

St. Marys River Heritage Waterway

Human Heritage Values

Cultural Heartland of Ojibwe People

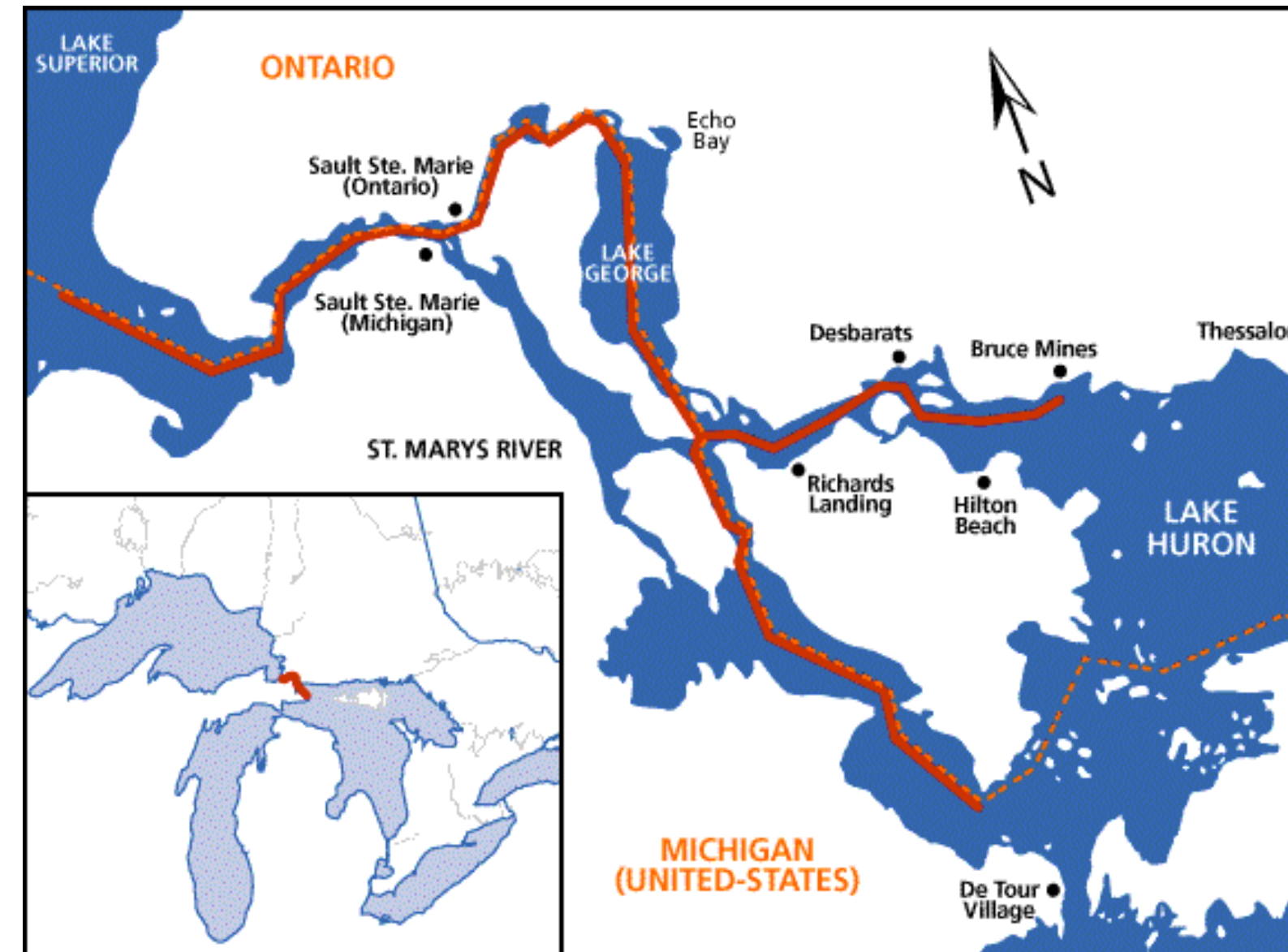
- History as a gathering place for First Nations people to fish, and to renew kinship and ceremonial ties.
- Strong presence of First Nations people and Metis in the river valley
- Whitefish Island, once one of the largest First Nations settlements in the upper Great Lakes, was inhabited from 200 BC to 1895



Source: <http://batchewana.ca/communities/whitefish-island/>

Jesuit missionaries describe scoop net fishing methods – “*Dexterity and strength are needed for this kind of fishing; for one must stand upright in a bark Canoe, and there, among the whirlpools, with muscles tense, thrust deep into the water a rod, at the end of which is fastened a net made in the form of a pocket, into which the fish are made to enter. One must look for them as they glide between the Rocks . . . and, when they have been made to enter the net, raise them with a sudden strong pull into the canoe.*”

(Source: http://moses.creighton.edu/kripke/jesuitrelations/relations_54.html)



Source: Canadian Heritage Rivers System chrs.ca/the-rivers/st-marys/

Human Activity

The St. Marys River region is associated with individuals and events which shaped the historical development of Canada. History of the occupation of First Nations people dates back over 2,000 years. Missionaries, fur traders, Métis, explorers, military men and European settlers trace a 400-year history of contact and settlement.

- Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site
- Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site
- Whitefish Island National Historic Site

Focus and Corridor

- Corridor for explorers, missionaries and fur traders
- Étienne Brûlé first European explorer to region
- First permanent Jesuit mission
- First French fur trading post on south shore
- Key part of the fur trade route south to the Mississippi, east to the St. Lawrence, north to Hudson Bay and west to the Rockies
- North West Company Trading post on north shore



William Armstrong, Indian Encampment, Whitefish Island, Watercolour on Paper, Collection of the Art Gallery of Algoma from the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Hamilton Collection

van Haaften, J. (2018, June). *St. Marys River heritage waterway human heritage values*. Sault Ste. Marie, ON.: City of Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee.

