

Smales/Whittaker Creeks Report to Date February 09, 2026

To date we have been able to access the hydrological report written by B. Carson following the catastrophic washout on Lower Rd in 2020. Brian then followed up with a tour led by Carson where they walked up Whittaker Cr from the mouth to downstream of the washout. Carson further supplied a local report ([A Short History of Cassidy's Landing, Whitaker Beach and Adjacent Lands](#), B. Stewart, 2009) that detailed the development of District Lot 2497 on the beach beginning approximately one hundred years previously. Brian and I subsequently visited the Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives, where we were provided with copies of the exhibits including maps.

[The Gibsons Landing Story](#) (L. R. Peterson, 1962), [The West Howe Sound Story, 1886-1976](#) (F. J. Van Den Wyngaert, 1980) and [Bright Seas, Pioneer Spirits](#) (B. Keller & R. Leslie, 1996) have helped to fill in the history of the area upstream of Whittaker Beach and in the neighbouring Cornwallis and Smales watersheds. A 2003 (with 1999 photos) copy of the [SC Habitat Atlas](#) has provided us with a somewhat small-scale map of the area and its roads at that time. I have now acquired a hard copy of the [Roberts Creek 1994 OCP](#), together with the [Mt. Elphinstone South Watershed Assessment: Phase 1 & 2 prepared for BCTS, Chinook Business Area](#), (Polar Geoscience Ltd., 2023) *we are starting to assemble a cartographic timeline of the area.*

The naming and location of creeks, tributaries and ditches remain confusing and vary across the records.

Using both Google and the SCRD maps, Brian has ground-truthed some of the locations of tributaries and ditches crossing the roads throughout the area; photos are pinned to a digital map. Last week, in the middle of some wet, seasonally warm days we went to gather more photos.

Brian later observed that the small berm located at Sunday Cidery and the highway built to ensure that water flowing out of Smales Creek would not turn west to flow into Whittaker Cr had been deliberately removed. Brian immediately notified the Ministry of Transportation & Transit (MoTT) Local Area Manager.

One of the stumbles in collecting information in the Fall came from the government strike. MoTT for example was contacted, but nothing was heard back and it took a while before it was recognized that management would not be dealing with our small request. For this reason we did not contact the Ministry of Forests or the Government Agent during that time. Further, once the strike was over, I heard from other government staff and management that everyone was very busy dealing with backlogged projects and issues. When recently successfully contacted, the MoTT Local Area Manager did not know of any historical files on the area, and could not speak to the original purpose of the berm, but promised to do some searching and to forward any results.

If anyone attending the meeting on Wednesday has any history (including photos) of what the land looked like between Highland Rd and Mansfield Rd from Lower Rd up to the crown forest lands please contact us. We would particularly like to hear from anyone that remembers ditches being built to drain properties or water in creeks being re-directed for what-ever purpose and from anyone that remembers a washout on Lower Rd circa 1985 at the Whittaker Creek location.

-Angela

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