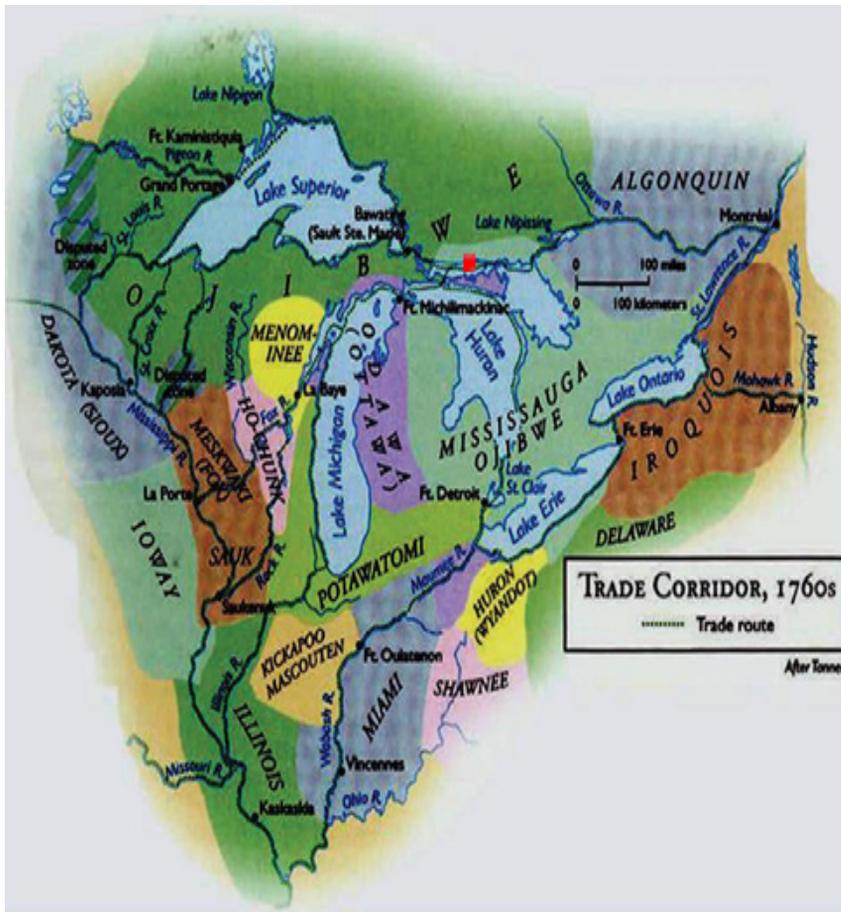




MISSISSAUGA'S Mishi-zaagiing



"[Those at the] Great River-
mouth."

Introduction

*By the time the [French explorers](#) arrived in 1634, the Mississaugas were a distinct tribe of [Anishinaabe](#) peoples, living along the Mississagi River and on Manitoulin Island. On the 1675 *Carte du Mississippi et des lacs Supérieur, Michigan et Huron*, the Mississaugas were recorded as "Missisakingdachirinouek"[\[1\]](#) (Misi-zaaging dash ininweg: "Regular-speakers of the Great River-mouth"). They had moved from the Mississagi River area southward into the [Kawartha lakes](#) region. From this location, a smaller contingent moved southwest to an area along the [Credit River](#), just west of modern-day [Toronto](#). The [French](#) identified the peoples as Mississauga.*

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississaugas>

Place of Origin

*The Following excerpt was taken from: The History and Character Sketches of the Ojibway
By: George Coppaway*

From the year 1834, to the present time, I have been in communication with our nation, with every portion of it. All appear to adopt the belief that most of the Indians came from the west. The present Ojibways, or those now called Messasaugans, settled in Canada west after the years 1634 and 1635. They came over from St. Mary's river to Lake Huron, and relate in their traditions an account of those who came to the Falls of St. Marie from Pequab-qua-wav-ming, near the Aunce Bay, on the south shore of Lake Superior. Others, no doubt, in the year 1642, came to the northern shore of the Lake. I have heard that these came from La Pointe, or Shah-gah-wab-mick. In this place the Indians lived a long time. Still, they trace their own trail to the waters of Red and Sandy Lakes, which places they all, or nearly all, look back to as the home of their forefathers. War came, and in their exercise against other nations, they moved eastward from La Point, and towards the south against the Sioux.

Place of Origin

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ continued

***The Following excerpt was taken from: The History and Character Sketches of the Ojibway
By: George Coppaway***

1. A council of peace was called by the Ojibways, which was held, according to tradition, below Sault St. Marie, at a place called in the Algonquin tongue, Massessauga. The Council received the deputies of the Iroquois, who concluded a treaty, which they secretly intended not to preserve.
2. And yet another council before war with the Iroquois:
By previous arrangement, the warriors of the nations were to meet below Sault Ste. Marie, at the first changing of the flower moon (May).
3. Mississauga is commonly used alone and in conjunction with “Chippewa” in the region from Lake Huron to Southeast to Kingston, Ontario. Following the now familiar pattern, this term had a more precise geographic association with the people in the vicinity of the Mississaugi River on the North shore of Lake Huron. When the Iroquois were driven from the Ontario Peninsula in the late seventeenth century, the Mississauga became the predominant group spreading throughout lower Ontario. The Chippewa of Saginaw Bay in eastern Michigan and the Saint Claire river region are primarily of Mississauga origin.

Taken from; “The Traditional History and Characteristic sketches of the Ojibway nation, by George Copway (Kah-ge-ga-gahbowh;

Ojibwa) (1818—1869)., The Ojibways: Helen Hornbeck Tanner

What the other Mississaugas Say....

At the end of the seventeenth and at the beginning of the eighteenth century the Mississauga, whose original habitat was at the mouth of the Mississauga river, on the north shore of Lake Huron and on Manitoulin Island, began to drift toward the southeast into a region from which the Hurons and the Neutrals had been driven by the Iroquois in 1648-49. The Iroquois were finally driven down the Rice Lake chain along the Trent River and were forced back to their own country south of Lake Ontario.

Rice Lake (Hiawatha) and of Alnwick (Alderville).

The Mississaugas carried the war into the Iroquois Cantons and, to prevent the extermination of one or the other of the two nations, a peace treaty was drawn up and signed by the chief men of the belligerent nations under which the Mississaugas were granted sole possession of the territory to the north of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

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<http://www.ricelakereserves.com/page04.html>

What the other Mississaugas Say....

Continued.....

Mud Lake (Curve Lake)

Traditional teachings have taught us that before contact we shared the land with the Odawa and Huron nations. We are the traditional people of the North shore of Lake Ontario and its tributaries; this has been Mississauga territory since time immemorial.

<http://www.curvelakefirstnation.ca/about-us/history.php>

In the mid 1600's, due to the fur trade and competition between the British and French over control of land, there came a time that our people had to temporarily leave our traditional territory, and travel further inland to avoid disease and conflict. It was during this time the Jesuits came in contact to our people, at the mouth of the Mississauga River at the North shore of Lake Huron

New Credit

Here is a brief history of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation. In their history, they state that they originated from the north shore of Lake Huron, mouth of the Mississaugi River and belong to the Ojibway (Anishnabe) Nation which is the largest Aboriginal Nation in North America. New Credit

(Source:

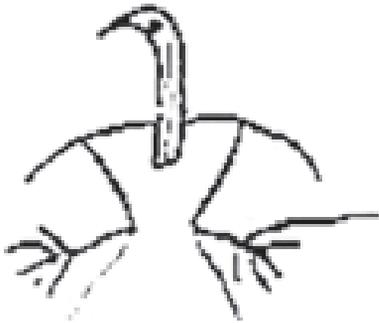
http://www.newcreditfirstnation.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=17)

Scugog

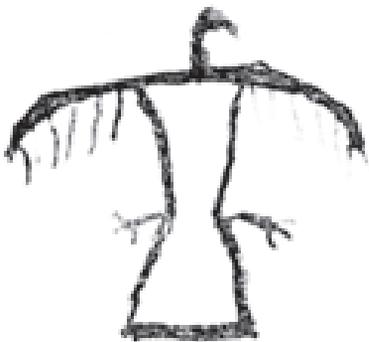
Misisa'ge, Misisa'gi—The Indians of Skugog according to the chief's niece, call themselves "Mississagas of the Otcipwe Nation." When asked about the meaning of the term Misisa'gi. Osawanimi'ki said it signifies "many mouths of river." Na'wigickoke, however thought it meant "large mouth river." Mr. Salt informed the writer that the word is in Indian pronounced "Minzezagee" in the plural, "Minzezageeg," the latter of which signifies "people who inhabit the country where there are many mouths of river". George Copway, who was Mississauga, says (Life History, etc., p. 13): "The Ojebways are called here, and all around, Massissaugays, because they came from Me-sey-Sahgieng, at the head of Lake Huron, as you go up to Sault Ste Marie Falls." The Reverend Peter Jones, who frequently speaks of the "Messissauga tribe of the Ojebway nation," states that "the clan or tribe with whom I have been brought up is called Messissauga, which signifies eagle tribe, their ensign or toodaim being that of the eagle" (History of Ojebway Indians, P.234: see also 138, 164. But in this statement he appears to have been led away by false etymological

Signatures for Mississauga

Source: Heidi Bohaker, *The University of Toronto*



The mark of the Mississauges from the north shore of Lake Huron on the Great Peace of Montreal, 1701.



Shawanapennisse (Southernbird) at Sault Ste. Marie, 1798.



Skoneque (Teaching Lady) at the Thames River, 1790.



Peewanshememogh at Detroit, 1807.

The Push to Southern Ontario

302

LEROY V. EID

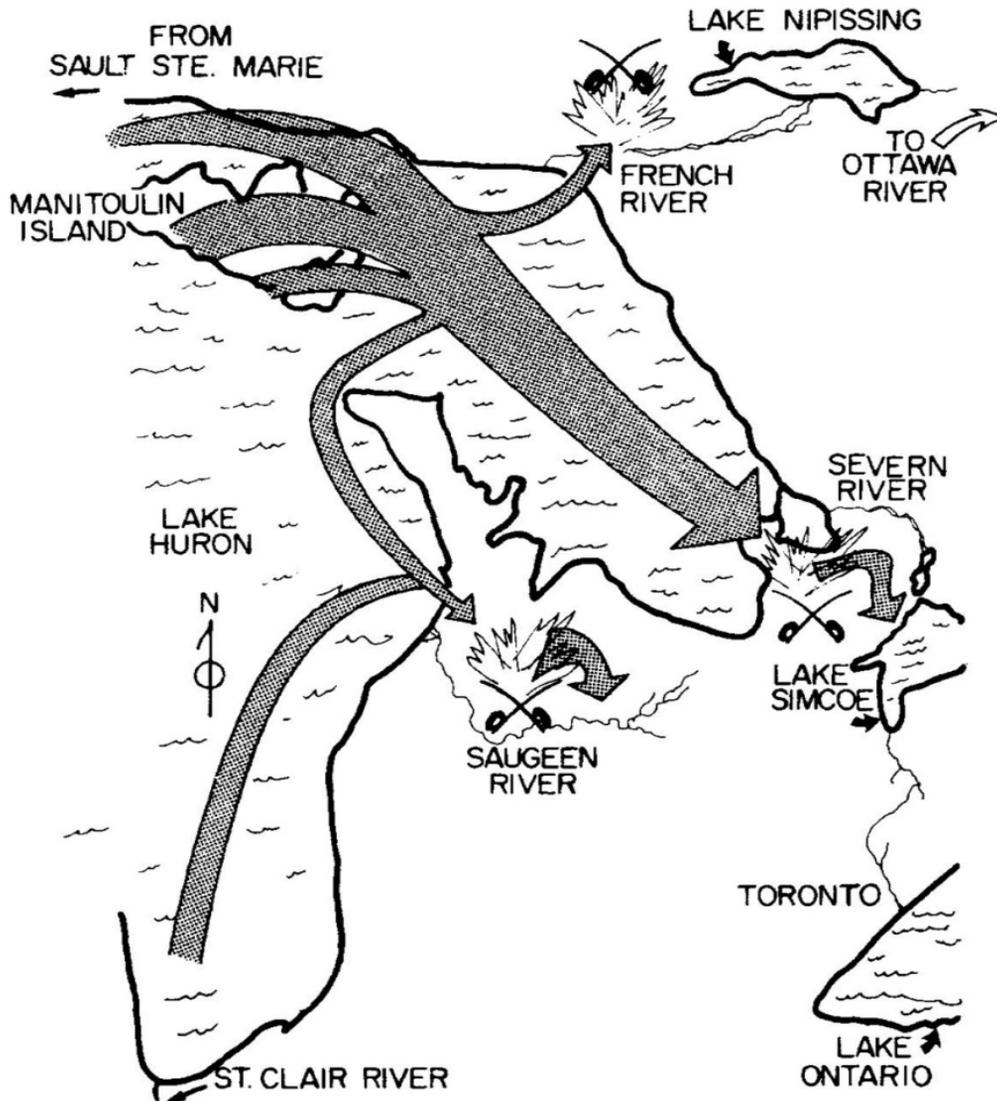


Fig. 1

The war with the Iroquois continued from the mid 1600s through to the beginning of the 1700s where the Mississauga's fought along side with their allies, the Main Ojibway Nation, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Nipissing to push their way to Southern Ontario where the Mississauga's remain today. Many of them stayed in Southern Ontario to guard against any further attacks from the neighboring tribes.

Mississauga Settlements

Source: wikipedia

Today

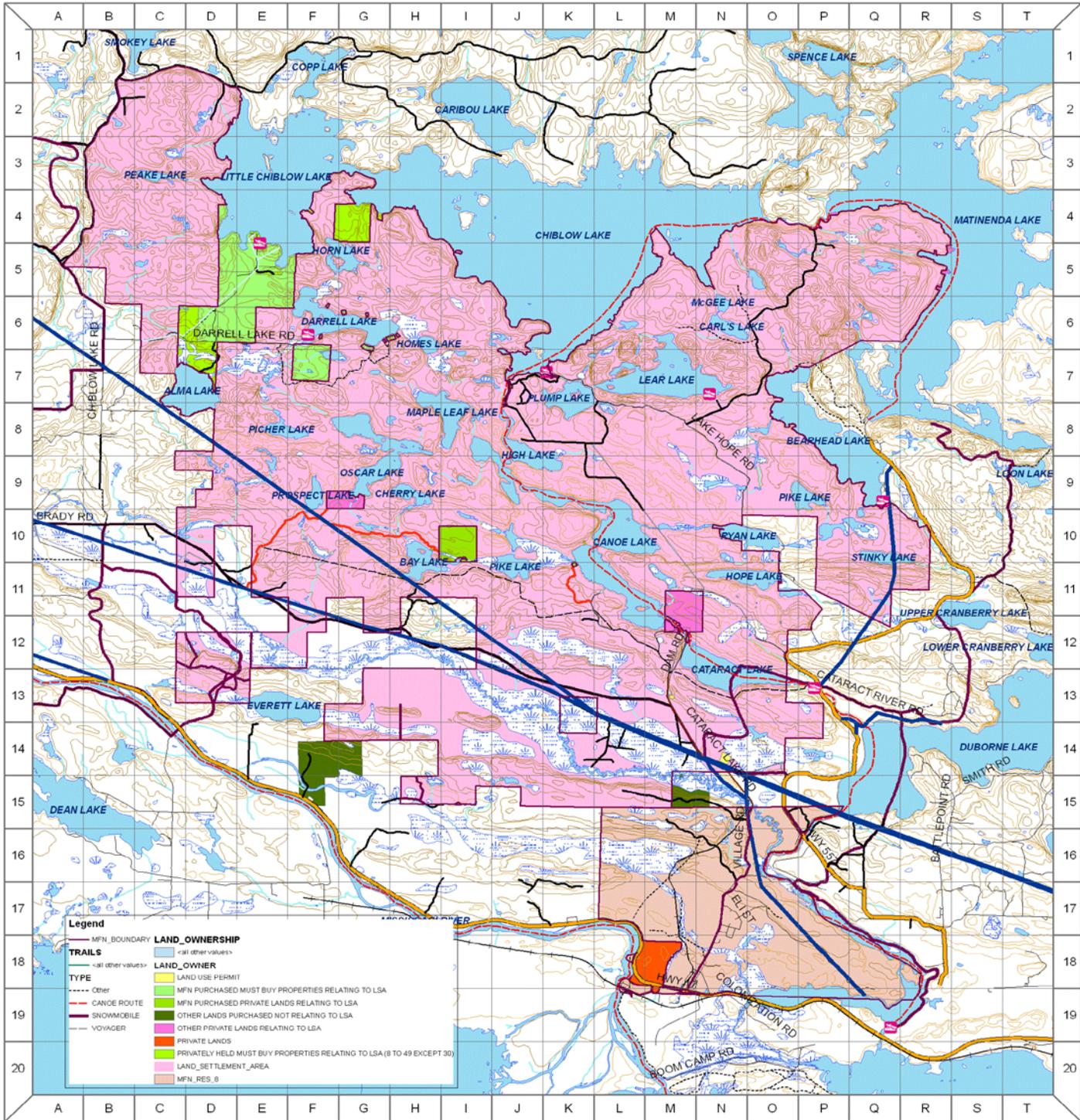
Alderville First Nation
Mississaugi River #8
Mississauga's of New Credit
Mississauga's of Rice Lake
Mississauga's of Mud Lake
Mississauga's of Scugog
Curve Lake

Historical

Mississaugas of
Chibaouinani
Mississaugas of Credit
Mississauga's of
Matchedash
Mississauga's of Grape
Island
Mississauga's of Beldom
Bay Of Quinte

The Mississauga Historical settlements have all been absorbed with the existing ones of today or their names have changed. All make up the territory of the Mississaugas after the wars with the Iroquois Nations.

Existing Mississauga First Nation Lake Reserve Boundary



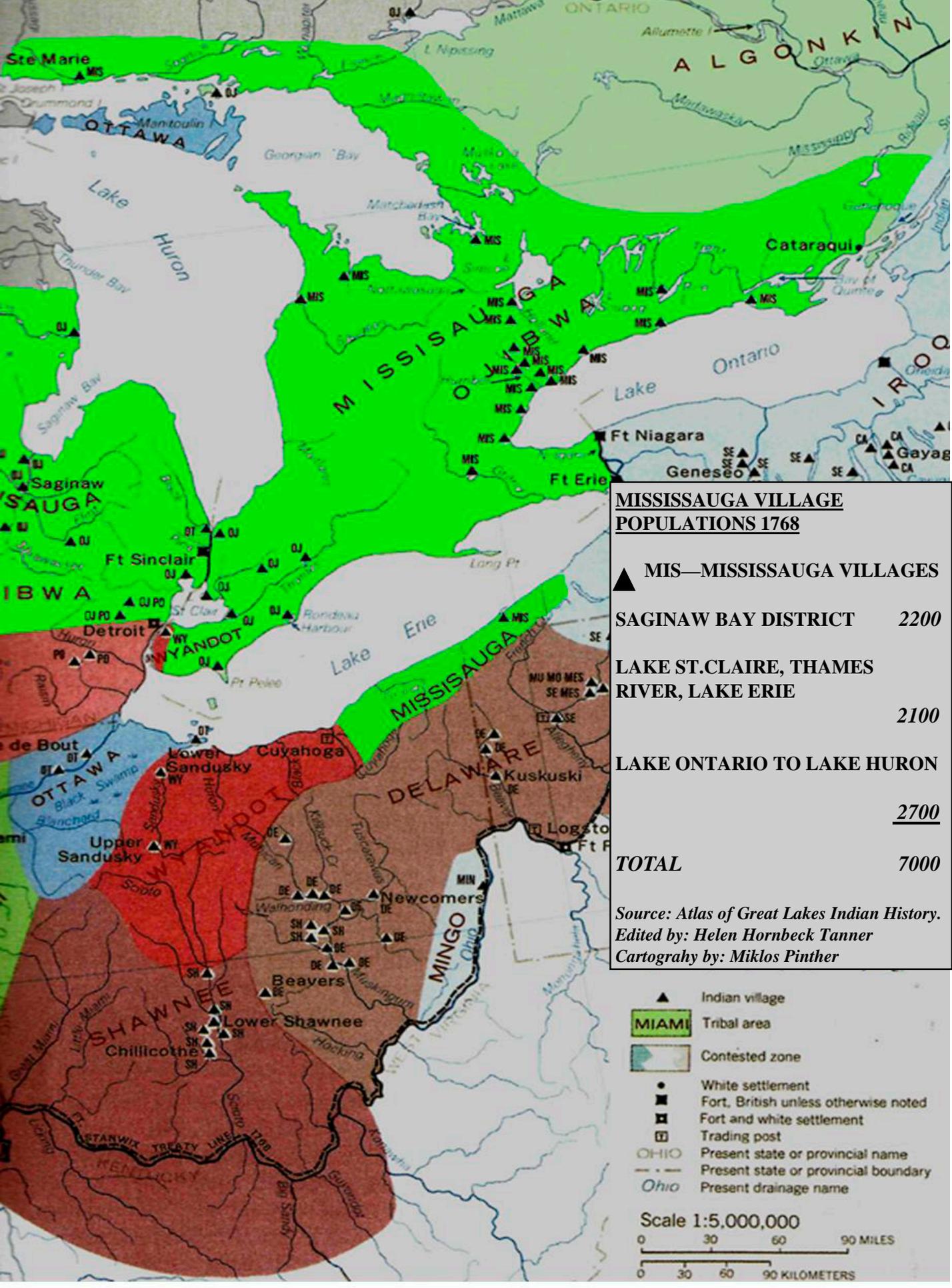
MISSISSAUGA FIRST NATION



NOTES:
 1. THIS MAP IS A PRELIMINARY DRAFT AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSES WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE MISSISSAUGA FIRST NATION.
 2. THE MISSISSAUGA FIRST NATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS THAT MAY OCCUR IN THIS MAP.
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1760 Map – Trade Corridor



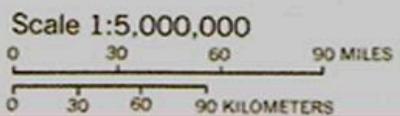


**MISSISSAUGA VILLAGE
POPULATIONS 1768**

▲ MIS—MISSISSAUGA VILLAGES	
SAGINAW BAY DISTRICT	2200
LAKE ST. CLAIRE, THAMES RIVER, LAKE ERIE	2100
LAKE ONTARIO TO LAKE HURON	<u>2700</u>
TOTAL	7000

Source: *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History.*
 Edited by: Helen Hornbeck Tanner
 Cartography by: Miklos Pinther

- ▲ Indian village
- MIAMI Tribal area
- Contested zone
- White settlement
- Fort, British unless otherwise noted
- ▣ Fort and white settlement
- Trading post
- OHIO Present state or provincial name
- Present state or provincial boundary
- Ohio Present drainage name



Mississauga Villages – Locations and Descriptions

Source: Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History edited by: Helen Hornbeck Tanner and cartography by Miklos pinther

- Directly west of the Algonquin, the area is divided between two closely related Ojibway speaking groups indentified as Mississauga-Ojibway and Ojibway. Lake Nipissing appears to have been the locality where three regions converged, with the Algonquin on the south and east, the Ojibway on the north and the Mississauga-Ojibway to the west. The Lake Nipissing village at this time was Ojibway, most of the Nipissing having moved to the Lake of two Mountains near Montreal.
- The Mississauga identified the extreme eastern region end of their territory as the Gananoque River, a short tributary of the upper St. Lawrence. The Mississauga's explained that on arriving at the Gananoque they would be crossing into the lands of the Iroquois and the map shows this boundary. The northwest limit of the Mississauga villages was the mouth of the Mississauga River on the north shore of Lake Huron.

Mississauga Villages – Locations and Descriptions

Source: Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History edited by: Helen Hornbeck Tanner and cartography by Miklos pinther

- The principal Mississauga Concentration is found on the northwest side of Lake Ontario near the Humber River in the vicinity of modern Toronto. The Mississauga Ojibway bands were located on the Ontario Peninusula, along the east coast of Georgian Bay, and around the southern end of Lake Huron into south eastern Michigan. By 1768, Mississauga Ojibway were the predominant population in the Saginaw Valley. Most of the earlier Ottawa occupants joined other tribal members of L'Arbie Croche by 1750.
- French reports from Detroit in the first quarter of the eighteenth century refer to the communities on Lake St. Clair as mixed Mississauga and "Saulteur" which are Ojibway from the Sault Ste Marie, the falls or rapids on the St. Mary's River.
- The northernmost village of the Saginaw Valley group of Mississauga-Ojibway, a village still retaining an Ottawa Minority, was located at the mouth of the Au Sable River near the entrance of Saginaw Bay. These people maintained close ties with their kindred on the St. Clair and Thames Rivers. Population figures for the Mississauga Ojibway at this time were estimated at 7,000.

Local Settlement

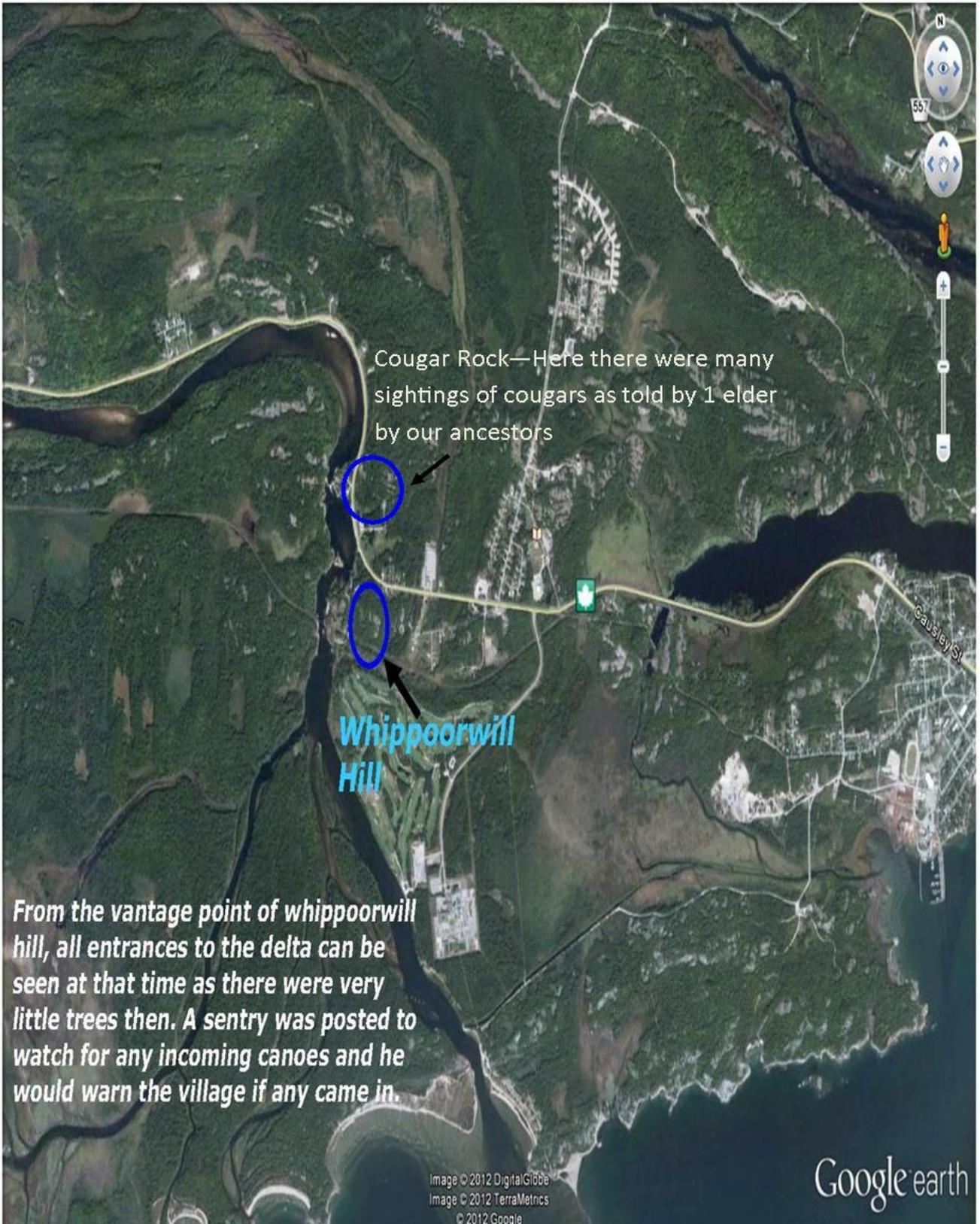
One of our elders tells us that in the past, there was a huge settlement from the Boom camp to where Huron Pines Golf course is. Evidence is available to back up this knowledge with a document titled "The Dancing Grouse Site". Archeological digs have taken place in several spots in the delta area. Arrow heads, signs of a long house, fire pits, a large rocks at two locations, that someone had attempted to carve have been found and even a burial site was found in the area where it was dug up and is still evident. A spearhead point along with a skull wrapped in birch bark was found east of this site, where the existing Blind River gravel pit is now.



Elders Past Knowledge

Speaking with a local elder, he pointed out that there is evidence of several other settlements within this area. His information was passed down to him from elders of the Mississauga First Nation when he was a child. There is evidence at Red Rock Dam, Iron Bridge, Chiblow Lake, Williamson Lake to name a few. I have also heard that farming was practiced around Lake Duborne (Lake Of The Mountains) in the flat lands along highway 557. Another place farmed was in Iron bridge (the flat land a few miles north of Iron Bridge and the road to Red Rock Dam). You notice that the lands in this area are flat. At Chiblow Lake, you have the pictographs, the round bowl at the top of the rock above the pictographs. Major ceremonies were done here according to the elder.

The Look Out



Cougar Rock—Here there were many sightings of cougars as told by 1 elder by our ancestors

Whippoorwill Hill

From the vantage point of whippoorwill hill, all entrances to the delta can be seen at that time as there were very little trees then. A sentry was posted to watch for any incoming canoes and he would warn the village if any came in.

Summary

Mississauga First Nation is rich in traditional history. Artifacts from the past and our occupation of these lands goes back a long way. There is no way to deny the fact that we were here so long ago and with the evidence to prove it, we can safely say this is our home, home of the Mississauga's has always been home.

