

## Title: South Britannia Community Centre

Tobi Fenton

South Britannia is laid out in a grid of 120x60 meter blocks with Main Street oriented towards Howe Sound. The concentrated centre is located at the entrance to the community. Commercial services provide amenities and meeting places for residents and tourists. Parking lots are surfaced with permeable grass and gravel pavers, to increase rainwater infiltration. Natural drainage swales along residential streets, gravel parking lanes, and no curbs and gutters results in cheaper, greener infrastructure and a storm drainage system that can educate and delight while cleaning storm water. The interconnected streets mean all trips are by the shortest route possible. A pedestrian-controlled intersection across Highway 99 gives safe crossing to the waterfront. The sidewalks converge on a small plaza, which serves as a launching off point for the greenway to North Britannia or Minaty Bay, or a new trail to the waterfront.

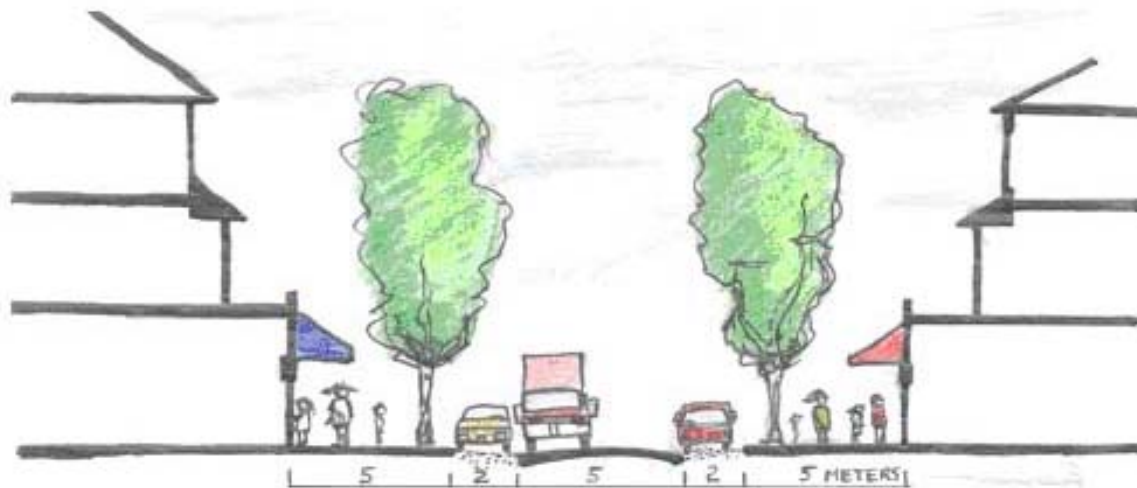


A safe pedestrian-oriented neighborhood is created with short blocks linked by green streets and narrow residential streets. Mixed residential and commercial uses along Main Street encourage a diverse and vibrant neighborhood. Commercial enterprises are red, medium - high density residential is orange, and low-density housing is yellow.



Narrow residential streets slow traffic, so are safer and more comfortable for pedestrians and children. They also cost less than wider streets. Gravel parking lanes border grassy swales that capture surface drainage, eliminating the need for expensive storm drains and pipes, and making visible the natural draining process.

Front porches and houses that are placed close to the street create an intimate neighborhood atmosphere that welcomes residents home and encourages socializing.



Main Street features mixed-use buildings, with stores and restaurants on the ground floor and offices or residences above. Five-metre sidewalks emphasize pedestrian activity and street trees provide cooling shade.

Two parking lanes ensure plenty of on street parking, while the gravel surface increases permeability of the street.

## Waterfront Gateway

Hanako Amaya

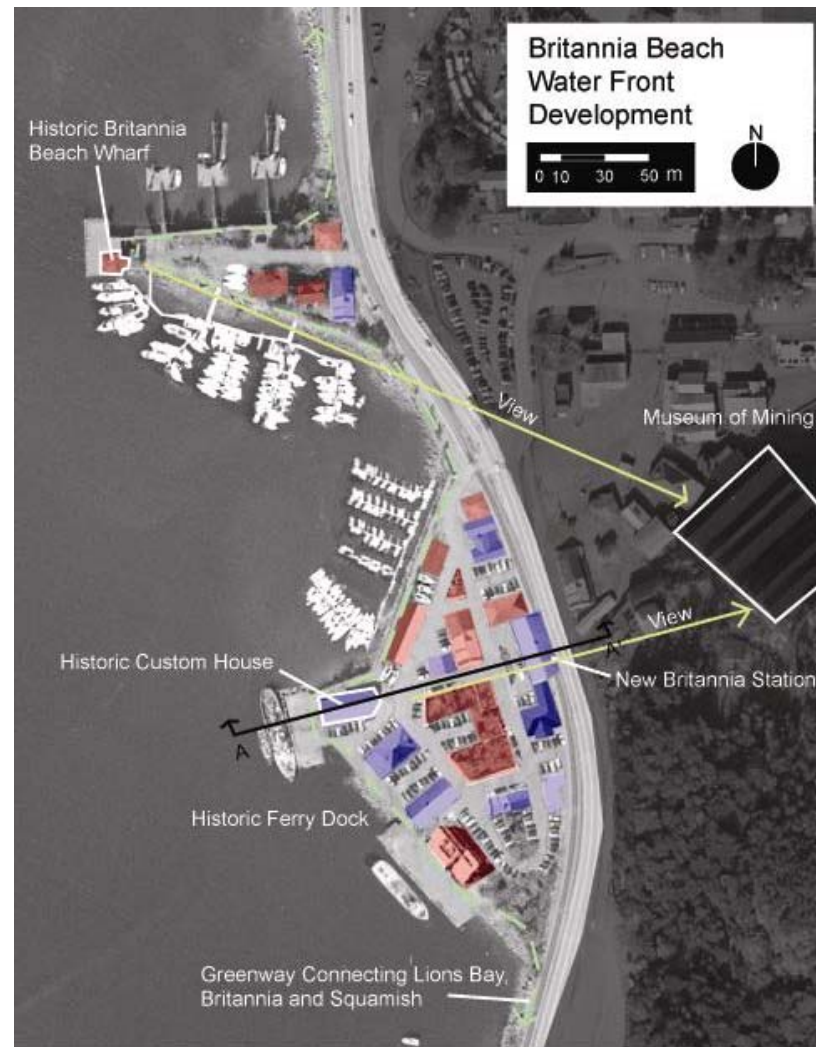
The waterfront is a part of Britannia Beach center where the history, research, education, recreation, and commerce create a focus for residents and visitors.

To make Britannia Beach as a tourist destination point, alternative transportation, such as train, ferry and greenway connecting Vancouver, Britannia and Squamish are provided. It connects North Britannia and South Britannia as well as outside of the town.

The new non-polluting marine recreation, commercial services and research buildings support tourism as well as local economy.

The historic buildings are preserved at the original place and reused to support cultural heritage tourism.

The historic Britannia Beach Wharf is revitalized. New buildings are compatible with the historic buildings in material and massing. The research buildings are visually accessible for interest and educational opportunity.



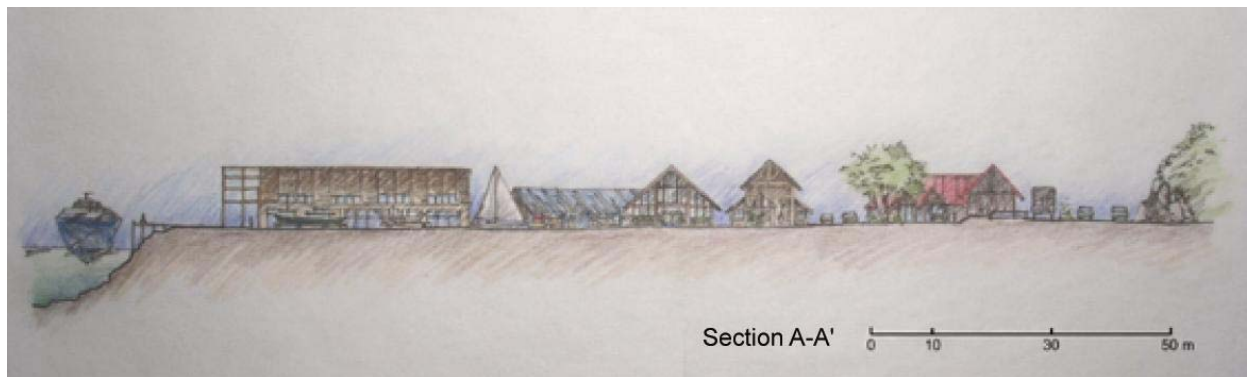
Two vehicular entry and exit points to Highway as well as pedestrian crossing with signal lights are provided to create easy access to the waterfront. The greenway continues along the water edge to maximize potential for outdoor recreation. A boardwalk supports universal access and historic context. Narrower streets and concentration of the buildings create lively and pedestrian oriented commercial area.





Each historic building is visually accessible to the Museum of Mining to create strong sense of the historic center. The frame of new buildings creates stronger visual orientation to the historic museum.

The street parking on both sides, one-way street and human scale buildings suggest pedestrian oriented commercial area. The new buildings act as a showcase of innovative research and commercial interests.



To encourage economic cultural heritage tourism, the historic customhouse is reused to provide a space for exhibition, conference and so on. Also clapboard and/ or corrugated galvanized steel panel are used for new buildings and the roofs on new structure use 1:1 to 2:1 pitch and wide over hangs.

The outside of the building is utilized as a display of the research or the commercial service of the building to give a life to the area and maximize educational opportunity.

## Eco-Memorial Park

David Tracey

Every new community builds over the past, sometimes entirely. Britannia Beach's near epic history of triumph and disaster cannot be buried. It must be retold, partly to pay homage to the many who died but also as a lesson to anyone hoping to reshape the land.

A constructed wetland for the Fan Area next to Britannia Creek would demonstrate a more ecologically sound approach to community development. The park would link the north and south residential areas via walking trails which also cross Britannia Creek. Here in the flood plain where former mine owners tragically packed small homes for workers and their families, we would find crowded rows of birdhouses on stilts. Those which tilt or fall from shifting ground bases would be left as visual amenities.

The lesson, and the point of the wetland park: the heart of the new Britannia Beach must be green.



The newly made wetland would play a crucial role in the ecological healing of the site. It would also offer residents and visitors a place to walk (connecting the new communities via nature trails), relax (benches and creek-side platforms would be set up for nature viewing) and play (the present ball field would be maintained).



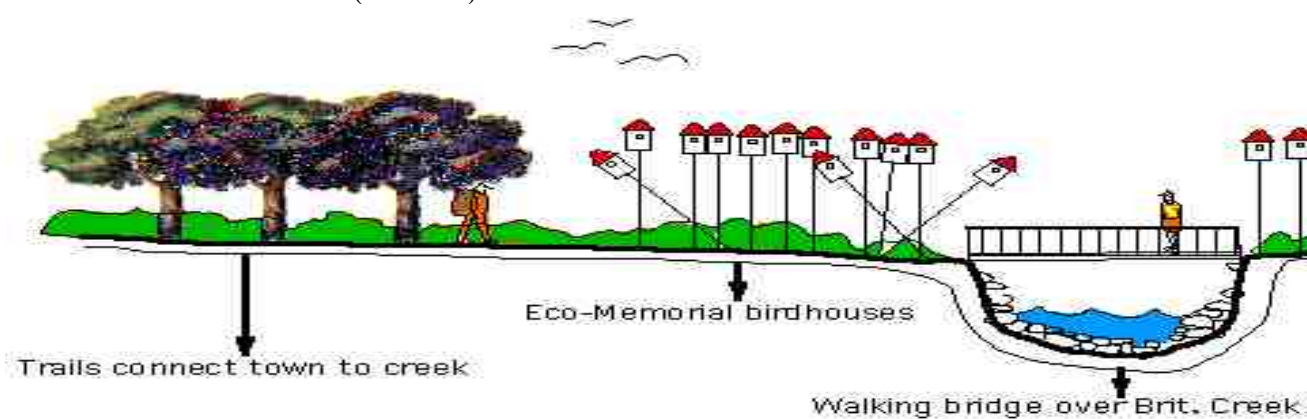
Perspective Sketch of Nature Trail



A nature trail should provide practical paths for regular commutes while being attractive enough to make transit a joy. Options to the car would be emphasized if residents in both the north and south communities could reach the central hub/park area in approximately 20 minutes. The trails would offer all a chance to experience the natural and created bounty of the region.

By bringing people outdoors in contact with the site, the trails would also preserve the cultural heritage of the area while demonstrating ongoing efforts at environmental remediation.

Section at Britannia Creek (no scale)



Visitors to the central area today may not even notice Britannia Creek, despite its historic and ecological importance. The new community should bring the creek back into prominence, this time as an example of sustainable practices.

The flood plain, then, would consist of a wetland, an eco-memorial, and trails bringing people into and through the site over the creek.

## Mining Education & Heritage Conservation

Leila Zeppelin

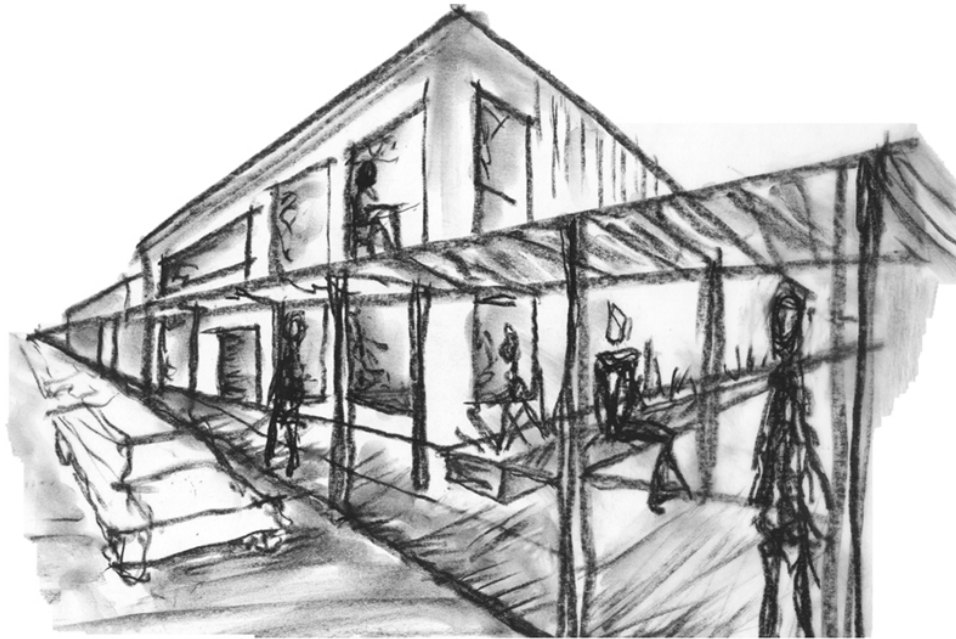


### Historic and Heritage Preservation & Synergy

This design brings the past, present and future of sustainable mining practices and new technologies to life. The plan utilizes the historic buildings as the central spine. The facades of the old buildings are made more transparent and retrofit for new functions. Meanwhile, a variety of new buildings required for additional research and commercial services are tightly interspersed throughout the site, maintaining the same human scale. This way, green infrastructure and all buildings, including museum buildings, café's, innovative research facilities are visible and accessible to all. Their close spatial relationship of the various agencies fosters partnerships between academia, community organizations and the private sector.

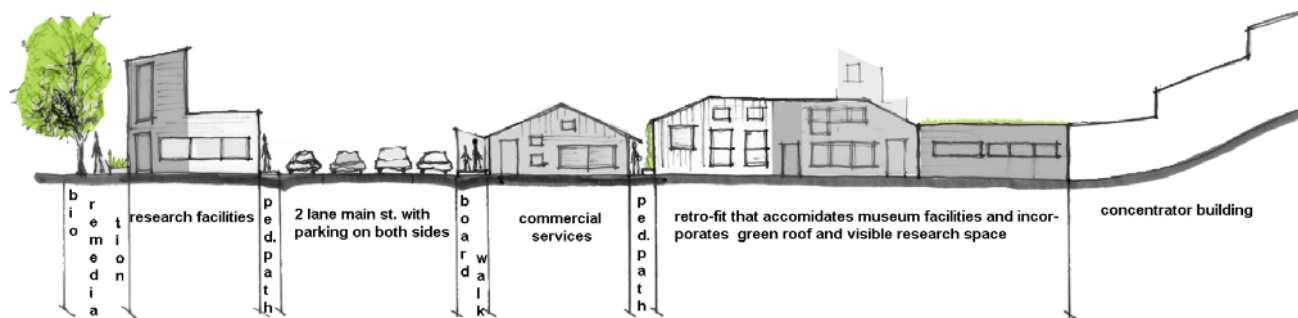


Perspective of boardwalk along Main St.  
Historically, boardwalks functioned as Britannia's primary paths



**Synergy at Work**  
The holistic design approach integrates resource systems that benefit the environment, community, economy and contribute to education. Here, people can come together and utilize this green space that: processes water and sewage, serves as an important educational tool and proves economically viable by minimizing necessary inputs and outputs.

Section



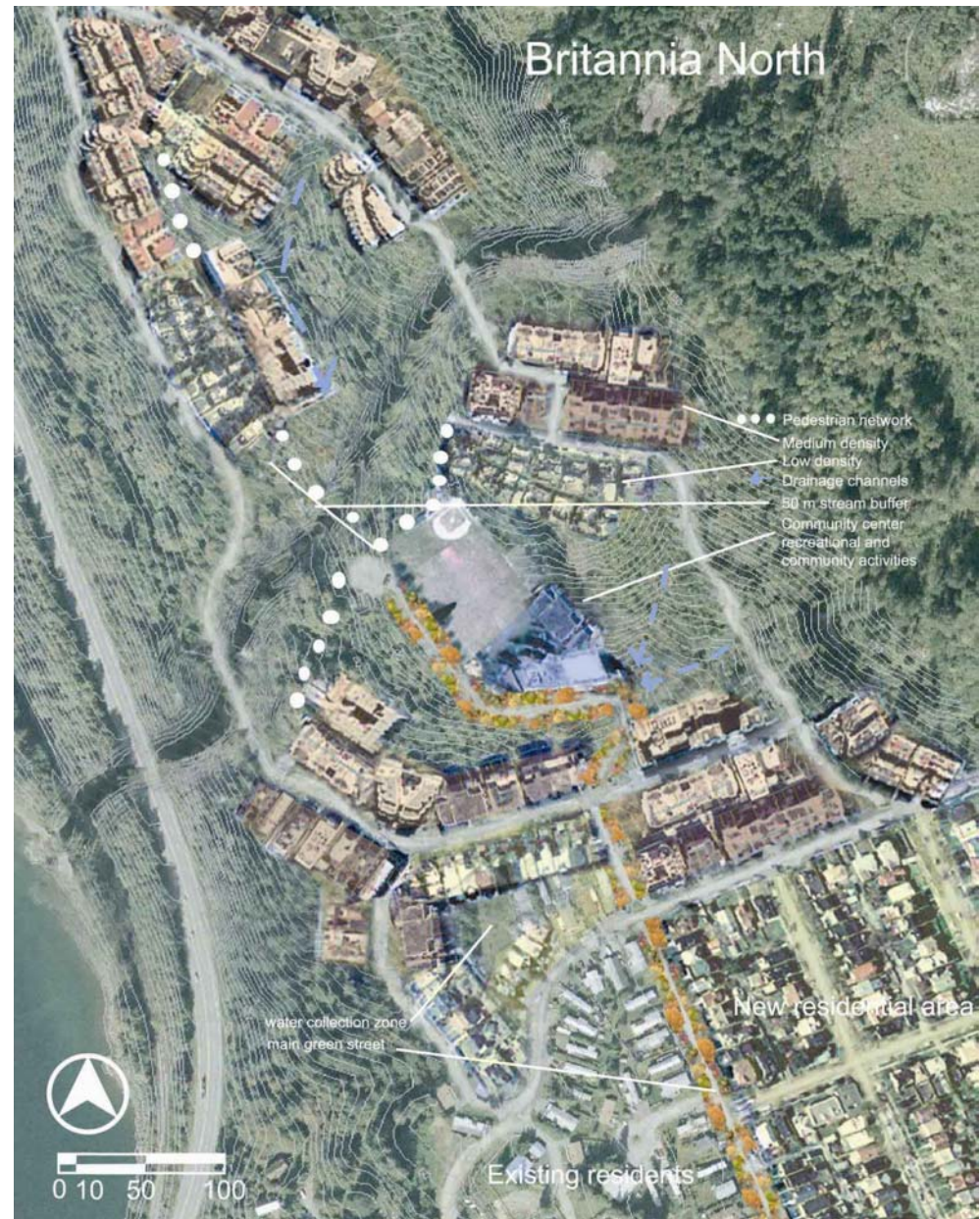
**Layering Uses**  
Green Infrastructure systems link buildings and act as important community spaces for social interaction. The close stacking of commercial and museum/research facilities helps facilitate a dialogue between the various interests.



## Linking new with old

Amber Paul

In designing for a new community in Britannia beach, it is important to fit the “new” development around the “old”. In this plan, the new development builds out from the existing infrastructure, thus allowing current residents to stay in their homes. A central green street forms the backbone of this plan, providing the “glue” that bonds the pieces together. This greenway facilitates movement through the community, linking Britannia Creek in the south to this northern waterbody. It is part of a larger interconnected network of greenways and open spaces encouraging outdoor recreation and reducing car dependency. Many of the natural features of this landscape are enhanced and integrated into the community as part of the open space system. Finally, the green streets encourage community activity and social interaction and help to provide a safer environment.



*Community Plan for Britannia North.*

Yellow indicates low density residential homes,  
 Orange indicates medium density residential homes while  
 Blue indicates community centers





The green street directs the people safely through the neighborhood and up to the community center, perched at the top of the hill and bordering the stream corridor. Once at the top, the playing fields, the community center, the outdoor cinema and the connecting trail system are all visible. This sketch communicates the view of the field and the theater and directs you to the trail system that weaves its way to the waterfront or up to the mountains via the stream buffer.



front porch   short set back from street   more room for play better for infiltration   single car lane with gravel tire tracks   pedestrian friendly



Green streets encourage alternative modes of travel thereby reducing car dependency. They give priority to pedestrian movement and community interaction rather than car travel. Likewise, they enhance the public park system, essentially creating one long linear green space easily accessible to the whole community. Finally, the permeable nature of the green street help to promote infiltration thus protecting the natural systems.