





**PARKWAY CHANGES** -cont'd from pg. 1

form a sub committee or group of those interested in working with the community association and Saanich Parks to develop area greening projects and the enhancement of our neighbourhood parks. If you are interested in our green spaces, would like to participate in this dialogue, get dirty with some hands on planting, etc. and generally have a say in how our community develops, this is an avenue for you to become involved.

This is an opportunity to make a difference in your community. The GTCA takes pride in being a positive, proactive force in the community. Saanich recognizes this fact and listens to our concerns and accepts our involvement. This accord will enable you and a Parks Committee to make a difference.

Please contact myself, Bob June, at 381-0848 if you would like more information or to become involved in this initiative.

**WHAT'S UP ??**

The Tillicum/Burnside Action Plan Advisory Committee information meeting for the selection of residents, residential property owners and commercial business owners was held on Wednesday, January 23rd at Saanich council chambers. There is to be an open house on Thursday, February 21st, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at the Les Passmore Centre, hosted by Saanich to discuss the study area for the Action Plan and anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

Membership Team at Community Booth in Tillicum Centre, Sat. Feb. 9th, 12:00-5:00pm

Saanich Parks Dept. will hold an open house on Tuesday, Feb. 12th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Lam Room at Pearkes Rec Centre to review upcoming Park Projects in our area. The concept plan for the redevelopment of Qu'appelle Park will be reviewed and an update on Gorge Park as well as other park projects.

Pearkes Centre is hosting Winterfest on Feb. 16th, 2002, 2:00-4:00pm. This is a family oriented event with a fire engine, small petting zoo, games, prizes and lots of on-ice fun and games.

Feb. 18-25th, 2002 is Multiculturalism Week, with activities at the Centre.

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**EXPANSION &**

...con't from pg.1

3) regrading these steep slopes make them easier to mow and maintain.

This fall our department planted 15 new trees and our future plans include creating a number of new plantings, both native and ornamental species of shrubs, trees and perennials.

**Qu'Appelle Park Redevelopment:**

The scope of the park redevelopment for Qu'Appelle Park is to replace the existing playground and asphalt play court. The park development will include a new playground and a new asphalt play court with hockey goal and basketball hoop. Other park amenities will include an asphalt walkway through the park, picnic tables, benches, a new park sign and expanded garden area. Two existing houses will be removed to enlarge the park, 3166 Davin will be removed this year and the house at 3160 was removed in 2001. This project is scheduled to be completed by early fall.

**An Open House is scheduled for:**

February 12, 7:00 - 8:30 at G.R. Pearkes Community Recreation Centre - Lam Room. This meeting will allow residents to review and comment on the Park Concept Plan as well as other local park projects scheduled for this year.

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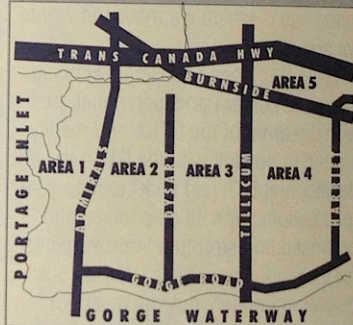
**Executive Members 2001/2002**

President: Paul Gerrard 386-2745  
pgerrard@pacificcoast.net  
Vice President: Rob Wickson acting 383-9241  
Secretary: Debbie Burkhart 480-7522  
Treasurer: Rob Wickson 383-9241  
Membership: Anne Genuist 384-9412  
Newsletter: Rod Burkhart 480-7522  
signart@pacificcoast.net

Past President: Harry Lewis

**Area Directors 2001/2002**

Area 1: Ed Lyons 479-9030  
Area 2: Steve Legg 384-9412  
Area 3: Bob June 381-0848  
Area 4: Ray Farmer 382-1122  
Area 5: Sue Koolman 475-1889



**GORGE TILLICUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

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

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820 Cowper Str.  
Victoria, BC  
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## A Word From the President

**LOOKING FORWARD-being part of the solution!**

With Harry Lewis off to Australia for a year, and the presidential torch being passed to me as your new president, I thought that I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

My name is Paul Gerrard and I have lived near the Gorge for 20 years. A few issues with the Gorge community area had bothered me for some time and little seemed to be getting done about them. After complaining about the condition of Tillicum and Burnside Roads and the lack of any attractive streetscaping, the old saying came to mind, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem". I realized that if I wanted to do something about being part of the solution ... I would have to become involved with the community association. I have now been part of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association for 3 years and look forward to working with the present membership and any new members as I take the helm.

Last year was a very busy one for the executive, and I would like to comment on some highlights:

1) Through our initiative, Saanich council recently awarded to our area an action plan with a committee to be convened, consisting of representatives from our community, local business interests, the community association and Saanich staff and council. This committee will consider land use, transportation issues and streetscaping to develop an urban village concept for Tillicum and Burnside Roads. This will be a two year process with far-reaching benefits and hopefully some changes for our area.

2) Saanich council also decided the area bordered by Tillicum, Burnside, Harriet and Gorge Road West will be the recipient of a traffic calming study. The study will take place in 2002, with the recommendations carried out the following year. Our community transportation committee has been active and instrumental in that process.

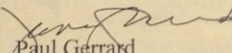
3) The Gorge Parkway extension has been started with the demolition of some older houses, and the construction of the playgrounds. Next will be the carpark and sidewalk improvements. The Provincial Capital Commission has just granted Saanich Parks Dept. another \$50,000 for the Parkway.

4) There are plans to re-design Gorge Road West from Tillicum Road to Admirals Road which will include pedestrian crossings, traffic calming and possibly bike lanes. Saanich council, engineering and your community association are involved in discussions for this year.

5) The 40-unit housing development at Tillicum and Burnside Road was the last Capital Regional Housing Development to be approved before the new Government called a halt to such projects. I believe this to be a key development for the revitalization of our area.

6) The Third Annual Canada Day Picnic was a huge local success, with glorious weather and thousands of people sharing the beauty of our area with us. This event just gets better every year, and is totally reliant on the many volunteers who make it such a special day.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we have a terrific executive with a large agenda to fill for 2002, but I am confident we can keep our community heading in a positive direction. We are always looking for more people willing to share their ideas and time, in a variety of ways, big or small, to build a better community for all. We will keep you informed of our progress.

  
Paul Gerrard

Have a great 2002.

## 50% OF RENEWAL GOAL REACHED!

Report by...Anne Genuist

A great start to our 2002 membership drive indeed, but also a long way to go before we reach our goals. Our goal last season was to reach 201 members in 2001, and we did it! Our goal this year is to surpass this mark by a respectable margin. We need your help with this so we may be able to continue the work in the community for the year ahead. Please don't forget to renew your membership for 2002.

We are always looking for new members to whom we extend a warm welcome. The cost to be a member is a minimal \$5.00 for individuals, \$10.00 per family and \$25.00 for our local business members.

Look for our membership team at the Community booth in Tillicum Centre, Feb. 9th, 12:00 - 5:00pm.

Thank you to the many community supporters who have made generous donations as well as those who have renewed memberships and to everyone in advance for your support!



**Susan Brice, MLA**

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# SHOREKEEPERS WANTED

Report by... Ed Lyons

Interested in the Gorge and Portage Inlet? The SHOREKEEPERS program wants you! We use trained volunteers to map and monitor selected beaches to understand long term changes. The stewardship of the foreshore enables us to better understand the effects we have on the water.

The Victoria and Esquimalt Harbours Environmental Action Program (VEHEAP) started a pilot program in Esquimalt Lagoon in 2001 and wants to start in the Gorge Waterway in 2002.

We need volunteers to monitor several beaches in the Gorge and Portage Inlet in 2002. Training takes a day in the Spring; the survey takes 1 or 2 half-days per year in late Spring. VEHEAP staff will do the training and provide the equipment.

For more information, contact Ed Lyons (GTCA director) who will work with VEHEAP. Call me at 479-8030 or email me at [edlyons@inetex.com](mailto:edlyons@inetex.com) or Jody Watson at [www.veheap.crd.bc.ca](http://www.veheap.crd.bc.ca)

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# OF DAYS GONE BY

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

One of the colonial estates that preceded subdivision in our neighbourhood was Craigie Lea Farm. Situated between Tillicum Road and Carroll Street, this 400-acre farm was established in 1852 by James and Mary Yates. Trained as a shipwright in Dysart, Scotland (hence the name of the local street), Yates sailed to Fort Victoria in 1849 to work for the Hudson's Bay Company. Before long he quit that job to open the colony's first licensed saloon known as The Ship Inn. Profits from that Wharf Street grog shop and other properties developed along lower Yates Street soon made him a wealthy man.



The Dairy Shed at Craigie Lea Farm, circa 1899. Lily and George Rogers stand on the left in front of their small house, located on present day Earl Grey Street.

Her two younger brothers, James and Henry, returned to the farm in 1883 to manage their retired father's estate. Between 1894 and 1906 they leased much of the farmland to dairyman George Rogers for \$50 monthly rent and an agreement to "maintain all gates, fences, ditches, private roads, houses, barns and stables, and to cultivate the land in good manner, spreading one large load of dung for every load of hay removed and sufficiently fencing the fruit trees". Parts of the farm were reserved by the Yates families for their own use, such as the waterfront picnic site at Curtis Point and the main farmhouse and kitchen garden. That family home, rebuilt after a fire in 1885, probably stood along the 3000 block of Earl Grey Street until the 1960s.

Join author Dennis Minaker for a free historical walk along the Gorge on June 9. Meet at the foot of Inez Drive at 1:00 pm. and don't forget to pick up your copy of his best selling book "The Gorge of Summers Gone" at city bookstores or by calling 385-8884.

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## WE NEED HELP!

We are in need of volunteers to deliver the "Neighbourhood News". Help is needed in all areas but especially in Areas 4 and 5 and to most apartments. Walk your neighbourhood one hour, four times per year to distribute community information. If you can help, call Debbie at 480-7522.

