

Sites of villages fill gaps in native lore

The territory of the Musqueam was almost unimaginably rich in wildlife, interlaced with salmon streams and thick with waterfowl, dotted with the villages and towns of fishermen, sealers, hunters, priests and artists.

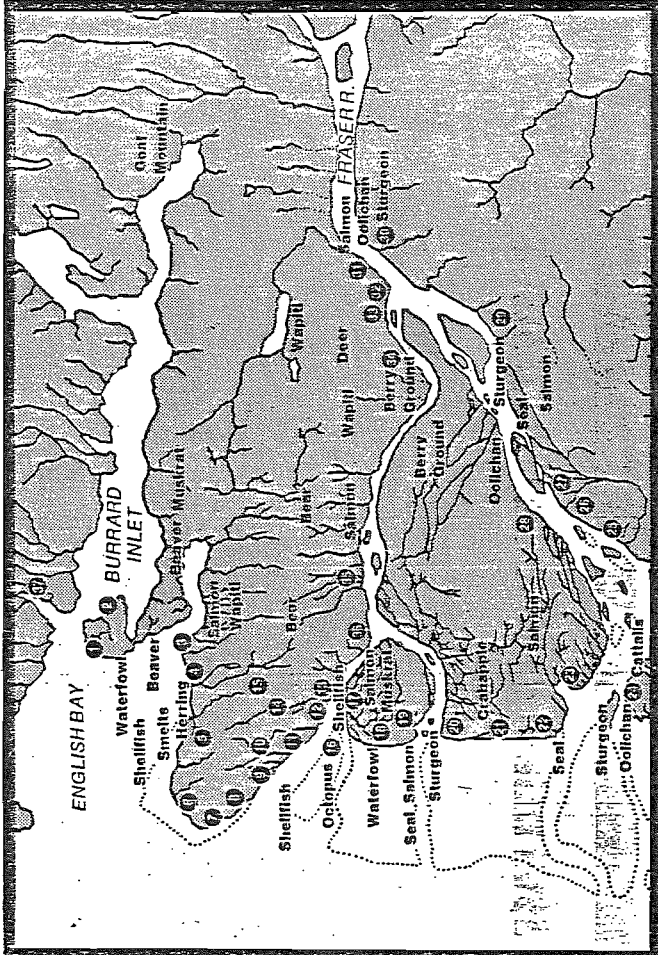
What is known about the Vancouver area prior to non-native settlement can be gleaned in bits and pieces from the accounts of Capt. James Cook, Capt. George Vancouver, early fur traders, British engineers and Spanish explorers such as Cayetano Valdes and Dionisio Alcalá Galiano.

Images of what life must have been like can be summoned from the memories of Musqueam elders, the stories they tell, and the broken shards of stories they remember being told when they were children.

In the accompanying map, place names of Musqueam sites are rendered in symbols used in an international linguistic code that uses numerals to identify certain sounds.

1. S7a'lik. Once a shellfish camp and temporary fishing village, known today as Swish hook.
2. X'ay'x'li. At Lumberman's Arch, this old winter village site is associated with the origins of the X'ay'x'li mask, a ceremonial mask unique to the Salish people, among whom are the Musqueam.
3. S'up'at. An old village site at what is now 47th Point.
4. Z'ud'it'iq. A seasonal camp used during the summer months near the village.
5. Uyu'nuux. A year-round village.
6. Z'nu'it'um. "Sandy beach" was a temporary camp used during shellfish harvest.

7. De'wum'. An adjacent seasonal camp.
8. Z'ud'it'iq. Another seasonal camp. The site of a canoe run, where stones were removed from the beach and arranged in a line-shape to facilitate the beaching of cedar long-boats. The area is threatened by oil exploration.
9. Q'u'luXun. At Wreck Beach, this was the site of a fortified longhouse and nearby was a smaller fortified house.
10. Hum'lusum'. Site of a shell midden, this was once a permanent village, adjacent to the rich waterfowl hunting and sturgeon fishing area.
11. S'q'nik'w'ec'u. The meaning of this place name is "octopus hole," describing part of the territory of the Musqueam fisherman. It was a seasonal camp.
12. Mail. An old Musqueam village site, within the boundaries of what is now the Musqueam reserve.
13. X'muz'um'. Cultural hearthland of today's Musqueam. This general area has been inhabited for at least 3,000 years.
14. X'oc'el'ek. A seasonal camp near Cannon and Spruce streets, also associated with Bear hunting.
15. Muq'e-m. A seasonal camp — the place name meaning in the Musqueam dialect of Halkomelem is simply "bog."
16. X'iy'e'ut. On Iona Island, this fishing camp is regarded as relatively recent among Musqueam sites, perhaps little more than three centuries old.
17. S'q'ez'um. On Seal Island, this permanent village, once destroyed, was once a thriving fishing community.
18. X'yut'um'at'um. A seasonal hunting camp adjacent to a bountiful waterfowl area along the foreshore.
19. Wuy'q'uzun. A classic seasonal village, the site was a bustle of activity during salmon and sturgeon fishing season. Based on finds such as hand mauls, archeologists believe much of the village was destroyed by diking and runway construction.
20. Spul'it'ups. Another busy seasonal fishing village across the mouth of what is now called the Fraser's middle arm from Wuy'q'uzun, this site is now known as Terra Nova.
21. Unx'le'm. A small campsite on the foreshore of Sturgeon Bank, associated with monetary customs; tree burials have been found here.
22. U'yu'nuux. A seasonal fishing village at the mouth of the Fraser.
23. G'ye'yu'm. "Sandy beach" was a temporary camp used during shellfish harvest.



INDIAN COMMUNITIES and natural resources of the early Lower Mainland

settlers arrived in the Vancouver area. It now lies under two hectares of dredged sand.

23. Q'ye'yu'm. A seasonal village just east of what is now downtown Siverston, fishermen and hunters lived here for part of the year to fish octolchan and salmon and to hunt seals at waterfowl.

24. U'yu'nuux. Located on Westham Island in Delta, this was an old fishing village. Nearby was a tree burial site. Nothing remains of U'yu'nuux.

25. X'7'ic'um. The precise location of this ancient fishing site is no longer known. It was near the old Brunswick Cannery site, where Musqueam cannery workers were housed in this century, and adjacent to Canoe Pass, a special longhouse-style cannery homes early in this century, and a major fishing area for Musqueam.

26. U'yu'nuux. A fishing camp that exists only in memory. This site, just upriver from Mitchell Island on the Vancouver side of the river, exists only in memory. It is believed to have been a seasonal village.

27. P'it'raun'e'w'mux. East of the bridge that crosses Deas Slough south of the George Fraser Midden because of the wealth of artifacts — and scientific data — gleaned from it since the turn of the century, it has been believed for almost 50 years to be located on Squamish ground, this village site, lost to the Musqueam identity over the years as the Squamish established themselves along the north shore of Burrard Inlet.

ada. Archeologists have determined that fishermen lived in a settlement here 8,000 years ago. This bluff overlooking Anacsis is also the site of the Glenrosa Cannery. It was an important archaeological project and was inhabited by the Musqueam people. The Musqueam people, Tikot action, railway construction, cannery operations and, most recently, the construction of the Alex Fraser bridge have devastated this area.

30. Olquet. At what was Brownsville on the riverbank, on the Surrey side of the Pallou Bridge, not far from a Kwamian village site. This village site was later designated a reserve by the reserve commissioners in the 1880s and became the reserve site. In the present Musqueam reserve in Vancouver still bears the designation Musqueam (R. 2).

31. Ye'lu'ku. Also home to the Kwamian people, this year-round Musqueam village near the mouth of the Brunette River in New Westminster was obliterated with the construction of the Alouette sawmill.

32. S'q'eyun'it'. A temporary fishing camp on what is now the D.C. Pen grounds.

33. S'q'eyun'it'. A temporary fishing camp on Poplar Island. Nothing remains, but this immediate area was long associated with the Musqueam and other native communities who came to trade with non-natives at New Westminster.

Poplar Island was itself once designated an Indian reserve, and early records report that during the late 1800s. An unknown number of smallpox victims are believed to have died in the heavily-wooded and inaccessible.

34. Ye'lu'ku. Believed to have been a seasonal village, near what were once rich berry grounds along the North Arm in the vicinity of the Burnaby flats. The village site lies somewhere in the vicinity of the Burnaby-New Westminster border and in 1981 the Heritage Conservation Branch listed the area as Snowbird.

35. Cuw'at'um'. This site, just upriver from Mitchell Island on the Vancouver side of the river, exists only in memory. It is believed to have been a seasonal village.

36. Cuw'at'um'. This village site was located on what archeologists were to name the Great Fraser Midden because of the wealth of artifacts — and scientific data — gleaned from it since the turn of the century, it has been believed for almost 50 years to be located on Squamish ground, this village site, lost to the Musqueam identity over the years as the Squamish established themselves along the north shore of Burrard Inlet.