

The Chippewas of Rama, as all Native people did, named places based on what happened there or its geography. We traveled by canoe and the waterways were as the 400 series highways is that everyone uses today.

Chief Island, the Narrows and the shores of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe were well traveled routes with many stopping places. It is said that those watching someone come to shore would know where they came from by the shape of the bow long before they reached shore.

*Gwajienjawjiing is what we call Lake Couchiching. It means a force comes in from the outside or a place where a force merges or squeezes through.*

*The word Couchiching comes from two variations describing the same place. Gojijjing - means "at the place where it goes out or outside" (referencing the narrows and how the water leaves Couchiching) gwaji is outside and ing places you there. The J is a connector sound. That word was told to me by Irene Snache long ago and she said that's what the old people use to call it. Gojijjing is more commonly used today.*

*Maajiidashkaa -Is what we called the area in front of the large bay at Chief Island which means "where it begins to get wavy" This references the north wind coming down the lake. It can sometimes get hectic around Geneva Park point. This is also what the word Matchedash derives from. This is also the name of the bay at Port Severn. This term I found on an old map.*

*Washago - Comes from Waashaw goong which means "at the clear water" (in reference to the limestone how it emits a glow on moonlit nights and how the north end on each side is shallow bottom is always visible)*

*Kory Snache*

Kory Snache is an Anishnaabemowin speaker, language teacher and knowledge keeper born and raised in Rama.