



Gorge Canada Day Picnic - 20th Anniversary

It all began with a conversation. Well actually with a series of conversations. Harry Lewis and Rob Wickson would often get together later on Friday evenings to share conversations about a wide variety of topics. Both of them had moved to the neighbourhood in 1988 and by the late 1990's they became interested in what was then called the West Gorge and District Rate Payers Association.

This led to the key question that is fundamental to the Picnic. "How do we build Community?"

Fueled by beer and occasionally a bit of Irish Whiskey, by late 1998 the conversations would explore all ideas. These were the days of smart growth and traffic complaints so the ideas focused on what could be done to show our community what life could be like if there were no cars.

Harry, being a runner in those days,



The original Gorge Canada Day organizers and volunteers. July 1, 1999

came up with an excellent reason to close the road to traffic. "Let's have the Gorge Gallop". A one mile run from the corner of Tillicum and Gorge to the other side of the Craigflower Bridge. Now the pens and paper came out to record the ideas that followed. A one mile running event could attract publicity, a significant number of local runners and a neighbourhood audience. However, we could see that it would be difficult to convince those in charge that this would be a good enough reason to close the road to traffic for much longer

than an hour or two.

So what else could we do? How about a stage with live entertainment? Add vendors, food trucks, games, and non-profit displays. Now we're talking. When could we do this? What should we call it?

Harry, having immigrated to this country from Ireland always appreciated our national Canada Day celebrations and Rob, having been involved in the early versions of what became the Yellowknife Canada Day event that evolved into "Folk of the Rocks" both got excited by the idea of a local Gorge Tillicum Canada Day celebration. That led to more late night discussions.

So now there was a to-do list for initiating conversations with the decision makers. Harry always understood that if you started from the top you might smooth the way to success. The result was a conversation with then mayor, Frank Leonard, who actually guided us in the process to close the road for a day.

Next up, was to expand the conversation beyond our circle. We talked to the community association who were somewhat concerned about the financial impacts for

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The first Strawberry Tea. This event is still going strong and is a key GTCA fundraiser.

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

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Current Canada Day Picnic Committee: Harry Lewis, Vera Wynn-Williams, Chris Kask (Chair), Edward Pullman, Ray Farmer and Rob Wickson.
Missing from photo Claudia Wickson and Tracy Menzies.

the association. We also held two public meetings, at the Craigflower Schoolhouse and the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club. After some very important discussions it was clear the neighbourhood would support a well-planned event in 1999.

Thus, the Picnic was born. While most of the original picnic organizers have moved on to other things, there still are those that have been there since the early days. Ray Farmer and Jayne Pullman, Carmen and Shawn Robinson, Ed and Elsa Lyons, Gord Fry and the Victoria Lions, and of

course Harry and Rob, can be seen in various roles working with the new picnic team to provide this community with an event that brings everyone out to have a bit of fun on Canada Day. Many thanks go out to all the volunteers and committee members over the last 20 years. Special mention must be made for some major past Picnic Committee members who committed many years of hard work – Donna Roth, Steve Legg, Anne Genuist and Richard du Bouchard.

**--Rob Wickson &
Chris Kask**

For information on this year's picnic check out:

www.gorgecanadaday.ca

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



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

a few words from the GTCA

Let's start by acknowledging and thanking the many people volunteering their time and energy to promote the well-being of our community.

I'm sure that there are many such activities that we at the Board are completely unaware of; to those people, we say thank you and, if there's any way you think the GTCA could be of assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Then there are those people that we know about -- for example, those participating in activities organized by the Earl Grey Neighbours group, by Block Watch and other street-based groups, by Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers, and by Gorgeous Coffee -- thanks to you for your efforts.

Thanks also to the many people volunteering in and through the GTCA -- for instance:

- The approximately **45** couriers who hand deliver newsletters three times a year
- The **8** organizers and many other volunteers that put on the Canada Day Picnic each year
- The neighbours and Board directors that act so diligently on behalf of our precious parks
- The many hours dedicated to the building and wellbeing of the Gorge Park Community Gardens
- The Approximately **150** individuals and businesses that chose to become GTCA members
- The directors, former and present, that chose to act on behalf of the community through participation in the Board

And, in case you're wondering what the Board does, we:

- Have 4 Boulevard Brigade teams (comprising 17 households) maintaining boulevard gardens
- Work with neighbours and Saanich on the well-being of Cuthbert Holmes Park (where we're advocating for a "no sheltering, even overnight" position in this environmentally sensitive park) and of Gorge Park (where we host two clean-ups a year)
- Are planning, together with Saanich, to plant more trees throughout the neighbourhood

- Are responsible for developing and maintaining Gorge Park Community Gardens as a welcoming community space
- Organize and host the Gorge Canada Day Picnic, Lights on the Gorge, and (together with Saanich) Music in the Park celebrations
- Promote and contribute to the installation of public art in our neighborhood
- Maintain 2 websites and a Facebook page; publish a newsletter; keep in touch with members and the wider community by email, through meetings over coffee, and through Twitter.
- Communicate and collaborate with other communities through the Saanich Community Association Network; with Saanich council and staff; with developers proposing projects in our community; with CRD organizations such as the Gorge Waterway Initiative and the Wastewater Treatment Project; and with various media on items of interest to the public
- Monitor and, potentially, respond to wider projects affecting our neighbourhood -- e.g. Saanich initiatives such as the Active Transportation Plan and the One Planet Cities project.
- Raise and manage funds in support of GTCA objectives and activities

What we are able to do depends, amongst other things, on the strength of our community and its networks, on the conversations we have with each other, and on the continued willingness of people to participate in so many ways -- smaller and larger. (Note: Please see Why Community Matters by Phil Lancaster in this newsletter.)

That being said, if you'd like to volunteer with us, please contact us at info@gorgetillicum.ca or P.O. Box 44152, Victoria, BC V9A 7K1 -- even if you're not sure exactly how you'd like to participate. We'd love to work with you.

**--Gabe Epstein
President, GTCA**



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'Maple Tree Bend' A Place Name Forgotten

In our Spring 2016 issue I wrote about 'The Spinsters of "Maple Tree Bend"' and the history of a mysterious old house at 719 Gorge Rd W. It was a follow up to a short mention found near the end of Dennis Minaker's book, 'Gorge of Summers Gone.' Unfortunately, I didn't have space to flesh out the specifics as to why this place on the Gorge had that meaningful name.

For many decades, the curve in the 700 block of Gorge Rd W, between Austin and Adelaide, was known as 'Maple Tree Bend' (or 'Maple Bend') named for the approximately 200-year-old Broad Leaf Maple that grew there.

I'd been curious about this for some time, but until recently, I knew of only one photo where the tree could be seen, in the distance. A couple of months ago, when the City of Victoria Archives released a large collection of photos online, I found this perfect photo and decided it was time to write.

As you can see from the photo, in the very early years, the dirt road passed by on the south side of the tree quite sharply. So the name 'Maple Tree Bend' stuck and that's what everyone called it for many decades. The name can be found referenced in many old news articles. By the 1920's, the road was split, with the westbound lane running on one side and the eastbound lane on the other, with the great tree sitting on a kind of 'island' in the middle of the road. With the advent of motorized



Circa 1900 - Cyclist at Maple Tree Bend on Gorge Road. Craigflower School in background. Courtesy City of Victoria Archives.

cars, and, as Gorge Road was then part of the Island highway, 'Maple Tree Bend' soon became a place of many vehicle accidents. On the evening of December 20th, 1928, two men "narrowly escaped death" when the car they were in clipped another at the bend and their car "plunged into the waters of the Gorge." Earlier that same year, one evening in July, the bend was the scene of not one but two late night accidents. On Saturday, April 20th, 1940 at 4 pm, there was a "spectacular accident" where a logging truck and trailer, loaded with twelve forty-five foot logs, on it's way back from Sooke, went off the road, leveling "several yards of fence" but luckily, no one was injured. In more modern times, the same sorts of accidents continue to occur from time to time. Some

will remember the evening of October 15th, 2016 when a speeding car left the road at this curve and ended up in the Gorge.

For Rose Phillips, who grew up on Inlet Ave, Maple Tree Bend carried a lot of special meaning.

When her and her husband, Harry Rogers, were first courting, the two would take the Gorge streetcar after dates downtown. Harry would walk Rose home as far as the maple, where, under those branches, they'd kiss goodbye before he ran back across the bridge to catch the last streetcar home. Later on, after they'd married and moved to California, they often reminisced about the old tree, and whenever they returned for a visit, they'd go and see it. But as time wore on, the tree began to show its age, losing limbs and cracking and splitting with rot. By the late 1950's the great giant looked as though it was about to fall down and every time Rose and Harry saw it, they thought it might be the last. This made Rose very sad. So, Harry devised a plan with Rose's brother and, late one night in the wee hours, in a clandestine operation, a large branch was cut from the suffering old maple. A substantial piece of that branch was then smuggled down to California where, soon afterwards, Harry fashioned a special gift. A beautiful hand-carved gavel and plaque, presented to Rose, for her installation as Royal Matron of their lodge, the 'Order of Amaranth', in San Diego California. Sometime shortly after this presentation, the wonderful old giant

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blew down in a storm and was cut up and hauled away. Within a few decades even the name 'Maple Tree Bend' was mostly forgotten.

--Scott Karpes

(With a special thanks to my friend Lotus Johnson. During her research, she has always been very kind, finding and passing along many pieces of historical information and old news articles that have helped me.)

Our Young Boulevard Trees Need Your Help!

Trees greatly enhance our community and through Saanich's Tree Boulevard Program, many trees have been planted in the neighbourhood. These young trees are still vulnerable and need water to get established.

Tree watering tips from Saanich:



- Water trees during cooler times of the day so the trees will soak up more water.
- Give enough water to soak into the roots by watering the base of your tree at least twice per week for 15-minutes, or about 20 litres, each watering.
- Hand watering newly planted trees is exempt from water restrictions or bans, so keep watering your trees all summer long!
- You will find watering bags on many newly planted trees on Saanich boulevards and in parks during the warmer months. If there is a bag on a tree near your house please fill it up twice a week.
- Water even if it rains. The small amount of rain we get in the summer is not enough for our trees; they still need our help (especially if they are young trees).

Why Community Action Matters

We seem to live in a time when it has become too easy to leave everything up to someone else. In many ways, this is the logical consequence of economic development that is based on specialization and growth. In our day to day lives, this often means that someone else bakes our bread, grows our food, fixes our cars, takes care of our children and so on, ad infinitum. We even elect representatives to make political decisions for us. And, so far at least, it all seems to work pretty well.

But changes accumulate until we suddenly notice that nothing is the same. Living where we do, we've seen dramatic increases in traffic over the past decade, largely as a result of the expansion of the Western Communities. While this may seem inevitable, it is also a testament to our complicated regional structure that creates barriers to urban densification at the same time that it accepts unfettered suburban development as both necessary and right. And so, suddenly, we in the Gorge Tillicum community find ourselves living between where people are able to afford to live and where they work. How did this happen and what could we do about it to mitigate the consequences? How can we make our community a better place to live without simply letting it turn into yet another piece of highway? We've seen this pattern repeat itself across North America and have enough collective experience to know that the consequence is unsustainable and soulless suburban sprawl.

Essentially, we have two options: we can adopt an attitude of passive resignation before the onslaught of expansion or we can get actively engaged to try to preserve the best possible outcome for our neighbourhood. Saanich, as a municipality, has been faced with the need to assist transportation through our municipality at the same time as it has struggled to preserve the unique nature of our landscape. Demographic pressures have been intense over the past decade and there is little sign that they will ease in the near future. Perhaps our best hope of preserving what we have is to work to make our neighbourhood as attractive a place to live as possible so that we become the place people want to live in rather than the area they want to get through as quickly as possible. This can't be done without some community organization to ensure that our elected officials do their jobs. Nor can it be done if we don't continue to build community gardens, hold community events on the Gorge, and keep a close eye on our precious public parks and gardens. We will be in a stronger position to insist on being listened to if we can demonstrate that we are an active community that cares about its environment – cares enough to organize itself and to act.

--Phil Lancaster

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Spring Time in Gorge Park Community Gardens

April's weather was just the perfect mix of sun and rain needed to get the Gardens growing and bring its restless gardeners out of winter hibernation.

The sunshine and warmth made it a pleasure to be outside again and peas, fava beans, and other early planted seeds have been shaken out of their packets and placed in the ground. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, pole beans, and other seeds and plant starts will follow and soon we'll be enjoying mouth watering produce grown locally.

The mason bees started hatching from their cocoons at the end of March and in April and May the females are busy laying eggs, surrounding them with the pollen they need to develop, and building mud walls to enclose and keep them safe while they mature.

Before things grow and the Gardens becomes a colourful riot of flowers and foliage, five truck loads of rocks were placed around the site to mark the commons beds and help hold in the soil. We made a bit of a muddy mess moving wheel barrows of rocks back and forth but a load of bark mulch has tidied up the paths. The site looks gorgeous!

As always, we are grateful for the many hands that have moved rocks, weeded, swept the shed, filled the book box, tended to the bees and compost, planted the sharing garden, moved bark mulch, and more. Our annual Plant Sale is a major fundraiser for the Gardens and will be over as you read this. A heart-felt thank you to all those who came forward to donate or buy plants to help support the Gardens, and to the organizers of the event. The Gardens offers a wonderful opportunity to get involved with the community. If you haven't been by lately, come wander our paths, join a work party, become a member, or stop by to chat!

--Laurie Jones



Shirley Barnes moving rocks



Gardener Caroline Tourigny



Gardener Frances Jonson



Mason bee cocoons and one hatched male.

Photos: Laurie Jones



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The Green Space

The Campaign to Save Cuthbert Holmes Park

Sadly, our beloved park has been under threat from entrenched campers with their fire pits, habitat destruction and garbage. These issues have been well documented in the press over the past few months.

The GTCA and park stewards have been working to push for action in the park and are finally seeing tangible results! Currently the park is clean and camping activity has been virtually eliminated.

Saanich Council recently approved an amendment to their bylaw which allowed for the removal of chattel. This has allowed Saanich Parks to go in and conduct several massive cleanups. They will continue to do weekly cleanups of the park.

Saanich Police have been working to help campers secure housing, supervise cleanups and are doing more frequent patrols of the park.

The GTCA is also pushing for Saanich to follow Victoria's lead and ban overnight camping in all environmentally sensitive parks.

We need your help as well!

If you witness aggressive behaviour, see dangerous materials, or suspected stolen goods please call the **Saanich Police non-emergency line at 250-475-4321**.

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

If you feel threatened or witness an active campfire please call 911!

The Great Horned Owl Rescue

Cuthbert Holmes Park users have enjoyed watching the nest of the Great Horned Owls and their two babies. Closely observed and photographed, there was much discussion and searching when only one owlet was seen for many days.

Today I learned, indeed one owlet had fallen out of the nest, and was retrieved by a concerned neighbour who contacted Wild Arc for help. After a brief stay in Metchosin, and a physical exam our owlet was returned to the nest by Wild Arc volunteers!

Many, many thanks to Wild Arc who have come to the rescue of our owls on a number of occasions!

To learn more about Wild Arc or to donate online see: <https://spca.bc.ca/locations/wild-arc/>

--Dorothy Chambers



Photos: Dorothy Chambers

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Julian Anderson: Friend of Cuthbert Holmes Park

Julian Anderson—the Gorge-Tillicum Community Association's (GCTA's) nominee for a Saanich Environmental Award this year—is an interesting study in how the love of nature can push a person in directions he or she might never have dreamed of going. How did a self-acknowledged introvert wind up in a passionate advocacy role, involved in extensive public speaking and the hosting of large groups of children and adults? The answer to this question makes a fascinating story.

Most of the people I have interviewed for Neighbourhood News came, like myself, to Victoria from somewhere else. Julian, though, was not just born in Victoria but lived his earliest years in the Gorge-Tillicum area, in a small house near to what is now the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club headquarters. As a child and young man, Julian was in many ways, a typical Canadian. He loved (and still loves) sports, especially hockey and baseball. When life demanded a career, he chose, like so many other Victorians, to work for the government.

Not so typical, though, was a fierce love of nature, fostered by his mother, and by the wealth of green areas around the Gorge in his time of growing up. Coupled with this love was a tendency to side with the underdog, with those who have little or no voice in the world of social and political arrangements. Increasingly, as the Gorge-Tillicum urbanized, Julian saw nature as the underdog, the last item to be considered on the development agenda. He

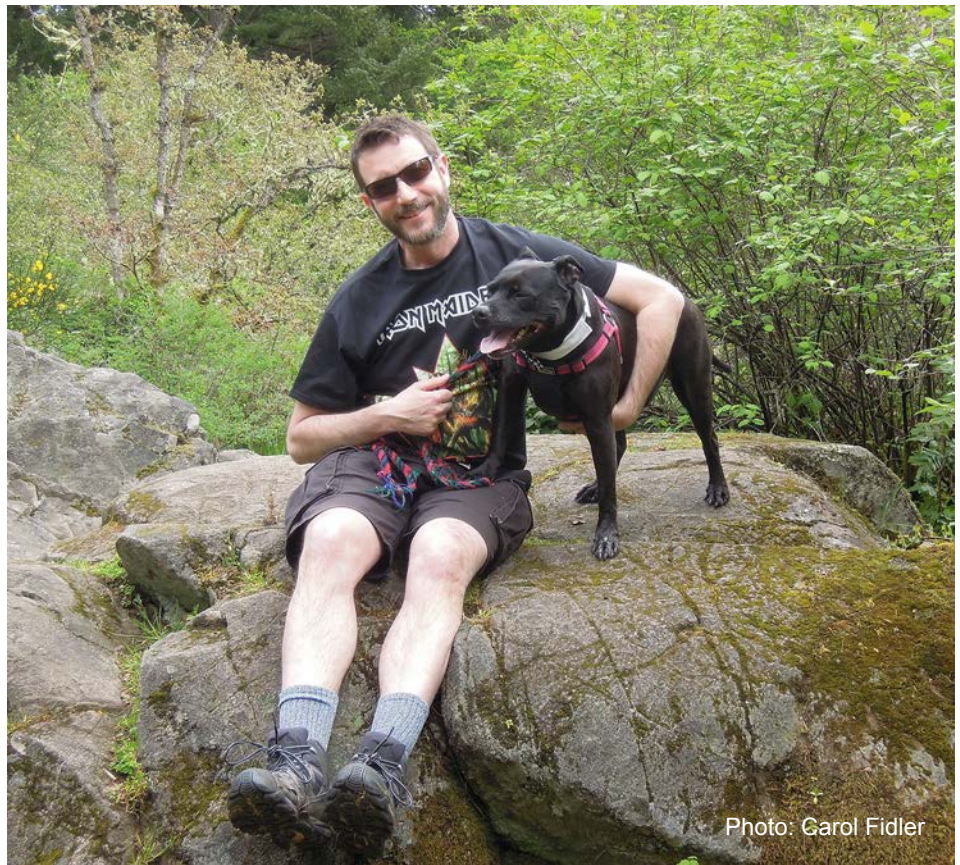


Photo: Carol Fidler

Julian Anderson and his dog Sativa in enjoying a walk in Cuthbert Holmes Park

began to get his hands dirty for the betterment of nature by pulling broom with friends in the newly formed Cuthbert Holmes Park, circa 1990.

Then, in 2002, his desire to do something for nature led him to enroll in the Restoration of Natural Systems (RNS) program at the University of Victoria, and in that program his sense of what was needed to make nature less of an underdog expanded dramatically. For one thing, he found he could do the fieldwork for the program in CHP, and this fieldwork led to him to a

much richer expertise in understanding the park's ecology. And not just an expertise for his own benefit. When he started submitting copies of his field reports not just to his instructors but also to Saanich Parks, he found that Saanich began to use him as the go-to resource whenever issues concerning CHP came up.

In some ways this wasn't a surprise; Julian had expected to learn ecological expertise in the RNS program. What he hadn't expected was the emphasis the RNS program put on public



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participation in restoration projects, and on the study of ways to increase this participation. And it was, of course, the value of public participation that eventually became embodied in the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes.

However, the start of the Friends group was almost accidental. Around 2004, Julian did a shoreline restoration course, and was asked to participate in the start-up of the Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) shortly afterwards. At the first meeting of the GWI, everyone around the table announced his or her organizational affiliation, and so Julian, feeling left out, on the spur of the moment decided to announce his affiliation as being with the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park (FCHP). At the time, this organization was a figment of Julian's imagination, and, he says, he sometimes thinks it still is. Especially because the "organization" still basically consists of Julian calling his email list of volunteers when particular tasks or projects in CHP turn up.

For a figment of the imagination, though, the FCHP have done many extremely concrete and valuable things. Their first official event was in 2007 and was, interestingly, sponsored by the GCTA: an invasive species eradication day that signaled the GTCA's commitment to the Park. From then on, there has been a constant stream of event and service days sponsored by Saanich, by schools like Marigold and Colquitz, by church groups (such as the Saanich Baptist Church), and by many summer day camps. Particularly important to Julian are the events where children, in the process of removing invasive species or going on scavenger hunts, learn about this particular park, and about the value and wonder of nature in general.

A park so close to a shopping mall and other urban developments is always going to be under threat, and as the threats to the park have multiplied in very recent times, Julian has found he has more and more had to switch his preferred role as ecological guide for the role of park advocate. He has spent an increasing amount of time trying to

ensure that the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (MOTI) lives up to the commitments it has made regarding environmental protections for the park. He has kept an extensive record of the ecological infractions of MOTI's contractors, and admits that trying to work with MOTI has been exceedingly frustrating.

Julian is also a bit reticent about the other current threat to the park—the existence of semi-permanent and very elaborate homeless people's camps—since he doesn't wish to exacerbate the problems the homeless face in Saanich. But he has witnessed firsthand the degradation to the landscape caused by the camps, and

a conflict between his compassion for homeless people and the ecological understanding that draws him towards the GCTA's position that CHP cannot stand any kind of camping presence at this point in time.

Given that he is a natural introvert required to be an extrovert, and given that he would prefer to be in the Park doing restoration work rather than in Council Chambers, I ask Julian how he manages the stress of being the Park's advocate at the current time. He admits that he frequently does ask himself "why am I doing this?"—especially when worry about the future of the Park affects his health and ability to sleep at night. But what



Photo: Aaron Cessford

Julian picture with ivy and other invasive species removed from Cuthbert Holmes Park

he points out that the extensiveness and duration of the camps means that nature in the camping areas has no chance of regeneration. He has studied the bylaws brought in by Victoria in 2009 in response to court cases about camping in public places and cannot see why Saanich cannot bring in similar bylaws. In the meantime, he notes the extensive violations of the 1997 parks protection bylaw that Saanich has in place; violations which Saanich police and Council mainly overlook and that cause more and larger areas to degrade. The Park is a sensitive ecological area and if it was in the City of Victoria, would be completely off-limits to overnight shelters. At present he feels

keeps him going is the sense that he is serving nature, and also serving the community he lives in. As an introvert, it's not in his nature to seek awards and recognition. But he does admit that being nominated for the Saanich Environmental award by the GTCA has given him a great boost at a very difficult time. And I for one, am delighted that the community association to which I belong has so unanimously recognized the massive contribution Julian Anderson has made to our community, and to the natural world which supports it.

--Chris Bullock

GTCA Recognizes Rob Wickson and Ray Farmer for Twenty Years of Service

At the Annual General Meeting on March 13, retiring board members Rob Wickson and Ray Farmer were recognized for their twenty years of service and leadership. Harry Lewis presented both with a commemorative framed photograph, and the event was celebrated with cake.

Rob had served as President for the past ten years and became the face of the GTCA. As his home office would attest, Rob lived and breathed the GTCA. He is dedicated to building community and contributed dozens of hours each week to board activities. Rob will now serve as Immediate Past President. He also serves with a variety of community groups and organizations.

In contrast Ray Farmer was never the front face of the GTCA; however, his contribution was equally beneficial and time consuming. Ray served a variety of board positions and worked tirelessly on the Canada Day picnic, Music in the Park, the Gorge Park Clean Up and coordinating the delivery of our newsletters.

We are all grateful that both Ray and Rob are continuing their work on the Twentieth Anniversary Canada Day picnic.

The GTCA also recognized other retiring board members for their contributions including Dr. Trevor Hancock who served for ten years and Marcus Fedoruk who was the lead on IT issues and built the Gorge Canada Day website.

--Vera Wynn-Williams



Photo: Claudia Wickson

Ray Farmer and Rob Wickson cutting the celebration cake.



GORGETILlicum
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Q: Are renters able to join the GTCA?

A: Absolutely! All adult residents of the community, including renters, are welcome to join the GTCA. As a renter, you can also join a committee and serve on the board.



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Upcoming Events

LANTasy: March 10 – 11 at Pearkes Rec. Centre. An all-ages weekend celebration of all things gaming. Whether you're a fresh rookie or a seasoned pro, the LANTasy Gaming Society has got something for you to play. Video games, board games, roleplaying games, tabletop games, even cosplay if you've got a killer costume to show off! LANTasy - play games, have fun. More info. at www.lantasy.com

1st Annual Fairway Gorge X-Squared Women's Dragon Boat Championships: Saturday, June 16, 10:00 – 11:30 am at Fairway Gorge Paddling Club, 2940 Jutland Road. A brand new 1-day 300 m dragon boat festival for women's teams! Races and festival activities will be held on and adjacent to the beautiful Gorge Waterway. A variety of food choices, women's music and other activities and fun for women will be available in the paddlers' village area throughout the day. More info. at fgpaddle.ca

Gorge Historical Walk with author Dennis Minaker. Starts at 2 pm June 16, 2018 in the Gorge Waterway Park, 355 Gorge Road West. FREE. 250 385 8884 for details.

Gorge Historical Walk with author Dennis Minaker. Starts at 7 pm June 18, 2018 in the Gorge Waterway Park, 355 Gorge Road West. FREE. 250 385 8884 for details.

Preschoolers in the Park – Meadow Park: Friday, June 29, 10:00 – 11:30 am. Meet at playground at corner of Dysart Road and Ker Road. No fee or registration required. More info. at www.saanichrec.ca

20th Gorge Canada Day Picnic: Sunday, July 1, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at Gorge Waterway Park and Kosapsom Park. Full event information at www.gorgecanadaday.ca

SKAMPede: July 13 – 15 along the Galloping Goose Regional Trail. An outdoor live performance festival event that is suitable for the whole family. Take in a series of short shows presented along the Galloping Goose Trail. Audiences travel from show to show by bicycle, rollerblade, electric mobility scooter, skateboard or on foot. More info. at www.skam.ca

VCKC Guts 'n' Glory Dragon Boat Festival: Saturday, July 21, 9 am – 5 pm at the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club at 355 Gorge Road. More info. at <http://www.vckc.ca/Guts-n-Glory>

2018 Gorge Swim Fest: Sunday, July 22, 12:00 – 4:00 pm, at the Banfield Park dock on the Gorge Waterway. More info. at www.gorgeswimfest.ca or www.facebook.com/gorgeswimfest

Gentle Walk & Talk – Gorge Waterway Park: Thursday, August 16, 9:30 – 11:00 am. Meet at Gorge Waterway Park, near Canoe Club off Tillicum Road. Suitable for all walking abilities. Dogs not permitted. No fee or registration required.

Music in Rudd Park: Tuesday, August 21, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The GTCA is proud to co-host this Saanich event in one of our neighbourhood parks. Come and listen to a free concert courtesy of the municipality and hosted by the GTCA. Bring a picnic dinner or enjoy food and drinks from several vendors that will be there. We hope you can make it out to a free evening of music!

VCKC 50th Anniversary Celebration: Saturday, September 15, 6 am – 8 pm at the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Clubhouse at 355 Gorge Road. More info. at www.vckc.ca

Gorge Park Cleanup: Saturday, September 15, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Gorge Park East, across from the Fairway Market on Gorge Road. Free coffee and donuts.

Fall Bridal Exhibition 2018: Sunday, September 16, 10 am – 4 pm, Pearkes Rec Centre. Vancouver Island's Largest Bridal Trade Show! More info. at www.bridal.ieginc.ca

Vancouver Island Baby Fair: September 29 – 30, Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at www.vancouverislandbabyfair.com

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut Earthquake Drill! On Thursday, October 18, officially "ShakeOut BC Day," millions of people worldwide will practise how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:18 a.m. during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills! More info. at www.shakeoutbc.ca

Saanich Elections: Saturday, October 20. Get out and vote! More info. at www.saanich.ca

2018 Head of the Gorge & Tail of the Gorge Regattas: October 20 – 21, hosted by the University of Victoria men's and women's rowing programs on the Gorge Waterway. The Head of the Gorge starts just shy of the Johnson Street Bridge and runs under three bridges to the finish line in front of Esquimalt Park. The Tail of the Gorge starts in Portage Inlet, runs under the proud new arches of the Craigflower Bridge, and finishes at the Esquimalt Gorge Park. Head of the Gorge encourages costumes and that gives the entire event a festival atmosphere! More info. at www.govikesgo.com or email mensrow@uvic.ca

41st Annual Creative Craft Fair: November 9 – 11, at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at www.creative-craftfairs.com

Want to Promote Your Event?

Email community events to Katherine at kmbrandt@telus.net




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Membership Application

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

Membership Eligibility

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

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

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

*EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

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

PAYMENT:

Please enclose payment and mail to above address

Individual: \$5/each x _____ memberships = \$ _____

Couples: \$10/each x _____ memberships = \$ _____

Business: \$25/each x _____ memberships = \$ _____

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

Total Payment Enclosed = \$ _____

DETAILS:

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

Featured Historic Home

Koblehurst - 1911, 2895 Colquitz Avenue



Photo: Vera Wynn-Williams

Willemetta (1875-1972) and Cowper Newbury (1866-1930) were both born in Victoria. Willemetta's parents arrived in Victoria in 1853 on the second voyage of the Norman Morison. Cowper's parents arrived in Victoria in 1863.

Around 1910 Willemetta and Cowper bought four lots from Cowper's brother, John, in order to retire to the "country." Cowper had worked more than 20 years in the Victoria Post Office. After they moved to Koblehurst, they cultivated a fine garden and exhibited at horticultural shows.

Koblehurst is one of Saanich's best examples of a Craftsman bungalow. One-and-one-half storeys in height, it has a low-pitched front-gabled roof, with large gabled dormers on each side. The verandah foundation, piers, and two chimneys are built of fieldstone. The main body of the house is cedar shingled, while the broad gables are half-timbered. The front verandah has a low-pitched gabled roof set on columns supported by two types of heavy brackets. Members of the Newbury family believe that it was designed and built by prominent home contractor David H. Bale.

Koblehurst is part of the Saanich Heritage Walking Tour - Gorge Area 1, which covers the area between Admirals Road and Colquitz Avenue. For more information on historic homes see the Heritage Walking Tours on Saanich.ca.



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