How Place Names in Michigan Derived from Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe Language)

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Photo by Dave Woltmann

Petoskey	Biidaasige	“s/he comes with the light”			
Okemos	Ogimaa	“Chief” or “Leader”	plus s, or ns makes it small	“Little Chief	
Chesaning	Asin	“Rock”	-ing, or -ang added refers to a place	Chi, short for Gichi, which makes something big	Chi-asin-ing “The place of the big rock”
Sebewaing	Ziibi	“River”	-ing, or -ang added refers to a place	The place by the river	

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Other Place Names with Ojibwe Origins

- Algonac
- Bewabic State Park
- Cheboygon
- Dowagiac
- Escanaba
- Gogebic (County)
- Ishpem(ing)
- Kalamazoo
- Kegomik
- Kewadin
- Keweenaw
- Kitch-Iti-Kipi
- Mackinac
- Mattawan
- Meguzee Point
- Michigami
- Munis(ing)
- Muskegon
- Muskegon
- Naubinway
- Neebish Island
- Negaunee
- Oden
- Omena
- Onaway
- Onekema
- Ontonagon
- Oshtemo
- Ossineke
- Paw Paw
- Petoskey
- Pewamo
- Pinconn(ing)
- Pontiac
- Sagan(ing)
- Saginaw
- Saginaw
- Saugatuck
- Sebewa(ing)
- Tahquamenon
- Tecumseh
- Tekonsha
- Topinabee
- Wequetons(ing)
- Plus many, many more!

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