



GORGETILlicUM

# Neighbourhood

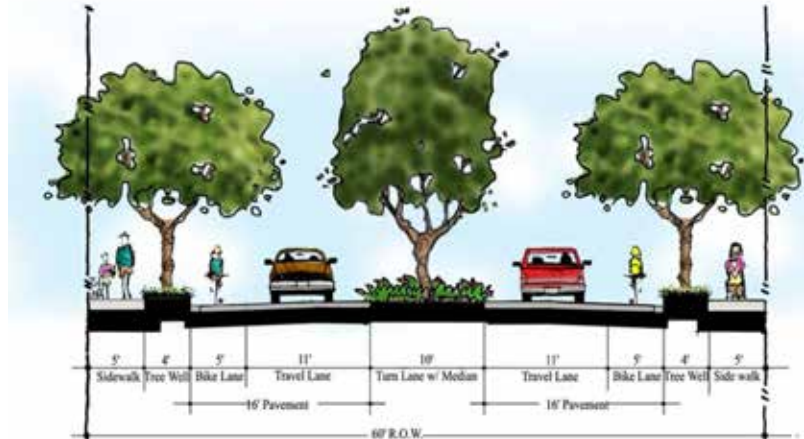
Gorge Tillicum Community Association SPRING 2022

# NEWS

## Changes Finally Coming to Tillicum Road!

Your Board of Directors has been working hard to find ways to address the main safety problems. As explained in previous newsletters, we have focused on Tillicum Road, mainly because it has had more accidents than any other stretch of road in our neighbourhood and because it neatly cuts our community in half.

Nearly 20 years ago, Tillicum Road was identified in our (out of date) Local Area Plan as a 'village centre'. A GTCA-initiated design charrette, conducted in 2005, generated a design that included improved sidewalks, bike lanes, protected crosswalks and trees. This design was made official in the Burnside Tillicum Action Plan of 2005. The part between Burnside and Hwy 1 was completed a few years ago, in conjunction with work between the Highway and Carey Road. Since then, no further work has been done, despite this stretch of road being the site of 80 accidents in 2019 (ICBC data).



Designer's rendering of a street design where all users are treated as important.  
A design for Tillicum Road is still in the works.

Over the past year, we have conducted a concerted campaign to bring this issue to the attention of our local government.

Luckily Esquimalt had published their own ATP, which calls for 'rapid implementation' of a road diet, complete with bike lanes, protected crosswalks and protected sidewalks along their part of Tillicum Road.

After a series of initiatives, on Monday, March 14, Saanich Council approved Short-Term Solutions to Advance Active Transportation. Part of the approved quick build plan was to "Re-allocate the road space on Tillicum Road from Arena Road to the Saanich Boundary with Esquimalt to remove general-purpose vehicle lanes and install protected cycling lanes using quick build and lower cost techniques."

We feel that this is a significant first step to slowing the road down and making it safer for all people - pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

It's important to understand that this advocacy work is about so much more than bike lanes.

### What we want to see on Tillicum Road:

- A street that functions at the heart of the community and becomes a destination with cafes and other local services.
- A more pleasant pedestrian experience which will encourage people to walk for day to day errands.
- Bike lane connectivity - disconnected bits of bike lanes are almost worse than no bike lanes.
- Safer routes to schools.

While we are pleased with the progress, we understand that this is a mere baby step. We have no intention of taking off the pressure until we see tangible and more permanent changes.

Thanks to the many, many community members who took the time to write, call and partake in Council meetings. This strong show of community support helped get changes to Tillicum Road back on the agenda.

**-Phil Lancaster &  
Vera Wynn-Williams**

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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 May 1, 2022.

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**Distribution:**

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.

## GTCA Board Meetings

The Board normally meets at 7pm the second Thursday of each month from September to June. Please check our website for the most up to date information.

**Everyone is welcome to attend board meetings.** If you want to put an item on the agenda please email our president one week in advance.

Agendas will be posted to the GTCA website a few days in advance of the meeting.



## CURB APPEAL MAY 1-14

### This May our neighbourhood will be in full bloom - with art!

**Curb Appeal**, a community spirit event that invites YOU to create an informal art installation for the neighbourhood to enjoy, is coming back to Gorge Tillicum from May 1-14..

This year's theme is **"Spring Fantasy."** Think flowers, fairies, gnomes, bunnies and other whimsical odes to the season. To participate, you simply need to display something creative in your yard, window or anywhere that's visible from the street, and include a small sign with the hashtag #gorgecurbappeal

so we can track and share your installation on social media.

It can be as simple as a paper flower in your window or as epic as a hedge shaped into a magnificent creature. Try a decorated fence or tree, a junk sculpture, topiary/use of natural elements, creative light displays or dioramas. Dangle something small from a hook or festoon your entire house - anything goes!

**Be sure to follow @gorgetillicum on Instagram for updates.**

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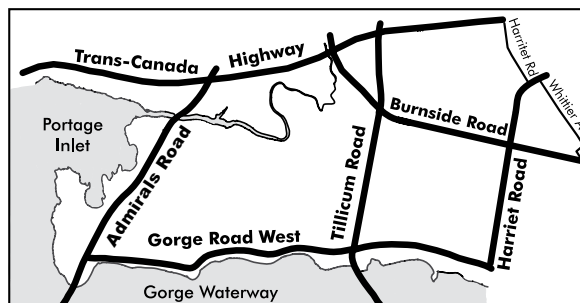
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The GTCA boundaries are the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet shorelines, the Trans-Canada highway to the north and Harriet/Whittier/Harriet to the east.

To learn more about Saanich Community Associations and view the boundaries, see <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/community-associations.html>

# GTCA Update

## Can You Help Us?

In order to do the work it does -- whether it's hosting a picnic, planning local celebrations and arts events, taking care of boulevards, cleaning up a park, or something else -- the GTCA relies on the help and support it gets from volunteers from the wider community.

We certainly appreciate the dozens of people that are currently volunteering with us, in one way or another; and, as always, we're looking for more people to help share the load.

In particular, please contact us at [info@gorgetillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca) if you would like to help in one or more of the following ways -- or if you'd like more information before deciding:

- Become a director of the GTCA
- Help deliver newsletters to homes and businesses in the neighbourhood

- Join a new group working to increase the number of trees in the neighbourhood
- Join a new group working to promote food resiliency in the neighbourhood
- Join the new Community Connections Working Group aiming of strengthen connections between and amongst local residents and organizations
- Join one of the existing Working Groups -- the Arts, Culture & Celebration WG; the Buildings WG; the Mobility & Transportation WG; and the Natural Areas WG
- Join the Climate & Ecosystem Group (see article on p.10)
- Help put on the Gorge Canada Day Picnic, the fall Pumpkin Parade, and/or the winter Lights On The Gorge event

- Help take care of selected boulevard areas and traffic circles (Boulevard Brigades)

The Board welcomes support and participation in other ways as well:

If you wish to become a member and/or to support us with a donation, please visit our website at <https://www.gorgetillicum.ca/membership-with-form>

The Board maintains a General Contact List -- an email list that's used to keep people in the community informed about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. If you're not currently on the list (or think you might not be), please let us know at [info@gorgetillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca) and we'll add you to it. (Note: Emails are sent out using the BCC option.)

**Thanks very much!**



## Gorge Park Cleanup

**9 am - noon  
Saturday, April 23, 2022  
(rain or shine)**

**Free coffee and donuts.**

Join us in Gorge Park,  
by the community gardens.  
Look for the GTCA red tent.

**Most supplies are provided but bring  
gardening gloves if you have them.**



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**Victoria Native Friendship Center Gym  
231 Regina Avenue  
(former Hampton School)**

### Please Join Us For:

Board Elections

Annual Report Presentation

Presentation on What's Happening  
in the Neighbourhood

**Refreshments Will Be Served**



# Celebrating Local Artists:

Two Muppet-style puppets are reading a story. The story comes to life on the screen. A woman in a flounced dress and apron is mixing ingredients and baking a gingerbread man. As she moves towards him, the baked gingerbread man leaps out of the pan, and she chases after him waving a spoon. Soon he will encounter two men, one a man with a big moustache and one a monk, and another woman in a bonnet picking flowers. All of them want to eat him, but he stays ahead of them until he reaches a river. A fox offers to take him across, but he learns that you can't trust foxes. Throughout the chase, we move back and forth between the action and Zach and Reggie, the puppets reading the book, and the action ends with Reggie starting to eat his own gingerbread man.

Welcome to Pancake Manor, the YouTube channel with 2.6 million subscribers and 1.8 billion views. The creators of the channel are Reb Stevenson and Billy Reid, who have recently become our neighbors in Gorge Tillicum. Reb and Billy created everything in the video sequence I've just described. They manipulated the puppets, acted the four human roles, composed, played and sang the lively music that moved the action along, created all the sets and did the videography. Explore other rooms in Pancake Manor, and you will find talking pancakes, five monkeys jumping off a bed, boy and girl superheroes, a




Reb Stevenson and Billy Reid

celebration of the colour red involving Zach's red sports car—not to mention Superman's red underwear, and several delicious red fruits-- and many, many more offerings. Not to mention the eight best-selling studio albums produced by the duo.

Where does all this creativity come from, you might ask. The answer is the synergy that happens when two people with multiple skills meet and bring those skills together. Reb

Stevenson brings writing, photography and acting to the project. Born on Vancouver Island, as was her partner Billy, she studied journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa, and then worked for several years at the Ottawa Citizen and the Vancouver Sun, before taking a break and working at a pub in Lewes, on the English south coast. Then followed four years writing a travel column for the Toronto Star. And Toronto was where she met Billy Reid in 2008.

<p><b>WALK-IN+</b></p> <p><b>BURNSIDE FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC</b></p> <p><b>NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED</b></p>	<p><b>EXTENDED HOURS</b></p> <p>Mon. to Fri. <b>7:30am to 9:00pm</b></p> <p>Sat., Sun. &amp; Hol. <b>9:00am to 6:00pm</b></p> <p>101 Burnside Rd. West (between Tillicum and Harriet)</p> <p><a href="http://www.burnsideclinic.ca">www.burnsideclinic.ca</a></p>	 <p><b>ALSO ON-SITE: X-RAY • LAB • PHARMACY • PHYSIO</b></p>
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# Reb Stevenson and Billy Reid, Online Children's Entertainers

Billy Reid had arrived in Toronto by a different route. Initially staying closer to home, he had gone to film school in Victoria (no longer an option!), and taught film and the arts at a private school on Shawnigan Lake. But in this setting, he was, in fact, a pioneer, discovering how to upload videos to YouTube in its very earliest years, and developing a substantial fan base for his creations. His creations led to an invitation to co-host a CBC show where viewers submitted their own videos for inclusion. When he arrived in Toronto, looking for more creative opportunities, he exchanged his songs for a set of puppets but had no idea what to do with them, while Reb had ideas for using puppets, but no video skills. Video skills met puppets, and, in 2011, Pancake Manor was born.

For a while Pancake Manor was very portable, eventually travelling back with them to Vancouver Island, and then, after a sortie up-Island, settling in Victoria. Gorge-Tillicum appealed to Billy and Reb, not just because of the chance to swim in the Gorge, but because it seemed – and has turned out to be—a low-key, family-oriented neighborhood.

And low-key and family-oriented really describes the orientation of their work too. Despite the global audience for their videos, they have kept their business small-scale, mainly two parents doing everything and testing



Selection of Pancake Manor YouTube Videos, some of which have over 100 million views!

out the results on their three-year-old daughter. In their view, the scale of their operation allows them to stay true to their intention, which is to entertain and educate children in the spirit of generosity and respect for themselves and the community they live in.

It's very evident that, at the heart of Pancake Manor and everything Billy and Reb do, is a deep valuation of children. Reb is very open about

talking about the couple's extended struggle to conceive a child, which, after a considerable time, became possible via IVF. They valued children well before their child was born, but the struggle to conceive, and eventual success when everything seemed impossible, gave them a deep appreciation of the preciousness of each child.

What's striking about this appreciation is that Reb and Billy clearly see that a child's healthy development is related to the existence of a healthy community. Their commitment to community has been immediately evident in the way they have not only supported but creatively invented activities for the Gorge-Tillicum community, notably the Curb Appeal campaign last summer and the Pumpkin Parade last November. Reb, as part of the GTCA Arts, Culture and Celebration working group, helped organize the painting of the mural on Burnside Road, and the Theatre Skam performance festival; many other projects of the same sort are in the pipeline. And they are all governed by the same principle: to help this neighborhood become a walkable village, a community, a healthy place for children to grow up in. Those of us who work in or with the GTCA and share this vision feel very lucky to have two such creative people to help us move towards it.

-Chris Bullock

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# The Green Space

## Let's Pull and Plant Together Gorge Tillicum

Did you know that English Ivy can kill a tree? Despite the lush and verdant sight of an ivy covered tree, the health of the tree is compromised by vines that climb and cover the tree. We can take careful steps to help these trees survive.

The Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Program engages volunteers in more than forty local parks removing invasive plant species like English Ivy, Scotch Broom, Daphne Laurel and others and re-planting with native plants to help local ecosystems flourish and thrive. In the Gorge Tillicum area, volunteer teams are active at Gorge Park, Walter Park and Cuthbert Holmes Park. We would love your help to care for parks.

- Anyone is welcome to join us at work parties (Covid-19 protocols).

- Tools, and training provided and no experience necessary.

Two recent Pulling Together Volunteer events, held in Cuthbert Holmes Park, removed a large area of English Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry, Daphne, and small English Hawthorn trees that cleared the way for Saanich Parks Natural Areas staff to remove several dozen invasive English Hawthorn trees. The crew cut and chipped the trees on site; many Snowberry and Nootka Rose shrubs were saved plus a small Garry Oak tree and a native Black Hawthorn tree. The area that was cleared was under the dripline of several mature Garry Oak trees that were getting shaded out by the English Hawthorns. Crews then planted 5 multi-stem Black Hawthorn

trees, 5 Snowberry and 5 June Plum shrubs. A light layer of mixed mulch was added to the exposed soil.

Valentine's Day was celebrated with a class from Colquitz Middle School. Twenty plus student's trudged through mucky conditions to plant 6 Trembling Aspen trees, 3 Big-leaf Maple and 15 Red-flowering Currant shrubs throughout the newly established Trembling Aspen planting project.

Last fall, two classes from Tillicum Elementary joined Saanich Staff to plant a couple dozen Trembling Aspen, Red Alder, and Western-red Cedar trees along the same stretch of Colquitz River in Cuthbert Holmes Park. Encouraging community youth stewardship with our schools and other youth groups is a great way to inspire, engage, and create life-lasting involvement in protecting our sensitive ecosystems.

Saanich's Pulling Together Volunteer Program involves community volunteers in hands-on ecological restoration in more than 40 parks in Saanich. We welcome people of all ages and abilities. Contact [parks@saanich.ca](mailto:parks@saanich.ca) or visit website to learn about how you can help care for parks.

- Richard Hatch





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# If You Build It ...

## Aquatic Alcoves in Cuthbert Holmes Park Loved by Many

Phase one of the Colquitz River riparian restoration project, in Cuthbert Holmes Park, began last August and will continue in 2022. Last year a section of the Colquitz River, across from Silver City Theatre, saw the construction of two new tidal flood-plain alcoves; this area of Cuthbert Holmes Park had been dredged, logged and cleared for agricultural purposes many decades ago. The infestation of invasive trees over the past few decades has created a monoculture of English Hawthorn trees with very little native tree, shrub and herbaceous plant and habitat diversity. The goal of this three year project is to restore a thirty metre riparian buffer zone along both sides of Colquitz River that runs about 200 metres. Two flood-plain habitat alcove features were built last year with four more to be constructed during the fisheries window of 2022 (July – August). Part of the new trail design will include a river viewing platform adjacent to the new fish alcoves and Trembling Aspen grove. Similar to other viewing areas along the Colquitz River, it will be used for educational, birding and research opportunities.

The largest floodplain bench or alcove is over 900 m<sup>2</sup> and includes a 30m<sup>2</sup> amphibian pond. The second floodplain alcove is 200m<sup>2</sup>; both alcoves have approximately 40m<sup>2</sup> of permanent pool area (creek bed level). These two areas re-create floodplain riparian zones that were lost decades ago when the property was leveled and developed for agriculture use. Large boulders, woody debris, spawning gravel and tree stumps were added to improve fish habitat by creating predatory escape pockets; the 2500 plus native grasses, rushes, sedges, and forbs, that were planted in 2021, will attract various insect species that will enhance feeding opportunities for juvenile and returning Salmon and Cutthroat Trout. Since the completion of the in-stream work and restoration planting, many new and returning animal species have visited



One of the new flood plain habitat alcove features.

the site including: Great Blue Heron, Coopers Hawk, American Coot, Double-crested Cormorant, Robins, Quails, Mallards, Bufflehead, King Fisher, Flickers, Kestrel, Sandpipers, native frogs, and spawning Salmon (with seals chasing them).

Supporting these two habitat alcoves is a new Trembling Aspen forest (over 200 trees planted in 2021) that is funded by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) mitigation funds from the new McKenzie/highway interchange. These funds will be spent over a ten year period to develop and enhance a Trembling Aspen Forest in Cuthbert Holmes Park. Habitat enhancement of the forest and riparian area, to mimic climax forest structures, was done by erecting snags, placing or hollowing out large woody debris (logs and branches), anchoring large tree stumps and woody debris in pools and placing large boulders throughout. Other tree species planted, to support the Trembling Aspen grove include; red-listed Oregon Ash trees (grown from

seed by Satinflower Nurseries), Big-leaf Maple, Red Alder, Douglas fir and Western-red Cedars.

Dave Clough, the lead biologist for most of Saanich Park's creek projects, was key to the design and construction of the creek habitat enhancements; in his words, "That is a gorgeous floodplain, just think of all those riparian trees drinking that water and all of our fish safe from the fast lane, feasting away. Most urban streams don't get to flex their muscles like they do at Cuthbert Holmes Park, they get built up with housing and then flood; we are lucky to have this ecological setting." The Parks Natural Areas crew look forward to working with the Public Works Creeks and Waterways crew, Dorothy Chambers from Salmon in the City, Julian Anderson (Pulling Together Lead Steward and historian) and other community members over the next several years as the Cuthbert Holmes Management Plan comes into fruition.

- **Richard Hatch**



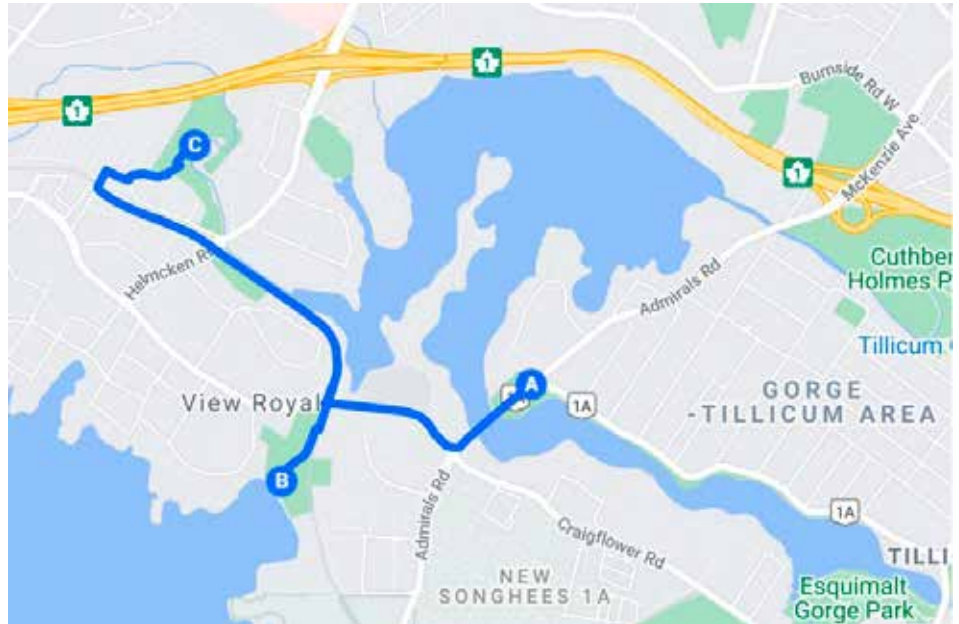
# Easy Scenic Bike Rides From Our Neighbourhood

The Gorge Tillicum area is incredibly well-located, at the heart of our regional trails system, connecting the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, the Lochside Regional Trail and the E&N Rail Trail-Humpback Connector. With our beautiful summer weather, parking fees in effect at some CRD parks and a lack of summer festivities but great access to the outdoors, cycling is a great way for people of all ages and abilities to head out to a local park, beach or swimming hole. If you're seeking bike rides with a low degree of difficulty, consider any of these rides.

**Fact:** A 4 year old should be able to cycle 5-8 km and a healthy, active 7 year old should be able to cycle 16-32 km in a day.

**Tip:** Carry enough water. Due to Covid-19, none of the water fountains are in use.

The Capital Regional Bike Map is available online at [www.crd.bc.ca/service/commuting-cycling/bike-maps](http://www.crd.bc.ca/service/commuting-cycling/bike-maps)



## PORTAGE PARK ROUTE (1 1/2 km from Craigflower Elementary)

Portage Park is an easy bike ride, the distance (1.5 – 5.5 km one-way) depending on where one starts in the neighbourhood. Portage Park offers a playground, picnic tables and beach access.

Follow the bike lanes across Craigflower Bridge (A), turn right onto the Island Highway and follow the bike lanes. (Alternate route to avoid a section of the Island Highway: after passing Craigflower Manor, take an immediate right onto Shoreline Drive to access the Shoreline Trail which exists between Portage Inlet and Shoreline Community Middle School.) Access the E&N Rail Trail opposite 4 Mile House and head right (south) on the trail. Portage Park (B) will be on the immediate right with trails leading

down to the beach.

**Optional add-on: View Royal Park Bike Pump Track** - Get back on the E&N Rail Trail and head north for 1.4 km. To access the bike park, exit the E&N Rail Trail at Fort Victoria RV Park, taking Burnett Road to the right (north.) Turn right (east) onto Pheasant Lane then, at the intersection with Paddock Place, take the trail straight ahead into View Royal Park (C).

The park features a playground, picnic tables, adult exercise equipment and a paved bike pump track.



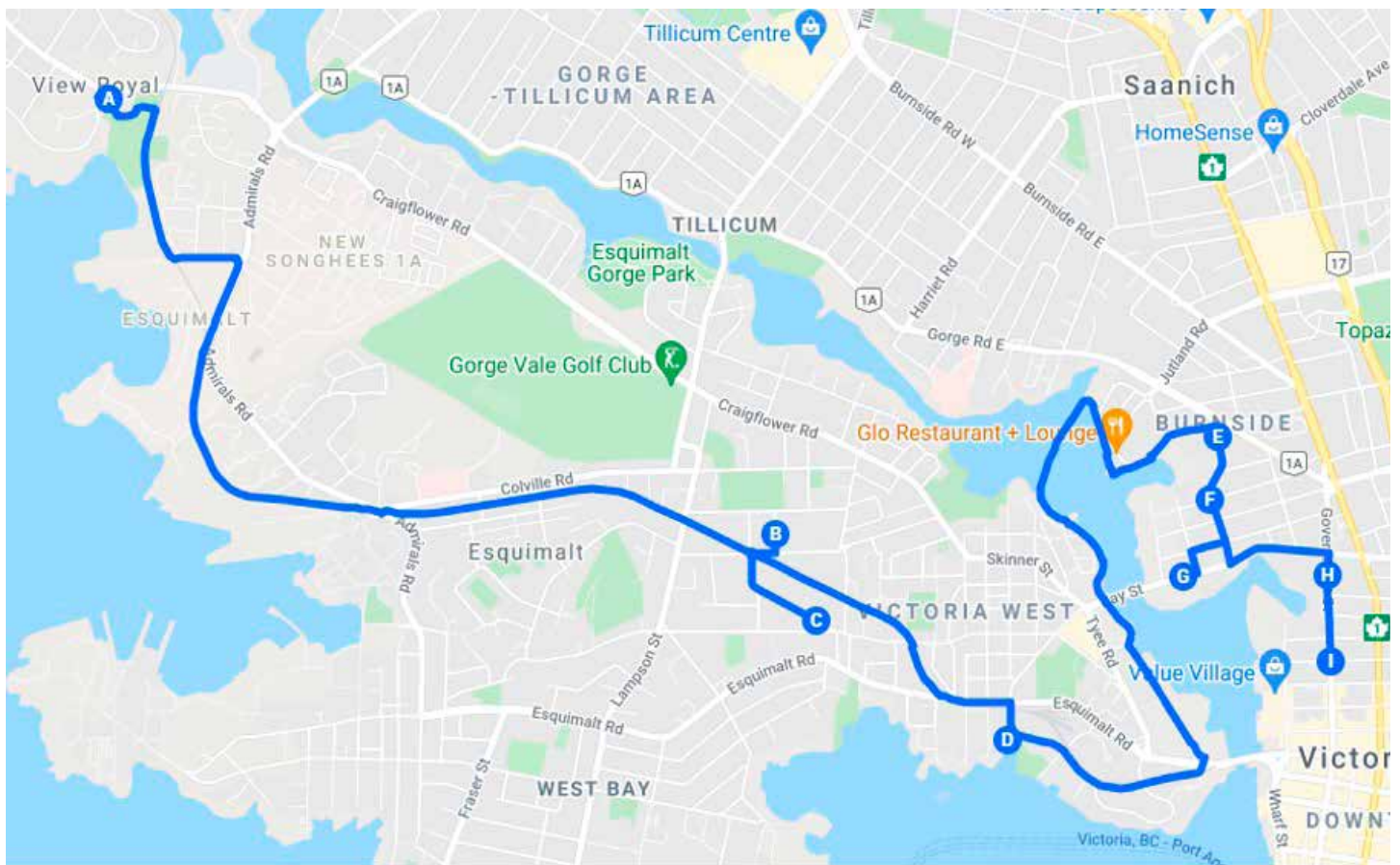
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## E&N TRAIL BREWERY TOUR ON BIKE (12.5 km)

This cycling route is only 12.5 km in length and should only take 40 minutes to cycle but will you still be able to cycle home after visiting nine breweries?

Start at 4 Mile Brewing Company (**A**) at 199 Island Highway. Access Portage Park, behind 4 Mile Brewpub and View Royal Town Hall and head south on the E&N Rail Trail.

After 15 minutes on the trail you will arrive at the crossroads of Fairview Road/ Devonshire Road. To pay a side visit to Lighthouse Brewing (**B**) (836 Devonshire Road), leave the E&N Rail Trail and veer left (east) down Devonshire Road for 160 m. To visit the Driftwood Brewery (**C**) (836 Viewfield Road), return to the crossroads of Fairview Road and Devonshire Road. Before continuing along the E&N Rail Trail, take a little detour by heading left (south) onto Fairview Road and then down Viewfield Road. The brewery is set back on the left.

Continue back along the E&N Rail Trail. At the Catherine Street/ Esquimalt Road traffic lights, turn right (south) onto

Catherine Street and (**D**) Spinnakers Gastro Brewpub (308 Catherine Street) will soon be on your right.

Continue eastwards along Kimta Road. Cross Tye Road and take the multi-use pathway past the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort, turn left (north) onto the bridge and join the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, heading up Harbour Road. Continue along the Galloping Goose across the Selkirk Trestle Bridge and then take an immediate right to head around the Selkirk waterfront along Waterfront Crescent and then Jutland Road which turns into Garbally Road.

When you arrive at Bridge Street, take an immediate right and you will be rewarded with a visit to (**E**) Ile Sauvage Brewing Co (2960 Bridge Street.) Continue south along Bridge Street for another 350 m and (**F**) Hoynes Brewing Company (2740 Bridge Street) will be on the right.

Turn right (west) up John Street for a block and then turn left (south) onto

Turner Street then right (west) onto Bay Street until you reach (**G**) Moon Under Water Brewery and Distillery (350 Bay Street.)

The tour is almost over! Head back down to Bridge Street then cycle towards downtown along Bay Street and turn right (south) onto Government Street. Two breweries await you: (**H**) Vancouver Island Brewing (2330 Government Street) and (**I**) Phillips Brewing & Malting Beer Shop (2010 Government Street).

**Enjoy, fill your empty growler and good luck cycling home with it!**

**-Katherine Brandt**



## Climate Change - What Might We Do?

We are clearly in the midst of ongoing and worsening climate and ecosystem crises -- with increasing temperatures and heat-related deaths, fire and smoke risks, biodiversity loss, flood damage, and threatened increases in the cost of food and other services (amongst other things).

The GTCA's defined purpose is to "identify and further the collective interests" of the neighbourhood and to "advocate for the community". We have a vision of a community "that is informed, creative, resilient, and sustainable."

That being the case, the GTCA Board has asked itself, "What might we do -- over and above what we're already doing -- in response to the current and future impacts of these crises on our community? How might we work with others towards our goals?"

To help address these questions, the Board formed a Climate and Ecosystem Group consisting of directors and other residents. The group's initial task was to consider which actions the GTCA might take -- ones that would be consistent with its purpose and vision

-- and to report back to the Board with a list of options as well as suggested priority actions.

After consulting with a few people, and an extensive review of the Saanich Climate Action Plan, the C&E Group developed two documents for presentation to the January 2022 Board meeting.

The first document, Climate & Ecosystem Action (Part 1): A Framework, is intended as a resource that the Board can draw on as it sees fit. It lists a range of action options that the C&E Group thinks are within the realm of possibility for the GTCA. The second document, Climate & Ecosystem Action (Part 2): Suggested GTCA Priorities, suggests actions that the Board and its various committees and work groups might start with -- depending on current conditions and available resources. [These documents can be viewed on the GTCA's website under GTCA Reports at <https://www.gorgetillicum.ca/gtca-business>. Sorry about some of the jargon in them!]

At its January meeting, the Board agreed to proceed immediately with 4

actions proposed by the C&E Group:

- to review and strengthen the GTCA's communication network;
- to start a group focussed on increasing the number of trees in the neighbourhood;
- to start another group to promote food resiliency in the neighbourhood; and
- to establish a Community Connections Working Group with the aim of strengthening connections between local residents and organizations.

If you'd like to work with us by joining the C&E Group, the Community Connections Working Group, the tree group, and/or the food resilience group -- or if you have questions about these groups -- please send us an email at [info@gorgetillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca). (For more GTCA volunteer opportunities, please see p.3.)

**-Gabe Epstein  
Chair,**

**Climate & Ecosystem Group**



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# Gorge Tillicum Pollinator Project

The next group of UVIC students continues the work to enhance and expand pollinator habitat in Gorge Tillicum. Our thanks this term to Julia, Graeme, and Taryn who will be interacting further with the community to identify our local pollinators and further ways we can welcome and support them

Spring is on its way and with its longer days come opportunities to take care of pollinators seeking the food and shelter essential to their well-being. The presence of healthy pollinator populations is critical to our food production and their numbers are dwindling worldwide. We can help. Is there space on your balcony, yard, boulevard, or a pot you can plant with pollinators in mind? Satinflower Nursery and the Island Pollinator Initiative are two of many great local websites to explore and learn about options. Healthyyards.org is another inspiring site.

The Gorge Tillicum pollinator open greenmap continues to grow. The link for it is here: <https://bit.ly/GorgeTillicumPollinatorMap> If you would like to add to the map or expand your previous entry, write a brief paragraph about the pollinators and perhaps the plants you notice they are attracted to and email it with a location to [gtpollinatorproject@gmail.com](mailto:gtpollinatorproject@gmail.com). Include a photograph and we will add it to the map!

- Laurie Jones,  
for the Natural Areas Working Group

## MEET SOME OF OUR NATIVE POLLINATORS

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### MASON BEE (*Osmia spp.*)

**ID:** Metallic blue, black or green, feature pollen collecting hairs on the underbelly.

**Preferences:** Nests in wood holes or hollow plant stems; pollinates within 90m of their nests.

**Fact:** Can pollinate some plants 65x more effectively than honey bees.



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### MINING BEE (*Andrena spp.*)

**ID:** Black and slender with light or dark hairs.

**Preferences:** Consumption Plant, Pacific Sanicle, and Spring Gold.

**Fact:** Solitary ground nesters. To provide habitat in your yard, leave leaf litter on bare soil.



For more information visit:  
[pollinatorpartnership.ca/hat.bc.ca](http://pollinatorpartnership.ca/hat.bc.ca)  
[islandpollinatorinitiative.ca/](http://islandpollinatorinitiative.ca/)

Posters created by UVic Community Mapping students featuring local pollinators



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Gorge Tillicum Community Association,  
P.O. Box 44152, Victoria, BC V9A 7K1

www.gorgetillicum.ca |  /GorgeTillicum

## Membership Application

Membership in the GTCA is by calendar year. In December of each year, those paying membership fees during December may designate them to be the fee for the upcoming calendar year and, in such cases, membership is valid from January 1st to December 31st of the following year. Join or renew by mail or online on our website!

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 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \$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 old or older living at a fixed and officially recognized street address within the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood and to businesses and other organizations operating at a fixed and officially recognized street address within the Association territory.

## Major Neighbourhood Developments

### Currently under Construction:

- 2949 Albina Street. BC Housing Supportive Housing - 5-storey modular building with 52 units with 24/7 supports. For more info: <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/saanich-albina>
- 2939 Qu'Appelle Street - a 3-storey, multi-family building with 44 units. The building will be rental with some affordable units.
- 300 Gorge Rd. West and 2900 Tillicum Rd. – a 53 unit, 5-storey multi-family residential building (condos and rental units) with 3 new commercial spaces on the ground floor. Renovation of commercial building has begun.

### Proposals approved by Saanich:

- 3400 Tillicum Rd., the former bingo hall site – a multi-family residential (condos and rental units) building with commercial space included. Two, 6-storey buildings with 242 units. The property with development permit has been sold but the new builder is hoping to start construction by early autumn.
- 1 and 21 Obed Avenue at Harriet – 3 storey multi-family rental building with 26 units. The property with development permit has been sold and the owner anticipates to start construction shortly.

### Proposals submitted to Saanich:

- 630 Gorge Road West - 26, 3-bedroom, family-sized strata townhouses.
- 992 Gorge Road West at Rockwell Ave. - This proposal is being revised from the initial six story condo building and townhouses to an all townhouse development.
- Tillicum/Obed/Albina (consolidation of 14 lots) 1 six story and 1 five story building with 214 purpose built rental units. Some mixed use on the Tillicum Rd. side.
- Early Grey/Gorge Road Corner This is a new proposal for the corner site which is currently a big hole. They are proposing a 5 storey rental building which is the same height as the previously approved proposal. The building would have 39 units with a variety of unit sizes.

NOTE: This information is accurate as of April 1, 2022. For most accurate information about active development applications check the Saanich website at <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/development-applications/active-development-applications/tillicum.html>

As a member of the community you can always comment on developments by writing or emailing Saanich Planning at the following:

- 770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8X 2W7
- [planning@saanich.ca](mailto:planning@saanich.ca)

The GTCA will meet with developers at various stages of the process with two main purposes: 1. To encourage development in line with the Design Charrette and the Tillicum Burnside Action Plan; and 2. To encourage developers to thoroughly consult with the community through open houses and meetings with directly affected neighbours. **Note: Saanich recommends, but does not require, public open houses or meetings with affected neighbours**

Saanich formally asks the GTCA to respond in writing to all development applications within our boundaries. The GTCA is asked whether it:

- Has no objection to the project;
- Generally has no objection with suggested changes or concerns; and
- Does not support the project (please provide reason).

It is the policy of the GTCA to only provide comments on proposals. The GTCA comments reflect what we heard from the community, both pros and cons.