

Dear editor

The article on the 18th-century visits by the Spanish to Gabriola (Sept. 17, 1999) by Nick Doe contained three glaring errors.

First, calling the False Narrows Native sites “Senewélets” was perpetuating a mistake made by David Burley, the archeologist who wrote about the area in 1988. The correct name is, I believe, Tle:ltx^w [pronounced “tla alt” with a gentle “wh” as in “who” sound at the end, meaning “rich place”]. “Snuwulnuc” or “Snawelnets” was at Joan Point on Dodd Narrows.

Second, José Cardero drew two portraits, not one, of Snunéymux^w chiefs in 1792—he had a busy weekend.

Third, Punta de Casatilli (Berry Point) was named by the Spanish after the Marqués de Casa Tilly, a senior politician or naval flag officer, not sure which, in the late-18th century. We therefore narrowly missed being called Tilley (I-like-your-hat) Island!

I do hope that Mr. Doe pays more attention next time.

Nick Doe (the other one)