

# Gorge Tillicum Community Table

A project of the  
**Gorge Tillicum Community Association**  
in collaboration with  
the **United Way of Greater Victoria** and  
the UVic **Office of Community Based Research**.



**6 July 2012**

*"Sidewalk contacts are the small change  
from which the wealth of public life may grow."*

**Jane Jacobs**

# What we aim to do (Our Purpose)

The Gorge Tillicum Community Table came into being through an initiative of the United Way - i.e. the "Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours" project.

After a series of meetings facilitated by BC Healthy Communities, we chose to become a committee of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association. Our desire is to further strengthen our community by helping to create two types of neighbourhood-based projects:

## Community Activities

single events, repeated events,  
and/or  
ongoing projects.



## Community Spaces

various settings for use by the  
community -  
for meeting, for planning, for  
learning, for communication, for fun,  
etc.

By way of illustration, a few examples of projects we might, over time, choose to work on are listed below.



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# Potential Projects

What follows are a few projects we are considering - projects we have selected or ones others have suggested to us.

## Community Activities



- Hydro pole painting project
- Street hockey
- Music and song events
- Block parties
- Winter solstice on the Gorge
- And many more!

- Youth groups - e.g. Roots and Shoots / Child & Nature Alliance
- Community picnics
- Festivals or cultural events of various kinds
- Neighbourhood Art Walk



## Community Spaces

### Attributes:

- We might think of these spaces as contemporary forms of the old "commons" - spaces where people congregate for community purposes.
- These spaces could be "real" (physical) and/or "virtual" (digital)
- These spaces would be welcoming, flexible, creative, open-ended and for use by the community at large



## A few examples:

### Organizational Spaces:

- The further development of the Community Table itself.
- The expansion of street- or block-based groups throughout the neighbourhood (Block Watch and others)

### Digital Spaces:

- The "Gorge Tillicum Digital Commons" - a digital portal identifying neighbourhood resources and more.

### Social, Economic, Creative Spaces:

- A community market
- An art centre / gallery / theatre

### Geographical Spaces:

This could include developing the areas around:

- Kosapsum Park and Craigflower Elementary School
- From Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club east to the intersection of Gorge and Tillicum.
- Pearkes Recreation Centre and the library
- Tillicum School
- Hampton Park
- Rudd Park



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## How we intend to do these things (Our Mode of Operation)

### In general:



The Community Table will serve as a catalyst, matching up people, ideas and resources in support of neighbourhood-based projects.



We will think long term as well as short term.



We will take our time, building (and rebuilding) a solid foundation as we proceed.



We will keep in mind that developing infrastructure and, simultaneously, promoting various neighbourhood projects will result in one thread feeding the other.



### Meeting and Participating:



The Community Table as a whole will meet, in person, as often as we choose. We will also communicate with each other by email or by phone, as the need arises.



People who live or work in the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood, as well as people who use the resources the neighbourhood offers, are welcome to participate in the Community Table process.



People working on projects meet (in person, by email or by phone) where and when they choose.



### Initiatives and Ownership:



We will propose initiatives ourselves, seeking out others to work on them with us.



We will collaborate with others on initiatives they bring to the Community Table.



We will select and prioritize initiatives to focus on - simultaneously or sequentially - depending on available resources, on their relevance to the neighbourhood, and on other factors.



The initiatives that the Community Table focuses on will not, as such, be "owned" by the Community Table - they would, rather, be the responsibility of the people that take them on, whether they're Table participants or not.



The Community Table, in collaboration with others, will:

- Serve as a resource in support of selected initiatives
- Seek out additional resources beyond the Community Table.



**Structural relationships:**



The Community Table will be a committee of the GT Community Association and work in a collaborative manner with the GTCA Board.



A representative of the United Way will serve as a full participant on the Community Table.



We will explore our relationship with Saanich municipality and various other organizations - seeking inspirational, technical, financial and other kinds of support.



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