

Nishnaabemwin, one of the original indigenous languages of Turtle Island, can only be learned from fluent speakers. Classes don't create fluent speakers, nor do immersion camps, nor does online learning. They can help but alone, won't create fluent speakers. The fluent speakers are the only ones who can help us with the literal meaning of phrases, words, etc. There is no greater value than learning from a fluent speaker. We need to put more value on fluent speakers for our learning. Our fluent speakers are our school. Our Nishnaabemwin teachers are taking the torch, and we appreciate every teacher and new learner.

Zhaagaanaashemwin (settler's language has only been here only within the last 150 years. Nishnaabemwin was here since the millennium, since the creation story. Our language is rooted in this land.

This month we are going to share a gem: Nishnaabe names for our traditional territory and local area. *Our people didn't name places, they described them.* Only our fluent speakers would understand why these names came to be.

To our fluent speakers and cultural knowledge holders: Please inform us of any corrections to the information shared.

Mskwaabkag	Red Rock	Beaucage
Giiwedino Wiikwed	North Bay	This version was found in some baptismal records
Dimaagamii	Temagami	"deep waters" from the word timiigama
Mkwa Mniisiing	Bear Island	
Ktigaaning	Garden Village	"k" our garden
Nbisiing	Nipissing	
Nbisiing Shkonganing	Nipissing Reserve	Left over land. What is reserved
Gaa-baamiimjiwang	Crooked Rapids	
Kikendaa-baawitig	Chaudiere Falls	Place of the big pot. Many pots and axes were found at the original site
Manidoowngong	Islands	
Gete-waakaa-iganishing	Goulais Point	It was flat land, used for farm animals and gardens. An American purchased this traditional land. There are a lot of bones there. Cemeteries
Mamnooginmadbid	Near Goulais Point	How the rocks looked. Where the bullfrogs would sit near Goulais Point
Zhooniyaa wiikwed	Cache Bay	Literal translation. Our cranberries were there. A place where things are hidden.

Yekwaagam Ekwaagam Nbaangaang	West Arm	Yekwaa (length), Gam (water). Hugh Stevens family lived there.
Waakweshziing	Lavigne	
Nbashkaang	Wiigwaam Point	
Gchi Mamnoo	Island next to Kevin's Camp	Bull Frog
Waashkaang	Mud Bay	Chevriers and Whiteducks lived there
Mskime Ziibiins	Mosquito Creek	
Neyaaba'aakwaang	Couchie Point	
Neganshiing Zhingwaako Mnising	Jocko Point	
Manidoowngong	Manitou Islands	
Kenagaag	Oak Island	Past the Sturgeon River
Bagadeyag Ziibi Emgaadeyaag Ziibi Genoogmagmi Ziibi	French River	Wide River Long River
Biiwaapkomnasing	Iron Island	
Memewensaapkoons	Campbell's Bay	
Jiigneping	Veuve River	Large snakes would sun themselves on the shore
Biiskaagoonaaning	Marshy Bay/Canoe Pass	Water swirling
Aaswaksing	Cradle Falls	Something leaning
Zinaapkinganing	Jibraltar	
Gwaapkingan	Dead Man's Island	Burial mounds.
Waapkaganan	Island between Canoe Pass and Sandy Island	Mary McQuabbie Dokis' uncle found a birch bark casket. Inside was a baby
Aabaabika	Headwaters of our traditional territory	
Bezhgoonzhiimnising	Horse Island	
Winabegok	James Bay	
Neyaashing	Dokis Point	
Ekwanbiising	Thunder Bay	

Nbisiing Nishaabe Gaabinaadziwaad Gamig –NFN Culture Center

****We gratefully acknowledge our fluent speakers****