

Some Challenges of Names Recognition: The Ontario Geographic Names Board, Canada, 2000–2007

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Canada

Abstract

Canada was one of the first countries to establish a geographical names authority and has participated in the work of standardization at the United Nations since the first conference in 1967. Over the past forty years the approval of geographical names in Canada has been primarily the responsibility of the provinces and, for a shorter time, the territories.

The names authority for the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Geographic Names Board (OGNB), comprises seven members (including representatives from Ontario First Nations, and the province's English- and French-speaking communities). Between 2000 and 2007, the OGNB considered some 380 names submissions, recommending approximately 330 for official recognition and general dissemination.

This paper looks at some of the main challenges to the Board during this period. Among the questions considered were issues relating to such themes as commemorative naming, urban community naming, and handling existing names considered derogatory. Sometimes bearing on the Board's approaches to these issues were the need for names for emergency reference purposes (911 dialling), a sparse population in northern areas of the province to support local usage, and conflicting submissions to replace derogatory names. Issues, approaches, examples, and preliminary guidelines are presented.

Introduction

Should *Mazinaw Rock* be replaced with *Bon Echo Rock*? Should *Squaw Rapids* continue to be used? Should someone who owns a small island be able to have the island named for himself/herself? Questions of this sort must be answered by a geographical names authority.

Many countries of the world have excellent procedures for authorizing standardized geographical names for the benefit of the general public, both national and international. Other countries are still endeavouring to establish a process for the formalization of the written form and application of names to places and features within their national boundaries. In Canada, the government has been involved with issues of naming since the latter part of the nineteenth century and set up a names authority (at first called the Geographic Board of Canada) in 1897.

This names board was at first a federal organization, but very soon had input from the provinces. Not, however, until the late 1960s did the decision making on the names of places and features fully devolve to all the provinces (and later, in the 1980s, also to the territories). As time has passed different issues have been central to the decision-making process in each province. In this paper, I will look at some of the main issues and challenges faced by the names authority of the province of Ontario, namely the Ontario Geographic Names Board (OGNB), between 2000 and 2007.

During these eight years, I was either a member or the Chair of the OGNB. The Board comprised seven members, including a Chief of an Ontario First Nation, a representative of the province's French-speaking communities, an individual from the less populated northern part of the province, the Surveyor General for Ontario, and the Board Secretary from the Ministry of

Natural Resources (MNR). Meetings were held three or four times a year (with a total of 25 in this timeframe), most frequently in Peterborough, where the offices of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources are located.

The Board is responsible for the naming of natural geographical features, unincorporated populated places, localities and other topographic entities comprising the physical and cultural landscape of Ontario. For the most part the Board is advisory to the Minister of Natural Resources. However, for names of unincorporated places and communities, the Board decisions are entered directly into the provincial records. The Board does not have jurisdiction over names of streets or buildings, or names of features and places governed by statutory or other authority.

A general overview of some types of names brought before the Board

Of some 380 names considered by the Board, 186 were recommended to the Minister for action and 123 entered directly into the official records. In addition, 59 names considered derogatory were rescinded. Most of the submissions were for one or two names. However, a few larger groups of names were considered by the Board:

- urban community names of long standing within the city of Ottawa (95 approvals),
- a group of features associated with Whitestone Lake in “cottage country” near Georgian Bay (36 approvals). This was an application from a former Surveyor General of Ontario, following the publication of a map by the local ratepayers’ association; background material had to be obtained for the names and the land owners contacted to determine their support for the proposals.
- lake floor features of Lake Ontario submitted by the Canadian Hydrographic Service (12 approvals). Approval of several names had to be coordinated with the United States Board on Geographic Names.

The names recommended by the OGNB consisted of the following types of features:

| | | |
|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Water | 34.3% | (especially lakes, bays and creeks) |
| Communities | 34.3% | (urban and unincorporated) |
| Land | 27.2% | (especially islands) |
| Underwater | 4.2% | |

Local usage

Many names submitted to the Board recognize the principle of local usage. A good number of these are descriptive of the appearance of the feature, for instance, *Burnt Island*, *Deep Bay*, *Cranberry Bay*, *Drop Anchor Island*, *Sunset Bay*, and so on. Others might carry personal names in well established local use (*Bennett Lake*, *Powell Island*, *Suttaby Bay* ...). Before receiving Board recommendations, the main questions to answer are how much usage is there, how long have the names been used, and are there other names in competing local use. The onus is on the applicant to prove local use in their submissions, and wherever possible to acquire a resolution of their local council. Proposals from the sparsely populated northern parts of the province can prove difficult for decision-making, as few people know the features or use names for them, and names submitted may be almost entirely the domain of an extended family. In some cases (22 in 2000 and 2001) the need for toponyms to facilitate emergency (911) dialling enhanced a name submission and its passage to approval (*Whippoorwill Island*, *Hitchcock Island*, *Dewar’s Island*). The normal practice of the OGNB Secretariat is to conduct a written and/or telephone survey in the area of the name proposal – but costs and public perception of the Board’s work must be considered in pursuing names which do not appear to meet principles or have already been very

thoroughly documented. The issue of low returns to surveys is another question to be considered when the Board discusses its recommendations.

The Board's principles of local use also were instrumental in changing names (*White Lake* from *Dummer Lake*, *Farren Lake* from *Farrell Lake*) or in correcting improperly recorded spellings (e.g., *Tate's Bay* rather than *Tait Bay*, *Heney Lake* rather than *Heeney Lake*, and *McDonald's Corners* rather than the form without the apostrophe which in past decades was the form accepted for use in geographical names). Local usage can also be a reason for rejecting name changes. Bon Echo Rock was not accepted in preference to the existing *Mazinaw Rock*. Although Bon Echo is the name of the provincial park, Mazinaw has long been in use for the rock – to the local Algonquin people of the area this generally means “writing”, which can be traced back some 400 years and is in keeping with the pictographs on the imposing rock face. The name in longer usage was retained by the Board.

I would like to consider three particular types of naming that have been brought before the Board from 2000–2007:

- 1) commemorative naming,
- 2) existing names considered derogatory, and
- 3) community naming – urban and postal areas.

Commemorative naming (12% of approvals)

At the start of this time period, in 2000, the OGNB *Naming Principles* on commemoration referred to naming features for persons and included guidelines that Board consideration be given to honour those who had contributed to the legacy of the area where the feature is located, had contributed to the legacy of the Province of Ontario, or who as an Ontarian had lost his/her life while serving Canada in wartime or overseas peace-keeping operations. To recommend such naming, the Board looked for adequate support from the local or general public and the appropriate municipal, provincial or national interests. The Board opposed and discouraged commemorative naming of a living person.

War casualties

In cases of features submitted to honour casualties of war (primarily World War II), the process was generally fairly straightforward. This form of naming had been widely used in other provinces (particularly Manitoba and Saskatchewan) and such names were usually attached to many of the myriad of lakes (or features within them – bays, islands, etc.) on the Canadian Shield in the northern part of the provinces. Although some features bore unrecorded names used by indigenous people when hunting or fishing, or were coined by other small groups using the wilderness, many had not been named. A pattern of names had been established over the years, and was in practice in Ontario, that the family name only would be used in this commemoration – hence the approval of *Lucas Lake*, *Graham Island*, *Worthington Lake*, *Macfie Island*, *Soulière Lake*. The main questions arising, which the Secretariat ably sorted out with family members, were not to include first names (e.g., not Frederick William Worthington Lake) and, as in several instances, to select other locations for the proposals if locally used, but unofficial, names were found to exist for the features originally submitted. Nineteen features were named for war casualties during 2000–07.

Early settlers

Another type of commemorative name remembered early settlers who had contributed to an area. Examples include: *Millin Island* (for first mail carrier Arthur Millin); *Izatt Lake* (for generations of settlers since the 1840s). However, more often the names of early settlers had become a part of local usage and such names were then submitted to the Board as names in local use, for instance:

Hargrave Narrows (for logger James Hargrave working the area around 1900); *Kajander Lake* (for Einas Kajander, a settler from Finland in 1901).

Contributors to the area

More recently, the Board received and after requesting, where necessary, additional supporting information to ascertain their contributions, recommended a feature be named in honour of several individuals now deceased: dairy farmer Dave Aljoe (*Aljoe Creek*); geologist Paul Coad (*Coad Hill*); forester Bill Roll (*Roll Lake*); and conservationists Joe Bertholet (*Bertholet Bay*) and Walter Ceolin (*Ceolin Falls*). In addition, *Frontier Lake* was named for the 100th anniversary of Frontier College, now a Canada-wide literacy organization, started in 1899 for labourers in work camps on Canada's frontiers.

Accident victims


A variety of submissions were received for victims of tragedies in remote areas, or to honour individuals still alive. In addressing such situations and in fairness to all members of the public the Board had to follow its naming guidelines and if necessary decline the proposals.

One of the cases brought before the Board was a request to name features for seven young forestry workers with the Ministry of Natural Resources, who lost their lives in a very tragic accident during the Nakina prescribed burn in 1979 (near Esnagami Lake) in the forests of northwestern Ontario northeast of Thunder Bay. When the wind shifted the workers were trapped in smoke and flames from the brush fire they had set to clear slash on timbered land. According to Board principles these students had not contributed to the legacy of the area of the accident. However, this particular incident has subsequently had a significant and far-reaching impact on the way that fires are now fought; Nakina became a case study in North America and contributes to the current teaching on handling fire situations. As such the contribution of these young people to the province was recognized. Although years passed during the ongoing investigations surrounding the tragedy, in 2005, seven lakes were named in their honour. The regional MNR office worked with the families to select features that did not appear to carry any other local or indigenous name. In these cases there was no precedent for the use of family and/or first names, so the choice was that of the family (*Gordon Reid Lake, Danny Lake, Colleen Lake, Jane Spurgeon Lake, Andy Thompson Lake, Ken Harkes Lake, Wanda Lake*). The example of *Gordon Reid Lake* is shown in Figure 1.

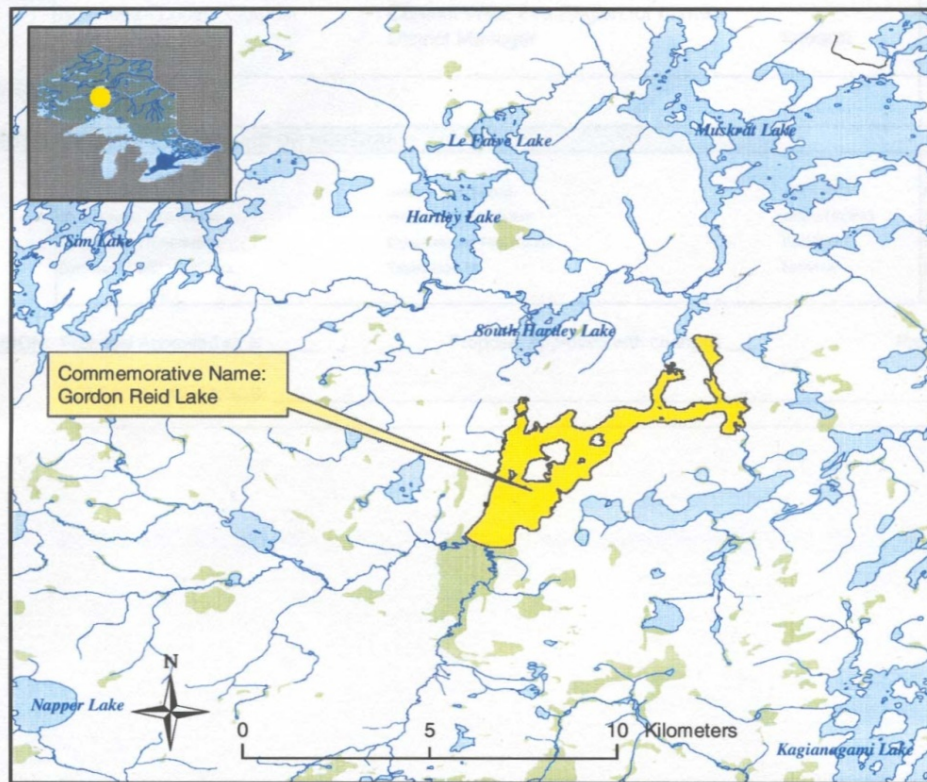
Amending OGNB Naming Guidelines

During the time since 2000, the commemorative guidelines have been modified to provide clearer guidelines both for the public and for the Board and to avoid submissions being made immediately following a death. In 2004, in keeping with resolution VIII/2 (2002) of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and policies of other Canadian provinces, the Board introduced a waiting period of two years after an individual's death before a commemorative name is submitted for consideration. At the same time the clause on naming for living persons was strengthened to "the Board opposes commemorative naming of a living person". Subsequently the Geographical Names Board of Canada adopted its own commemorative guidelines, and in June 2007, the OGNB aligned its commemorative naming policies with the national guidelines, while still keeping some distinctive elements. Ontario retains a two-year waiting period to consider a name proposal (compared to five years nationally); Ontario will consider naming for victims of accidents and tragedies provided they have contributed to the legacy of the area, province or country. Statements have now been added about commemorating events – in this case Ontario considers a 10-year waiting period, whereas

nationally the timeframe is 25 years. For both people and events, Ontario will not consider adopting such names for features that already carry acceptable and well-established names.

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|--|--|---|--|--|
|  Ontario | The Ontario Geographic Names Board/La Commission de toponymie de l'Ontario | Names of Geographic Features/Noms d'entités géographiques | Serial Number/No de série F/2005/019 | Meeting Date/Date de la réunion June 30 2005 (120th) |
| | MNR District/District du MRN Nipigon | Provincial Map/Carte provinciale 20 16 4200 56500 | Federal Map/Carte fédérale 52P01 | Decision Date/Date de décision N/A |

The following names of geographic features have been considered by the Ontario Geographic Names Board and pursuant to Section 3(8) of the Ontario Geographic Names Board Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.16 are Recommended to the Minister for approval under Section 4 of the above Act/Les noms d'entités géographiques qui suivent ont été pris en considération par la Commission de toponymie de l'Ontario et, en vertu du paragraphe 3 (8) de la Loi sur la Commission de toponymie de l'Ontario, L.R.O. 1990, chap. O.16, sont recommandés au ministre pour approbation selon l'article 4 de la loi sus-mentionnée



Gordon Reid Lake

Lake/Lac (951); Thunder Bay (reg./cty./dist.); NW of Kagianagami Lake; approximate centre at 51.0252203 -88.040016 -- UTM = 16 5653143.988 427062.393(NAD83); record status = A1; unique name key = FETJD; waterbody identifier = 16-4271-56531; Not: South Lake (FETJE- B1) nor Nip-nl-1084 (FETJF - B1)

MNR recommended form of name for use in French text applications - lac Gordon Reid

Named in memory of Gordon Reid, age 17, of Don Mills who along with six other young forestry workers died in a prescribed fire burn tragedy near Esnagami Lake, on August 22, 1979.

Figure 1. OGNB recommendation for *Gordon Reid Lake*, 2005.

Derogatory or pejorative names

The principles of Canada's national naming authority have for many decades included guidelines against adoption of derogatory or pejorative names. Since the Board's inception in 1969, the OGNB's *Naming Principles* also have indicated that such names will not be recommended. This principle has worked well for names being submitted for the first time, but is not of great assistance to the OGNB in reviewing names that through change in general usage may today be considered as derogative or pejorative. Such an example is the term "squaw" that in recent times has come under scrutiny in both Canada and the USA.

Earlier than the timeframe being considered in this article (1994), one example of a requested name change for a feature approved with the term "squaw" was Squaw River near Peterborough. After considerable research the feature was renamed *Miskwaa Ziibi* (meaning 'red river' in Ojibwe, used by the Curve Lake First Nation since the 1860s, and possibly the source of "squaw", in this instance).

In the late 1990s and again in 2000, the OGNB received similar complaints about feature names that included the word "squaw" – on these occasions in northwestern Ontario; some on local road and highway signage near Thunder Bay. In the case of *Squaw Narrows*, the local First Nations was opposed to a change. Subsequently, however, there appeared to be growing opinion (of First Nations and others) that this word was considered derogatory and unacceptable for use in geographical names. In 2000, the OGNB discussed this issue further, as the question had really not been resolved, correspondence was reaching the Minister of Transportation and similar requests were being made in other parts of Canada and the USA. The First Nations representative on the Board advised that the OGNB needed broader support and more solid evidence to make such name changes (in this case *Big Squaw Creek* and *Little Squaw Creek*) as at this point the process could well be precedent setting. As a result the question in general was referred to the Chiefs of Ontario for discussion at their General Assembly. By 2001, a response was received from the Ontario Regional Chief indicating that collectively the First Nations in Ontario found the usage offensive and unacceptable. The Chiefs of Ontario unanimously supported the immediate change of names in the province that bore the name "squaw".

The members of the OGNB met in early 2002 to make a recommendation and to address the process to follow with respect to these official toponyms. By this time similar scenarios had been handled in Prince Edward Island in 1990, in some USA states (Minnesota, Montana, Maine and Oklahoma) between 1995 and 2000, and after that in British Columbia. The Board unanimously passed motions identifying these names as offensive, and rather than deal with the names one at a time as particular complaints were received, the Board recommended to the Minister that all names containing "squaw" and "squawman" be rescinded. The 59 rescissions were approved by the Minister in April 2002, meaning that no longer would any of these names be valid for inclusion on maps or in documents.

As this process left the features without names, the question of the replacement process was also discussed by the Board. As had previously been experienced in the case of *Miskwaa Ziibi*, finding suitable new names could be a long and complex undertaking, involving surveys, fieldwork, and public relations; in addition priorities would need setting and costs estimated for pursuing this in a methodical way. The outcome of the Board deliberations was a decision to refrain from methodically seeking replacement names, but rather to inform First Nations and local councils in the areas of the Board's principles on naming. Submissions could then be made to the Board and renaming requests could be considered as they are submitted, in a similar way to new proposals. The onus was, therefore, on the residents of the area to determine the need for a name for a feature, rather than the Board orchestrating the process. Of the features no longer carrying names, two were considered 'large' features, thirteen 'medium' in size and the rest 'small'. They were spread around the province, fairly evenly divided between Northern and Southern Ontario,

and were predominantly islands, lakes and points. Only five were on, or partially on, Indian Reserves.

The Secretariat staff took responsibility for the briefing notes and liaison within the Ministry of Natural Resources for a press release, as well as the information packages mailed out to government bodies and the public, on the rescission and renaming process. Following the official signing of the rescissions, it was then in the hands of the Ministry of Transportation to alter its road signage – the source of public complaint.

So, what has happened since with regard to the names of these features? The first replacement name was submitted in early 2003. The proposal for ‘Fireworks Rock’ was supported by the Municipality (Whitestone) and a local Conservation Authority (WahWashKesh), but no council resolution had been passed. As a pilot case, the Board requested that the municipality post this information and try to obtain local feedback before the OGNB was asked to make a decision on the name. The result was that in a few months the proposal came back from the Conservation Authority with local Municipal support to propose the name ‘MacRae Rock’ after two brothers killed in active service. As one of the brothers already had a feature named in his honour, the name was approved in recognition of the legacy of Jamie Duncan MacRae.

Also in 2003, ‘Kewis Island’ was proposed by the Township of Carling in Nobel. The Council had invited comments from property owners on the island, ratepayer associations and First Nations (Shawanaga and Wasauksing). Four names were put forward to Council: Squall Island, Tower Island, Christie Island and Kewis Island (from Wasauksing First Nation). Council supported Kewis Island (based on Ojibwe – ‘kewis’ or ‘okewis’ – meaning herring, and of significance in the local traditional fishing grounds). This name was recommended by the Board.

Another replacement name was put forward by a local outdoors club for a point in the Township of North Frontenac. As the submission was recognizing a small reptile listed as a ‘Species at Risk’, the proposal was deferred with a request to the municipality to submit an alternative name. The Township passed a council resolution for *Hepner Point*, after a former long time local fishing guide (Howard Hepner). Although survey returns were low, the name was generally supported.

Receiving local support to replace Squaw Lake was *Moffat Lake* (31E/12). This name had previously been in local use (1931 to 1985) before Squaw Lake became official and once again is well-established locally. The name honours the Moffat family who included three former postmasters of the Township of McKellar that had passed a resolution and submitted this name to the Board.

Summer Island (east of Thunder Bay, 52 A/07) was also recommended without much difficulty, but the nearby ‘Summer Bay’ proved rather more difficult, as over 50 people indicated support for the use of ‘Sibley Bay’ (apparently not confused with ‘Sibley Cove’ not far distant). The Board directed that a questionnaire survey should be conducted, as Sibley Bay appeared to have wider support than the original submission of ‘Summer Bay’. The result was that *Sibley Bay* was favoured (in keeping with the name of the peninsula, the geographic township and the provincial park) and the original proposers of ‘Summer Bay’ were in agreement (see Figure 2). However, this instance of conflicting submissions for replacement names made the Board aware of possible problems on future occasions. As a result the Board approved a letter encouraging more local consensus building before a name is submitted ... so that the submissions would include resolutions, if appropriate, letters of support and documentation showing that the proposed name has obtained a strong consensus from the local community. This would avoid circulation of complex questionnaire surveys indicating multiple proposed names for a feature, which could be confusing to recipients and potentially put the Board in a position that could be divisive to the community.

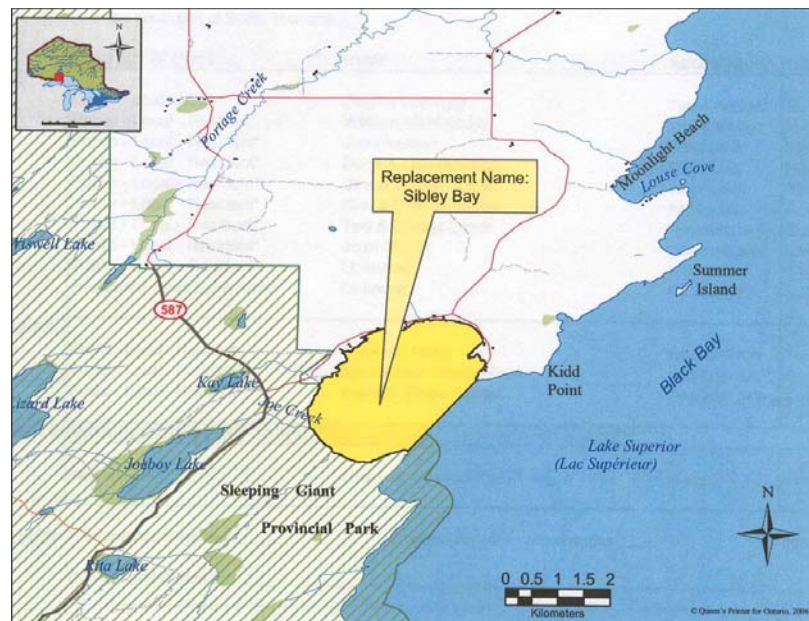


Figure 2. Part of the area covered by map sheet 52 A/07, showing names *Sibley Bay* and *Summer Island* recommended by the OGNB as replacement names for previously rescinded names (containing “squaw”).

At the end of 2007, at least three other features were known to be in the process of submission – two honouring a well known First Nations woman and family, one other to indicate women in Algonquin (its spelling being discussed before formal submission).

Relatively few replacement names have so far been submitted to the Board, but the process established – particularly now with requirement for stronger consensus – appears at this point to be suitable.

Although ‘squaw’ features have constituted by far the largest body of names to rescind, a few others have also been removed during this time span. In early 2004, two other feature names were considered offensive and unacceptable and were rescinded, namely ‘Darky Lake’ and ‘Darky River’ in the area of Quetico Provincial Park – they were replaced by the original names *Darkwater Lake* and *Darkwater River*. At the same time ‘Darkie Creek’ in the Sudbury area was also recommended for rescission.

In 2006, the one example of ‘Jew Lake’ in Quetico Provincial Park in northwestern Ontario was also removed in response to public questions of appropriateness.

Community names

Urban community names

Maps at 1:50 000 scale and larger usually show details of urban areas and many include the names of community areas within the administrative unit of a city or town. Such is the case with the National Topographic System 1:50 000 scale maps published by the federal government in Canada. In the 1970s and early 1980s, some of these urban sheets across the country were undergoing revision and the need to update the names within larger urban areas of Canada was clear. The City of Ottawa was one that needed review. At the time, verbal agreement from the OGNB Secretariat was given for a number of names to be used on these maps, with the idea that formal approval would be given by the Board. The names were also listed as “official” in the

Gazetteer of Canada: Ontario (1974). However, by the early 2000s the approval of the names had never happened!

As these names of urban communities continued to appear on the Action List of the Board, in 2003 a process was initiated to finalize their approval or rejection. Over four meetings around 100 names were presented to the Board.

The City of Ottawa was contacted to establish current usage of names listed. The City offices used three types of maps with names:

Ward maps that have been checked by City councillors,
Community association maps some of which contain extent information,
City of Ottawa's urban and rural maps.

It was indicated that councillors were sensitive to most key naming principles of the OGNB, with current local and well established usage taking precedence over names used by developers, and community names not commonly being named for a living person. However, no attempt had been made by the City (which had just undergone an amalgamation with adjoining municipal units) to standardize all similar names (e.g., Orléans, but Orleans Woods). Although some names that were no longer applicable could have been deleted from maps, the City of Ottawa had no database of community names for reference. No official extents or boundaries of named areas were maintained as they were seen as often fuzzy and constantly changing. Community associations existing in some parts of the City might be a source of designated boundaries.

In addition to obtaining current information on digital map bases from the City, to consider the validity of these names, it was necessary to consider their use in local newspapers, in telephone directories, in real estate listings, on other maps (e.g., National Capital Commission, National Defence), in local histories, in tourist information and other relevant sources of names on paper or the Internet. Figure 3 shows part of a base map used for reviewing the Ottawa urban names.

With the first names brought before the Board, members realized that to decide, as was the norm, on limits (extents) for the application of each urban community name was potentially quite controversial. Extents of community associations were perhaps established for convenience and more research than was possible at the time would be required to make valid decisions on limits. Instead it was decided that only centroid coordinates could realistically be approved for each name. At the first meeting, names which appeared to be consistent in various uses were brought to the Board: six existing records were confirmed (e.g., Carlington, Fisher Heights) and 13 names newly approved (e.g., Bayshore, Highland Park). In all to complete this project 95 names were approved.

Although the Board turned down some names where usage or location were questionable, for the most part names that appeared to be no longer in use or were ambiguous or confusing in use or application were not brought before the Board. Other questions included:

- the current use of one word, whereas the original submission from the 1970s was as two words (e.g., Barrhaven vs. Barr Haven; Whitehaven vs. White Haven; Centretown vs. Centre Town);
- spelling variants (e.g., South Keys vs. South Keyes; Bel Air Heights vs. Bel-Air Heights);
- different names (e.g., Castle Heights vs. Overbrook);
- variant forms (e.g., Hunt Club vs. Hunt Club Estates; Bridlewood vs. Bridlewood Manor);
- French language forms of these names. Some were approved as alternate (i.e., official) names (e.g., Centre-ville; Basse-ville; Côte-de-Sable). A few others were

listed for use as equivalents for use in French text (e.g., Queensway Terrace-Sud; Ottawa-Est).

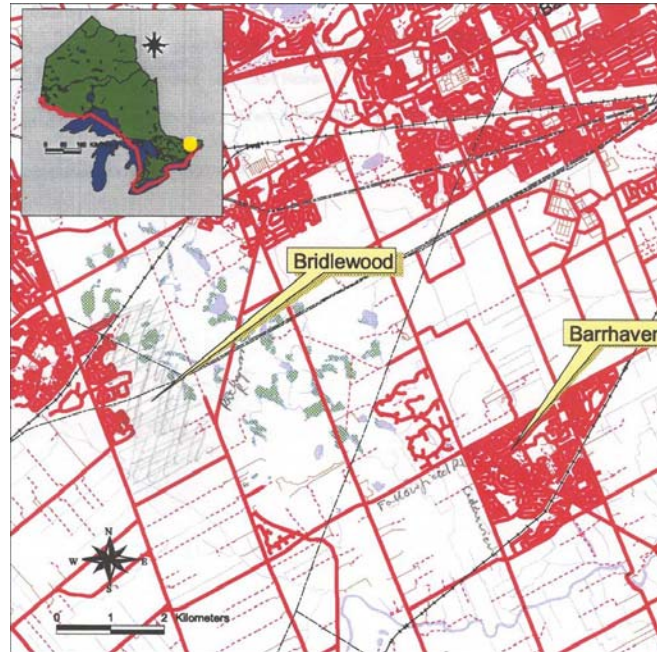


Figure 3. Part of a base map used to consider community names in Ottawa.

Since the original request for names consideration in the early 1970s, new urban communities have been established in Ottawa. However, the recommendation of the Board was that further consideration should not be given to urban community names unless they are individually submitted.

Postal areas

In 2006, the OGNB received communication from the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge (immediately west of Thunder Bay) regarding civic addressing (specifically “municipal identifiers”) being promoted by Canada Post to facilitate their delivery of mail to community mailboxes established to serve 30–38 people, rather than door to door mail delivery. The proposal was to divide the Municipality into convenient units of Kakabeka Falls, Murillo, Rosslyn, and Slate River. However, within this generally rural municipality Kakabeka Falls, Murillo, Rosslyn Village and Slate River Valley already existed as small named locations. To re-assign the names (or modifications of the names) to much larger areas was seen by the Board as potentially confusing and could have a negative impact from a local perspective. The Board chose not to be involved with such a process unless faced with a formal proposal.

However, a year later, urged by Canada Post, the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge came forward with a submission, indicating that these four names represented actual communities whose names and boundaries were known and used locally (see Figure 4). Before the proposal came before the Board a local survey was undertaken. Considerable detailed feedback was received with generally negative responses to the imposition of these zones on the Municipality, and objection to the apparent loss of use of the distinct community name ‘Stanley’ located in what would become known as Kakabeka Falls. Based on local feedback the Board did not

recommend the modified names or the extended boundaries be adopted, particularly as they appeared to have little or no current local usage.

As turning down these proposals likely would not assist the work of Canada Post, the Board felt it useful to develop “Community Naming Guidelines for Ontario”. The Guidelines in their initial form were approved by the Board in June 2007. They underline a number of concepts, including: the need for public input; the plan to have only one set of community areas (to be used for all purposes) within a municipal boundary; the avoidance of confusion or overlap with existing names of small communities or features within the municipality or surrounding area; and the need for consideration of financial implications in the change of names and boundaries.

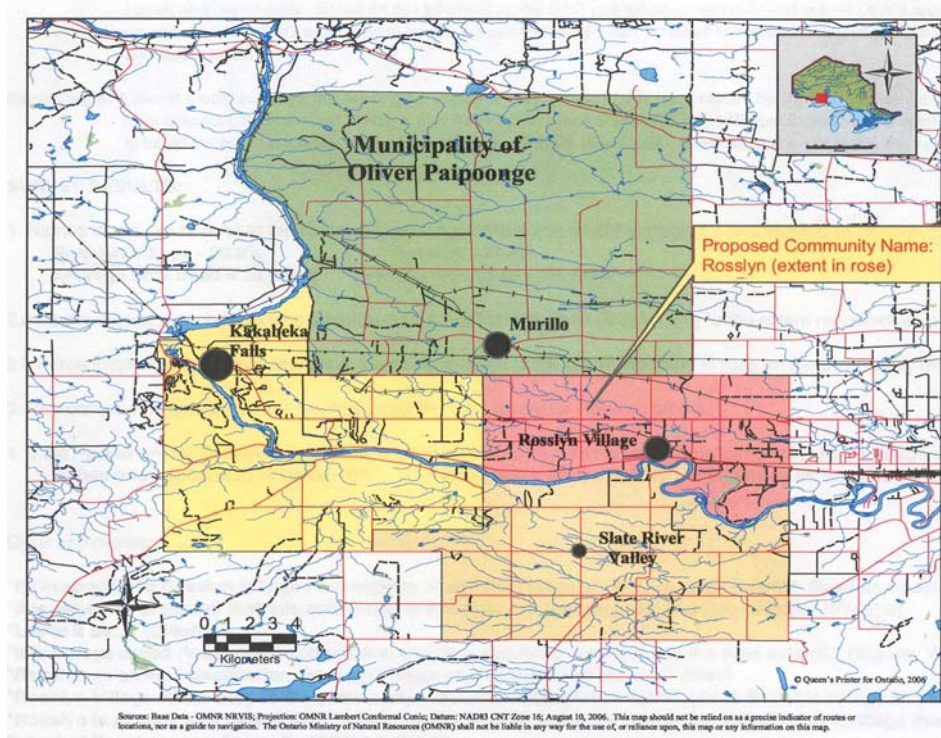


Figure 4. The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, west of Thunder Bay, showing existing names of locations Murillo, Kakabeka Falls, Rosslyn Village and Slate River Valley. (Stanley is not shown here.) Proposed extended boundaries are indicated with coloured areas submitted to carry the names Kakabeka Falls, Murillo, Rosslyn and Slate River.

Conclusion

In this paper it is not possible to address in detail all the interesting and worthwhile individual submissions that were received (for instance the change of Minesing Swamp to *Minesing Wetlands*, the effort to change *Gorrs Mountain* to Ohlmanns Mountain, or the naming of small urban creeks), but only to provide information in a more general way on selected aspects of the work of the Board. In all deliberations the Board took into account that names recommended would become a part of the history of Ontario and as such should form a positive part of the cultural heritage. Over these eight years, in discussing proposals, the Board found it necessary on a number of occasions to revisit Board policy, amending, as appropriate, its guidelines to enhance the clarity for both the Board and the public on issues of name proposals and the reasons for their

recommendation or refusal. The OGNB Act (1990), the OGNB *Terms of Reference*, and the OGNB and Secretariat *Procedural Guide* approved by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources on March 26, 2008 now form the backbone for the activities of the Board.

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