

February 5, 2024

Locations and names of wetlands and waterways on Gabriola

—including springs, creeks, brooks, streams, swamps, marshes, wet meadows, marshy hollows, lakes, some large rivulets, and ponds.

Appleyard Ponds: Map 2.21
 Atkinson Swamp: Map 3.2
 Berg Road Creek: Map 2.10
 Bernards Pond: Map 4.1
 Belvedere Farm Creek: Map 4.6
 Bonnie View Wetlands: Map 3.14
 Boultons Pit Pond: see Nelders Pond
Brickyard Marsh: see Marsh at the Brickyard
Buttercup Road: minor wetland: unmapped
 Camerons Spring: Map 1.16
 Canary Grass Meadow: Map 2.1 (SEI Poly.50230), 2.22
 Castell Brook: Maps 3.7, 3.8, 3.9 (see also *Upper Castell Brooks*)
Castell Creek: in common usage incl. by RDN for name on the water-licence which is “Castell Brook”
Castle Creek: MADRONE misnaming of Castell Brook
Chapel Spring: Map 5.7 (see also *Upper Jenkins Creek*)
 Chapple Creek: Maps 2.7, 2.8, 2.9 (see also Ferne Road Creek)
 Chapple Creek Marsh: see “winter marsh” Map 2.9
 Chapple Spring: Map 2.8
Clarendon Road drainages: Maps 1.11, 1.17 (questionable)
 Claude Spring: Map 2.3, 2.5
Coats Creek: NHC misnaming of Coats Marsh Creek
 Coats Drive Swamp: Map 2.2
 Coats Marsh: Maps 2.1, 2.2
 Coats Marsh—NE Arm creek and wetlands: Map 2.20
 Coats Marsh—East Path Creek (SE Arm) and wetlands: Map 2.21
 Coats Marsh Creek: Maps 2.1, 2.2, 2.6, 2.22, (Lot 5 pond).
 Upper/lower boundary = South Road culvert
Coats Marsh Outflow Stream: MADRONE misnaming of Coats Marsh Creek
 Columbia Creek: Map 1.20
 COM Creek: Map 3.9
 Commons Pond: Maps 5.6, 2.16
 Commons Wetlands: (also Good Earth Wetlands) Map 5.6
Daniel Way Pond: MADRONE misnaming of Lock Bay Beaver Pond
 Darling Spring: Map 1.12
 Degnen Bay Road Creek: Maps 4.3, 4.5
Degnen Road North drainage: Map 3.15
Descanso Creek: mistranslation of “Cala del Descanso” used for “Gabriola” in the 19th century
 Descanso Creek: Maps 1.1, 1.2, 1.13
 Dick Brook: (also Petersons Creek) Maps 3.1, 3.2
 Dicks Swamp: Map 3.1. Commonly known as the *Swamp*.
 Dogwood Crescent Creek: Map 5.6
Dole/Dunshire Road Stream: MADRONE misnaming of Eppler Creek
Dragon Creek: MADRONE misnaming of Dick Brook
 Dragonfly Pond: Map 1.17

Dutchmans Swamp: historic name for Eppler Swamp, still known as such by some old-timers
East Path Creek: Map 2.20, 2.21
Easthom Spring: Map 1.13
Elder Cedar (S'ul-hween X'pey) Wetland: course of Stoney Creek, Map 3.10
Elgie Farm Ponds: Map 3.5
Emilie Creek: Map 3.12
Eppler Creek: Maps 2.10, 2.14
Eppler Swamp: Map 2.10 (see also *Dutchmans Swamp* and *Epps Pond*)
Epps Pond: common modern name for Eppler Swamp
Evans Pond: Map 5.2
False Narrows Bluffs Swamps: Map 2.7
Farrow Creek: Maps 5.2, 2.19
Farrow Spring: Map 5.2
Fawn Place Pond: Map 3.11
Ferne Road Creek: Maps 2.7, 2.9
Fiddlehead Creek: Map 1.14
Fiddlehead Spring: Map 1.14
Francesco Brook: Map 1.9
Fransceco Brook: presumed mis-spelling of Francesco, but this is not certain
Freesia (Freisa?) Creek: possibly an old name for Upper Francesco Brook: Map 1.18
Gabriola Lake: name occasionally used in the early days for Hoggan Lake, no longer in use
Garland (top of) Streams: Map 2.18 (questionable)
Good Earth Wetlands: included as an integral part of the Commons Wetlands: Map 5.6
Goodhue Creek: Maps 2.6, 2.14, 2.15, 2.16, 5.6
Goodhue Creek Wetland: Map 5.6
Gossip Corner Falls: Belvedere Farm Creek near Degnen Bay
Gray Farm Creek: Maps 4.3, 4.4
Grays West Wood Creek: Map 4.2
Great Swamp: very early name for Dicks Swamp, still known locally as the *Swamp*
Groundwater Lake: name not in common usage. Wetlands SEI Poly.50230
Harold Spring: Map 1.4
Hill Road Swamp: Map 2.10
Hoggan Creek: Map 2.6
Hoggan Lake: Maps 2.2, 2.3, 2.6
Hoggan Lake Outflow: MADRONE misnaming of Hoggan Creek
Huckleberry Park Pond: Map 5.6
Ike Brook: Map 1.11
Ingeberg Swamp: Map 5.5
Jacqueline Brook: Maps 3.3, 3.10
Jacqueline Brook headwater (dugout *formerly* marsh): Maps 3.3, 3.15
Jamiesons Streams: Map 3.13 (drainage)
Jenkins Creek: Maps 3.6, 3.10, 3.11 (see also Upper Jenkins Creek)
Kitty Silvas Creek: Map 4.7
Lagoon: name still occasionally used for the Sandwell salt marsh
Little Creek: Maps 2.1, 2.22, 5.1
Lobo Spring: Maps 2.3, 2.4
Lockwood Drive Swallet: Map 2.17
Lock Bay Beaver Pond: Map 3.7
Lot 5 pond: no map, on Coats Marsh Creek (Coats Marsh Management Plan Appendix A, p.34)
Lot 17 Wetland: Map 1.18 (drainage, questionable)
Lucas Creek: Map 1.8

Lucas Spring: Map 1.8
MABR name: see WR7-GI (RDN Water Region 7 - Gabriola Island)
MADRONE site 1: Canary Grass Meadow
MADRONE site 2: McGuffies Swamp
Mallet: incorrect spelling of “Mallett”
Mallett Creek: Map 1.10, 1.15, 1.19, 1.20
Mallett Creek Retention Pond: The older name is Peacocks Lake
Maples Bay Spring: Map 2.11
Marsh at the Brickyard: Map 2.9
Martin Brook: Map 4.1
McCall Spring: Maps 1.3, 1.6 (later name for Pam Spring?)
McClay: common mis-spelling of McLay
McDonalds Pond: Map 5.8
McLay Creek: Maps 3.7, 3.8, 3.9 (see also *Peace Creek*)
McCormack Creek: Map 1.5
McCormack Swamp: Map 1.5
McGuffies Swamp: Map 5.3, 2.21
Millstone Reserve Creek: Map 1.8
MOTI Pit Pond: recent name for wetland associated with Farrow Spring.
NE Arm: Map 2.20. wetlands and numerous watertracks converging at Coats Marsh
NE Arm Creek: new (2023) usage for NE Arm outlet, poorly defined but becoming stream-like in places.
Nelders Pond: Map 3.1 (formerly Somerset Pit Pond (*lower*) and Boultons Pit Pond)
NNE Arm: Map 2.20. watertracks covering on the NE Arm flow near the lake
Pam Brook: Maps 1.6, 1.7, 1.11
Pam Spring: Maps 1.6, 1.7 (see also *McCall Spring*)
Peace Creek: possible former name for McLay or COM Creek, James McLay was a J.P.
Peacocks Lake: Map 1.10
Petersons Creek: local name for lower reaches of Dick Brook
Pit Pond. Map 3.5
Primary Hoggan Lake Inflow: MADRONE misnaming of Goodhue Creek
Randy Hollow: Map 5.1 (SEI Poly.50197), 2.22
River Place Creek: Map 1.10, 1.15, 1.19
River Place Pond: Map 1.15
Rock Creek: historic name for Stoney Creek, no longer in use
Rowson Spring: Map 2.12, 2.19
S’ul-hween X’pey (Elder Cedar) Wetland: course of Stoney Creek, Map 3.10
Sandwell Creek: MADRONE misnaming of McLay Creek
Sandwell Marsh: Map 3.7 a salt marsh, sometimes called a slough
SE Arm: see “winter wetlands” on East Path Creek, Map 2.21
Sea Meadow Ponds Map 1.2
Secondary Hoggan Lake Inflow: MADRONE misnaming of South Road Creek
Shipyard Creek: Map 4.7
Sir Williams Creek: Map 4.8
Small Species Sanctuary (Triple-S) Wetland: Map 5.2
Somerset Pit Pond (*lower*): see Nelders Pond
Somerset Pit Pond (*upper*): see Upper Nelders Pond
South Road Creek: Map 2.3, 2.6
South Road Stream A: MADRONE naming not in common usage, Map 2.15
South Road Stream A-minor: Map 2.15
South Road Stream B: MADRONE naming not in common usage, Map 5.6
South Road Wetlands: Map 2.3

South School Creek: Map 2.18 (questionable)
Stoney Creek: Maps 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.10 (see also *Rock Creek*)
Spring Beach Stream: Map 2.19
Stump Farm Number 1 Stream: Map 2.1, 2.22
Stump Farm Number 2 Stream: Map 2.1, 2.22
Swamp: see *Great Swamp*. On Somerset Farm
Taylor Bay Seepages: no map. From sandstone bedding planes that dip seaward on the bay's south side
Three Gates Wetland: Map 2.22
Toadeye Swamp: Map 5.4
Top of Garland Streams: Map 2.18 (questionable)
Triple-S Wetland: see Small Species Sanctuary Wetland
Turkey Shoot Road Swamp: Maps 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.11
Twin Cedars Veterinary land dugout: part of Buttercup Road wetland
Upper Castell Brooks: Map 3.9
Upper Francesco Brook: Map 1.18
Upper Jenkins Creek: Map 3.5
Upper Little Creek: Map 5.1
Upper Nelders Pond: Map 3.1 (formerly Somerset Pit Pond (*upper*))
Upper Stoney Creek Streams: Map 3.11 (drainage)
Vicki Spring: Map 2.13
Wagg Brook: Maps 4.2, 4.3, 4.4
Wagg Spring: Map 4.4
Watercourse 1: name used in Coats Marsh RP Management Plan for Stump Farm Number 1 Stream
Watercourse 2: name used in Coats Marsh RP Management Plan for Stump Farm Number 2 Stream
Watercourse 3: name used in Coats Marsh RP Management Plan for Coats Marsh Creek
Waterfalls: there are two, Map 3.10. The largest is the east one. Known as the Winter Falls.
Winston Road: Name for MOTI road allowance that includes the estuary of Mallett Creek.
Winthuysen Creek: Map 1.15
Wildwood Crescent Stream: minor tributary of Eppler Creek, Map 2.14
Windecker Spring: Map 3.3
WR7-GI-01: MABR name for Good Earth Wetlands
WR7-GI-02: MABR name for Goodhue Creek Wetland
WR7-GI-03: MABR name for Dutchmans Swamp
WR7-GI-04: MABR name for South Road Wetlands
WR7-GI-05: MABR name for McGuffies Swamp
ZZ Creek: Water-use licence name for Farrow Creek, Maps 2.19, 5.2.

Wetland and watercourse terms

Data previously here is now at [Wetland and Watercourse terms](#) .

Principal sources

Aula Bell & Neil Aitken, *Gabriola Island Place Names*, Reflection Books, Gabriola, 1996;

Tammy-Jo Welyk & John Baldwin, *Gabriola, Valdes, Thetis, and Kuper Islands Water Allocation Plan*; Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks; Vancouver Island Region; March 1994;

Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship Division, *various archived documents*;

Trystan Willmott & Justin Lange, *Gabriola Island riparian area regulation stream identification*, [MADRONE](#) environmental services, Feb. 24, 2012;

John Whittow, *The Penguin Dictionary of Physical Geography*;

Pre-emption and survey maps of Gabriola from the 19th century.

Sketches accompanying pre-emption claims often include swamps because rocky and swampy land, being useless for agriculture, could be excluded from the total assessed land area.

Gabriola Streamkeepers (GSK), *various reports listed [here](#)*.

Coats Marsh Regional Park — 2011–2021 Management Plan, Appendix A, Ecological Features and Management Recommendations;

Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Research ([MABR](#)), *Wetland classification and geologic assessment report—Gabriola Island Water Region (WR7-GI)*, Dec. 2019. GSK [File:695](#).

Notes

Version 1:

In general, version numbers (top right of every page) will change with any modification, no matter how trivial. Usually however, an increment of the version number after the point will be minor, sometimes only correcting a typographical error. Addition or deletion of an item, or other major edit, will increment the version number before the point. Such changes will be noted here.

Courses are not shown because I have not located or followed all of them using GPS and I have yet to master how to use KML/Google Earth. Some are inaccessible due to being on private land. The maps may be improved later.

Courses mapped by MADRONE are very accurate.

Inclusion should not be taken as meaning suitable for RAR protection, though some items may be.

There is sometimes a fine line between a small creek and an inconsequential drainage ditch, and between a small pond and a large puddle. I will be trying to add volume flows and areas later as these might be a basis for classifying small wetlands.

Latitudes and longitudes are a rough guide to location only.

Version 2: Historical data added. RDN Coats Marsh map detail added (Stump Farm).

Version 3: Upper Stoney Creek Streams and Fawn Place Pond added. Map 3.11.

Version 4: Sir Williams Creek added. Map 4.8.

Version 5: Emilie Creek added. Map 3.12.

Version 6: Jamiesons Streams added. Map 3.13. Version 6.2 adds notes to Map 1.15 and 3.8.

- Version 7:** Notes on fish data. Winthuysen Inlet Creek shortened to Winthuysen Creek. Map 1.15.
- Version 8:** Map 3.3 updated.
- Version 9:** McDonalds Pond added. Map 5.8.
- Version 10:** Old survey map extract added. Map 3.1.
- Version 11:** Map 1.17 added.
- Version 12:** Map 1.18 added.
- Version 13:** Map 1.18 extensively revised.
- Version 14:** Historical notes added.
- Version 15:** Map 2.19 added.
- Version 16:** Several detailed revisions.
- Version 17:** Map 2.20 added.
- Version 18:** Glossary moved to file 676.
- Version 19:** River Place Creek added. Map 1.10, 1.15, 1,19.
- Version 20:** Columbia Ceek added. Map 1.20.
- Version 21:** East Path Ceek added. Map 1.21.
- Version 22:** Water licence data added Map 1.10.
- Version 23:** Nelders Pond update Map 3.1.
- Version 24:** Elgie Farm Ponds added. Map 3.5. Fish Data page removed, now [here](#) (File 678).
- Version 25:** Little Creek added Map 2.22. Maps 2.1 and 2.15 updated.
- Version 26:** COM Creek added Map 3.9 updated.
- Version 27:** MABR Report references added.. “Pond” dropped from “Commons Pond Wetlands” name. Southern part of Commons Wetlands north of South Road named Good Earth Wetlands. Ecologically these are integrated but span several properties.
- Version 28:** Outlet watercourse from the NE Arm down to the “lake” at Coats Marsh given a name, “NE Arm Creek”, although it is mostly poorly-defined and braided with only short stream-like reaches. Added Bonnie View Wetlands Map 3.14 and Degnen Road N. drainage Map 3.15.
- Version 29:** Linkage between Degnen Road N. drainage and Jacqueline Brook clarified in annotation of Maps 3.3, 3.15.

MAP: 1.1

49° 10.35'N, 123°51.88'W

Descanso Creek



MAP: 1.2

49° 9.80'N, 123°51.74'W

Descanso Creek; Sea Meadow Ponds

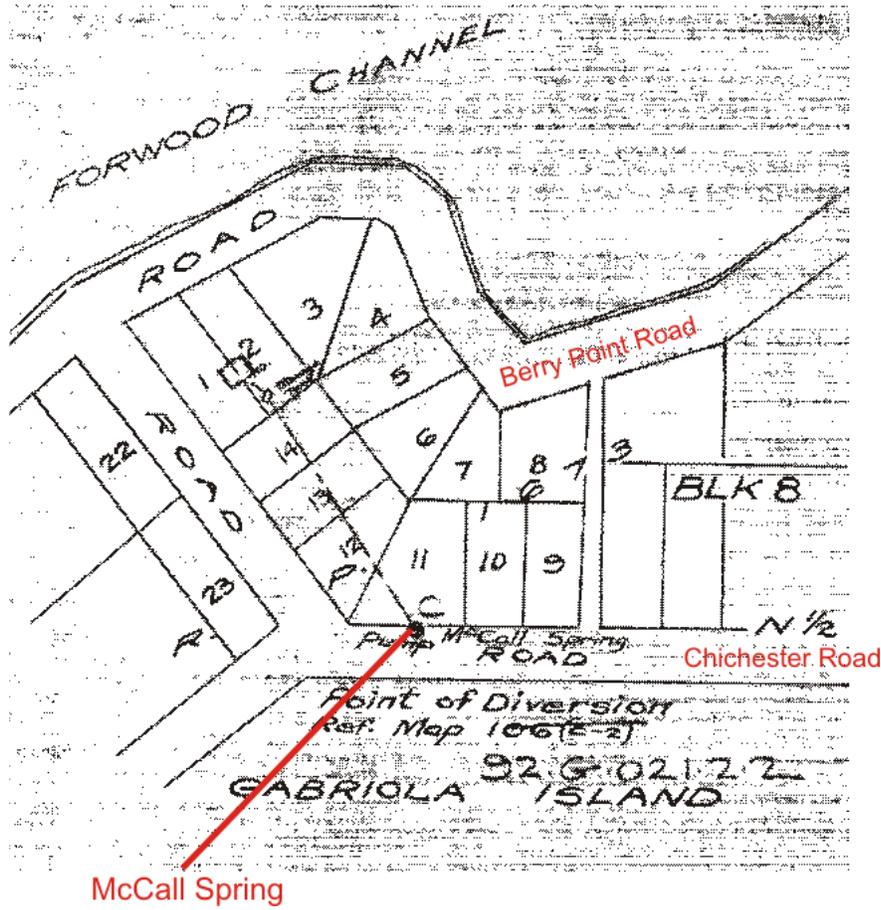


MAP: 1.3

49° 12.02'N, 123°49.41'W

McCall Spring

Earlier name appears to be Pam Spring (Map 1.6).

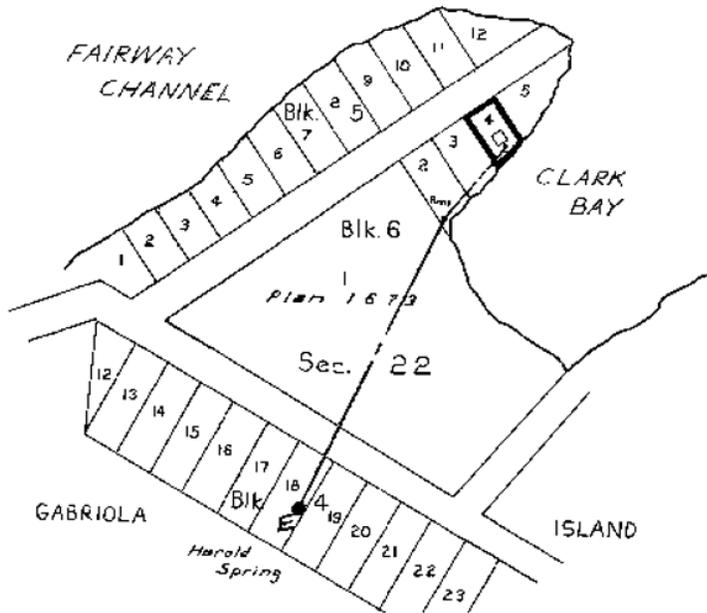


MAP: 1.4

49°11.93'N, 123°50.04'W

Harold Spring

A tributary of Francesco Brook (Bell & Aitken); however, possibly it once drained into Lavender Bay, which was possibly where the Spanish (Galiano and Valdes) obtained freshwater in 1792 (*SHALE* 10, [pp.37-44](#)). See Map 1.5, Map 1.9, and Map 1.18.

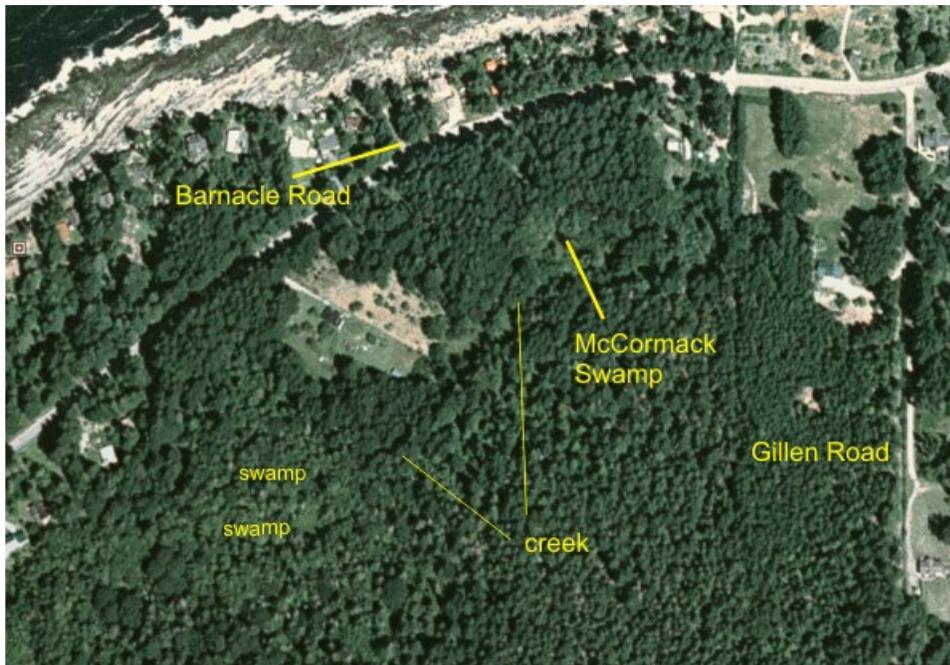
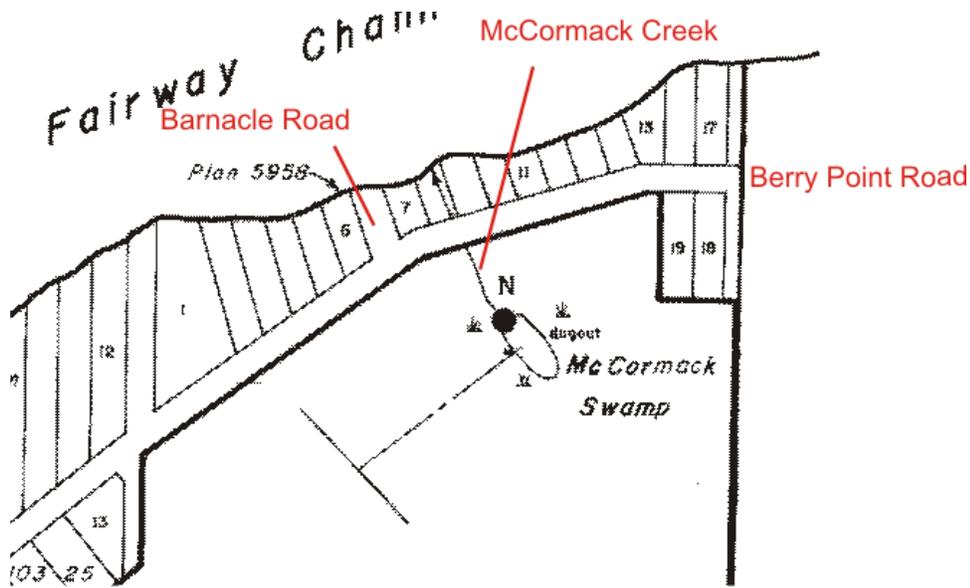


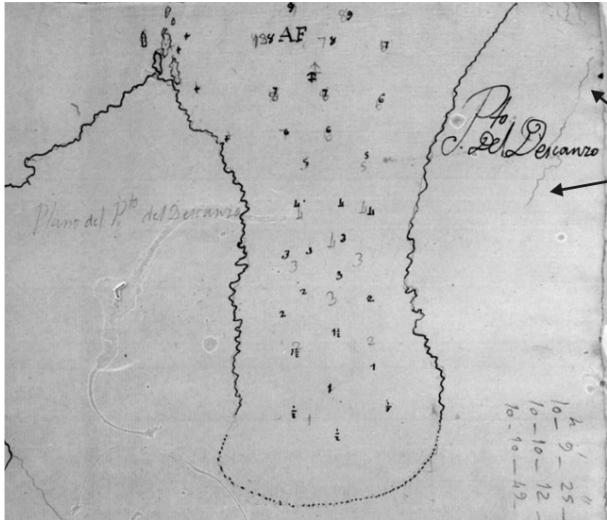
MAP: 1.5

49°11.83'N, 123°50.68'W

McCormack Swamp, McCormack Creek

Possibly where the Spanish got freshwater in 1792; Galiano's sketch appears to show the creek feeding McCormack Swamp quite accurately (*SHALE 1*, [pp.12-21](#)), but another possibility is Harold Spring (Map 1.4). McCormack Swamp looks like it was dug out with scoops drawn by work horses.





Left: Sketch by Alcalá Galiano of Puerto del Descanso (Pilot Bay, Gabriola) made in June 1792. The faint original was subsequently gone over with India ink, but omitted in this process was the line in the top righthand corner, possibly (a conjecture) indicating a creek.

Courtesy MUSEO NAVAL, MADRID



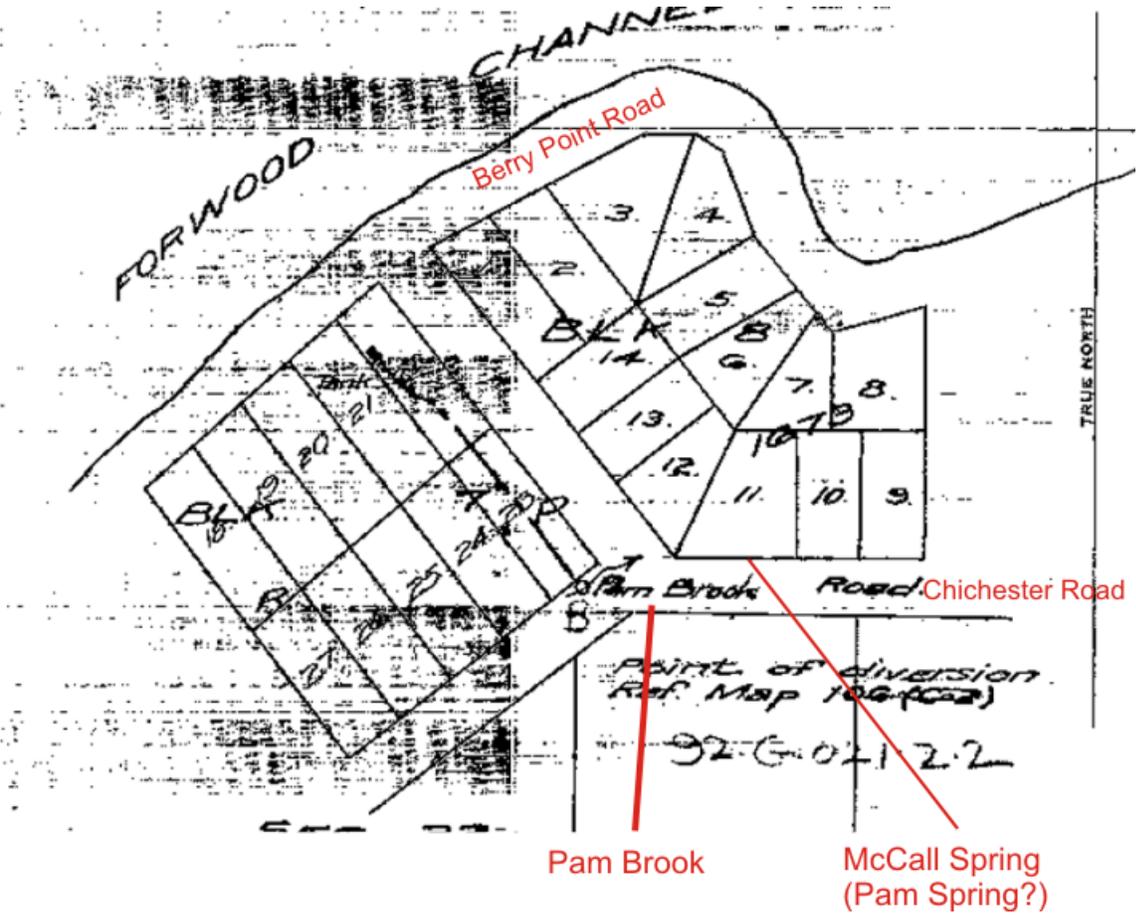
Left: The upper reaches of McCormack Creek look to be a good match; however, the description of the site where Galiano and Valdes were shown by the Snunéymux^w where to obtain water in sufficient quantity for their needs points to Lavender Bay (Map 1.4) where today there is only a very small outlet to the sea emerging from beneath the Berry Point roadway.

MAP: 1.6

49° 12.02'N, 123°49.41'W

Pam Brook, McCall Spring

Pam Brook is a tributary of Ike Brook.

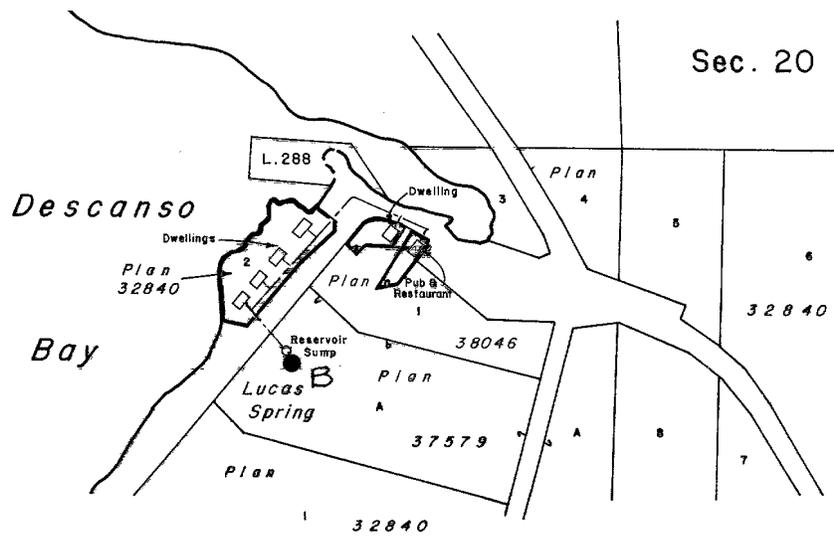


MAP: 1.8

49°10.58'N, 123°51.58'W

Lucas Creek (Millstone Reserve Creek), Lucas Spring

Source is a mix of runoff and groundwater seepage from the old dimension-stone quarry.



MAP: 1.9

49°11.96'N, 123°49.88'W

Francesco Brook

Flows NE (Map 1.18) into the bay from Harold Spring (Map 1.4).

Spelled “Fransceco” in MoE records.

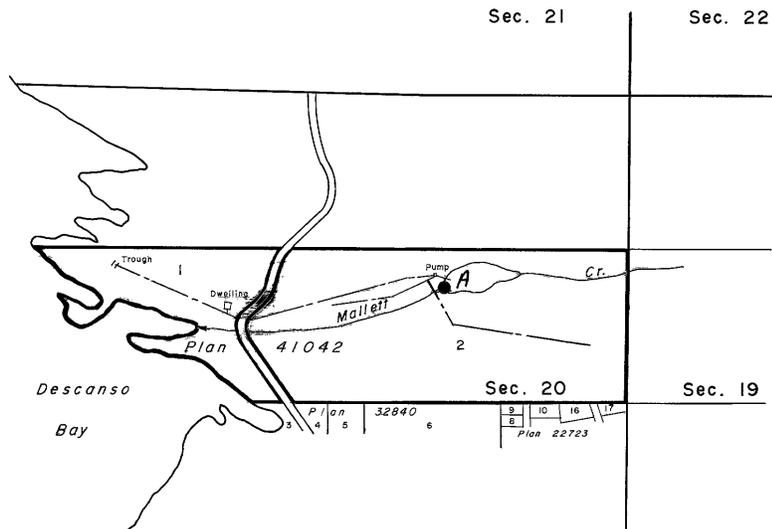


MAP: 1.10

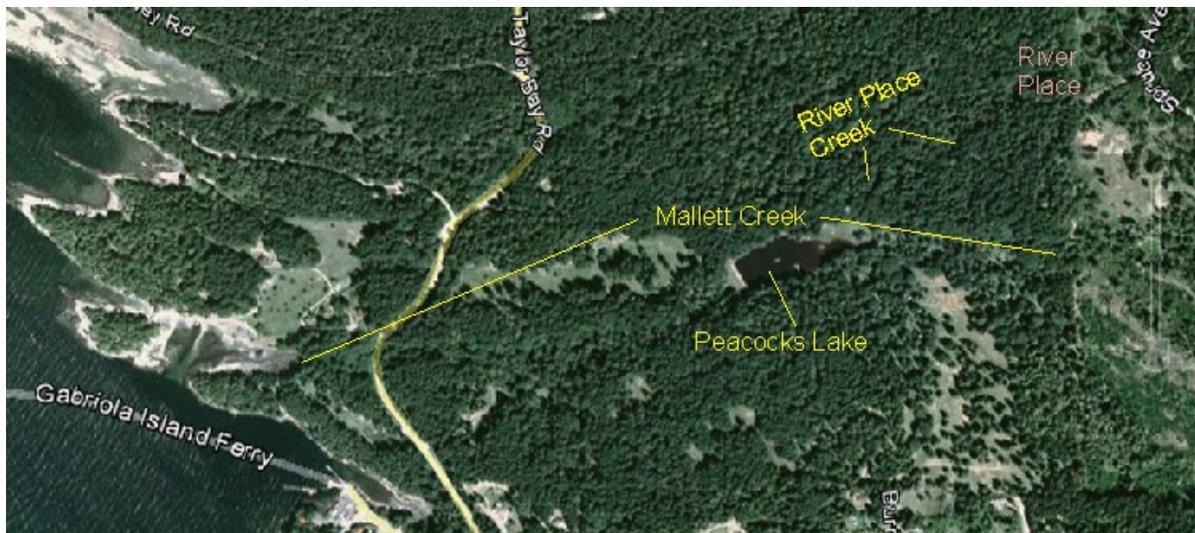
49°10.86'N, 123°50.93'W

Mallett Creek, Peacocks Lake, River Place Creek

The name of Mallett Creek is that of an otherwise unknown soldier who died in one of the two world wars. It was used on their water-use licence by the Peacock family. *Jethro Baker*



The lower part of the creek runs just north of the undeveloped [Winston Road](#), which provides public access to where the creek enters the sea.



The following note is courtesy of the Gabriola Streamkeepers ([GSK](#)):

Mallett Creek runs into [Cox Bay](#), previously known as Hoggan Bay, known by the related Cox family as Paradise Bay, and subsequently as a result of new ownership as Peacock Bay, now sometimes called Sitka Cove. According to anecdotal evidence, coho used to spawn in the creek prior to 1960, but in the 1960–70s, the creek was used to skid logs down to the ocean.

The creek was dammed by Michael Peacock in the 1980s, and Michael subsequently put in a series of pools and cleaned up the lower reach of the creek (downstream of the road), a project

that involved removing several dumped cars. Michael is also credited with dredging bark and wood waste from the sea floor left over by the logging operations of earlier times.

Several attempts have been made to re-introduce fish into the creek. In the 1990s, Michael and hatchery biologists introduced 5000 Nanaimo River chum smolt over a period of 5 years; and two of the teachers at the Gabriola Elementary School recall taking classes down to the creek to release about 200 chum juveniles a year, and perhaps a few Chase River cutthroat?

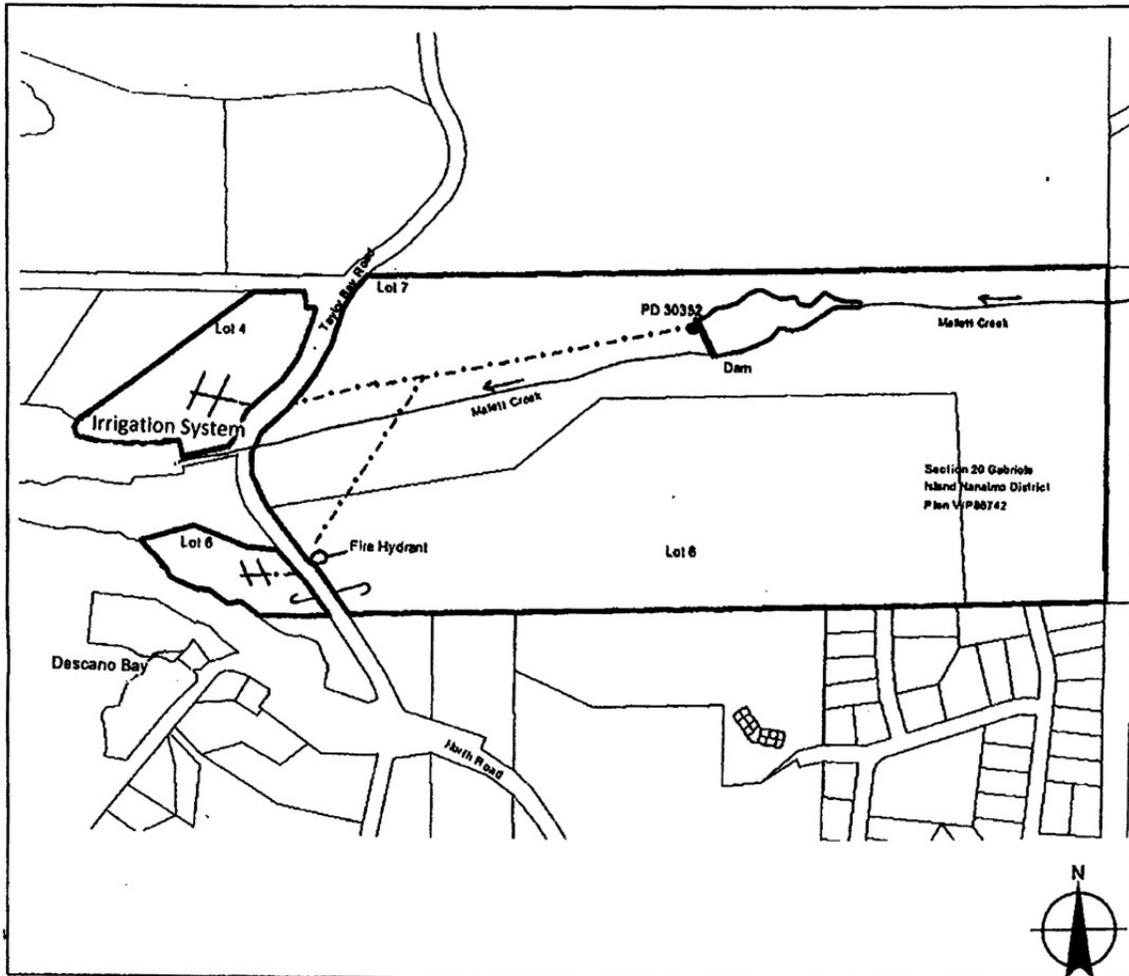
These efforts may well have been successful as the GSK report finding a coho smolt in the lower reach in 2013 along with chum fry in intertidal pools; and they have since discovered free-swimming chum (coho?) alevins in the intertidal pools.



Gabriola Elementary School students releasing juvenile chum into Mallett Creek/Cox Bay in the 1990s.

Photos courtesy of Imelda Cuthbertson (Hedingham), Helen Bailey, and GSK

Both the Gabriola Fire Department (GVFD) and the owners of the Sitka Cove development are allowed to withdraw water from Peacocks Lake for fire protection and irrigation of the development's lawns (C126213). The GSK monitor flow and water quality of [Mallett Creek](#), which provides good aquatic habitat, largely only as a result of leakage from the dam at Peacocks Lake, which maintains a modest flow of water in the creek all summer.

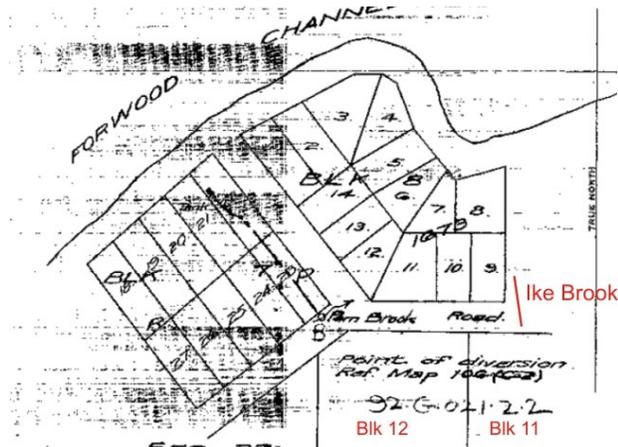


MAP: 1.11

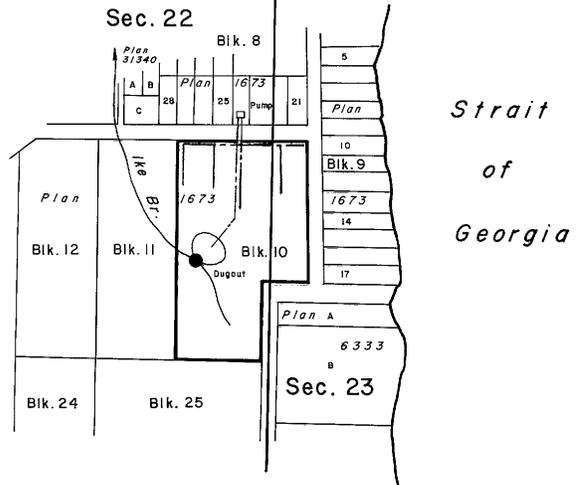
49° 12.08'N, 123°49.20'W

Ike Brook, Pam Brook

Ike is Ike MacKay.



GABRIOLA ISLAND



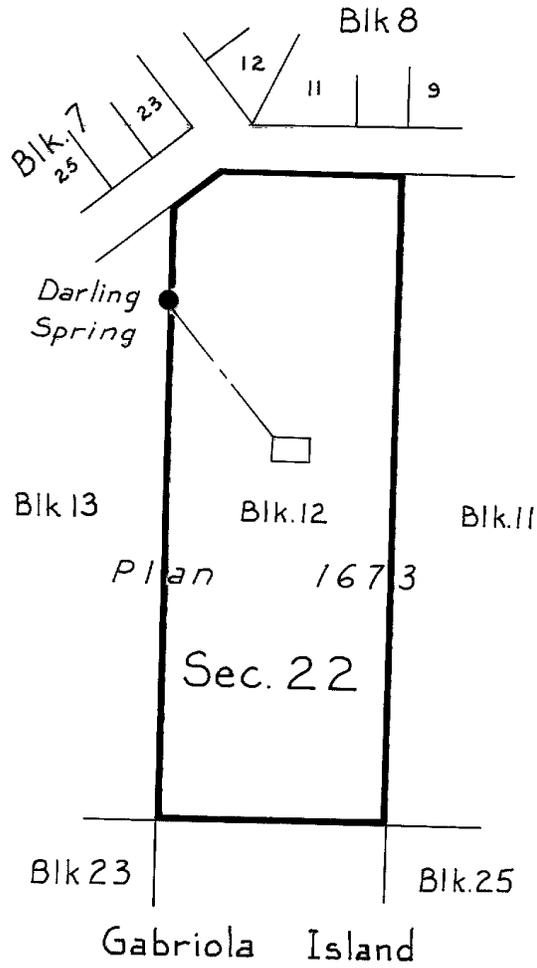
A is outlet for Pam Brook, Ike Brook, and watercourses from Clarendon Road east (Map 1.17).

MAP: 1.12

49° 12.02'N, 123°49.40'W

Darling Spring

Tributary of Ike Brook (Bell & Aitken), although of Pam Brook and then Ike Brook seems more likely. The Darling family were well-known residents of this part of the island.

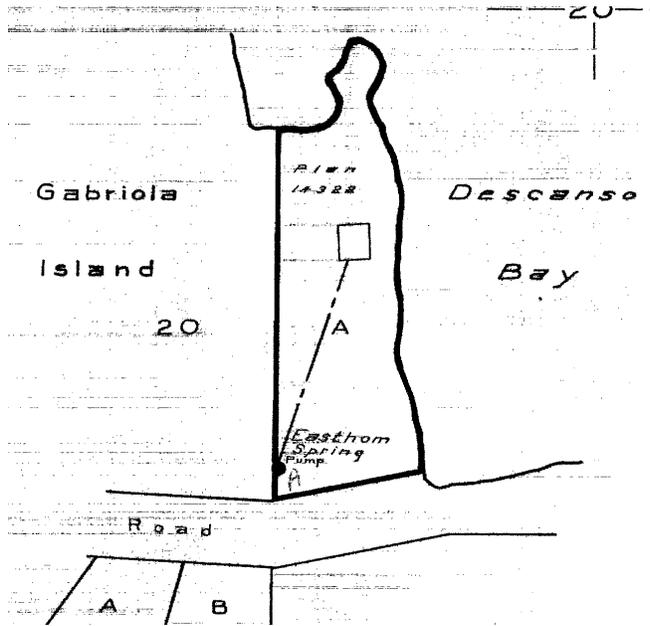


MAP: 1.13

49°10.34'N, 123°51.97'W

Easthom Spring, Descanso Creek

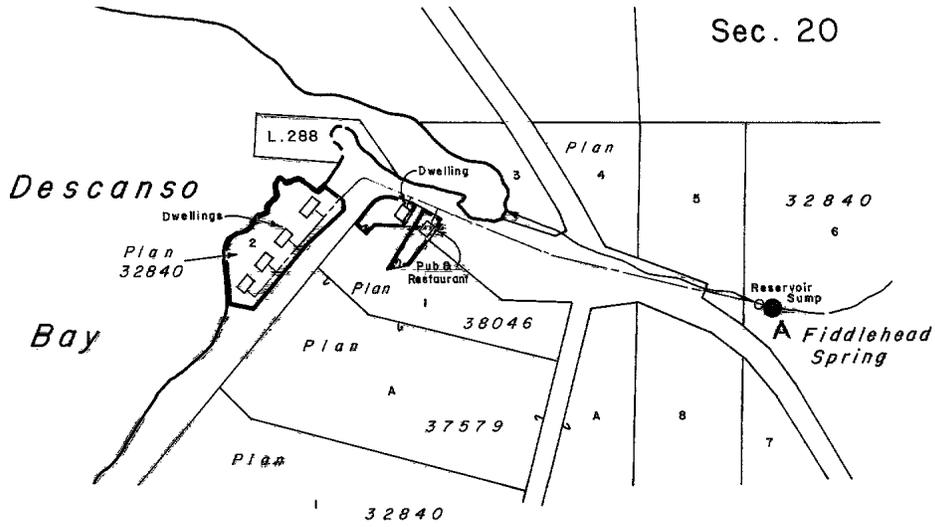
The Easthom family have lived on the island since 1879.



MAP: 1.14

49°10.60'N, 123°51.23'W

Fiddlehead Spring, Fiddlehead Creek



MAP: 1.15

49°11.01'N, 123°51.64'W

Winthuysen Creek, River Place Pond, River Place Creek, Mallett Creek

I've never liked the Descanso Bay Park name; it's just bad geography. The Spanish 1792 expedition's *Cala del Descanso* was Pilot Bay. *Boca de Winthuysen* (Winthuysen Inlet) was the name used by the 1791 Spanish naval expedition to Gabriola for Nanaimo Harbour, but Galiano in his 1792 visit used the name more specifically for the Northumberland Channel. The name remained in use up until 1860.

Francisco Javier de Winthuysen was a lieutenant-general in the Spanish navy at the time. His family name is of Flemish origin, likely dating back to pre-Napoleonic times when the southern Low Countries (roughly the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg) were the Spanish Netherlands.



Right: Part of the *Carta Que Comprehende...* a chart based on the Spanish explorations of 1791 showing *Punta de Gaviola* (Law Point and the Flat Top Islands), *Punta d' Casatilli* (Orlebar Point), and *Boca de Wenthuysen* (Nanaimo Harbour).

There are several variations of the spelling of “Winthuysen” in historical documents.

In modern Dutch, it would be pronounced, vint'how'sen, but most Gabriolans go with win'too'sen,¹ which may be closer to how the Spanish would have said it. It means “homes in a place where the wind blows”.

Courtesy MUSEO NAVAL, MADRID

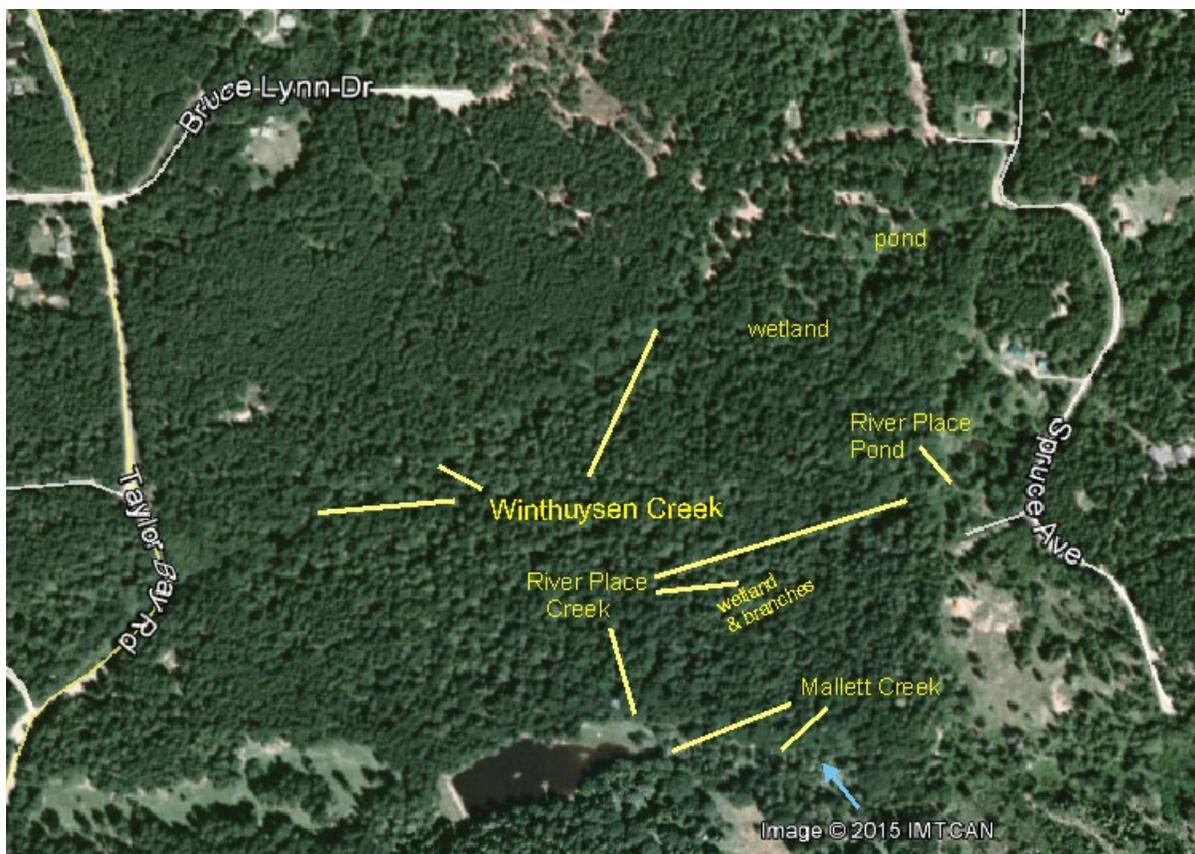


¹ Making an English “th” sound is also common, but wrong. The name is a composite of Wint- and -huysen.

Right: Part of the *Sketch to illustrate Report of a Canoe expedition along the East Coast of Vancouver Island...* showing Nanaimo Harbour published by the Royal Geographical Society in England based on information provided by Governor James Douglas. It appeared in 1854, but by then the Hudson's Bay Company had a far more accurate chart of Gabriola, Valdes, and Mudge Islands.



River Place Pond, so-called because it is elongated and looks a bit like a bend in a river, is the headwater of River Place Creek an ephemeral tributary of Mallett Creek.



MAP: 1.16

49°11.43'N, 123°52.32'W

Camerons Spring

Drains into Fosters Bay (now often called Bob's Bay). Schooner Point is an old name not much in use.

The Camerons, Tom and Charlotte, have wetlands in their garden.



MAP: 1.17

49° 11.85'N, 123°49.68'W

Uncertain watercourses from Clarendon Road (east), drain into Pam and Ike Brooks (Map 1.11).
Dragonfly Pond.

Underlain by blue-clay indicating that they are meltwater channels dating back to the ice age.



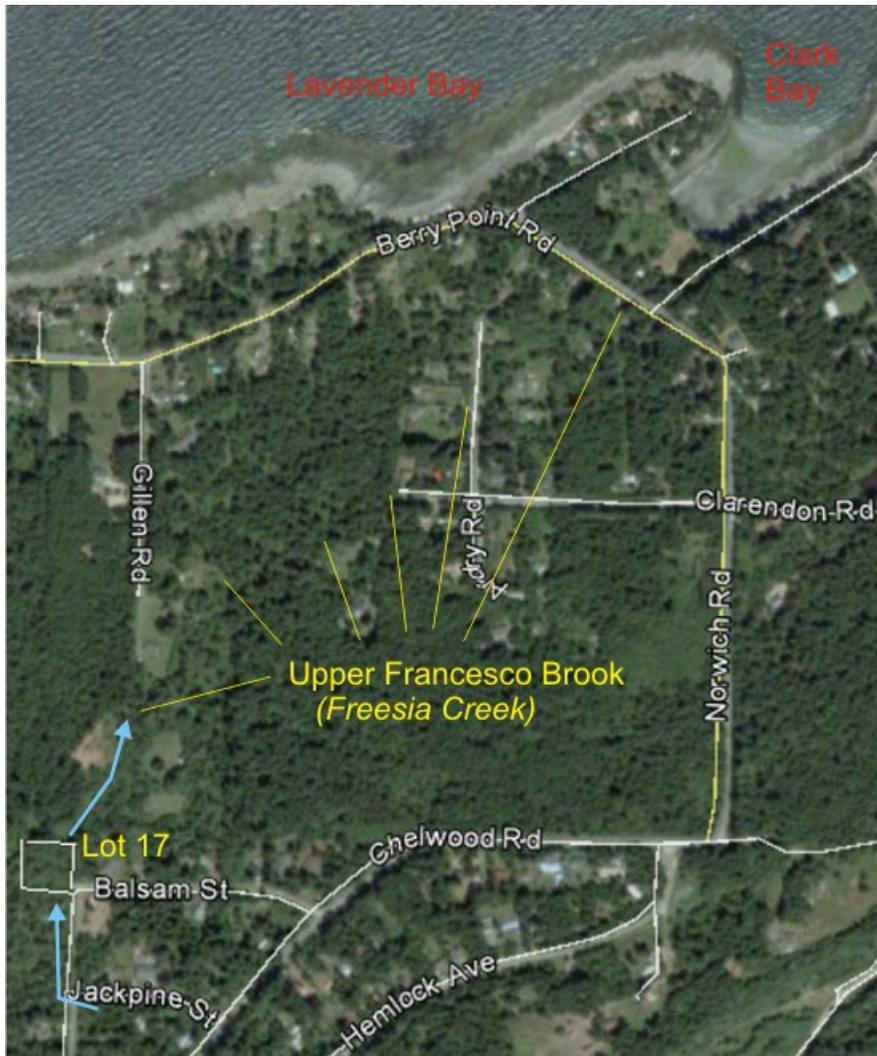
MAP: 1.18

49° 11.6'N, 123°50.6'W

Upper reaches of Francesco Brook from Balsam Steet area to Clark Bay (Map 1.9).

Lot 17 Wetland, Francesco Brook, *Freesia Creek*?

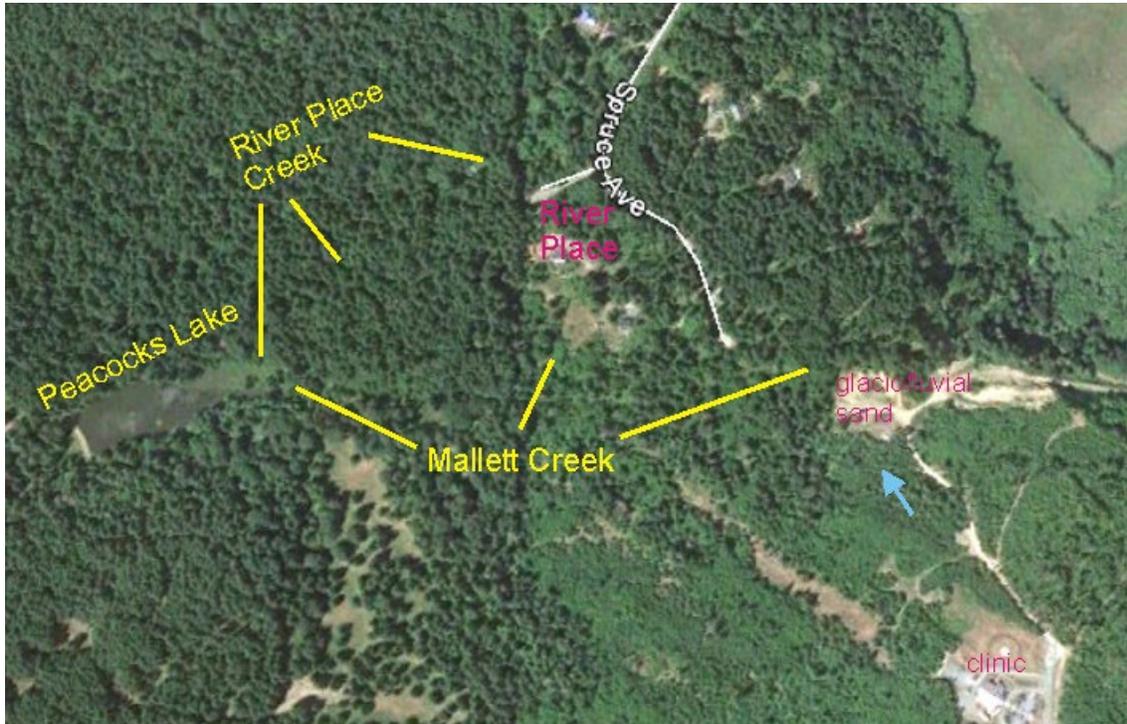
Ephemeral, ditched along Tamarack Street. "Freesia" seems unlikely, but it is remembered as being called by that name. It may at one time have emptied into Lavender Bay rather than Clark Bay (Map 1.4). It doesn't help that the spelling "Freisa" is remembered and yet so is association with "little white flowers" (Freesia?).



MAP: 1.19

49°10.90'N, 123°51.58'W

River Place Creek, Mallett Creek



Both River Place Creek and Mallett Creek have numerous ephemeral runoffs flowing into them in their upper reaches. Both creeks run along the valley bottom of faults associated with the major regional fault system running between Leboeuf Bay and Cox Bay (variously known as the *Gabriola Fault*, the *North-end Fault*, and *Dan's Fault*), an extension of the *Chase River Fault* on Vancouver Island). River Place Creek at one point branches into two creeks for a short distance.

There are glaciofluvial deposits and the bedrock is striated at the head of Mallett Creek.

MAP: 1.20

49°10.860'N, 123°51.37'W

Columbia Creek, Mallett Creek



Columbia Creek is an ephemeral rivulet with only a low flow even at the height of the wet season. It runs, partly in rills, subparallel to and between the bigger Mallett and Winthuysen Creeks. It has no visible culvert on the downstream side but percolates through the boulder subgrade of Taylor Bay Road.

Columbian black-tailed deer is the common subspecies of deer on Gabriola.

There is a dugout on the east side of Taylor Bay Road that ponds in winter.

MAP: 2.1

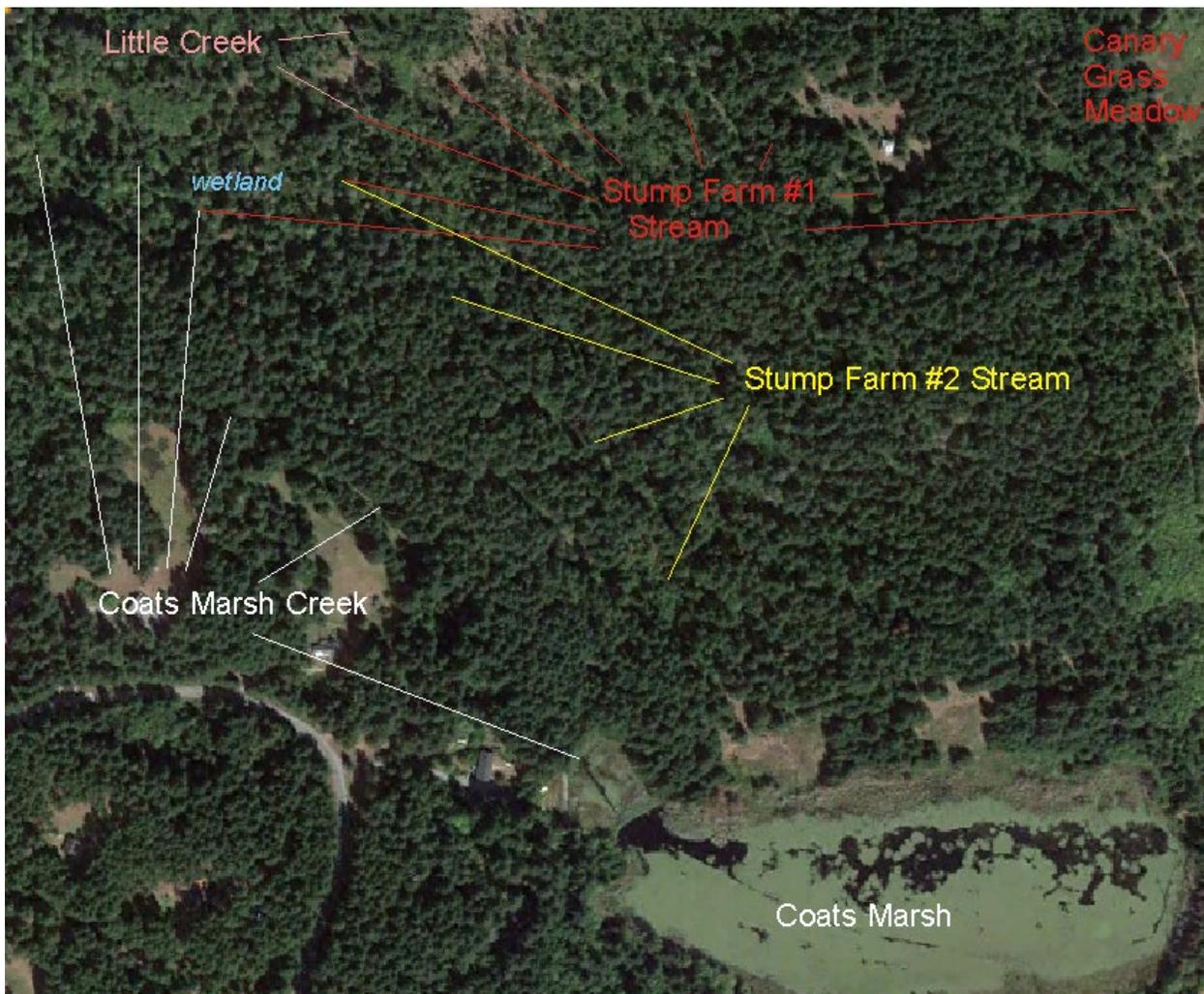
49° 9.30'N, 123°48.54'W

Coats Marsh; Canary Grass Meadow; Coats Marsh Creek; Stump Farm Number 1 Stream; Stump Farm Number 2 Stream; Little Creek

The meadow (open water in winter) drains via Stump Farm Number 1 Stream into Coats Marsh Creek. Mapped by MADRONE (Non RAR Site 1) and Foul Bay Ecological Research (Coats Marsh Regional Park RDN 2011–2021 Management Plan Appendix A). Not shown in their map is Little Creek, a tributary of Stump Farm Number 1 Stream, but added here.

The source for Stump Farm Number 2 Stream, also a tributary of Stump Farm Number 1 Stream, is confused by drainage ditches in dense bush.

William Coats, Clyde's father, came to the island in 1912. At one time in the 1930s, Coats Marsh was drained and used for farming. A weir was built with cranberry farming in mind. It has now reverted to its historic role as a beaver pond.



MAP: 2.2

49° 9.27'N, 123°49.67'W

Coats Marsh, Hoggan Lake, Coats Marsh Creek

Mapped by MADRONE.

For additional information on Coats Marsh click [here](#). For GSK studies at the marsh click [here](#).

There are two wetlands off Coats Drive, the small swamp labelled here and the larger wetland in Map 2.21 along East Path Creek.



MAP: 2.3

49°8.70'N, 123°48.64'W

Hoggan Lake, South Road Creek, South Road Wetlands, Claude Spring, Lobo Spring

Mapped by MADRONE and MABR (WR7-GI-04) .

The wetlands are a series of lagoons and marshes along the course of South Road Creek. Some of the water is coming from the north side of South Road in subsurface streams (springs) flowing under the soil/till but over the bedrock a few feet down. Some feed may be groundwater from the Gabriola/Spray Formation interface (visible in the quarry at the end of Lockwood Drive).

The wetlands are possible beaver habitat. There is also diatomaceous earth there.

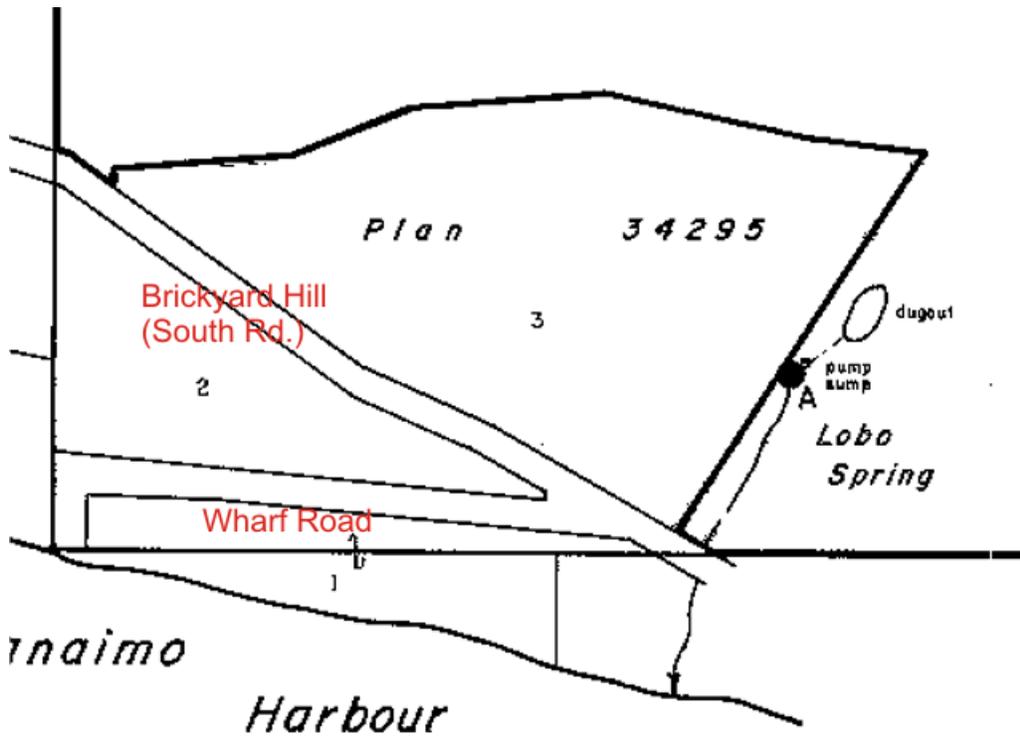


MAP: 2.4

49° 8.51'N, 123°47.60'W

Lobo Spring

Not *lobo*, Spanish for “wolf”, but a contraction of Lorraine and Bob (Weir).



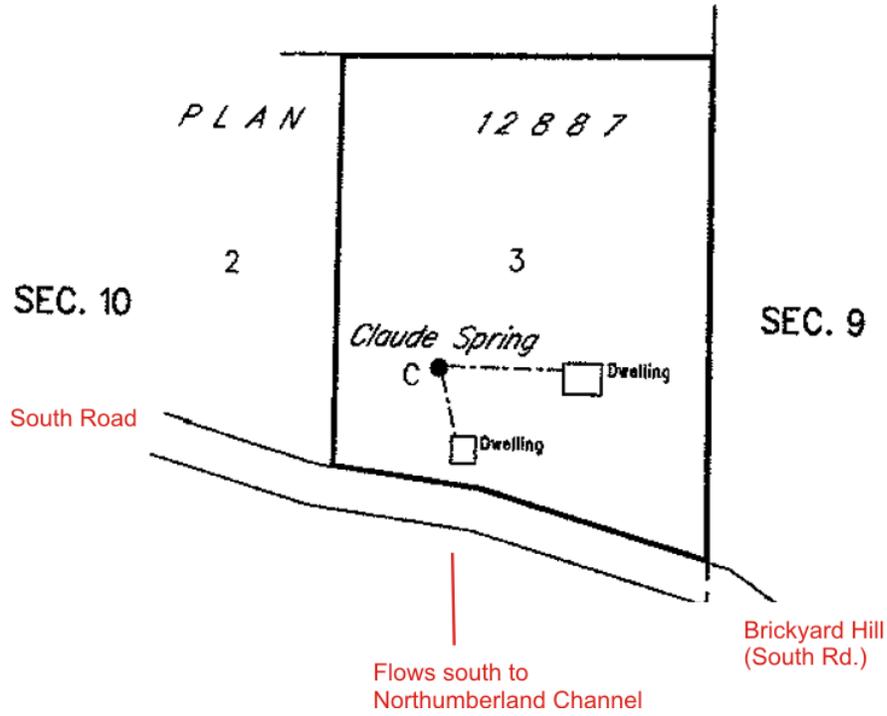
MAP: 2.5

49° 8.64'N, 123°48.00'W

Claude Spring

Probably runs subsurface to South Road Creek (old culvert rotted out and dry).

Claude Campbell was a long-time resident. (Bell & Aitken)



MAP: 2.6

49° 9.10'N, 123°49.73'W

Hoggan Lake, Hoggan Creek, Coats Marsh Creek, Goodhue Creek, South Road Creek

Hoggan Creek is the outflow creek. Mapped by MADRONE.

William and David Hoggan pre-empted the land surrounding Hoggan Lake. It was reported in the early 1900s as to be “very wild” and with “lots of old beaver signs and a lodge on the lake”. Trout have been seen recently in both Goodhue Creek and Coats Marsh Creek, so they undoubtedly still live in the lake.



MAP: 2.7

49°8.45'N, 123°46.11'W

Chapple Creek, Ferne Road Creek, False Narrows Bluffs Swamps

Ferne Road Creek is fed from a swamp at the bottom of the lower of the two False Narrows Bluffs. There are numerous small trickles from the bottom of the Geoffrey Formation sandstone/conglomerate there. It may also collect water from the upper swamps via the ditch along Ferne Road above the Chicken Farm.

False Narrows Bluffs Swamps appear on historical maps as “series of small swamps”. It was, and still maybe, beaver habitat.

The dugout on the trail between South Road and the end of Clamshell Drive retains water all through the summer.

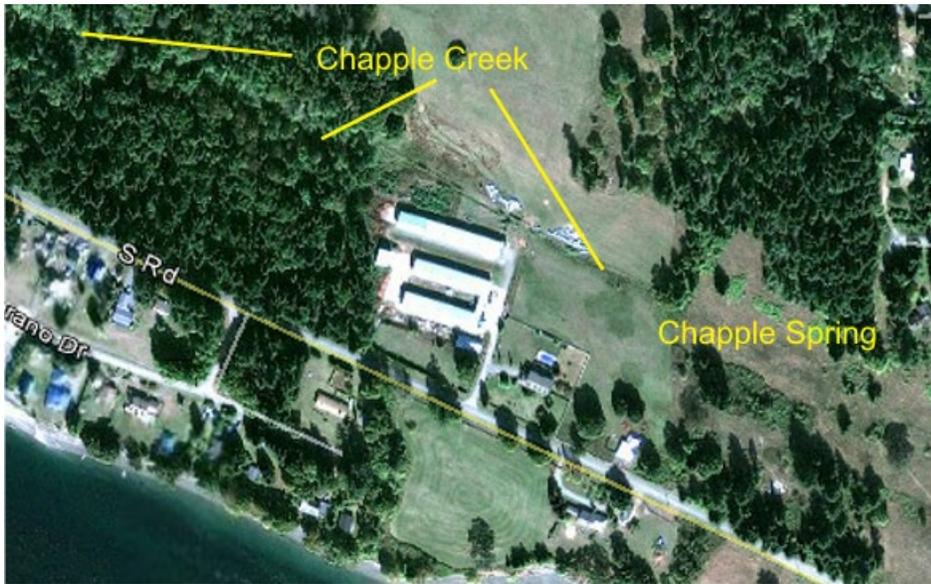
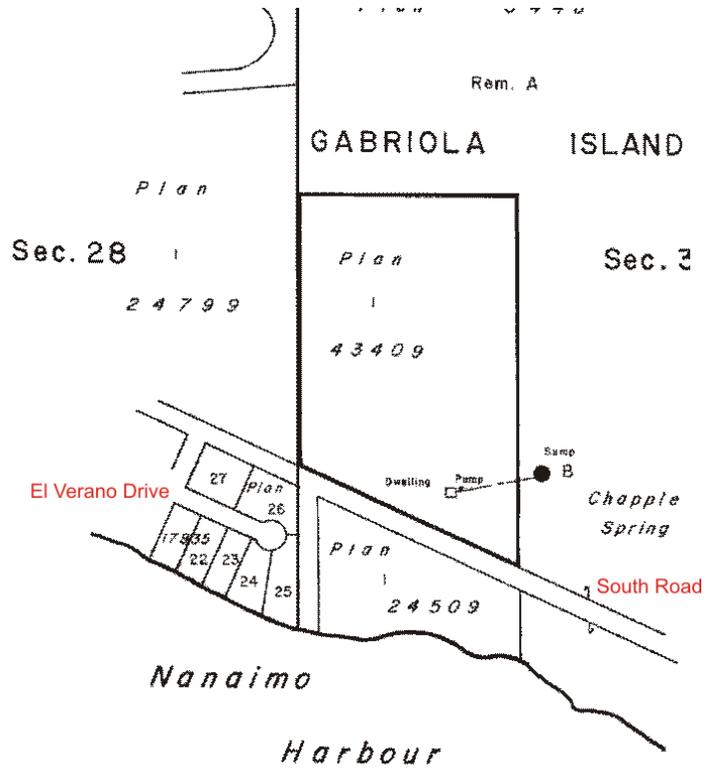


MAP: 2.8

49° 8.16'N, 123°46.40'W

Chapple Spring, Chapple Creek

The Chapples were early settlers. Richard was born in Cornwall and Mary, his wife, was a Tlingit from Alaska. Their name was often spelled "Chappel".



MAP: 2.9

49°8.29'N, 123°47.15'W

Chapple Creek, Ferne Road Creek, Chapple Creek Marsh

The seasonal marsh at the brickyard is used by ducks to shelter from severe winter storms.



MAP: 2.10

49°9.90'N, 123°51.00'W

Hill Road Swamp, Eppler Swamp, Berg Road Creek (tributary of Eppler Creek), Eppler Creek

Both swamps are underlain with extensive deposits of diatomaceous earth. Click [here](#) for a history of Eppler Swamp. Eppler Swamp ((WR7-GI-03) mapped by MABR.



MAP: 2.11

49°7.81'N, 123°45.58'W

Maples Bay Spring

Subsurface, but runs year-round on the beach. It may be connected to the major fault that runs across Gabriola from The Maples to Peterson Bay, but I'm not 100% sure of this. Vicki Spring and Maples Bay Spring are probably interconnected just below the surface—there is around a metre of post-glacial alluvial soil (Fairbridge) overlying the shale bedrock here.

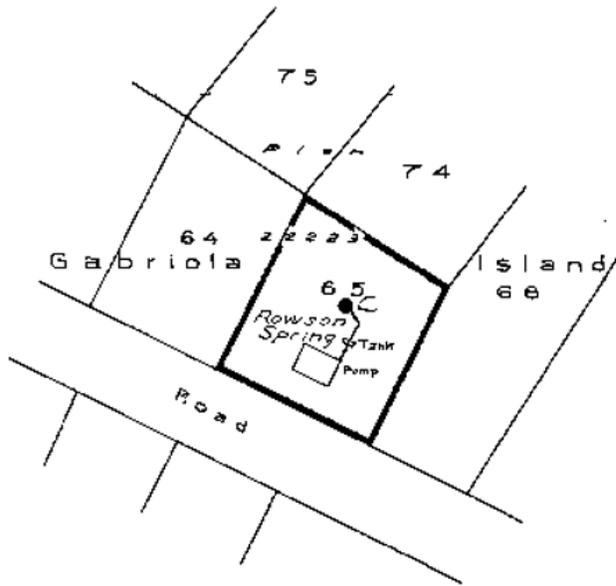


MAP: 2.12

49°7.83'N, 123°44.40'W

Rowson Spring

A water licence was issued to Francis and Helen Rowson in 1973.

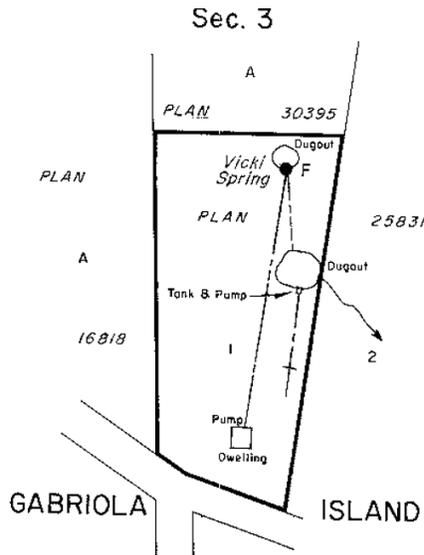


MAP: 2.13

49°7.92'N, 123°45.78'W

Vicki Spring

Related to the Maples Bay Spring below the surface. Vicki was Vicki Rowan.

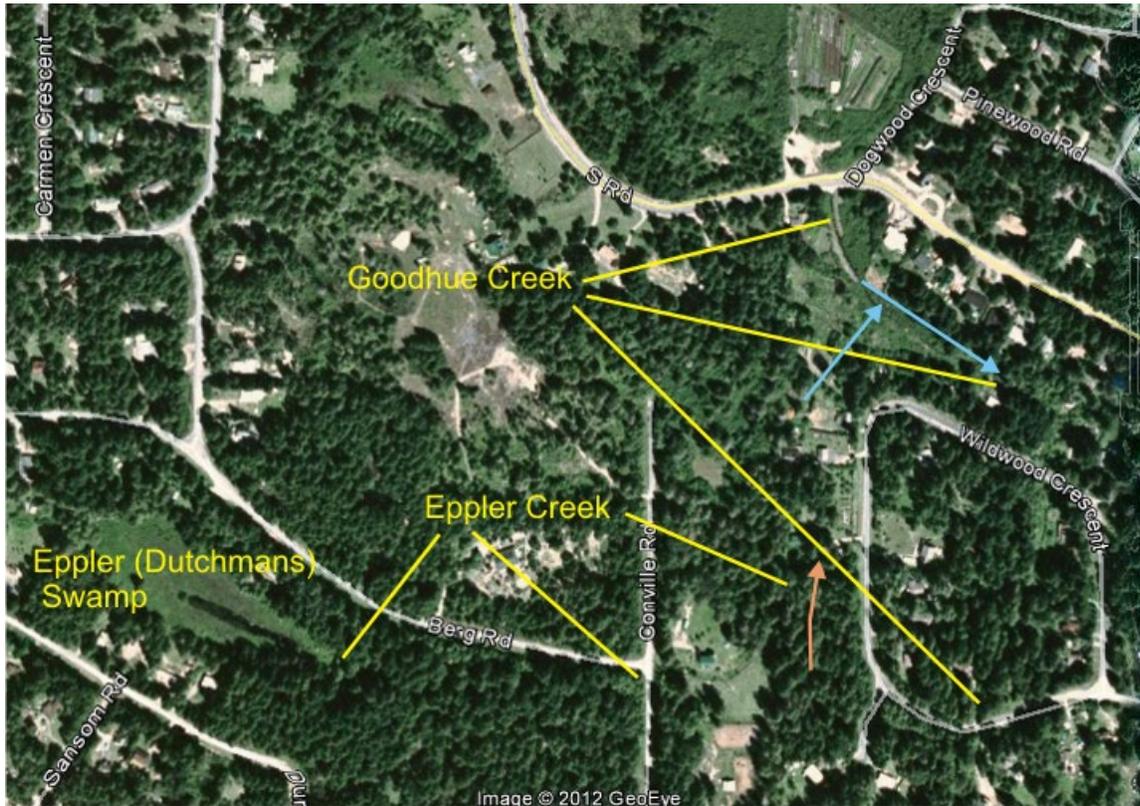


MAP: 2.14

49°9.86'N, 123°50.70'W

Eppler Creek, Goodhue Creek, Eppler (Dutchmans) Swamp

“Wildwood Crescent Stream” (orange arrow), a tributary of Eppler Creek, was mapped by MADRONE but is very short.



MAP: 2.15

49°9.65'N, 123°50.09'W

Goodhue Creek, South Road Stream A, South Road Stream A-minor

Mapped by MADRONE who reported South Road Stream A appeared to be sourced in seepages 70m from the road, but it can be traced further east through dense vegetation. It is a tributary of Goodhue Creek.

South Road Stream A-minor is a very short watercourse down to the drainage ditch on South Road where it flows through a culvert to Goodhue Creek via a Golf Club putting green.



MAP: 2.16

49°10.32'N, 123°50.43'W

Goodhue Creek, Commons Pond

Mapped by MADRONE.



MAP: 2.17

49°8.62'N, 123°47.14'W

Lockwood Drive Swallet

A small exposure of a subsurface creek flowing over and through fractured sandstone/conglomerate.



MAP: 2.18

49°8.12'N, 123°45.40'W

Top of Garland Streams? South School Creek?

Seasonal, and so extensively ditched and culverted it is uncertain if these qualify as “creeks”. There are several other minor springs and streams along the bluffs west of here.



MAP: 2.19

49°7.80'N, 123°44.84'W

Spring Beach Stream, Farrow Creek, Rowson Spring

Likely the course of the intermittent Spring Beach Stream has been changed by development but streams in this area are mostly carefully landscaped when threading through yards.

Farrow Creek is called "ZZ Creek" in a water-use licence.



MAP: 2.20

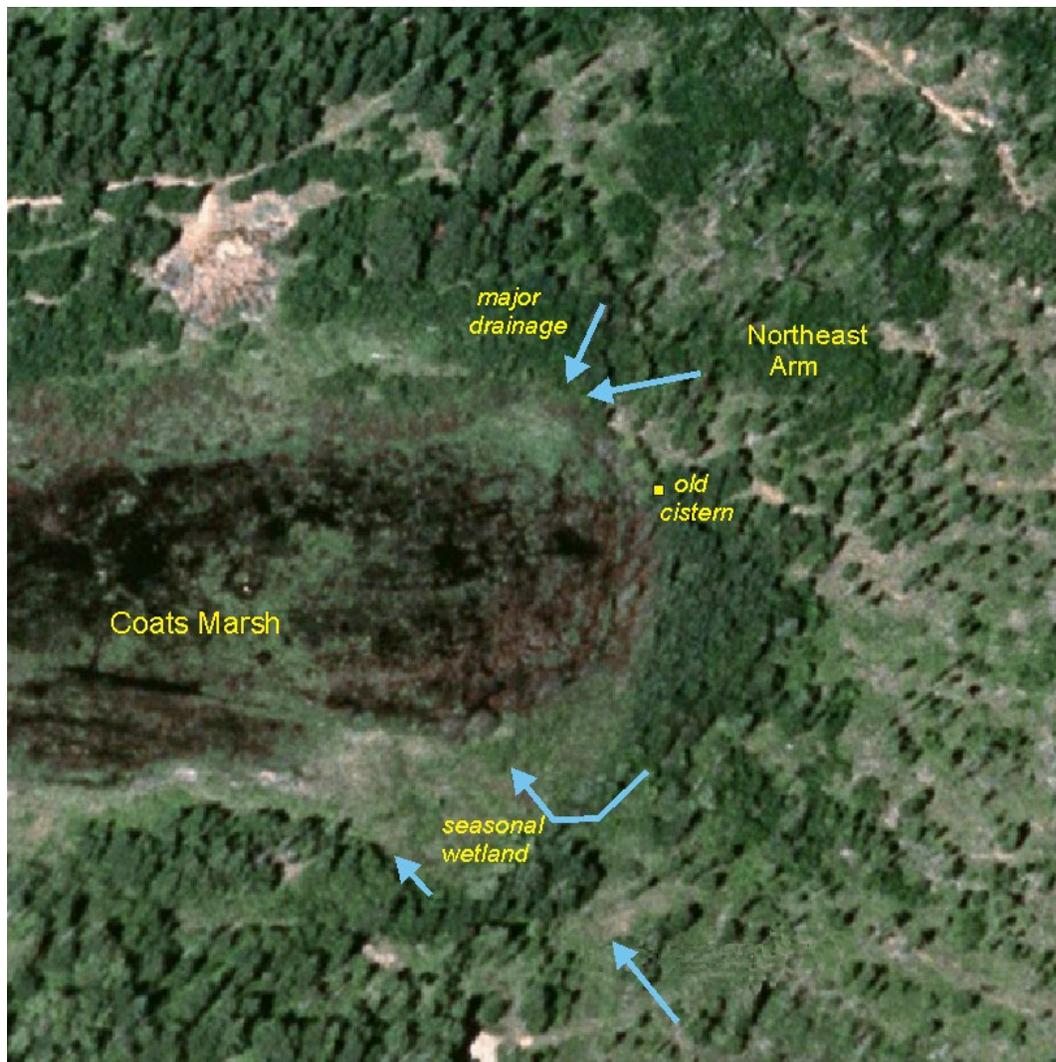
49°9.10'N, 123°48.56'W

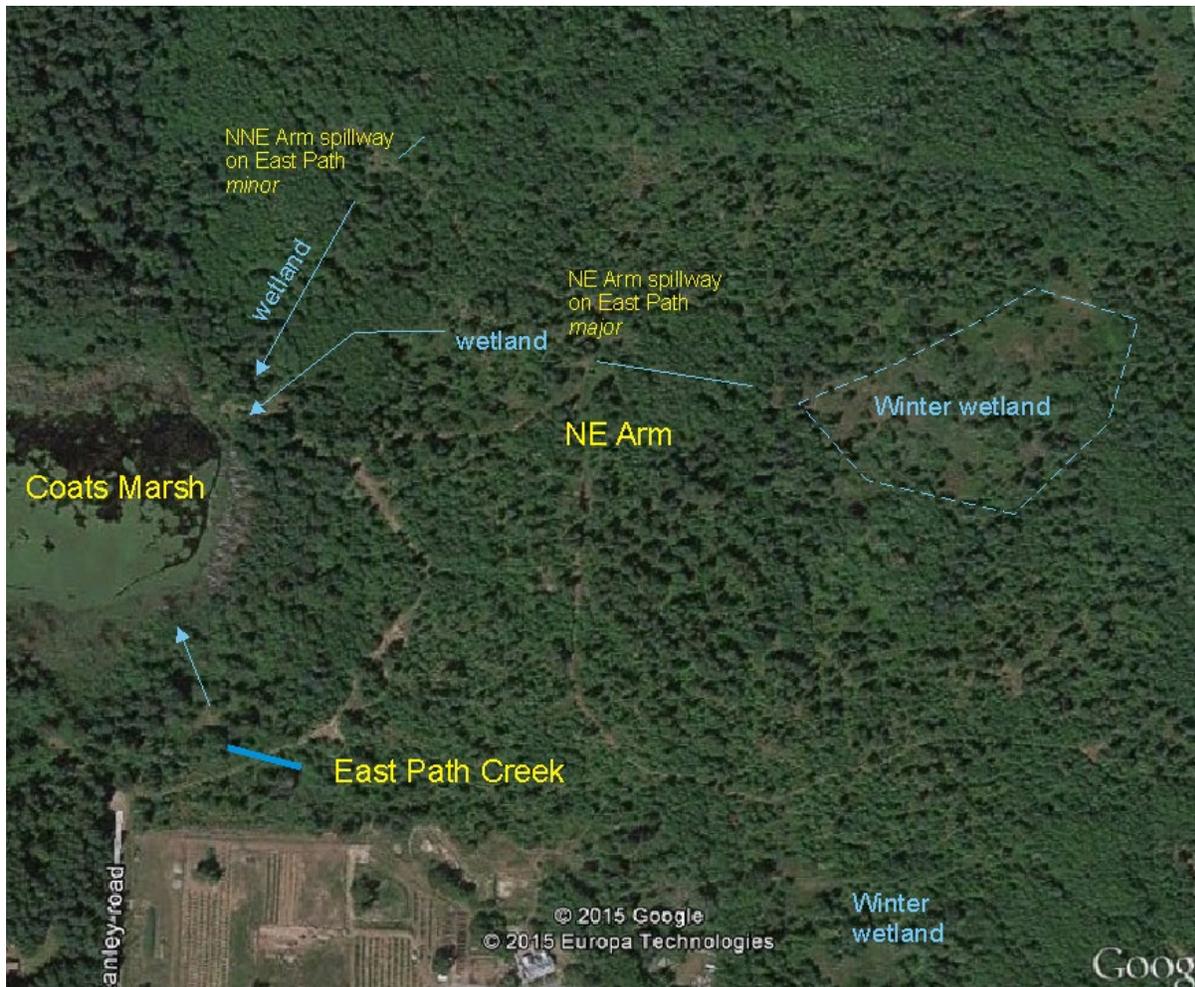
Coats Marsh—NE Arm, East Path Creek

The (former) northeast arm is now almost perpetually above the water level in the marsh and so is a swampy meadow, and only a source of water while draining in winter. There is also a significant flow into the Coats Marsh NE corner from an area north of the corner, possibly including from sources east of East Path crossing under the minor spillway north of the NE Arm Trail junction. This catchment area is accessible from the Marsh Trail heading directly south through alder groves.

There are also several minor, highly-seasonal, surface-water drainage channels into the marsh east of the Stanley Road park entrance (East Path Creek). Here, water is kept near, or on, the surface in depressions in the gently sloping and undulating sandstone bedrock that lies beneath a thin layer of stony, sandy soil, and nearer the open water of the marsh, by an over-a-metre-thick subsurface layer of stone-free and near-impervious gleysol of glacial origin.

Presumably, these are the two so-called “springs” said to exist on the east side of the marsh, though neither is actually sourced by groundwater (see [File: 668](#) Addendum Jan.2020).





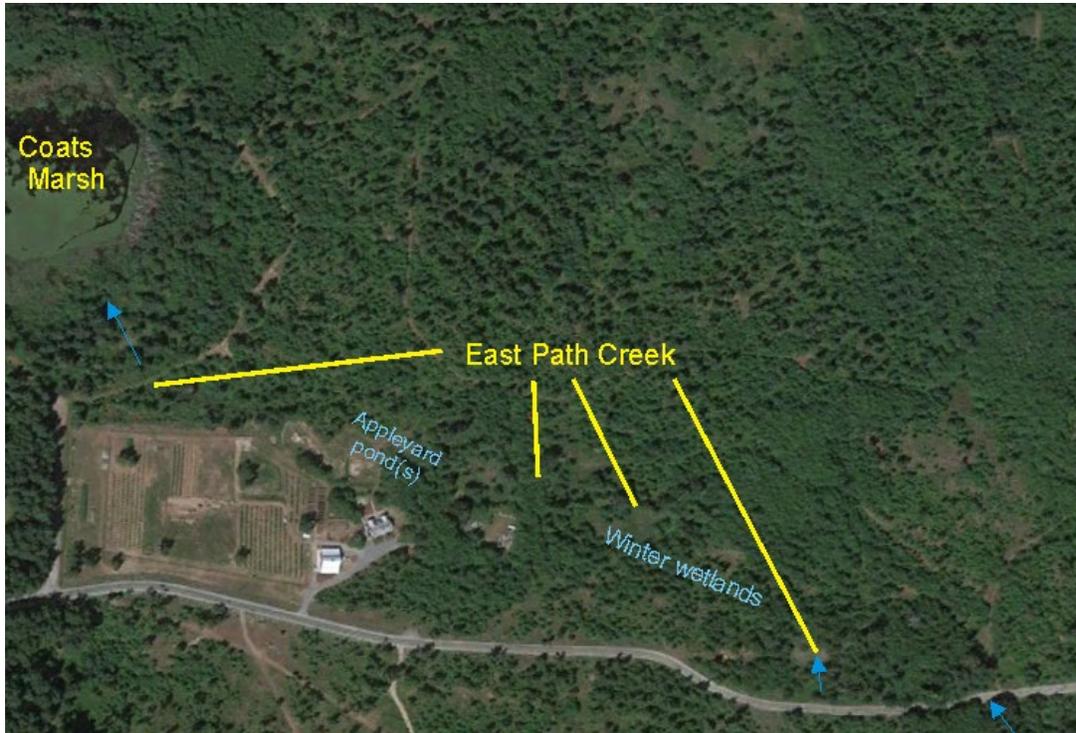
Seasonal flow from the NE Arm is from grassy marsh (flooded meadows) to the east. There is no culvert at East Path and it is often flooded in winter. There is also a minor spillway without a culvert further north (NNE Arm) on East Path, seldom flooded but permeable.

There is a culvert for East Path Creek but its flow downstream is divided into many watertracks. Occasionally the culvert is insufficient to prevent flooding of East Path.

MAP: 2.21

49°8.98'N, 123°48.27'W

Coats Marsh—East Path Creek, McGuffies Swamp



Recognizable at the culvert on the path on the east side of Coats Marsh. Seasonal, only flowing when rainfall is high in mid-winter, but its volumetric flow can be a significant source for the marsh. It drains



extensive seasonal marsh-meadow and woody-swamp areas east of the orchard. In periods of exceptionally heavy rain, the creek can be traced all the way back to McGuffies Swamp. There is a culvert under Coats Drive.

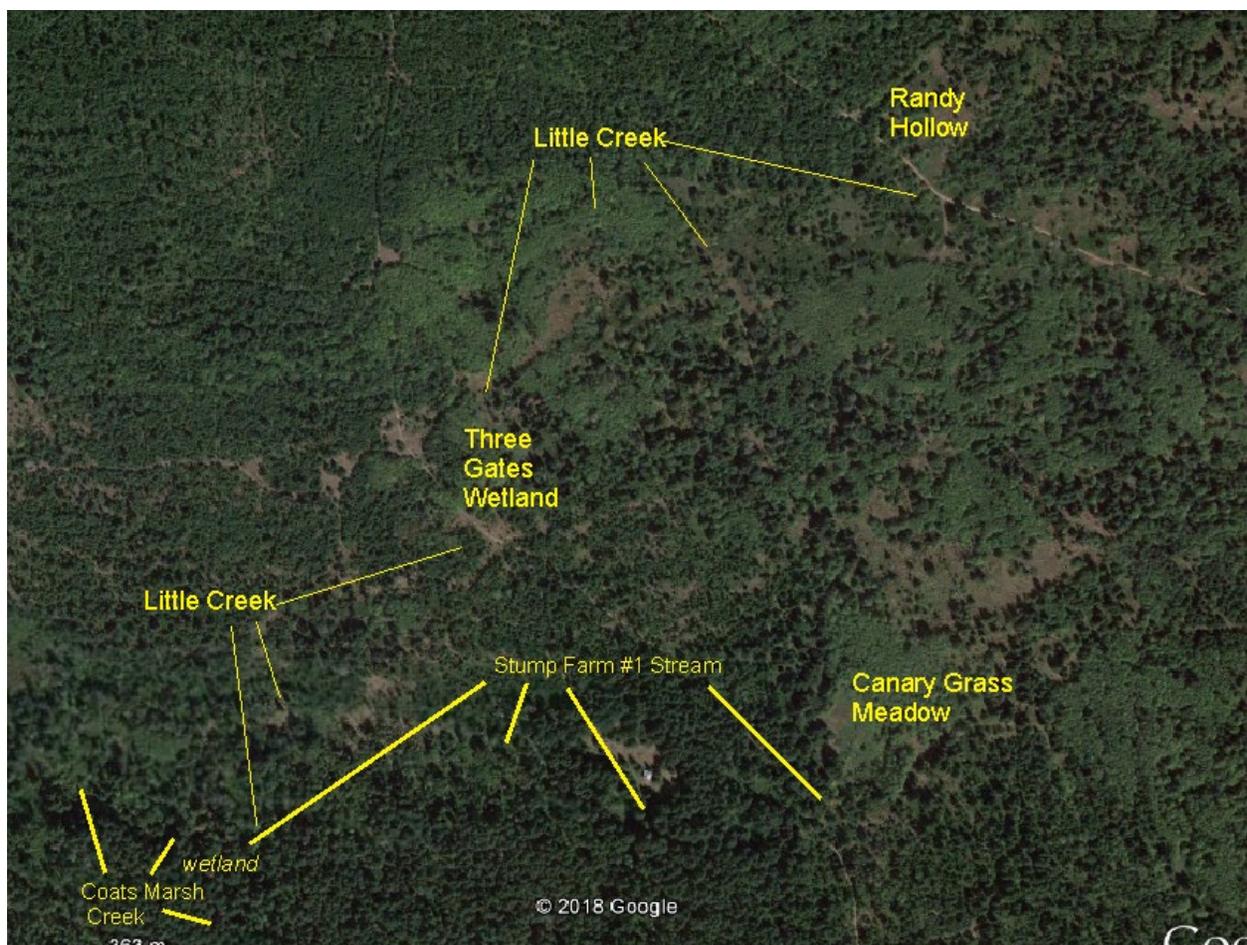
MAP: 2.22

49°9.56'N, 123°49.00'W

Little Creek, Three Gates Wetland, Coats Marsh Creek, Stump Farm Number 1 Stream

Some stretches of Little Creek have banks and support hydrophytes; some stretches are poorly-defined watertracks difficult to follow in summer; and at the Three Gates Trail it flows over sandstone bedrock just below the surface. It is a tributary of Stump Farm Number 1 Stream which it meets 130 m upstream from the marshy confluence of Stump Farm Number 1 Stream and Coats Marsh Creek.

The smaller Stump Farm Number 2 Stream (not shown) meets Stump Farm Number 1 Creek about 105 m upstream of the same marshy confluence.



MAP: 3.1

49° 8.87'N, 123°44.11'W

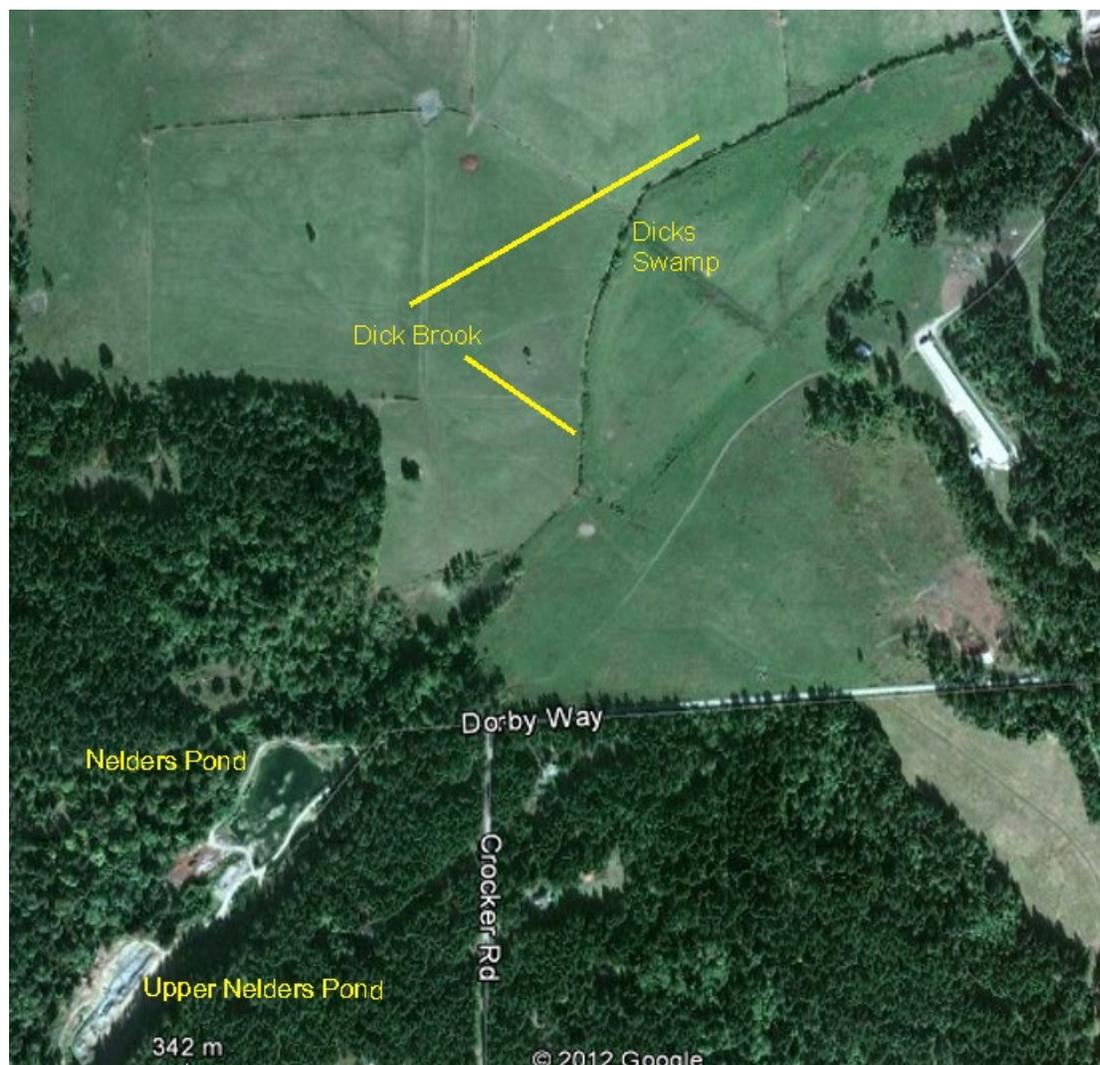
Dicks Swamp, Dick Brook, Nelders Pond (the lower pit pond), Upper Nelders Pond (the upper pit pond)

Mapped by MADRONE.

Somerset pit is an exhausted sand/clay pit that has been nicely landscaped by the owner. Because it has been dug into fossiliferous marine silt/clay it is slightly salty and very alkaline.

Somerset Pit (after *Somerset Farm*) is also known as Boultons Pit (after the owner George Nelder Boulton). The flooded workings are now known as Nelders Ponds.

Dicks Swamp is open water and geese and duck habitat in winter. A trail that now runs through the 707CP was shown as the “Road to Dick’s Swamp” on a 19th-century map of Gabriola. Dick was pre-emptor James Dick or one of his several sons (John, Archibald, ?).



There's a modern history [here](#).



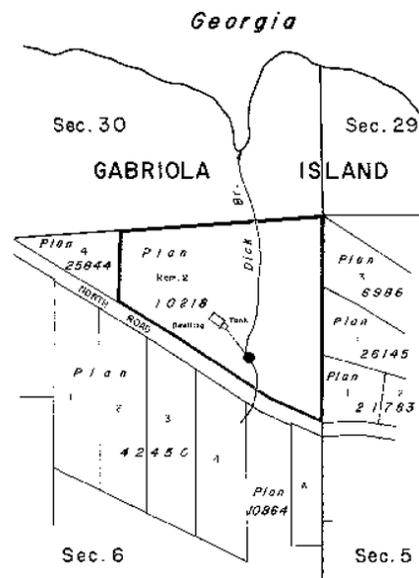
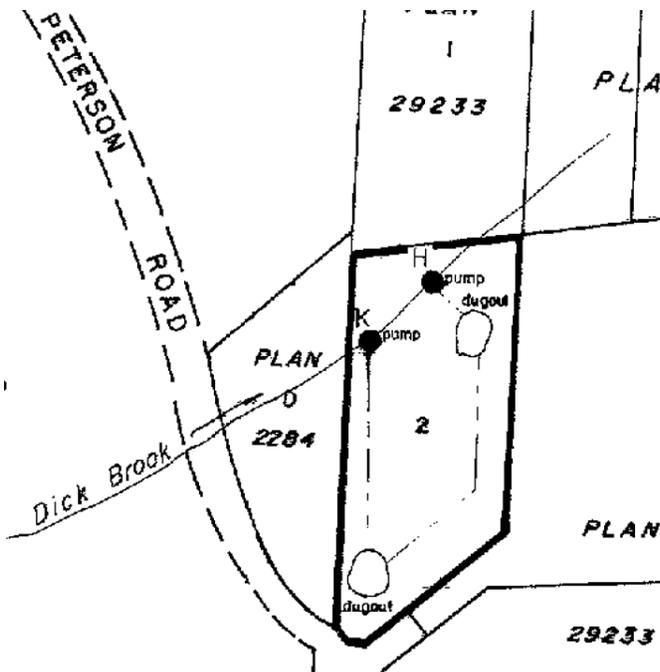
An 1874/5 survey map of NE Gabriola showing Dicks Swamp in Section VI and the “Outlet of Great Swamp” (Peterson Bay). The two landowners listed are James Dick and Archibald Dick.

MAP: 3.2

49°9.50'N, 123°42.76'W

Dick Brook, Atkinson Swamp (part of Dick Brook)

Possibly after Captain Atkinson, a colourful character who, for a few years, drove a taxi on the island. (Bell & Aitken).

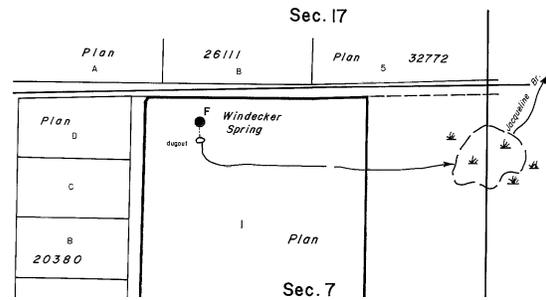
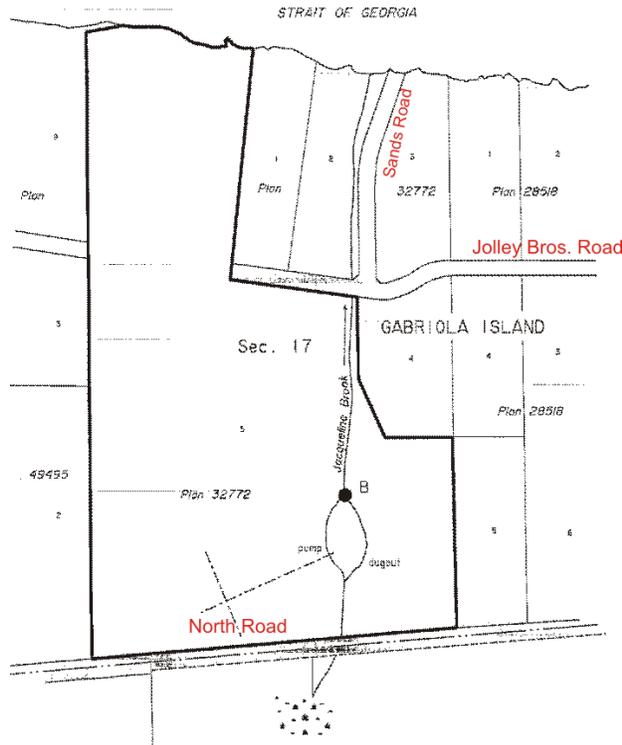


MAP: 3.3

49° 9.58'N, 123°44.58'W

Jacqueline Brook, Windecker Spring (tributary of Jacqueline Brook)

Jacqueline was Jacqueline Sears. The dugout on the south side of North Road, originally a marsh, is the headwater of Jacqueline Brook. See Map 3.15.

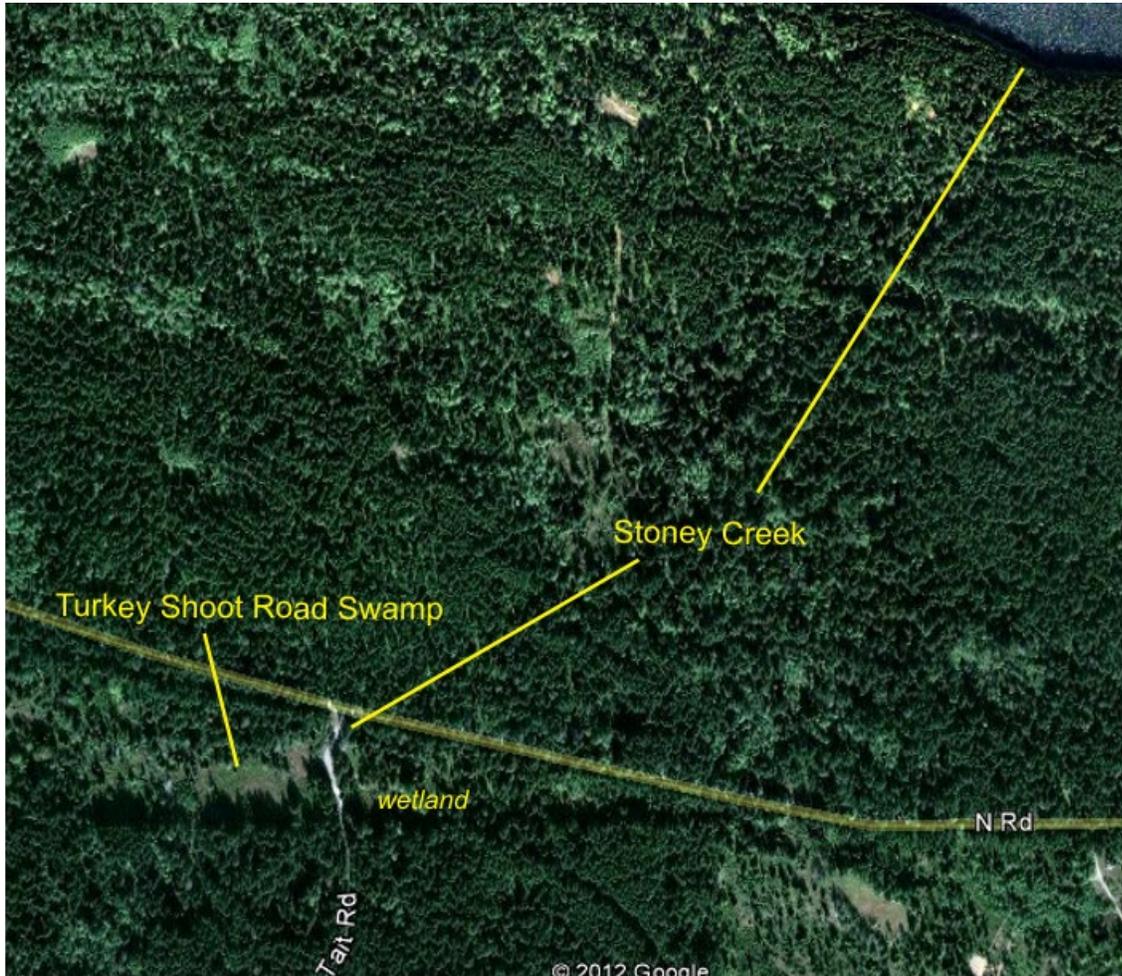


MAP: 3.4

49° 9.42'N, 123°46.34'W

Turkey Shoot Road Swamp, Stoney Creek

Turkey Shoot Road? Click [here](#).



MAP: 3.5

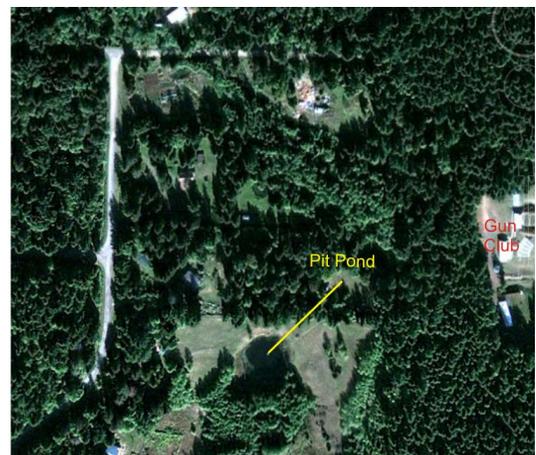
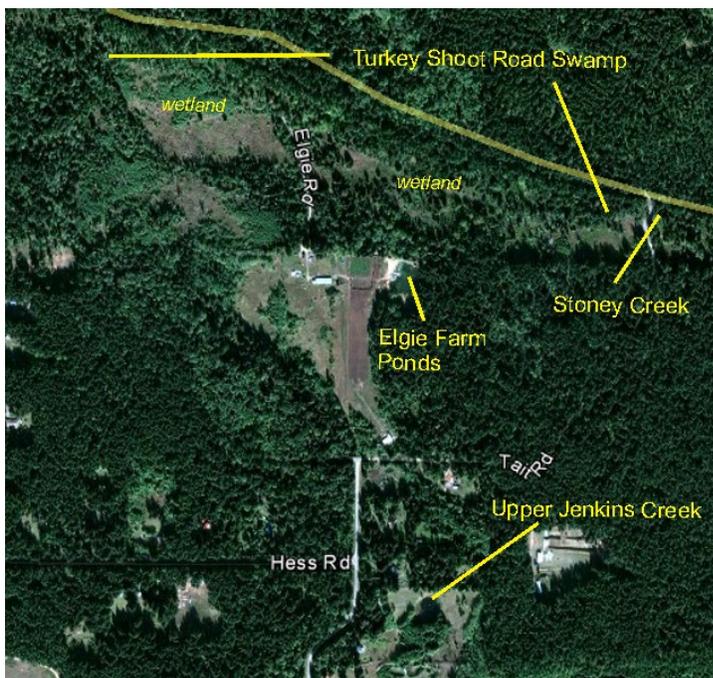
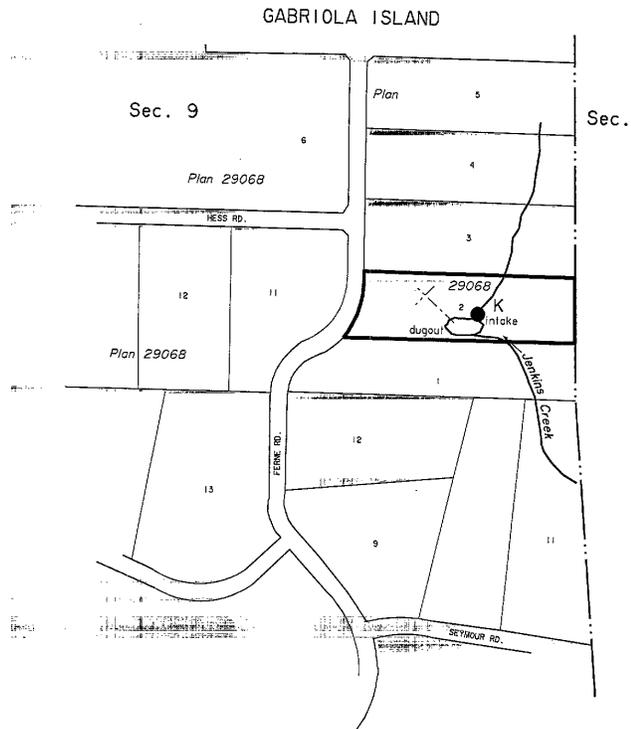
49° 8.98'N, 123°46.71'W

Upper Jenkins Creek, Turkey Shoot Road Swamp, Stoney Creek, Pit Pond, Elgie Farm Ponds

I call this Upper Jenkins Creek, in spite of its water licence name, because it probably flows into Turkey Shoot Road Swamp which is likely the source for both Stoney Creek at the east end and what is generally known as Jenkins Creek at the west end.

Before the Gabriola Rod & Gun Club, Turkey Shoot Road was known as “the pit road”. It was an old logging road that led to a sand and gravel pit, now abandoned and landscaped. Hence the name Pit Pond. It may have been known at one time as Chapel Spring.

Elgie Farm Ponds are dugouts (old sand pit) underlain with ice-age fossiliferous clay.



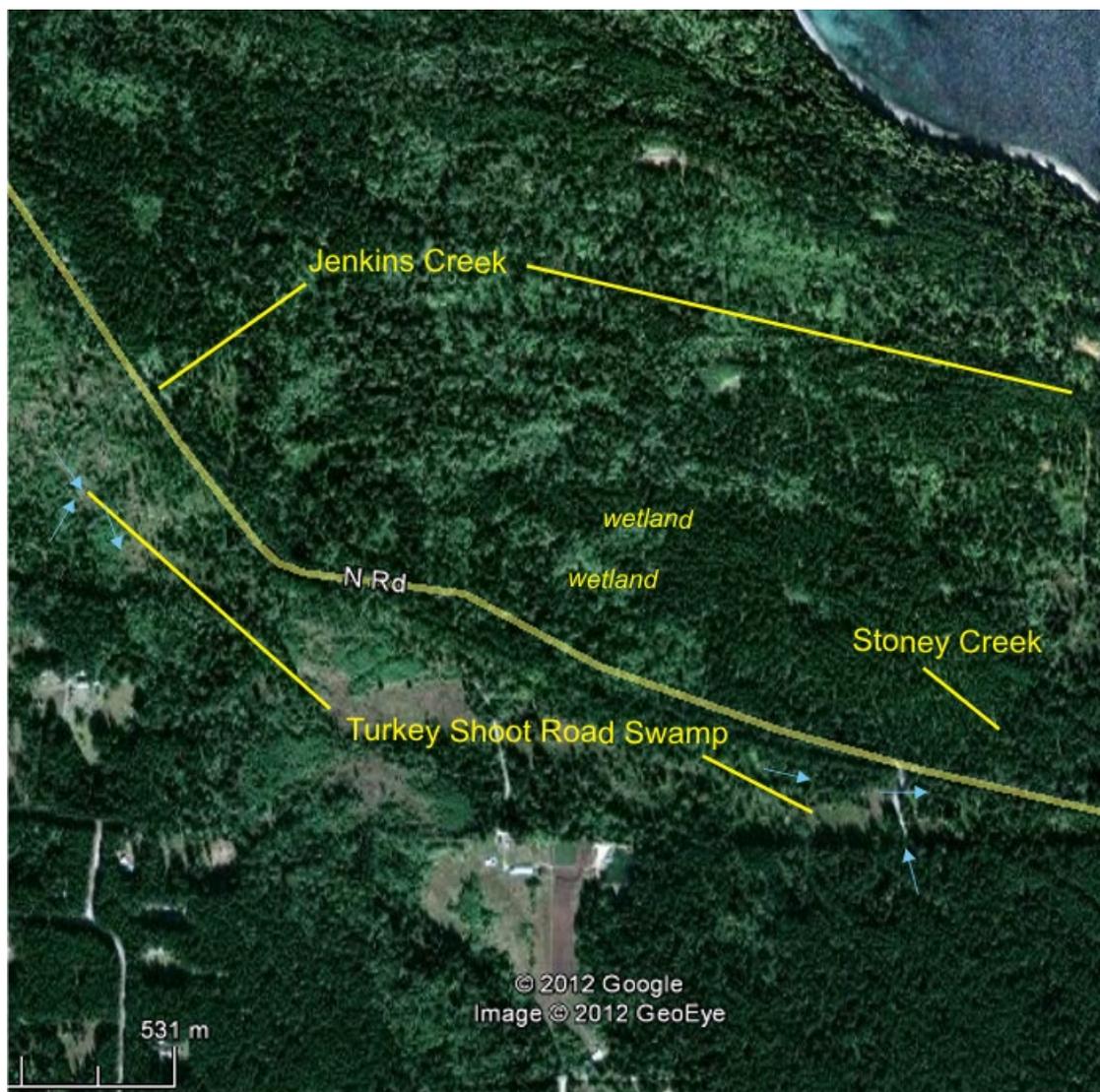
MAP: 3.6

49° 9.79'N, 123°47.40'W

Jenkins Creek, Stoney Creek, Turkey Shoot Road Swamp

Jenkins Creek has a drainage area of 3.7 km² and flows in a north-easterly direction into the Strait of Georgia (Welyk & Baldwin).

The flow is noticeably smaller than that of Stoney Creek, which is possibly because of recent changes to the drainage pattern by development of North Road.



MAP: 3.7

49°11.25'N, 123°49.43'W

Castell Brook, Lock Bay Beaver Pond, McLay Creek (tributary of Castell Brook), Sandwell Marsh

The common spelling of “McLay” is “McClay”, but this is an error. James McLay was a well-respected and successful farmer. Sandwell Marsh is a salt marsh, although it is sometimes known locally as a slough. The salt marsh was (and perhaps is) known as the “Lagoon”.

Mapped by MADRONE.



MAP: 3.8

49°11.11'N, 123°49.58'W

Castell Brook, McLay Creek (tributary of Castell Brook)

Mapped by MADRONE.

Source water for Castell Brook may be springs along the Gabriola/Spray Formation interface.

Mapped by MADRONE.

The Castell family applied for a water licence ca. 1970.



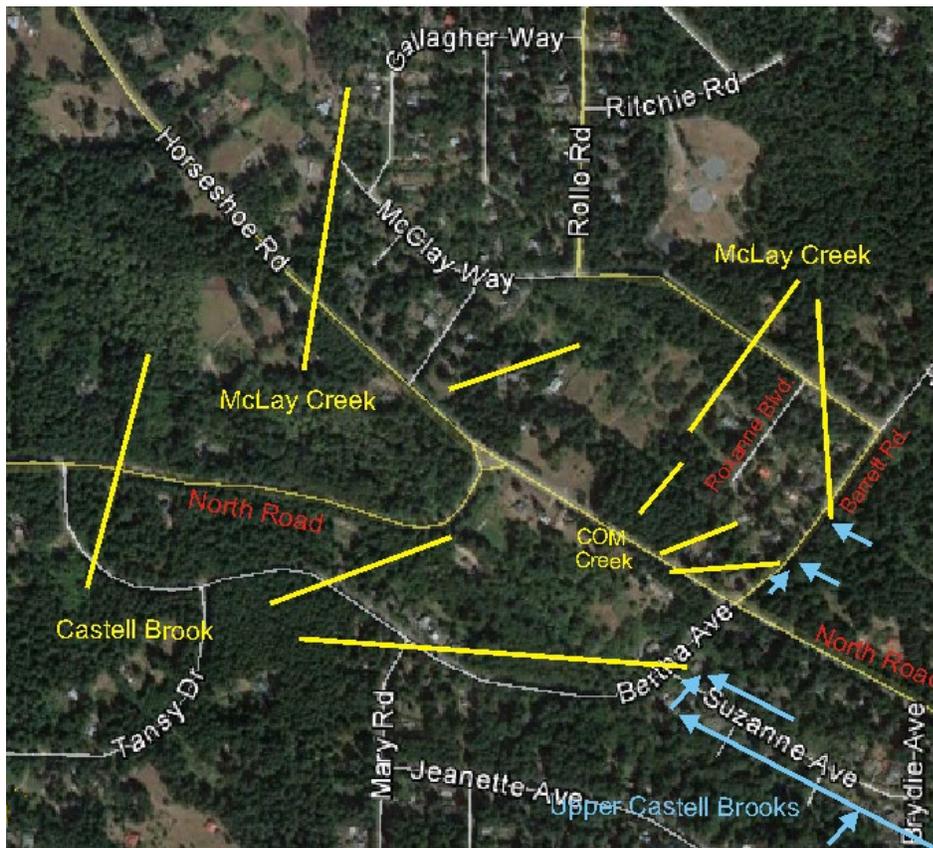
MAP: 3.9

49°10.43'N, 123°48.82'W

Castell Brook, McLay Creek (tributary of Castell Brook), Upper Castell Brooks, COM Creek

Castell mapped by MADRONE as far as Bertha Ave. There are several small tributaries east of there, one of which was mapped by MADRONE. McLay Creek mapped as far as Barrett Road.

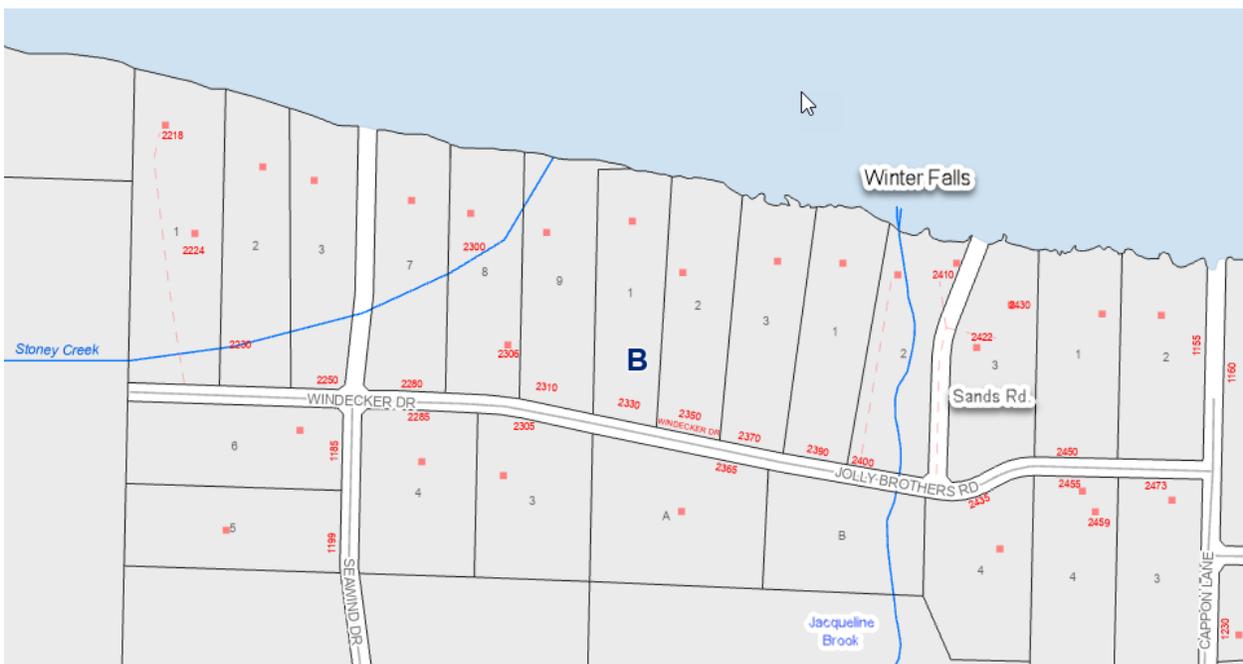
COM Creek is a short intermittent-borderline-ephemeral tributary of McLay Creek not mapped by MADRONE. Its upper reaches are ditched and culverted but it passes through a woodland swampy area before joining McLay Creek in a well-defined channel. COM was the *nom de plume* used by James McLay (1837–1918), a Justice of the Peace on Gabriola, for his several interesting contributions to the *Nanaimo Free Press* on Gabriola affairs.



MAP: 3.10

49° 9.88'N, 123°45.63'W

Jenkins Creek, Stoney Creek, waterfalls, Jacqueline Brook.

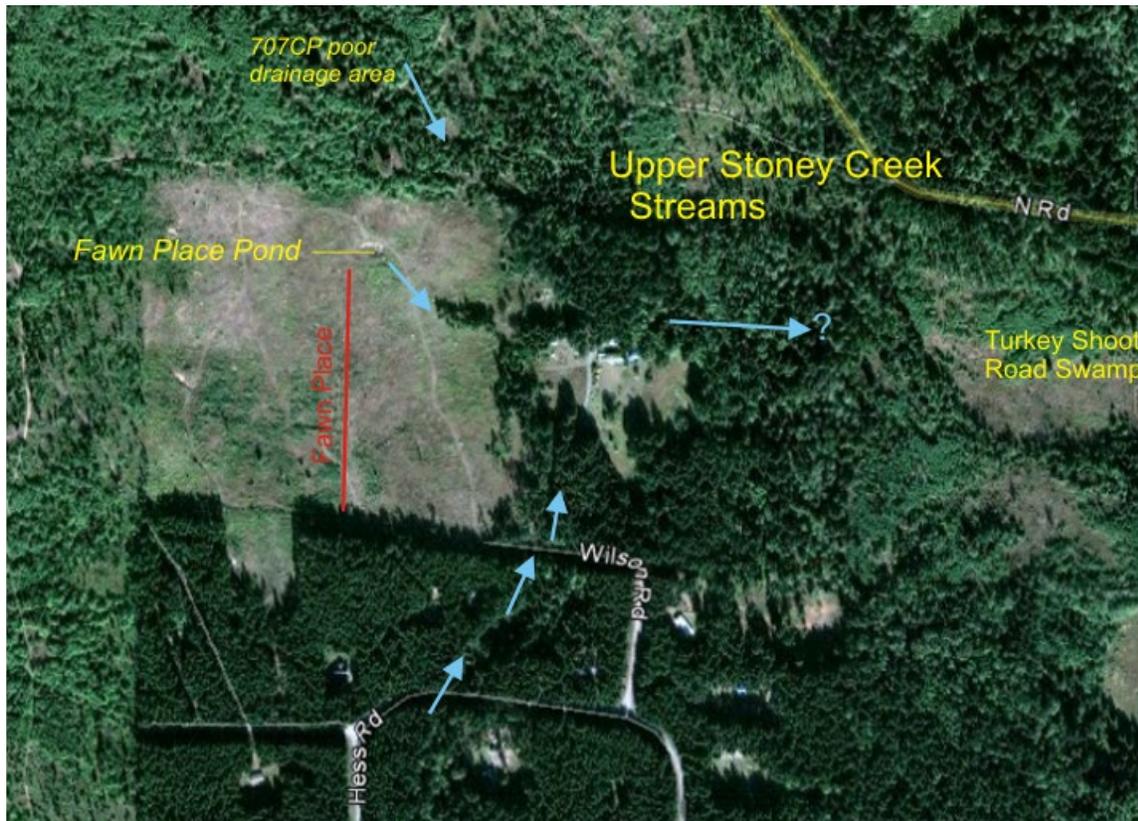


MAP: 3.11

49° 9.54'N, 123°47.53'W

Upper Stoney Creek Streams, Fawn Place Pond

Minor tributaries to the Turkey Shoot Road Swamp, Jenkins Creek, and Stoney Creek, many now drainage ditches.



MAP: 3.12

49° 11.06'N, 123°48.60'W

Emilie Creek

Drainage both sides of Fleet Street. Skunk cabbage habitat. The bridge across the creek on the trail between the end of Fleet Street and The Strand is known as Emilie's Bridge.



MAP: 3.13

49°10.28'N, 123°46.82'W

Jamiesons Streams?

At the east end of Whalebone. Seasonal, and so extensively ditched and culverted it is uncertain if these qualify as “creeks”.



MAP: 3.14

49°08.50'N, 123°45.87'W

Bonnie View Wetlands

Swampy area, overgrown with tall shrubs. Surface drainage (blue) towards Degnen Road N in several channels when leaving the trail gutters, an elevation drop of 50-60 m.

Bonnie View was a name used prior to completion of development of the neighbouring area. Bonnie was not a person.



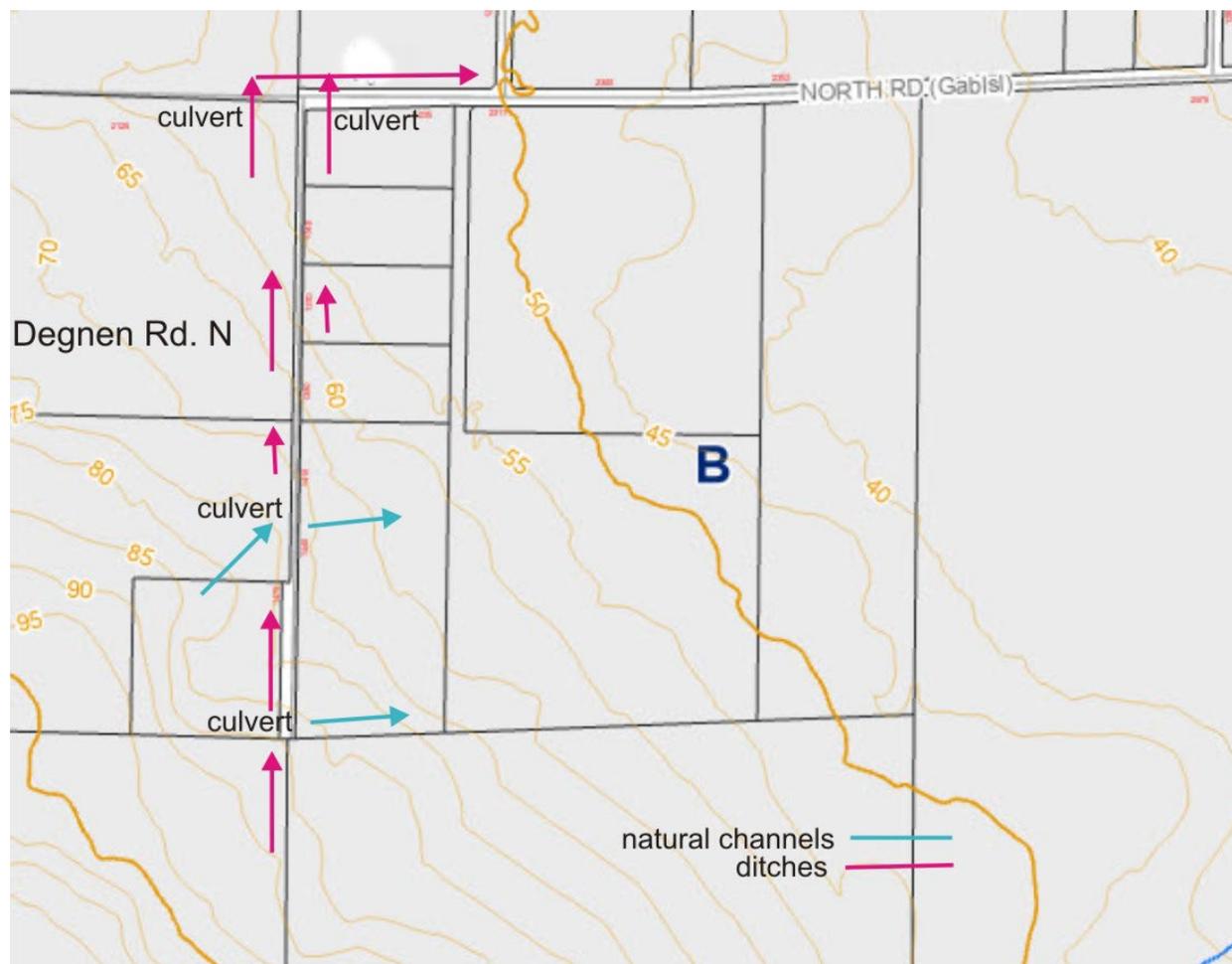
MAP: 3.15

49°09.13'N, 123°45.29'W

Degnen Road N. drainage, Jacqueline Brook headwater.

Drainage down Degnen Road North is guided north by deeply incised gutters with sandstone beds mostly on the west side, but there are two culverts under the road that allow water to flow away from the road east into forested land.

On crossing North Road in two culverts, the combined channelled water continues to flow east along the north side of North Road until shortly before the Jacqueline Brook culvert where it is culverted to the south side and flows into the headwater (dugout) of Jacqueline Brook (Map 3.3).



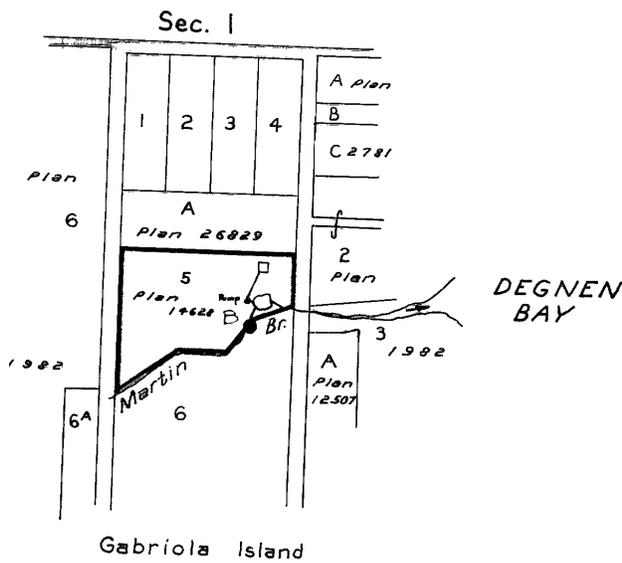
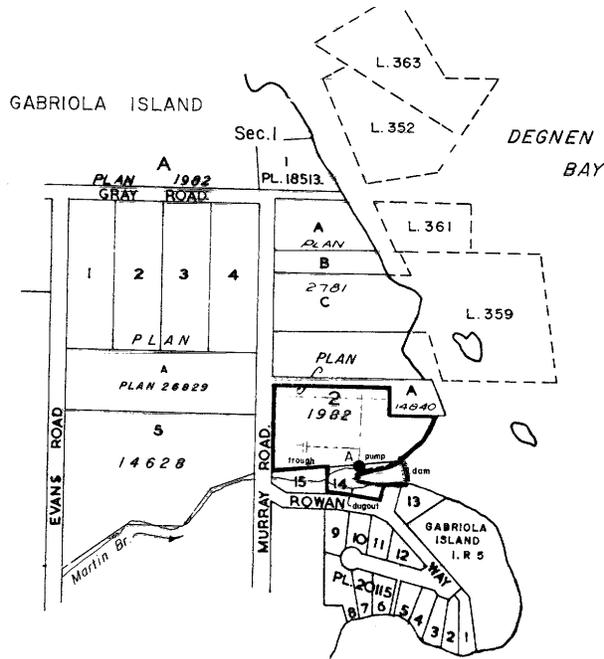
MAP: 4.1

49°7.88'N, 123°43.20'W

Martin Brook, Bernards Pond

Martin Brook is one of six creeks entering Degnen Bay.

Bernard [Wohlleben]'s Pond is the title of a song by the Kerplunks.



MAP: 4.2

49°8.10'N, 123°43.79'W

Grays West Wood Creek (tributary of Wagg Brook), Wagg Brook



MAP: 4.3

49°8.19'N, 123°43.26'W

Gray Farm Creek, Wagg Brook, Degnen Bay Road Creek

Gray Farm Creek is one of six creeks entering Degnen Bay. It may drain from the Dick Swamp area (Map 3.1) on the south side of Dorby Road.

The Gray family has lived here since the 1870s.

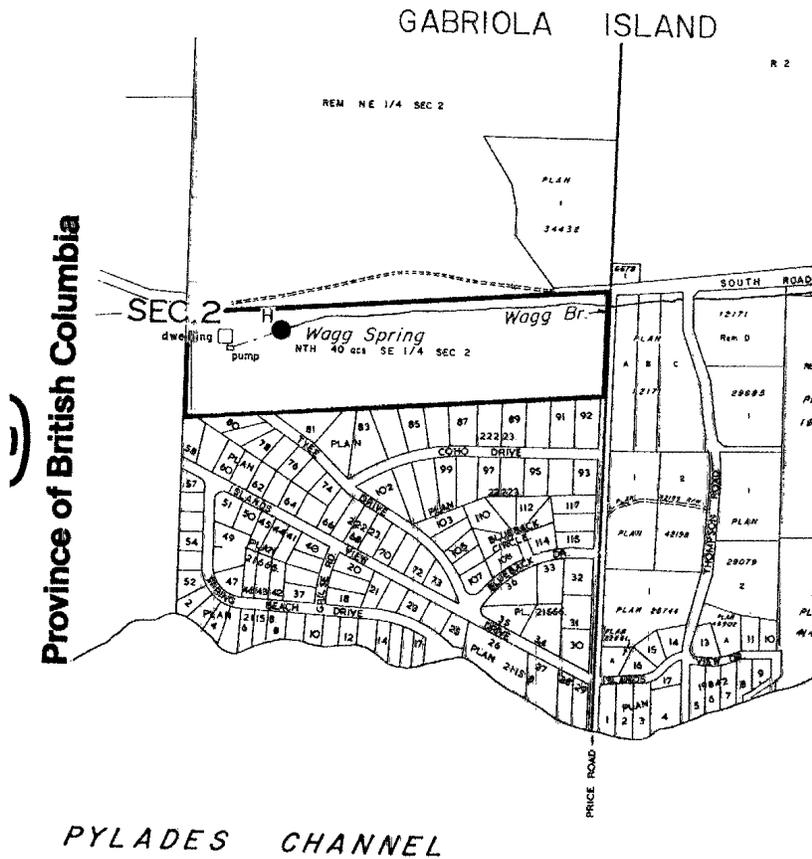


MAP: 4.4

49°8.05'N, 123°44.04'W

Wagg Spring, Wagg Brook, Gray Farm Creek

Wagg Brook is one of six creeks entering Degnen Bay.



MAP: 4.5

49°8.24'N, 123°43.13'W

Degnen Bay Road Creek

Degnen Bay Road Creek is one of six creeks entering Degnen Bay. Its upper course is uncertain, but it probably originates in wetland between Peterson and Perry Roads.



MAP: 4.6

49°8.35'N, 123°42.61'W

Belvedere Farm Creek, Gossip Corner Falls

Belvedere Farm Creek is one of six creeks entering Degnen Bay.



MAP: 4.7

49°9.16'N, 123°42.18'W

Shipyard Creek, Kitty Silvas Creek



MAP: 4.8

49°8.11'N, 123°42.65'W

Sir Williams Creek

Sir Williams Creek is one of six creeks entering Degnen Bay.



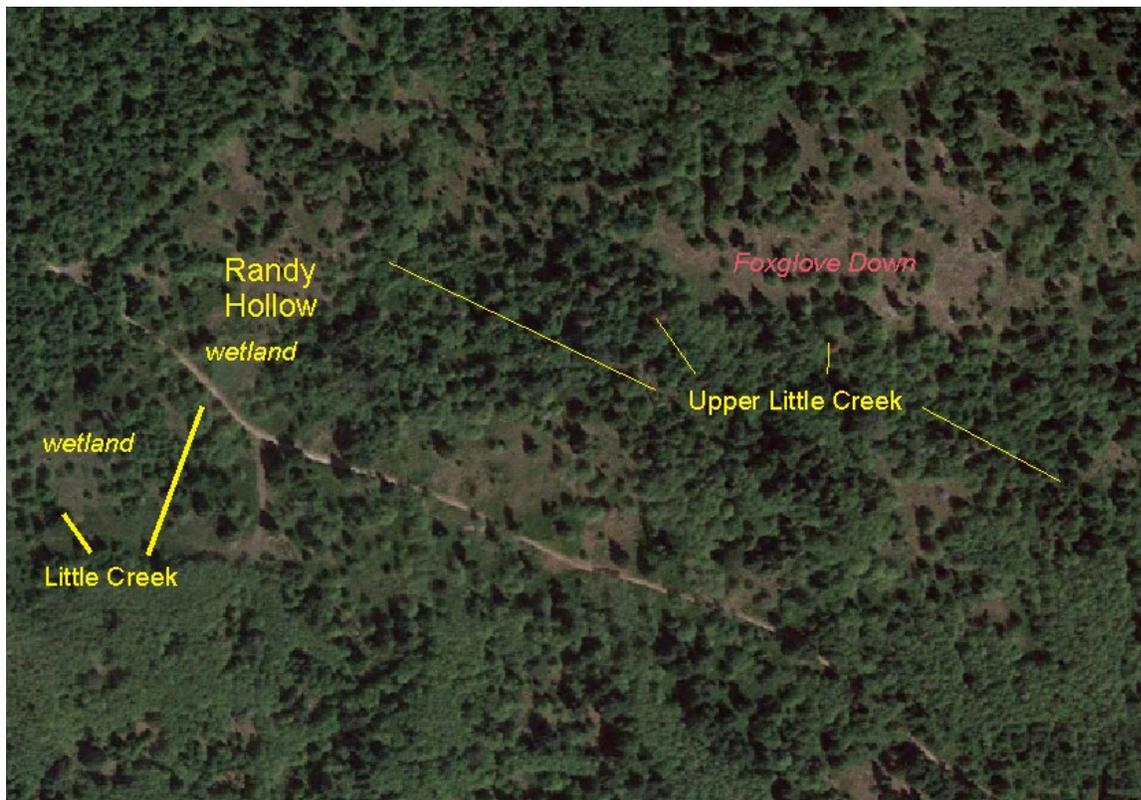
MAP: 5.1

49° 9.75'N, 123°48.51'W

Randy Hollow, Little Creek, Upper Little Creek

Upper Little Creek is defined by a narrow wooded valley (dell). Randy Hollow is a seasonal wetland which appears to be a closed basin but has Upper Little Creek as its inflow and Little Creek as its outlet, though both are poorly defined as they enter and leave the wetland. Duck habitat in winter and spring.

There is a culvert beneath the Mainline Trail at the head of Little Creek.



MAP: 5.2

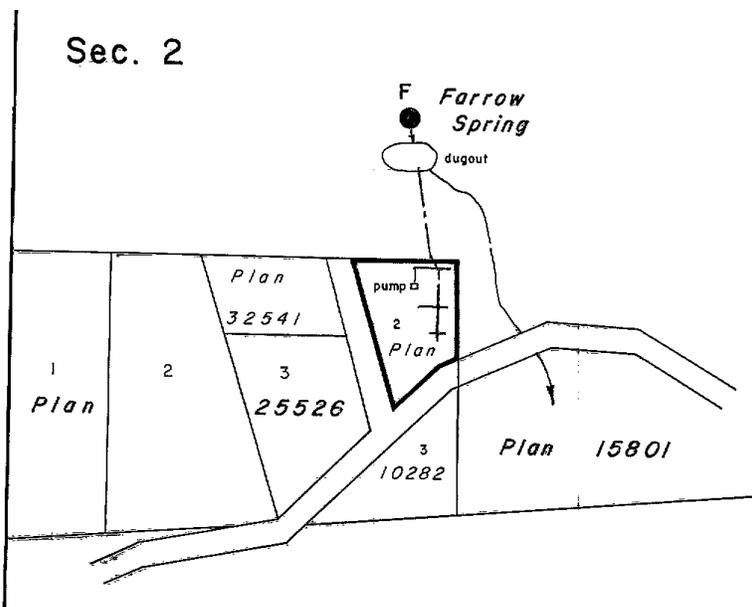
49° 8.20'N, 123°45.00'W

Evans Pond, Farrow Spring, Farrow Creek, Small Species Sanctuary (Triple-S) Wetland

Farrow Spring is now three closely connected water-filled holes dug to extract sand from the MOTI site off South Road. Lower reaches of creek from the spring is called ZZ Creek in a water-use licence. There are natural swamps (ponds) to the east of Evans Pond. Evan is Michael Evan Zane (Mike Evans) who dug out the large pond on his property. The area is underlain with

underlain with calcareous marine silt/clay.

Pools in the Small Species Sanctuary are a mix of hollowed-out concretions and hollows in the surface of undulating glaciated sandstone bedrock and pools in wooded wetland. The area dries out in summer, but the winter flow-through possibly continues sub-surface in the summer.



MAP: 5.3

49° 8.79'N, 123°47.32'W

McGuffies Swamp

McGuffies Swamp mapped by MADRONE and MABR (WR7-GI-05).

The McGuffies were early settlers and at one time, it is reported, this was a potato field. Radiocarbon dating of plant material retrieved from just above a bed of glacial clay indicate this wetland has existed continuously since *ca* 11,530 BC. It features in the book, *Bog Tender*, by local author [George Szanto](#).

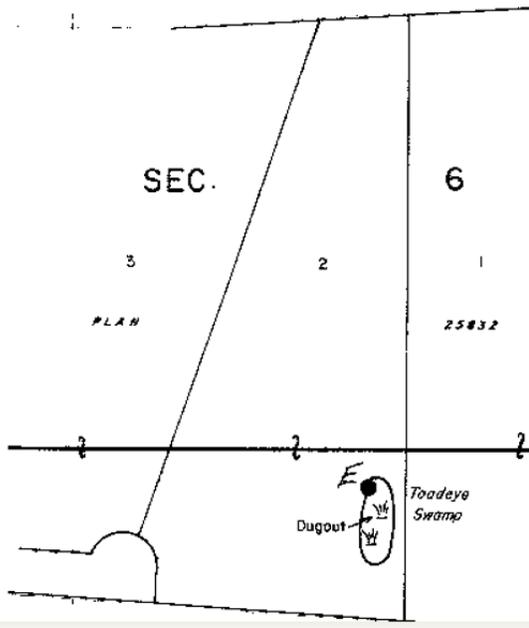


MAP: 5.4

49°8.89 'N, 123°42.72'W

Toadeye Swamp

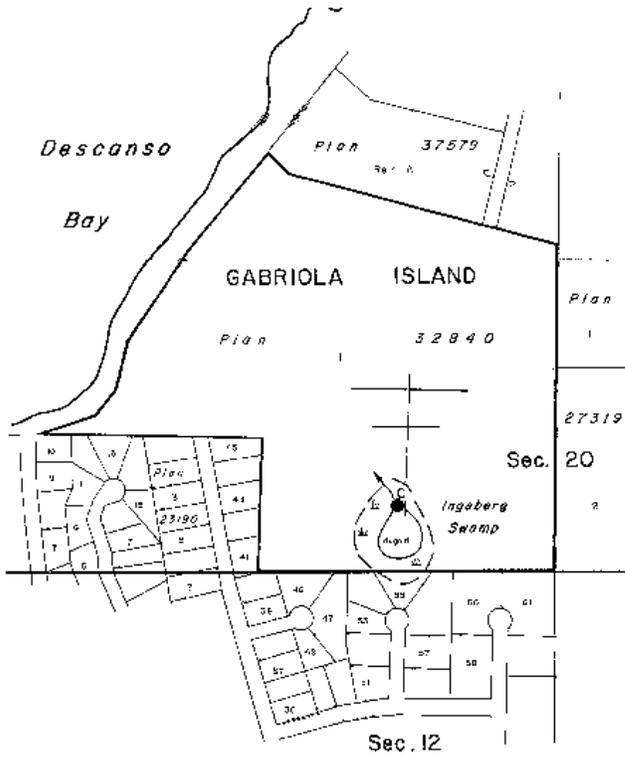
“Flows northeasterly into Silva Bay. Dry in summer.” (Bell & Aitken)



MAP: 5.5

49°10.23'N, 123°51.54'W

Ingeberg Swamp



MAP: 5.6

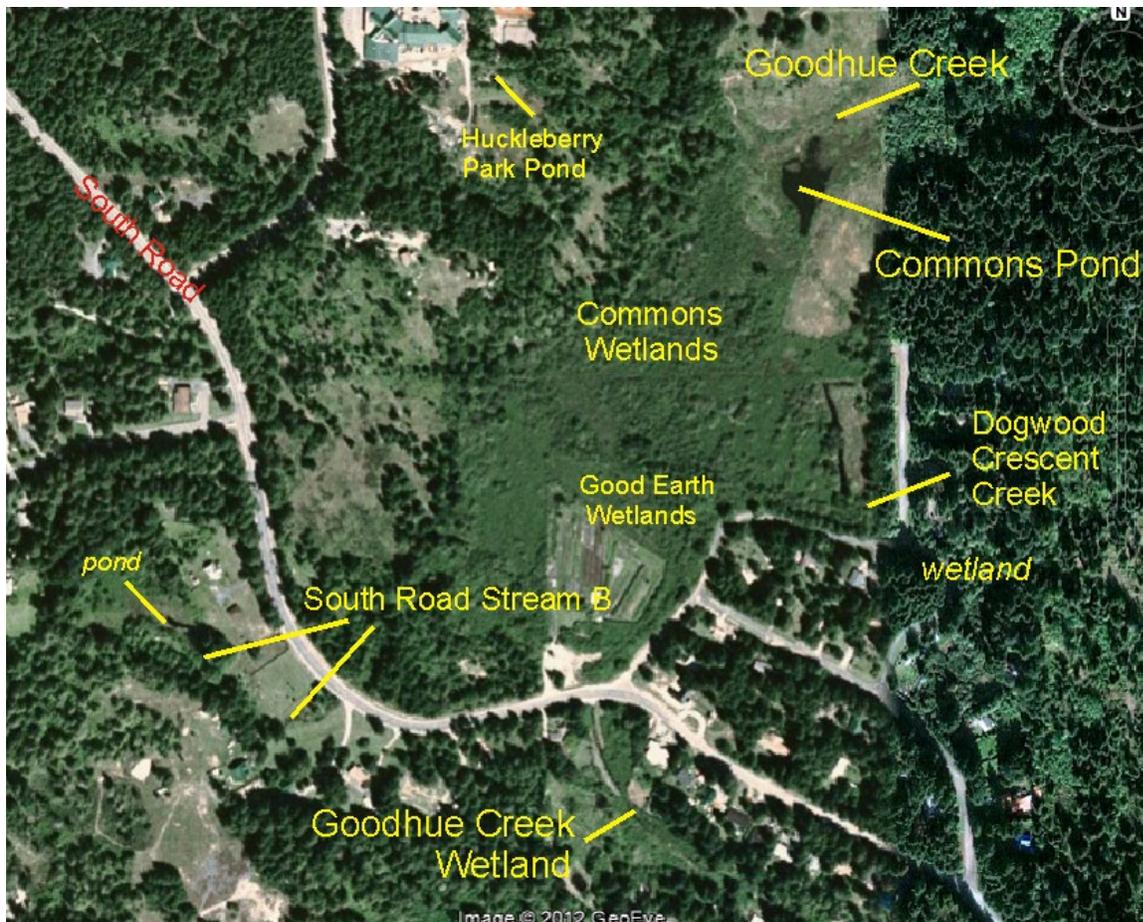
49°10.32'N, 123°50.43'W

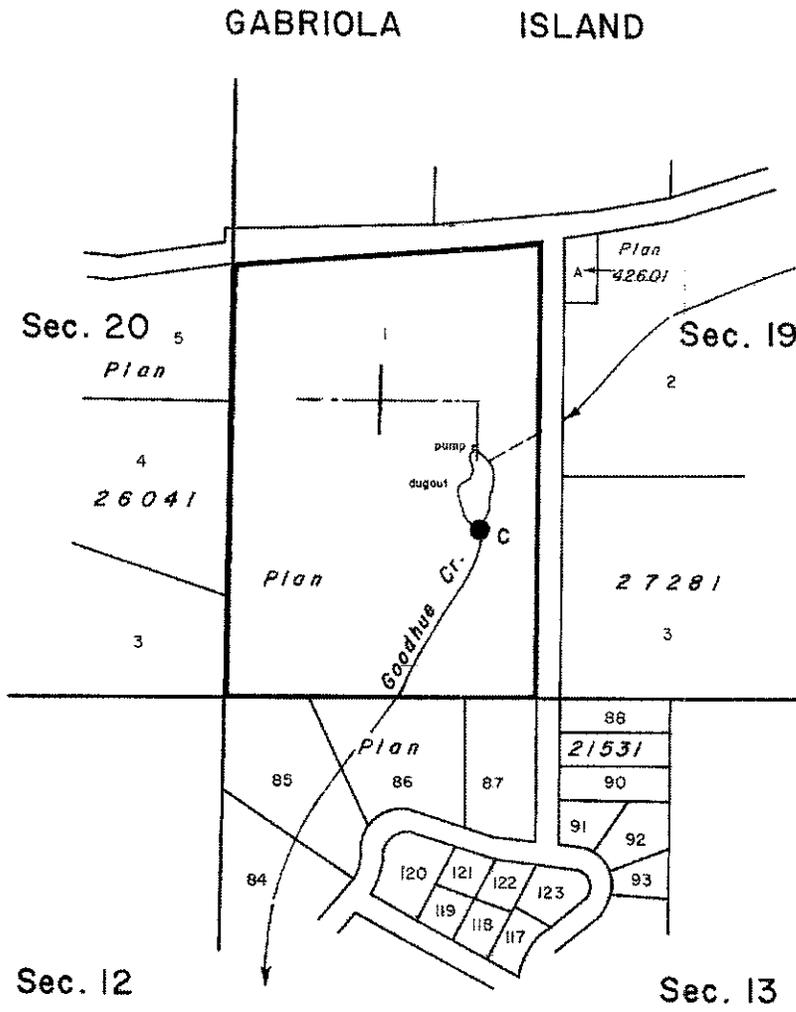
Commons Wetlands (including *wetland* on Good Earth property and associated minor wetlands north of South Road sometimes known as Good Earth Wetlands), Goodhue Creek, South Road Stream B, Dogwood Crescent Creek, Huckleberry Park Pond, Goodhue Creek Wetland

South Road Stream B, sourced from a pond, and Dogwood Crescent Creek mapped by MADRONE. Good Earth Wetlands (WR7-GI-01) and Goodhue Creek Wetland (WR7-GI-02) mapped by MABR.

Commons Pond is beaver habitat. Diatomaceous earth and peat in several areas.

Huckleberry Park was the original name for what is now Huxley Park. I think the older name is appropriate because the pond is not actually part of the adjacent park.





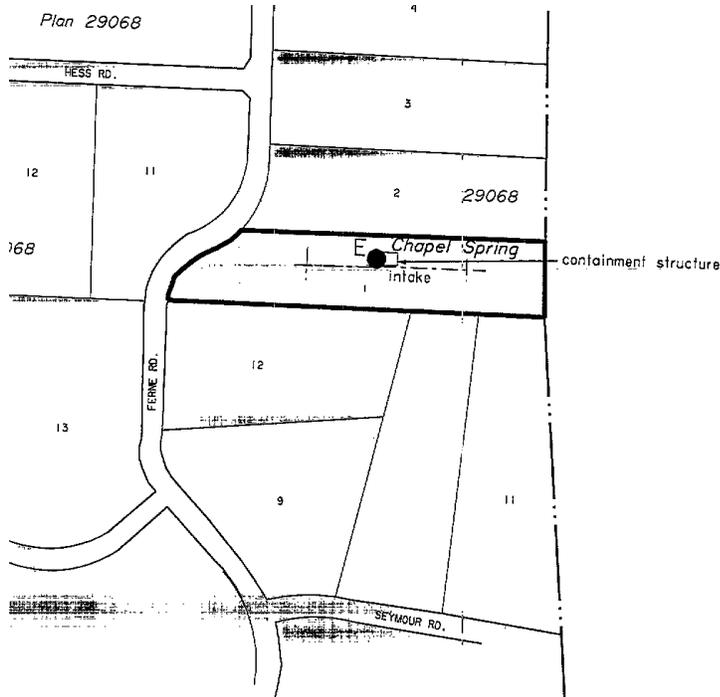
The present Commons Pond was dug out of old lake sediments in the late-1900s but [research](#) shows there has been a lake here for thousands of years.

MAP: 5.7

49°8.98'N, 123°46.71'W

Chapel Spring

“Chapple” was often spelled “Chappel” in old documents; yet this cannot be Chapple Spring (Map 2.8) as this one drains north into Turkey Shoot Road Swamp. This spring appears to be identical to the spring feeding Upper Jenkins Creek (Map 3.5), so I would prefer not to use the name “Chapel” at all unless there is further historical evidence of its use.



MAP: 5.8

49°7.90'N, 123°44.34'W

McDonalds Pond

A pond, improved by Gordon McDonald, containing glaciofluvial and glaciomarine deposits of sands and minor gravels.

