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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG 29 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.

*Sea Cow Pond*  
*Prince Co* *P.P.S.*



Seabow Pond P. Q. Sept. 8 1905

James White Esq

Dear Sir

In reply to your inquiry  
re place names. Over a century ago the  
walrus was a denizen of the waters in this  
locality. About that time a number of them  
came ashore at a stream & pond about two miles  
from North Cape, i.e. the northern end of the Island.  
We have proof that these amphibi penetrated <sup>into</sup> the  
bush for a half mile or so. And perished from  
what cause I cannot tell. About sixty years ago  
I was with my father when he found several tusks  
of the walrus, a fire had swept through the wood  
and exposed them.

The early Acadian settlers erroneously named  
them 'Sea Cows' and hence 'Seabow Pond'.

When I was a boy I remember hearing some of  
the old Acadians say that the Sea Cows as the  
called after coming ashore were driven into the bush  
and slaughtered and their hides used for traces.  
Seabow Pond is the only name this place  
has had to my knowledge.

Yours Respectfully Etc  
J. H. C. Arthur Esq  
Seabow Pond