

A View from the Water: Lessons from the Environmental History of Muskoka's Shoreline



Andrew Watson

PhD candidate

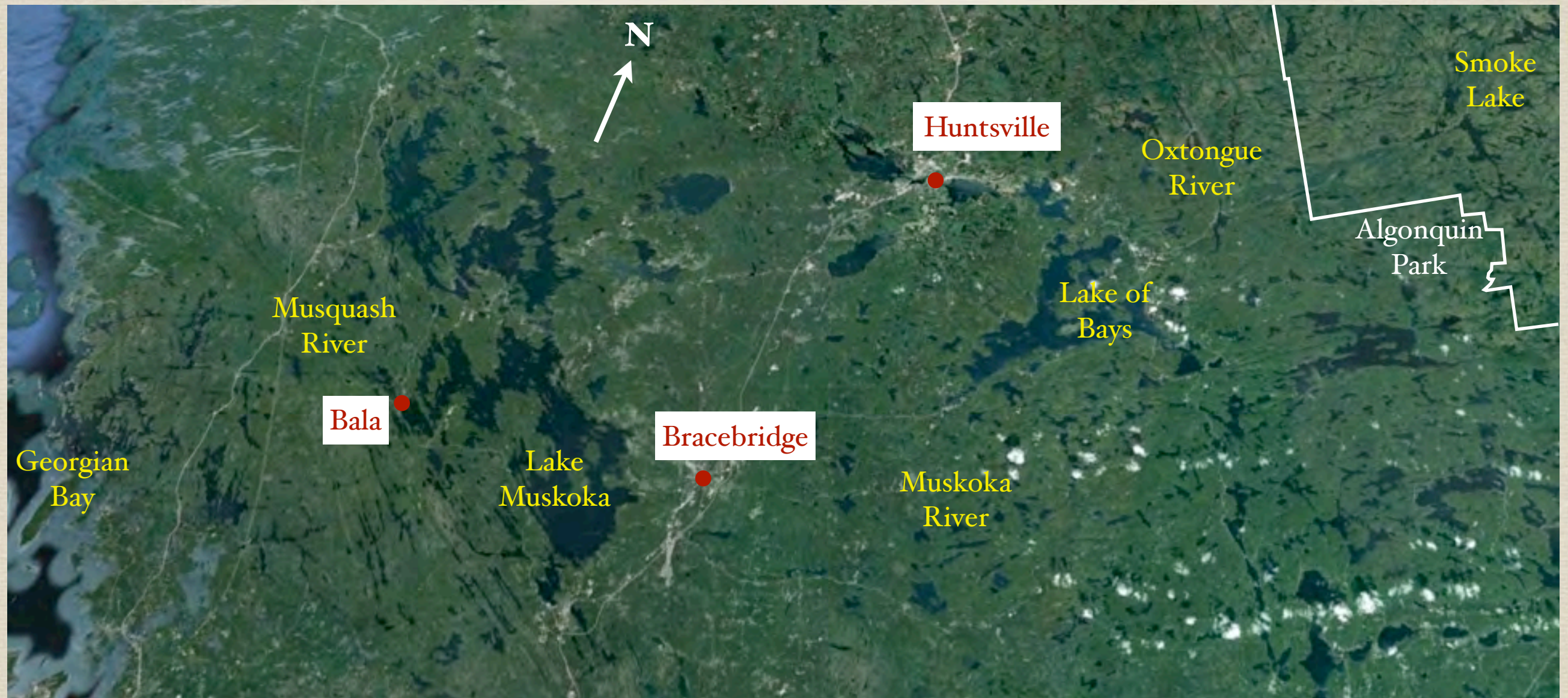
Department of History

York University

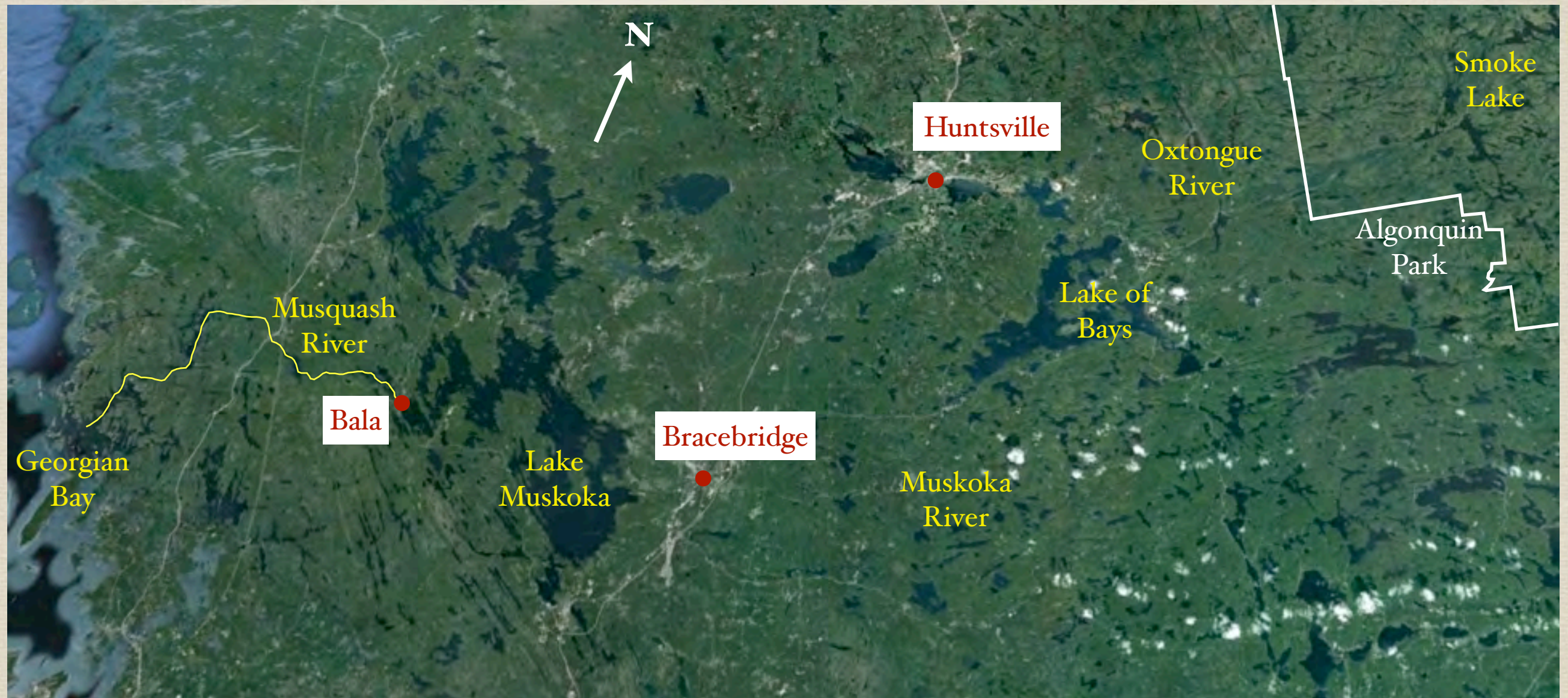
awatson@yorku.ca

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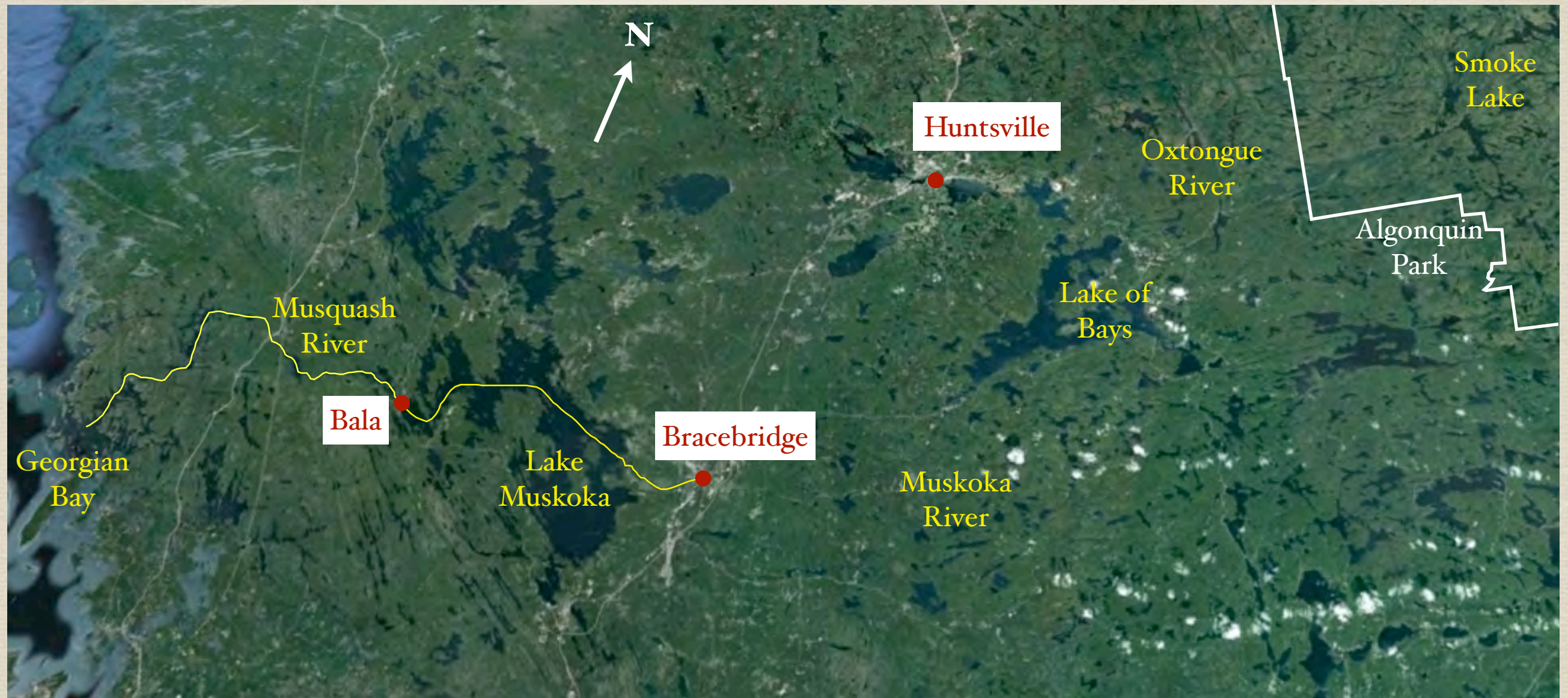
Our Journey



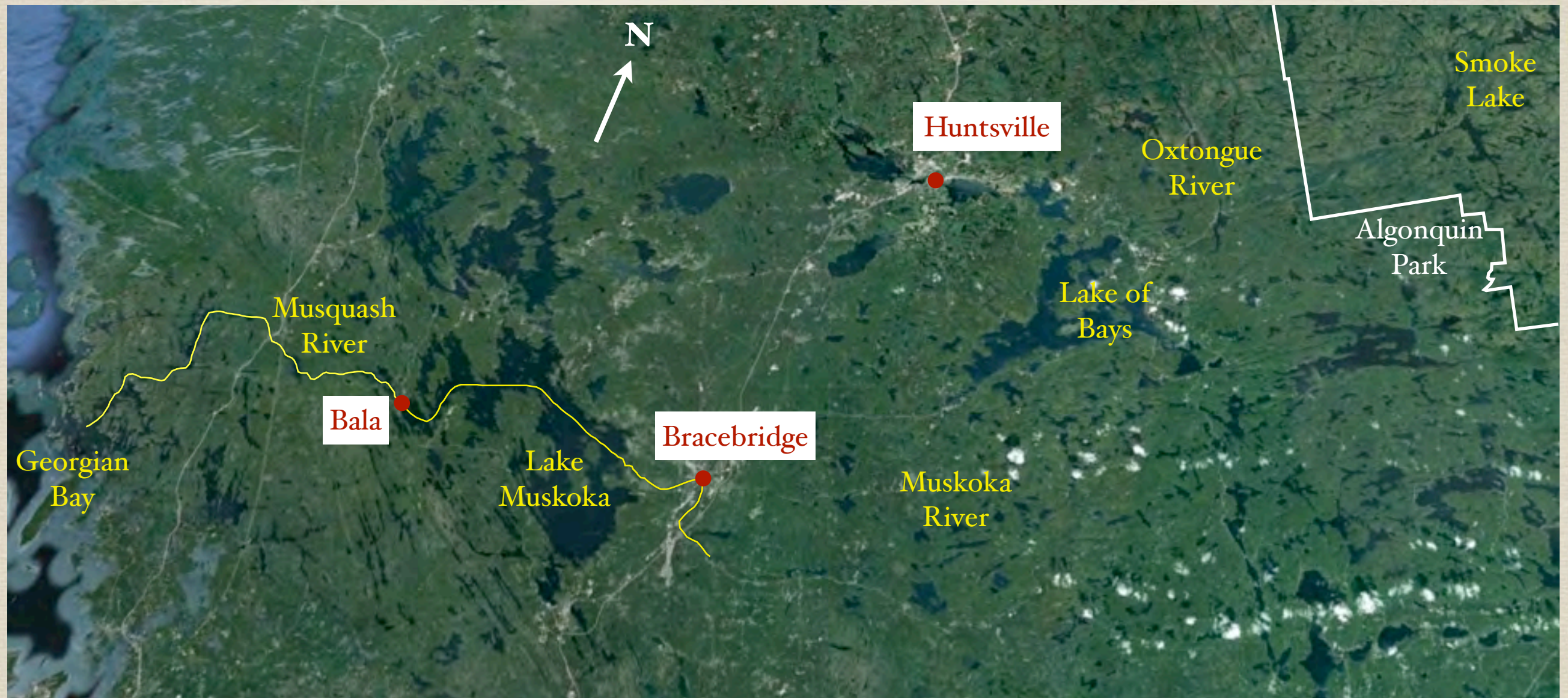
Our Journey



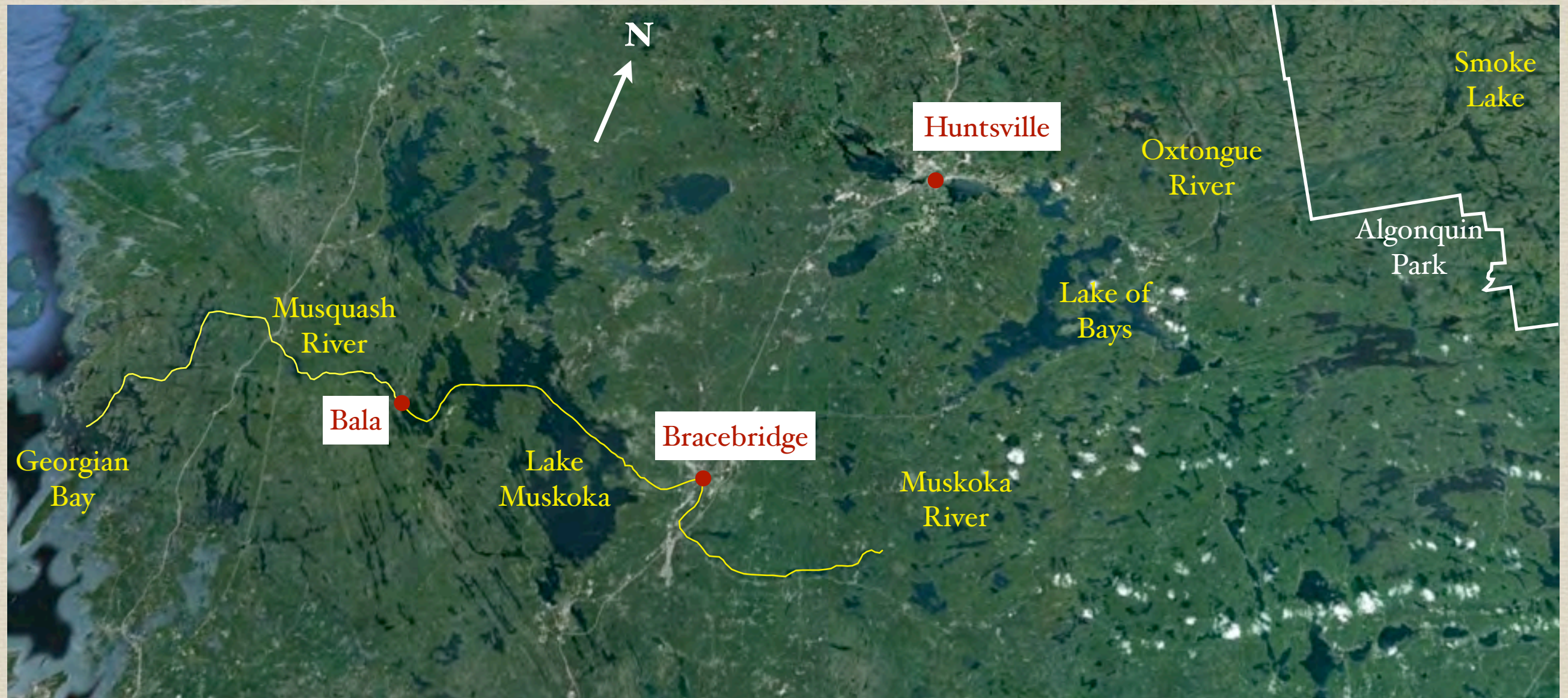
Our Journey



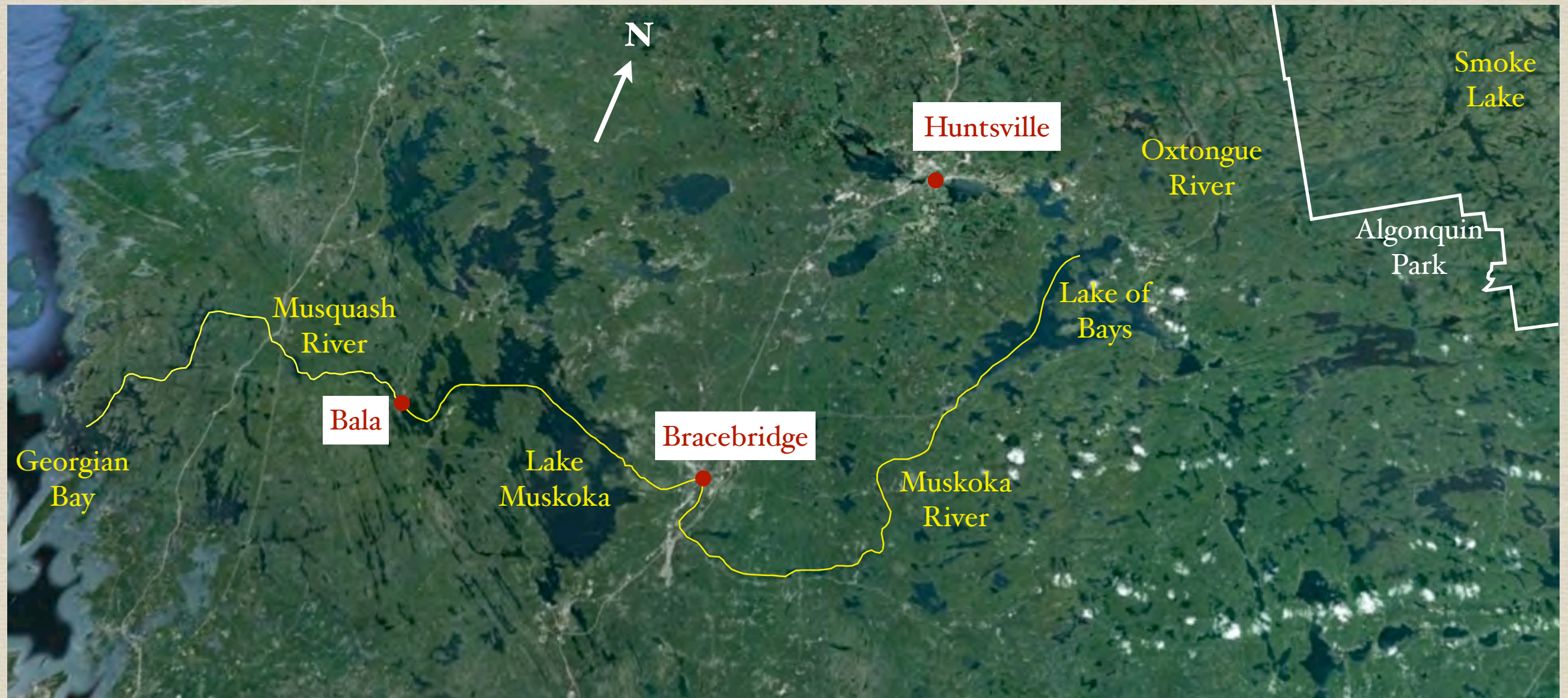
Our Journey



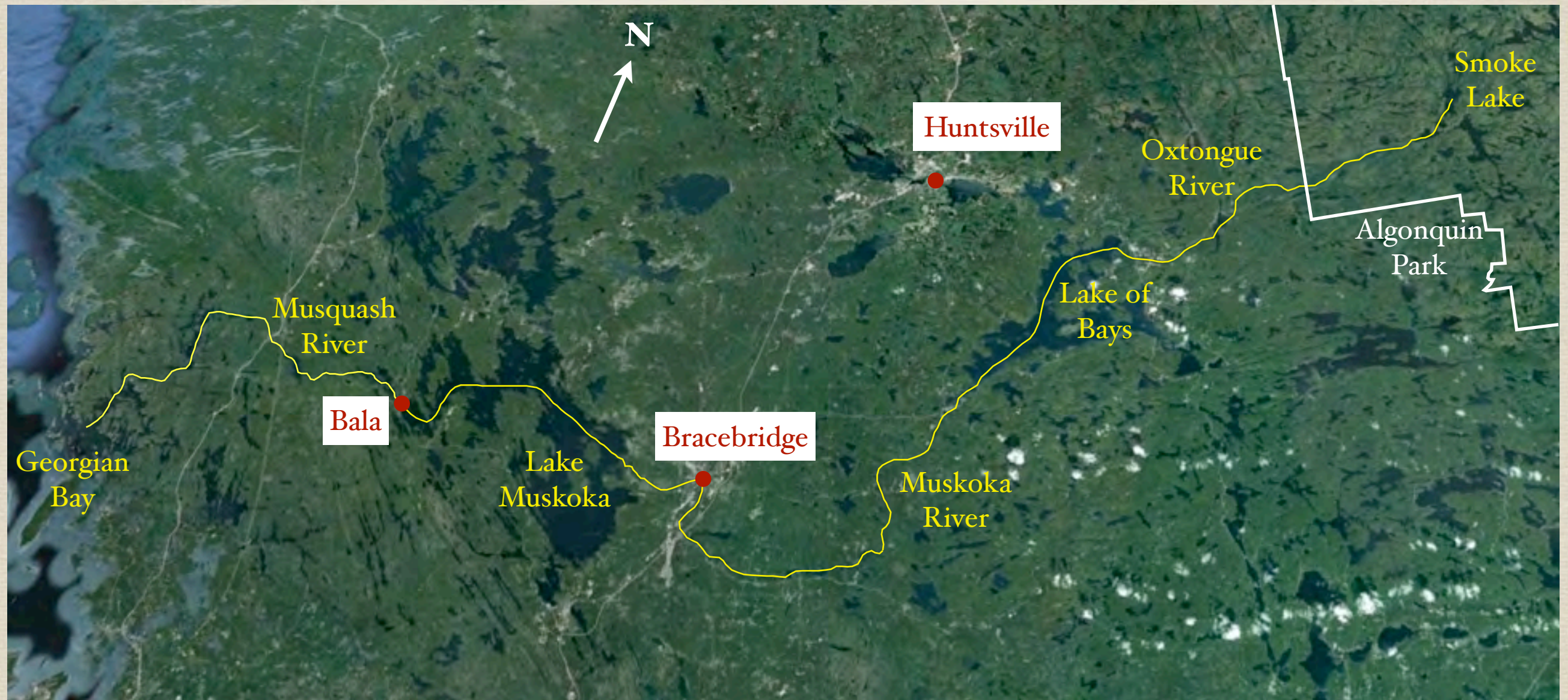
Our Journey

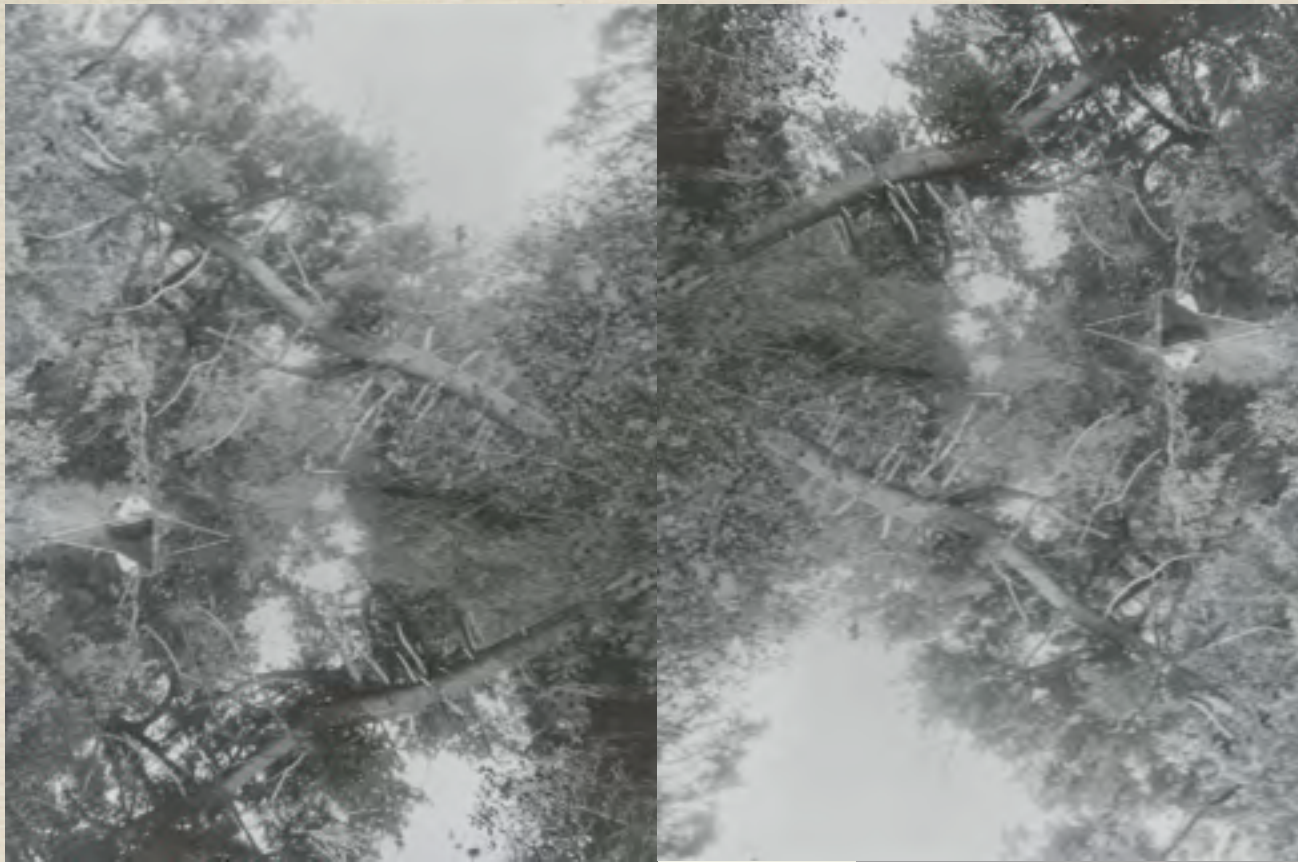


Our Journey



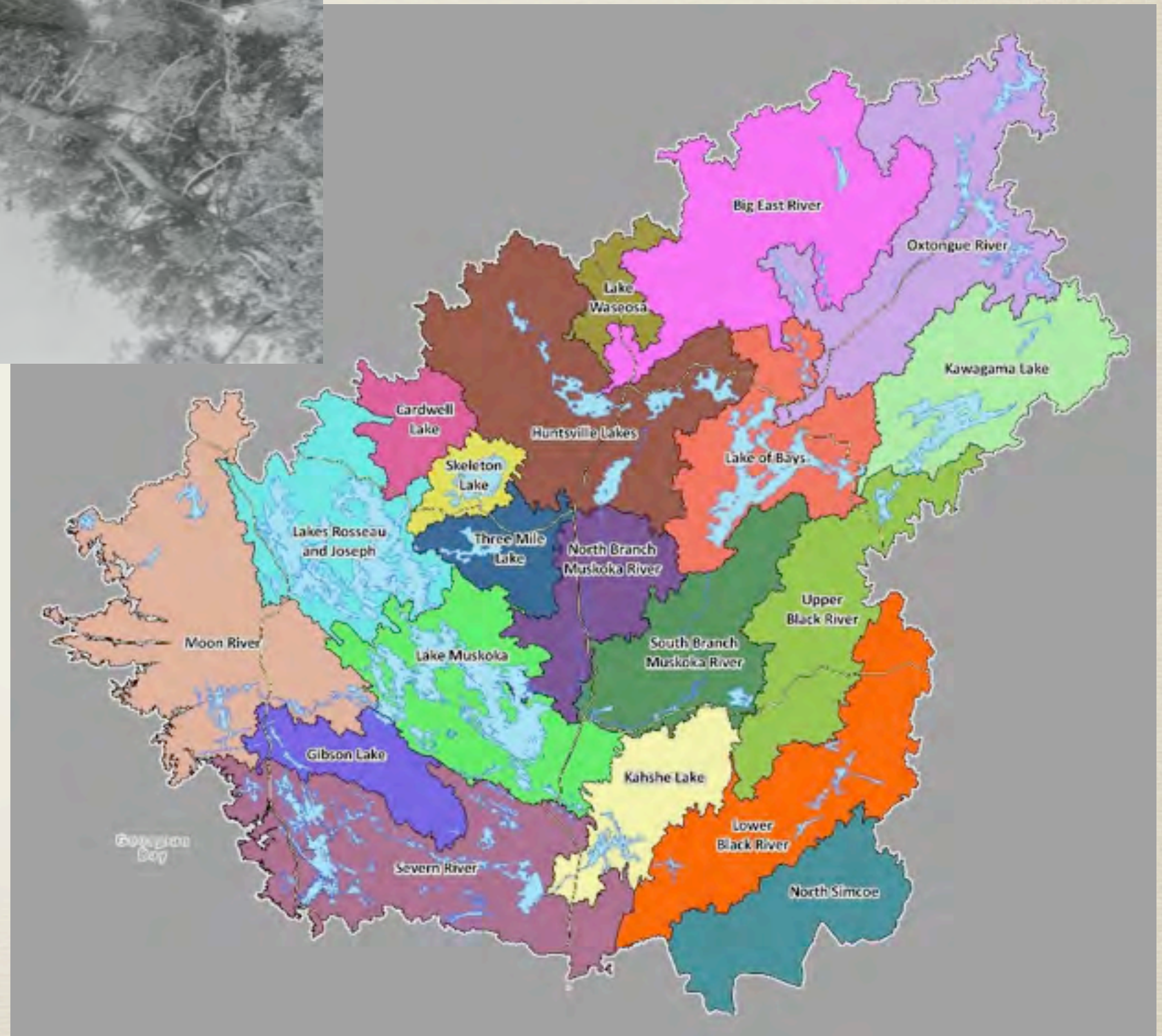
Our Journey

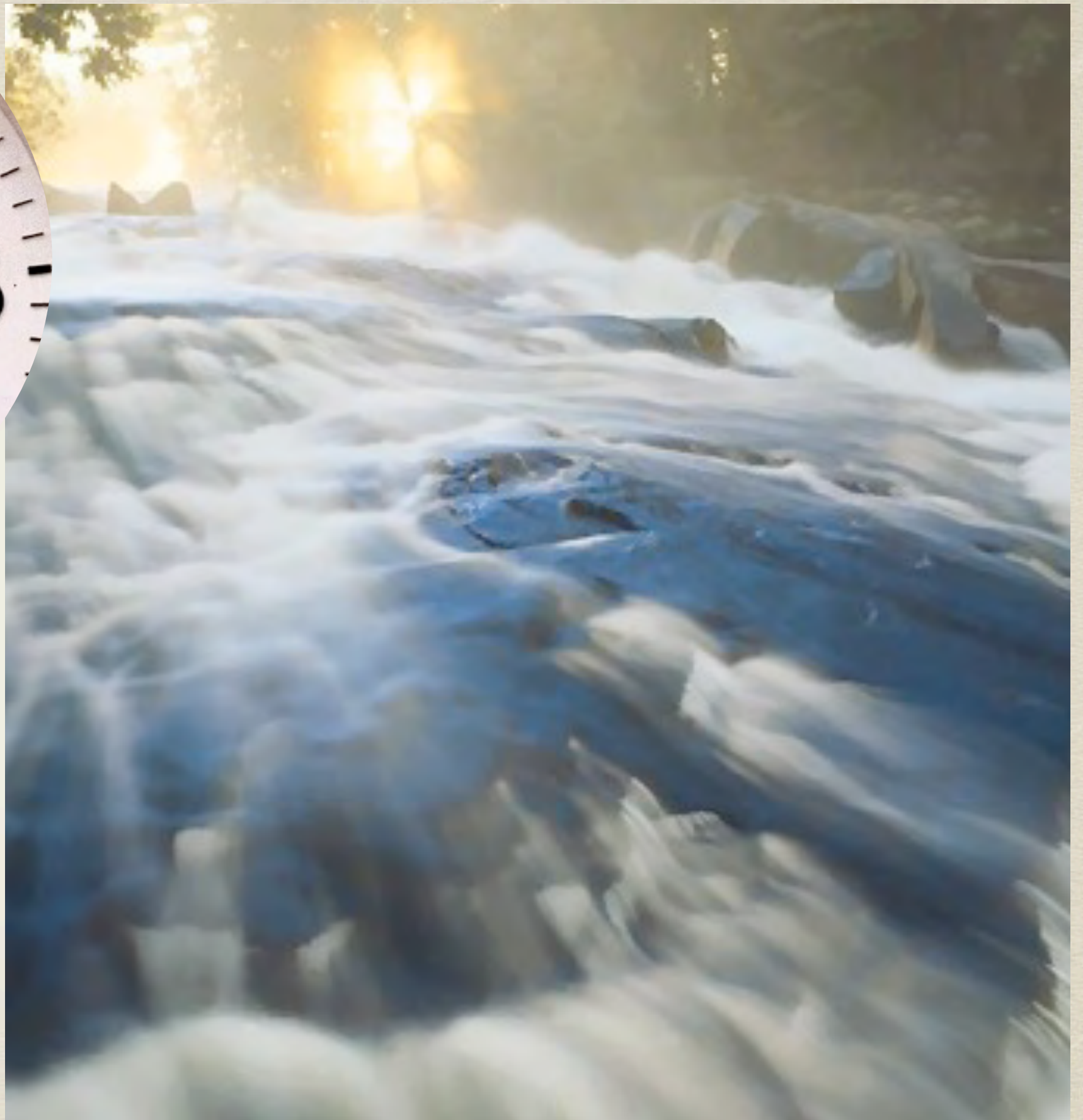




Muskoka's Watershed

Objective 1:
each section of
Muskoka's shoreline
is part of a larger
socioecological
system

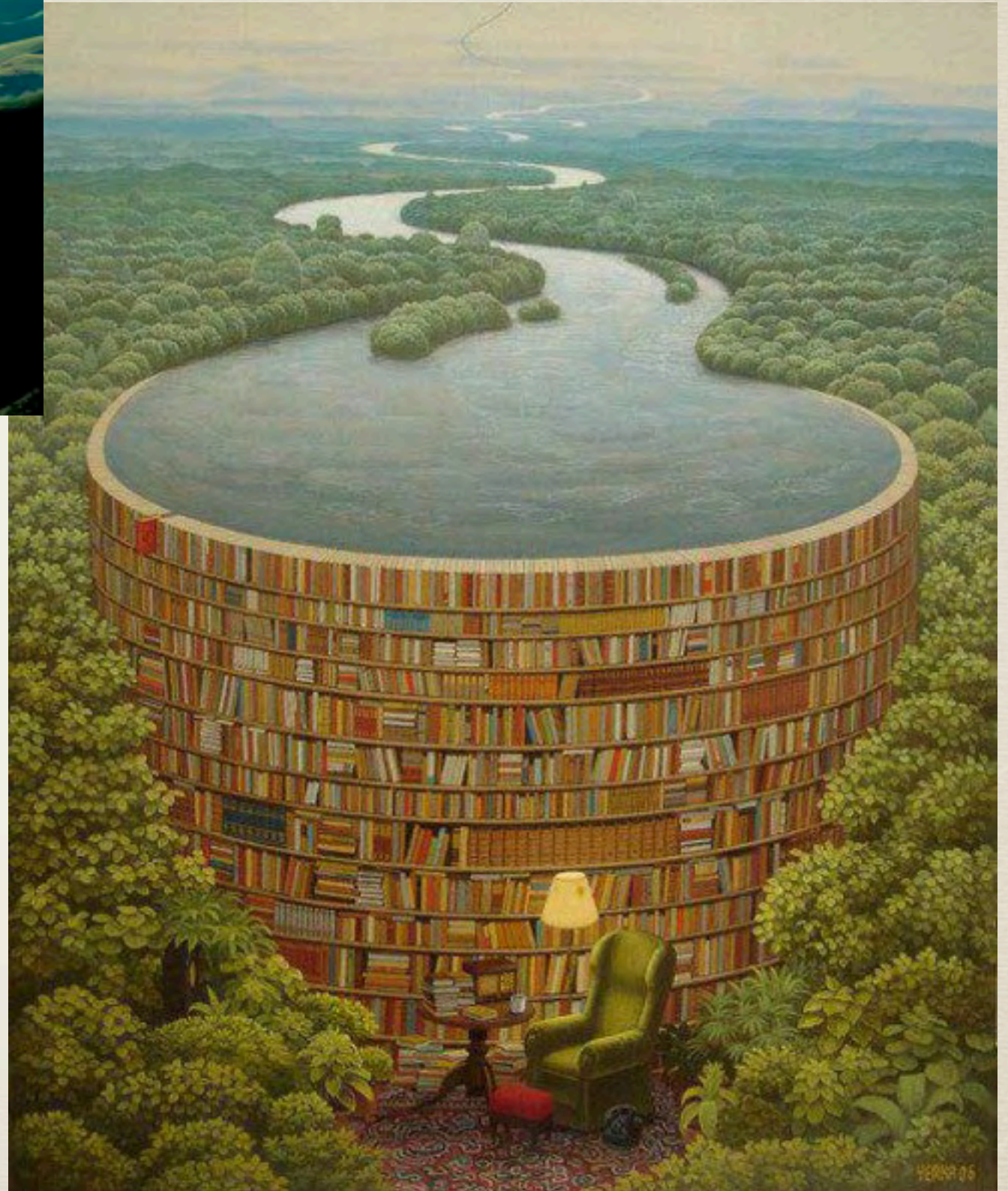


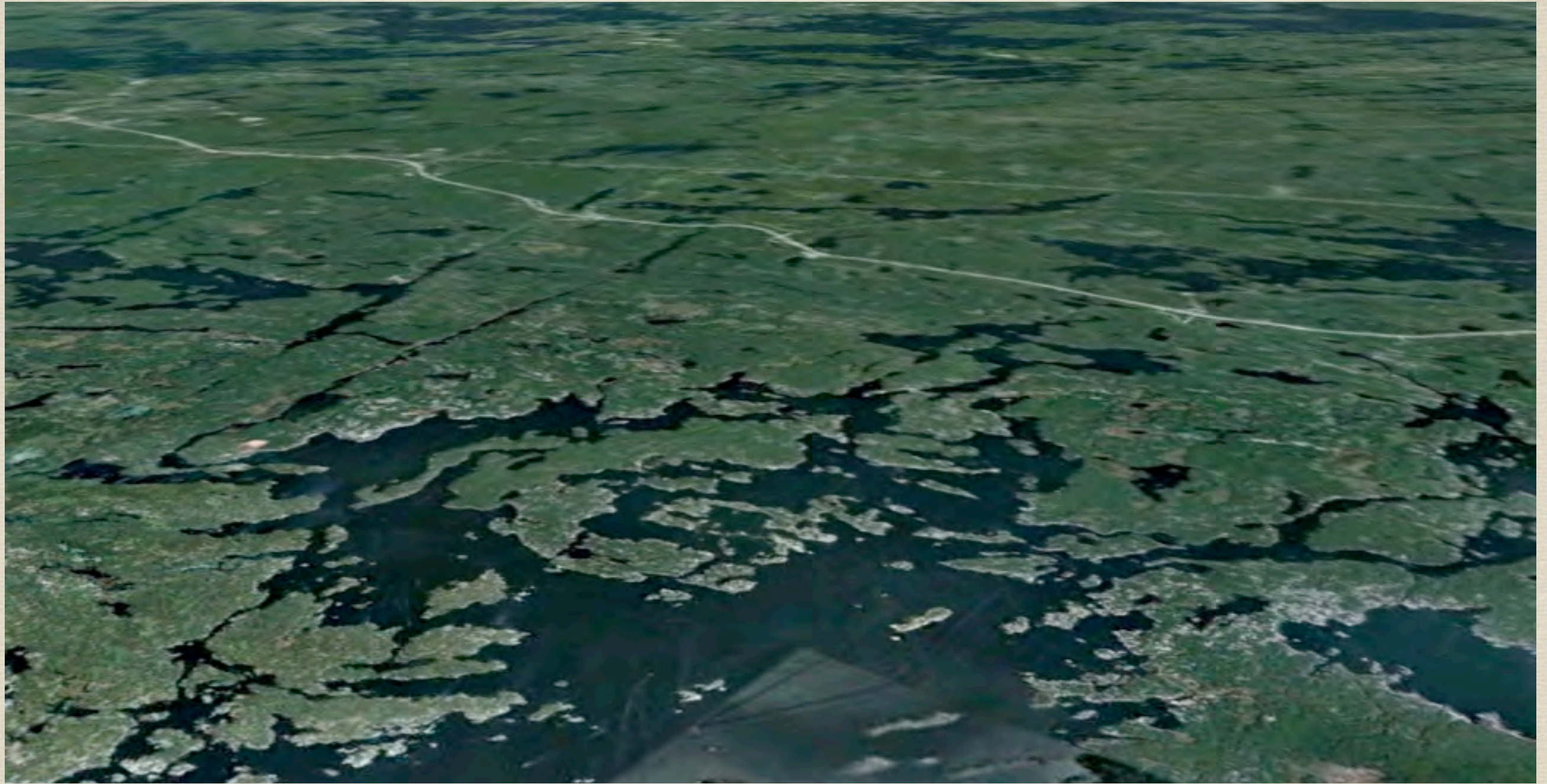


Objective 2:
explore Muskoka's
environmental
history

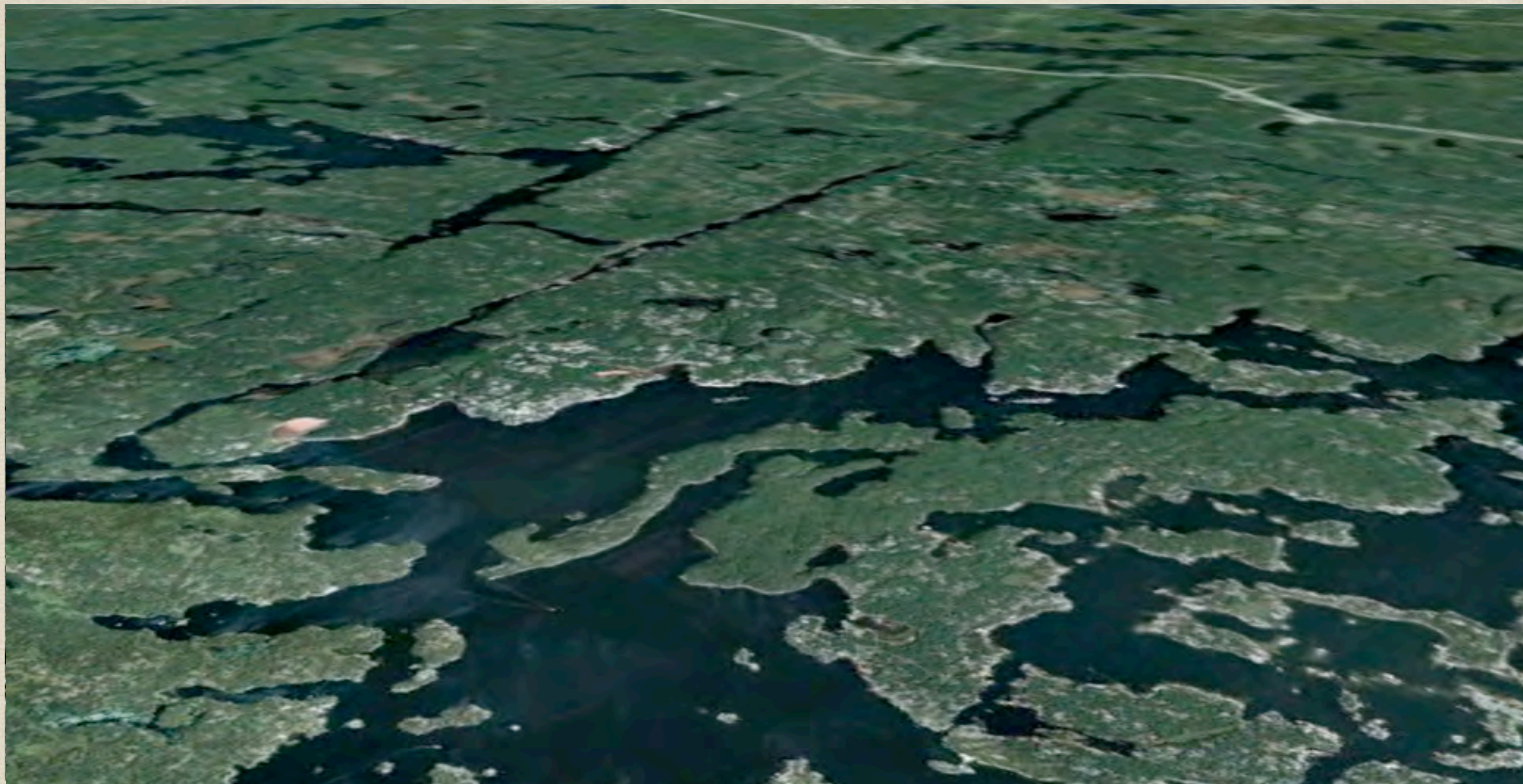


Objective 3:
lessons from the
history of
Muskoka's shoreline





Mouth of the Musquash: where the shoreline of Georgian Bay
becomes the shoreline of Muskoka



Mouth of the Musquash: where the shoreline of Georgian Bay
becomes the shoreline of Muskoka

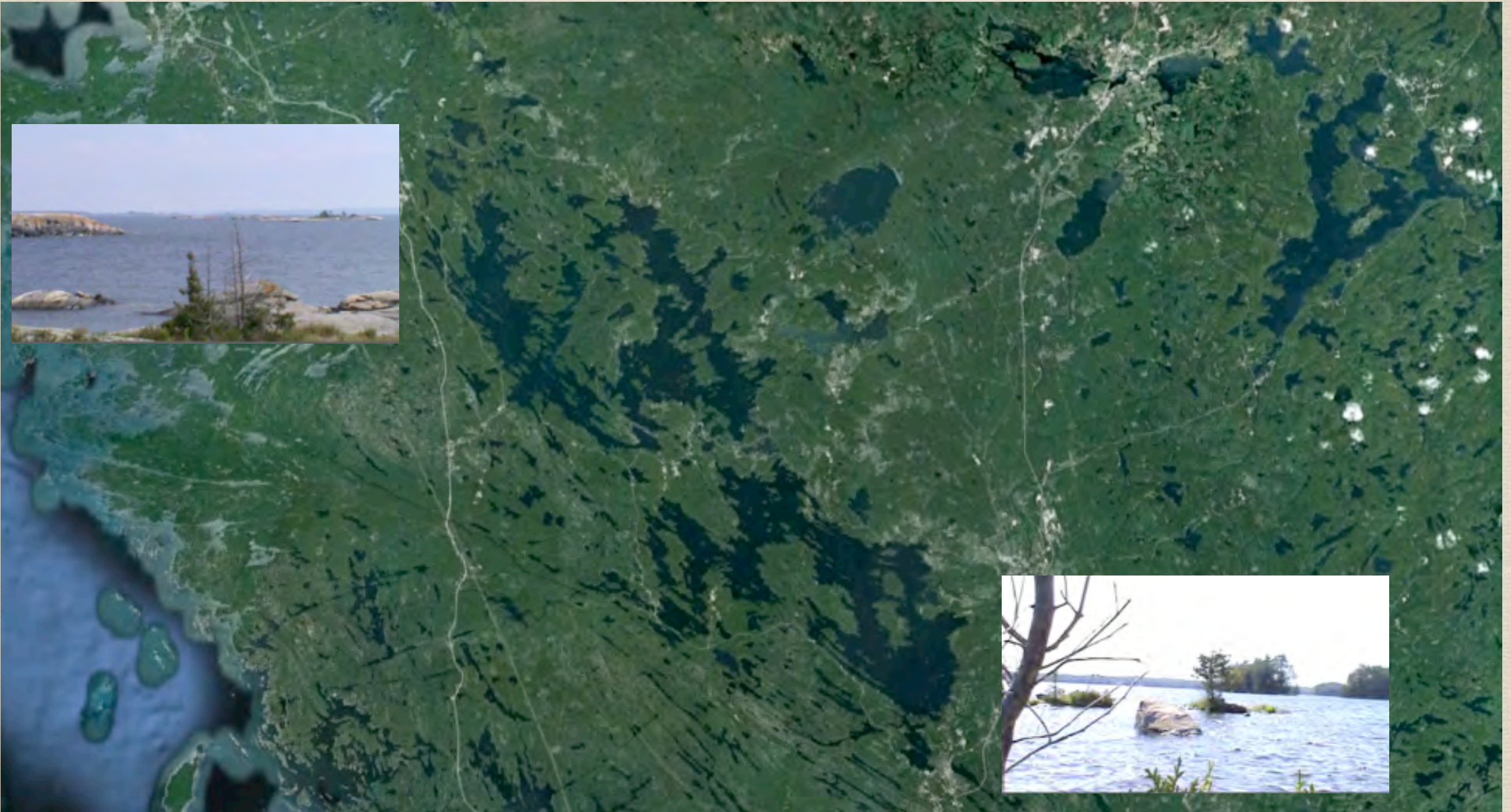


Mouth of the Musquash: where the shoreline of Georgian Bay
becomes the shoreline of Muskoka



Mouth of the Musquash: where the shoreline of Georgian Bay
becomes the shoreline of Muskoka

Two parts of a larger indigenous suite of places



Two parts of a larger indigenous suite of places



River Mouth



Two parts of a larger indigenous suite of places



River Mouth

Inland



Two parts of a larger indigenous suite of places



River Mouth

**Coastal fishing &
trading
Large camps with
concentrated
population**

Inland



Two parts of a larger indigenous suite of places



River Mouth

**Coastal fishing &
trading
Large camps with
concentrated
population**

Inland

**Fall/Winter
hunting & trapping
Small camps &
dispersed
population**

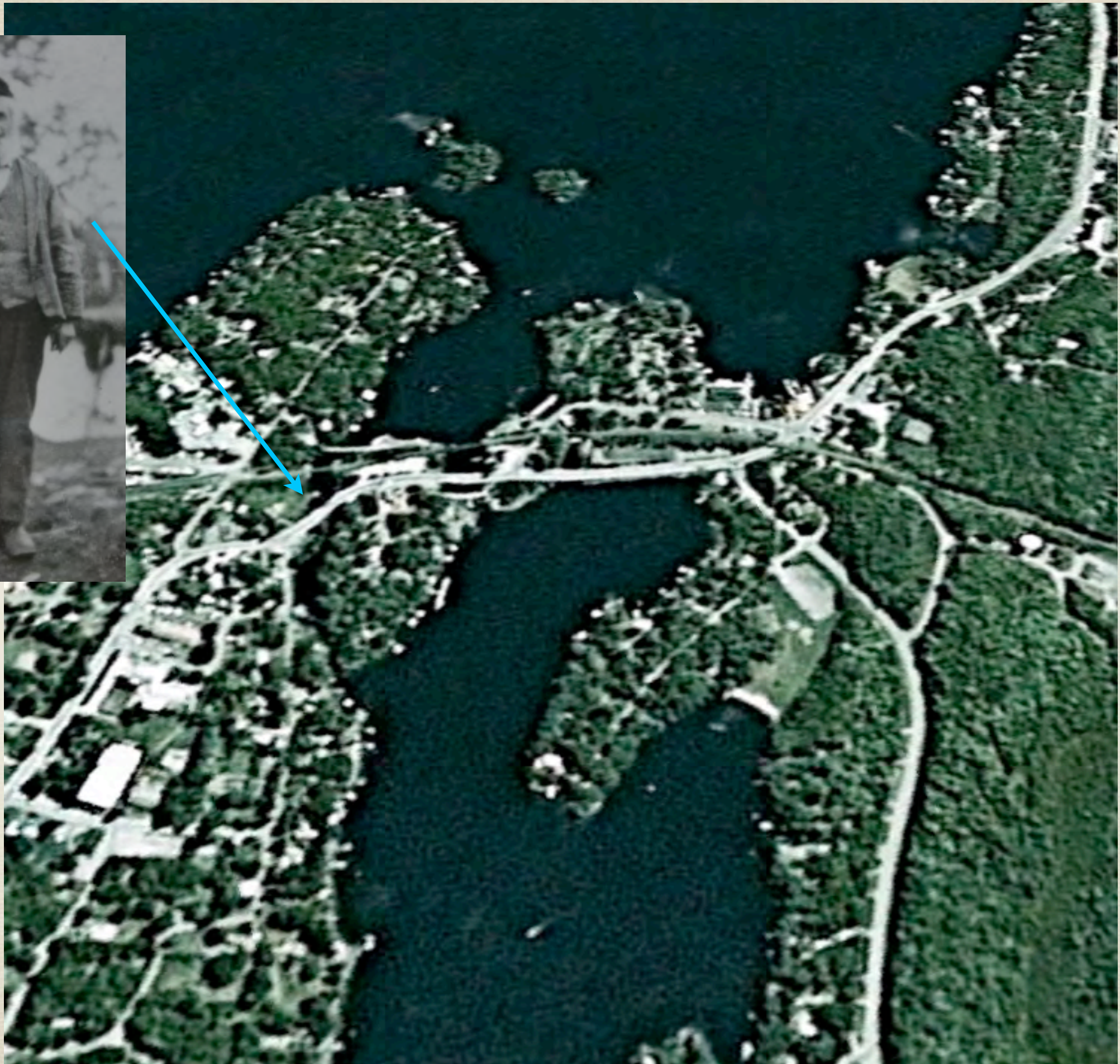


Bodies of water in Muskoka appear static, but are part of a dynamic, fluid system.





Thomas
Burgess

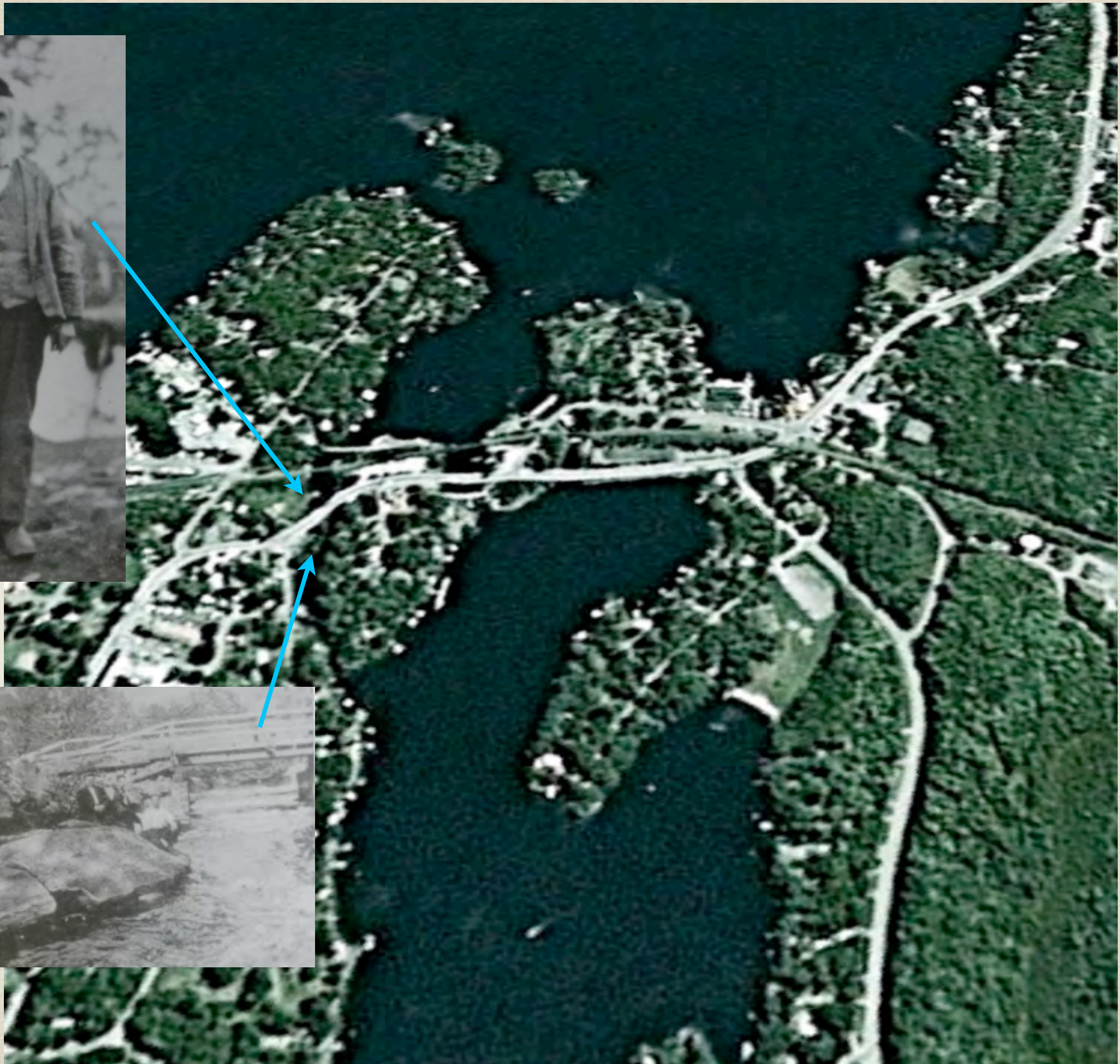




Thomas
Burgess



Mill Stream





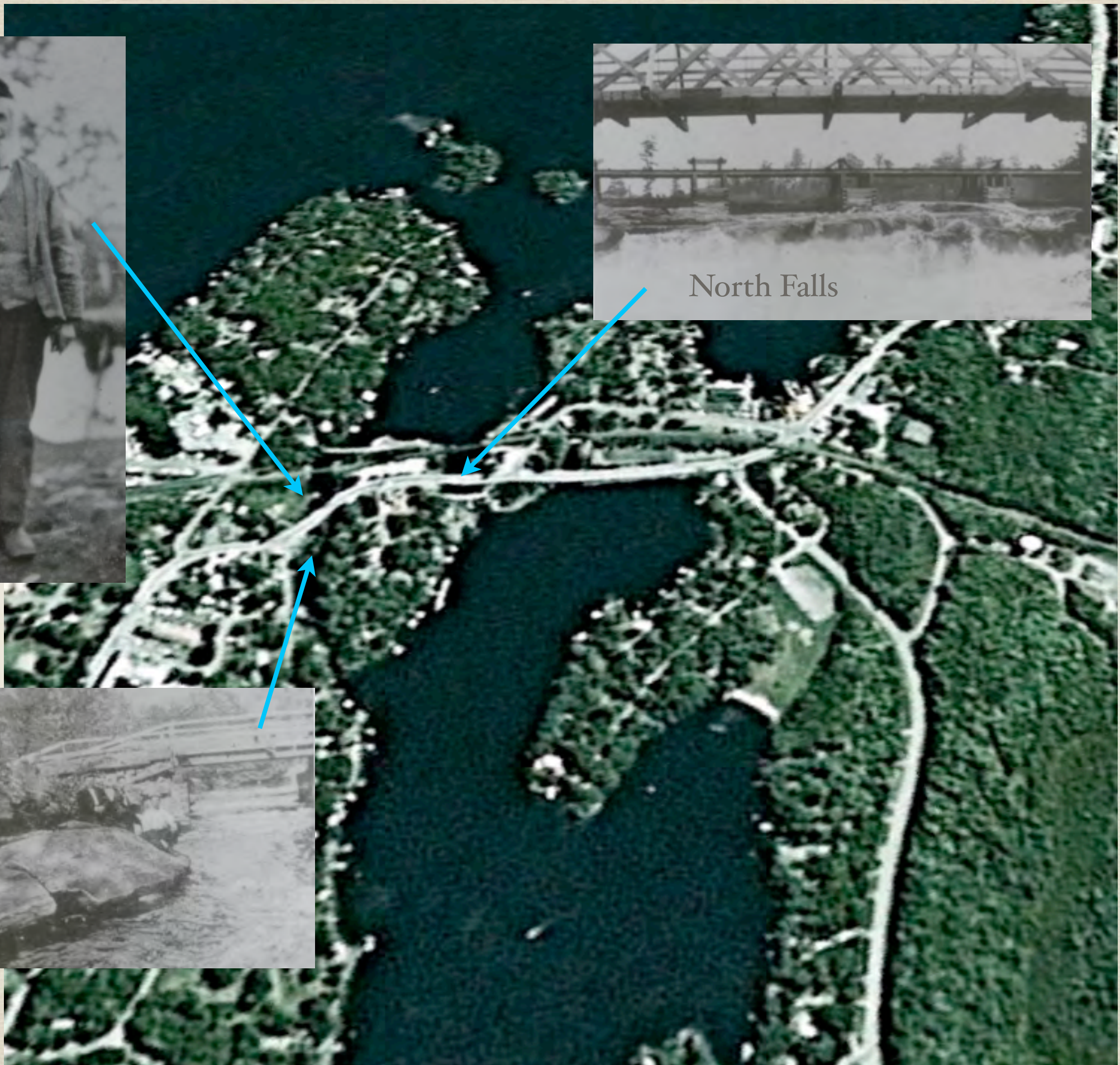
Thomas
Burgess



North Falls



Mill Stream





Thomas
Burgess



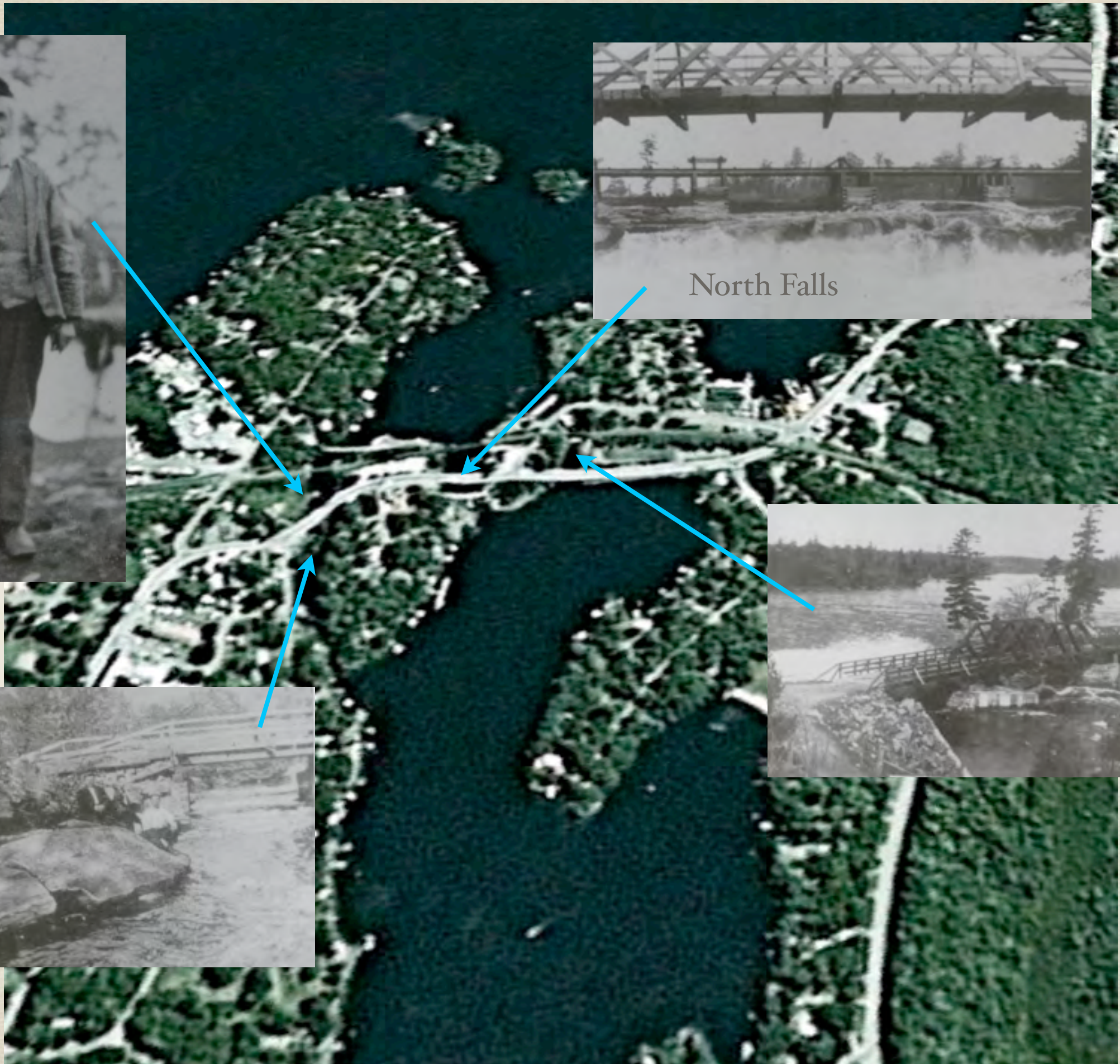
North Falls



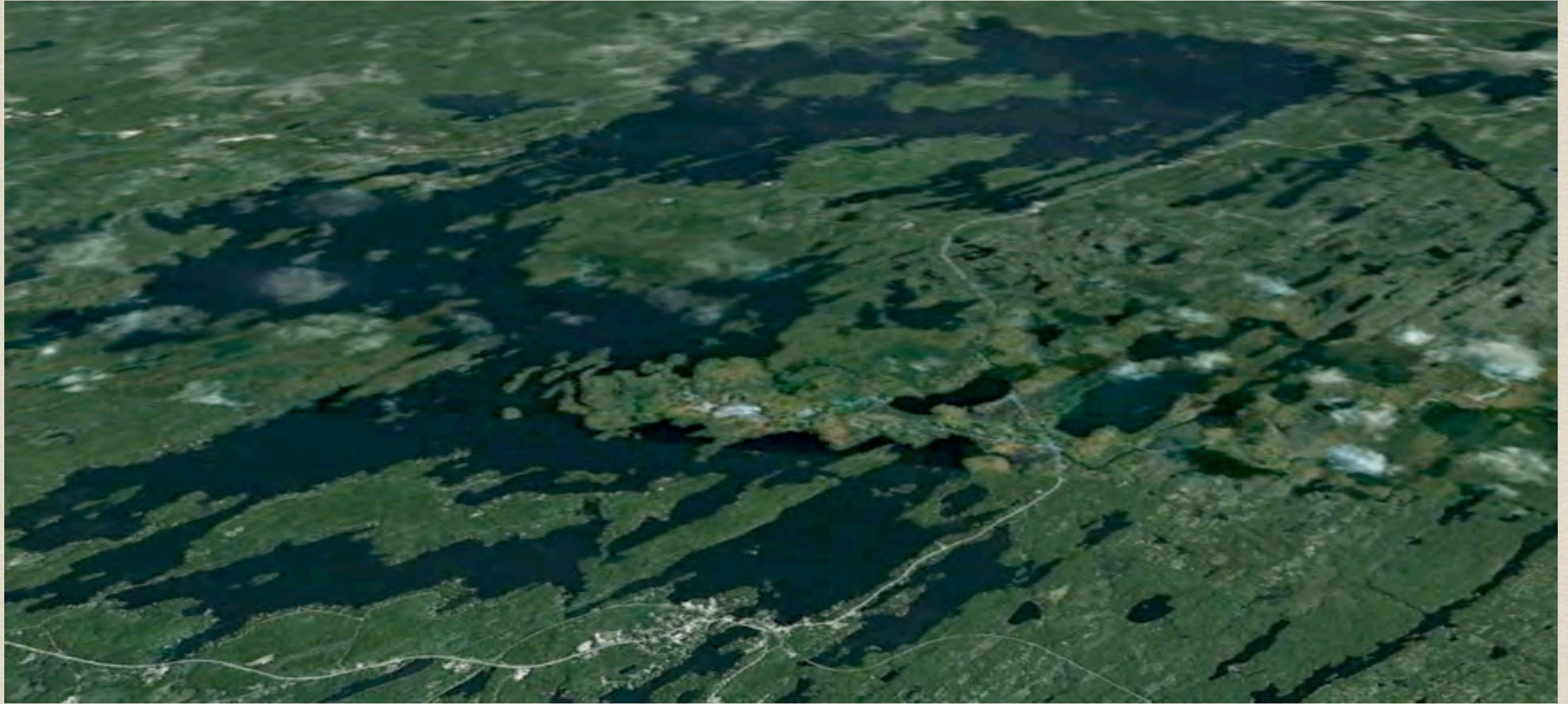
South
Falls



Mill Stream



Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



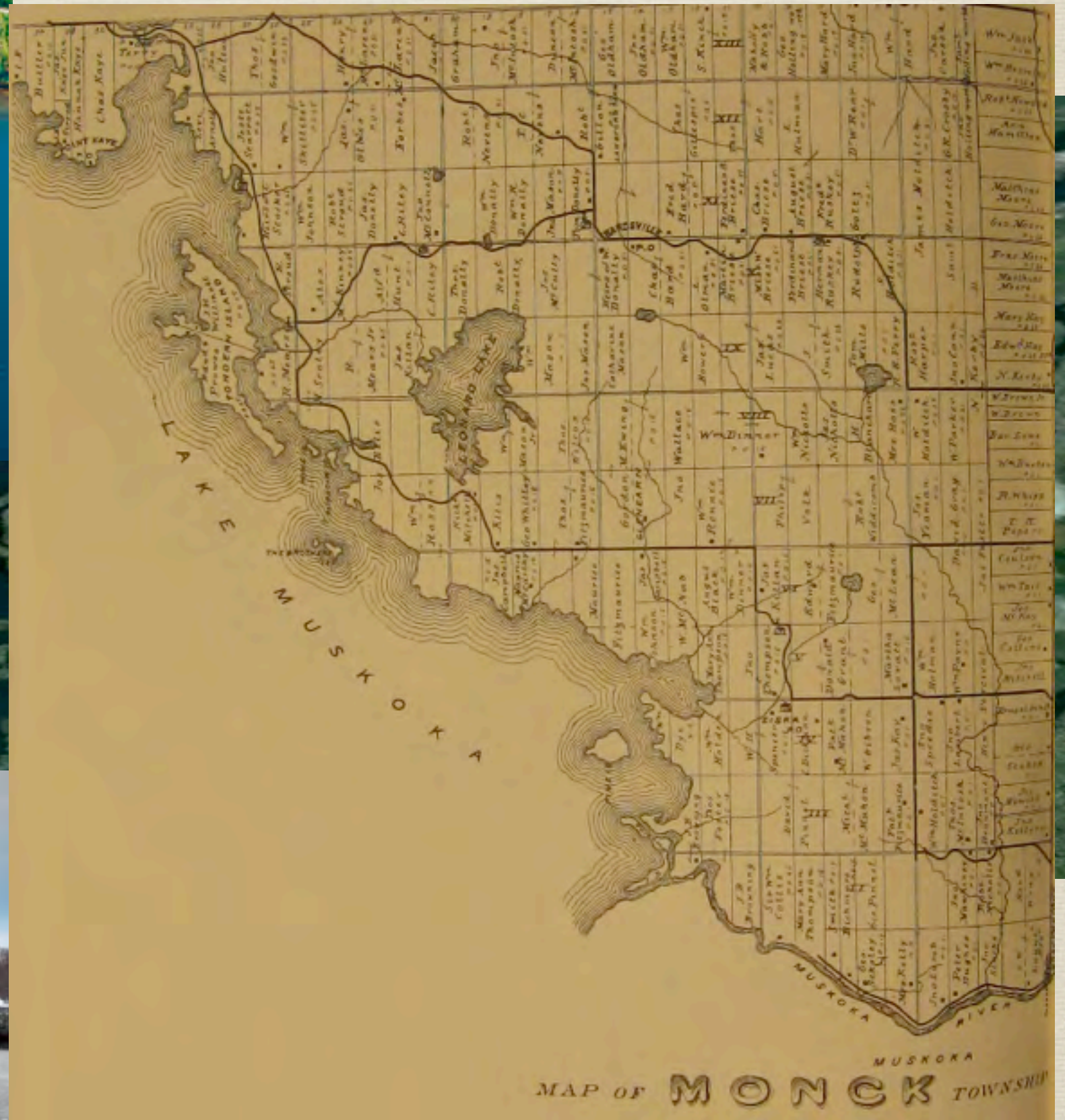
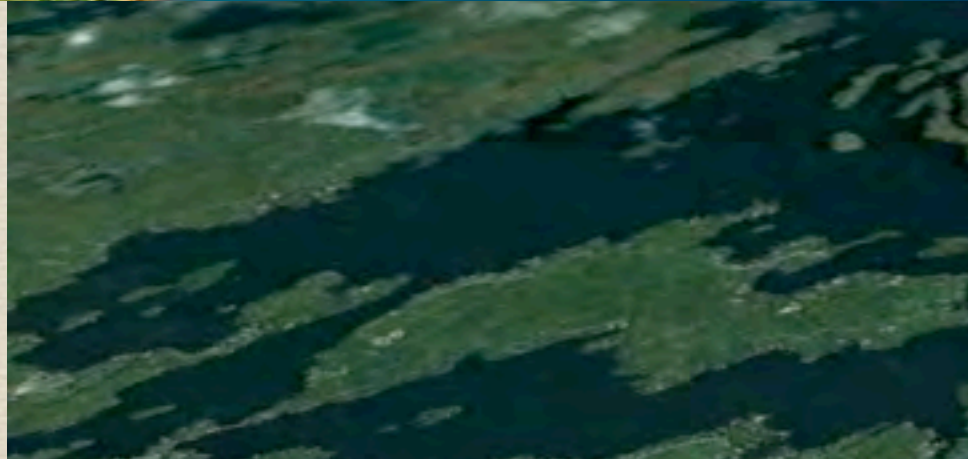
Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



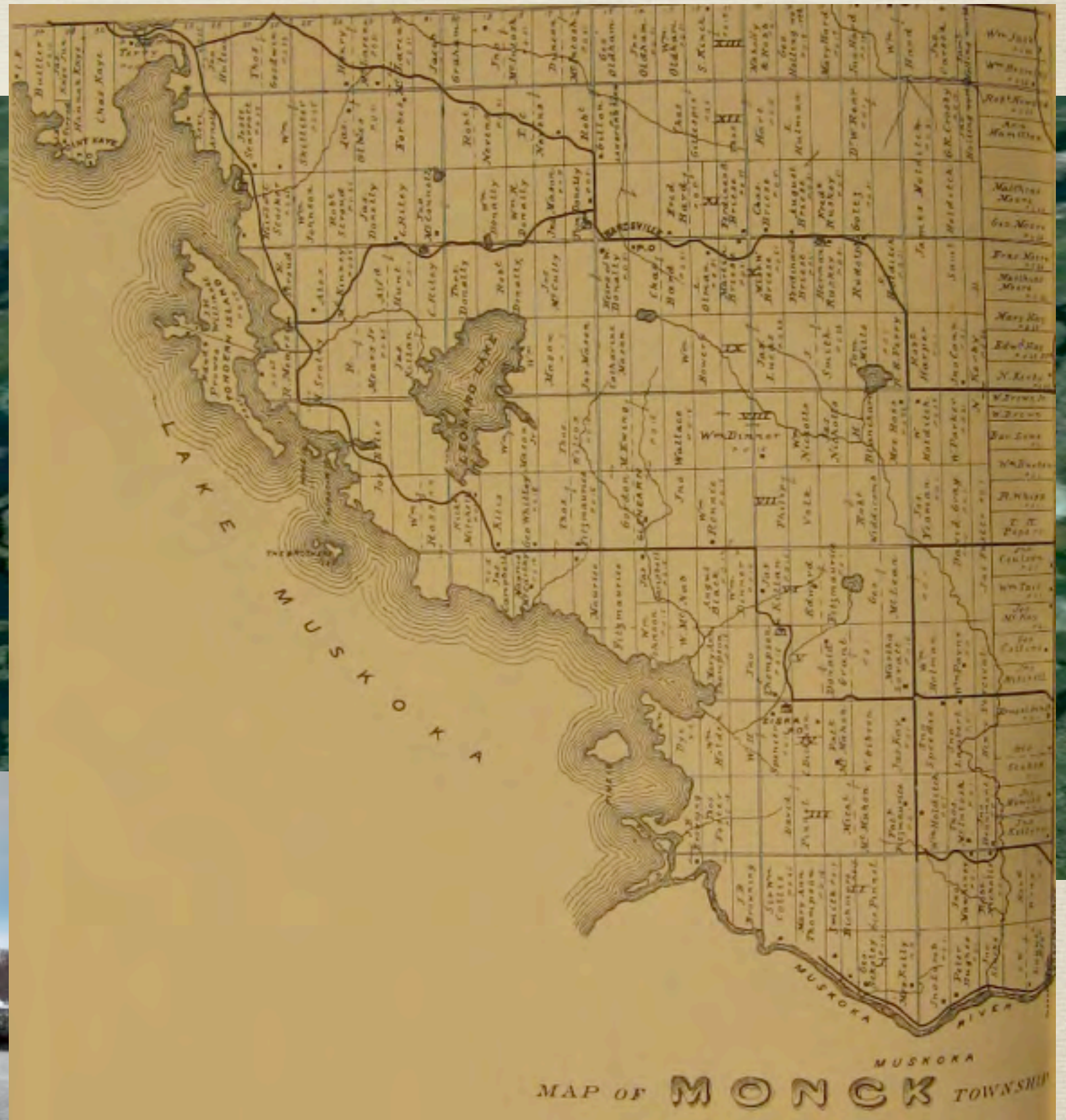
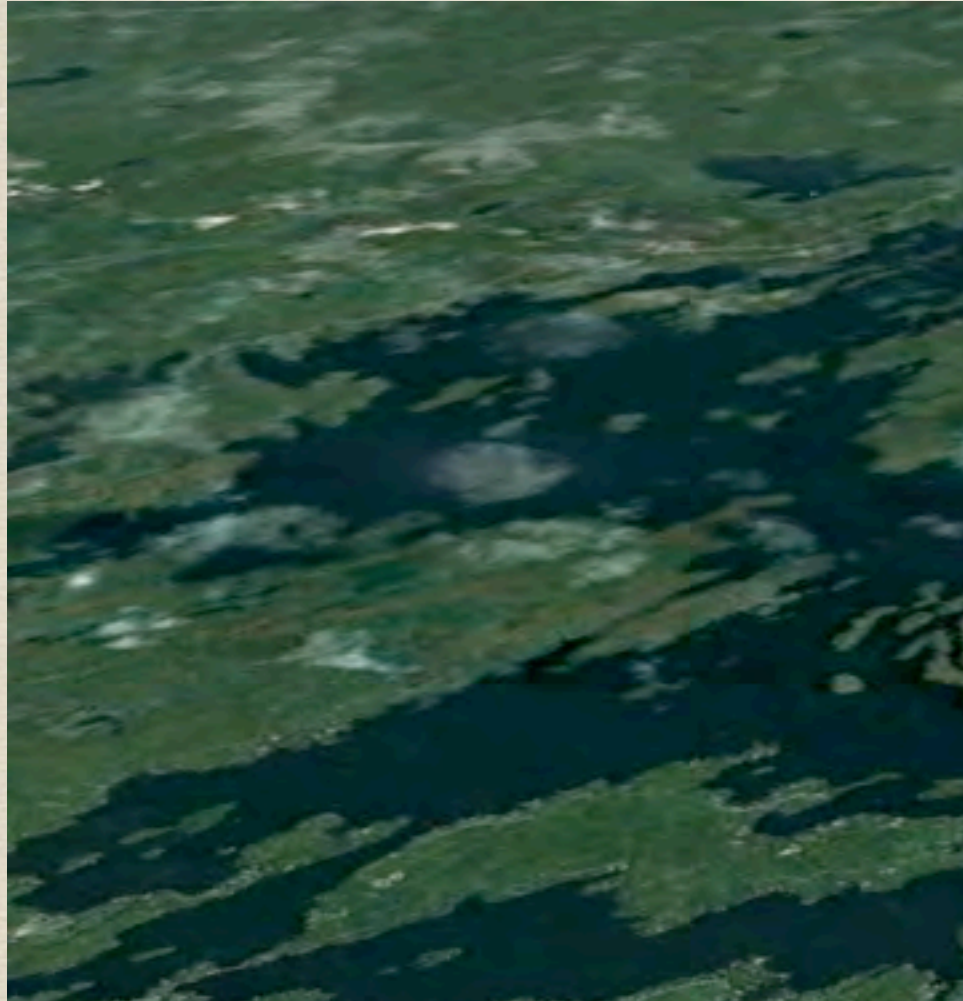
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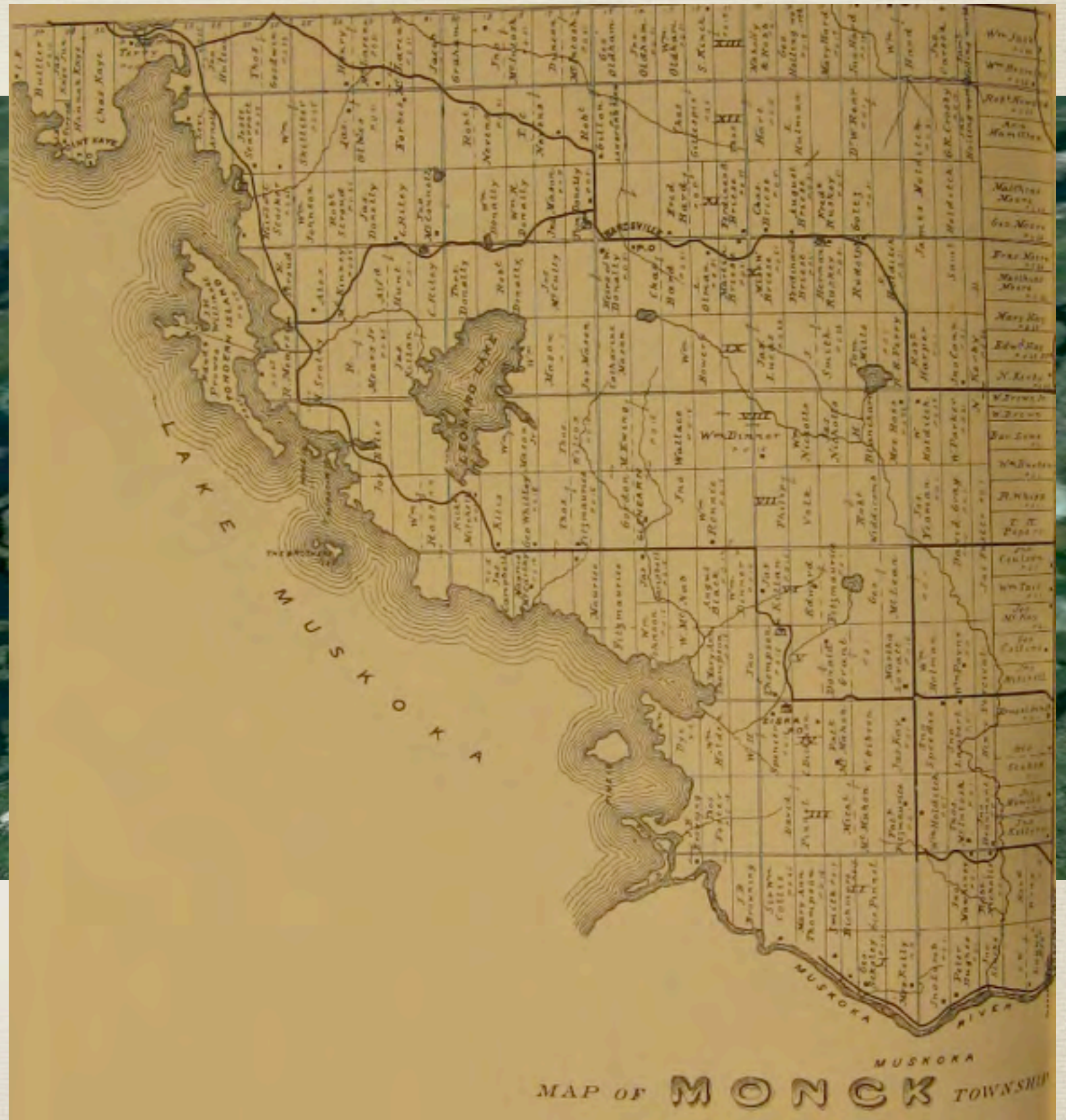
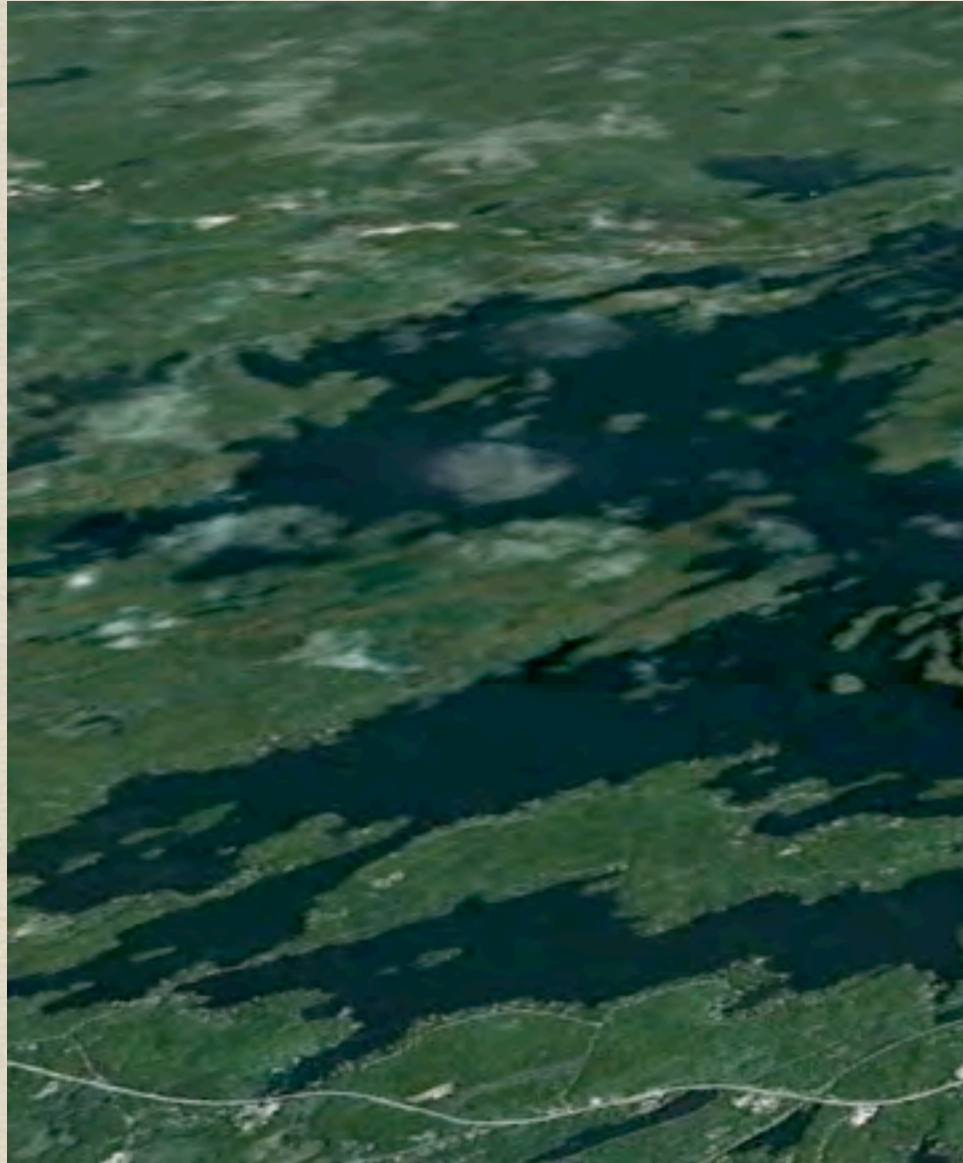
Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past

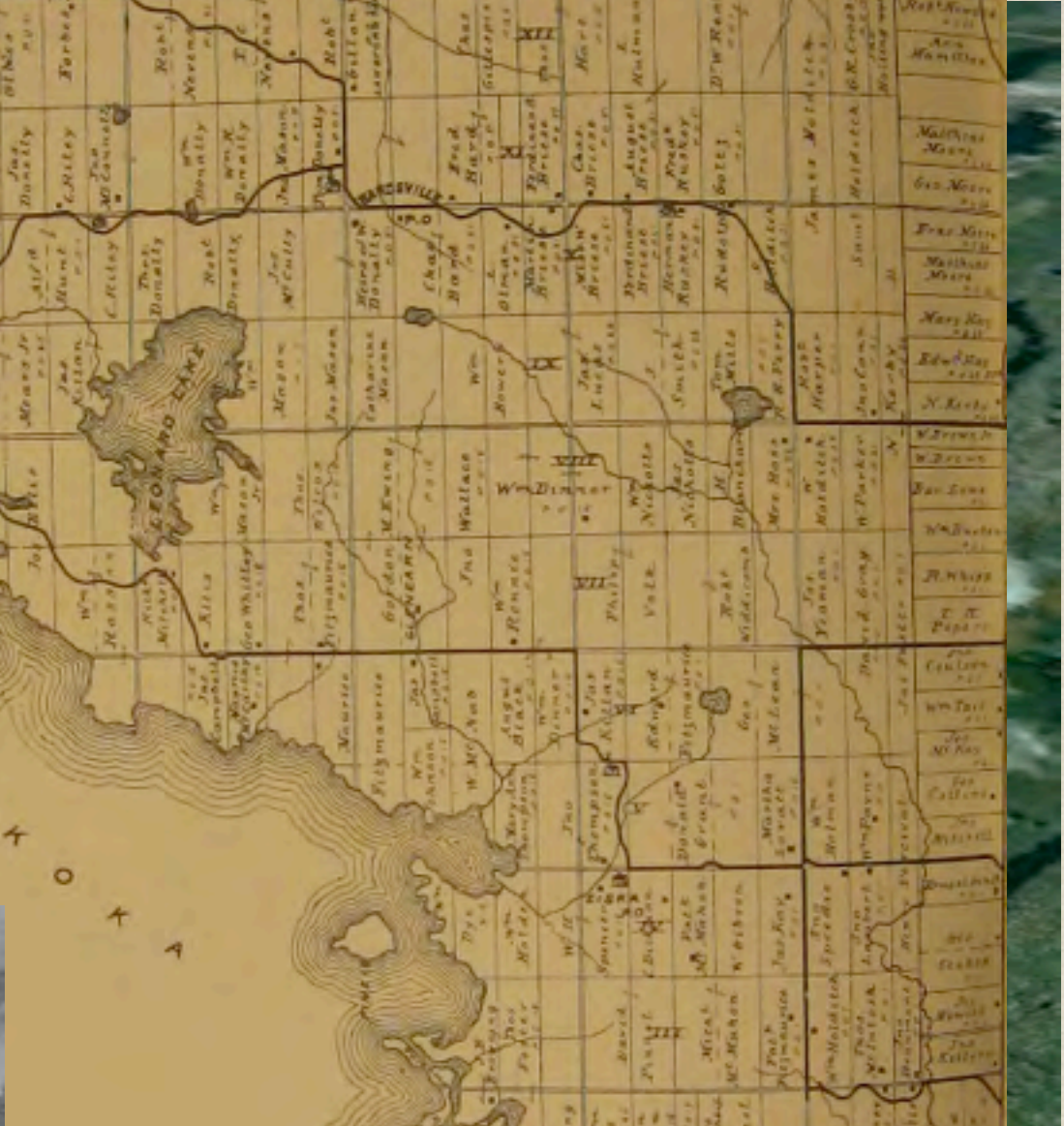


Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



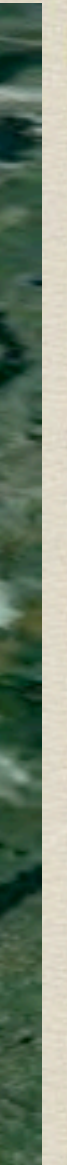
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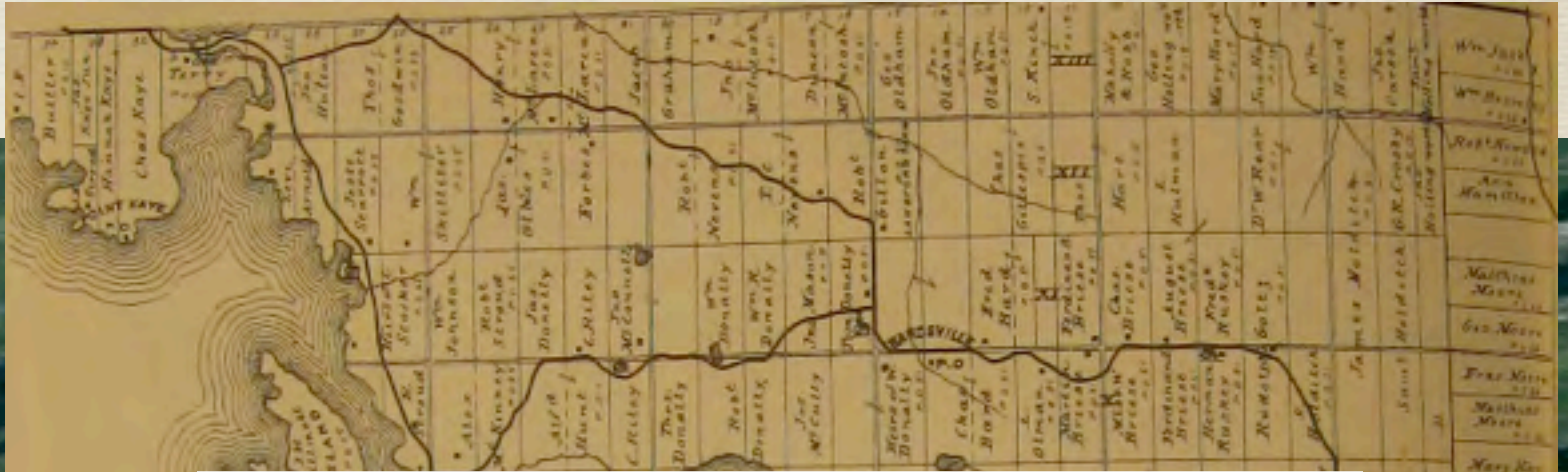
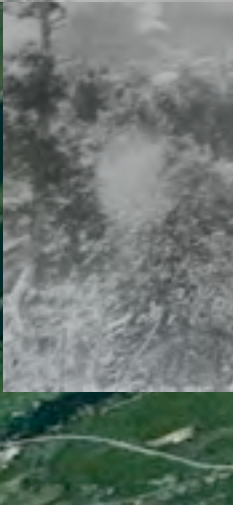


Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past

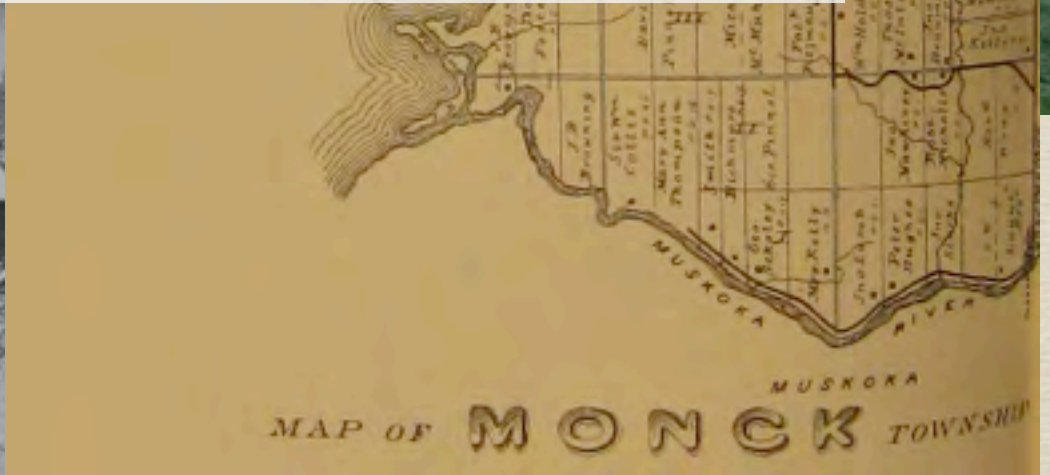


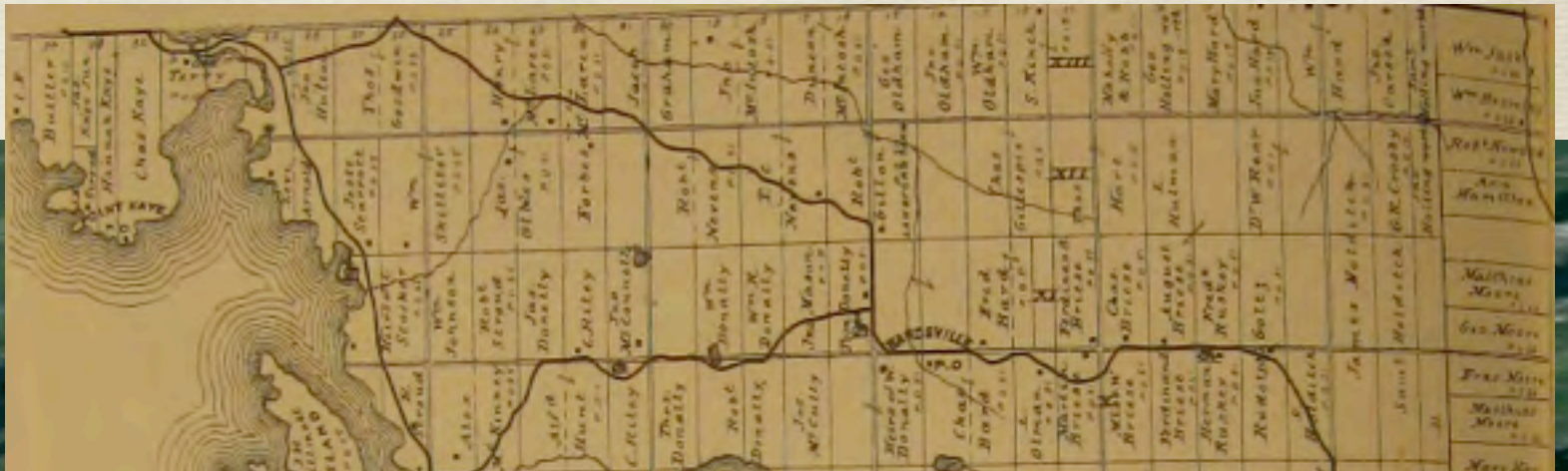


A black and white photograph of a logging camp. A small wooden cabin is situated on a hillside, surrounded by a complex network of wooden tracks and logs. Several men are visible standing near the cabin and on the tracks. The foreground is filled with a large pile of cut logs and debris.



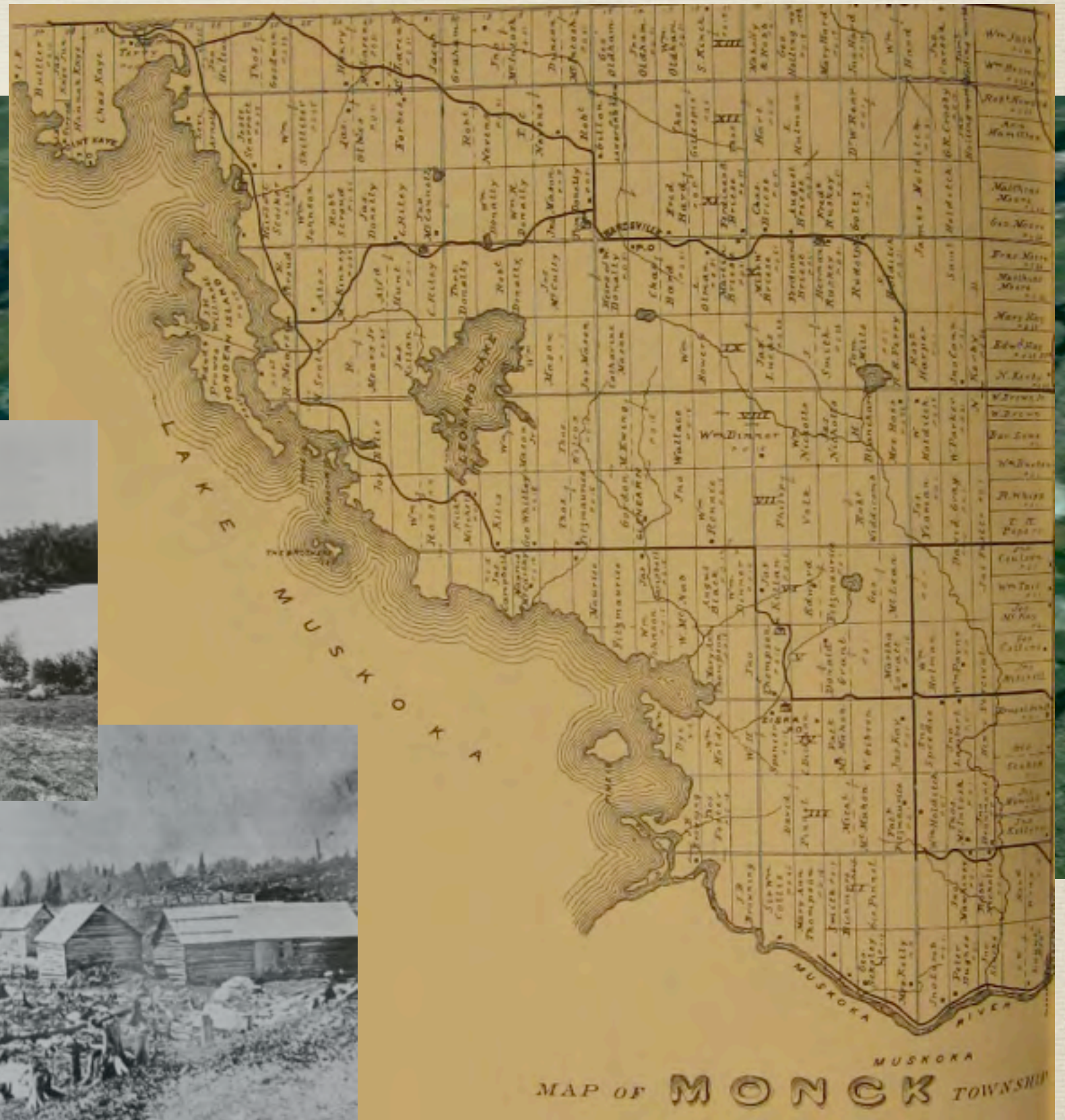
“In too many instances the settlers have made the mistake of clearing off the timber from the rocks... The result had been that the soil being no longer held by the fibrous roots of the trees, is readily washed away by the rains, so that the rocky protuberances look and really are more marked and bare than ever...”





A detailed map of Monck Township, Ontario, Canada. The map shows the Muskoka River flowing through the township, with various sections and locations labeled. The title 'MAP OF MONCK TOWNSHIP' is prominently displayed at the bottom. The map includes a grid of sections and labels for various locations such as Muskoka, Monck, and various rivers and creeks.

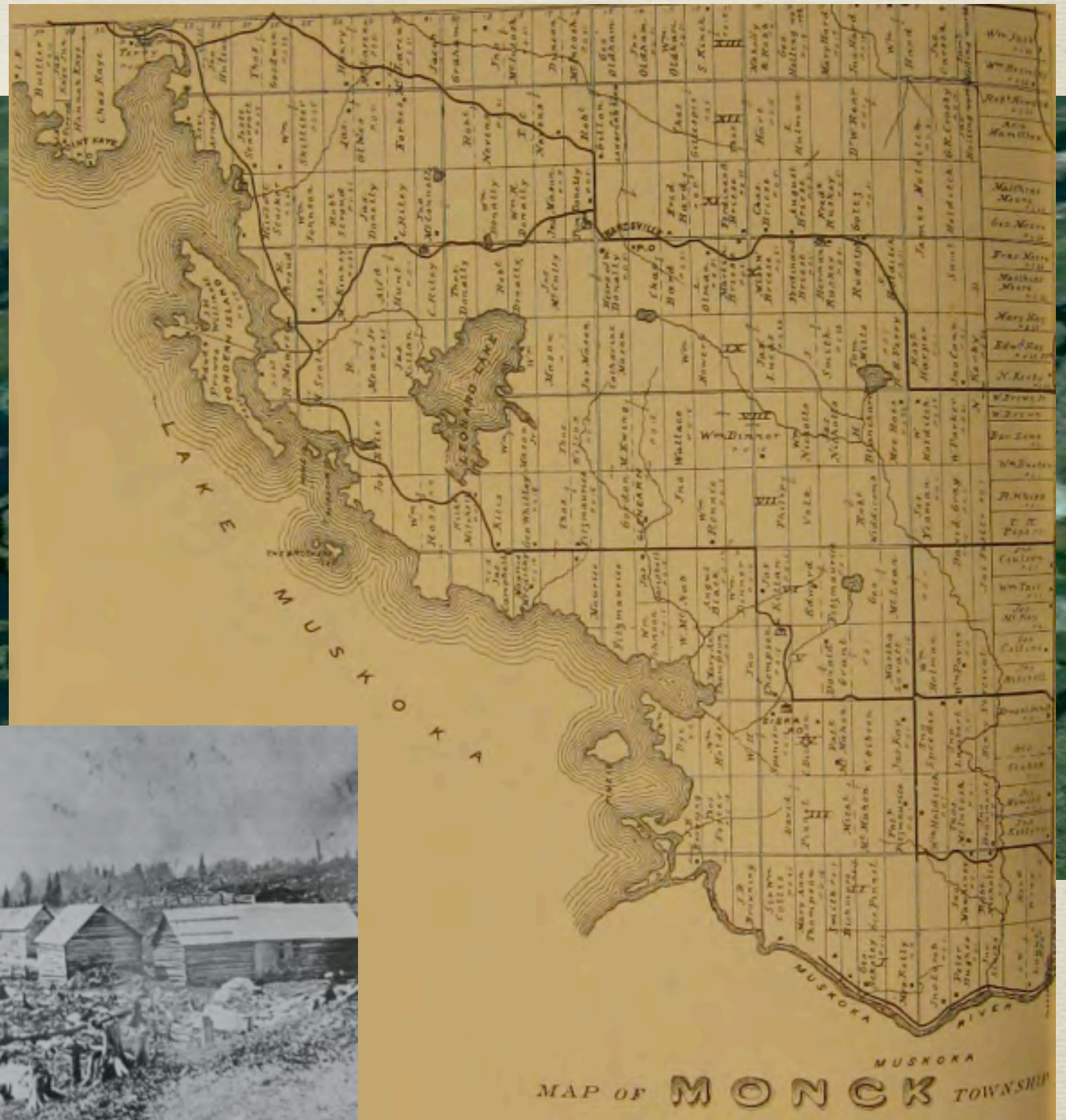
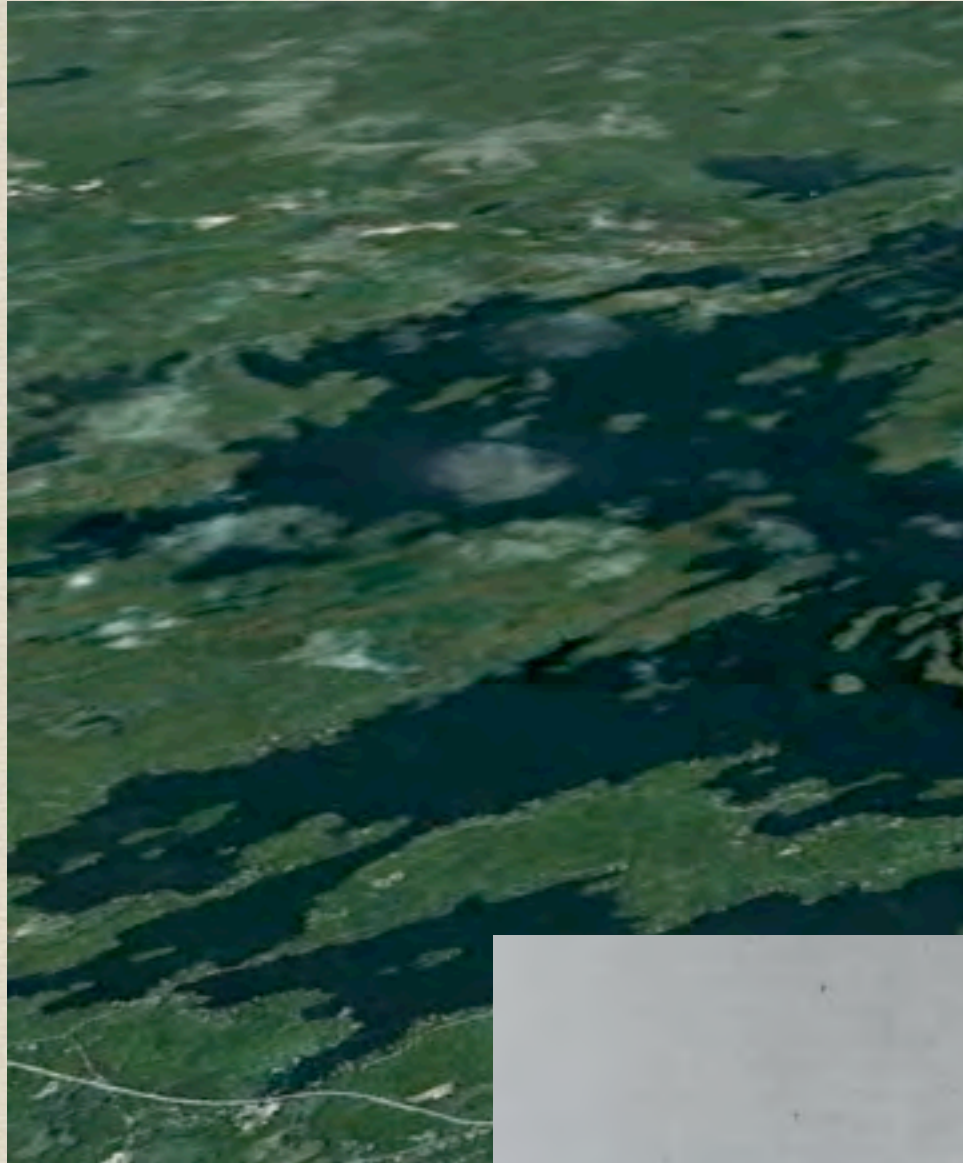
Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



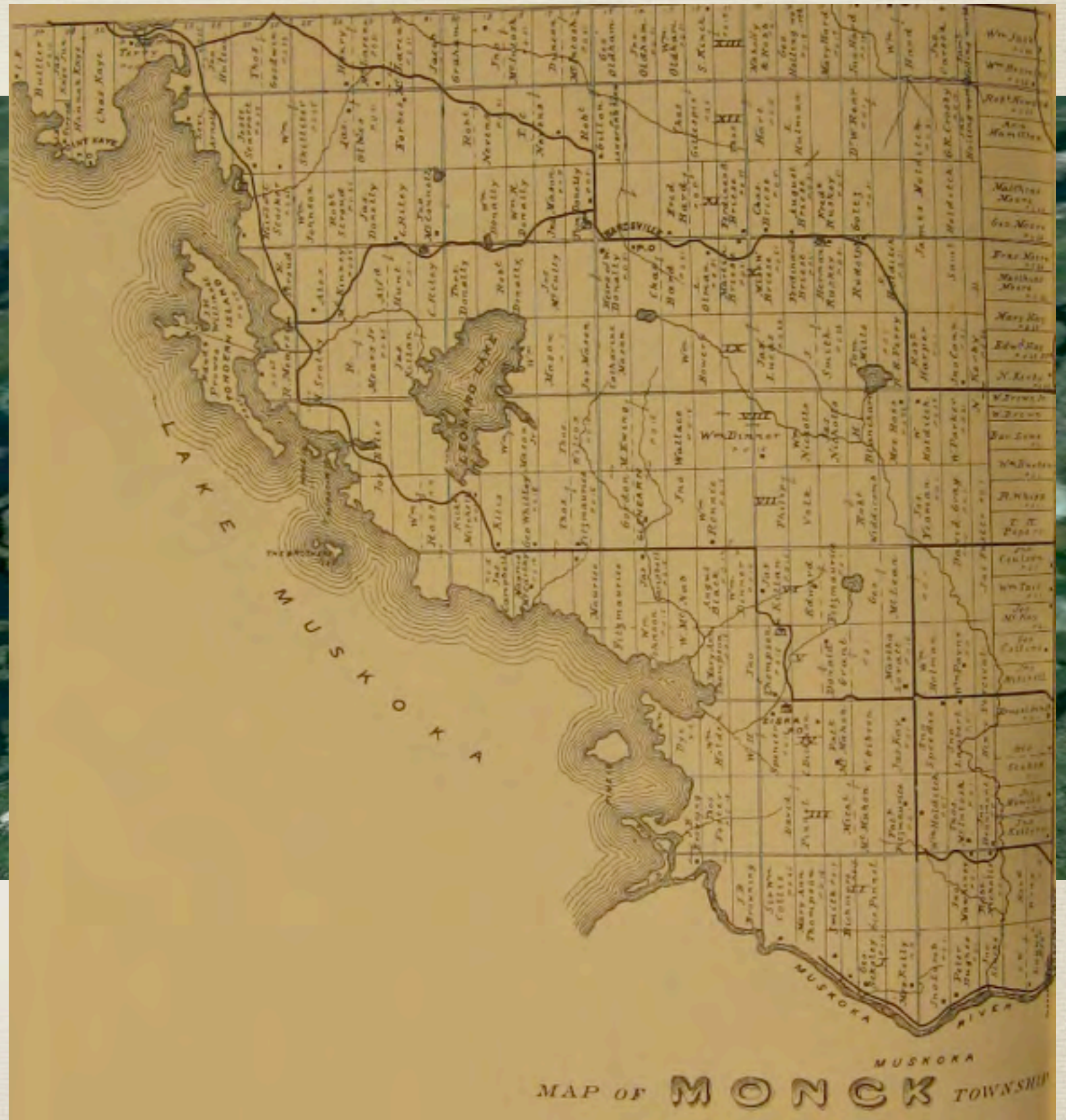
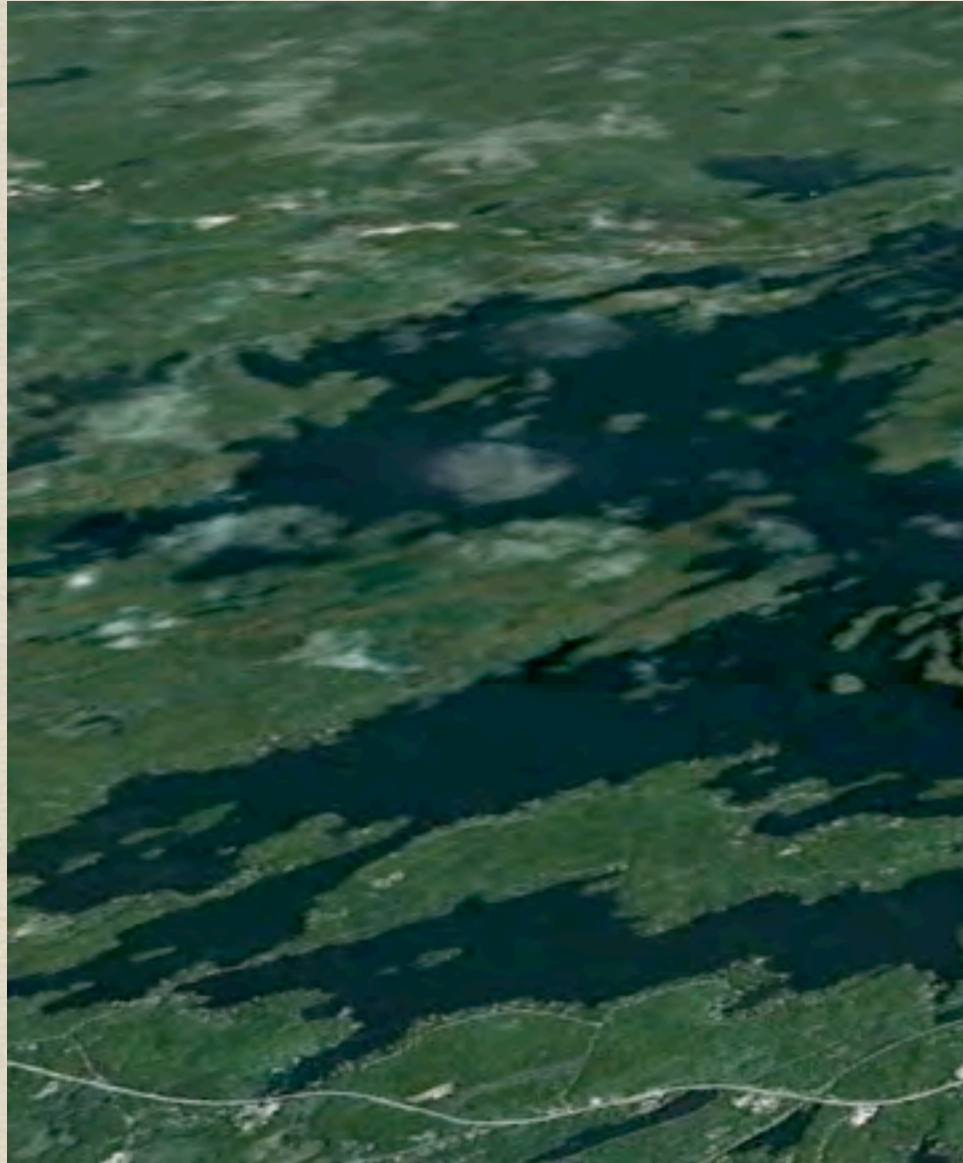
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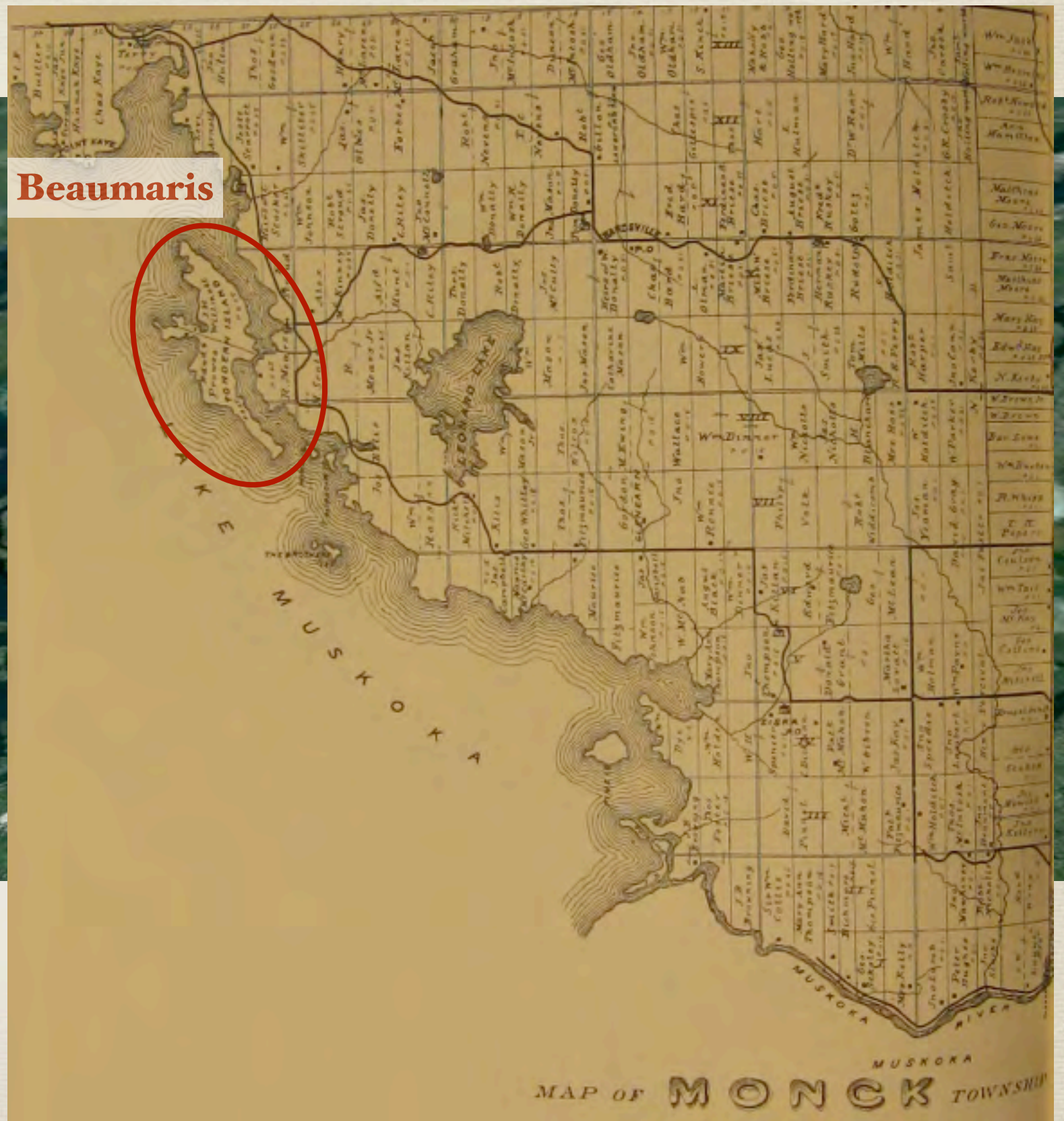
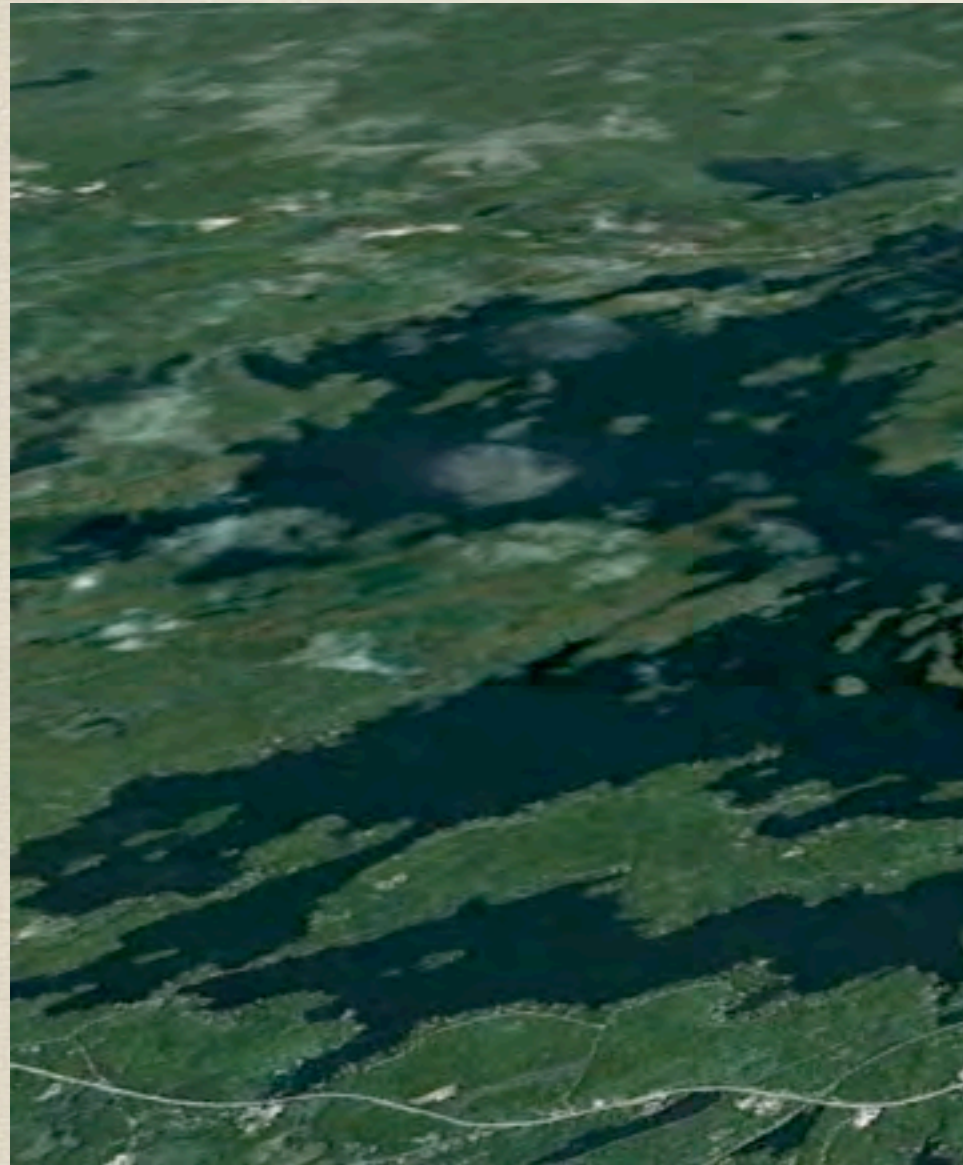
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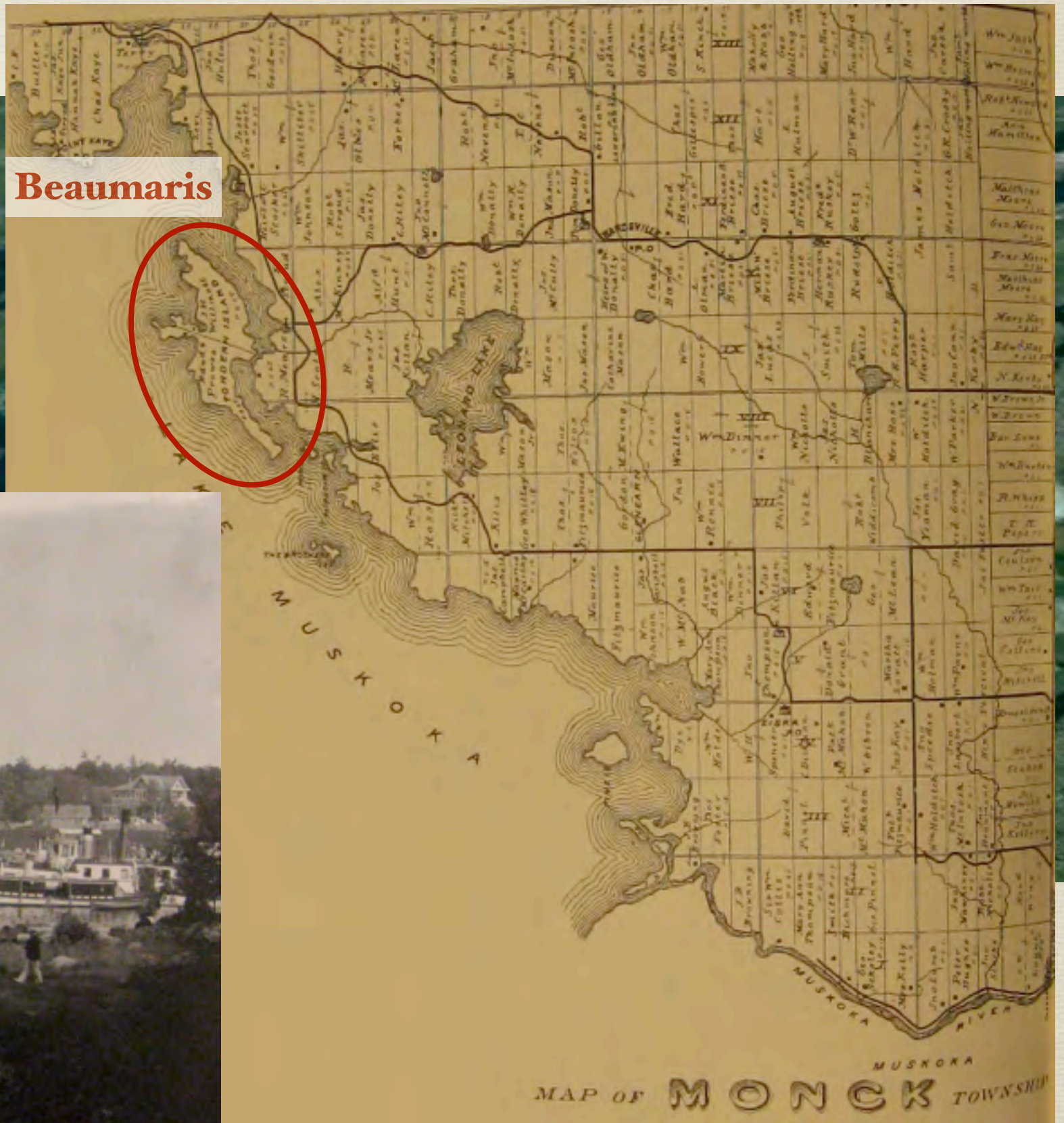
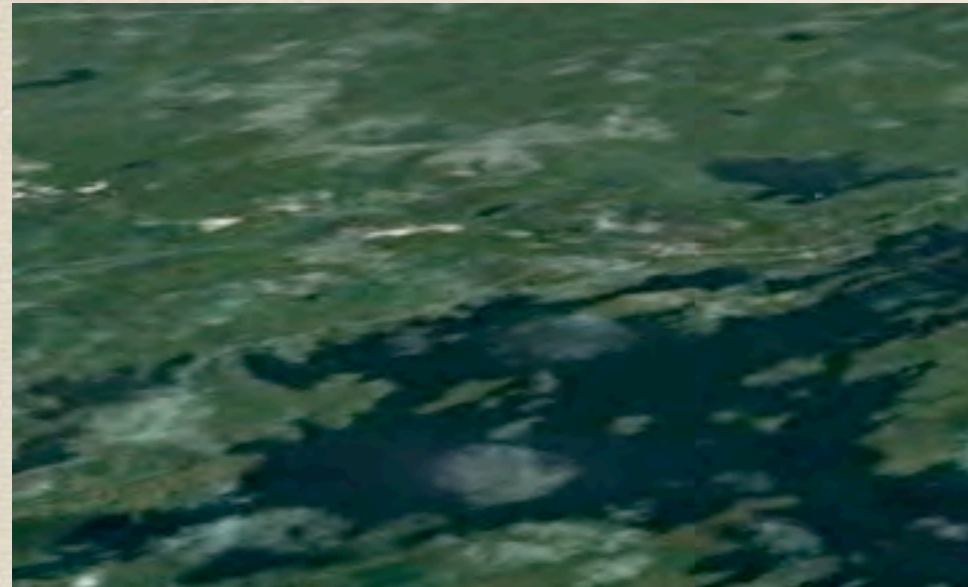
Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



Summerholme
Lake Joseph



Subha
Lake Rosseau



Lakelands
Lake Joseph

Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



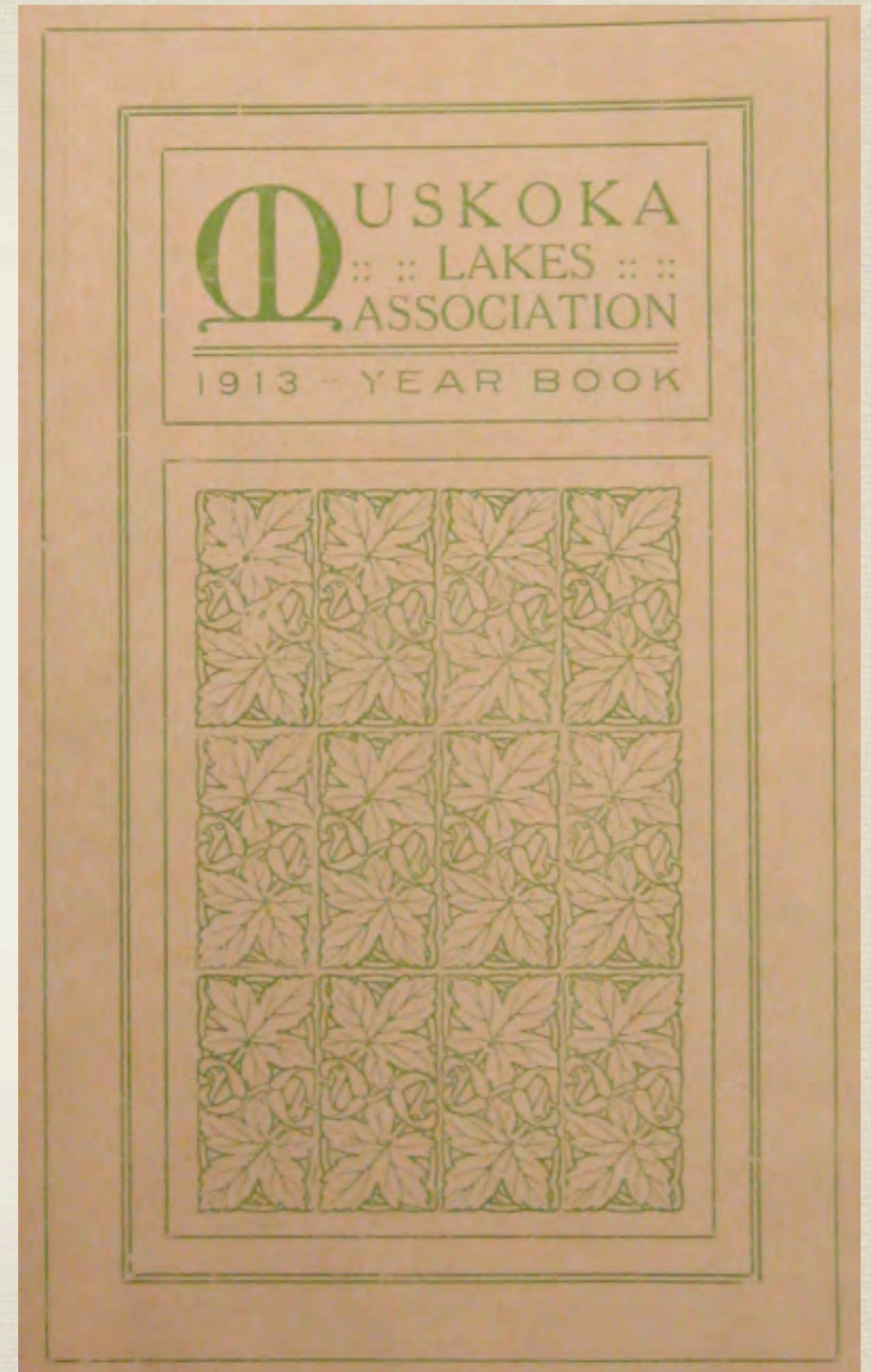
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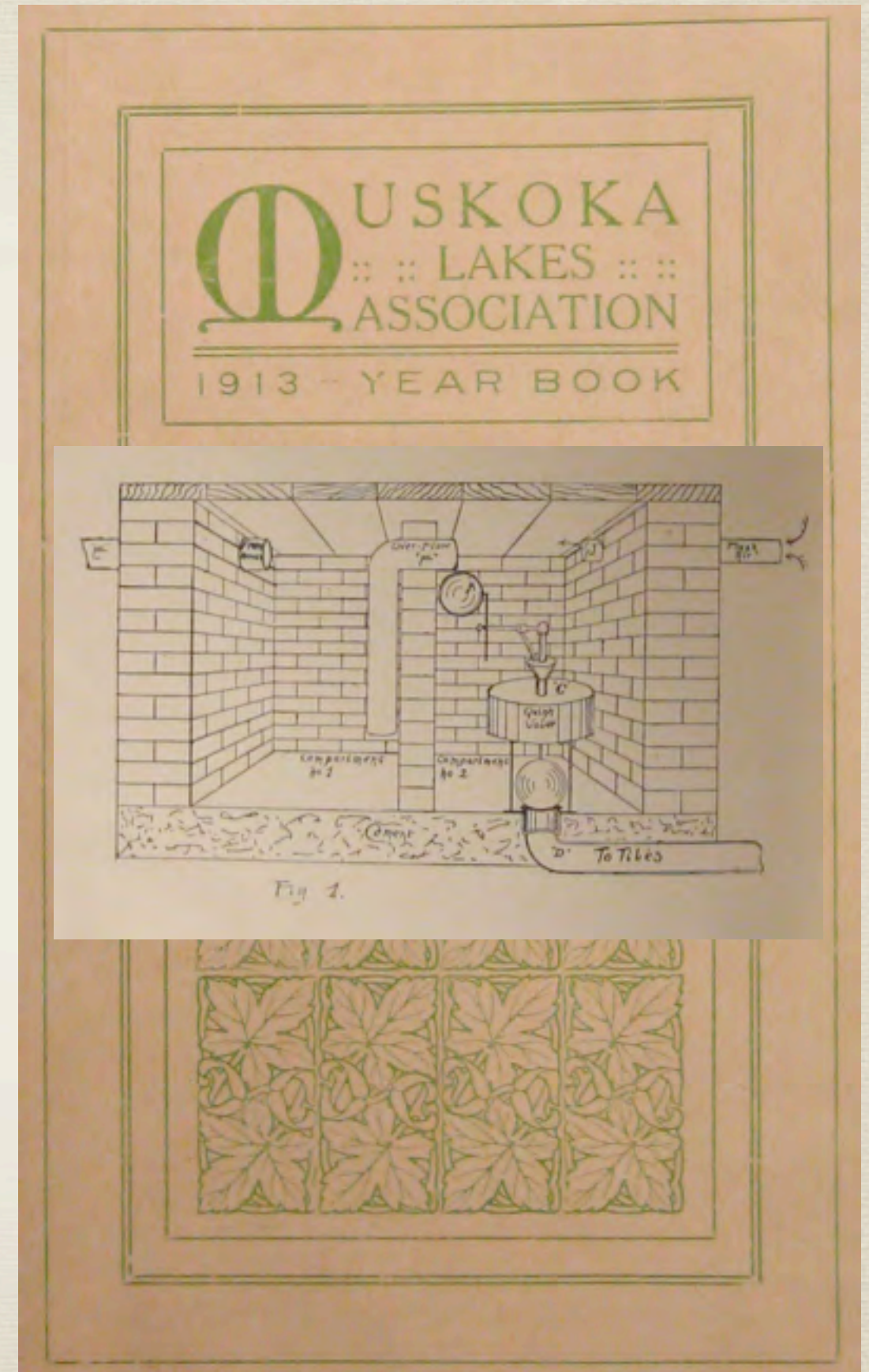
Summerholme
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Summerholme
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Subha
Lake Rosseau



Lakelands
Lake Joseph

“A septic tank is the complete and permanent solution of the whole problem [of human waste], since it deals automatically with sewage wastes, whether solid or liquids, without any nuisance.”

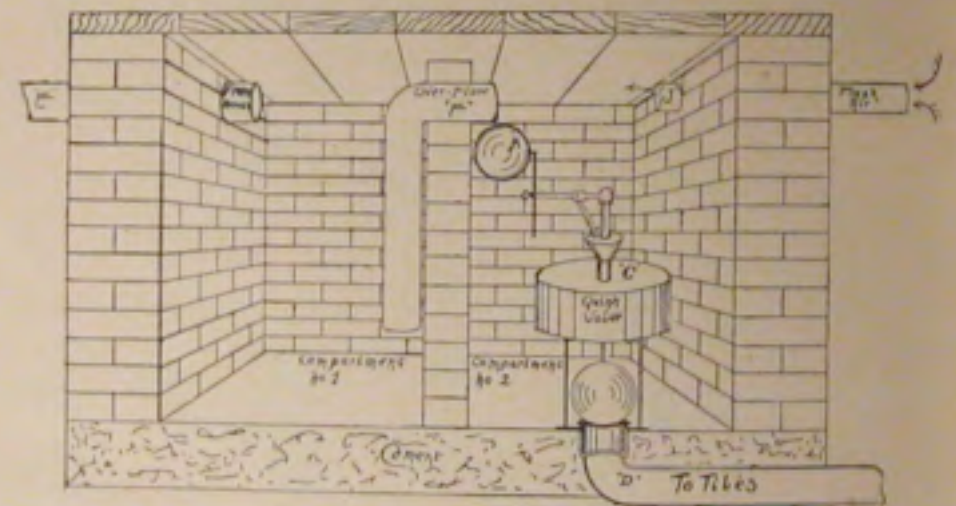


Fig. 1.



Shoreline of today a legacy of Muskoka's pioneer past



Summerholme
Lake Joseph

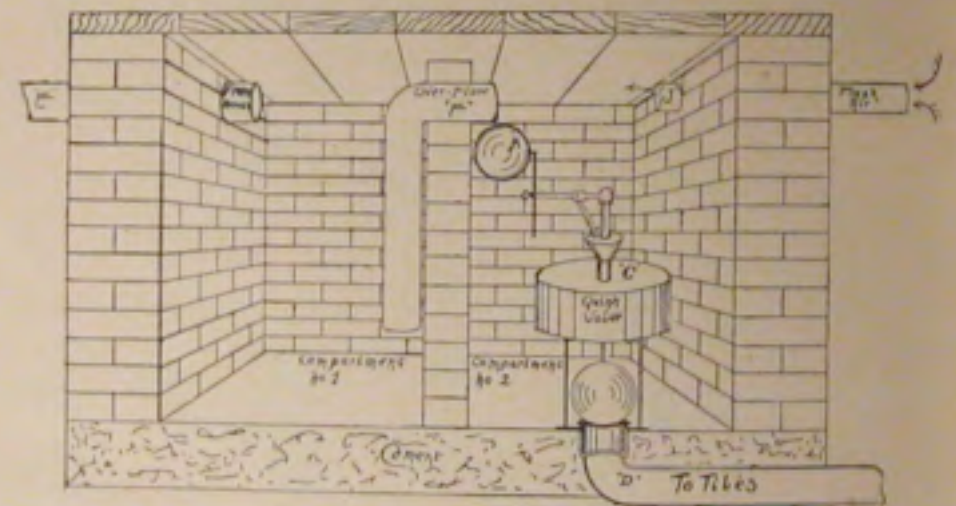


Subha
Lake Rosseau



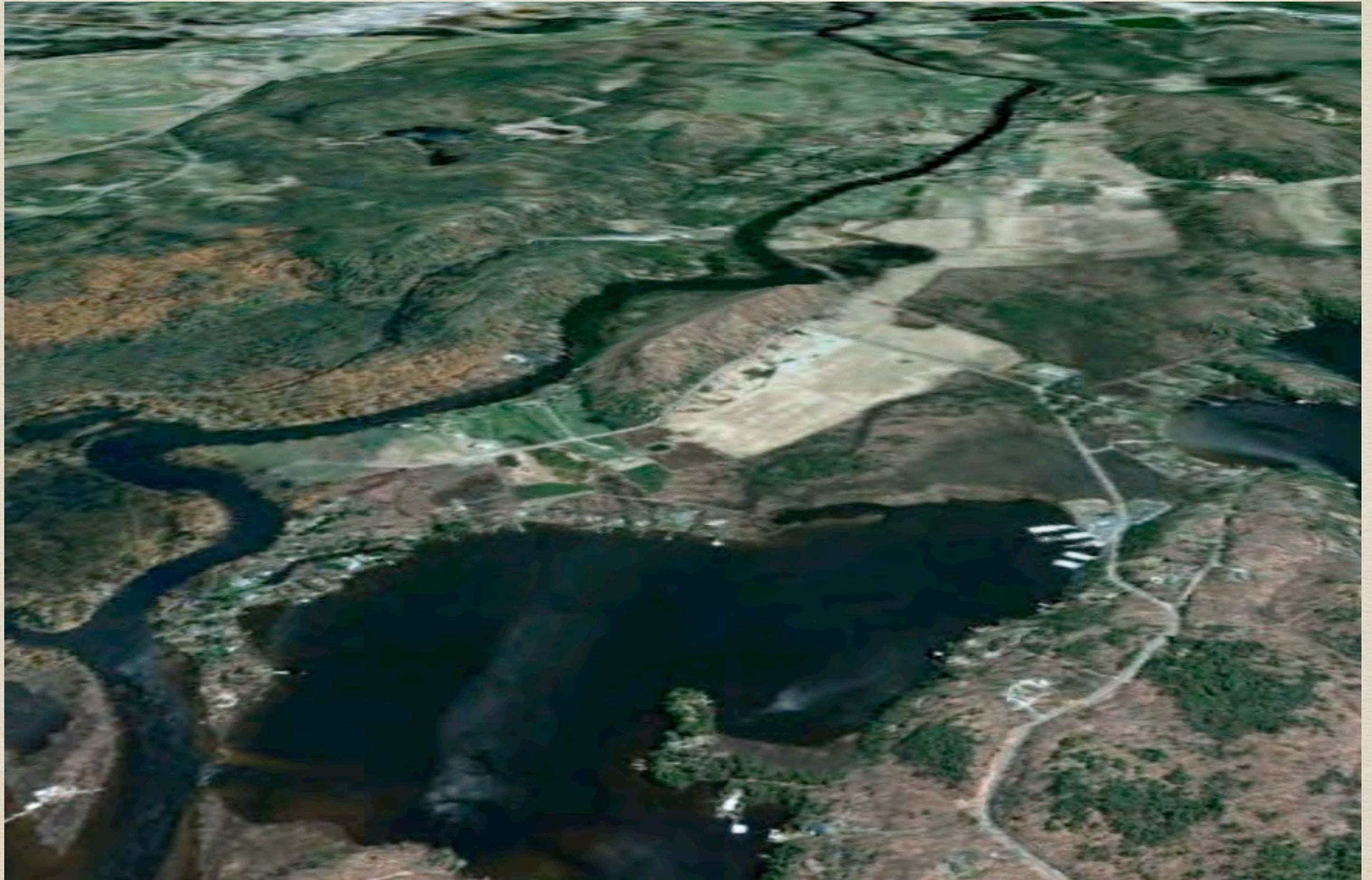
Lakelands
Lake Joseph

“A septic tank is the complete and permanent solution of the whole problem [of human waste], since it deals automatically with sewage wastes, whether solid or liquids, without any nuisance.”



“The continued purity of the water in the lakes is a matter for congratulation and it is hoped that the members of this Association will do all in their power to see that no cottager or resortkeeper pollutes it.”
Sanitation Subcommittee, 1920

Human Footprint along Urban Shoreline greater than elsewhere in Muskoka



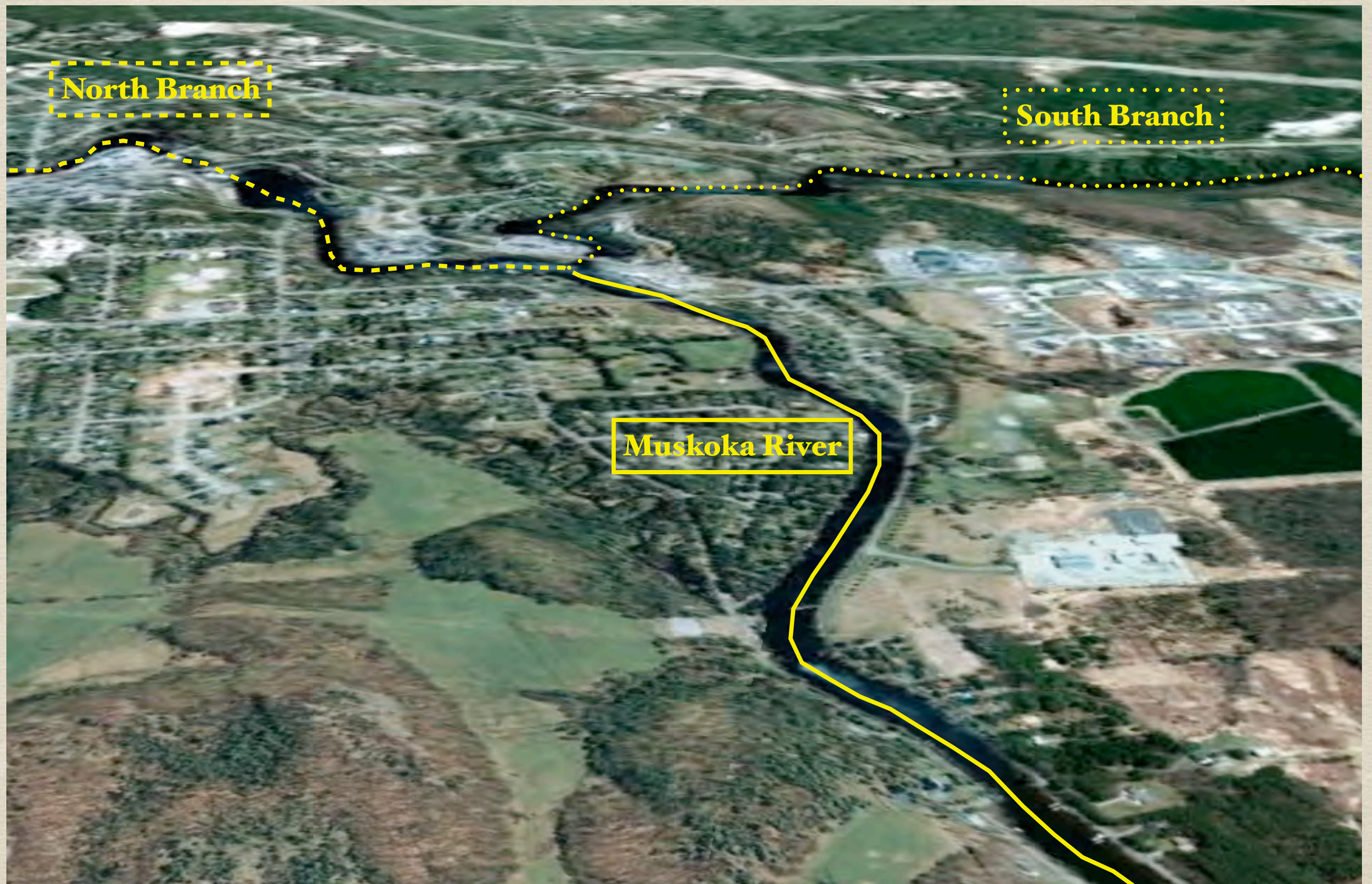
Human Footprint along Urban Shoreline greater than elsewhere in Muskoka



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Beardmore & Co.
(Muskoka Leather
Company)

Human Footprint along Urban Shoreline greater than elsewhere in Muskoka



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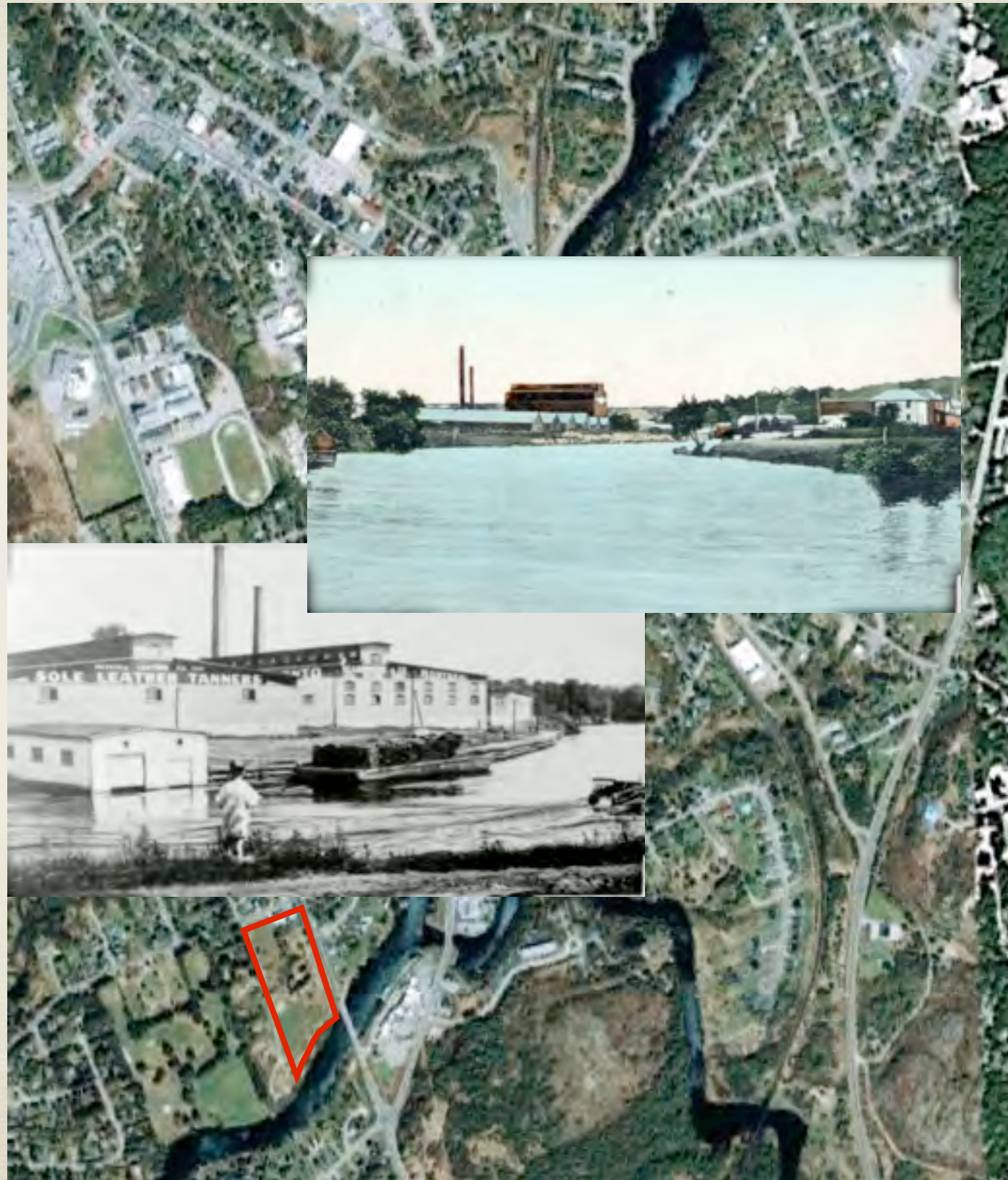
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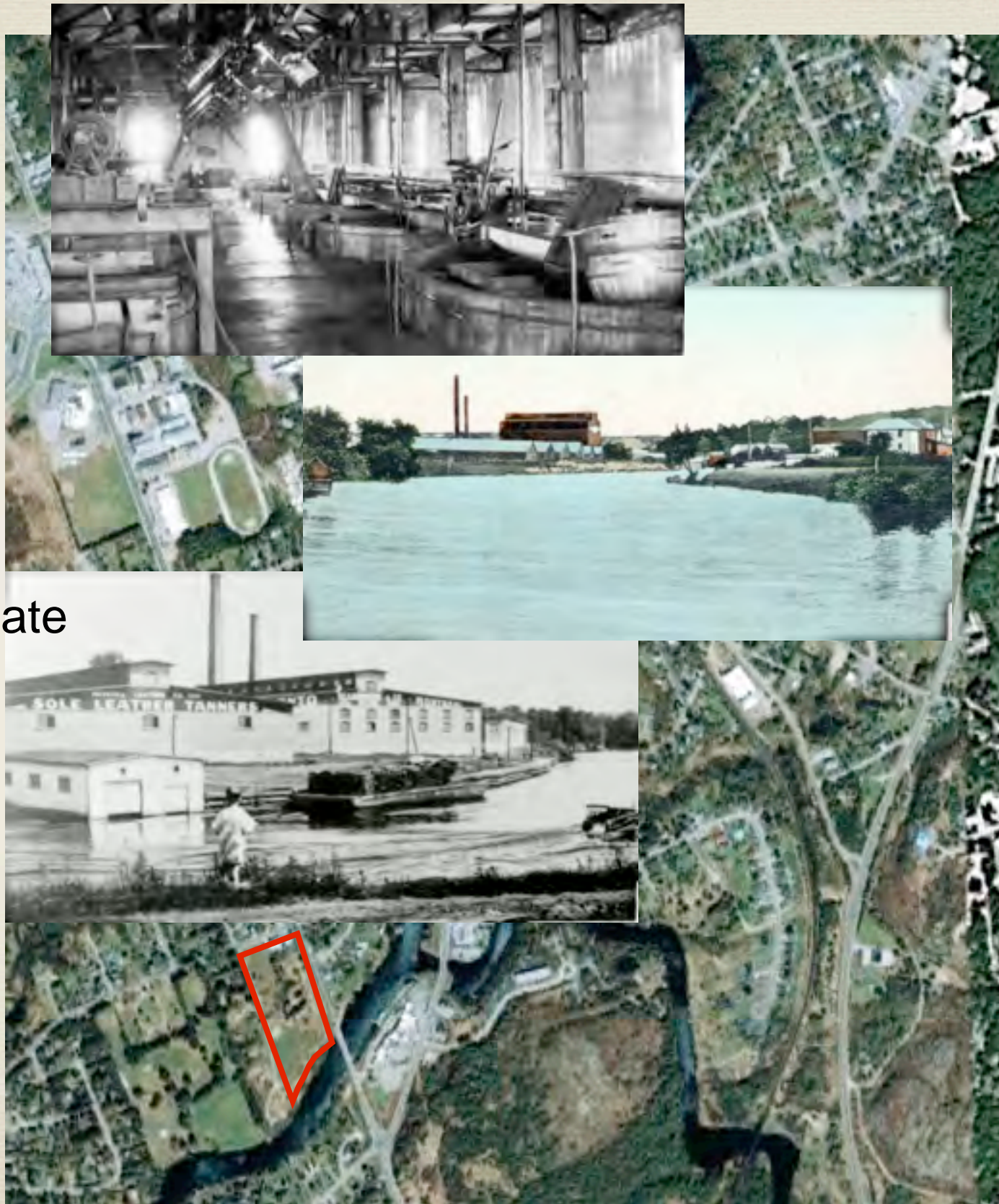


Beardmore & Co.
(Muskoka Leather
Company)

Human Footprint along Urban Shoreline greater than elsewhere in Muskoka

tannic acid
sodium sulphide
lime
sulphuric acid
aluminum sulphide
potassium bichromate
lead acetate
etc

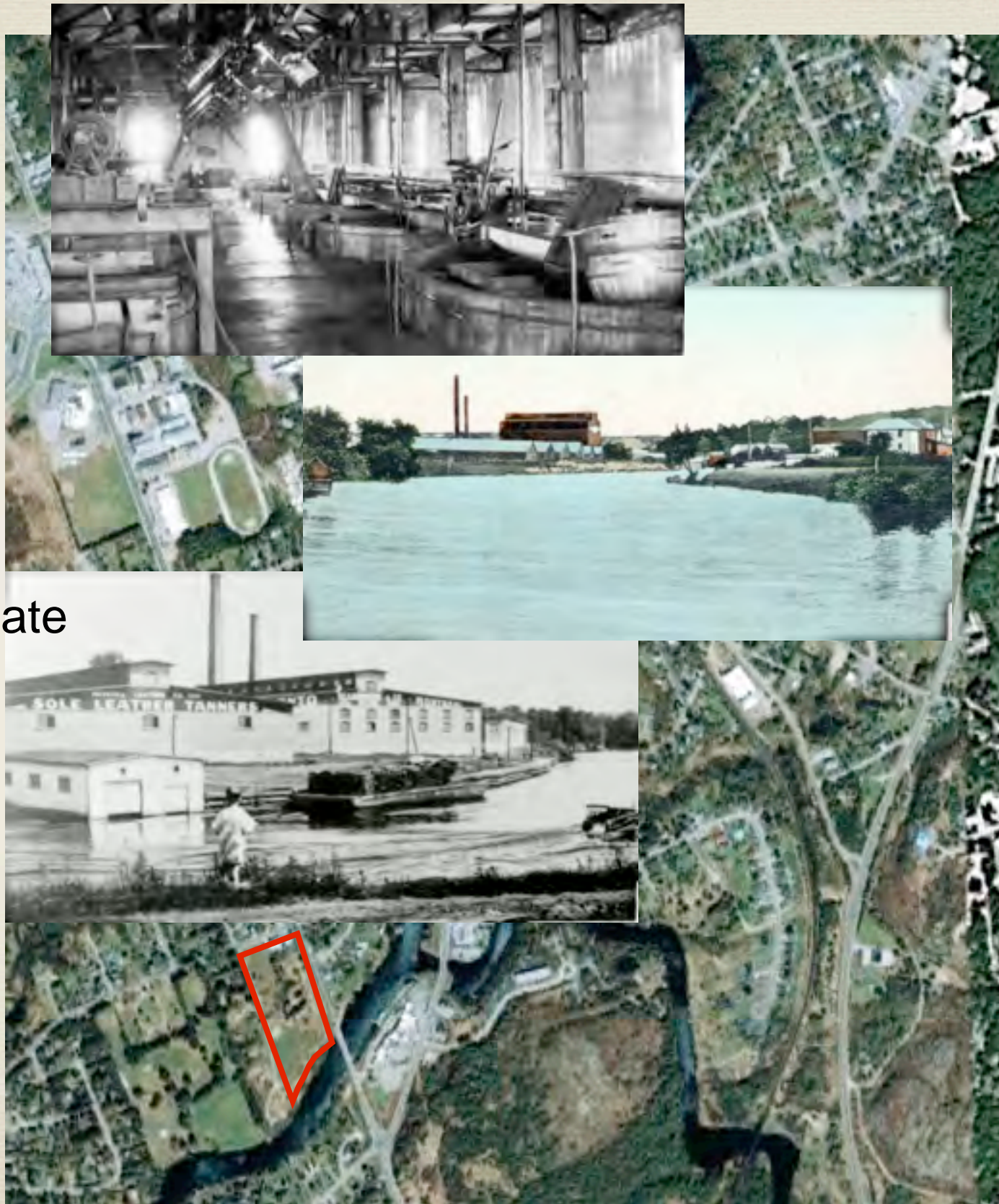
Beardmore & Co.
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Human Footprint along Urban Shoreline greater than elsewhere in Muskoka

tannic acid
sodium sulphide
lime
sulphuric acid
aluminum sulphide
potassium bichromate
lead acetate
etc

Beardmore & Co.
(Muskoka Leather
Company)



Hemlock Bark

Human Footprint along Urban Shoreline greater than elsewhere in Muskoka

tannic acid
sodium sulphide
lime
sulphuric acid
aluminum sulphide
potassium bichromate
lead acetate
etc

Beardmore & Co.
(Muskoka Leather
Company)



Hemlock Bark

Human Footprint along Urban Shoreline greater than elsewhere in Muskoka

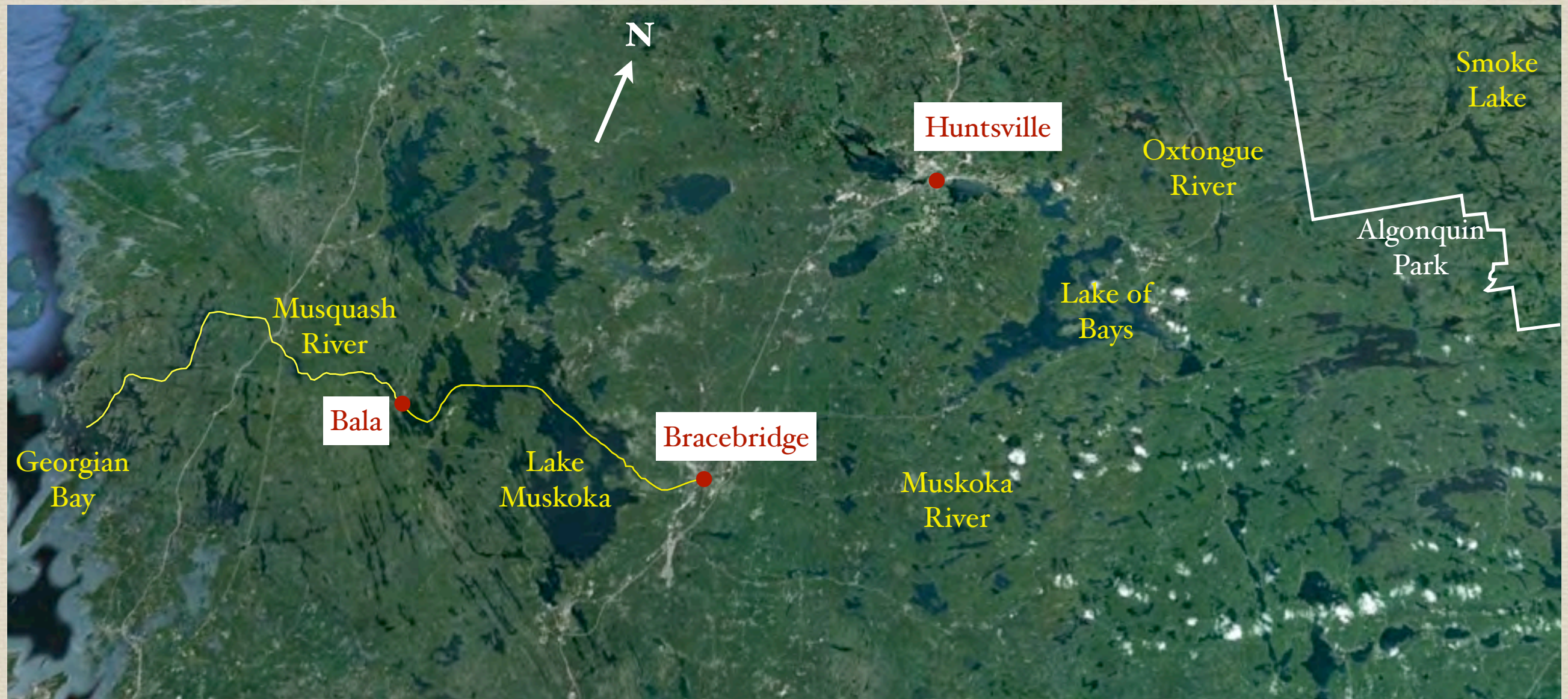
tannic acid
sodium sulphide
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Beardmore & Co.
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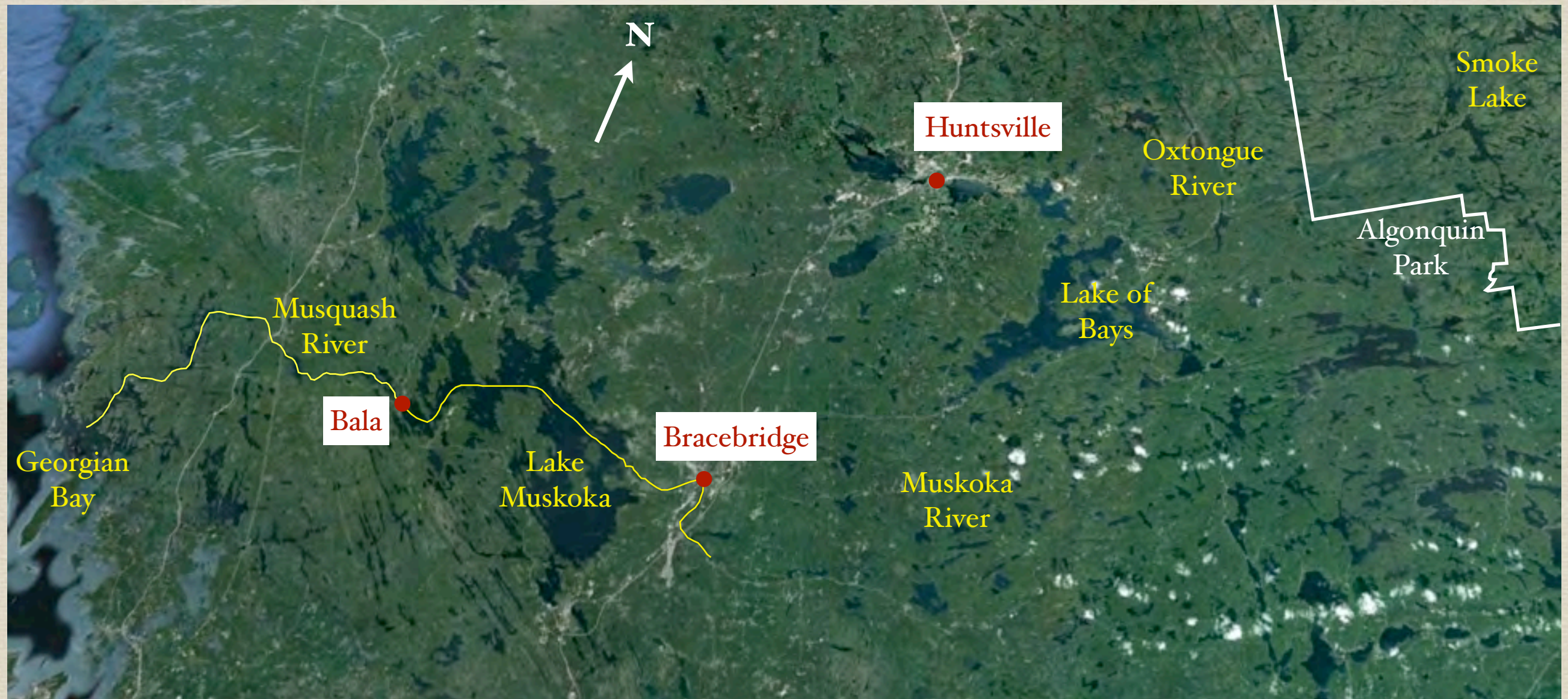
Hemlock Bark

Accelerating our journey...



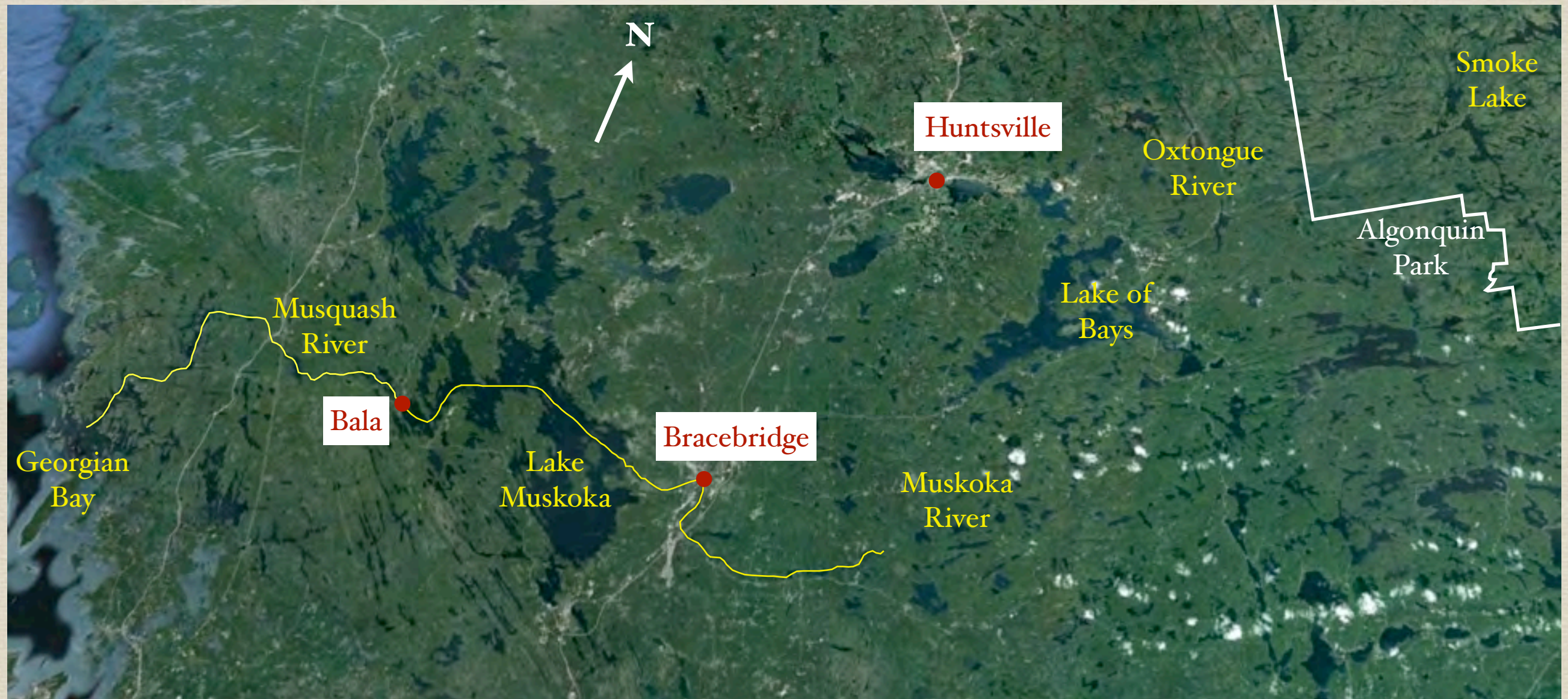
to the Top of the Watershed: Algonquin Park

Accelerating our journey...



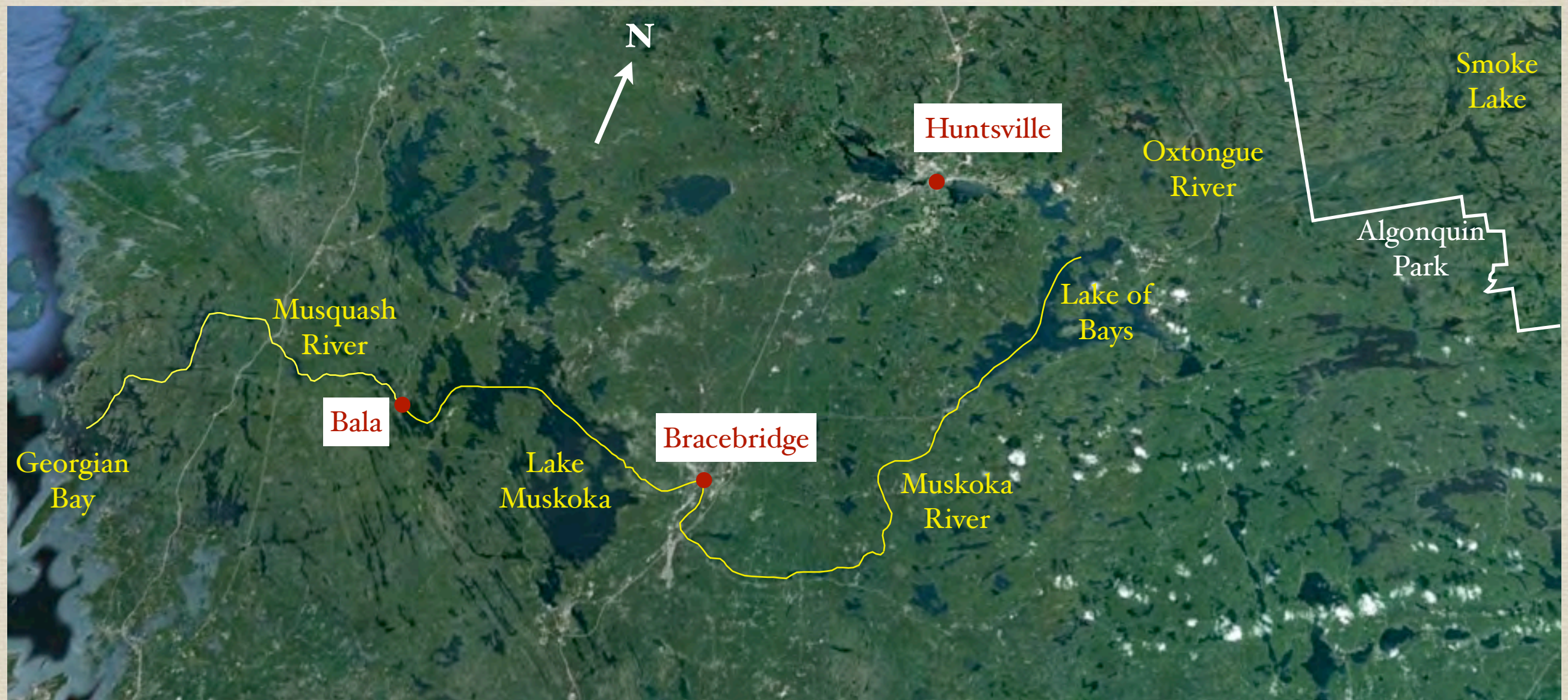
to the Top of the Watershed: Algonquin Park

Accelerating our journey...



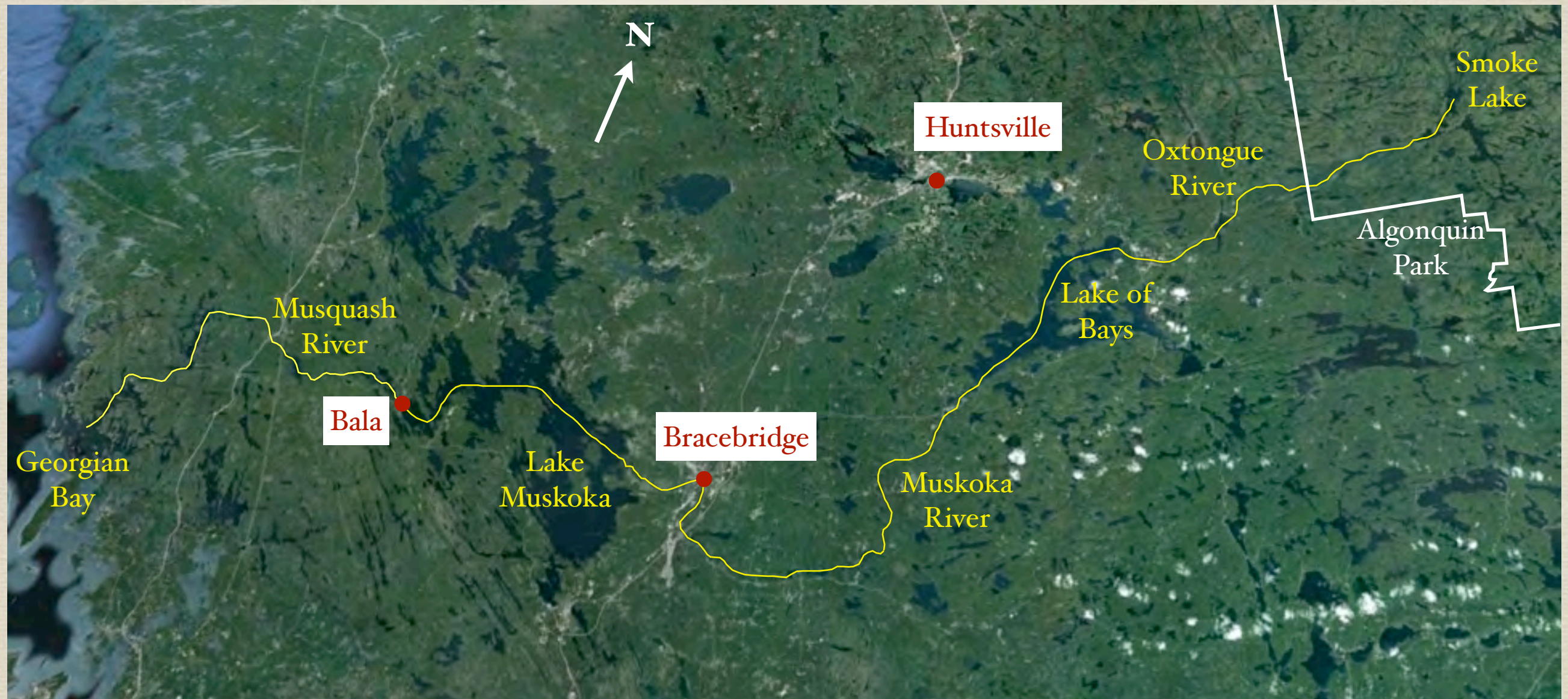
to the Top of the Watershed: Algonquin Park

Accelerating our journey...



to the Top of the Watershed: Algonquin Park

Accelerating our journey...



to the Top of the Watershed: Algonquin Park

Tom Thompson, Algonquin Park and the Trouble with Wilderness



Tom Thompson, Algonquin Park and the Trouble with Wilderness



Tom Thompson, Algonquin Park and the Trouble with Wilderness



Tom Thompson, Algonquin Park and the Trouble with Wilderness



Tom Thompson, Algonquin Park and the Trouble with Wilderness



Lesson 1

We cannot afford to think about humans
as being separate from nature



Lesson 2

Scale of development must be measured against impact on larger socioecological system



Lesson 3

Cottaging and tourism are the greatest contributors to shoreline development in Muskoka



Lesson 4

Muskoka's shoreline environment is not static



Lesson 5

Indigenous ways of thinking about Muskoka are useful



Thank you

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