

31 P/13

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.

*Mimicogawashen
Muskoka Dist. Ont*

THE
Minnicoganashene
GEORGIAN BAY
(VIA PENETANG) ONT., CANADA

Nov. 11th/ 1905

The Department of the Interior,
Office of the Geographer.
O t t a w a .

Dear Sir,

I apologise for the delay in answering your letter of the 4 th Ult, but I must plead having been so busy I could not attend to it.

You address me as Post Master. This is only a post office during the tourist season and is an island on the Georgian Bay situated about 10 miles from the village of Penetanguishene.

I really cannot tell you the meaning of the word, " Minni-coganashene ". I have asked on all sides and no one seems to know. It is Indian, what tribe's tongue I cannot say. We know that shene means shore. Also that Minni means Laughing. The Captains of the steamers around here have tried to make me believe it to be "the island of blueberries". I tried to find out the meaning from Doctor Chadwick of Toronto, and he did not appear to be able to tell me either. I am very anxious to know what it means myself, as I am yearly asked this questions by numbers of guests. I shall esteem it a great favor if you are able to find out by any means what it means if you will kindly write and tell me.

Regretting my inability to give you the information you require,

I remain,

Yours truly,

THE MINNICOGANASHENE

PER

J. C. Cawley