



# Brookman's Store to be Reborn as Bakeology

The GTCA lobbied hard to preserve the old Brookman's store when the Amica proposal came forward. The building and its historical importance to the community were considered worth preserving and we all hoped that the location would come back as community gathering spot. So we were all delighted to hear that the location will become a locally based coffee shop/ bakery called Bakeology.

Bakeology is the fulfillment of a life-long dream for Kai Riecken. A resident of the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood, until recently she was an instructor of Community Population Health at UVIC.

The historic character of the building was in line with Kai's values. She appreciates all the work that was done to save as much of the original building



Photo: Vera Wynn-Williams

Bakeology, at 900 Gorge Road West, corner of Gorge Road and Admirals. The building is wheelchair accessible and In front there will be a small patio overlooking the Gorge.

and that reclaimed lumber was used for the railings, ceilings and guard rails. Kai will enhance the historic nature of the property and describes the interior décor as scandinavian farmhouse.

The interior space will have seating for thirty, including an upper mezzanine level. Board games and books will encourage patrons to linger and have fun.

All the baked goods will be baked fresh in-house, by Kai. Baking has been Kai's passion since she was a kid. Her great-grandfather had a bakery in Denmark and she is excited to use

*"This cafe is a combination of my baking dreams, my love of good coffee after years of working in cafes as a young adult, and my career background in academia around healthy, socially connected, and walkable communities," says Kai.*



Photo: Courtesy Kai Riecken

Kai and her husband Theo

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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 September Jan 15, 2019.

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All 3,800 copies of this newsletter are delivered by volunteers, and we could always use more help. Please contact Scott Karpes at 778-679-3545.

*cont'd from cover*

some of the Danish family recipes, particularly Kringle (Danish almond pastry) which is really hard to find here in Victoria. Kai will also include some contemporary favourites that have been suggested by neighbours, family, and friends such a variety of giant soft European-style pretzels, sticky buns, hearty muffins, gourmet marshmallows, butter-scones, cookies, bars, and daily vegetarian soups. Everything will be vegetarian and there will be a few gluten free options.

The coffee will come from Stick in the Mud Coffee, a small locally owned company from Sooke. Teas will come from Two Leaves and a Bud, an organic and fair trade company

Bakeology will strive to be as green as possible, with compostable cups, straws, lids etc.



Photo: Kai Riecken

Kai's fresh baked pretzels

Once up and running, Kai would also like to add whole cakes for customers to order for special occasions.

Bakeology does not have a firm opening date but is hoping to open in the next few months.

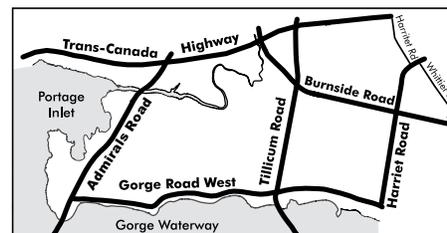
**- Vera Wynn-Williams**



Photo: Vera Wynn-Williams

The history of Brookman's Corner is commemorated by a large sign installed just outside the cafe's entrance.

Gorge Tillicum Community Association [www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)



GTCA Board of Directors 2018/19

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The Gorge Tillicum Community Association is a non-profit organization that advocates for the Gorge Tillicum community. The Board meets at 7pm the first Thursday of each month from September to June at Pearkes Recreation Centre. If you want to put an item on the agenda please phone/email our president one week in advance.

# *an update from the* **GTCA**

The GTCA has been busy for the past 4 months with a variety of initiatives and issues. Here is a brief summary:

## **Homelessness & Camping in Parks**

- We continued to lobby for Saanich to do more about homelessness including developing a Saanich strategy and we pushed for more affordable housing
- We supported the change which banned camping in environmentally sensitive parks such as Cuthbert Holmes
- We did regular checks on the park and reported any issues to Saanich Parks and Saanich Police

## **McKenzie Interchange Construction**

As construction continues we are monitoring the effects on Cuthbert Holmes Park and continue to report issues and advocate for greater environmental protections.

## **Events**

- **July 1 - 20th Gorge Canada Day Picnic** - Approximately 10,000 people celebrated in our neighbourhood - This was another HUGE success and we thank all our wonderful volunteers!
- **August 21 - Music in the Park** - Our community enjoyed a great performance by The Radcliffes in Rudd Park
- **September 15- Gorge Park Clean Up** - A dedicated group of volunteers braved the rain to clean up garbage and remove invasive species from Gorge Park
- **December 16 - Lights on the Gorge** See details on page 10.

## **Proposed Developments**

**Obed & Harriet** - There is a proposed project at #1/#21 Obed Street. The proposal would see the building of a multi-unit rental dwelling on the

property. This project is in the early stages.

**300 Gorge Rd West & 2900 Tillicum** - A proposed redevelopment of the existing corner would replace the existing building that houses Gorgeous Coffee and Il Greco with a new mixed use building including commercial space at ground level and 55 units of rental housing above. A community meeting is tentatively scheduled for late November. Rezoning would need to be approved by Saanich.

**2933, 2941, 2949 Albina Street** - Rezoning is in progress for the proposed development of rental housing complex catering to seniors near Fairway Market. The complex would have 39 units including three aimed at low income seniors.

**2931 & 2947 Qu'Appelle St.** - Rezoning is in progress for a proposed development consisting of one three story and one four story multi-family rental building with a combined 44 units.

## Memories from Music In the Park



It was a great evening of dancing, food and music by the Radcliffes. Left: Gabe Epstein and Belle Leon, top right: Shaun Wilson, top left: Chuck Simms and top right: Chris Bullock and Kay Stewart

Photos: Russ Godfrey



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# Local Group to Sponsor Refugee Family



Refugee Sponsorship Group - July 2018

A group in the Gorge Tillicum community is helping to sponsor a refugee family. The family is Somali, have been stuck in a refugee camp in Kenya for 28 years and have two adult children living in Victoria. The family, whose identity cannot be publicly shared for security reasons, will go through the formal government process for acceptance as refugees to Canada. I would love to try to persuade readers that everyone should support this initiative but that seems wrong, if only because I'm sickened by recent trends in public discourse. Instead, I will tell you why I am getting involved. If my reasons make sense to you, perhaps you will consider helping. If not then at least you can better understand why you might disagree.

First, I have seen more than a few African refugee camps. They are awful.

Refugee camps happen when masses of people flee their homes in panic and cross a border looking for safety. Whatever safety they find comes at a price paid in loss of dignity, loss of free movement, loss of home and, if help does not come quickly, loss of hope. Refugees are quickly reduced to a state of complete dependency. Most of the camps I've seen have been full of desperate people longing for one thing – to go home. Most of the refugees I have met in those camps were still there because going home was impossible. I have not been to the particular refugee camp in question but I have seen many such camps in the region. In this particular case, after thirty years of watching their native Somalia fall ever deeper into dysfunction and chaos, there is little hope of a peaceful return home any time soon. Since Kenya will not

accept them as citizens, they are stuck in limbo.

Second, there are millions of refugees today living in conditions that would be unimaginable to most of us. We can't help them all, except through government action and through support of one of the many well intentioned but overwhelmed agencies that have been established to make us all feel better. Some of you already send money to one of them. All of us pay taxes that support our own government's attempts to help. This is better than nothing but does little but keep alive the fragile hope that some day life will get back to normal. But does not being able to help everybody mean that we shouldn't help anybody? In this case, we have an opportunity to help one family find a new home here in Saanich.

*Continued on page 10*

NDP

## Supporting a safe and sustainable Gorge Tillicum

**Randall Garrison, MP** ESQUIMALT – SAANICH – SOOKE



2904 Tillicum Road  
Victoria V9A 2A5  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Monday–Thursday  
or by appointment  
250-405-6550  
Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca  
www.RandallGarrison.ndp.ca

# Silver Threads Saanich Celebrates 50th

On December 8th, 1968 the partnership with Silver Threads Service and the District of Saanich officially began with the opening of a purpose built building for seniors – the home of the current Saanich Centre. In 1986 the building located at 286 Hampton Road, was named the Les Passmore Centre after Les Passmore who was a Reeve and a Counsellor for 33 years in Saanich.

**Today the Centre supports over 20,000 annual visits, and serves seniors 55 years and older.**

Seniors can become annual members, or participate without becoming a member. Saanich residents can also benefit from outreach service in the community and may never even come to the centre!

Silver Threads Service is a charitable, not-for-profit society that enhances social connections and well-being for seniors and has been serving the community since 1956. We provide programs and services that are accessible to all.

Some things never change, like our ever popular dinner events. While some things do, nobody would have imaged we would be offering such a thing as Pickleball or computers in 1968!



Early dinner at Silver Threads

We will commemorate the occasion at the November 21st Dinner and will invite some special guests to celebrate with us. Also look for the 50th Anniversary supplement coming out in the Saanich News!

*Happy Birthday Saanich Silver Threads!*

**Tracy Ryan  
Executive Director, Silver Threads**



Photos: Courtesy Silver Threads

Pickleball Game



Recent dinner at Silver Threads



For more information call  
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# Gorge Park Community Gardens Update

Our Fall Celebration was a great success! The weather behaved and everything that had been so carefully organized on paper began to unfold. Tents and tables arrived, signs went up, boxes were unpacked, displays fine-tuned, food arranged, and musicians followed and filled the air with sound! Beside are some picture of our event. Thank you to Kay Stewart for her exceptional organizational expertise and to the many skilled hands who helped create and execute the plan. Neighbours, friends, parents, kids, and dogs — thank you all for coming to celebrate both our beautiful space and another amazing gardening year!

- Laurie Jones



Photo: Laurie Jones



Photo: Frances Johnson

Belle Leon setting up and a view of event.

For more information about the gardens check out our website or our facebook page.

[www.gorgegardens.wixsite.com/gorgegardens](http://www.gorgegardens.wixsite.com/gorgegardens)

Find us on  [/gorgeparkcommunitygardens](https://www.facebook.com/gorgeparkcommunitygardens)



Photo: Gabe Epstein

Musicians - Inlet Avenue Band, Autumn and Maya, June Samuel, Beautiful Luck and others

## Update From Saanich Parks

A reminder that salmon spawning season is approaching. Please take extra care when visiting Cuthbert Holmes Park and the Colquitz River to avoid disturbing them at this critical time.

Signs reminding visitors to stay out of the river and riparian areas have been installed in Cuthbert Holmes Park at key locations along the river. And a new interpretive sign featuring information about the river and wildlife, including riparian areas, salmon, and the migratory bird sanctuary has been installed at The Point.



Photo Courtesy Saanich Parks

New interpretive sign at The Point, in Cuthbert Holmes Park

Saanich Parks will be leading a restoration project in Gorge Park. This multi-year project includes blackberry removal, mulching and tree planting this year and a second removal of invasives next year followed by native species planting.

Trees: Four big leaf maples will be replaced this fall in Gorge Park. Six new trees will be planted at the east end of Tillicum Rd in front of Lasik as part of the new bike lane project and eight additional trees will be planted as replacements from previous removals.



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# The Green Space

## New Fish Fence Viewing Area

The new Colquitz Creek viewing area was created to open up space for safety and to allow school and other groups to get a great site line to the fish fence. The Saanich Parks Natural Areas crew, led by Don Illingworth, wanted to create a safe and interactive spot for many to enjoy.

Once the Blackberry was removed and the ground leveled, six by six Cedar landscape ties were placed on the Creek side to help contain the material during high floods. Ten yards of crushed rock and four yards of pathway blend were tamped down and the entire area was framed in by Cedar split rail fencing. The 8 large boulders were brought in for sitting, jumping and back row viewing.

The centre planting bed was retained for a Big leaf maple tree which will be planted later in the Fall.

Enjoy!

**Rick Hatch**  
Assistant Supervisor Natural Areas  
Municipality of Saanich

### Cuthbert Holmes Park Still Needs Your Help!

Under the new Saanich bylaw, ALL camping is now prohibited in the park! If you see camping activity please call the Saanich Police non-emergency line at 250-475-4321.

**If you see an active campfire please call 911!** (Note your location to help the fire department)

If you see graffiti, piles of garbage or habitat destruction such as trees cut down please contact Saanich Parks at 250-475-5522 or email [parks.admin@saanich.ca](mailto:parks.admin@saanich.ca).

Construction run off into the park or damage to the silt fencing along the construction zone should be reported to Saanich Parks at 250-475-5522 or email [parks.admin@saanich.ca](mailto:parks.admin@saanich.ca).



Photo: Dorothy Chambers

Above: Preschoolers enjoy a sunny morning at the fence. No salmon on this day but they did catch a glimpse of a mink!

Below: The newly expanded fish fence viewing area.



Photo: Dorothy Chambers

### FEATURED BIRD: HUTTON'S VIREO

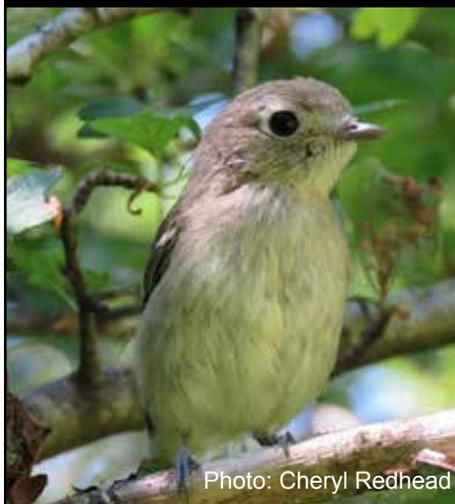


Photo: Cheryl Redhead

This baby Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), Pacific Coast version, thrives in Woodland forests with Garry Oaks like Colquitz River Park (Cuthbert-Holmes). It grows to 5" and has an incomplete eye ring, broken above. While fairly common, they are not seen that often, so it was a thrill to have this one land directly in front of my camera in July. With the onset of Fall, this Park is full of a variety of warblers, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwings, shorebirds, small falcons like Merlins and hawks.

- Cheryl Redhead

# Celebrating Local Artists:

Earlier this year, I started noticing strange and interesting mobiles in the middle and at the edge of the woods at Gorge Park. They were circles within circles, which were fashioned in intriguing designs, and seemed to be made from the creepers and vines found within the woods themselves. At first, I hadn't the faintest idea who was making these unusual works of art. Then one day I came across a man twisting a vine into a circle. He was very friendly, but the moment I started asking him questions about his art, he said that he would see me another time, but right now he had to go.

Two women who walked often in the park, though, knew more about the artist than the rest of us. Carol Greenwood and Annie Pang found out that the artist's name was Tori. To Carol, he claimed he was willing to demonstrate his skills to others and that he had made mobiles for other parks. Annie had known a little about Tori for quite a while before his works proliferated in the woods. Two years ago he had made a small round globe for her birds, and he indicated to her that he consciously used invasive plants like ivy and Himalayan Blackberry to turn something nobody wanted into art works that everyone could enjoy.

Still, much about Tori was a mystery even to Annie Pang, and I had produced a draft of an article on this artist that emphasized how little we knew about him, when something startling happened. On a cold sunny day in early October, Annie ran across Tori and he agreed to sit down and be interviewed by her. Suddenly, much that was mysterious was out in the open. Here is the interview.



Tori McLaverty with a new sculpture

Annie: Late in the afternoon on a Tuesday in October, I walked down to Gorge Park to de-stress and along the cliff trail I ran into Tori for the first time since Carol Greenwood and I had spoken with him about the Community Garden Fall Festival. He had just completed a small mobile and was looking for an appropriate branch to hang it from but was very happy to show it to me. I told him he'd been missed at the Festival and that he was our "mystery artist" and he was rather pleased to hear this. Since we know each other and he is quite a lovely friendly soul, he offered to sit down on the nearby bench and let me ask him questions. I thought I'd better seize the opportunity as he cannot be reached by phone or email. This is what Tori shared with me:

Annie: "None of us know your full name"

Tori: "It's Tori McLaverty"

"Oh, is that Scottish?"

"No, it's Irish. My heritage is Irish and Aboriginal. I come from the Sayisi Dene First Nations in Churchill, Manitoba. The area is Tadoule Lake, Manitoba."

"How did you start making your art?"

"Well...I had a favourite spot in Beacon Hill Park....a dry spot under a fallen tree covered in ivy. One day I came there and was really dismayed to find that someone had removed all the ivy. A passerby then told me that the ivy was an invasive plant. I hadn't realized this. I ended up getting hooked up with Thomas Munson of the City of Victoria to volunteer with pulling up the ivy. As I was handling the vines I found myself twisting the stripped vines into hoops and peace signs. One morning, while in the park, I looked up and saw this huge spider weaving in circles."

"That was an Orb Weaver Spider you saw."

*"Cool!! The web was just amazing, and it was covered in morning dew. I got so inspired .... like suddenly a light bulb went on in my head! And I knew I wanted to weave a huge web between two trees..... and I did. The rest is history."*

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# Tori McLaverty - Artist of the Woods

“Where do you have your work aside from here in Gorge Park?”

“Oh geez, in Beacon Hill Park, Colquitz River Park, Elk Lake/Beaver Lake Park, Cuthbert Holmes Park, Summit Reservoir, and some other parks along the Galloping Goose Trail.”

“We’re doing an article on you and your work. We really missed you at the Community Garden Fall Festival here. What happened?”

“Oh yeah, I was sick that day so I couldn’t come. Sorry about that.”

“It’s fine. I took some pics of your stuff,

but would love to get a few shots of you with this new one you just made as well as next to your other work.”

Tori was very happy to let me get him to pose for a few shots. It was late and the light was poor but Tori had me trek with him through the park to try to find somewhere to hang his latest mobile, and he also showed me some other woven art I had not seen, so well hidden in the dark part of the woods. What an imagination! I asked him for his contact information and found out he lives in Langford. I wanted to be able to mail him a few copies of



Photos: Annie Pang

Examples of Tori’s sculptures in Gorge Park West

the article, and he said he really would appreciate this for his portfolio.

Tori also told me that the James Bay Beacon had done an article on him back in March of 2016, so that could be sourced for more material. Before we parted, he asked how my small mobiles were doing (he’d gifted me one 2 years ago and another one last year). I said one of them had fallen apart but that the birds had loved it. He offered to make me another one. Well, obviously I didn’t say no, did I???

Introduction: Chris Bullock

Interview and Photographs:  
Annie Pang

Additional material: Carol Greenwood



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cont'd from page 4

Finally, like many people aging in the comfort of middle class Canada, I find it too easy to turn away when someone far away asks for help. I am not religious, not driven by idealism and definitely not ready to give away everything I own in exchange for a warm fuzzy feeling. Yet, something seems wrong. I guess, at the end of the day, I feel a need to do something myself to make things just a little better. So, I will join a team of sponsors to work within a government program to help one family come to Canada. I do so in the hope that doing my little

bit will make it possible for those who remain in the camp to hang on a little longer. I do it because I hope it helps me find and work with a number of other Canadians who reject the vicious fear-mongering we've seen too much of lately. I do it because I find it too easy to see myself in the same situation if the ocean rises faster than we expect or our own political situation suddenly falls victim to some unforeseen madness. Finally, I do it in memory of my own grandparents, who, like so many previous immigrants, came here to escape misery somewhere else.

**If you want to help, please go to <https://chim.pn/2vgWBmT> to make a donation. You will receive a tax receipt.**

The sponsorship process will take several years and we must meet a series of fund raising objectives as we reach the point of final processing. We'll keep you informed and hope you will all help us welcome this family into our community when they finally arrive.

**-Philip Lancaster,  
Co-sponsor**



# Lights On The Gorge

**An informal celebration of light**  
Sponsored by the Gorge Tillicum Community Association

**Sunday, December 16, 2018**  
at  
**Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club**

- 1:30 pm Tree Decorating & Lantern Making
- 2:30 pm Welcome & Karpes Family Band
- 3:10 pm Storytelling
- 3:45 pm Songs & Readings
- 4:15 pm Carol Singing
- 5:00 pm Mummer's Play
- 5:15 pm Tree Light-up & Lantern and Drum Procession

**GTCA Website**  
[gorgetillicum.ca](http://gorgetillicum.ca)



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# Upcoming Events

**41st Annual Creative Craft Fair:** November 9 – 11, at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More information at [www.creativecraftfairs.com](http://www.creativecraftfairs.com)

**Youth Christmas Craft Market:** Saturday, November 10, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at [www.saanichrec.ca](http://www.saanichrec.ca)

**Saanich Remembrance Day Ceremony:** Sunday, November 11, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm at the Cenotaph in front of Saanich Municipal Hall at 770 Vernon Avenue. More info. at [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca)

**littleBits for Beginners:** Saturday, November 17, 2:30 – 4:00 pm at Saanich Centennial Branch Library. For ages 10-12. Innovate and explore the basics of coding and electronics with littleBits: Code Kits. Register at [gvpl.ca](http://gvpl.ca) or call 250-940-GVPL (4875) for more information.

**Hampton Concert Orchestra Christmas Concerts:** Sunday, November 25 at 2:30 pm and Monday, November 26 at 7:30 pm at Les Passmore Seniors' Centre, 286 Hampton Rd. Refreshments will be served at intermission. Admission by donation. More info. at [www.hamptonconcertorchestra.com](http://www.hamptonconcertorchestra.com)

**Deck the Hall: Winter Lights Festival:** Saturday, December 1, 5:00 – 8:30 pm, Saanich Municipal Hall. Kick off your holiday season at Saanich Municipal Hall with a festive lights display and a variety of seasonal activities. Children's Christmas Concerts, photos with Santa, arts and crafts, seasonal entertainment, food and refreshments. FREE. More info. at [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca)

**Annual IEOA Truck Light Convoy:** Saturday, December 1, 5:45 pm (leaves Ogden Point) – 8:30 pm (arrives at Western Speedway.) Don't miss out on this display of brightly lit trucks planned by the Island Equipment Owners Association, as they carry your food donations to local food banks. Watch the Convoy roll by McKenzie and Island Highway at ~7.30 pm. More info. at <https://ieoa.ca/trucklight.html>

**Cookies and Crafts Open House – Saanich Centennial Branch:** Saturday, December 8, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, at Saanich Centennial Branch. To celebrate the holidays and to thank you for supporting your library, each branch will have free festive refreshments for all and crafts for kids! from 2:00-4:00pm. Come in for a treat and a chat!

**Ice Festival:** December 21 – 26 at Pearkes Rec. Centre. Enjoy this festive season with family and friends in a Winter Snow Globe on ice. Pearkes arena will transform into a wonderland of trees, snow and lights. See drop-in schedule at [www.saanichrec.ca](http://www.saanichrec.ca)

**Lights on the Gorge:** Sunday, December 16, 1:00 – 6:00 pm, at the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club. An informal, local, multicultural celebration of light will be back just before Winter Solstice this year: music, readings and more. To help, volunteer or for more information visit the GTCA website at [www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)

**January 1, 2019: Happy New Year!** Please remember to renew your Gorge Tillicum Community Association membership when it expires (\$5.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for businesses).

**Spring Dream Wedding Show 2019:** Sunday, January 20, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at [www.bridalexhibition.ca](http://www.bridalexhibition.ca)

**Victoria Health Show 2019:** January 26 – 27 at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at <https://10times.com/victoria-health-show>

**The Victoria Women's Expo:** March 2 – 3 at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at [www.victoriawomensexpo.com](http://www.victoriawomensexpo.com)

**55+ Lifestyle Show:** March 12, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at [55pluslifestyle.com/victoria/](http://55pluslifestyle.com/victoria/)

**Want to Promote Your Event?**

Email community events to Katherine at [kmbrandt@telus.net](mailto:kmbrandt@telus.net)



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## Feline Ambassador of Cowper Avenue

Anyone who takes the bus at the corner of Cowper and Colquitz will recognize the feline pictured.

Affectionately known as “friendly cat,” this feline enthusiastically greets everyone who comes near the corner. It purrs and drools frantically. On one occasion it even tried to board the bus with my son, much to the disapproval of the bus driver.

Community spirit comes in all forms!

**-Vera Wynn-Williams**



Photo: Sydney Wynn-Williams



Gorge Tillicum Community Association,  
P.O. Box 44152, Victoria, BC V9A 7K1  
www.gorgetillicum.ca | /GorgeTillicum

## Membership Application

Beginning on January 1, 2018, membership is valid from the time of payment of membership fees to the end of the month of the anniversary date of payment. Join or renew by mail or online on our website!

- New Membership(s) or  
 Renewing Membership(s)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

\*EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*This will be added to our distribution list for occasional emails regarding upcoming events or community issues.

If you are paying for other members of your household, please list the other Members' names:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT:

Please enclose payment and mail to above address

**Individual:** \$5/each x \_\_\_\_\_ memberships = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Couples :** \$10/each x \_\_\_\_\_ memberships = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Business:** \$25/each x \_\_\_\_\_ memberships = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation:** Your extra support helps offset Newsletter and other costs. Thank-you! + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment Enclosed** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILS:

Membership is open to any resident or property owner who is 19 years or older, living within the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood as well as person engaged in business in the neighbourhood.

If membership is not renewed you will remain on our email distribution list for one more year before being deleted. Memberships are available in three categories; individual, couple or business.

# Geese on the Gorge

Autumn is well underway, the days are getting shorter and the Canada Geese have begun to prepare to migrate. There is something quintessentially Canadian about the sight and sound of geese flying in formation and many of us remember a time when these displays of natural splendour were disappearing. Those of us old enough might recall a deep feeling of despondency in the early 1960s as Canada Geese were hunted to near extinction. Rachel Carson released her seminal novel *Silent Spring* about this time and many of us feared the imminent collapse of our entire eco-system. I suspect that many of us cheered when the breeding program started in the US in the late 1950s began to re-introduce flocks to areas that had lost them and to introduce them to new areas, such as southern BC. But, as is often the case, what seemed a good idea at the time has now generated a new problem.

Anyone who has walked along the Gorge this year may have seen flocks of geese up-ended in the water feeding on the roots (rhizomes) of eelgrass. They will also have noticed large sections of pathway covered in goose droppings. These would be not be serious problems were it not for the numbers of geese involved and the effort that has gone into regeneration of the eelgrass beds, which are essential to the health of our Gorge eco-system. (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/GWI>)

This issue was discussed at length at a recent meeting of The Gorge Waterway Initiative,. A number of experts present at the meeting explained that Canada Geese are not native to this area but were introduced in the early 1960s to improve hunting opportunities.



Since that time, urban and suburban sprawl and changing values have made local hunting unsafe and unpopular. Without natural predators or hunting, the geese have thrived and bred large populations that now pose an environmental risk to other natural species, particularly those that need healthy eel grass beds. ([www.sccp.ca](http://www.sccp.ca)) The experts went on to discuss a variety of control options that might be used to limit the damage. All of them will require public support and significant cooperation among the various levels of government involved.

While the fate of local Canada Goose populations will undoubtedly lead to some heated debates, it would be useful for anyone concerned to consider all the relevant facts and information now available before taking sides. There are a number of useful articles available through the websites cited above. In the meantime, the GTCA council will continue to monitor developments and to seek ways to reduce the negative impact of goose population imbalance without drastically upsetting either the human or other affected populations.

- Phil Lancaster



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