



Captain George Henry Richards surveyed this coast aboard the HMS Plumper, a steam sloop of the British Navy and titled Tod Creek in honour of a noted HBC employee John Tod. Tod Creek

The SNIDÇEŁ village was evacuated during a Haida attack circa 1600. Today, fire damage from this raid can still be found on old growth trees near the village. \*Although the W̱SÁNEĆ never rebuilt a village here, it continued to be used as hunting and fishing grounds until much of the land was contaminated by the Vancouver Portland Cement Company's industrial operations come the early 1900s.

The elders share that SNIDÇEŁ was their very first village and that STEMEW̱ (Rain), the first W̱SÁNEĆ person lived here. The inlet was a key harvesting area where W̱SÁNEĆ peoples harvested clams and mussels as far back as 4000 years ago. Shell middens have been found along the water's edge here, an archaeological treasure marking human settlement.

### PAST

Welcome to SNIDÇEŁ, pronounced 'sneed-kwith', (place of the blue grouse), located within the W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich) territories. It is our hope to lead you through this place and highlight the stories of the land's layered history, cultural and ecological restoration, and visions for the future. You stand on unceded territory, traditionally held by the Tsartlip First Nation, who join Tseycum, Tsawout, and Paupachin to form the W̱SÁNEĆ.



The foundations of the gated community that housed the management are also visible today. The gated community enjoyed well constructed homes with a wharf and tennis court. After the quarry was exhausted in 1913, it was slowly transformed by Jenny Butchart into what is now the sunken gardens of Butchart Gardens. By the 1920s, Tod Inlet's Chinatown had been demolished, however, European settlers remained in the inlet until the 1970s at the gated community. This site is a primary focus for terrestrial restoration efforts led by SeaChange, as the site was completely invaded by Himalayan blackberry. Today, you can see the regeneration of many native species including alder trees, blackcap raspberry, and thimbleberry.



described the area from Senanus Island to Tod Inlet, including Brentwood Bay. The natural name for Tod Creek is "W̱CECECE" ("little awakener") due to its cold water and the sound the creek makes. Settlers began moving into this region in the 1800's. From 1904-1913, Robert Butchart ran the Vancouver Portland Cement Company in the inlet, mining limestone from quarries for cement production. It was staffed mostly by Chinese and Sikh workers, over 400 at one point, who lived in self-built shantytowns. Due to the social prejudice at that time, life was hard for these workers. Many perished from tuberculosis and typhus caused by dire living conditions in the damp and cold area adjacent to the heavily polluted creek. While little documentation remains of these immigrant workers, remnants of their homes and their belongings are still visible.

These past and current projects are just the first steps in a long journey to heal this important place. New ways to get involved are continually arising and very welcome.

The area holds a sense of place quietly, at all times cultural, aesthetic, and recreational. By recognizing the treasure of cultural histories that this place holds, and the value of restoring it, education and recreation can be carried out in tandem for generations to come.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A warm and respectful thank you to the many people involved in the organizations that contributed to this project. Thank you.



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edge of the trail. can find culturally modified cedar trees along the are vital volunteer and educational programs. You work and replanting traditional foods and medicines and as such, invasive species removal, restoration and cultural plant harvesting are important activities treasure hunts. Medicinal, edible ethnobotany, storytelling and lessons in local ecology, history, volunteer programs, involving wide array of educational and Tsartlip First Nation offer a passionate stewards. Programs cared for by engaged and healthy coastline, pursue their vision of an abundant and individuals to other organizations Society, and many Creek Watershed Parks, Friends of Tod First Nations, BC cooperatively with They work education, restoration and conservation programs. Seachange is an organization that focuses on



SNIDÇEŁ is now protected by the boundary of Gowlland Tod Provincial Park, which was established in 1995. SNIDÇEŁ is used by locals and First Nations for a variety of activities today, including education, recreation, and cultural and environmental rehabilitation. In the inlet, community volunteers work with a restoration group led by SeaChange Marine Conservation Society amongst the backdrop of tall trees and the towering old smoke stack. Their aim is to restore both the aquatic and terrestrial environments that were degraded during the cement factory's operation.

### PRESENT

### FUTURE

Seachange and its partners are actively involved in a 100 year restoration of SNIDÇEŁ. Ultimately, the goal is to inspire the return of the blue grouse to SNIDÇEŁ.

Native eelgrass is important to healthy ecosystem function, providing nursery and spawning habitat for the majority of aquatic animals. The Eelgrass Enhancement Project involves an expert team of SCUBA divers and volunteer divers, who transplant eelgrass shoots from surrounding areas and anchor them in the inlet. Reintroducing eelgrass to the inlet is intended to restore the marine ecosystem and encourage the return of healthy biodiversity.



In February 2017, SeaChange took on a massive undertaking to enhance the beach, which had been extremely degraded through the cement company's past operations. Contaminated sediment was removed from the beach and clean sand and gravel was placed along the shore to increase biodiversity and create low wave energy areas to counteract sea-level rise due to climate change and erosion. Marine restoration also took place, with the removal of 52 tonnes of underwater debris removed from the estuary.

Special thanks to Ken Josephson for his advice and supervision on this project



Welcome To  
**SNIDÇEŁ**

The Place Of The Blue Grouse