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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 4 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.

Bonfield
Nipissing Dist. *Out*
Nasbousing lake
Zalou lake
Nipissing lake
Levesqueville
Mattawa

Good answer

Bonfield:— A Police Village, situated in the center of a farming district, in the township of Bonfield, district of Nipissing, Province of Ontario. Population: 350 inhabitants, nearly all of French origin. Has a large R. C. Church, 2 schools, 4 general stores, 4 groceries, 1 bakery, 2 barbers, 1 shoemaker, 3 wheelwrights, 3 blacksmiths, 2 steam saw mills, 2 flour mills, 1 steam tannery, 1 cheese manufacture, 4 millineries, 1 tailor, 2 butchers and— last and least— two hotels.

Bonfield is situated on the main line of the C.P.R., 345 miles from Montréal. The village is built on a nice hill, at the foot of lake Nasbonsing, a fine and picturesque sheet of water 9 miles in length by $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles in breadth.

Bonfield has been named after an Irishman, Mr. Bonfield, ex. M. P. for Renfrew, who died at Egamville about five years ago.

The village and post-office were formerly called "Nasbonsing", and the railway station "Calender". As this was leading to a great deal of confusion, in 1896, the name of the township (Bonfield) was adopted for both the station and post-office.

The lake was called by the Indians: "Nasbonsing", which means: "The Waters by the Way", in the Algonquin dialect. It was thus called on account of its position along the old portage road leading the ancient hunters and trappers from lake Talon (named after Talon, one the French Intendants of the colony, before the cession of Canada to England), on the Mattawa (meaning "the Forks") river, to lake Nipissing ("the great Sheet of Water", 82 x 41 miles).

The township of Bonfield has now (1905) over 475 voters.

The first Agricultural Society of Nipissing was established there in 1890, by the undersigned.

Bonfield, Ont., }

Oct. 12/05. }

J. A. Lavoie, N. P.

Lévesqueville: - Lévesqueville is a small French village, built at the head of lake Nasbousing, 9 miles west from Bonfield. The place was thus called after the founder of that colony, J. A. Lévesque, a Notary Public, (the undersigned) residing at Bonfield, and who, in 1885 and 1886, took up there, in his boat (the only conveyance at the time), a score of settlers, who have developed into an important settlement.

The township of Ferris has actually (1905) 350 voters.

The second Agricultural society of Nipissing was established there by J. A. Lévesque, in the spring of 1890, and is flourishing still.

Lévesqueville has a fine church, five schools, and a few other public establishments.

A post-office, called "Lévesqueville", was established there about 15 years ago. Since last summer, the parish priest, Father Astor, got the post-office removed next door to his, and calls it "Astorville", while most of the settlers call it still "Lévesqueville", and have their mail matter directed to the latter address.

Respectfully yours.

J. A. Lévesque, N. P.

Bonfield, Ont., }

Oct. 12/05. }