



GORGE TILLICUM

Neighbourhood

Building Community



Scenes from the Canada Day Picnic:

(clockwise from top) GTUF booth, the Sutcliffes on the main stage, the community parade along Gorge Rd., and face painting. Photos by Gabe Epstein and Karen Laberee.



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Neighbourhood News

We welcome comments—please let us know what you think of your newsletter!

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Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions & advertising for the next issue is Feb 15th, 2011.

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All 4000 copies of this newsletter are delivered by volunteers and we could always use more help. Please contact Ray Farmer 382-1122.

**Carriers needed along
Admirals Road – Contact
Ray Farmer**

a word from the president

As I write this on a beautiful sunny Thanksgiving Sunday, I am struck by how fortunate we are to live in such a vibrant and healthy community.

As I go from meetings to events to workshops, everyone I meet is looking for ways to help improve our parks, deal with transportation issues, understand requests for rezoning and new development, or solve our most pressing social problems. For all those who contribute to the health of our community, I am grateful. Thank you.

The GTCA Board is back from a summer off and heading to our fall meetings with the usual full agenda. On top of reviewing development proposals, we are planning a workshop for Gorge Park this fall and another on the issue of affordable housing early in the New Year. Watch the web site for more information regarding times and places for these events.

Speaking of web site, we are in need of someone to help us re-design our web site to fit with current styles and functions. With more interactivity it would be possible to stream our workshops and other meetings. This new frontier is evolving very quickly and we need to catch up.

A few of your directors had the opportunity to attend the Gaining Ground conference, where we exchanged ideas about how our urban spaces need to evolve. Land resources are becoming increasingly scarce, which has a major impact on water resources and our food supply chain. Solving these problems may take a generation, but we need to start now.

So as we move to the end of 2010, we will continue to seek your assistance as we try to unravel the issues of the day and find solutions that reach for a sustainable future. I hope you enjoy this issue of Neighbourhood News dedicated to “Building Community”.

— Rob Wickson, President

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



GTCA Board of Directors 09/10

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The Board meets the first Thursday of each month, September to June, at Pearkes Recreation Centre. All members are welcome to attend!

LOCAL HEROES Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers



This issue's local heroes are the Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers. When you think of how to build community, I know of no better example than this group.

GTUF started over three years ago as a way to connect people in the neighbourhood who have an interest in producing their own food and in community food security. What emerged from this is a group committed to sharing ideas and information ranging from the how-to's of backyard gardening to the more global philosophies of living sustainably.

GTUF meets monthly to share tips and ideas and to socialize. They also have a Google Group where members post articles and information and communicate through email. Since the group's inception, GTUF has provided numerous articles and resources that are thought-provoking, inspirational, or at least very handy. Their meetings are a wonderful way to spend part of an afternoon or evening learning and connecting with people in the neighbourhood.

As a group, GTUF has been committed to enabling the entire community to garden and live more sustainably. You may have seen them at the Canada Day picnic where they had a display that included a chance to speak with a mason bee expert. They are currently in the process of advocating for a community garden and have also been a strong voice in the ongoing process to change the Saanich chicken bylaws.

These efforts of this 60-plus member group have not gone unnoticed. Last spring, they were given the Saanich 2010 Environmental Award for "Sustainability". We are very lucky to have such a positive force in our neighbourhood.

— Karen Laberee

Upcoming Events

The 2010 Curbside Leaf Collection Program is scheduled for the Gorge Tillicum area for Nov. 18–24 and Dec. 13–17. Guidelines are posted online at www.saanich.ca/services/garbage/leaf.html

Christine's Creations Studio Open House: Sat/Sun, Nov. 20–21, 10 am – pm at 3114 Harriet Road (entrance on Maddock). Unique, affordable gifts, free refreshments and door prizes. Food bank donations appreciated. More info at 250-382-5239

Harry Potter Council: Wed., Nov. 24, 7–8 pm at Saanich Centennial Branch. We will talk about everything from the books to the movies in the world of Harry Potter! For ages 13–18. For more information email teens@gvpl.ca or register at 250-477-9030.

Let's Get Cozy! Three Puppet Plays: Fri., Nov. 26, 2.30–3.30 pm at Saanich Centennial Branch. Winter's coming and it's time for some animals to sleep! Join us for a fun-filled interactive puppet show with the retelling of stories about animals that hibernate. For young children and their families; children under 3 must be accompanied by an adult. Register at 250-477-9030.

Stocking Stuffers & More Gift Show: Sat., Nov. 27, 10.30 am–4.30 pm, at Eastern Star Hall, 3281 Harriet Road. Free admission. More info. at 250-888-6643.

Deck the Hall: Winter Lights Festival: Sat., Nov. 27, 5–8.30 pm, at Saanich Municipal Hall. Kick off your holiday season at the Hall with a festive lights display and a variety of seasonal activities. Free.

Guys' Night Out Baby Time: Tues., Dec. 7, 6.30 – 7.00 pm at Saanich Centennial Branch. Register at 250-477-9030.

Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers Meeting: Tues., Dec. 7, 7–9 pm at Saanich Neighbourhood Place. Topic: Book Exchange and Movie

Christmas Storytime at the Library: Sat., Dec. 11, 11 am–noon, Saanich Centennial Branch. Festive stories, songs and a craft for young children and their families. Register at 250-477-9030.

Extreme Teen Gingerbread House Contest: Wed., Dec. 15, 6.30 pm–8.30 pm - G. R. Pearkes Rec. Centre.

Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition: Christmas Lights Ride: Sat., Dec. 18. The GVCC's family favourite scenic lights ride! Join in on a new route to view Christmas light displays in the Esquimalt-Gorge area. The ride departs at 6.30 p.m. at Esquimalt Rec. Centre. Returns at 9 pm. Free refreshments and door prizes! More info www.gvcc.bc.ca

New Year's Levee: Sat., Jan. 1st, 1–2.30 pm, Saanich Municipal Hall. Mayor Frank Leonard & Council will host the annual Municipality of Saanich Levee, a Canadian custom where government officials exchange New Year's greetings with attendees.



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The Green Space

Interpretive Signage along the Gorge Waterway

The Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) and municipal staff partners at the Town of View Royal, Township of Esquimalt, District of Saanich, and City of Victoria worked together to create a series of 12 interpretive signs for the Gorge Waterway that highlight key ecological and cultural features of the waterway.

These included four large colourful and uniquely designed three-paneled signs (one for each municipality) featuring a large map of the waterway and information about the ecology and history of the waterway. Eight smaller signs focusing on specific topics were created for specific sites along the waterway, highlighting the following topics: The Gorge: Recreation Destination, The Gorge Narrows, The Working Waterway, Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Underwater Bounty, Early Settler History, The Natural Shoreline, and Invasive Species.

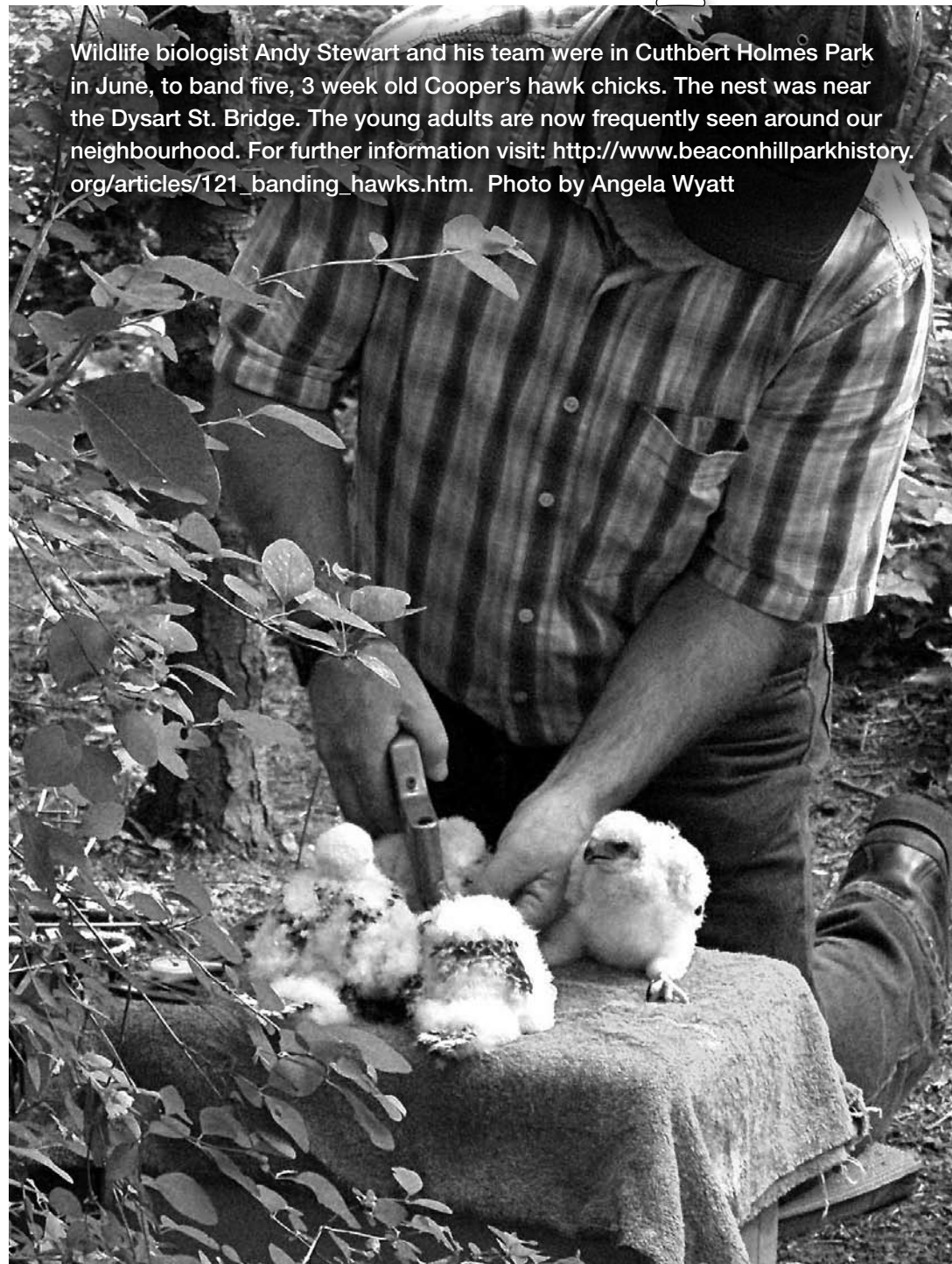
The content for the signs was developed by GWI members, the layout and design by Muze Creative, and fabrication by Urban Signs. Municipal parks staff are responsible for installation and upkeep of the signs.

A sign unveiling event was held on June 15, 2010 at the site where the first sign was installed, on the Galloping Goose Trail near the Selkirk Trestle.

Municipal politicians were on hand to unveil the signs destined for their municipality and say a few words about the project.

To date, signs are up in Esquimalt and Victoria, with View Royal and Saanich to follow in the near future. The GWI signs can be seen in Esquimalt Gorge Park and near the Selkirk Trestle. Reports from the public have been very positive, and the GWI hopes to extend this project in the future to create signs to highlight some of the other fascinating features of this waterway.

— Kitty Lloyd, GWI



Wildlife biologist Andy Stewart and his team were in Cuthbert Holmes Park in June, to band five, 3 week old Cooper's hawk chicks. The nest was near the Dysart St. Bridge. The young adults are now frequently seen around our neighbourhood. For further information visit: http://www.beaconhillparkhistory.org/articles/121_banding_hawks.htm. Photo by Angela Wyatt

Admirals Road Bridge – Natural Areas Work

In late August, two sites near the upgraded Admirals Bridge were prepared to receive several hundred native trees and shrubs to compensate for riparian and Garry oak habitat that was disturbed during the bridge reconstruction in 2009. Excavators were used to remove the non-native shrubs and trees.

The Garry oak site is nearest to the bridge and has been densely re-planted with 25 Garry oak trees and more than 600 native shrubs including many fruit-bearing species such as Indian plum and red-flowering currant. The soil surface was left rough and woody material was brought in to help emulate natural structure, create micro-climates, and minimize soil erosion. (Strangely, some of this rotten wood has since been stolen.) Saanich worked with the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) to develop the site concept.

The riparian site is off of Burke Rd., adjacent to the new gravel pathway. It is being planted in the same way as the Garry oak site but with a broader mix of native trees. Technically part of Cuthbert Holmes Park, the two sites will be left to establish in a natural state with a minimum of management.

Also part of the Admirals Bridge reconstruction project is an in-stream habitat compensation project which includes a berm and hundreds of emergent aquatic plants that will provide shade and habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms in Colquitz River.

The route used by the heavy equipment to access the site is now a gravel path, which might become a kayak and canoe launch in the future.

— Marian McCoy, Saanich Parks

Gaining Ground Conference

In October, four members of the GTCA Board—Rob Wickson, Ray Farmer, Brian Menzies, and Gabe Epstein—attended the Gaining Ground Conference in Vancouver to increase their awareness and knowledge on creating sustainable communities. The three day conference focused on a variety of topics, including sustainable city planning, creating healthy cities, improving local economies, and investing in green energy.

“The Gaining Ground conference is one opportunity to continue to educate our board members and improve our capacity to help the GTCA become a better community association,” said Wickson.

“We have broadened our understanding of what sustainability means and how to bring this knowledge into practice here in the Gorge Tillicum.”

For example, as we review development applications we can ask better questions on how this will help sustain our community now and into the future.”

Wickson noted that another GTCA board member, Trevor Hancock, also presented at the conference. As a public health physician, Trevor spoke about his efforts as a healthy communities advocate. He explained that healthy communities and the health of individuals are intertwined. In the process of designing new buildings or planning communities, the developer or planner must consider the impact of this development on the health of the individual. The term “health” includes both the physical health and the mental health of the community members. Hancock concluded by thinking of health in terms of not just healing the individual, but healing the needs of the citizens as a whole community. In this way, we can create a more sustainable community.

Visit www.gaininggroundsummit.com to learn more.

— Brian Menzies

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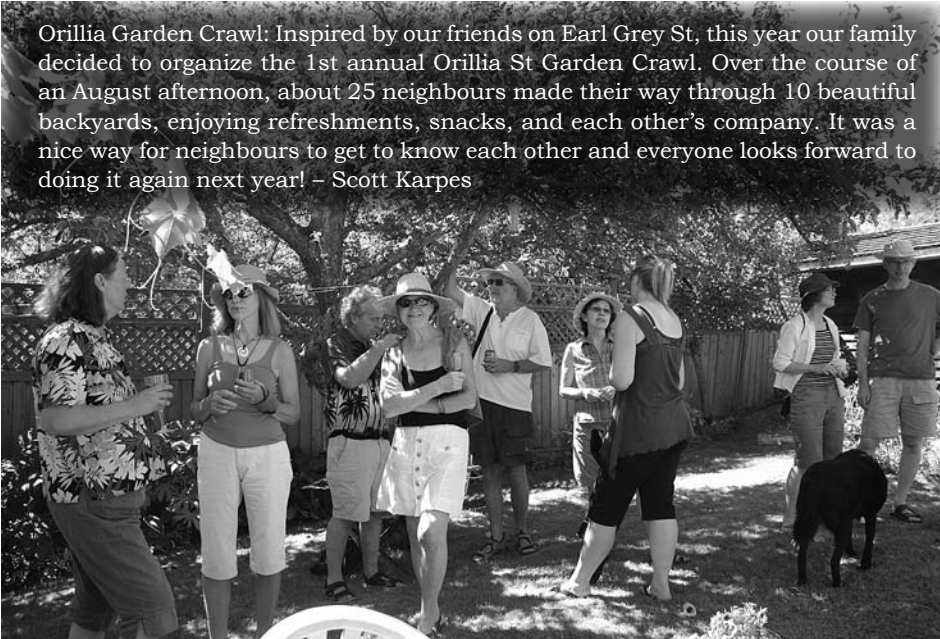
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The salmon have arrived. Visit the fish fence daily at 10am for a closer look.
Photo by Dorothy Chambers.

Community Building 101

The Block Party

Orillia Garden Crawl: Inspired by our friends on Earl Grey St, this year our family decided to organize the 1st annual Orillia St Garden Crawl. Over the course of an August afternoon, about 25 neighbours made their way through 10 beautiful backyards, enjoying refreshments, snacks, and each other's company. It was a nice way for neighbours to get to know each other and everyone looks forward to doing it again next year! – Scott Karpes



Photos from the 4th Annual Inlet Ave Block Party (left and top right). Held the last Saturday in June, our gathering includes a potluck, low-key children's activities, and an open mic for street musicians. — Julia Menard

Building community while enjoying backyard spaces at the annual Earl Grey Garden Crawl (above).

WALK-IN+

BURNSIDE FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC

NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

EXTENDED HOURS

Mon. to Fri. **7:30am to 9:00pm**
 Sat., Sun. & Hol. **9:00am to 6:00pm**

101 Burnside Rd. West (between Tillicum and Harriet)

www.burnsideclinic.ca

A black and white photograph of the Burnside Family Medical Clinic building. It is a single-story structure with large windows and a sign that reads "WALK-IN CLINIC".

ALSO ON-SITE: X-RAY • LAB • PHARMACY • PHYSIO

The Scoop on BC Transit Plans

BC Transit is currently developing a Transit Plan for the Capital Region to guide BC Transit's actions and goals for the next 25 years. Currently, the bus network in Greater Victoria covers the region like a spider web. BC Transit is planning to introduce a new concept to the region's transit services.

Many larger cities have specially identified transit corridors or "spines". The future of BC Transit in Victoria will likely see at least three major spines built into the system. The first spine is envisioned to begin in downtown Victoria and run past the Uptown section of Douglas Street following the Galloping Goose Trail and the Old Island Highway to Colwood and Langford. Another spine would connect downtown, through the Uptown transit hub, up the Saanich Peninsula, past Sidney to Swartz Bay. A third spine would run from Uptown to UVic. Other spines might connect UVic to downtown via the Royal Jubilee Hospital and possibly onto the Canadian Forces Base in Esquimalt. These main spines would be designated for rapid transit.

The particular form of "rapid" has not been finalized, but you can expect that to be announced early in 2011. There are several possibilities, such as special high capacity buses, streetcars, trams, or light rail. Regardless of the vehicle, the "rapid" designation means that the service would run every few minutes and have a designated lane. Prepaid fares would be required and there would be electronic notice boards at each stop, similar to a subway system, where the arrival time is shown. Ideally, a rapid route has a consistent travel time. In other words, no parked cars or traffic jams would delay the trip. BC Transit is looking at having new, dedicated, and separated lanes or rails from Uptown to Langford. The section along Douglas Street to Uptown is understandably more difficult. Nevertheless, they are looking at dedicated lanes in three possible arrangements. The centre of the street could be sectioned out. Curbside dedicated lanes are another option. Lastly, side-running transit would mean the transit moves in two separated lanes on one side of Douglas, which would shift over the lanes for cars.

With the growing West Shore traffic that is strangling our neighbourhood at every turn, this is a very important topic for the Gorge Tillicum community. BC Transit is encouraging citizens to check out their ideas and provide feedback: <http://www.transitbc.com/vrrt/>. You can submit your opinion about what to do and who should pay for it—just play "The Game Plan" at www.transitgameplan.com

— Chris Kask

Car Share at Tillicum Mall?

We might one day see a car-share arrangement at Tillicum Mall (depending on when the residential buildings get built). In the meantime, is there interest in our neighbourhood to go in on a car-share arrangement with Victoria Car Share? It is estimated that it costs between \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year to own and maintain your own vehicle. Whereas, with a car share, the average cost of a member is more like \$100/month (\$1200/year). Car sharing makes financial sense!

We would need 15–20 interested parties to have Victoria Car Share commit a car to our region. As a member, you make a reservation for a specific vehicle online or on the phone. Prepared with a fleet access key, you could head straight to the vehicle at your chosen time, retrieve the vehicle key, and then go.

If you are interested in committing to a car share coop, please email me at mab@pacificcoast.net or call me at 381-7522. I am willing to collect the 15–20 names required. Please make sure to check out how their membership arrangement works. If you would like more info on car sharing first, please check out <http://victoriacarshare.ca> or call them directly at 250 995-0265.

— Julia Menard

GTCA 2.0

Wanted: A web designer who wants to make a difference in our community!

The Gorge Tillicum Community Association is planning to make the next quantum leap in web technologies and update our current website. We are seeking out a web designer or anyone else who has an interest in both showcasing their web development work and is interested in helping to strengthen our community communications.

We are interested in using our website to improve interactions with the members of our community.

Specifically, we are interested in someone who can help set up a platform for ongoing communications including utilizing social media and blogging.

Ideally, this platform would be user-friendly to all our community members and easy for a volunteer board to edit and update.

We see our website as a critical tool for enhancing our communications with our community members and for creating an ongoing dialogue that helps to make Gorge Tillicum the best community in Saanich!

Please send your inquiries to Brian Menzies bmenzies@directpublicstrategies.com

MLA Victoria-Swan Lake
Rob Fleming



Working for you

1020 Hillside Avenue
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rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.robflamingmla.ca

*Become a
member of the
Gorge Tillicum
Community
Association
TODAY!*

It is time once again to renew your GTCA membership for 2011. We would like to see our membership increase to over 400 in 2011—still less than 5% of residents. The \$5.00 per person yearly dues helps offset the cost of our community newsletter. Thank you to our members who donated a little extra to help cover the cost of the mailout. Congratulations to Darryl and Suzanne Radick who won the BBQ, generously donated by View Royal Canadian Tire, at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic.

Mail to:
Gorge Tillicum Community Association,
P.O. Box 44152, Victoria, BC V9A 2A0

**2011 Membership Application/
Renewal**

Name(s) : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cheque enclosed
(\$5/person \$25/business):

\$ _____



Youth In Our Community

Saanich Parks and Recreation strives to be a leader in Youth Recreational Programming, by providing low or no cost activities, exciting special events, inspiring workshops, and safe and supervised drop-in opportunities at the Flipside Teen Centre located at Pearkes Recreation Centre. Our partnerships with local schools, community groups, and support agencies give us the opportunity to serve many different ages and groups of youth.

Flipside Teen Centre Drop-In Hours:

Stop in for a game of pool, ping pong, dome hockey, and stay for a free snack afterschool. We have 2 big screen TVs, internet access, a free phone line, and a Wii & X-Box too! Our drop-in is FREE and supervised by experienced youth leaders. We welcome teens aged 10 yrs + to join us afterschool, and 12 yrs + on Friday nights! Wednesday – Friday afterschool - 3:00-5:00pm
Friday Night Free Bar-B-Q - 7:30-10:30

Birthday or Sports Party Rentals:

Available outside of Drop-In Hours. Rent the centre for your very own party! Invite up to 20 guests, bring your own food, and join us for exclusive use of the teen centre for 2 hours. Call #475-5462 to book today!

Girls Group - Tuesday Nights 6:00-8:00 10 yrs + FREE!

This longtime group is filled with new and exciting experiences that will help girls to make new friends, learn how to cook, get crafty, and learn new games in a fun and supportive environment. FREE!

Youth Christmas Craft Market – Nov., 13th 9:30-3:30pm

Showcase your talents at this well attended, 5th annual youth craft show here at Pearkes! Raise money for a youth group or charity of your choice. Baked goods, Pottery, Jewellery, Christmas crafts and gifts, and much more! \$20/table. Call #475-5400 to register.

Using Social Media - An Engagement Workshop – Dec.2nd 6-8:30pm

Are you looking for the skills to successfully promote yourself using social media avenues such as Facebook, Twitter, or your own blog or website? Leave this workshop with fresh new ideas, practical online skills, and the tools to help you stand out from the rest! \$12 / person. Call # 475-5400 to register.

PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE | 3100 Tillicum Road | Phone 475-5400

Facility Hours:

SEPT 7 – DEC 19, 2010
MON-FRI 6:00AM - 10:00PM
SAT- 7:00AM - 10:00PM
SUN 8:00AM - 10:00PM



PARKS & RECREATION
Pearkes Recreation Centre

Holidays:

DEC 24 - 6:00AM - 2:00PM
DEC 24 - CLOSED
DEC 26 10:00AM - 5:00PM
DEC 31 - 6:00AM - 2:00PM
JAN 1ST - CLOSED
JAN 2 & 3 - 7:00AM - 10:00PM