

Pentanguishem

31 D

23rd Dec. 1905

Sincerely

Mr. James White
Geographer &c.
Ottawa Ont.

Paul James

My Dear Sir: Your circular dated 25th Sept. ult. re Place Names in Canada has been placed in my hands by the town clerk Mr. Hewson, with a request to reply to the same, which I now proceed to do, to the best of my ability as follows:

1 — Pentanguishem — is from the poetic & expressive Indian dialect & freely translated signifies "The Place of the White Rolling Sands" or "The Place of the Falling Sands" from a bank of sand on Pinery Point, to the right on entering the Harbor.

It is of A-ben-a-ki origin, a branch of the great Algonquin family which in Cartier's time occupied the northern portion of this Continent from the Atlantic ocean to the Rocky Mountains & a few names sparsely scattered here & there north of the St. Lawrence & the great lakes, are the only relics which remain to tell of A-ben-a-ki's occupation & the passing of this flourishing & once (powerful)

powerful original race. Like the "Potaganese" from whom the British purchased Drummond Island, & which has now become "Pottawattomie", the name Peuetanguicheun, has undergone innumerable metamorphoses in its various transitions through different dialects. The form is now A-jib-way. The sole authority for the origin of this unique appellation is Indian tradition handed down for generations to the present remnants of the Aborigines, who are rapidly losing the last trace of their ancient traditions.

There is but ^{one} other name of similar origin left in Ontario. The location was known to Samuel Holland, Engineer ^{officer} during the regime of Sir Fredk. Haldimand as Gov. General of Canada in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The site at the east side entrance of the inner harbor on the east side, was chosen by Gov. Simcoe in 1792 for a Fort & Garrison, ^{which was} erected in 1814, & named after the bay, from which the town in turn received its name. There is a fanciful Indian Legend as to the origin of the bank of sand, which glitters like gold in the sun on a bright day.

(several)

Several streets of the town bear the names of distinguished men: viz.

Simcoe Street in honor of Sir John Graves Simcoe first Gov. of Upper Canada in 1792.
Roberts St. - after Capt. Roberts, uncle of Lord Roberts, & who captured Mackinaw in 1812 & was subsequently in Command of the Garrison here.

Geo St. - in honor of Sir Jas. Geo. Aival Commander of the Lakes during the war of 1812.

Poyntz St. - after Col. Poyntz, one of the pioneer officers in erecting the Garrison.

Burke St. } In honor of the ^{three} famous States-
Peel St. } men of that name.

Wilberforce St. In honor of the noted Philanthropist of slavery days.

Nelson St. In honor of the hero of Aboukir Bay & Trafalgar.

Lorne Avenue - After Marquis of Lorne, one time Gov. General of Canada.

Louise Crescent - In honor of Princess Louise daughter of H. M. late Queen Victoria & wife of Marquis of Lorne.

Dufferin Avenue - In honor of late Lord Dufferin one-time Gov. General of Canada.

(Cambridge)

Cambridge

4
Cambridge St. } bounding three sides of Old St.
Church " } James Church, were named by
Oxford " } the late Rev. Geo. Hallam
Rector & Military Chaplain, in commemoration
of the famous University towns, where he proce-
eded his studies.

Church St. was long known as "The Lines" from
the number of soldiers residences along that
portion contiguous to the Garrison & on which
lands were granted to the soldiers by the Gov-
ernment.

Brock St. so named in honor of Sir Isaac
Brock, the hero of Queenston & the war of 1812.

Pentanguishem bay & its shores embrace the fol-
lowing: viz:

Magazine Island, near the site of the Garrison,
so named from an old Magazine Block-house
for storing powder (still standing) built by the
Government in 1815. Originally named "Dobson's Isle"
from a Naval Officer. There are three graves on the
island - a Surgeon, an insane soldier & laborer.

Garrison Point, where the first Fort was built.

Whisper Island - light station at the entrance
of the Harbor - so named from the custom of
Voyagers & Indians halting there on their
(way)

6/1
way out for the first drink of liquor. The official name on Maps & Charts is "Grass Island" Gordon's Point[?] on the eastern shore - the site of an old Trading Post, established by one Geo. Gordon in 1825. He called it originally "The Place of Pentanguishem".

✓ Trudeaux Point on the western shore named after a Naval Blacksmith who settled on that lot in 1828.

Michaud's Point - from a French Canadian who settled there in 1840.

Giroux Point[?] - from a French Voyageur from Drummond Island who settled there in 1834, formerly Beausoleil, now "Wait a Bit"

Colborne Bay[?], on the western side of the harbor, commonly known as the "Northwest Basin" was named in honor of Sir John Colborne (Lord Seaton) who was Governor General of Canada in 1835.

Corbieres Pt.[?] also named after a French Voyageur from Drummond Island in 1830.

Lavallee's Pt. - now Highland Pt. (Davidson's) from another Drummond Island Voyageur who settled on it in 1828.

Beausoleil - "Isle of the Beautiful Sun" - opposite (the)

611

Bay

the mouth of the Harbor - formerly called St. Ignace by the French, received its name from a French Voyager of Drummond Island who settled there in 1819 - The official name on Maps & Charts is "Prince William Henry" from William Henry Duke of Gloucester brother of George III.

Gloucester Bay? from the same Dukedom. Min-na-kaig-no-sheue - "The Place of the Blueberry" -

Minnaigpawshene

an island on the North Shore - a Tourist Resort with Post Office during season of navigation recently established - cut down officially to Minnaeog.

kaig-na-sheue - "The Place of the Red Deer" - an island adjacent to the former.

Bay

Giants' Tomb - "Isle Traverse" of the French as it lay directly across the track of the Voyagers on the way to the Hurons - "The resting Place of Nanigo" of Indian tradition - so named from the fact that in whatever direction approached it presents the appearance of a gigantic grave or tomb.

Wau-bau-sheue - always called Beausheue by the Indians - "The Place of the Meeting of the Rocks" from two rocks, obstructing navigation at the entrance to the Harbor now removed. A more (recent)

2
recent tradition, says "The meeting Place of the
Women" from a story that on occasion of a great
battle, the Indians placed their women & children
back in that region out of danger. But the first
^{yes} I presume is the true & more likely explanation.

1 Matchedash Bay is from the Indian dialect sig-
nifying, Marshy, Swampy Muskeg.

1 Severn River - Outlet of Lakes Couchiching & Simcoe
is called after a river of the same name bordering
England & Wales.

Coldwater River - from the fact that the water of that
river was said to be very cold.

1 Sturgeon River & Bay - from the large fish of that name
formerly found there in great numbers.

Hogg River & Bay - the latter now Victoria Harbor
named after a Pioneer Methodist Preacher
who travelled that region in early days.

+ Wye River is after the northern branch of the Severn
in England, also from its resemblance to the
letter Y, when first discovered by the Jesuits. It
was at one time named Yeo river in honor of
the Naval Commander Sir Jas. Yeo in 1812, but
it has since reverted to its original name.

Three islands bordering the North Shore of Simy
were set apart by the Government in 1832, as

(an)

8
an Indian Reservation, where the Christian Bands were segregated, hence called the "Christian Island" group - the largest facetiously called "Faith" having appropriated by common consent the general appellation of "Christian Island". It is the old "Ahoendoe" of the Hurons, & St. Joseph of the Jesuits. The other two are Hope & Beckwith - the three "dubbed" one time "Faith, Hope & Charity."

Hope Is. - a marine light station, was named in honor of Col. Hope, who was appointed Lieut. Governor of Quebec in 1785.

Beckwith Is. - was named after Maj. Gen. Sir George Beckwith, who was entrusted with an important confidential mission to Washington under Lord Dorchester in 1788.

Thunder Bay - on the northern shore of Lake is the landing place of Champlain in 1615 & later of the Jesuits on their mission to the Hurons.

Methodist Point - said to be named from a Camp-Meeting held there by a Pioneer Methodist Missionary in early days.

Todd's Pt. - after a Surveyor of that name in early days.

Nottawasaga River & Bay - formerly Iroquois (see other derivation) (Bay)

9

Bay - meaning "Snake" or "Poisonous Reptile".

Midland Harbor - was originally "Mundy's Bay" - named after Israel Mundy, a veteran of the war of 1812 who settled near there on the old Military road in 1819.

Present Island - so named from the annual gathering of the Indians to receive the customary distribution of the presents from the Government.

Muskoka River ^{& Lake} from Muscogee a chief of the Indian tribes of that region.

Rosseau Lake - named after J. B. Rosseau an Indian trader from Penitanguishem in the early days of last century.

Lafontaine - originally St. Croix from the number of large wooden crosses erected by Father Hennepin in 1640.

Kings Mills Portage, leading from the head of Penitanguishem Bay to Pottawacaga Bay traversed by Sir Richard Bonnycastle in 1755 - succeeded by Randolph's Mills in 1842 from which Randolph Post Office takes its name.

But these notes are expanding too far & possibly I have transgressed my bounds unwarrantably. However as you will notice by the date, I have taken my time, as I was unavoidably busy, & since I may presume the (nomenclature)

10
remuneration will not be burdensome
at least.

As an official of the Government
I may assume you are a busy man & I
would not like encroach on your valuable
time, but may I solicit a favor. I have
given considerable attention to the old History
of this interesting & very historic region & have
some sketches which I dare to hope, may be
of interest to the public, the right to & ownership
of which I would like to retain. Shall I apply
to your Department for authority of Copy-right
& in what form & what the fee? If you
can afford me some information
I shall feel under obligation.

Yours &c.

P. S. Ostrom

P.S. I omitted to add that I shall be pleased
to make any additions, emendations or correct
you may require or any further information
necessary. Yours &c. P. S.