivatives of place-names in Canada :—

(1.) Whether named after a village, town, or city, or natural feature in any other province or country ; if so, the name of province or country in which the original locality is situated.

(2.) Whether named after a person ; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name as rendered by the person and any details of interest respecting him (or her) such as (a) Whether alive or, if dead, approximate year of death ; (b) Whether at any time a resident of the locality and, if so, whether still living there.

(3.) Whether named after a natural feature ; if so, any details respecting the origin of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

(4.) Whether the town, village or city ever had any other name or names ; if so, at what dates, approximately, and the origin of these obsolete names.

Any information bearing on the above will be deemed a courtesy.

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITE,
Geographer.

Kindly write your reply on the attached sheet.

To ensure free transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will come free of postage.

"Stratheona"
Alta

Strathcona Aug 31st 1905

Major White
Geographer
Ottawa

Dear Sir

In reply to your enquiry the name Strathcona was given to this town in honor of our distinguished Canadian Lord Strathcona. The name name is also borne by the constituency of which this is the chief town. The former name of the place was South Edmonton but in October 1899 the name was changed to the present title. Lord Strathcona having been intimately connected with the district as chief factor of Hudson Bay Co it was considered appropriate to commemorate his memory in this way and besides the great many of the inhabitants being Scotch or of Scotch extraction the name appealed to them. There were three names

suggested at meeting held for
the purpose of renaming the
town New Aberdeen, Mintie and
Strathcona. The choice seems
to have been a fortunate one
as the town during the few years
of its existence has been the
recipient of generous recognition
by its patron and namesake.

Yours truly

J. W. Blair

P.S. If there is anything of
a special nature you would
like to learn of a place rich
in historic lore of pioneer days
then I should be pleased to give
you what assistance I can

J. W. B.