

Neighbourhood News

THE CASE OF THE MISSING LIBRARY

"Books are for nothing but to inspire."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

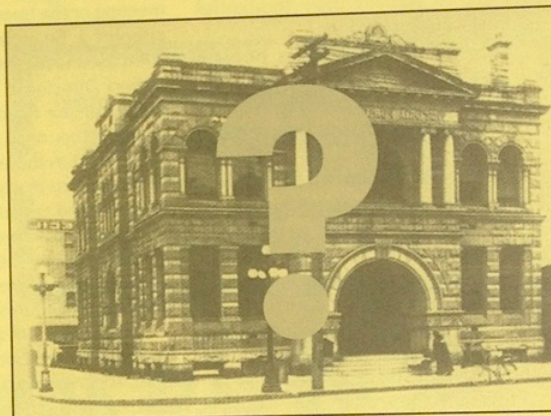
"Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." *Groucho Marx*

These two quotations written on the acid-etched concrete floors at the entrance to the Ironwood Mall Branch of the Richmond Public Library sum up the philosophy of this award-winning library. On the one hand this impressive library is a serious learning facility, yet there is an irreverent and informal approach to what a library can offer the community it serves. The branch is located in a Richmond shopping plaza on the second floor of a stand-alone building that has commercial shops on the ground floor. It is far removed from the traditional library model. Built in 1998, the construction was a public/private partnership between the developers of the plaza and the City of Richmond.

At 12,000 square feet (3650 square metres), the Ironwood Library is similar to the size of library we are hoping to establish in the Gorge-Tillicum area. Can you imagine such a library, with an innovative and imaginative approach to the library experience, in our neighbourhood?

The Richmond facility has won awards and plaudits from all over North America. It is state-of-the-art, with approximately 50% of the space devoted to computer technology. There are three express checkout machines used by 85% of library patrons and four self-sort bookdrops into the circulation workroom. This is a huge saving on staff time, and the branch operates the whole facility with an overall staff of 13. It also means more interaction with customers. There are Computer Learning and Training Centres with 19 full-access internet stations, four Digital Kids stations, six Digital Reference stations with internet, 13 stand-alone internet stations and two monitored Kids Internet stations. There is a City Kiosk for access to the City of Richmond services and for payment of property taxes, municipal utilities, garbage tags, parking tickets and library charges. There is a silent study room with 30 computer stations, a 20-seat computer teaching and training centre, a Living Room with internet stations, lounge chairs, a stone fireplace, a magazine section, and a kid's area with a Story Barn.

As well as regular library items, there are sections devoted to the different ethnic groups that live in the Richmond area. The library's opening hours also match those of the rest of the plaza. This library is truly inspiring. It is a terrific example of what excellent planning and co-operation can achieve, and is a huge success story in the Richmond community.



Your community association is excited about the possibility of a library in the Gorge-Tillicum area. With Saanich lagging behind other municipalities in library usage, the time is right to bring an exciting public library branch based on such a successful model to our neighbourhood, one that will benefit so many people in our community, and finally solve the case of the missing library.
By Paul Gerrard

Saanich Library Budget Increase

At the 2003 Saanich Budget Review on March 4th, the Greater Victoria Library Board (GVLB) chair John Barton asked for an increase of 5.3% for Saanich's contribution to the overall library operating budget. According to Barton, this is primarily because the province continues to underfund its municipal libraries, having given no increase in contributions for 13 years, forcing the municipalities to pick up the financial slack.

The issue of a potential GVLB expansion into the Tillicum area was introduced, with the observation that Saanich residents in this area of the community are not well served compared to other areas. Mr. Barton allayed any concerns that the Emily Carr branch would be shut down if a new library does go into the Tillicum area. He said that in looking at a new facility in the Tillicum-Gorge area, the GVLB feel it is important to maintain service at Emily Carr, as it serves many low-income families and use there is increasing.

Updating of GTCA Bylaws

After much research, thought and discussion, the review and proposed changes to the bylaws of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association was the enthusiastic topic of the General Meeting held at the Tillicum Elementary School Library on March 26th. Over 30 people showed up to discuss, wrangle and resolve the proposed changes we wrote about in the last "Neighbourhood News" issue. The GTCA Board wants to thank all those who came out to give us their thoughtful comments and suggestions.

Several contentious items brought forth energetic discussion. The first topic was changing the membership requirements to be more inclusive. The proposed new bylaw would allow any resident—property owner or renter—19 or older to be a member. It also allows businesses located in the area to join as corporate members and to have a single vote like any other member. The GTCA changed its name in 1999 to signal a focus on the broader community that includes local businesses. The members supported the motion overwhelmingly.

Proposed changes to the length of terms of office of directors and the method of election of officers also sparked lots of talk. The first proposition was to change the length of terms of directors from annual to biannual with alternate years for election. Members decided to stay with the existing annual term. We also considered the possibility of electing the directors to form the board; then they, in turn, would select the officers for the year. This process is commonly used by community-

based associations. Our members voted to continue with the method of electing officers and directors at the Annual General Meeting.

The 'Audit' section of the bylaws was replaced with a new financial review section. The cost of an audit is quite expensive and the protocols are strict. Just having a bookkeeper friend looking over the records isn't a proper audit. Under the new bylaws, members at a general meeting or the board on its initiative, can appoint a financial review committee composed of the President, Treasurer and a third Director. If we want an external review of our finances and procedures, the directors must choose a designated accountant as the external reviewer.

There are many minor changes that were passed unanimously with helpful comments to improve the language. In addition, more details were added to certain general meeting and directors' meeting procedures.

The purpose of the bylaw review was to improve and bring our bylaws up-to-date, so they reflect what we actually do and can effectively be our 'operating manual'. We think we have achieved this reasonably well for the present. The new bylaws are available to every member in good standing who asks for a copy. Please write or call the Membership Secretary.

On behalf of the Bylaw Review Committee, we want to thank everyone whose comments and votes helped us to improve our bylaws.

By Ed Lyons & Sue Koolman

GORGE TILLICUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

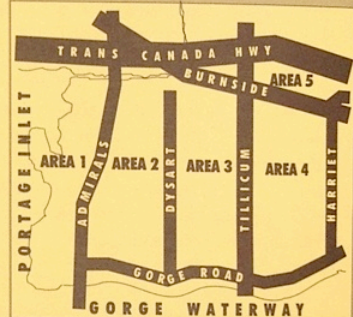
Executive Members 2002/2003

President: Paul Gerrard pgerrard@pacificcoast.net	386-2745
Vice President: Ed Lyons	479-8030
Secretary: Christine Helmink	385-3388
Treasurer: Rob Wickson	812-9164
Membership: Anne Genuist	384-9412
Past President: Harry Lewis	384-8460

Area Directors 2002/2003

Area 1: Zuzana Capeau	381-8240
Area 2: Steve Legg	384-9412
Area 3: Bob June	381-0848
Area 4: Ray Farmer	382-1122
Area 5: Sue Koolman	475-1889

Newsletter: Susan Dunlop
susan@brassandwoodwind.ca 360-8454



GORGE TILLICUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

GTCA Memberships run
Jan.-Dec. 2003 at a cost of
\$5.00 for individual
& \$25.00 business

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Address: _____

Phone: _____

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

Sheila Orr, MLA

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JOIN US!

Well, you have been reading this newsletter delivered to everyone living in the Gorge Tillicum Community Association area. Did you know we print 4,000 copies each time? Many thanks to our advertisers who help us keep the printing costs way down and the volunteers who help deliver them. Do you like what we do? Do you like what we represent? Are you a member? Have you considered becoming a member?

You may think, "Yeah, well, I like what you guys do, but I haven't any time." But the only time required of you as a member is that required to fill out the membership form on the opposite page and mail it to us. Did you know that we gain our credibility as a representative group with Saanich Council and other organisations by showing a strong member base. Just having you as a member helps increase our stature and clout.

Of course, we want active members and volunteers, but don't think we'll twist your arm. If you can help deliver newsletters on your block four times a year, that would be great. If you want to participate in other ways, let us know. We have a number of teams and committees on a range of topics.

But even if you don't really have the time or can't get out much, for the cost of less than half a pound of coffee or less than a half bottle of average wine per year, you can still help your

community grow. The cost is \$5 per calendar year for an individual. Anyone 19 or older—whether you are a property owner or a renter—who resides in our area is eligible. If you get this newsletter, this means you! We also encourage businesses located in our area to join as commercial members for \$25 per year. Businesses are a vital part of our community!

Our Annual General Meeting is May 21st. Our bylaws say that a new member has to be on the Membership Secretary's books for 30 days before the meeting to be eligible to vote at any general meeting. So, join us now and meet us at the AGM!
By Ed Lyons

Gorge Tillicum Community Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 21st, 7:00PM–10:00PM

Lam Room, Pearkes Recreation Centre

GUEST SPEAKER: Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard

5th GORGE CANADA DAY PICNIC

The Canada Day Picnic organizing group has now had a couple of meetings in preparation for the big event, Tuesday, July 1st. Included in this year's Picnic will be all the events which have proved so popular in the past: the parade, pancake breakfast, stage entertainment, kids games, market, strawberry tea, canoe rides, classic cars and street hockey.

The organizing group has been considering what new activities we can add for Canada Day, particularly now that Gorge Park has been extended at the Tillicum end. Do you have any great ideas for what might work there?

The members of the organizing group and the areas for which they are responsible are listed at the end of this article. If you have a suggestion or would like to help out with a particular event, please feel free to contact one of us—we'd love to hear from you!

A tradition that is growing on Canada Day is direct community participation. In the past couple of years we have seen neighbours and kids from the same street banding together, getting dressed

up and coming along as a group for the Canada Day Parade. Wyndeatt and Adelaide Avenues are to be commended for their community spirit and participation in past parades. We invite you to do the same—organize with your neighbours and friends, dress 'Canadian' style, and join the parade for a day at the Picnic!

We also encourage home owners along the Gorge to decorate their houses for Canada Day, and for people coming to the picnic to dress up in their best Canadian 'gear'.

See you there!

By Harry Lewis

Canada Day parade: Zuzana Capeau, 381-8240

Pancake breakfast: Ray Farmer, 382-1122

Vintage cars: Bob June, 381-0848

Stage: Rob Wickson, 812-9164

Kids' games: Anne Genuist, 384-9412

Strawberry tea: Judy Ker, 382-1778

Fundraising: Harry Lewis, 384-8460

Canada Day market: Jayne Pullman, 382-1122

Promotion: John Hoole, 386-7458



Susan Brice, MLA
Saanich South

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Jacques Cousteau

Light Rail System Means Economic Benefits

Can you imagine what it would be like to have a light rail system going past our neighbourhood that connects James Bay to the Canwest Mall? A new study by Islandtransformations.org and the Victoria Transport Policy Institute has demonstrated a clear advantage for investing in light rail instead of additional highway lanes and overpasses. An investment of \$300 million in additional highway capacity will give us an additional 6,000 peak hour trips and future added costs of another \$302 million. But invest almost the same amount, \$350 million, in LRT and the return becomes 22,700 to 28,000 additional peak hour trips and between \$316 and \$724 million dollars in future returns on the investment. Check out the study at www.islandtransformations.org or call Gerry Howell Jones at 383-2501 to arrange for a presentation.

By Rob Wickson

Playground Improvements for Local Parks

As part of the Playground Program for 2003, Saanich Parks received a donation for improvements for the playground in Taylor Park, at the bottom of Regina and Sims Avenues. New playground equipment and upgrades to the site are planned with work scheduled to take place this summer.

There are also plans for Kosapsom Park at Admirals and Gorge Roads (named after the Kosapsom people, who were here 2000 years before the Europeans arrived in the mid-1800s). Plans here include relocating the playground to the side of the Parks building and the addition of new playground equipment. There will be a new configuration for the walkway to the west side of Craigflower Schoolhouse and improved access from the upper parking area on Gorge Road. More benches, tables, trees and shrubs are also planned

for the site. There was some concern by GTCA Directors that the work to put these park improvements in place would interfere with our Canada Day Picnic but we have been assured by Saanich Parks that all work will be done later in the summer.

Critter Count Needs You!

Spring is here. Low tides are showing the remains of winter storms on our local beaches and the Victoria team of the Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA) is seeking volunteers to help with their critter counts on local beaches this June and July. No experience is necessary as new volunteers are paired with veterans until they themselves feel experienced enough to mentor new recruits. If you are enthusiastic about the plants and animals which live in the intertidal zone of our beaches and can donate about four hours on a late spring or early summer Saturday, the GSA may have an offer you can't refuse. The Critter Count provides the opportunity to become acquainted with some longtime marine residents and some fellow humans who are concerned about their health and survival. If you think this might appeal to you, please contact Judy or Chuck Sigmund for more information (384-3841, juchu@telus.net)

Think of More Trees!

Boulevard trees create a welcome feeling on our streets. Over the past two years, Saanich has planted more than 100 trees in the Gorge-Tillicum area. This was done through Saanich's Tree Planting Program. If you would like to take advantage of this program, the cost is \$50 per tree. Saanich will plant, stake and maintain the tree. All orders must be confirmed by May 15th as Saanich must order the trees for planting in the fall. If you are interested or are willing to talk to a few of your neighbours about tree planting on your street, please contact Ray Farmer (382-1122,

jpullman@shaw.ca) or Arden Little (360-2474, ardenlittle@shaw.ca).

Arden helped coordinate the tree 'project' among his neighbours in the 3100 block of Earl Grey. It was quite successful and had 14 or so trees planted. What worked for this group was the personal touch. They made up a flyer and put one in everybody's mail box on their block, waited a few days and then went around door-to-door to follow up. A few homeowners weren't interested but, for the most part, it worked quite well.

If you live in the area of Vincent and Walter Avenues, an effort has already begun to encourage residents to join the boulevard tree program. Richard Price and Chris Hyde-Lay will shortly be delivering flyers to their neighbours and following up in person a few days later.

33rd Annual Earth Day

Take advantage of the opportunity to educate yourself on environmental topics during Peace, Earth and Justice Week—April 22nd to May 1st. While Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22nd, Peace, Earth and Justice Week incorporates the local Earth Day celebrations as well as other related activities throughout the week. Check out events in the Monday Magazine issue coming out April 17th or at the website, www.pej.ca/week.

CALL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

If you know of any environmental news that is specific to the area of Gorge-Tillicum and might be of interest to your neighbours, please let us know! Contact Green Space coordinator Julia Menard (julia@makeandbelieve.com) with a news idea or story. We will do our best to either follow up or encourage you to try your hand at writing. Submissions should be under 300 words. Our next deadline for submissions is June 6th.

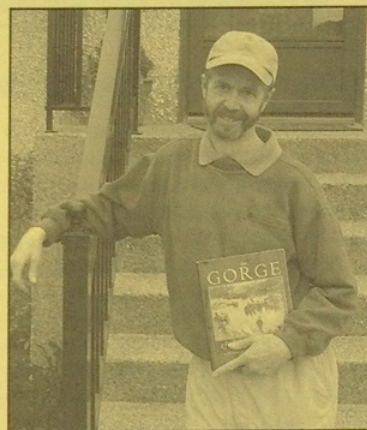
Local Hero

Every community has a history, but not every history is eloquently recorded in a well illustrated book such as "The Gorge of Summers Gone" and for this we have to thank our local hero this month, Dennis Minaker.

A chance conversation with one of his elderly patients in 1992 got Dennis started on the project which was to turn into "The Gorge of Summers Gone." The man had moved to the Gorge area in 1909 as a boy and his stories of growing up in the area captivated Dennis and led him to further research among other 'Gorge elders' and at the archives. While the research was an enjoyable way to spend his spare time, Dennis admits that the writing was sometimes a struggle and that his growing family didn't always share his enthusiasm for yet another Gorge story at the dinner table! However the result was well worth

it and in 1998 the self published Gorge of Summers Gone was in print. Since then 3500 copies have been sold and Dennis has given many slide shows and conducted historical walks of the area. The project is winding down as most of the books are now sold, but there will be a chance to take an historical walk along the Gorge with Dennis on May 10th. Interested walkers should meet at the foot of Gorge View Drive along the Gorge walkway at 1:00PM. Thanks to Dennis for the tremendous job he's done in presenting the rich heritage of the Gorge to us!
By Harry Lewis

The Gorge-Tillicum neighbourhood is a special place, populated by special people. If you know of a 'Local Hero' who you think deserves a special mention, please contact Harry Lewis at 384-8460.



Local author Dennis Minaker.

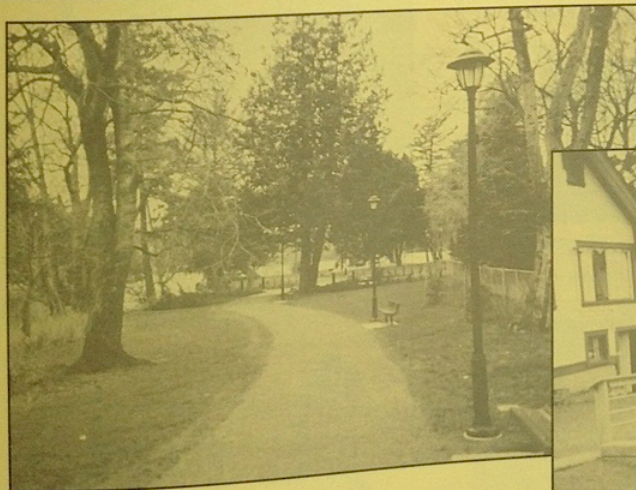
HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friends of Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse Society is seeking new members and volunteers to help with upcoming revitalization projects on the Craigflower properties. The Friends consider these two historic properties an invaluable source of pride in the history of this region.

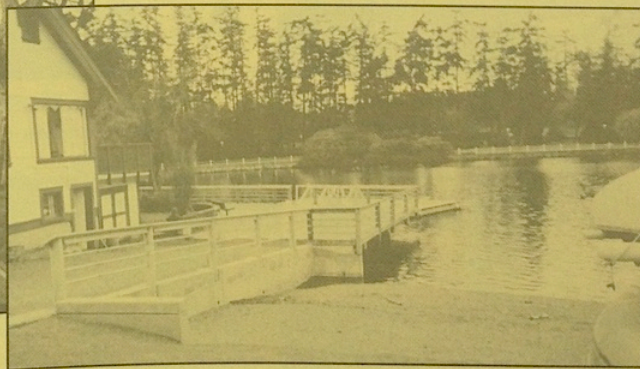
In recent years there has been little happening at either site and the buildings have both been inaccessible to the public most of the time. With the devolution of the B.C. Heritage Branch, this will change. It is the hope of the Friends of Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse that these buildings will again become an integral part

of our community.

If you share a love of your community's heritage and would like to become involved in helping to give our past a future, please contact the president of the Friends of Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse, Jocelyn Skrlac at 881-7895.



Saanich Parks is part way through upgrading Gorge Park: left, new lights and trail near Tillicum and Gorge Roads, and below, new public boat launch at the Canoe and Kayak Club.



At the Centre

G.R. PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE



Parents are Setting an Example

It seems that a toddler's energy is never ending. They can run and run and run with a euphoric smile on their face, just from the sheer joy of being active. What happens to that joy of being active?

According to Health Canada, over half of Canadian children and youth aged five to seventeen are not active enough for optimal growth and development. This lack of activity is contributing to an alarming rise in childhood obesity. An estimated 35% of boys and 29% of girls are considered overweight, while 16% of boys and 14% of girls are considered obese. That is a lot of kids!

As parents, you are sending the biggest message about physical activity by being active yourself. Most active adults have active children. This is not to say you need to be an Olympian-in-training, or go for workouts seven days a week but just . . . active.

So what should you do? In Saanich, we are lucky enough to be surrounded by a network of trails and pathways that lead to spectacular ocean views, guide you through ancient forests, connect you to beaches, parks and quiet, safe communities. Try getting out there with your kids and exploring these wonderful pathways

and trails. It costs you nothing but the benefits are priceless. A Saanich Trail Guide can be picked up at any Saanich Recreation Centre.

If the weather isn't cooperating, you also have four recreation centres in Saanich at your disposal. G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre is only blocks away. We offer an array of programs for you and your kids. Register yourself for Line Dancing or Karate or take a fitness class while your child enjoys gymnastics, skating lessons or ballet. Once the weather improves, why not try some of the summer activities such as Beginner Kayaking, Golf, Guided Hikes or Learn to Row. Many programs offer lessons for children and adults. Participating in an activity with your children will give you more than just a physical benefit. It gives you precious one-on-one time with your children.

Summer is approaching and our Saanich Spring/Summer Active Living Guide will be at your door April 9th. Inside it we hope you find something that sparks your interest enough to make you turn off the TV and come on down. Better yet, bring the whole family!

*Julie Wallace, Recreation Programmer,
G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre*

Saanich Neighbourhood Place PRESCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

Saanich Neighbourhood Place is excited to present their 3rd Preschool Health Fair Wednesday, April 30th from 9:00AM to 1:00PM at Pearkes. This FREE event provides you the opportunity to gather information and discuss concerns with professionals who work with children. Representatives from public health fields such as nutrition, speech, hearing, and dental services will all be present. Other community resources such as Parent Support Circles, Child Youth Mental Health, and the Saanich Police will also be on hand. This fun event is geared to children up to six years of age and their parents. There will be free snacks, coffee, resource material, crafts and games. For more information, please call Saanich Neighbourhood Place at 360-1148.

Saanich Neighbourhood Place is your local family resource centre and is located in the Pearkes Recreation Centre. We offer parenting programs, Parent and Tot Drop-Ins, Community Kitchens, a Clothing Exchange and a Toy Library.

Bridge Club Seeks Members

The Saanich Silver Threads Duplicate Bridge Club at Les Passmore Centre is inviting bridge players to join them on Monday and Thursday afternoons. The game is from 12:20 to 3:30PM but players are asked to arrive by 12:15 so the tables of players can be arranged. Social players are welcome and the partnership coordinator will match up anyone without a partner. The group breaks for refreshments in the cafeteria at 2:00PM. Les Passmore Centre is at 286 Hampton Road, near the corner of Tillicum and Burnside Roads, and there is lots of free parking. Contact Betty Hubbard for more information, 388-5820.



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Pearkes Recreation Centre
3100 Tillicum Road
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Upcoming PEARKES Special Events

Family Easter Party
April 18th 10:00AM-12:00PM

Teddy Bear Picnic
April 25th 1:00-3:00PM

Pro-D Skate (\$2)
May 26th 11:00-11:50AM

Healthy Strong & Free
(Youth week) May 4-10th

Teen Skate (\$4)
May 9th 10:00-11:50PM

Adult Skate Party (\$8)
May 31st 7:15-9:05PM

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VOICES

GOOD-BYE TO NEIGHBOURHOOD FRIENDS

It is with a great deal of sadness and disappointment that we are saying good-bye to a neighbourhood friend. Pic-A-Flic has been a staple in the community for over 12 years, but as of April 30th 2003, they will no longer be a reason for visiting the Gorge Plaza at Tillicum and Gorge Roads.

Over the years, April and Remi have been among the strongest supporters of our community. They were the very first business to offer to place an ad in our struggling newsletter and the first to offer a contribution to the Canada Day Picnic. Their advice on movie rentals was second to none and it was comforting to know that when our children tried to rent something, we parents would get a phone call just to make sure it was OK.

It is important to understand that the value of a business like this goes beyond the pure business case of profit and loss. It is about building community, sharing values, creating and achieving a high quality of life. Economically, it is also a loss to the community when a locally owned business closes down in order to make room for a chain store. When we purchase services from an out of province chain store, we lose the advantages gained by local ownership and the profit that would be reinvested in our local economy. Instead, the profit benefits the ownership that does not live here.

They attempted to sell the business but were not successful finding a buyer. Moving the business was also considered but according to April, "It would have been an expensive move and we would have had to go into debt." That is too much of a burden to put on a business owner that is trying to look at retirement rather than beginning again.

The Cavalier Barbers are also having to leave the Gorge Plaza by the end of April. For over 25 years, they have been a fixture of our neighbourhood and now they will become part of another when they open their new shop in Admirals walk. I wonder how many Gorge Plaza Shoppers they will take with them?

So, as customers and friends of April and Remi and their always helpful staff, we thank you for being part of our community and we wish you all the best in the future. You will be missed.

By Rob Wickson

HAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURE

In order to cut costs, the Greater Victoria School Board voted at their meeting on April 10th to close Hampton Elementary School in 2004 (for more information from GVSBC on this issue, visit their website, <http://www.sd61.bc.ca>). The children are expected to be transferred to Tillicum Elementary School.

Many of the parents with children at Hampton have expressed concern over this switch in schools for their children. Their concerns include the safety of young children crossing either Burnside or Tillicum Roads, the fact that Tillicum Elementary School has not been seismically upgraded and the possible lack of available before and after care on the school grounds.

Some parents have noted that Hampton is currently at capacity. This would seem to indicate that the school is in fact needed in the area. In addition, some of the children that attend Hampton come from outside its catchment area. If these children are not transferred to Tillicum, will there be room for them at a school in their catchment area?

Another issue raised by the closing of Hampton Elementary is the loss of community ties with organizations in its immediate neighbourhood: Silver Threads, Hampton Little League and Soccer.

An unknown is the long term plans for the school. Will the School Board sell the property or will they rent or lease it out? Is this a potential location for the new library that we need in our community or will Silver Threads or Pearkes Recreation Centre expand into this facility? What would happen to these groups if Hampton was needed once again as a school?

The current plan is for Hampton Elementary to close in September, 2004. The parents group, "Save Our Schools Again," has vowed to continue to fight the closure. We can only hope that between now and September 2004, a solution to the funding shortfall will be resolved and our community children will be able to safely attend their neighbourhood community school.

By Sue Koolman

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Paul Gerrard

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Of Days Gone By

Join Dennis Minaker for an historical walk along the Gorge on May 10th. Meet at the foot of Gorge View Drive along the Gorge walkway at 1:00 PM.

In previous articles I have discussed the origins of some local street names, particularly those that recalled members of early pioneering families such as the Adams, Yates and Kers (respectively Adelaide; Harriet, Dysart and Austin; Arnot, Walter, Inez and Davida streets). In the same vein are Cowper and Newbury streets, named after the parents of John Newbury who began teaching at the original Craigflower schoolhouse in 1878. About 30 years later, he developed 20 acres of land north of the Gorge, building his own retirement home at 800 Gorge Road West in 1922. An even finer house was built in 1911 by his brother Cowper at 2895 Colquitz Avenue. Both houses still stand.

A few other byways in the neighbourhood have historical references on a grander scale. Admirals Road originated as a trail connecting Craigflower Farm with a house on Esquimalt Harbour, used during the 1860s as the residence of two successive commanders-in-chief of the Royal Navy's Pacific Station, Rear-Admirals Joseph Denman and George Hastings.

Bodega Road was renamed in the 1920s, probably to honour Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra, the Spanish explorer of the west coast during the 1770s.

Balfour Avenue commemorates Arthur James Balfour, British prime minister from 1902 to 1905. At that time, the street still bore its original name, Emma, after the first-born daughter (at Fort Victoria) of James and Mary Yates (and hence the sister of Harriet). The renaming of the road in 1917 coincided with Balfour's stint as British foreign secretary when he issued the Balfour Declaration to establish the modern state of Israel in Palestine—setting the stage for conflict that persists today.

Earl Grey Street also has a connection

with conflict—on the football field. The street was named in 1909 after Albert Henry George Grey, the popular governor general who occupied Rideau Hall in Ottawa from 1904 to 1911. The London-born career diplomat, who succeeded his uncle to become the fourth Earl Grey in 1894, was known for his personal charm and worked hard to promote unity and understanding among English and French-speaking Canadians. Although Earl Grey was a keen supporter of both drama and music, he is best remembered for having donated the Grey Cup for the Canadian rugby/football championship—with the understanding that the cup "must remain always under purely amateur conditions."

As governor general, Earl Grey made many trips to the west in an official capacity. He also travelled here as a private citizen bent on a bit of pleasure and sport. In August 1909, he sailed to Jervis Inlet for a sight-seeing and hunting excursion. On shore, Lady Sybil Grey bagged a brown bear while her husband proceeded to get quite lost in the thick forest, even becoming separated from his trusty Newfoundland dog "Cabot"—a gift from the governor of that east coast British colony. After nearly falling into a ravine, Grey managed to stumble onto a rocky beach where he was spotted by a search party. "The governor general was quite



Harriet Yates, circa the 1890s, when Harriet Road was first laid out.

fatigued and his shooting suit was a mess of rags" reported the Victoria Daily Colonist. The vice-regal party arrived in Victoria two days later. It is not known if the esteemed Earl Grey travelled out to the Gorge during his recuperation to view the newly-surveyed dusty road across a former cow pasture that was named in his honour.
By Dennis Minaker

HAMPTON HALL NOW A HERITAGE SITE

At the Saanich Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, March 31st, Saanich Council unanimously approved an application by long-time resident Ada Bone to include Hampton Hall in the Community Heritage Register, and to designate it as a Municipal Heritage Site. The building is owned by Saanich municipality and leased to the Bowling Club for five year terms.

It is located within Hampton Park on Tillicum Road, between the Les Passmore Centre and the soccer fields, and was constructed about 1923 as a field house for the Burnside Lawn Bowling Club. Land for the club facilities was donated in 1923 by the late George Vallance, and the hall was constructed by club members who donated many hours of labour to the

project. Hampton Hall has been used as a neighbourhood hall, recreation centre, election polling station, and even as a school classroom for Tillicum School for a term when there was an overflow of students.

Representatives from the Heritage Advisory and Archival Committee and the Saanich Heritage Foundation recently inspected the building and found that the interior and exterior were in good condition. The windows, trim, siding, flooring, granite fireplace and light fixtures are all original.

The heritage designation is for the building only, and the bowling greens are not included in the agreement.

By Paul Gerrard

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