

# Gabriola placenames

The following is a partial list of place names, other than those of roads, creeks, wetlands, and coastal features. The names were at one time being collected for publication in *SHALE*.

Look here for [names of roads](#), including notes on subdivisions.

Look here for names associated with [parks and trails](#) and [here](#) for my personal notes on trails in the 707CP.

Look here for [names of coastal features](#) on Gabriola and nearby islands.

Look here for [names of creeks](#) and all kinds of wetlands on Gabriola.

Look here for [Snunéymux<sup>w</sup> placenames](#) on Gabriola.

Place names in the book by Aula Bell and Neil Aitken, *Gabriola Island Place Names*, published in 1996 are listed here, but without the detail contained in the book. Names not in this book are in **red**.

Some of the links marked [notes](#) are from a local contemporary historian/blogger (gabriolore) and are replacement links for his site that has been unavailable, but is now [archived](#) here. Opinions expressed in those notes are those of the original poster and author.

## 707 COMMUNITY PARK

—so named because when first proposed as a park its area was 707 acres. Between then and its becoming a park took some time during which the then-nameless future park was simply called the “707-acre park”. By the time it officially became a park, the area had deviated from the original 707 acres, but the 707 designation was in such common usage it was decided to retain that name, but drop the word “acre” so that it became a symbolic name rather than an indication of its actual size which is incorrect and may vary in the future.

—[map](#).

## ALPACA FARM

## B & K STORE

General store at Twin Beaches owned by Sheila Bradley (née Easthom) until she sold it in the 1990s.

## BEACON HILL

—old name from the 1930s. Back then it was a magnificent stand of old-growth hemlock. It is in the 707 Community Park.

## BELLS LANDING

—see Straits View Subdivision.

## BELVEDERE FARM

## BLUE HERON COMMUNITY PARK

One of the Whalebone Drive set.

## BLUEWHALE COMMUNITY PARK

One of the Whalebone Drive set.

## BRICKYARD

—[notes](#).

## BUDDHA CAVE

## BURREN’S ACRES NATURE RESERVE

—the old diatomaceous earth mine drying area.

[Notes](#).

## CENTENNIAL PARK

—see Gabriola Centennial Park

## CHATTERBOX CORNER

—Like Gossip Corner, a spot where people

would gather while waiting for their mail. It was at the foot of Norwich Hill at the junction with Berry Point Road.

### CROFTER'S GLEANN

—Coats family farm near Hoggan Lake.

DECOURCEY...

A common 'alternative' spelling of DeCourcy.

DEGNAN...

A common 'alternative' spelling of Degnen. Over the years there have been several of these. One old surveying map has "Digman".

DESCANSO BAY

—[notes](#).

DRUMBEG PARK

EGERIA ROCK

—[notes](#).

ELDER CEDAR

—[notes](#).

FERRY LANDING

FIDDLEHEAD FARM

FOLKLIFE VILLAGE

—[notes](#).

FREEDOM FARM

GABRIOLA CENTENNIAL PARK

Land off Degnen Road that was once leased to the Rate Payers Association by the Province, but was returned to the Province when the organization was unable to maintain the payments and vandalism of the bandstand became endemic. It is no longer a park. See map *right* and [map](#).

GABRIOLA ISLAND

—[notes](#).

GABRIOLA SANDS PARK

GALIANO GALLERY

—see also Malaspina Galleries

GOOD EARTH FARM

GOSSIP CORNER

—[notes](#).

### GOVERNMENT LANDS

Officialdom's name for the former Kensington Lands owned by the federal and provincial governments.

—[map](#).

GRANDE HOTEL

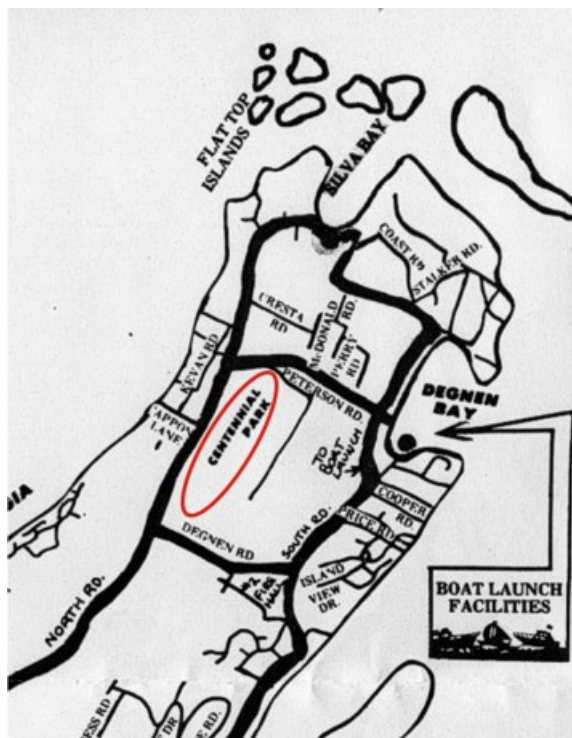
—[notes](#).

### HALVERSON'S STORE

In Silva Bay where the Silva Bay Inn is now. It was owned at one time by Henry Halverson (a Norwegian name) and his wife Jaunite (Anita).

### HAVEN WOODS

Area accessed from the end of King Road.



Named by the owner after the not-for-profit charitable organization called "The Haven" where attendance at one of their workshops was the occasion of the first of her many visits to Gabriola.

### HIGH POINT MEADOWS

The high ground south of where Chernoff Drive, Coats Drive, and Hess Road meet, bounded by the bluff overlooking Lockwood Drive. One of the properties there is High Point Farms.

**HIPPY HOLLOW**—[notes](#).**HUCKLEBERRY PARK**—[notes](#).**HUMMINGBIRD COMMUNITY PARK**

One of the Whalebone Drive set.

**HUXLEY PARK**

Formerly (and still) known as Huckleberry Park.

—[notes](#).**JIMMY'S RIDGE**

—high point in the 707-park linking with Stoney Ridge. Jimmy was James C. Rowan.

**JOINT POINT**—[notes](#).**JOYCE LOCKWOOD COMMUNITY PARK**

One of the Whalebone Drive set.

**KENSINGTON LANDS**

These are part of the former holdings of Weldwood, an international forest company that owned almost 3000 acres on Gabriola Island from the 1960s to the mid-1990s. Following the failure of Weldwood to negotiate a deal with the Gabriola governance and community as to the future of their land in the 1990s, the forest company sold the land to Kensington Capital. Kensington then promptly sold off 2000 acres to a Gabriola logger, Mike Jenks, while retaining the 800 acres for future development. This retained land was ultimately sold to the Federal and Provincial governments to be set aside for treaty negotiation with First Nations. Another portion was purchased by developers. The lands still owned by governments are known as the Kensington or Treaty Lands, the status of which remains in limbo. A portion of the land logged by Mike Jenks now forms a substantial part of the 707 Community Park on Gabriola. The land is known officially as the “Government Lands”.

**MALASPINA GALLERIES**—[notes](#).**MAPLES DOCK**—[notes](#).**MEETING TREE**

Known as such by Danna Lewis (Tim Brown's daughter) when she was growing up. Junction of Degnen Road and the trail to Dorby Way on the Government Lands (Big tree junction).

—[map](#).**MOON ROCK****NORTH END POST OFFICE****ORELEBAR POINT**—[notes](#).**PALMER'S COTTAGE**

Built circa 1912 by W.E. Palmer, a Welshman, on Cooper Road in the style of the country he grew up in. He is not listed in the 1901 or 1921 Census of Gabriola, but he does appear on the Gabriola Memorial Plaque as having served in WW1. Constructed of local stone, originally a small residence and dairy barn. It was restored and being used as a barn by the Strasdines in 1983. Vandalized in 2018.

**PHASE IV.**

see Wildwood Estates.

**POST OFFICE****QUEEQUEG COMMUNITY PARK**

One of the Whalebone Drive set.

**RETIREMENT VILLAGE**—[notes](#).**ROCKY HILL FARM****ROCKWOOD**—[notes](#).

**SILVA BAY**—[notes](#).**SOMERSET FARM****STICKY DICK'S CORNER**

On North Road at the junction with Horseshoe Road.

**STONEY RIDGE**

An old name no longer in general usage. It referred to the high ground above the False Narrows Bluffs running east and southeast down towards Thompson Point. I don't know if the ridge is so named because it lacks soil that could be used for farming, or, less likely, if it is a reference to the quartzite-rich conglomerate of the Geoffrey Formation.

**STRAITS VIEW SUBDIVISION**

—created in the 1960s by William Bell who came to the island in 1947 (Bells Landing). The Strand, Fleet Street, and Bond Street.

**STUMP FARM****S'UL-HWEEN X'PEY**

—also known as ELDER CEDAR Nature Reserve [note](#).

**T & T TEXACO**—[notes](#).**THREE GATES FARM****TWIN BEACHES**

—Gabriola Sands Park. The Snunéymux<sup>w</sup> name was *x<sup>w</sup>cumi:lucun* meaning 'close together'.

**WATERCLIFF FARM**

On Watercliff Road. Dedicated to producing food in a sustainable and self-sufficient manner.

**WELDWOOD LANDS**

The former holdings of Weldwood, an international forest company that owned almost 3000 acres on Gabriola Island from the 1960s to the mid-1990s. Most was sold to Kensington Capital.

Weldwood had bought the land from the Western Fuel Corporation of California who had in turn acquired it in 1902 from the New Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company, a successor to the old Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company of Nanaimo. The parcel of then-unclaimed land was assembled back in the days when speculation that there was coal in the Gulf Islands was rife.

—see [page 4 for a map](#).**WILDWOOD ESTATES**

PHASE I: Includes Crestwood Road, Dogwood Crescent, Pinewood Road, Redwood Road, and Wildwood Crescent. Formerly owned by Bill Coats and Vi Chernoff.

PHASE II: Part of the old McLay property. Street names named after old-timers. Formerly owned by Tim and Ernie Brown. Includes Browns Way, Carr Boulevard, Gallagher Way, Little Boulevard, McClay Way, **Ritchie Road**, and Rollo Road.

PHASE III: Also part of the old McLay property. Street names, all womens', named by Syd Harrison after family and friends include Bertha Avenue, Jeanette Avenue, Mary Road, and Ricki Avenue.

**PHASE IV**—[notes](#).

PHASE V: Next to Phase III. Street names, all womens', named by Syd Harrison after family and friends including Brydie Avenue, Christine Close, Suzanne Avenue, and Wendy Close.

PHASE VI: Street names by Syd Harrison after owners and people connected with the subdivision. Includes Barry Road, Berg Road, Calder View Place, Carmen Crescent, Conville Road, Dempsey Road, Dirksen Road, Dunshire Drive, Duthie Avenue, Fell Road, Foster Close, Harrison Way, Hill Road, Kirby Road, Lewis Close, McGillvary Avenue, Penty Avenue, Pat Burns Avenue,

Sansom Road, Sharie Road, Stephens Road,  
and Sveinson Drive.

PHASE VII: Proposed but never built. In  
the Ferne Road/South Road area, but there  
was fierce opposition to the development.

**YERBA BUENA FARM**

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