



POPLAR RIVER FIRST NATION - Traditional Place Names

as provided by Poplar River First Nation Elders - Norman Bruce, Albert Bittern, Abel Bruce, Paul Bruce and Ed Hudson



Our own place names on the landscape are telling stories of the land we recognize as the Traditional Territory of our people, the **Anishinaabeg of Asatiwiskeepsee Aki** and all the life that surrounds us.

Listening to and talking about our place names is like reading a book. They tell stories of the landscape, the animals, birds, fish, plants and people. These named places ensure that these stories will carry on, sometimes for thousands of years. When my father and grandfather would come back from the land they would talk about and describe the places where they had been and tell us the **Anishinaabe** names of those places. They were teaching us the stories of the land so we would always remember them. Sometimes we would go to places we had never been before and we were able to recognize where we were and we knew the name of that place.

When my father was describing where he had been, he would say **kee'yapay namaytoowag**, which means, he could still feel the presence of people who had been there before. The stories of our ancestors are connected to those places and to us by the place names.

Sophia Rabliauskas (January 12, 2020)

Rivers

1. Kweegweesiwisepsee	Whisky Jack River
2. Shashagwiisepsee	Pelican River
3. Kitchimukataiyawisepsee	Big Black River
4. Maskosheemanwisepsee	Wild Rice River
5. Kawawagichiwung	Crooked River
6. Pakayapananling	Where a small river splits from the main river
7. Kapetootigayak	Creek that runs beside the big river

Lakes

8. Kweekweesiasuguyun	Whisky Jack Lake
9. Keewashkwaypesagayun	Confusing lake with many bays
10. Wowliaygamik	Round Lake
11. Akokikataiyasuguyan	Many Bays Lake
12. Weeskwoywisaguguneece	Little Marchand Lake
13. Pinayseewapiksaguyan	Thunderbird Mountain Lake
14. Wapootomoshkawaywithaguguneece	Rabbit on the soft mud lake
15. Wapachuskwisaguyun	White Muskrat Lake
16. Kaypakayagamik	Lake separating two rivers
17. Kamashkooseewigamak	Grassy Lake
18. Weeskwoywisaguyan	Marchand Lake - shaped like a balloon
19. Muskegomosagaaning	Musheg goes to the lakeshore
20. Weenipagamiksaguyun	Lake Winnipeg - dirty-looking water

Creeks

21. Thagitowigimik	Meandering River
22. Wathachhiwanawisepsee	Shiny fast-flowing river
23. Nikaminkwaywinling	The creek where geese drink
24. Ookoosichiwaisunwinlingseepeece	Rough place along a creek
25. Manamagocewisepseece	Bullfish Creek
26. Pinayseewapikwisepseece	Thunderbird Rock Creek
27. Moozchiskingwisepseece	Moose Rump Creek
28. Nanadokwisepseece	Mixed plant growth creek
29. Weeskwoywisepsee	Marchand Creek
30. Katoosinee'amikowatwisepseece	Creek with beaver lodge in a rock crevice
31. Kapawaypeakak	Place where we can see the other side of a point through the willows
32. Keeshkimanisewisepseece	Kingfisher Creek
33. Ozawigutikoong	Creek where brown water flows from
34. Pukitawagunwisepseece	Setting a net creek
35. Wapachuskwisepseece	White Muskrat Creek
36. Kawachaskokak	Muskrat Creek
37. Makwastigwanseepseece	Bear Head Creek
38. Kagononayakwisepseece	Long Stretch Creek
39. Kawapikikakwisepseece	Big trees standing creek
40. Moondeoseepseececan	Creeks named after the late Elder Moondi
41. Oneessegeenijawisepseececan	Three Fingers Creek
42. Ponakowisepseece	Bigger drying meat creek
43. Ponakowisepseeing	Smaller drying meat creek
44. Geewaynenagizee	Geewaynenagizee Creek
45. Ochichakwoseepseece	Crane Creek
46. Nathowka'izling	The creek in the middle
47. Weezinowisepseece	Beaver Castor Creek
48. Mukatayshesheepwisepseece	Black Duck Creek
49. Akokotaywinling	Many Bays Creek

Rapids

50. Wathachhiwanapikowinning Powitlik	Shiny fast-flowing rapids
51. Tapaspowitlik	Small rapids with low water
52. Nanadokwipowitlik	Mixed plant growth rapids
53. Pinanaywipowitlik	Rapids where people can rest sore legs
54. Wapinakowipowitlikooce	Smaller white goose rapids
55. Wapinikakowipowitlik	Larger white goose rapids
56. Pinayseewapikoshing	Little thunderbird rock rapids
57. Koookoo'oosagasawining	Owl Smoking Island
58. Machiwpowitlikooce	Lesser bad rapids where some people sense bad feelings
59. Machiwpowitlik	Bad rapids where some people sense bad feelings
60. Thagitowipowitlikooce	Smaller rapids before Poplar River flows into Weaver Lake
61. Thagitowipowitlik	Rapids before Poplar River flows into Weaver Lake
62. Thagitowipowitlik	Rapids before Big Black River flows into Black River Lake
63. Kapetachhiwanayak	Seven Rapids
64. Koookoo'oosingwipowitlik	Little Owl Rapids
65. Mukwastigwanwipowitlik	Bear Head Rapids
66. Mukwastigwanpowitlikooce	Little bear head rapids
67. Shigakoizitwipowitlik	Shunk Foot Rapids
68. Kamataywakpikichiwung	Rapids where water echoes
69. Kamitwakichiwungwipowitlik	Rapids where sand washes up
70. Kasopotachigotak	Three rapids with restricted water flow
71. Keengawagaywipowitlik	Wolverine Rapids
72. Namagoshewipowitlik	Lake Trout Rapids
73. Nashotagunwipowitlik	Sneaking Up Rapids
74. Onaguyam	First big rapids on Poplar River upstream from Lake Winnipeg
75. Onaguyameeng	First big rapids on Franklin River upstream from Lake Winnipeg
76. Pichizewigwanasing	Lynx Head Rapids
77. Sangwayshiwpowitlik	Mink Rapids
78. Kayamachiwung	Rapids where water spills over

Rapids

79. Onaguyam	First big rapids on Big Black River upstream from Lake Winnipeg
80. Nanadokwipowitlikooce	Little mixed plant growth rapids
81. Ogaminogeezeekak	Three rapids with thorns on shore
82. Sagitowipowitlikooce	Smaller rapids before Black River Lake
83. Sheepagooegewining	Dive Underwater Place
84. Otagoosiwipowitlik	Rapids hitting the rocks
85. Shashagaywipowitlik	Pelican Rapids
86. Wapooosiwipowitlik	Rabbit Rapids
87. Onagayameeneezhiwipowitlikooce	Two little rapids after the first big rapids

Points

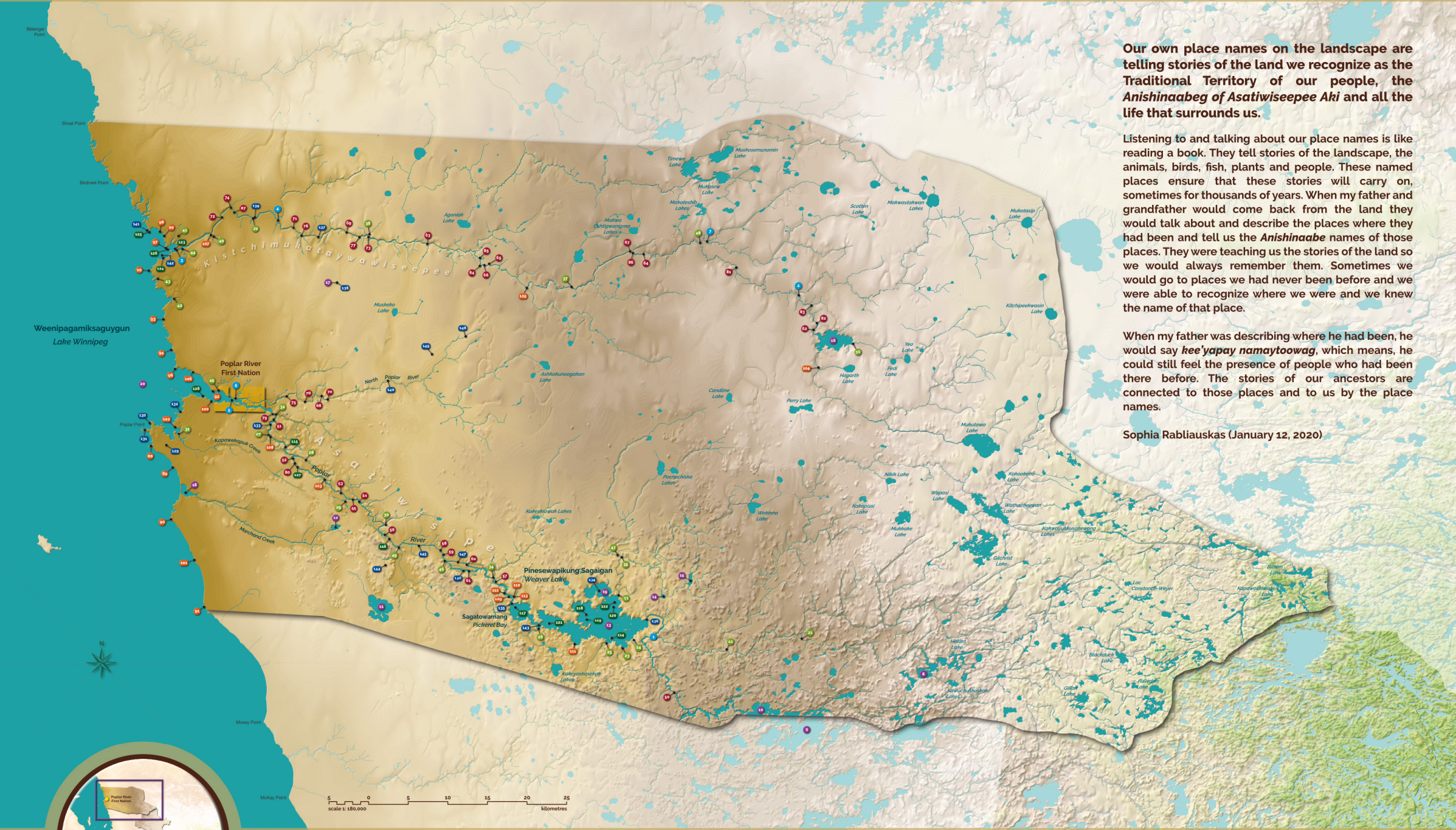
88. Kanaykopakaninayak	Willow Brush Point
89. Achitamoonawacheewining	Late Elder Achitamoo's place to stop and rest
90. Kanawayzateekak	Marchand Point Bluff
91. Kistchiasinkapit	Big Stone Point
92. Kaneyawangak	Sandy point on a lake
93. Kaweesakopeemakokak	Little willow islands point
94. Miskochiskaypeewining	Red Arse Point
95. Mukataywisepewinayang	Black River Point
96. Nasyonanashing	Place to stop for lunch
97. Keekinawaachichiganwinaya	Beacon Point
98. Neezhimnitlikoonayang	Two Island Point
99. Sheesheepwasasoning	Duck's Nest Point
100. Jaramanling	Jaraman Place
101. Kamatapee'andakak	Trees grow out into the lake
102. Kapagonishing	Creek where sand washes up on shore
103. Wapeegoozhess'e'opimatagaywinling	Where a mouse swam across the river
104. Ka'otaywatinak	River with good solid ground
105. Pakwaytoonyawinowining	Place where voices echo
106. Billyscotting	Billy Scott Point
107. Moozpakopeegowshkonwinling	Moose jump in the water place
108. Moozchisking	Big rock shaped like a moose's rump
109. Pugitlinigaywinling	Offering place on a rock shelf
110. Kakinooasysikak	Place where there are lots of minnows
111. Kiltche Assin	Big Rock
112. Paagitlingewening	Tobacco Offering Rock
113. Kakinooasysikak	A place where there is a lot of small fish

Islands

114. Mooskoosaywiminitik	Bittern Island
115. Kaminitikagawitchiwung	Sandy Island at this rapids
116. Atwalnominitik	Atwaln (Charlie Franklin) Island
117. Jawashominitik	Jawash (Alfred Thomas) Island
118. Kinayapikominitik	Snake Island
119. Migiswiminitik	Eagle Island
120. Mishtatimominitik	Horse Island
121. Mitigooshay Minitik	White Man Island
122. Ozawigutikoong	Island close to the brown water creek
123. Kapinitakowagoding	Island Floating Sideways
124. Manatik	Goat Island
125. Kistchiminayik	Big white spruce island
126. Moondeewiminitik	Island named after late Elder Moondi
127. Kaweekezesikak	Island where sweet flag grows
128. Thathakwaapeewining	Picherel Island

Other places

129. Kashaypeewayskeekak	Section of Poplar Point and Willow Point where there is musheg from one side to the other
130. Sheepawagananling	Going through the larger strait at Poplar Point
131. Sheepawagananisheeng	Going through the smaller strait at Poplar Point
132. Mukataykummigotak	Bay where there is black moss washing up on shore
133. Onaguyameece	Little first rapids on the Poplar River upstream from Lake Winnipeg
134. Muskegomoothoguning	Musheg goes to the lakeshore
135. Peenchitawisigimik	Where Thunder Mountain Lake enters the Poplar River flowing downstream
136. Thageeng	The place where a river goes into a lake
137. Kakapikichiwung	Water falls over a rock cliff
138. Kamashkooseewigamak	Lots of grass on this lake
139. Kawapikikak	A place on the Big Black River where big trees are standing
140. Matawung	The forks on the Franklin River
141. Omagakee'ominitik	A reef where there are frogs
142. Wapiskapik	The rock island that was painted white so it could be seen
143. Opigamang	The narrows at Thunder Mountain Lake
144. Kamachiyawichiwung	Creek that separates from the Poplar River and flows over a rock close to the surface
145. Mangonawacheewining	The long stretch of the Poplar River with no rapids named after a loon who was having a snack
146. Oktachiwun	The main branch of the Poplar River that is split by the island
147. Petawaywisepseece	Creek that flows alongside the Poplar River
148. Kaminotinak	Beautiful high ground along the Franklin River where small trees grow
149. Kamooshayak	Open lowland area along the Franklin River where only willows grow



1 First Time Trapping with my Father at Weeskwoywisaguguneece (little lake shaped like a balloon)
We left at the end of March, walking on the ice pulling sleds with all our stuff. We travelled west on the south shore of Asatiwiske (Poplar River). Then we followed the shoreline of Weenipagamiksaguyun (Lake Winnipeg). It took us a day to reach our cabin. We stayed at Weeskwoywisaguguneece (Little Marchand Lake) trapping beaver and muskrat until May, and went home before the ice broke up.

My Dad knew how to look after that place to make sure there would always be lots of animals in the future. He would mark out beaver houses where we were allowed to set traps. Once he could see how many muskrat houses were there he would set a limit for us. He told us to eat beaver and muskrat meat because it is medicine, he said it is the same as penicillin. Those animals always eat medicines - occumamoo (yellow pond lily) and weekaysee (sweet flag).

I learned a lot that spring. I was happy to be there, it felt like we were living in paradise. We still go every year, and it is much easier now. We can make a round trip in a day using snow machines and I still love it there.

(The late) Fred Mitchell (June 10, 2018)

2 Meeting a Different Kind of Creature Story at Sagatowamang (Picherel Bay where the river enters the lake)

It was in September around 1974 when me and my partner decided to go and hunt for moose. We travelled together for many years and it was part of our responsibility to share any meat we were able to get with people at home. The first night we got as far as Pinayseewapikoshing (Little Thunderbird Rock Rapids). The next day we got to Sagatowamang (Picherel Bay). Looking across to the north side we could see a large black furry creature standing beside some poplar and birch trees. At first we thought it was a moose and then we realized it must have been about 7 feet tall and standing up on two legs. We watched him for over half an hour and noticed he was digging around with his hands. I wanted to go there right away but my partner told me to leave it alone and not go there. My partner knew who he was, the old people call him "mitibaby" which means big giant. Many people here have seen a mitibaby, there are lots of different stories. I never saw him again, and I will never forget that time.

We killed a large bull moose at Thagitowipowitlik (Rapids before Poplar River flows into Weaver Lake). We saw 2 female moose on the way home. We had enough sense not to kill them. When we got home we were happy to share that meat.

Noel Bruce (June 5, 2018)

3 Medicinal Plant Harvesting on Pinsewapikung Sagaigan (Weaver Lake)

There are certain medicines that are hard to find, and sometimes we have to travel far to pick them. A few years ago, maybe eight or nine years, our friend started to suffer, he was having a hard time breathing. One of our Elders told us to make some medicine for him, he told us to get two types of plants. One of them is called mitgomishin (scrub oak). Some of us went out by boat right away to look along the shore of Pinsewapikung Sagaigan (Weaver Lake) for the mitgomishin. One of our Elders offered tobacco before we left to help us find the medicine. We left our camp on the bay of the lake, close to Kiltche Assin (Big Rock). We travelled east and followed the shoreline around to the north side and around Muskegomosagaaning (the bay where the musheg comes down to the lakeshore). We stopped several times to look for the medicine and we were gone most of the day. We passed Paagitlingewening (the prayer offering place) and then Koookoo'oosagasawining (an island which is named after an Elder named Owl) and we found the medicine. There are only a few places where this mitgomishin grows and we were happy to find it that time.

Abel Bruce (November 5, 2014)