

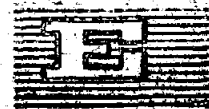
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GAZETTEER OF CANADA*

Presented by the Government of Canada

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GAZETTEER OF CANADA

Introduction

Between 1898 and 1927, the Geographic Board of Canada, the original national names authority created in 1897, published lists of its decisions on selected groups of contentious geographical names, but any that did not require special consideration were not included. These lists were published as supplements to departmental annual reports or in the Canada Gazette and were not generally available to the public or easily used for reference purposes. It was decided in 1950 that a gazetteer including all names would be more useful and acceptable and would be welcomed both for official use and by the general public. Owing to the magnitude of the task, it was decided that the origin and meaning of the names and other items of historical interest could not be included.

The concept of producing a series **of** regional gazetteers of approximately the same size was originally considered and Southwestern Ontario was selected for the first volume, appearing in 1952. Reconsideration resulted in a decision to publish the series according to province or territory, as it was evident that although some volumes would be grossly larger than others, the convenience of compilation in collaboration with the respective provincial offices as well as the convenience to the user would be preferable to attempting any artificial uniformity in size.

Accordingly, subsequent volumes were produced for British Columbia (1953), Manitoba (1955), New Brunswick (1956), Saskatchewan (1957), Alberta (1958), Yukon and Northwest Territories (1958), Prince Edward Island (1960), Nova Scotia (1961) and Ontario (1962). The volume for Newfoundland and Labrador is expected to appear in 1967. Work has been underway for two years on the Gazetteer of Quebec in close collaboration with the provincial board and it is expected to be published in 1969.

It was hoped that a ten-year revision period could be established, but shortage of personnel and delays in printing forced the first revision, that of the Gazetteer of British Columbia, to be deferred until 1967. The Gazetteer of Manitoba is currently being revised.

The volumes produced range in size from Ontario with over 44,000 names and 614 pages, British Columbia (2nd ed.) with 35,000 names and 739 pages to Prince Edward Island with less than 1,350 names and 19 pages. The discrepancy in the British Columbia gazetteer results from a different system of location of the feature which often involves more than one line of type.

(i) Alphabetization:

The set of rules for alphabetization used by the United States Board on Geographic Names was adopted in 1950 subject to changes dictated by experience. At present, the general rules of alphabetization used for the Gazetteer of Canada are as follows:

1) The specific term or proper name is the basis for alphabetization, with the generic term being taken into account in the listing of two or more identical proper names.

2) The name of a populated place which is identical to that of a natural feature is given preference in the listing.

3) Generic terms that precede specific terms are listed following, separated by a comma.

<u>Examples</u>	Monte Bluff	Point
	Monte, Cape	Cape
	Monte Creek	Post Office
	Monte Creek	Creek
	Monte Hills	Hills
	Monte Lake	Settlement
	Monte Lake	Lake
	Monte, Mount	Mountain

4) Neither an article nor a generic term is used in the initial alphabetization unless it is part of a personal name, part of the name of a populated place or used with a name with a French specific and an English generic.

<u>Examples</u>	Knoll, The	Hill
	La Biche River	River
	Lac la Hache	Post Office
	La Forme Creek	Creek
	La Garde Creek	Creek
	La Plante Sunker	Rock
	L.H. Creek	Creek
	The Knoll	Settlement

5) Rules of French alphabetization are similar, with a few exceptions concerning the use of the article.

<u>Examples</u>	Baie-d'Urfe	Post Office
	Carillon, Rapide de	Rapids
	Cheval-Blanc, Rapide de	Rapids
	D'Aloigny, Ile	Island
	d'en Bas, Petit chenal	Channel
	d'en Haut, Chenal	Channel
	Deux-Montagnes, Lac des	Lake
	Grande Anse	Cove
	Grande Baie, La	Bay
	La Conception	Post Office
	La Petite-Rivière	Station
	L'Assomption	Village
	Les Cèdres	Post Office
	L'Islet	Town
	Lorette, Rivière	River
	Louis, Mont	Mountain
	Mont-Royal	Station
	Moulin-a-Vent, Pointe de	Point
	Oka, Pointe d'	Point
	Oka-sur-le-lac	Town
	Orme, Ruisseau à l'	Creek
	Pointe-Fortune	Village
	Rivière-Rouge	Town
	Ronde, Ile	Island
	Rouge, Rivière	River

6) A descriptive adjective preceding a French name is not used in alphabetization.

<u>Examples</u>	Baleine, Petite Rivière à la	River
	Bleus, Les petits lacs	Lakes
	Epaule, Grand lac à l'	Lake
	Poisson-blanc, Petit lac	Lake

7) Similar names identifying the same kind of feature are listed according to latitude.

<u>Examples</u>	Brown Lake ...	49° 15'	-	106° 22'
	Brown Lake ...	50° 27'	-	101° 12'
	Brown Lake ...	56° 10'	-	102° 30'

8) Names beginning with "Mac" or "Mc" are alphabetized consistently throughout.

9) Names beginning with "Saint", "St." or "Ste." are alphabetized consistently and in this order.

In general, the rules of alphabetization are adhered to consistently so as to allow the least chance of confusion to the user of the gazetteer, bearing in mind that the normal user looks up a name by referring to that term which identifies rather than describes it. Thus the user turns to "Belle Isle, Strait of" rather than to the form "Strait of Belle Isle".

(ii) Cross referencing:

One of the considerations in the preparing of the Gazetteer of Canada was that it should contain not only officially approved names in current use, but also former names and unofficial names of features and settlements. Thus the user may look up a feature known to him as Mud Creek and find the gazetteer refers him to another name by which the creek is officially recognized. Name changes are published in the semi-annual Supplements and incorporated in subsequent revisions of the gazetteers.

An asterisk after the name of a populated place indicates that the settlement no longer exists. Normally such names are rescinded and deleted from the topographic maps, but in the sparsely settled northern parts of Canada, the name is usually retained, qualified by "Abandoned" or "Unoccupied".

(iii) Indication of type of feature:

1) Classification of populated places:

Although titles such as city, town and village are reasonably consistent across Canada in designating incorporated settlements, the designations for unincorporated places vary from province to province. The term "hamlet" is used in some provinces but not in others. "Settlement" indicates a community less compact than a hamlet, while "locality" is used for cross roads, for an abandoned settlement or for a community where the population is scattered. Census data, municipal records and examination of large scale maps and air photos are used in determining the appropriate designation in the hierarchy of populated places. This descriptive terminology is listed in the Feature column following the name of the populated place:

<u>Examples</u>	Cobble Hill	Post Office
	Hunts Inlet	Settlement
	Jackpine	Locality
	Lobbville	Station
	Hono Hills	Hamlet
	Ottawa	City
	Sifton	Village

2) Generic terms:

Numerous generic terms used in Canadian toponymy are unfamiliar to the general public and require clarification in the gazetteer. This information is provided in the Feature column in which the common descriptive term indicates the nature of features such as pup (creek), tolt (hill), tickle (passage), pingo (hill), etc.

(iv) Locational information:

The system of land division and its terminology is not uniform across Canada but differs according to the historical development of the nation and the characteristics of the terrain. A county system is used in most of eastern Canada, **with subdivision** usually into townships or parishes, with parts of northern Quebec and Ontario administered as districts. The Prairie Provinces utilize the cadastral subdivision of section, township and range. In British Columbia, administrative districts take the place of the eastern county system.

The Location column provides generalized information so that the user may easily determine the general location of a populated place or natural feature. Each populated place is located according to the administrative districts or with reference to a larger, well-known settlement. Natural features are located with reference to other more significant named features, many of which are shown on the key map in the gazetteer. The Location

column in the British Columbia gazetteer provides more detailed information than those of the other provinces because the quadrilateral indexing system used does not provide the precision of geographical coordinates.

The Position column lists the geographical coordinates (except in British Columbia). Latitude and longitude to the nearest minute is determined from the latest available large scale maps or charts and indicates the positions of the mouths of streams and the centres of lakes, bays, peninsulas or islands.

(v) Explanatory and additional information:

Each gazetteer includes prefatory material explaining the policy or procedure governing classification of populated places, cross references, alphabetization and the manner in which locational information has been determined. A list of abbreviations is also included. A section on the history and development of the province accompanies the British Columbia gazetteer, as well as tables listing geographic data on the main rivers, islands and lakes, and the names of incorporated municipalities. A section on climate in the first edition of this gazetteer was omitted in the second edition.

The Gazetteer of Newfoundland and Labrador will include a separate section on the names of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. While recognizing that Canada has no jurisdiction over the geographical nomenclature of these French possessions, it was considered that due to the proximity of the islands to Canada, the

listing of these names, taken from French topographical maps and checked with authorities in Paris, would be of interest and use to users of the gazetteer.

(vi) Editing procedure:

The compilation of each of the Gazetteer of Canada series is essentially a review of the approved geographical nomenclature of the province in question. This information is maintained in an alphabetical card file which provides the correct form of the name, the feature designation, location, position, date of approval, map or chart index, and origin or meaning, if known. The information to be published is checked for accuracy to ensure that it incorporates any recent changes, discrepancies are cleared with the provincial office, and the list printed on Photo list cards. After rechecking, these cards are used to prepare the proofs which are again edited by the gazetteer staff. The sale price and run are determined in consultation with the government printing office.

The collaboration of the provincial representatives on the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names is an essential part of the compilation of the respective gazetteers. While the secretariat is responsible for the basic compilation, printing arrangements, costs and general format, close liaison is maintained with the province concerning designations of features and prefatory material.

Copies of most of the Gazetteer of Canada may be obtained from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa, Canada. A few examples are available for examination at this conference.