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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

NATIONAL GAZETTEERS OR OTHER SIMILAR PUBLICATIONS IN WHICH
COUNTRIES MAKE AVAILABLE THEIR STANDARDIZED NAMES

Presented by the Government of Canada*

Introduction

1. Canada presented a paper on its gazetteer programme to the First United Nations World Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names at Geneva in 1967. The original text was identified as E/CONF.53/L.64, and it appears on page 99 of E/CONF.53/4, Volume 2, Proceedings of the Conference and Technical Papers.
2. A number of changes in outlook and direction have affected the Canadian gazetteer programme since the first World Conference. Chief among these has been the need for our gazetteers to reflect the recent establishment of English and French as the official languages of Canada. A second important element has been the impact which toponymic field survey has had on the nature and volume of the information presented. A third has been some change in territorial administration.
3. This paper, therefore, will not only review progress in gazetteer work in Canada since our previous report, but try to indicate how these social changes have modified compilation procedures and presentation.

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I. THE GAZETTEER OF CANADA SERIES

4. The Gazetteer of Canada consists of a series of volumes, each containing names concerned with a particular province or territory. Canada is composed of 10 provinces and two territorial divisions. The areas and populations vary widely. The number of names in a gazetteer for a particular province reflects this. The province of Quebec has an area of 594,860 square miles, and a population of approximately 6,000,000 people. The gazetteer for that province contains in excess of 45,000 names. The gazetteer for Canada's smallest province, Prince Edward Island, with an area of 2,184 square miles and a population of 111,000 people, contains, in the current edition, only 1,150 names. This ratio of gazetteer size to area and population holds true for other provinces, with those for Ontario and British Columbia approaching 50,000 names each, and gazetteers for smaller provinces having correspondingly fewer. The proportion is not true for the two territorial areas, the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, which lie north of the sixtieth parallel. Despite areas of 207,076 and 1,304,903 square miles, respectively, the populations are small and the number of geographic names proportionately lower.

5. Canada has approximately 250,000 geographic names recorded in its gazetteers. There are firm indications from field survey work that the actual number locally used may be almost twice that number.

6. The Gazetteer of Canada series is compiled by a staff directed by the secretary of the Canadian Permanent Committee, and published in uniform formats under the Committee's imprint, except in the case of the province of Quebec. The latter is published under provincial imprint. In gazetteer work, the Committee co-operates very closely with each province.

7. The gazetteers in this series do not include information respecting the origin, history or contemporary statistical data for individual names.

II. GAZETTEER COMPILATION

A. Name verification

8. The basic tool for gazetteer compilation is the record card which exists for each known name. The preparation of a new or revised gazetteer starts with an examination of the card records for the province concerned to determine the status of each name. Names which may have become obsolete, which may have changed in spelling, have been altered in application, or have had no previous official approval are all referred to the Committee member for the particular province for his recommendation. The usage on federal and provincial maps is carefully checked in relation to spelling and feature identification. Any doubtful cases are investigated. If a field survey of the geographic names of the province concerned has been done, the results are incorporated. Field surveys have proven to be extremely informative. In the province of New Brunswick, a two-year survey verified all known named features, resulting in many changes.

Approximately 7,000 additional names not previously recorded were revealed in a total of 14,000 which will appear in the revised gazetteer. Where field results are not available, the compilation must rely on documentary research. It is clear that such research will never provide results commensurate with a detailed field examination.

9. Various municipal, provincial and federal publications and reports are consulted for additional and revised information. A complete examination of the names on all relevant maps is made.

B. Content

10. All geographical names approved and accepted by the Permanent Committee are published in the Gazetteer of Canada series. These consist of the names of populated places, and of topographic and surface hydronymic features. Previously published names of formerly populated places, which have been rescinded, are retained in one succeeding edition of the gazetteer. Such names are shown with a symbol denoting that they are no longer in local use. Names which appeared in previous editions, but were subsequently changed, are retained as cross-references.

11. The information about each name is normally contained in a single line entry. The name is given in its proper spelling, its generic term (and an explanation of it if considered necessary), and the geographic co-ordinates.

12. Consideration is being given to the inclusion of a map reference in each case, but the problems in doing this have not been fully resolved. A step in this direction has been the addition of a map in the forthcoming gazetteer of New Brunswick, showing an index to the 1:50,000 scale maps of the National Topographic System pertaining to the province. By locating the geographic position for any name on this map, the map sheet displaying the feature may be identified.

13. To date, names of airports, landing fields, dam sites, fire towers, roads, and certain other man-made features are not included in the gazetteers. This leads to the questions: "what constitutes a geographical name?", and "should names of features such as those mentioned above be included in the Committee's gazetteers?" These questions were studied by a sub-committee which presented a report on the concept of a geographical name. This subject is currently being considered by the Permanent Committee.

C. Language presentation

14. Emphasis on the bilingual character of Canada has been accentuated sharply in the past decade. In addition, language shifts in the populations of some areas have become evident. Both factors are influencing the presentation of geographic names in gazetteers. For example, in recent years, French has become the predominant language in the northern part of the province of New Brunswick. The Permanent Committee's field study revealed that both French and English forms of

many names have become firmly established. In such cases, both forms are approved, as in the following:

Rivière Verte - Green River

Baie des Chaleurs - Chaleur Bay.

Each is listed in the gazetteer and cross-referenced with an indication that both language forms are officially accepted.

15. Since English and French are the two official languages of Canada, it was decided to attempt, beginning with the New Brunswick Gazetteer (2nd edition), a listing having characteristics which would satisfy the requirement of both the English and French-speaking users in a single publication. These characteristics are:

(a) Each name is listed in the name column of the gazetteer exactly as approved;

(b) Ambiguous or understood generic terms are explained in both languages by a bracketed interpolation;

(c) A glossary of generic terms, in each language, is included;

(d) The columnar reference facilitates the use of headings in both languages;

(e) Names of populated places are shown in upper case letters to make them distinguishable from natural features with similar names;

(f) The preface, foreword, and introductory material, such as explanatory notes on alphabetic arrangement, classification of populated places, and abbreviations, are given in both languages.

Annex 1 gives a sample page.

D. Alphabetization

16. Some changes have been made to the rules presented at the first conference. Rule II (a) which states, "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 names" is superseded by, "when a name consists of only a specific term and a generic term, in that order, the name is alphabetized letter-by-letter throughout". Also, rule II (i) on names beginning with "Saint", "St.", or "Ste." was revised to read, "where an abbreviation is used in the normal spelling, (such as St. or Ste.) the alphabetization proceeds as though the abbreviation were spelled out in full including the final 'e' in the French feminine form".

/...

E. Key map

17. A small scale map (approximately 31 miles to the inch) is inserted at the back of the gazetteer. By referring to it, the user can readily determine in what general area of the province a feature is located. The names of the more significant features are shown on the key map, and these names are sometimes used as a locational reference in the listings. Future gazetteers will contain an additional outline map of the area dealt with and an overlay index to the 1:50,000 or 1:250,000 scale maps under the national topographic system, dependent on the scale coverage completed for the respective province or territory.

III. GAZETTEER OF CANADA SUPPLEMENTS

18. Since the adoption of new names and name changes is constantly taking place, the information in the Gazetteer of Canada series is up-dated by semi-annual supplements. The supplements list Permanent Committee decisions on new names, name changes, altered applications and rescissions, by province. The current supplements were first issued in 1963, partly because the expected 10-year revision cycle of the Gazetteer of Canada series could not be maintained. The supplement system is of limited value. A five-year revision cycle without supplements would be much preferable.

IV. AUTOMATION

19. A study has been made of the various kinds of geographical names data that should be stored for the requirements of:

(a) Automated cartography. Current Canadian gazetteers give geographical co-ordinates to the nearest minute. Since automated cartography requires more precise positions, our present task is to record, on more than 260,000 card files, geographical co-ordinates to the nearest five-second interval; and

(b) Computerization of geographic names. Computer storage of the geographic name data now in the Permanent Committee's card records has been studied. It is considered inevitable that the creation of a memory bank for this purpose will be necessary in the next few years.

V. NEW PUBLICATIONS SINCE 1967

The volumes of the Gazetteer of Canada series issued since those mentioned at the first conference are listed below:

1. Newfoundland and Labrador, 1969 (first edition)

This volume also contains, in a separate section, geographical names of the French possessions of the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. The latter names were compiled from six 1:20,000 scale maps published in 1955 by L'Institut Géographique National de France.

2. Quebec, 1969 (first edition)

This volume was published by the Government of the Province of Quebec. Although it is not considered to be within the regular Gazetteer of Canada series, the Permanent Committee collaborated in its compilation.

3. Manitoba, 1968 (revision of the 1955 edition)

The volume of entries increased from 4,000 to 7,000.

4. Saskatchewan, 1969 (revision of the 1957 edition)

This new edition also expanded. The listings here increased from 6,500 to 12,500.

5. Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory Gazetteers, 1971 (revision of the 1958 edition)

The first edition of the Gazetteer of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory covered both areas in one volume, listing about 7,500 names. It was published in 1958.

21. The rapid development of Canada's northland caused a brisk demand for this gazetteer, and it ran out of print. Reprinting was resisted by the Permanent Committee in the knowledge that thousands of new names had evolved, and a revision was undertaken. In the interval, however, to meet the pressing reference need, provisional publications were created by electric typewriter and Xerox reproduction, based on the Committee's card indexed material.

22. Because of the gradual shift in the administration of northern territories from the central Government in Ottawa to regional local autonomy in the individual territories, it became necessary to issue gazetteers for the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories in separate volumes.

23. The provisional gazetteers, produced in the manner described, are sold more cheaply than the standard editions. Copies are available for examination at this Conference.

24. Work in the standard gazetteers for these two territorial regions is proceeding, and publication is expected in 1973.

VI. DISTRIBUTION

25. The publication costs of the Canadian Permanent Committee's gazetteers are borne by the Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. This Branch has a map distribution office through which gazetteers are also sold. However, the main outlet is the department known as Information Canada, through which the majority of federal Government publications

are channelled. Gazetteer prices are adjusted to the size of each volume, and are designed to recover printing costs. Printing runs are calculated to match anticipated demand, which is naturally larger in provinces of greater population. In some instances, several reprintings between revisions have been necessary.

VII. ANNOTATED GAZETTEERS

26. The Gazetteer of Canada Series is designed to present an alphabetical listing of all names considered by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in a concise form, so that the public may easily ascertain the proper spelling and location of each.

27. The accumulation of data concerning the origins and meanings of names, and facts concerning area, heights etc., is an arduous process. Only a proportion of geographic names have a history worthy of record.

28. The early reports of the Committee's predecessor, the Geographic Board of Canada, published selected decisions only, with informative supporting information. This policy was abandoned by the Committee in favour of total listing.

29. With the completion of the initial gazetteers for each province, work has been resumed on toponymic studies.

30. In 1967, a study of Geographical Names in Renfrew County, Province of Ontario was published. This publication gives origins and historical information. A study of the names of the Province of New Brunswick has been completed, and it is expected to be published this summer. It will contain origins and historical information on about 4,000 names, which comprises almost one-third of the number of names which will be listed in the second edition of the New Brunswick Gazetteer. A revision of Place Names of Prince Edward Island, first issued in 1925, is in preparation.

31. Copies representative of the gazetteers discussed in this paper are available for examination at this conference.

ANNEX

SAMPLE PAGE OF NEW BRUNSWICK GAZETTEER

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Position</u>		
<u>Nom</u>	<u>Paroisse</u>	<u>Comté</u>	o	l	o
Albee Rips	Saint James	Charlotte	45	29	67 30
Allain, Ruisseau à	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	27	65 04
ALLAINVILLE (Disp. Comm - Agglom. Dissém.)	Alnwick	Northumberland	47	18	65 15
Anglin Plain	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	24	65 08
Eabbitts Meadows	Burton	Sunbury	45	52	66 19
Bald Head (Hill - Colline)	Campobello	Charlotte	45	28	66 32
Barber Dam Deadwater	Saint James	Charlotte	45	29	67 13
Barnabys Nose Brook	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	27	65 01
Barnabys Nose (Point - Pointe)	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	27	65 01
Beans Brook	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	57	65 03
Bear Landing	Allardville	Gloucester	47	21	65 19
Big Eskedelloc River	Alnwick	Northumberland	47	19	65 20
Big Marsh	Alnwick	Northumberland	47	21	65 06
Black Duck Cove	Alnwick	Northumberland	47	21	65 05
Blakes Gulch	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	22	65 16
Blanc, Cap	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	27	65 01
Blanc, Rapide	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	26	65 07
Blobs, The (Channel - Chenal)	Sheffield	Sunbury	45	55	66 19
Canoose Flowage	Saint James	Charlotte	45	25	67 20
Cowassaget Stream	Alnwick	Northumberland	47	22	65 05
Devils Elbow (River Bend - Tournant)	Saumarez	Gloucester	47	23	65 16
Dugway, The (Cove - Anse)	Cambridge	Queens	45	46	66 07
Escuminac, Mocaque d'	Hardwicke and Carleton	Northumberland and Kent	47	03	64 51
Gin Creek	Saint Quentin	Restigouche	47	59	67 57
Green River See also Verte, Rivière	Rivière-Verte	Madawaska	47	18	68 09
Huckleberry Gully	Hardwicke	Northumberland	47	04	64 57
Intervale, The	Canning	Queens	45	51	66 13
Madawaska (County - Comté)	See Key Map - Voir Carte de référence		47	25	68 15
Maple Rim (Hill - Colline)	Sheffield	Sunbury	45	55	66 20
Marys Point (Peninsula - Péninsule)	Harvey	Albert	45	43	64 39
Sainte-Anne, Baie	Hardwicke	Northumberland	47	04	64 59
Squaws Cape (Islet - Ilet)	Alma	Albert	45	35	64 58
Verte, Rivière Vour Aussi Green River	Rivière-Verte	Madawaska	47	18	68 09
Wolves, The (Islands - îles)	Pennfield	Charlotte	44	58	66 43