

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 17 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.

"Trail"
Kootenay Dist. →

James White Esquire
Geographer
Ottawa

Sir: - I have the honor to state for the information
of your Department that the name Trail is derived
from the Sawdust Trail, which follows the course
of Trail Creek to the Columbia River where is situated
the City of Trail. The first mineral claim located was
on the Sawdust Trail. Afterwards the productive portion
of the District was located about half a mile to the north
of the Sawdust Trail on the Southern slope of the now
well known Red Mountain. The first reduction in
the scale of costs of treating Rossland ores was made
in 1896 by the construction of a Smelter at Trail by Aug
Heinze and the construction of a narrow gauge Railway
from Trail to Rossland, a cheapening in the price
of fuel and a further reduction will ensue at the Trail
Smelter the treatment of all the ores of the Rossland Camp
in the near future. Good outcrops are situated in the
mineral zone towers above Trail and many promising
locations have been made there. E. S. Topping pre-empted
320 acres and subdivided it into a Township which at
present constitutes Trail. The pay Roll at the Trail
Smelter is \$420,000.00 annually, the population about
1300, Trail is six miles north of the International
Boundary - seven miles from Rossland in a direct
line, 14 miles by Railway. The Smelter of the Canadian
Smelting & Refining Company treats 1500 tons of ore per
diem. It is the terminus of the C.P.R. line of Steamers plying
between that point and the head of Arrow Lake where
is a little settlement known as Arrowhead, Besides the
business incidental to the large staff employed at the
Smelter and Refinery, an excellent supply trade is done
with the mining camps along the Columbia River

Yours very truly
W. J. Devitt
City Clerk

Trail 25 Aug 1905