

Historic Place Names

In order to highlight and so conserve significant cultural and natural features of The Land Between, we believe that the history of the place plays an important role: researching history brings to light stories which lend to an appreciation, understanding and so responsibility for the land. As well, much information can simply be gleaned from the names of a Place. For instance, the American Eel historically played a large role in the lives of First Nations and first settlers; many lakes, rivers and former towns/settlements carry names denoting the presence of the species or related associations. Other First Nations and historical names contain links to other stories, peoples, settlers or events.

Working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and The Land Between Collaborative, as well as other partners such as Parks Canada to research, locate and georeference Historical Place Names and their meanings will create a picture of both the cultural and natural history of the area, and so will further the capacity for outreach and conservation.

Key research question(s):

*** Projects will focus on a chosen area or township within the larger region, allowing for completion of tasks, and continuing or additional focused investigations building upon previous projects.**

Question A

What are the historical place names for the chosen area?

Question B

What are the origins and meanings (stories behind) those names?

Question C

What are present-day geographic references (UTM locations) for those place names?: Where are they located?

Question D

What is the overall story/history of the area, as depicted through the naming of places here?

Question E

How does it relate to the geography/ecology/physiography and present day culture?

Benefits to the community:

The results of this project will help to characterize the lands within the “Land Between”; it will support the assessment of uniqueness, highlight culturally significant areas for conservation, as well as provide a grounded understanding of historical and modern day landscape patterns.

The project will set a framework for further research and analysis (both culturally and ecologically).

The project will allow the assignment appropriate messages and measures for conservation of the lands.

The project will highlight/target areas of greater sensitivity for cultural protection and stewardship.

The project will provide a benchmark and framework from which to understand changes over time.

The project will help local communities through providing a community history, a sense of ownership and responsibility as well as a sense of pride (including and especially for First Nations).

Benefits to the student:

- Students will be contributing basic understanding and science in a new and uncharted area.
- Students will gain experience in cultural geography, history, landscape analysis and conservation, with a focus on First Nations histories and communications.
- The project will hone skills related to research, inventories and assessment techniques.

- Students will utilize and enhance skills in resource management including research methods, report writing, GIS mapping and modeling and public relations.
- It will support an individual for work in the archeological, cultural, First Nations, and conservation sectors: area requiring broad ranging skill sets from perceptivity and sensitivity to field assessments and critical analysis.
- First Nations, landowner and agency contact, communication and coordination are public relation skills that will be enhanced and are utilized providing beneficial experience to the student in any sector and level of cultural and environmental management today.
- Lastly, results and research will be marketed and communicated to groups across the Land Between, as well as resource agencies such as Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks Canada, Ontario Stewardship, Municipalities and Watershed Councils, educational institutes and other appropriate and related groups.

Resources supplied:

Office space and computer access. ArcMap 9 GIS software, GPS units, digital cameras.

Networks and contacts in Ministry of Natural Resources and Parks Canada, as well as educational sectors.

Limited travel budget for necessary field investigations (mileage @ \$0.42)

Small stipend as required.

Printing costs.

Larger publishing costs.