

Anishinaabemowin Names (Jumblies 48-50)

MISSISSAUGA PLACE NAMES IN THE TORONTO AREA



The Mississauga establish fishing camps and, in some cases, seasonal villages at the outlets of the rivers in the Toronto area and along the western end of Lake Ontario, renaming and restoring the physical landscape as they do so.

Nenaazhzaagiweyaag (Sixteen Mile Creek)

Variations: Auzahzahkewayyogk

Eshkwesing (Twelve Mile Creek/Bronte Creek)

Variations: Ashquasink

Mazina'ige - ziibi (Credit River)

Variations: Mahzenahekasepeh, Missinnihe

Translations: To write, or to give or make credit.

It is said that French fur traders sent trade goods upriver in the fall, and the Mississauga and other Anishinaabek sent payment in furs downriver in the spring.

Adoobiikaag (Etobicoke Creek)

Variations: Adoopekog

Translation: Plentiful alders/place of alders. There was a Mississauga fishery on the flats, a factor in the Mississauga's future attempts to secure the shores of the rivers for their exclusive use.

Omiimiikaa (Mimico)

Translation: Place of the wild pigeons.

Now extinct, passenger pigeons may have feasted on the abundant acorns from the nearby black oak savannas, which extended beyond present-day High Park.

Cobekhenonk (Humber River)

Variations: Cobechenonk, Gabeshinong, Gabekanaang-ziibi.

Translations: Leave their canoes and go back; place of rest and refreshment; overnight camping stop.

The Mississauga establish a small village on the west side of the Humber, across from the previous Seneca village of Teiaigon.

Ishpadinaa (Spadina)

Translations: High hill; high place.

From atop the height of land (ancient shoreline) near present-day Casa Loma, the Anishinaabek can view activity on the waterfront, including trade with the French.

Wonscotonach (Don River)

Translations: Perhaps back burned ground, burning bright point, likely referring to the practice of cultural burns to maintain the pine savannas in this area or fishing with torches at night. The Don River area is referred to as Nichinggaakokanik (A good place for pines).

Minising (Toronto Islands)

Variation: Minnesink

Translation: Island. A narrow sandbar near the Don River led to a peninsula, which was later severed by a storm to become the Toronto Islands.

Gichi-ziibi (Rouge River)

Translation: Big river. Eastern limit of Mississaugas of the Credit territory.