

## We Want YOU....

If you are not yet a member of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association, please consider joining us. We urge you to do it soon, too. Our AGM is coming up, and new members must be registered 30 days beforehand to be eligible to vote at the meeting. (Existing members can renew at any time prior to the AGM to secure their vote.)

Don't delay! Join up now and do your part to keep your Community Association strong and vibrant. The cost is very modest, a mere \$5 per person. Your neighbourhood thanks you.

**Gorge Tillicum  
Community Association**  
P.O. Box 44152, 2947 Tillicum Rd.,  
Victoria, BC V9A 2A0

**2005 Membership  
Application/Renewal**  
(delete one)

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\_\_\_\_\_

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# At the Centre

## G.R. PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE

### Active Aging

The Saanich Parks and Recreation Active Aging Strategy is now complete. The strategy was developed in response to the changing demographics in Saanich and the department's commitment to provide relevant, top-quality programs and services. The recommendations in the strategy are centered on six key themes: Transportation, Cost Programming, Facilities, Staff and Communications and Marketing.

Saanich has already started to implement some new programs in response to the strategy. For example, from May 5 to September 1, Pearkes Recreation Centre will host a free, weekly drop-in for seniors. It will take place on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. in the teen centre. If you are 55 or better, you are invited to come socialize, have a coffee, and maybe even play a game of pool!

This is just the start though. Watch for your Spring Summer Active Living Guide for more information on programs like Healthy Living for Seniors and Living Safely with Osteoporosis. Bit by bit, we hope to make aging an active adventure!

For more information on the Active Aging Strategy go to:

[www.saanich.ca/resident/community/services/senior.html](http://www.saanich.ca/resident/community/services/senior.html)

or call Teri Derksen at 475-5409

### Register for These Great Classes!

#### Latin Dance Level 1

April 24-Jul 3, 8:15- 9:30pm

#### Eastcoast Swing

April 24- May 29, 5:45- 7:00pm

#### Viennese Waltz

April 24-May 29, 7:00- 8:15pm

#### Quickstep

June 5- Jul 3, 5:45- 7:00pm

#### Kayaking – Beginners

Gorge Rowing & Paddling Centre

Apr 23, 11:am – 2:00pm

#### Kayaking – Sunset & Starlight Paddle Gorge Rowing & Paddling Centre

April 16, 6:00 – 9:00pm

### FACILITY HOURS

#### Spring Hours:

Mon-Fri ..... 6:30AM - 8:00PM

Sat-Sun ..... 8:00AM - 6:00PM

Saanich Recreation  
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Pearkes Recreation Centre  
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"We caught fish and Talked"  
- Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn

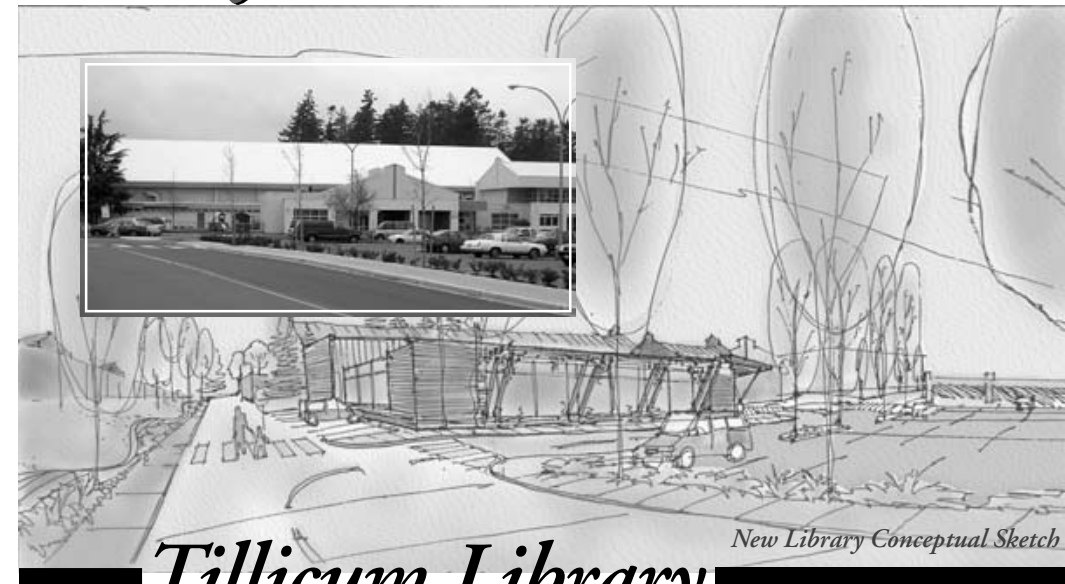


GORGETILLICUM

# Neighbourhood NEWS

Gorge Tillicum Community Association

SPRING 2005



## Tillicum Library

### Larger, 'Silver', and maybe even 'Green'

On February 1st, 2005, Saanich council approved plans for a bigger, more efficient, and potentially eco-friendly version of the new Tillicum Library branch.

Two models for the library were presented to council. One was for a 12,000 sq. ft. version and the other was for 15,000 sq. ft. Consultation with the Greater Victoria Library Board staff and Saanich Parks and Recreation confirmed that the added space was very important to the functionality and integrity of the new facility, so the council agreed to accept the 15,000 sq. ft. plan. The extra square footage will be used to offer enhanced programs that are considered a priority in the community. This space will thus include a separate Children's Collection, a "Homework Help" area, a "Quiet Study" area, and a larger Teens' Collection area. In response to this, GVPL staff have said they will support a dedicated librarian for the teens' section.

A larger building, of course, requires more money. Construction costs have affected many capital projects recently, and the cost of building this new branch has escalated to over \$1million above the original estimates. Nevertheless, Saanich council approved extra funding for the larger building and also

supported the intention to attain, at minimum, a silver LEED certification on the project.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a standard to which many new buildings are now being constructed. It ranges from Basic, through Silver and Gold, and up to Platinum level. The theory is that investing a little more at the building phase ensures future operation savings. Certain construction techniques — like extra insulation and using recycled and energy efficient materials — may initially cost more, but such measures will, in the long term, save money on the building. A full life cycle cost analysis will be done to

prove the cost savings of the design, but council does support going beyond the Basic.

Saanich is also deliberating a "Green Building" policy for the municipality, and sees this Saanich Centennial Project as a suitable showcase for this technology. Hopefully, our library will not only be big and efficient, but also a model for environmental friendliness.

The Architects are presently working on concept drawings and will blend the new renovations at Pearkes Rec. Centre into their plans. Saanich Neighbourhood Place and the Queen Alexandra Foundation will also have to be accommodated while construction takes place, and they will be relocated into the new configuration later. Of course, Saanich will also be considering parking requirements, landscaping, lighting, and pedestrian movements to Tillicum Centre, Cuthbert Holmes Park, and the Colquitz River Trail. All said, this is shaping up to be an exciting and cutting-edge development.

— Paul Gerrard

Notice Of Annual General Meeting - May 24, 2005 at 7:30pm

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Gorge Tillicum Membership

## Notice Of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association will be held at the **Lam Room, G.R. Pearkes Arena, on May 24, 2005 at 7:30pm.** All residents are invited to attend, but only current members may speak or vote. For enquiries, contact John Hoole.

### GORGETILlicum Gorge-Tillicum Neighbourhood News

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

#### Editor:

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#### Published Quarterly:

Winter (Jan/Feb)  
Spring (April)  
Summer (June/July)  
Fall (Oct/Nov)

Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions and advertising for the next issue is May 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Graphic Design:

GoWest Group  
www.gowestgroup.com

#### Advertising Inquiries:

Arden Little 360-2474

#### Distribution:

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

# Regional Growth Strategy FOR THE CAPITAL REGION

After 8 years of study and consultation, the Capital Regional District (CRD) produced a document titled "Regional Growth Strategy" (RGS). It is a strategy that will guide development in the area for the next 25 years. Importantly, municipal adherence to this document has been made a by-law, and its specific strategies related to transportation, housing and development will have a significant effect on our community.

*Specific strategies related to transportation, housing and development will have a significant effect on our community*

In general, the RGS attempts to find ways to focus growth in the capital region. It does not attempt to limit growth specifically, but it places barriers to growth outside urban containment boundaries. This will encourage more of the infill development that places like Oak Bay, Greater Victoria, Esquimalt and even Saanich have been experiencing in recent years. Municipalities will need to work together to manage and balance growth, identify transportation requirements, ensure economic development, and address the issues of the environment, resources, and housing.

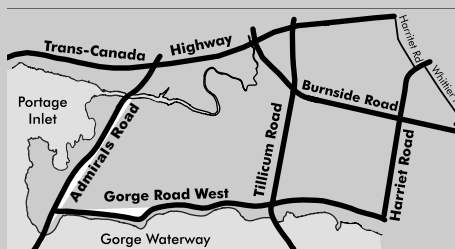
The Gorge-Tillicum area is being proposed as one of the region's major

centres. This makes sense given that, when you look at a map of Greater Victoria, our neighbourhood is exactly in the middle, and is thus considered a natural transit hub and site for affordable housing. Of course, this fact may notably alter the face of our community. However, I should note that the by-law has just been passed, and we are not likely to see many immediate changes.

As a first step, the RGS is asking municipalities and individual communities to update their local area and community plans to reflect the goals of the RGS; this is exactly what the Gorge Tillicum Community Association Board has made one of its priorities for this year. We must ensure our local area plan does not conflict with the RGS while at the same time remains true to the vision that we, as residents, have for our community. If you are interested in participating in our review, please contact one of your community directors. In the meantime, if you have concerns, or if you would simply like to know more, check out the CRD Regional Growth web site at [www.crd.bc.ca/regplan](http://www.crd.bc.ca/regplan).

— Rob Wickson

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



#### GTCA Board of Directors 2004/2005

President: Paul Gerrard ..... 386-2745  
pgerrard@pacificcoast.net  
Vice-president: Ray Farmer ..... 382-1122  
jpullman@shaw.ca  
Secretary: Christine Helmink ..... 385-3388  
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Treasurer: Rob Wickson ..... 812-9164  
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Membership: John Hoole ..... 386-7458  
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Arden Little ..... 360-2474  
ardenlittle@shaw.ca  
Ed Lyons ..... 479-8030  
edlyons@telus.net  
Scott Murdoch ..... 598-5229  
smurdoch@shaw.ca

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

## Local Heroes Don Munroe



*Don's greatest achievement has been helping to raise over \$127,000 for Kids with Disabilities to attend the Easterseal Camp*



Meet Don Munroe, who has lived and played in the Gorge neighbourhood all of his life. Don grew up on Colquitz Avenue, attended the old Craigflower school, Colquitz School, and then Esquimalt High, and fondly remembers swimming in the Gorge off Rockwell Beach, fishing for trout in Colquitz Creek, and skating on Portage Inlet.

Don has also spent many years contributing to the community through his volunteer work with the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club (VCKC), of which he has been a member for 27 years. In fact, when VCKC took over the old house and boat ramp in 1982, Don moved into the upstairs apartment as caretaker. He has been an instructor, a wilderness trip leader, and a racing director, and he has organized the club's participation in

community events such as the Gorge Appreciation Day Cleanup, Victoria Days, Buccaneer Days, VCKC Regattas, and the Gorge Canada Day Picnic celebration. He is now involved with VCKC in an initiative to link the many groups that have an interest in stewardship of the Gorge Waterway.

Don's greatest achievement, however, has been helping to raise over \$127,000 for Kids with Disabilities to attend the Easterseal's camp on Shawnigan Lake. For 23 years, Don has trained and coordinated VCKC's paddle trek to Port Angeles and back. This event draws 50 club paddlers in an arduous yet rewarding effort to raise funds for this great cause.

Don has also volunteered with many other groups including the Boys and Girls Club, Kids with Diabetes, Big Brother and Sisters, Visually Impaired charities, The Christmas Bureau, Shoreline Middle School and the Canoeing Program at Esquimalt High School. Don Munroe is a real local hero. Thanks Don!

— By Harry Lewis

## Hungry For Art?

Once again, artists from the Gorge-Tillicum community are collaborating to bring to you a feast of fine art. Eleven local artists have cooked up the second annual "Gorge-Us" Studio Tour, scheduled for the afternoon and evening of Friday, May 13 and the day of Saturday, May 14.

Here's a sneak-peek at the menu . . .

#### Appetizers

**La PostCarte:** Megan Evans' postcards with a spicy edge

**Non Confined:** Rob McTavish's painted clothing served on hardboard

**Sculpturo:** M.D. Hennesy's tantalizingly tall, mixed-media figures

#### Entrees

**Bruce Reimer:** A mixture of rural, ocean and mountain scenes saturated in oil and pencil

**Blanc et Noir:** Bobby St. Cyr's photography (available in medium and large portions)

**A La Gorical:** Dan Needham's acrylic blend of stories laid on a bed of canvas

**Homestyle:** Christine Helmink's filling range of multi-media artwork

#### Desserts

**A La Crème:** Gail Richards' watercolor and pastel parfait topped with jewelry

**Con Nature:** Trevor Hancock's deliciously spirit-lifting photography

#### From the Wine List

**Joanne Thomson:** watercolor landscapes with a hint of dark humor

**Glenda Hamilton:** a complex blend of impressionism and realism

Look for the brochures and posters to appear in local stores and community centres, and then come gorge yourself on the diversity of art in your neighbourhood.

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## West Gorge Transportation

Over 70 residents attended the public meeting held by the West Gorge Transportation Committee on March 9, 2005 at the St. Martin in the Fields Church Hall. The complete results of the traffic calming survey were available for the public to view, and residents had the opportunity to provide further comments on traffic concerns. Rob Wickson also presented a slideshow on pedestrian-friendly city planning.

All the suggestions and ideas gathered at the meeting will be forwarded to the District of Saanich. Many of the smaller issues that were highlighted by the survey have already been brought to the attention of the engineers. The overwhelming support of the surveys and the meeting has allowed us to submit an application to the Saanich Engineering Department for area-wide traffic calming. The success of this application should be known within the next month.

## Harriet Road Streetscape Open House

An Open House was held on November 24<sup>th</sup> to review two options proposed by Saanich Engineering for the streetscaping of Harriet Road. Fifty one people attended and, of those, 32 submitted written comments.

Both Plan A and B include a sidewalk on the Saanich side of Harriet Road, bike lanes on both sides of the street, single lanes of traffic in each direction, center medians, pedestrian refuges and crosswalks at Obed and Maddock. The main difference between Plan A and B has to do with how the parking areas on the Victoria side are handled: Plan A has parking bays cut in to the sidewalk on the Victoria side, while Plan B includes landscape bulbs jutting out to create a parking area.

Unfortunately, since the Open House was held, it has come to our attention that there are concerns in Victoria about potential tree and parking loss associated with Plan A. Discussions are now underway to either modify Plan A to reduce the impact to trees and allow for parking areas at the same time, or to bring Plan B forward as the preferred plan, assuming, of course that there is community support for this.

If you have any questions on these items, please call Christine Helmink at 382-5239.

## Traffic Calming: Gorge - Tillicum East

An Open House to review the traffic calming project bounded by Gorge, Tillicum, Harriet and Burnside was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> in the Lam room at Pearkes Recreation Centre. As a result of the comments Saanich Engineering received from the community, the traffic calming measures will be installed on a permanent basis with essentially no major changes. The circles, in their final format, will have bull-nosed concrete edges and plantings in the centers. Extruded concrete barriers will be added to the road edge to prevent erosion of the corners. As part of the design process, alignment of sidewalks will be done to ensure pedestrian safety. The project will proceed as scheduling of road works projects permit, but will be complete by October 2005.

## Tillicum Burnside

On February 3, 2005, the planning staff from Saanich and the Local Area Action Plan Committee held an open house. Its purpose was to bring us all up to date on the committee's activities and to showcase some ideas for improving the Tillicum Road and Burnside Road corridors. We were presented with 4 different streetscape concepts for both roads and asked to vote for our preference. We were also asked to indicate which section of road was our most immediate priority. The plan for the section of Tillicum Road in front of the mall garnered the most support with the one for Burnside Road just beside the mall coming in a close second.

For more information contact Rob Wickson or Paul Gerrard.

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# CALENDAR

## Upcoming Events

- April 24:** ..... Cuthbert Holmes Clean-up. 9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Assemble at rear entrance to Pearkes Arena.
- April 30:** ..... Safe and Sound Workshops. Time TBA.  
Pearkes Arena.
- May 1:** ..... Bell Walk for Kids. 10 am Silver City.
- May 11:** ..... Individual and Family Emergency  
Preparedness workshop.  
7:30 pm-9:30 pm Pearkes arena.
- May 12:** ..... All Candidates Meeting. 7pm  
Tillicum Elementary.
- May 13 & 14:** .... Gorge Artists' Tour
- May 24:** ..... Gorge Tillicum Community Association  
Annual General Meeting,  
7:30 pm Lam Room, Pearkes Arena.  
(Guest Speaker - Saanich Mayor, Frank Leonard)
- June 18:** ..... Individual and Family Emergency Preparedness  
1:30 pm -3:30 pm Pearkes Arena.
- July 1:** ..... Canada Day Picnic on the Gorge Waterway.

## Bell Walk for Kids

Once again the annual Bell Walk for Kids is taking place here in our neighbourhood! This walk is in support of Kids Help Phone and is the organization's primary means of fundraising.

Kids Help Phone, Canada's only national, toll-free, 24-hour phone counseling, referral, and internet service for young people, logs thousands of calls each day.

The easy 5km. walk starts at 10:00 am on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at Silvercity. There are prizes and on-site goodies. Registration forms are at Silvercity, any Bank of Montreal or Bell Mobility location. For more information, visit [www.bellwalkforkids.ca](http://www.bellwalkforkids.ca)

## Voices

### GORGE CANADA DAY PICNIC - Friday, July 1st

Well, it's hard to believe, but here we are again in the early stages of planning a Gorge Canada Day Picnic. Over the years - seven of them now - we have established a very successful event, both in itself and also as part of Saanich SunFest, a municipal-wide celebration held in late June/early July. The picnic is a great event that many of you, as well as many people from neighbouring communities, have come to enjoy. However, this event can not be taken for granted.

While the Picnic has become a significant part of Gorge culture over the years, we are now in need of new blood to help keep this celebration alive and vibrant. Frankly speaking, it is the same people organizing it this year as organized the first one back in 1999. As a leader in this event, I know that, before long, I shall consider stepping aside. I'm sure some of the other veterans may be thinking along the same lines too. If the Picnic is to stay vital, other people must consider getting involved in putting it on. In short, new ideas and new muscle are needed, and we'd love to start including you right away.

The picnic organizing group meets monthly until May and June when more frequency is necessary. The rewards are big smiles, great responses, and that fantastic feeling that comes from both helping your community and helping others celebrate our great country. Please consider joining us; I look forward to meeting you before my next report.

— Harry Lewis

## Cuthbert Holmes Community Clean-Up

To celebrate Earth Day, the GTCA is organizing a community working bee at Cuthbert Holmes Park. As Earth Day falls on the Friday, we will hold this fun event on Sunday, April 24, from 9:30am to 11:30am. We will meet at the rear entrance to Pearkes arena.

We will be doing some actual rubbish clean-up where needed, but the main tasks will be removing plant debris and digging out some invasive species. We need people of all ages to come along and lend a hand (boots and work gloves are highly recommended). There will be cookies and coffee for all who help out!

Please come and give something back to our Park; it is a priceless asset to our neighbourhood. If you have questions, contact John Hoole at 386-7458 or email: jhoole@spca.bc.ca

## Safe & Sound Workshop Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness

G. R. Pearkes Community Centre April 30, 2005  
(Time To Be Announced)

In an emergency, we may be required to fend for ourselves without any outside assistance. Services may be unavailable for up to 72 hours because of infrastructure damage or critical demand. Would you have the supplies and skills needed to help you and your family survive?

Come and participate in a free Gorge-Tillicum community workshop that will help you be prepared should an emergency occur. You will also learn about your neighborhood program for emergency preparedness and how you can participate. There will be emergency vehicles on display, emergency service demonstrations, and vendors offering emergency supplies or services for sale.

For more information call Christine Helmkink at 382-5239.

### Victoria-Hillside Community Office

Sheila Orr, MLA for  
Victoria-Hillside, and her  
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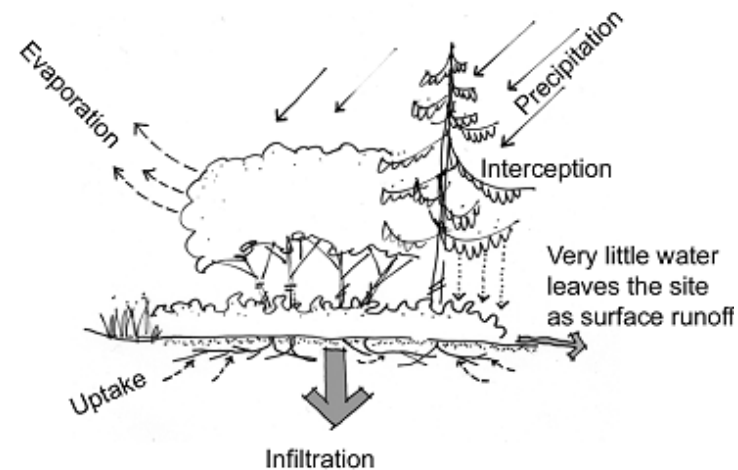
PEMBERTON HOLMES

## The Many Rewards of Trees

Trees are one of the most significant elements in the urban environment, second only to buildings. Beyond creating shade and blocking wind, they provide aesthetic value, economic returns, and wildlife habitat. They also function to reduce stormwater runoff from our streets and lawns.

It is no surprise that trees are attractive. When you drive through the prettiest parts of Victoria, it is the trees that create that serene quality most people appreciate. Can you imagine any one of the magnificent streets in Oak Bay without the Garry Oaks? However, it is not just the number of trees that is important; it is also their size. Large trees create a comfortable human space; it simply feels good to walk down a street of mature trees. They instill a sense of safety and protection. In fact, cars tend to drive more slowly when branches form a tunnel over the road. In this sense, trees help calm traffic. Perhaps it is the combination of their beauty and their calming effect that explains why trees can increase a property value by 7 to 20%. (That's \$20 to \$60,000 for most of us!)

*Trees create cool microclimates; provide shade and protection from wind; and make significant contributions to stormwater management.*



Of course, urban trees also provide significant habitat for wildlife populations. Did you know Victoria has the highest density of nesting Cooper's Hawks in North America? Birds like these nest in the large trees of heavily urbanized areas. Tall trees — particularly those found in urban forests like our own Cuthbert Holmes Park — provide food, cover, nesting sites and safe travel corridors for numerous birds species. Indeed, numerous species of wildlife are supported in Cuthbert Holmes and Colquitz Creek's riparian habitat (vegetated area adjacent to a waterbody). Sadly, however, there is currently no park or vegetation management plan for the park. (More on this topic in later issues...)

Trees create cool microclimates; provide shade and protection from wind; and make significant contributions to stormwater management.

Finally, trees help manage stormwater runoff. Water and snow that is intercepted by the leaves evaporates before reaching the ground. Water that does

reach the ground is often absorbed by the tree roots and given off as gas. Trees thus act as nature's water pumps and consume enormous quantities of water. The roots also provide a conduit for excess water to infiltrate into the ground, helping to replenish aquifers that maintain streams during hot, drought conditions.

As you can see, trees contribute significantly to our environment and our neighbourhood. On Earth Day this year, think about planting a tree. You'll be enhancing your home, your street, wildlife habitat, and water quality. And you'll likely even get an economic return on that future house sale!

For a good article on trees and stormwater management, see  
www.forester.net/sw\_0203\_trees.html

For information on the Urban Forest Stewardship Program, BC see

www.hat.bc.ca/projects/urbantree.htm

— Scott Murdoch

## The Gorge Waterway Initiative: An Umbrella Group for a Healthy Gorge

Over the past three months, your community association has been one of a group of organizations that have come together out of concern for our Waterway. The umbrella group, The Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI), is community-driven and collaborative. Twenty organizations are currently represented, and this interest in the well being of the Gorge is exciting.

The goal of gathering together is to coordinate interests, concerns and educational opportunities. The GWI seeks to promote informed approaches to maintaining, protecting and enhancing the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and its watersheds. The GWI also wishes to respect the cultural heritage of the area and seeks to achieve a healthy environment, in perpetuity, for humans as well as all the other natural communities. We will also investigate improved recreational activities on and near the water.

While educating and communicating with the public are the primary goals of the GWI, engaging the public's support is also vital. We will thus encourage "a hands on" approach to restoration and the protection of habitat. We particularly wish to give youth an opportunity to be involved and take ownership of their environment's future. Furthermore, we acknowledge the potential for advancing recommendations to government from a position of collaborative strength.

Meetings of the GWI will be open to the public. If you have any questions contact Bob June @ 381-0848.

### Know Any Local Environmental News?

If you know of any environmental news specific to the Gorge-Tillicum area, let us know! E-mail the Green Space coordinator at smurdock@shaw.ca with a news idea or story. 300 word limit, next deadline May 13th.

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