

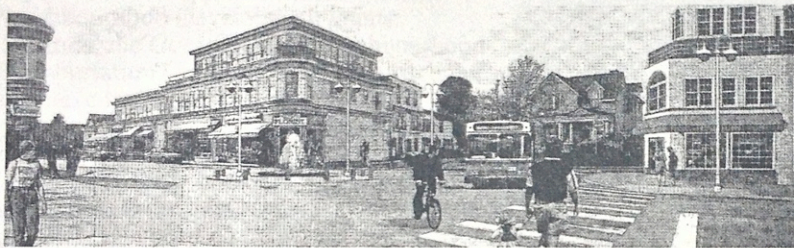
PARKWAY CHANGES -cont'd from pg. 1

and only their stumps remained along with native bushes. Recent work in the park removed the stumps, native plants and the wells leaving the path less sheltered from the traffic along Gorge Road. Lower branches of many trees and bushes were removed. I would have preferred leaving things as they they were. Others may agree or disagree.

At present, there is no regular way for residents to learn about and influence the decisions about how the park is managed. I think that we should form an advisory group as part of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association to offer advice to the Parks Department and keep residents informed of proposed changes before they are made. Other parks have such groups. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help establish or be a member of such a group please call me, Bill Broadley, at 385-6338.

ACTION PLAN, URBAN VILLAGES

During the discussions which occurred over the Local Area Plan update in 1999 and 2000 community members raised concerns about Tillicum and Burnside Roads. These main thoroughfares in our neighbourhood are so dominated by through traffic that they've become unattractive for those of us who live close to the commercial areas. The streetscapes do not invite people to walk, shop and linger in



the commercial zones, and one might even label them ugly! Hence when it came time to highlight 'action plans' in the new Local Area Plan these roadways were clearly priorities. Now with assistance from the municipality the idea of developing 'urban villages' on Tillicum and Burnside is about to begin.

This fall will see the formation of an advisory committee to begin investigating how Tillicum and Burnside Roads might change for the better in the next 3-5 years. The advisory committee will be made up of a Saanich Council member, and a representative from each of the engineering, planning and parks departments. Residents of Burnside and Tillicum Rds will each have one representative and the Gorge Tillicum Community Association will have two representatives. Business owners from each of the three commercial areas will round out the committee. It is anticipated that this advisory group will meet in the fall and that an initial public meeting will be held to outline the process and present some initial thinking and examples from other jurisdictions.

We hope that as many people as possible will come out to engage in the public process on putting a new and kinder face to our main roads and their environs. We need attractive 'village' zones that become focal points of the community, both for commercial and social interaction.



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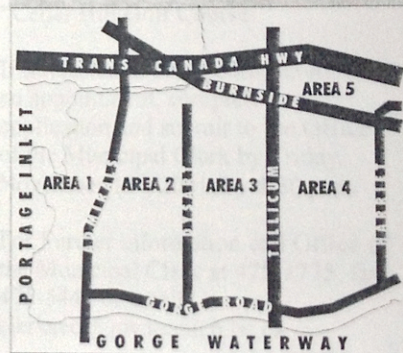
**GORGE TILLICUM
 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Executive Members 2000/2001

President: Harry Lewis	384-8460
Vice President: Paul Gerrard	386-2745
Secretary: Debbie Burkhart	480-7522
Treasurer: Rob Wickson	383-9241
Membership: Anne Genuist	384-9412
Newsletter: Rod Burkhart	480-7522

Area Directors 2000/2001

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
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GTCA Memberships run
 Jan.-Dec. 2001 at a cost of
 \$5.00 per household.

Name.....

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Please mail to: Anne Genuist
 820 Cowper Str.
 Victoria, BC
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A Word From the President

A FAREWELL LOOK-to the past, and the future!

In December my family and I will be moving to Australia for a year as I'll be exchanging jobs with a teacher from Canberra in 2002. It seems timely to take a look back at what's been achieved since the Gorge Tillicum Community Association emerged from the former ratepayers group in 1999 and to look forward to future projects..

What have we achieved?

- Established Gorge Canada Day Picnic as a successful Saanich Sunfest event.
- Concluded the Tillicum Local Area Plan with specific action plans aimed at Burnside / Tillicum Roads and infrastructure upgrading.
- Collaborated on the extension of the Gorge Waterway Park.
- Hosted municipal and provincial election candidates forums.
- Succeeded with applications for Saanich Neighbourhood Development grants.
- Formed the Gorge/Tillicum Neighbourhood Transportation Committee and circulated an extensive traffic questionnaire.
- Formed Adopt an Outfall storm water monitoring program.
- Produced and delivered of 3000 community newsletters three times a year.



Harry Lewis chats with Andrew Petter and Mayor Leonard at the Canada Day Picnic

Where do we go from here?

- The actions plans in the LAP are the 'big goal post' items to keep in mind, so I'm pleased to say that the Burnside/Tillicum Rd revitalization plan will be getting under way this fall (see article)
- The Neighbourhood Transportation committee is working on a Traffic Calming Plan for the Tillicum area
- The completion of the Waterway Park project
- Road configuration and traffic issues on Gorge Rd W
- Expanding our membership to 200+ households this year, and 300+ next.

As I leave I know the association is in a strong position. We have gained a good reputation as an active and positive group within Saanich and I know we will continue to grow and prosper. Paul Gerrard will be taking over as President in November and I wish Paul all the best knowing he will do a super job on behalf of Gorge Tillicum. Please give Paul and the executive your help and support. See you again in 2003!!

Harry Lewis

SAANICH CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS

Each year Saanich Municipal Council appoints Saanich citizens to serve as members of various advisory committees boards, and other organizations.

Examples of some committees are:

- Advisory Design Panel,
- Greater Victoria Library Board,
- Bicycle Advisory
- Citizens Advisory Transportation,
- Environmental Advisory
- Heritage Advisory and Archival
- Significant Tree
- Planning and Transportation Advisory
- Healthy Saanich Advisory
- Parks and Recreation
- Community Arts Advisory
- Cedar Hill Golf Course

If interested in being considered for an appointment, complete an application and submit to the Office of the Municipal Clerk by Friday, November 16th, 2001, by 4:30 p.m.

For Further information call Office of the Municipal Clerk at 475-1775, fax 475-5440 or email clerksec@gov.saanich.bc.ca

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Friday, Nov. 9th 5-9 pm
Saturday, Nov. 10th 10-4 pm

GREEN DREAM GETS PLANTED

Report by... Arden Little

What would your street look like with more trees? Think about streets you know that are lined with trees. What about Shelbourne Street? Imagine what it would look like without them. What a difference they make! Now imagine your own street with more trees. A group of neighbours on Earl Grey Street did just that. As a result, their section of the street will soon have several new trees.

Bruce Jones and Arden Little recently coordinated a project to take advantage of Saanich's tree planting program. Under this program, the municipality will plant, stake, and water the new trees for five years. The only cost to the neighbourhood is \$50 per tree. Bruce and Arden distributed a flyer with the relevant information and talked to neighbours about the scheme. They were overwhelmed by the positive response. They collected a total of \$650 - enough to pay for 13 new trees, which will be planted in the next few weeks.

Many thanks to all who made a donation, and to Dave Hill, Saanich's arborist, for his encouragement and assistance.

For further information on how to start a similar project in your neighbourhood, contact Bruce Jones at 384-6028, Arden Little at 360-2474 or Dave Hill at 744-5341.

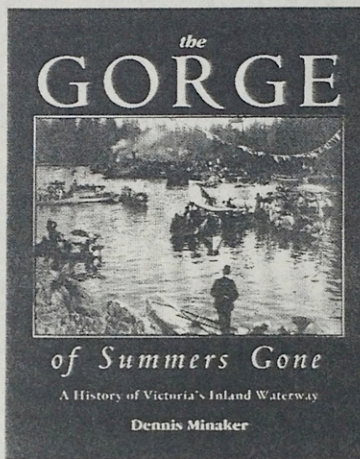
OF DAYS GONE BY

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

In 1992 I began research into the history of the Gorge-Tillicum neighbourhood and the adjacent waterway. Local archives and old newspapers were mined for Gorge references but the most satisfying time was spent interviewing early residents of the area.

Many of the recollections concerned activity on the waterway. One gentleman aged 100 years remembered tipping his canoe in the Gorge rapids enroute from his campsite along Portage Inlet in 1911. The legendary swimmer Audrey Griffin, living on Inez Drive in 1915, could clearly recall winning her first Gorge race in August of that year.

The antics of youth were often remembered such as climbing through the framing of Tillicum School under construction in 1917 or playing in the old quarry at 515 Ker Avenue. When a fire threatened the grand home of Supreme Court Judge David Eberts, at the foot



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of Qu'Appelle Street in the summer of 1923 local boys were asked by firemen to dampen an exterior wall with water from a hose too heavy for their size. "We kept it wet alright," recalled one of the excited participants, "and blew off shingles and broke a window or two!" A lady from Albina Street remembered chanting "Get a car, get a car!" as Laura Dunsmuir passed along Gorge Road in her horse and carriage enroute from Hatley Castle in the early 20's. A man in his ninties told of raiding the henhouse behind Estella Carrol's brothel, then selling the chicken to a butcher along Tillicum Road. One long time resident of Orillia Street remembered wandering through the empty halls of Premier Sir Richard McBride's former mansion on Gorge Road shortly before it's demolition in 1932.

Others recalled more productive pursuits such as helping dairyman Fred White drive his herd of cows along Obed Avenue and delivering the Colonist newspaper on dark mornings in the winter of 1918 when area streets were lined with slippery wooden sidewalks and streetlights were few.

Dennis Minaker's best-selling publication "The Gorge of Summers Gone" is once again available in city bookstores or from the author at 385-8884.

Sheila Orr, MLA
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WE ACKNOWLEDGE...

The dedication, loyalty, enthusiasm, hard work and personal sacrifices that Harry Lewis and his family have made over the past three years in the pursuit of making our community a better place in which to live!

Good luck on your upcoming adventure and many heart felt thanks, you will be missed!

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