



GORGE TILLICUM

Neighbourhood

NEWS



Gorge Canada Day Picnic—10th year!

This year marks the tenth anniversary for our Gorge Canada Day Picnic, and we hope to mark it in style with some

great entertainment and good fun—the usual ingredients! As well as being Canada's 141st birthday, this year also marks BC's 150th, and Quebec City's 400th, and as such we're planning to recognize these milestones during the day's celebrations.

On our main stage we'll have some new faces, as well as some old friends. The Gruff, 2007 Artist of the Year, Vancouver Island Music Awards, will be performing songs from their new release, *A Trail of Missing Thoughts*. (For a sampling of The Gruff, check out www.myspace.com/thegruffband.)

Another great entertainer and festival performer not to be missed is Courtenay singer/songwriter/guitarist, and comedian, Todd Butler, often heard on CBC. (Check out Todd at www.toddbutler.com.) We'll also have some French Canadian stories and songs from Christian Verrier, and

returning to our stage again will be the Uminari Taiko drummers, and the Alma d'España flamenco dancers.

Beyond the main stage, the usual attractions and activities will be going on: the Canada Day family parade, pancake breakfast, artisan market, classic car rally, kids games and road hockey, bike rodeo and safety check, Buskers' Corner, canoe and kayak rides, Canine Corner, Strawberry Tea at the VCKC Clubhouse, along with multicultural, BC and Quebec food available to keep you primed for the action.

And lastly, Saanich Parks will be mounting a special display celebrating their 50th anniversary. What a rich lineup for our tenth Gorge Canada Day Picnic, Tuesday, July 1st. See you there.

— Harry Lewis

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a word from the president

It is amazing to realize that we are about to celebrate the 10th Gorge Canada Day Picnic. Much has happened in the Gorge-Tillicum neighbourhood over the past ten years that we can be proud of...

An overview of the past ten year accomplishments:

- Held all-candidate meetings for provincial and municipal elections.
- Hosted a “Walkable Communities” workshop at Pearkes.
- Participated in “Walk for Kids” at Tillicum Centre in support of “Kids Help Phone”.
- Worked with Saanich to establish bike lanes on Gorge Road and Admirals Road.
- Worked with Saanich Parks to complete Gorge Waterway Park, Kosapsom Park and Qu’Appelle Park.
- Joined Saanich’s Emergency Preparedness Program and stocked the Emergency Kiosk at Pearkes.
- Worked with Saanich Engineering on traffic calming projects.
- Participated in Saanich’s Boulevard Tree Planting program.
- Organized Earth Day clean-ups in Gorge Park and Cuthbert Holmes Park.
- Worked with the Habitat Acquisition Trust in a clean-up of Colquitz Creek.
- Petitioned Saanich Engineering to install pedestrian-activated crosswalks on Gorge at Wascana and Admirals at Esson.
- Supported the Victoria Native Friendship Centre in its move into the old Hampton School.
- Partnered with Saanich Parks and Recreation to put on “Concerts in the Park” events.
- Held “Gorge on Art” tours for Saanich Community Arts Awareness week.
- Supported Rio Can’s expansions at Tillicum Centre for Zellers, Linens ‘n Things, Old Navy, T.D. Bank and Fabricland.
- Instituted “Adopt an Outfall” project to monitor stormwater quality flowing into Colquitz Creek .
- Joined the stakeholder group of the Gorge Waterway Initiative to provide stewardship of the Gorge Waterway.
- Partnered with Saanich Parks to plant Centennial Trees in Gorge Park.
- Planted trees and shrubs in Gorge Waterway Park for Tree Appreciation day.

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Neighbourhood News

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

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Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions and advertising for the next issue is August 15th.

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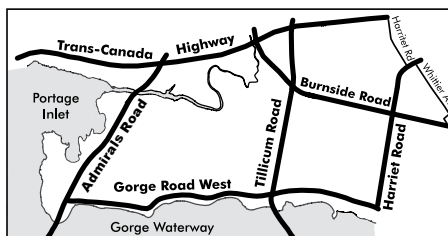
Arden Little 360-2474

Distribution:

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

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

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



GTCA Board of Directors 08/09

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

Annual General Meeting

The 2008 Annual General Meeting of the GTCA was a quiet affair, with a disappointingly sparse attendance. After the President and Treasurer had submitted their reports and the annual accounts were approved, the election of the Board took place. All office bearers are unchanged for 2008, but we welcome three new Board members, Betty Leech, Susan Koolman and Scott Karpes. The only defection from last year is Kristine Kerins, who has moved out of our area.

We were pleased to have MLA David Cubberley as our guest speaker. After congratulating the residents of the area for the steady upgrading that had taken place over the past ten years, he discussed two of the issues to which he has given much attention over the past year. The first is the proposed rapid bus service down Douglas Street, which he does not favour at this time. It is his view that it should be part of a coherent and properly-costed transportation plan linking downtown and the western suburbs, and such a plan does not yet exist.

Second, the issue of the actions of the BC Assessment Authority in reassessing many small farms in the Greater Victoria area was discussed. He considers that the basis for many of these reassessments is flawed, and the result could be such an increase in the land taxes for these farms that they cannot stay in business, at a time when the need for locally-produced food is being universally recognized. The meeting concluded about 8:30pm.

Free Concert Schedule

Following last year's successful free family concert at Rudd Park, we have decided to double up, with concerts scheduled for Rudd Park on July 29, and at Meadow Park on August 26. The concerts are two of seven being held on successive Tuesday evenings from July 15 to August 26 at various parks throughout Saanich, and are organized by the various community associations under the auspices of Saanich Parks and Recreation.

So please mark your calendars and make a point of attending one or more of these community concerts, which will feature local musical groups, Morris dancing, face painting and children's activities. There will be some food, ice cream and drinks, but you are encouraged to bring your own.

Please check the Association website for updates – as soon as the program has been confirmed, it will be posted. If you are interested in the other concerts being held throughout the Municipality, go to www.saanich.bc.ca/residential/community/calendar.

— John Hoole

Snippets

Disappointing that so few people turned up at our AGM—I guess we couldn't compete with the hockey game. Anyway, a warm welcome is extended to our new Board members, Betty Leech, Susan Koolman (actually, a returning member) and Scott Karpes.

*

Are you a knitter and would like some company and chat—and the odd bit of help from time to time? Try the knitters group, which gets together at Starbucks

in Tillicum Plaza every Tuesday evening at 7pm. You are assured of a friendly welcome.

*

You may have noticed a bit of fuss lately about the recommended changes to the provincial electoral boundaries. What you may not have noticed is that it affects much of our area, and if it goes ahead, our MLA will be Rob Fleming instead of David Cubberley. If you are interested, go to www.BC-EBC.ca

Upcoming Events:

RiverSong Circle Returns 2008:

Wed., June 25, 6:00–7:30 pm at Colquitz Middle School, 505 Dumeresq Rd. A willing heart and ear, an open mind, and a love of community singing are all that you need. Free, but please re-register with Carolyn Knight at cjdknight@shaw.ca.

10th Gorge Canada Day Picnic:

Tues., July 1, 8:30 am–4:00 pm. Celebrate Canada Day along the Gorge Waterway with a pancake breakfast, parade, stage entertainment, classic cars, kids' activities, street hockey, Strawberry Tea, market and more. More information at 384-8460 or www.gorgetillicum.ca

10th Annual Gorge on Art: Sat.

July 5, 11:00 am–4:00 pm. Visit a fabulous selection of art from over 45 artists along the Gorge Waterway. Enjoy music and food kiosks. More information at 475-7124 or www.saanich.ca.

Gorge Historical Walking Tour: Wed.,

July 9, 7:00–9:00 pm. Join author, Dennis Minaker for a free historical walking tour of the Gorge Waterway and parks. This leisurely 2 hour tour will recall the Gorge a century ago. Meet along the walkway opposite Gorge View Drive. More information at 385-8884.

Sunfest on Ice: Thurs., July 10,

2.30–3.50 pm at G. R. Pearkes Rec. Centre. Discover a cool setting on ice with prizes for skaters and the always popular sundae artist station. Skate rentals are free. More information at 475-5468. Cost: \$2.

Gorge Historical Walking Tour: Sun.,

July 13, 2:00–4:00 pm. See details above.

Music in the Park: Tues., July 29,

6:00–8:00 pm. Bring your picnic dinner, blankets, and chairs and enjoy a free neighbourhood concert in Rudd Park! Face painting, hot dogs, and ice cream available to purchase.

Music in the Park: Tues., August 26,

6:00–8:00 pm. This time in Meadow Park! See details above.

Deanna Noyce & John Francis

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Pedestrian Safety Concerns at Admirals Road Bridge

Being able to walk to school is important. In this time of concerns over childhood obesity and climate change, going green to school is win-win. Children burn off some steam before school, and a little less carbon dioxide is put into the atmosphere. Many children from the Gorge-Tillicum neighbourhood travel to École Marigold School, Spectrum and St. Joseph's, over the soon-to-be-replaced Admirals Road bridge.

The lighted crosswalk installed two years ago north of the bridge was an improvement—most traffic eventually stops now—but residents are adamant that Saanich must further improve the pedestrian conditions in designing the bridge, especially given the unfortunate combination of concrete mixers and children.

...the location of the crosswalk at the bottom of hills on either side puts pedestrians in a precarious position. Many trucks maintain their speed up the hill on the other side and are just not able to stop for a suddenly-illuminated crosswalk signal.

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LOCAL HEROS Picnic Crew



Ten years ago, an idea was hatched for a community event that would bring us together to celebrate the place we live, and enjoy the company of our neighbours in a relaxed car-free atmosphere along the Gorge Waterway.

Today, we are about to celebrate the tenth anniversary of that event, the Gorge Canada Day Picnic. So our local heroes

for this edition of Neighbourhood News are all the volunteers, who over the years have made the Picnic one of the premier Canada Day events in the capital region. Being involved in organizing the Picnic, one of the greatest satisfactions I've had has been working together with these people, who put tremendous time and energy into this successful day. The volunteer hours may culminate on July 1st, but really the Picnic effort begins early each spring, and it takes a real team effort to make all the contacts and connections required to pull off an event that now draws over 5,000 people each Canada Day. So thanks to you all, past and present picnickers—it's been a blast!

— Harry Lewis

RioCan Public Meeting

Over 40 people attended a community meeting at Pearkes Recreation Centre on February 20th at which RioCan presented drawings and a model for their proposed development at Tillicum Centre. These plans include a 13-storey high residential apartment building above ground-floor commercial space.

Written comments were collected and given to the GTCA to collate. The chief concern with the proposal was the potential increase in traffic, both at Tillicum Centre and in the immediate community (15 comments). The loss of parking spaces at Tillicum centre was listed as a concern by 9 attendees, while concerns about the total height of 13 storeys were listed by eight. Environmental issues figured prominently amongst the comments. The protection of Cuthbert Holmes Park and Colquitz River was mentioned by ten; the prevention of stormwater run-off from Tillicum centre infiltrating the Colquitz River was considered important by eight; and six citizens wanted to see a sustainable and green development.

Many in attendance had quite positive feedback for the developers, such as the proposed smaller, affordable units (12 comments). Seven people commented that the proposal was a great idea, good design, and/or good fit for the site. Rio Can will now be presenting the proposal to Saanich Council, who will decide if the matter will require a public hearing. Check our website, www.gorgetillicum.ca for updates.

— Paul Gerrard



David Cubberley MLA, Saanich South

Need help?

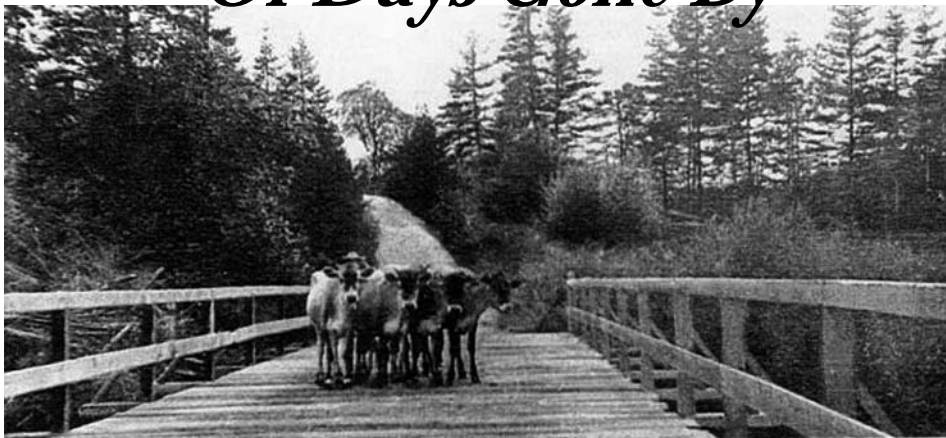
Please contact my office regarding any provincial program or matter

David Cubberley's
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Phone: 952-4418 Fax: 952-4566

Mon - Fri 10 - Noon and 1 - 3pm
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Of Days Gone By



The Admiral's Road bridge

The Admiral's Road bridge spanning the Colquitz River estuary is viewed in this old photograph dating back to the early years of the last century—a time when ladies equipped with parasols pleasure-boated on the Gorge, and errant cows, determined to create trouble as only wandering cattle can do, blocked bridge traffic. Although identifiable on one archival map of 1885, the original Colquitz River span probably was built decades earlier to connect the two oldest byways in the Gorge area, Craigflower and Burnside roads. Saanich proposes to replace the current span, built in 1952, in the months ahead. A separate lane for neighbourhood cows is apparently not under consideration.

— Dennis Minaker,
author of "The Gorge of Summers Gone"

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Message from the president

- Worked with Saanich Planning and Engineering Depts. on the Tillicum / Burnside Action Plan, and the Admirals Road and Harriet Road Streetscape Plans.
- Produced and hand-delivered 4,000 community newsletters four times a year.
- Held community meetings on land-use and transportation projects.
- Established the first "Pocket Market" in Saanich at Pearkes.
- Realized the dream of building our magnificent Saanich Centennial Library.

— Paul Gerrard



Congratulations to Erinne Paisley, seen with her poster, which was one of the 200 semi-finalists, chosen from over 2000 entrants, in the Canada Day Poster Challenge contest. The contest was sponsored by the federal government, in honour of Canada Day.

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Pedestrian Safety Concerns at Admirals Road Bridge

Many drivers speed up once the light is flashing so as to make it up to the highway a few seconds faster. A Marigold parent wrote to Saanich engineering several months ago, asking for improved pedestrian facilities as part of the bridge replacement. The response from Saanich engineering was that only the Federal DFO, NavCan; Provincial MoE, MoT, and First Nations, would be consulted in the design of the new bridge.

The letter stated that "the conceptual plans for the bridge at this time will accommodate 4 lanes of traffic in the future, have dedicated bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides".

It should be noted that it has since been verified with Saanich that the original Admirals Streetscape plans of 2 lanes of traffic plus bike lanes and sidewalks have not been altered.

In response to the ire of many residents at the lack of consultation, the GTCA wrote to Mayor Leonard, as well as the Saanich Engineering Department, asking for public input into the bridge design.

The Marigold PAC also wrote to Saanich Council, asking for inclusion as a stakeholder since this crossing is part of a "Safe Route to School". We will keep you posted as to any responses.

— Karen Laberee

Become a member of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association TODAY!

Why become a member?

- Membership dues are only \$5.00 per person (\$25.00 per business).
- Your fee will help support our Annual Canada Day Picnic.
- Your fee also helps fund the publication of this quarterly newsletter, a valuable information link to the community.
- You will become part of a very active group of community-minded people, who care about the Gorge Tillicum Community and its neighbourhood.
- **Be eligible for draw prizes at the Canada Day Picnic.**

Don't Delay! Send in this form TODAY!

Mail to:

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

2008 Membership Application/Renewal

Name(s) : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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



**At the Centre
G.R. PEARKES
RECREATION CENTRE**

Have you heard the news?

What are your plans for this summer? Always wanted to try Salsa dancing? Woodworking? Looking for an active and fun-filled day camp for your child? Check out the great selection of summer camps and courses offered at Colquitz Middle School by Saanich Recreation—we're offering programs for everyone, from preschool to adult.

Children's camps range from half day to full days, from art exploration and cooking to soccer and Hip Hop dance. Eli Pasquale's Basketball Camp returns this summer, along with Claymation Computer camp, Teens In Action, Girls Camp, School of Rock, ESL camp, Crafty Cooking and Karen Clark dance classes. We have fantastic new camps too: All Sorts of Sports, Art Salad, Eco-Art, Moving with Science, Eco-Quest, and Young Chefs on the Run, to name just a few.

The third annual Summer School of Arts will run from July 20th to July 27th. Workshops are led by professional artists, and are geared for older teens and adults wishing to learn new techniques, focusing on the creative process. This year's workshops include Chinese Brush Painting, Drawing & Watercolours in Saanich Parks, Garden Sculpture, and Drawing with Pen and Ink.

We also offer adult computer classes, belly dance, jazzercise and women's self defense.

To learn more about our summer offerings and to register, as well as programs at Pearkes Recreation Centre, please visit us on-line at <http://Recreation.Saanich.ca/RecOnline>. Or call us at 475-5400.

Have an idea for a program for the fall? Call Glenda Newsted at 475-5466 to share your ideas.

**Summer Registration begins Wednesday, May 14.
Register early to avoid disappointment.**

Facility & Registration Hours:
June 30th - Aug 31st
Mon-Fri 6:30AM - 9:00PM
Sat-Sun 7:00AM - 9:00PM

Stat Holiday Hours:
JULY 1ST - CLOSED
AUG 4TH - CLOSED
SEPT 1ST:
10:00AM-4:00PM




Special Events: SUNFEST ON ICE
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