
 GORGE TILLICUM
Neighbourhood News
 Gorge Tillicum Community Association

Summer 2002

GORGE ROAD RE-DESIGN

Report by...Paul Gerrard

A poll was conducted in March to determine whether there was support in the neighbourhood for pedestrian crosswalks across Gorge Road West between Tillicum Road and Admirals Road, and for developing bicycle lanes on the same stretch of road.

There was overwhelming support for the installation of pedestrian crosswalks (96% were in favour) and Saanich Engineering will begin construction in August. There will be two crossings - one near Colquitz Avenue, and one near Dysart Road. The placements were determined so that sightlines would not be obstructed by bends in the road, and that there was easy access to flat terrain on the Gorge walkway side, in consideration of physically - challenged users.

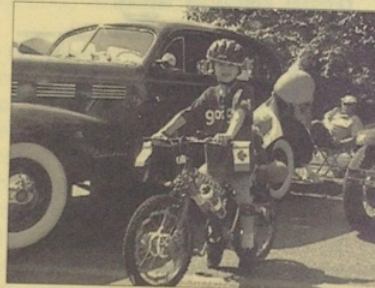
Bicycle lanes were considered to be a beneficial addition to Gorge Road West (75% were in favour) although there is still an issue with on-street parking along some parts of Gorge Road. There may be a way of addressing those concerns when the sidewalk is reconfigured in front of the Canoe and Kayak Club and the new Gorge Parkway extension parking area is built. The issue of bicycle lanes will be brought before Saanich Council later in the year, and the community will have the opportunity to voice opinion. Letters and e-mails from the neighbourhood have been passed on to Saanich staff.

4rd ANNUAL CANADA DAY PICNIC

Report by...Rob Wickson

At about 5:30 in the morning on July 1, 2002, an enthusiastic band of volunteers will begin their day. All the planning will be over and the show must go on - rain or shine. The stage will rise, the road barriers will be set, vendors and food will arrive and our celebration of Canada's 135th birthday will be under way.

At exactly 9:00 sharp, the parade will begin at the Tillicum end of Gorge Road West. This is our invitation for all the children to show off their decorated bikes, scooters and costumes. Prizes can be had for the best costume and decorations. Come on out and join the parade.



A young neighbour showing off his wheels along side a set his grandfather might appreciate (above). Always a large turn-out for the Pancake Breakfast on the shoreline at Kosapsun Park at Admirals Road (right)

one kicks the ball into the water). Steve and Anne have planned a number of games for the younger set in the usual spot near the bottom of Austin including an inflatable activity.

The Russ Hay's Bicycle team will be back to give their expert advice about your bicycle and helmet before you enter the road test for cycling safety. Thanks to ICBC, a draw of participants will be held for a new bicycle.

We expect even more vendors to bring their wares so there will be no need to go anywhere else for your shopping that day. We expect to see everything from soap to birdhouses for sale. Just so we won't go hungry, the Optimist Club, Softies Ice Cream and Mr. Tube Steak will be back providing food and drinks to satisfy all.

For all of the car buffs, Bob June has arranged for an even bigger display of classic automobiles than we had last year. For some, this event alone can take up a good portion of the day because there will be much to see.

By 2:00 in the afternoon the Strawberry Tea in honor of the Queen's Jubilee Anniversary will be underway at the Canoe and Kayak Club. The history of the Gorge would not be complete without a visit to the Victoria ...con't pg.2



GORGE TILLCUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

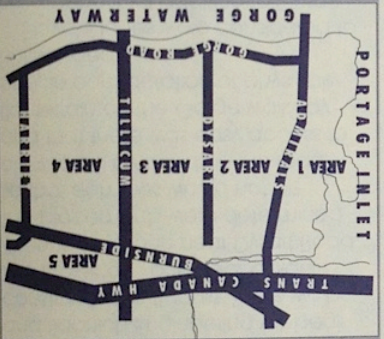
GTCVA Memberships run Jan.-Dec. 2002 at a cost of \$ 5.00 for individual, \$10.00 per household & \$ 25.00 business

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Please mail to: Anne Genuist
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Victoria, BC
V9A 2G3



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pgerrard@pacificcoast.net
- Vice President: Ed Lyons 479-8030
- Secretary: Christine Helmink 385-3388
- Treasurer: Rob Wrickson 383-9241
- Membership: Anne Genuist 384-9412
- Past President: Harry Lewis
- Area Directors 2001/2002**
- Area 1: Zuzana Capeau 381-8240
- Area 2: Steve Legg 384-9412
- Area 3: Bob June 381-0848
- Area 4: Roy Farmer 382-1122
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PROTECTING YOUR HOME AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS

BLOCK WATCH CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

BLOCK WATCH is a community based crime prevention program designed to protect you, your home, and your property, with the help of your immediate neighbours. Families on a block form a communication chain aided by a block watch map of names, telephone numbers and addresses. They watch out for each others homes, report suspicious activities to the police and each other to reduce the likelihood of residential crime. Block watch also provides:

- *Tips on how to better secure your home
- *Info on how to mark your property
- *Protective window stickers
- *Crime prevention strategies

A block can consist of 6-10 homes (a workable number). Each block needs a Captain and Co-captain. There is a requirement to hold one annual block meeting per year to update your map and review the block watch procedures. Saanich is broken down into a number of areas and each area has an Area Coordinator. The Police report any incidents to the Coordinators who then report those incidents to the appropriate Block Captain or Co-captain who then provide this information to you as members of your block.

Captain of a block or a member of a block you can contact Area Coordinators George or Vicki Biog at 479-1877 or email vbiog@web.bc.ca, for an information package that will explain how to get started.

You can also contact Karen Wallis, Coordinator of Volunteers, Block Watch Office Saanich Police Dept. at 475-4365 or email kwallis.spd@gov.saanich.bc.ca

Saanich Police hold meetings once per month for anyone interested in participating.

Once your block is established you can also apply to have a "Block Watch" sign on your street which advises people that you are in a Block Watch Program.

Canada Day Picnic - cont'd from pg. 1

In all, this year's picnic should be a fun filled day with something for everyone to enjoy. Come on out and show your support for all of our community volunteers who have worked since January to make this celebration a reality. And finally, we cannot forget our sponsors, without whom - it could not be! Thank you. See You There!

Join us in making this event one to remember!

A Lively Flamenco group performs, one of many live acts that kept everyone on their seat edges at last years event.

Partners and sponsors include:

- THE COLONIST
- TIMES
- GORGE TILLCUM CENTRE
- THIRTY FOODS
- SEARCH
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- HERITAGE CANADA
- ICBC Road Sense
- NEWS GROUP
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A Word From the President

"SOMETHING WE CAN BE PROUD OF"

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Dr. Margaret Mead.
Anthropologist.

The Gorge Tillicum community was recently given the opportunity by Saanich Council for an action plan to revitalize the area. This will be a two year process to study land use, density, transportation issues, commercial possibilities, landscaping and streetscaping along Tillicum Road from Gorge Road West to Burnside Road, and Burnside Road from Tillicum Road to Harriet Road. The aim is to develop an urban village concept within a very busy transit corridor, which moves up to 24,000 vehicles a day through our neighbourhood.

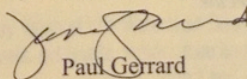
So what do we hope to achieve with this initiative? The intent is to create a pleasant environment which places the safety and comfort of the pedestrian ahead of vehicular traffic, control the traffic coming through our area, and provide housing and commercial opportunities in a mixed-use setting. The Gorge Tillicum area is an anomaly in that we have the established neighbourhood, but we don't have the healthy "downtown cores" -- and that is what we have to create within this action plan.

Another goal is to become a complete community, which includes mixed-income, mixed-race, mixed-housing, mixed-business, and mixed-family situations. Our area has most of the ingredients already, and we have the potential to be a model for other communities if we succeed.

People do not marvel at their great motorways or parking malls. They like to mingle with other people at markets or cafes, browse in bookstores or antique shops, visit museums or galleries, feed the ducks or sit on a park bench. Many cities have now banned vehicles from their centres, and old market squares have been rejuvenated by designating them as pedestrian zones. All over the world, bicycles have become a viable and healthy alternative to driving cars. Light Rapid Transit and bus or streetcar use are other great transportation alternatives.

Jan Gehl, the famous Danish planner, architect and professor was recently in Victoria giving a lecture on what makes healthy communities. He said that wise use of public spaces and the ease with which people can walk around are the keys to healthy cities, and talks about "5 km-an-hour architecture" where people are able to appreciate their surroundings at a pedestrian pace.

We have to accept that vehicles will still have to move through our neighbourhood, but we would like to change the dangerous pedestrian environment that makes us feel unsafe walking along Tillicum or Burnside Road, by separating the pedestrian from the vehicle as much as possible. This may mean some radical changes to the streetscape, but will it not be worth it to create a vibrant and safe community, and something we can be proud of?


Paul Gerrard

SO WHAT IS TRAFFIC CALMING?

Report by...Richard James, P.Eng., PTOE

"Traffic Calming is the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behaviour and improve conditions for non-motorized street users" (Canadian Guide to Neighbourhood Traffic Calming).

Why do we need Traffic Calming? In an ideal world people would be able to live on a quiet street with little non-local traffic and travel directly by the shortest (cheapest) route to any destination. In reality, this means that they are going to travel on streets that other people live on. So, the crux of the problem is to determine what is an acceptable level of traffic on a street and to manage that traffic to make the street liveable.

Traffic Calming addresses safety, speed and volume. Traffic Calming devices can either slow traffic (speed humps, traffic circles) or divert it to another route by partly or completely closing streets (closures, partial closures, diverters). Speed Humps used on roads are quite different to "Speed Bumps" used in parking lots. They are a safe, non-damaging way of reducing speeds using a raised section of pavement about 3" high and 12' to 20' long. The spacing between humps determines the speed drivers will use on that street, the closer together, the slower the traffic. Traffic Circles work by slowing all traffic resulting in a "Yield" situation rather than a "Stop" that is often violated on low volume streets. Traffic Circles have been shown to be much safer (fewer and less severe collisions) than "Stop" controlled intersections.

Traffic Calming strategies may have an unintended consequence, that of diverting traffic from one street to another street. If this is another residential street, the problem is not solved, it is just moved to "someone else's back yard". ...con't pg. 6

Can't find a title? Try us



2967 Tillicum Rd.
Victoria, B.C. V9A 2A6

Telephone
361-4494

MAKING A SPLASH FOR 33 YEARS

The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club (VCKC) is a BC registered society formed in 1969. The purposes of VCKC are to encourage participation in all paddling activities, and to offer training in safe and skillful paddling on Vancouver Island and in the surrounding waters.

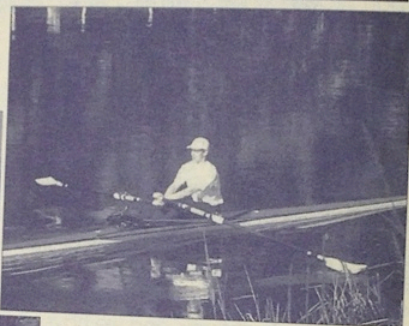
VCKC is a member of the Recreational Canoe Association of British Columbia (RCABC), the Canadian Recreational Canoe Association (CRCA) and the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA). We offer a number of courses and events sanctioned by these bodies.

Membership in VCKC (the club) is open to anyone with an interest in paddle sports upon completion of an application form and waiver and payment of annual dues. Single, family, junior, and associate group memberships are available.

VCKC is a volunteer-based, community-oriented club. Members contribute thousands of hours of volunteer time in instruction, maintenance of the clubhouse and boats, and administration of club business each year. VCKC has a long history of participating in community events, raising funds for charitable causes, and providing boats or paddling events to non-profit organizations.

Reports on club events and business are presented along with an informational or

A familiar site along the Gorge Waterway.
A tranquil outing for one or a group and
some of the best views in Greater Victoria!



◀ A beautiful old Heritage House on the waterway at 355 Gorge Rd. W is the home of the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club.

entertainment program; members are encouraged to suggest program ideas. The annual general meeting is held in January to elect an executive and approve club finances. Resolutions may be considered by the members of the AGM as well as at general meetings. Members will receive two weeks notice of any meeting at which a special resolution is to be considered.

The club newsletter is published monthly (10 times yearly) in order to keep members informed of all upcoming club meetings, trips, events and about club business.

The Clubhouse is a designated heritage building located within Gorge Waterway park. It is leased for a nominal fee from the Municipality of Saanich.

VCKC is committed to ensure that its members participate in paddling activities with the utmost attention to safety. VCKC's protocols are closely aligned with provincially and nationally recognized standards. We actively practice safety on every outing and activity whether on lakes or rivers, in the ocean or surf. The Club regularly offers courses and workshops in every aspect of paddle sports in the interests of safety.

There are five active paddling programs at VCKC which give members a wide range of paddling opportunities. (SEE LISTING NEXT COLUMN)

For more information on club activities and courses, call the club house at 361-4238 and contact the appropriate program director.
Happy and safe paddling!

The canoe program offers both moving and flat-water trips. River trips are scheduled from September to May (water level permitting), Friday night full moon paddles from March to October, weekly week-night lake paddles from April to September and easy ocean paddling trips.

The sea kayak program offers trips through out the year around lower Vancouver Island. CRCA certified courses are also offered at a reasonable cost to members along with mostly free informal clinics (members only) on topics such as strokes, braces, rescues, rolling, kayak surfing, currents, tides, navigation, chart reading and weather.

The voyageur canoe program offers a variety of group paddling opportunities; the Clubs four voyageur canoes accommodate six paddlers per boat. Voyageur trips give beginners a chance to participate and explore waters near Victoria, as well as provide social opportunities. Program adventures range from excursions down big water rivers such as the Thompson and the Yukon, annual training paddles culminating in a trip across the Strait to Port Angeles in support of Timmy's Telethon, to an easy paddle to Symphony Splash.

The outrigger canoe program offers both recreation and competitive ocean paddling opportunities. VCKC has 2 six-seat outrigger canoes, which are used to explore the waters around Victoria on recreational paddles and for team training and racing. Teams train year round for CORA races in March to November. Race distances range from 500m flat-water sprints to 35 km iron races on the ocean and are held on Vancouver Island, the lower mainland and Okanagan. Paddling, steering, and rigging clinics are offered through the year. Teams also regularly practice the art of righting upset canoes; huli-pu.

Dragon boating is a fun, social and competitive team sport. Teams practice and compete against each other and other teams in Victoria, British Columbia and the western US. Dragon boat teams begin to practice in April for 500 m sprint races in June September.

the GREEN SPACE

Compiled by...Steve Legg

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT "NATIVE" TREES?

...by Julia Menard

There's a magnificent Garry Oak on the Gorge, at the bottom of my street, that I have a real attachment to. Why do I feel that it's so important? I called Dave Hill, the municipal arborist for Saanich, to find out.

What I found out was my attachment to this "native" tree was warranted for many reasons. We apparently have many "exotic" trees in our district, but not as many "natives". "Natives" attract beneficial insects. They provide biodiversity. They create a canopy to slow down the rainwater. A tree canopy allows more moisture to reach our soil. It helps slow down the torrent of water running from our gutters directly into the Gorge. And more. Apparently, trees in our municipality have died or been cut down at an alarming rate - a fact aerial photos reveal with dramatic reality. Last year, although Parks planted about 500 trees - they had to cut down over 1000.

At the end of the day, what we are losing are urban forests - we need more native trees. Saanich Parks cannot maintain the balance alone. Dave Hill holds a vision that if each property owner in Saanich planted just one native tree on their property, it would make an enormous difference in 10 years. Great vision - but how to implement?

One easy way is a program Saanich Parks runs year-round. You can purchase a tree from them for around \$50 - \$75. They will select an appropriate tree, deliver it, plant it on the municipal property in front of your house - and maintain it over the life of the tree. All you need to do is water it!

Parks Department staff will come out and talk to you about the program and the selection of trees. On Earl Grey Street, almost the whole street got involved - that's vision! I can't think of a more worthy cause to donate to. You can reach Dave Hill by calling Saanich Parks at 744-5341.

THE SHOREKEEPERS PROGRAM

"The Shorekeepers volunteers completed their training sessions in May and will be starting the actual beach surveys in June. The Shorekeepers program is being coordinated through Jody Watson at VEHEAP as part of their harbour ecological programs projects. They supply the equipment and training. Each trained team will survey the same beach, including the intertidal zone, annually. Two groups from the neighbourhood made up two teams. One was raised from the GTCA newsletter and the other from members of PISCES who live around Portage Inlet. As there are other Shorekeeper teams around the Victoria region, our members may help other groups working on different types of beaches, too."

If you want to join us, call Ed Lyons at 479-8030 or email edlyons@inetex.com

THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE

International Children's Conference on the Environment Takes Field Trip to Cecelia Creek

On Thursday, May 23rd, 2002 the Burnside Gorge Community Association hosted a field trip to Cecelia Creek for 25 children from the International Children's Conference on the Environment. The field trip explained the history of Cecelia Creek; that it was once the most polluted creek in Victoria, but after years of effort from partnerships between government, local businesses and community members it is becoming a green jewel in the heart of an industrial neighbourhood.

While on the field trip the children will participate in three interactive and educational stations.

1. Planting Ferns to create a fern gully along Cecelia Creek
With the help of volunteers, each Child will plant two ferns to assist instream restoration. The children will learn the importance of restoring stream bank vegetation.
2. Testing the water quality of Cecelia Creek.

With the help of volunteers and water quality kits donated by Veins of Life Watershed Society (VOLWS) the children will test Cecelia Creek for oxygen levels, pH levels, temperature and

...con't pg. 6

THE DOORS ARE OPEN

Constituency Offices, also known as Community Offices, are open to the residents of the riding.

Constituency Assistants work directly with the MLA and the public and work as a conduit to Government ministries, agencies and programs. They work closely with constituents in accessing resources and resolving problems with provincial bodies. They relay concerns and comments to the respective MLA, and share public Government information with the community.

Situations in which an MLA office cannot assist people are issues which deal with Municipal or Federal Government, or when a constituent has a lawyer involved. An MLA cannot interfere with process in the legal system, and as such, will advise constituents to follow through with their current legal situation.

MLA's also cannot change decisions made by Government bodies that have been made according to Government policies and regulations. They may be able to assist the Government body to re-examine a decision, assist in resolving a dispute between an agency and the constituent, or help to expedite action in a case. The Constituency Office often acts as a middle ground in clarifying situations and ensuring that proper procedures have been followed.

The Constituency Offices of MLA's are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact your local MLA with your concerns or comments. The doors are open for you!

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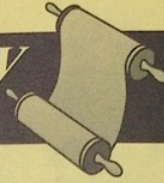
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COMMUNITY BYLAW REVIEW

Report by...Ed Lyons



Our Constitution and Bylaws have not been reviewed since the formation of the Community Association 21 years ago. Why should we review them? The bylaws are or should be the "procedures manual" for the operation of the Association. These may need to be changed to reflect more closely what we actually do in running its business and what the law requires of us. Since our Association has grown in the number of members, variety of activities, and in its treasury, the directors believe we could better serve our members by amending the bylaws to reflect our actual operations and directions. As well, the Societies Act, which governs almost all societies in BC, has been modified, too. The Board asked a committee to review the existing bylaws and suggest changes in order to comply with the Act and to meet our needs. The committee identified several points for consideration. The Board will be addressing these in the early fall. We want your ideas.

The major changes are: enlarging the area covered by the community, the election of the board, terms of directors, numbers of directors, term limits, and formalizing area representation.

The area currently covered by the association excludes several blocks with ~75 residences east of Harriet Road and north of Boleskine Road. They are surrounded by light industrial to the east and south and have no community representation. Many of the same issues that affect Area 5 residents also affect them. We have been delivering our newsletters there and several folks want to join us. We need to change our definition of members to include them.

The board of directors is currently elected at the AGM as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, membership secretary and five directors. The named positions are directors whose specified functions fulfil the requirements by the Societies Act. In theory and in practice, all the directors make the policy decision for the members. We are considering changes to permit election of all the directors at the AGM as directors only. Later, the directors would decide who is best suited to carry out the executive functions of chairing meetings, keeping records, maintaining the financial affairs, etc. This would also streamline the process of electing directors at the AGM.

A number of our projects span several years and as the association matures, this will continue. To help provide continuity between elections, we are considering extending the terms of directors from one to two years with half of the directors elected each year. In this way, we can add new energetic directors and maintain continuity. Terms for the executive functions would be elected by the board every year, so new directors can have their input. This would be an addition to our bylaws. Another way of encouraging new directors is to have term limits. What do you think?

The present bylaws require that we have 10 directors. We would like to increase the number of directors to add more representation across our area and to add more resources for the many projects in which we are involved.

The present bylaws do not make specific provision for area directors. Would you like to see this added to the bylaws?

The bylaw committee would like to hear from you. You can contact Ed Lyons or Sue Koolman (see under Directors, page 2) while these are fresh in your mind.

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Tillicum Station

The 40-unit housing development on the corner of Tillicum and Burnside Road is nearing completion, and is due to open in July. The Capital Region Housing Corporation asked the Gorge Tillicum Community Association for input into naming the development, and after some research at the Saanich Archives, it was discovered that at the turn of the century, there was a rail or streetcar station at the site of the present Tillicum Mall. In keeping with that trend, the new development will be called "Tillicum Station".

Green Space con't

cloudiness. The test results will be correlated with aquatic life requirements (fish) and the children will learn what aquatic life needs to survive.

3. Operating a working model of a creek. With the help of volunteers and an interactive creek model donated by the Stream Team Society the children will demonstrate and learn how pollutants make their way into our streams.

For information contact: Dean Fortin, or Deanna Coleman, Phone: 388-5251, Fax: 388-5269

traffic calming con't

For this reason Traffic Calming is best applied to an area rather than a single street. To reduce traffic volumes we try and make sure that the major roads work well first as this reduces the drivers desire to "shortcut" through residential areas. We then try and use the least intrusive measures to achieve the goals of improving safety, reducing speed and volume. "Least intrusive" really means, "least inconvenience" to residents, for example a lot of street closures may eliminate through traffic, but make it quite difficult for area residents to travel within their community. Like most other things, developing a suitable strategy is a trade-off, in this case between effectiveness and convenience.

At the Centre

G.R. PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE



So...Do you still THINK, it's just a RINK?

For those of you unaware of the changes that have occurred at 3100 Tillicum Road the following information may be quite a shock. Others may have witnessed construction sites over the years or perhaps even come down to visit out of curiosity. Then there are those of you who have been entering the doors of the Pearkes Recreation Centre for years dedicated to your own personal fitness, transporting children to or from activities or sharing your curiosity with many others who visit our variety of trade shows. The Pearkes Recreation Centre is 35 years of amazing development physically in appearance and productively in providing the people of Saanich a place to 'recreate'.

1967 does not seem that long ago and for many of you the old outdoor theatre that once occupied the Tillicum Mall parking lot was the connection to the single sheet Pearkes Arena. Today the Pearkes Recreation Centre is now the largest recreation center in Saanich (144,000 sq. ft). The successful 1990 referendum brought the completion of the first major facelift in 1995 adding the multipurpose room/dance studio, fitness studio, teen center & three additional program spaces used for a variety of preschool-adult programs. Partnerships with the Queen Alexandra Hospital and Saanich Neighbourhood Place created additional functional spaces in our facility. The blizzard of '96 left it's mark with our facility. The roof that covered the two tennis courts and the largest indoor bowls facility in North America collapsed. The building has since been replaced and now hosts over 70 trade show/entertainment days per year! And of course the excitement of January 1999 marked the official opening of our second ice sheet. What next?

So... if you have not had an opportunity to visit your local recreation center... please come down the hill and see us. (520,000 visits were made in 2001!) Our dedicated staff works at providing you a safe, clean environment to enjoy a recreational experience. Our adopted slogan in spring of 2001 really says it all, *Sharing The Possibilities!* Anything is possible come and share your experience with us!

Mena Westhaver
Adult Programmer

FACILITY FEATURES

2 Artificial Ice Rinks
Tennis & Indoor Bowls
Aerobic & Dance Studio
Fully Equipped Weightroom
Multi-purpose Rooms
"COREDOOR" Youth Centre
Trade Show Facilities
Saanich Neighbourhood
Place Drop-In
Childminding



FACILITY HOURS

General Hours of Operation
Mon-Fri - 6:30am-8:00pm
Sat & Sun - 8:00am-6:00pm
Stat Holidays - Closed
Note: Some services have times
different than those above,
please check for specific
programs.



3100 Tillicum Road, Ph: 388-6664, or 24 Hour. Info Line: 475-5576

REC-COLLECTIONS

Outback Summer Daycamp: 8 fun-filled weeks checking out the great outdoors of Vancouver Island! Youths aged 12 - 16 years will participate in a variety of trips, learn outdoor skills, experience wilderness adventures in a safe, comfortable environment. Our staff provide strong leadership, support, encouragement, respect and fun. Check out our Active Living Guide for more information and register at any of our recreation centres.

FAMILY PROGRAMS INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Blenkinsop Biology: Sunday June 16, 1:00 - 3:00pm, (Meet at the birdblind on Lochside Trail, at the North end of the Blenkinsop Lake Trestle.)

Preschoolers in the Park - Spring- McMinn Park: Thursday, June 20 9:30:11:30 am (off Maplegrove, near Cordova Bay Road). In the first hour enjoy the benefits of outdoor play on our wonderful adventure playgrounds and in the second hour learn about nature as we take short interpretive walks through interesting neighbourhoods surrounding the parks. Please bring a stroller or backpack for the walks.

SAANICH STROLLS

Getting Back to Bowker Creek: Sunday, June 23, 1:00 - 3:30pm. Learn more about this important urban stream as we stroll through the southernmost section of Saanich. A moderate length walk, mainly on pavement. Meet at Hillside Mall parking lot on North Dairy Road, opposite Browning Avenue (Near Sears Automotive Dept.)

Glorious Glencoe Cove: Sunday, July 21, 1:00 - 3:30pm. Come and explore Glencoe Cove, a precious natural jewel in the Gordon Head area. This circular route includes Margaret Bay, and great views of Haro Strait and the San Juan Islands. A moderate length walk, mainly on pavement. Some steep sections. Meet at Vantreight Park on Vantreight Drive.

Exploring Upper Colquitz: Sunday, August 11, 1:00 - 3:30pm. Discover quiet rural trails linking three parks full of natural beauty and local history. A moderate length walk on chip trails and pavement. Meet at Copley Park parking lot on Parkridge, off Vanalman Ave.

**Saanich Strolls will take place in all weather. Don't forget to sign up for the Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program! Children ages 5 1/2 through 11 can join in the fun at the following parks: Copley, Meadow, Lochside, Reynolds & Marigold. Register at any Saanich Recreation Centre. Cost \$42 per week.

WE NEED HELP!

We are in need of volunteers to deliver the "Neighbourhood News". Help is always needed in all areas but especially in Area 5 and to most apartments.

Walk your neighbourhood one hour, four times per year to distribute community information. If you can help, call your area director listed on pg. 2 of this newsletter.



The Canada Day Picnic Committee is also looking for help at the event on July 1st, to run various programs, staff tables and generally just lend a hand to stage this very worthwhile event.

The Neighbourhood News editorial committee is looking for someone to take over the duties of producing this newsletter. Some experience would be helpful but not essential. If you think this could be you, please call Paul Gerrard at 386-2745

Saanich
Recreation

9th ANNUAL
Gorge on Art

Saturday, July 6th 11am-4 pm

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OF DAYS GONE BY

by Dennis Minaker, Author of "The Gorge of Summers Gone"

In 1883 brothers James Stuart and Henry Yates, newly graduated from the University of Edinburgh, returned to Victoria to take charge of the 400-acre Craigie Lea Farm founded by their parents along the Gorge 30 years earlier. Ready to begin families of their own, they soon were courting sisters Annie and Nellie Austin. Both lived at Mayfield, the Austin family home located a short distance further west along the waterway.

Their London-born father John Joel Austin, like Gorge-area neighbour Robert Ker, had been drawn to Vancouver Island by the Cariboo gold rush of 1862. But after only one year in the gold fields he returned to Victoria to work for the colonial government. Soon he was serving as deputy sheriff and auditor of the Department of Public Works, followed by a successful private career as realtor and notary public. A gifted singer and musician, Austin conducted the Victoria Amateur Orchestra and



This family photo of 1904 includes James Stuart Yates seated on the extreme left. Standing next to him is Nellie (Austin) Yates, Henry Yates and his sister Harriet. Annie (Austin) Yates sitting on the right.

the Victoria Choral Society (whose many public performances included singing from a steam launch while drifting homeward down the waterway after one of the annual May 24th regattas). As well he served as choir master at several churches of various denominations in the young community. In 1883 he composed a chorus titled "Columbia's Welcome" for the visit of Governor-General Marquis of Lorne and his wife Princess Louise (daughter of Queen Victoria).

In 1864 Austin was joined by his childhood sweetheart (and cousin) Sarah Ann Stout. They were married one day after she sailed into Victoria Harbour. By 1877 they moved from a home on Quadra Street to Mayfield on Gorge Road West where they continued to host weekly musical gatherings. Together they parented numerous children, Annie and Nellie being the eldest. Most attended nearby Craigflower School. Then in November 1888 the Austins' charmed life came crashing down when diphtheria struck the city. Even children living in the countryside were not spared from this frequently-fatal infectious disease. Fourteen-year-old Emily Austin was among the first to die. Following her interment at Ross Bay Cemetery ("where all that is mortal of a bright and loveable child was consigned to the grave" reported the Daily Colonist) the bereaved parents faced still more horror. Three more of their youngest children were to die within the next twelve days. Overwhelmed with grief, the Austins could no longer bear to live at Mayfield and moved to a new home on upper Fort Street. While there Austin continued in private business partnering with his son-in-law Henry Yates. Although tragedy stalked the Austin family during their years at Mayfield, sisters Annie and Nellie lived to a good age, the latter dying in Montreal in 1959. Annie was married to James Yates for over half a century. Together they raised three sons on Craigie Lea Farm until it was sold in 1907. The Austin family home survived at 670 Gorge Road West until the 1930s. Austin Avenue, originally part of the 1850s estate of James Yates Sr, commemorates that family's brief residence nearby.

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