



Derogatory Geographic Names in Shelburne District



Agenda

Overview of Process Name Change

Background on the File

Municipal Involvement

Discussions/Questions

Geographic Naming in Nova Scotia

- 1000's years? Aboriginal people named places
- 1897 Canada recognized need for standards in naming places & features; national board created (Geographic Board of Canada)
- 1961 National committee transferred naming authority and responsibility to Provinces
- 2000 Board renamed Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC)

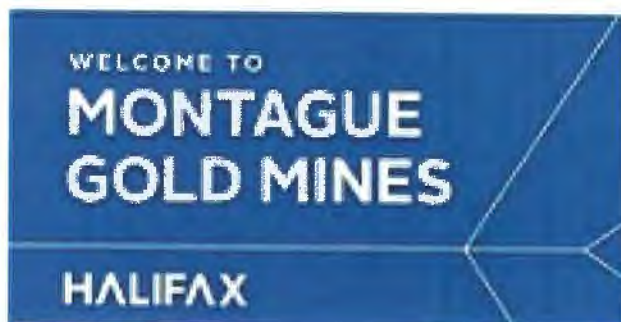
What is a Geographic Name?

- People commonly use a geographic name to refer to a place, landform or water feature
 - Annapolis Royal, Annapolis Valley, Annapolis River
- Application of names to places & geographic features is known as the field of Toponymy

What is a Geographic Name?

- Characteristics:

- spelling
- pronunciation
- classification
- location
- extent
- status
- language
- alphabet
- meaning



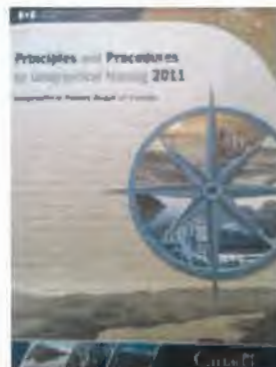
Website (https://geonova.novascotia.ca/place-names)

Base Mapping
Civic Addressing
Place Names
Coordinate Referencing

Find Place Names in Canada



- ▶ Query Place Names in Canada
- ▶ Download Place Names from GeoGratis



The GNBC develops and publishes the national geographical naming standard known as the Geographical Names Principles and Procedures. This national standard is in use by all jurisdictions in Canada.

Place Names

Find Your Way with Place Names

Everyone uses place names every day to describe where we are and where we want to go.

Place names on maps, signs and during daily conversations help us identify historic, cultural and natural features on the landscape. Name origins may reveal histories about the people, place and their community.

Propose New Place Name

Names evolve over time and new names or name changes can be proposed. Name Applications may be submitted by anyone. Proposals are reviewed and may be approved by the Nova Scotia representative on the Geographical Names Board of Canada.

Get Started:

1. Read Guidelines
2. Review Geographic Naming Process
3. Propose New Name

How the Program Works

Since 1897, Official place names have been authorized through a national committee known today as the *Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC)*. The GNBC creates and promotes the use of geographical naming standards across Canada. Names are recorded in a national authoritative register known as the *Canadian Geographical Names Database*. Official place names are the ones that appear on government maps.

Source Matters

We want names on maps to be reliable. Access to authoritative information is key in helping people find their way.

Official Place Names are part of the foundation geography in the Nova Scotia Geospatial Infrastructure (NSGI). Through this environment, the

Find Place Names in Nova Scotia



- ▶ Explore Nova Scotia Place Names on a Map
- ▶ Download Nova Scotia GeoNAMES Data

GeoFact: *There are over 28,000 official place names in Nova Scotia!*

GeoNAMES Explorer

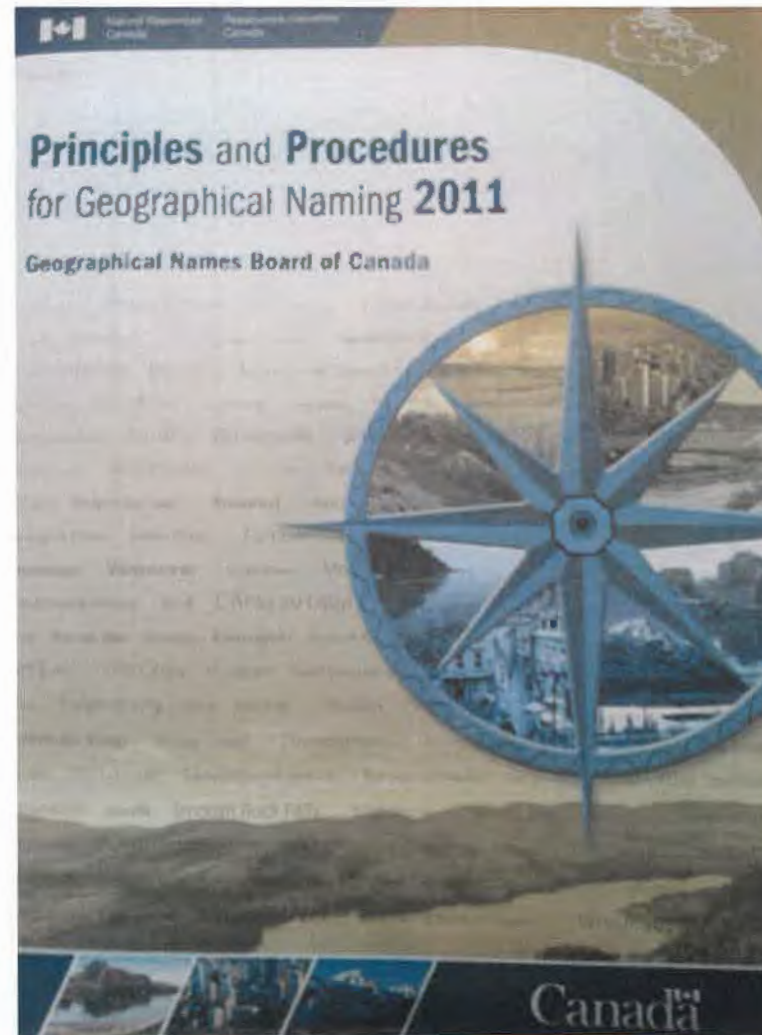
Discover authoritative place names in Nova Scotia. Search for community names and geographical features names.

Explore NS GeoNAMES ▶

Related Documents

- ▶ Commission de toponymie du Canada - Plan stratégique 2014

Guiding Principles



So What is the Process?

- Application
 - Review guidelines with Applicant (Applicant & **Geo Names Team**)
 - Submit application for a geographic name (**Applicant**)
 - Review application for completeness and conduct research (**Geo Names Team**)
 - Approve / Reject application to proceed (**Geo Names Team**)

So What is the Process?

- Engagement
 - Involve the residents for support of application using a survey (**Applicant & Geo Names Team**).
 - Secure local government support for proposed name through a Motion in Council (Applicant).
 - Secure MLA support for proposed name with a letter (**Applicant**)
 - **Note:** Involving residents, municipalities, and MLA is not Approval, it gathers support and helps inform the decision for a proposed name(s)

** Optional Process: public engagement and collection of candidate names. Community then selects proposed name from list. Includes feedback on how the public input influenced the decision.

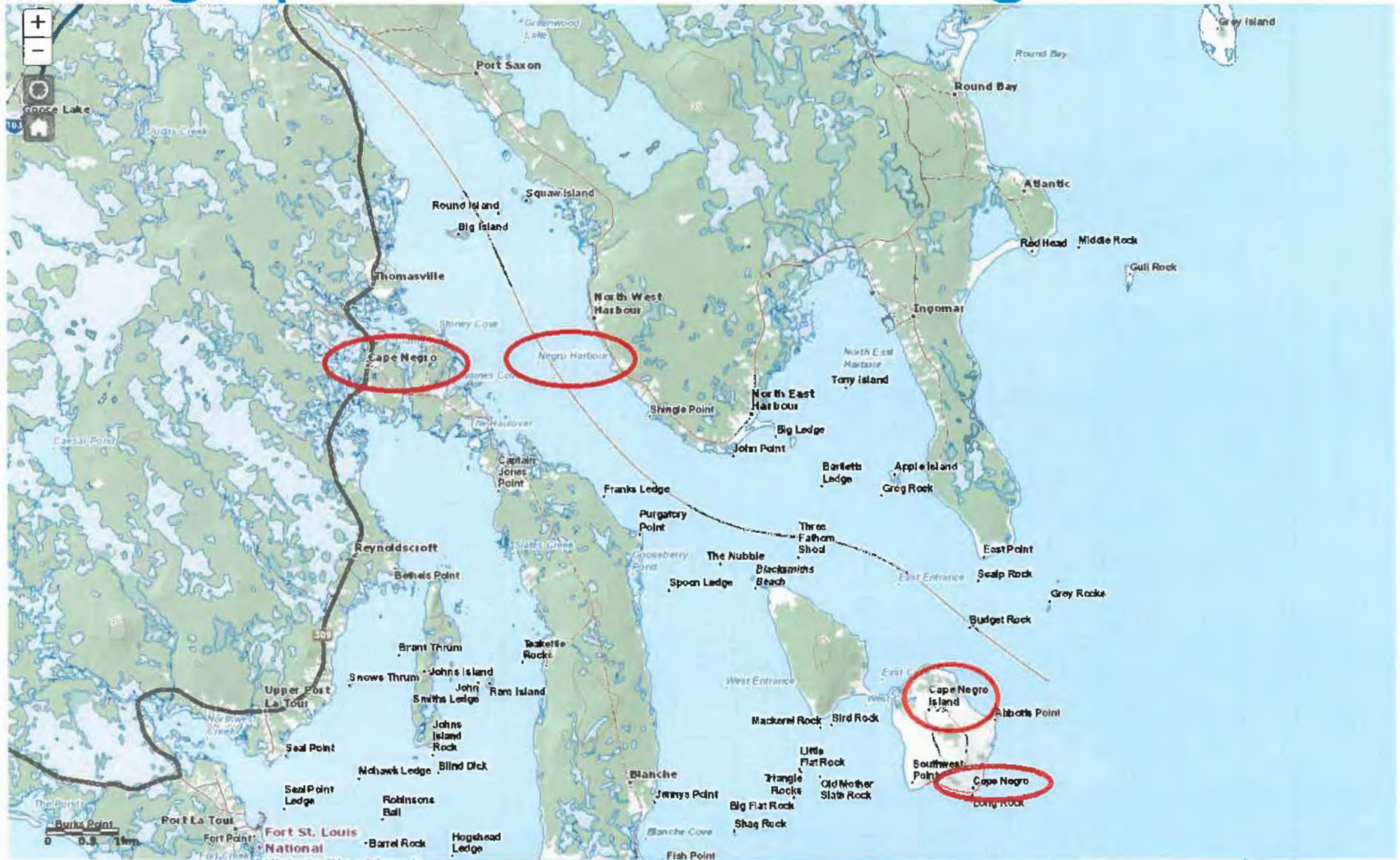
So What is the Process?

- Proposal and Decision
 - Submit complete package for the geographic name (**Applicant**)
 - Approve / Reject proposal for geographic name (**Geo Names Team**)
 - Executive Briefing and update GIS database and maps (**Geo Names Team**)

Principle 7.3:

Discriminatory or derogatory names (as applied to populated places and geographical features) are those perceived, at a given point in time, to be offensive, demeaning or harmful to the reputation of individuals or to social, ethnic, religious or other groups. It is recognized that the perception of “discriminatory” or “derogatory” may vary through time and from place to place. In response to requests from the public, the appropriate status of any names deemed to be discriminatory or derogatory will be investigated.

Geographic Names in Barrington



Geographic Names in Barrington

- December 2016 – original application to rename 4 existing geographic names, citing principle 7.3
- The applications referenced: Negro Harbour, Cape Negro (community), Cape Negro Island
 - 2 additional names to be added Cape Negro (the point) and Cape Negro Island (community)
- Several delays (applicant out of province, issues with names proposed, internal resource shortages, common date for public engagement)
- Technically, the application has not been approved to proceed

Next Step - Community Engagement

- Engage citizens to create awareness of geographic naming and current derogatory names
- Working with the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre in Birchtown as the venue
- Proposed dates are October 20th and 21st, from 4 – 8pm on each day
- Encourage citizens to suggest new names for the geographic features
- Public Health protocols to be followed.

Proposed Timeline

- **September 21st & 28th:** Meet with District councils in Barrington and Shelburne. At that time, we will lay out the proposed public engagement plan for feedback.
- **October 20th / 21st:** public open houses to share information about geographic naming, derogatory names, and to seek names to replace the current derogatory names.
- **November / December:** Survey to residents asking them to vote for their preferred names (as collected from the open house).

Proposed Timeline

- **December / January:** request support for proposed names from: Shelburne and Barrington District councils, provincial MLA.
- **January:** Brief our Minister and approve geographic name changes
- **January / February:** Formally adopt and communicate name changes.

Q &A / Briefing Package

- Slides from this this presentation will be made available
- We will prepare a briefing or FAQ package based upon this presentation and questions / conversations that arise
 - Will be made available within 1 week
- Review of Municipal Input
 - A motion from Shelburne District Council on whether to support (not approval) the new geographic names
 - We may request assistance from the municipality to mail out the survey
 - Promote public engagement session

Discussion/Questions