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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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FIELD COLLECTION OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES IN PROVINCE
OF ONTARIO, CANADA

Procedures endorsed by the
Ontario Geographic Names Board

Submitted by the Government of Canada

Abstract

The Ontario Geographic Names Board has developed procedures for the field collection of geographic names. These procedures are effective in conducting a comprehensive toponymic investigation of an area and enable the provision of accurate geographic nomenclature in volume map, chart and gazetteer production.

The methods involved are: preparation for field investigation, conducting the personal interview and interpretation of data. Preparation includes studying the map area and examining written materials to determine problems therein. Recommended or chosen informants are local residents who are a cross section of age groups and represent the main cultures and/or economic activities of the area.

During the personal interview the name problems are identified and the correct location, duration of name usage, origin or translation of the name and other pertinent information is recorded.

The interpretation of data involves its processing, organization and follow-up research. Telephone calls or historical research often clarify spelling, origin and usage. Cartographic considerations, the naming of features forming or crossing provincial or international boundaries and naming of an unnamed feature are other factors involved in the processing of geographic names.