

Algonquin Names for Geographic Areas Research Project

There are several unnamed geographic features throughout Algonquin Territory (e.g., waterbodies, falls, peninsulas). The Ontario Geographic Names Board frequently sends proposed place names to the AOO Consultation Office for review. As part of this consultation process, it is important for us to recommend names that reflect Algonquin people, history, and the Algonquin Language whenever possible. **You can help!**



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If you or anyone from your community have a suggestion for an Algonquin name to be used for a geographic area in the territory, please send it to

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Examples of Algonquin names can include (but are not limited to):

- An Algonquin historical name
- An ancestor that you would like to name a geographic feature after
- The Algonquin name for a species of plant that grows in the vicinity of the geographic area

A list has been started of Algonquin names to be used for areas throughout the territory, and your suggestions can be added to this list to assist the AOO in future notices of geographic name proposals.

- Jane Lagassie, Cultural Heritage Researcher and Coordinator for the Algonquins of Ontario Consultation Office



Examples of Features in the AOO Territory and their Algonquin Names

Feature	Known Algonquin Name	Meaning
Baptiste Lake	Assi'ntowa'ningk	Signifying the lake were they "hunt with a long pole for fish (at night)."
L'Amable Lake	Kawa'n	The name L'Amable was likely after an Algonquin bearing that name as several were known in the Upper Madawaska in the early period. For example, Lamable Lavalley had a homestead at the south end of Hay Lake and Denis Lavelley had a camp on Lamable River.
Weslemakoon Lake	Sinimiku'ung	Signifying where "the beaver makes a hole in the rock."
Otter Lake	Nigik Sa'igun	
Bow Lake	Tigwal i Sa'igun	
Mink Lake	Shangwe'si Sa'igun	
Mississippi River	S'ni'miko'bi	"beaver creek"