

name

Xutl'nutstun

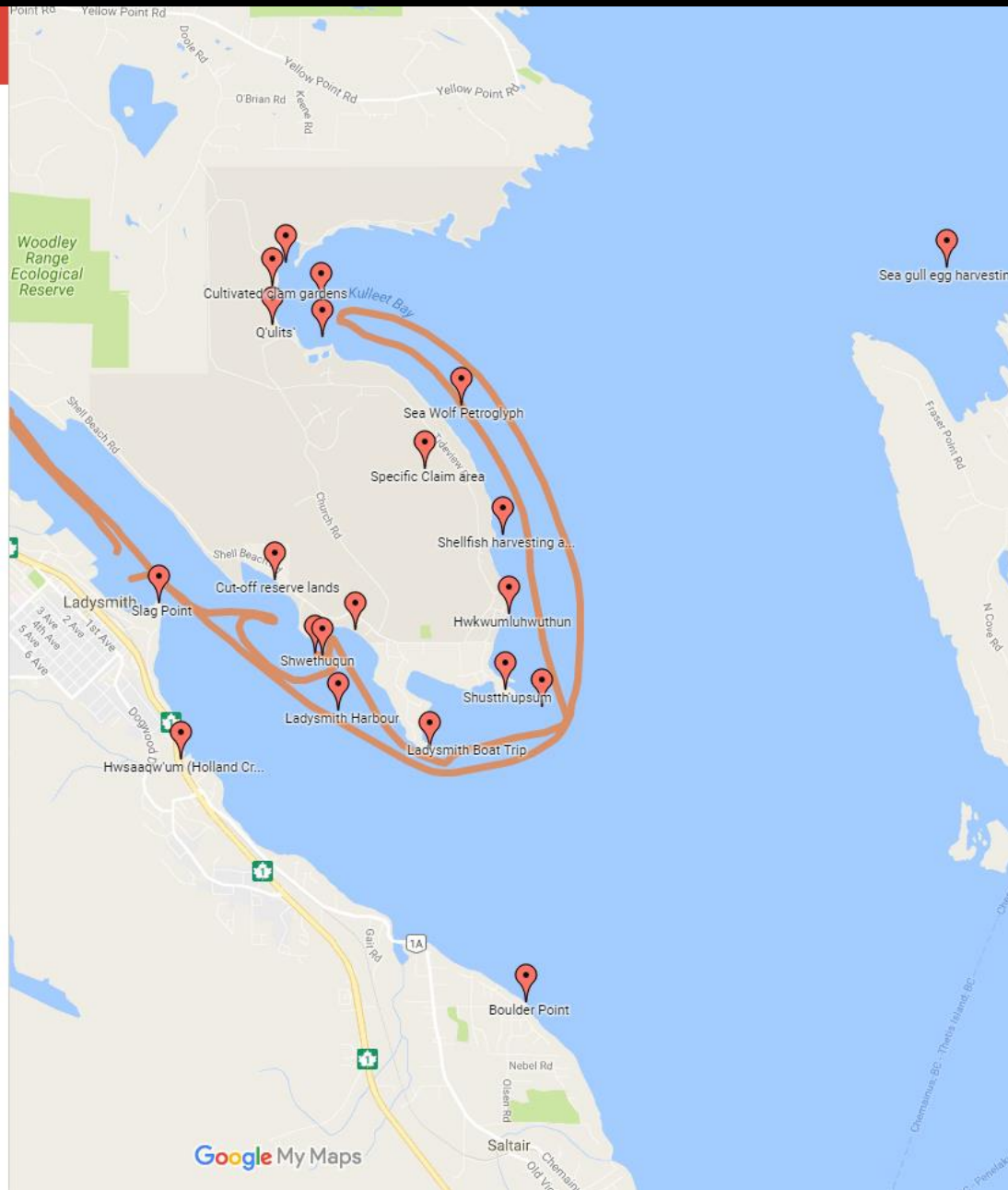
description

Oyster Bay IR 12, a village site of the Stz'uminus people, land that was cut-off in 1916 and was returned 65 years later. Now the site of Stz'uminus First Nation's major economic development initiatives, they have voted out the land provisions of the Indian Act and have come under the First Nations Land Management act.

"Xut'nutstun, it's the Indian name for it. It's our name, Xutl'nutstun. It means, this place had like huge trees, some were fourteen feet, ten feet across, and there was one at the creek there. This big tree fell across the creek, so they named it. That's what it means, big tree across the creek. So, in every creek, you always see these wood falls, you know, when there's old growth stuff.

"In 1916, McKenna-McBride Commission came along and cut most of that off. We fought for it for 65 years and got most of it back. I think we lost 30 acres out of it, and we got the rest back, but it took 65 years to get it back. As McKenna came, their job of course was to expand reserve, but as it [McKenna] came across in Canada, of course we were at the end of it, and they started cutting, cutting, cutting properties out. Our neighbouring town here was coal miners and loggers and they were interested in getting the land but not anything else right."

-- Ray Harris, Stz'uminus First Nation



“Stz'uminus oral story maps”

May 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 (ongoing)

As told by Stz'uminus elder Ray Harris and recorded by Anthropologist Brian Thom (Uvic) in conjunction with Google’s indigenous mapping project.

The project will eventually include students from local middle schools and high schools recording video interviews of elders telling the oral histories of what is now Ladysmith, B.C. These stories are currently depicted in text, but the map is eventually to become a geolocated interactive video map