

22 July 2002

Original: English

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Eighth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names  
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002  
Item 12 (f) of the provisional agenda\*

TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

National Gazetteers and Gazetteer Substitutes

(Submitted by Canada)\*\*

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\*E/CONF.94/1

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## NATIONAL GAZETTEERS AND GAZETTEER SUBSTITUTES

This paper discusses what is happening with respect to paper copy gazetteers and their likely discontinuation. Substitutes in various formats for these gazetteers are identified. The next stage in the dissemination of geographical names information in Canada is identified.

### Paper copy gazetteers

The *Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names* was published in 1987 as was the *Répertoire toponymique du Québec*. The *Concise Gazetteer of Canada* was published in 1997. The *Répertoire toponymique du Québec Supplément cumulatif* was published in 1997 also. This was followed by the *Gazetteer of Canada Saskatchewan* in 1998 and the *Gazetteer of Canada Manitoba* in 1999. These last two volumes from the *Gazetteer of Canada Series* were published jointly by the federal, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba governments because of the expenses involved in producing paper copy gazetteers.

While members of the GNBC whose gazetteer volumes are out of print or nearly so have indicated an interest in publishing more up-to-date volumes, they have not been able to collaborate, for various reasons, in producing new volumes. Because of this, it appears that the production of paper copy gazetteers in Canada will cease in favour of more modern technology, such as the Internet.

There are limited numbers of paper copies of the existing gazetteer volumes still available. The *Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names*, the *Répertoire toponymique du Québec*, the *Concise Gazetteer of Canada*, *Répertoire toponymique du Québec Supplément cumulatif*, the *Gazetteer of Canada Saskatchewan*, and the *Gazetteer of Canada Manitoba* are still available in paper copy. Information on how to obtain these publications may be found at <<http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/english/publications.html>> in the section titled "2. For sale".

The federal Department of Public Works and Government Services Canada gave Map Town Ltd., a company in Calgary, Alberta, the authority to produce photocopies of out-of-print gazetteers. So, one could get a copy of the 1994 *Gazetteer of Canada Manitoba* from them but not the 1999 volume. Unfortunately, one has to call them, at the moment, to ask about getting such reprints as no information appears about this on their web site.

## **Gazetteers in other formats**

What can you get if no paper copy gazetteer exists? As it happens, a number of things. You can get microfiche copies of certain gazetteers and you can get digital copies of some. But availability varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

### **Microfiche versions**

Microfiche versions of the *Concise Gazetteer of Canada* and several volumes of the *Gazetteer of Canada Series* (Manitoba – 1994, Newfoundland – 1983, Northwest Territories – 1981, Nova Scotia – 1993, Prince Edward Island – 1990, and Saskatchewan – 1985) are still available. Details on how to obtain these microfiche are at <http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/english/publications.html> in the section titled “2. For sale”.

### **Digital Gazetteers**

- *Gazetteer of Canada: Nova Scotia* -- digital version of data in the 1993 edition of the *Gazetteer of Canada: Nova Scotia* (includes names, geographic county, NTS map sheets, latitude and longitude): \$50
- *Gazetteer of Canada: New Brunswick* -- digital version of data in the 1994 edition of the *Gazetteer of Canada: New Brunswick* (includes names, geographic county and parish, NTS map sheets, latitude and longitude) \$50
- *Concise Gazetteer of Canada* -- digital version of data in the 1997 edition of the *Concise Gazetteer of Canada* (includes feature name, cross-reference, entity, location 1, location 2, map/chart, latitude and longitude): \$90.00 (plus tax)
- *Gazetteer of Canada: Saskatchewan*-- digital version of data in the 1998 edition of the *Gazetteer of Canada: Saskatchewan* (includes names, NTS map sheets, latitude and longitude in degrees and minutes) \$50

Information on gazetteer volumes in digital format and an order form can be found at [http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/english/data\\_prices.html](http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/english/data_prices.html).

## **Other means of getting information**

### **Internet**

The Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB) can be queried on the Internet. The query page is at <http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/english/cgndb.html>. Here you can query by name. Or, if you wish, you can query the database by geographical coordinates at [http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/english/cgndb\\_coord.html](http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/english/cgndb_coord.html). However, if you do not input the coordinates as they have been entered in the working version of the database, you might not get the information you are searching for.

### **Digital files**

Certain standard products are created from the CGNDB, including the digital gazetteers mentioned above. The standard file prices have decreased somewhat since the 21<sup>st</sup> UNGEGN meeting in 2000. Discussions are ongoing concerning the question of whether such information should be distributed freely or for a fee.

- **Current names with available attributes**
  - Populated places and administrative areas - \$1 00.00
  - All places and features - \$660.00
  - Hydrographic features only - \$420.00
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- **Regional files of all places and features**
  - Atlantic Region - \$1 30.00
  - Ontario and Quebec - \$350.00
  - Prairies, B.C., Yukon, N.W.T. and Nunavut - \$190.00

### **And in the future?**

The Canadian Geographical Names Service (CGNS) is being developed to provide the toponymic framework layer of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), a national initiative to make Canada's geographical information accessible by means of the Internet. For more information on this subject, see [http://www.geoconnections.org/pgmoverviewIndex.cfm?lang=en&pgm\\_id=2](http://www.geoconnections.org/pgmoverviewIndex.cfm?lang=en&pgm_id=2). The standards established by Canada's national geospatial information base for Canada - GeoBase - will be used in the CGNS's development. A paper on the development of the CGNS is being presented under agenda item 12 (c).