



GORGE TILLICUM Neighbourhood News

Gorge Tillicum Community Association

Spring 2002

PADDLING FOR TIMMY

Report by... Don Munroe

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club members completed a round trip voyage to Port Angeles, Washington on Saturday, 23rd March. The journey started at 7am and lasted for more than 12 hours, with a 1/2

Hr. box lunch break and TLC at Ediz Hook for lunch in Port Angeles, hosted by members of the city Lions Club. It was the 20th annual trip by the Club to raise money for the Easter Seal Camp Shawnigan, a special summer camp at Shawnigan Lake for children with disabilities.

Kelly Wilson, of the Lions Society, which helps run the camp, says that in the last 20 years the Club has raised more than \$87,000, and the organizers were expecting to raise as much as \$13,000 more from this year's effort.

Some 48 Club members, ranging in age from 14 to 81, took part in the voyage this year in conditions that were ideal except for the outgoing tide in the Gorge on the return trip. The participants were unable to negotiate the narrows beneath the Tillicum Bridge immediately, because of a tidal current running at more than five knots.

The 64 kilometre journey to Port Angeles in an exposed canoe can be quite rough, but the boats were escorted by the Canadian Coast Guard Environment ship Sea Truck and the Canadian Navy's 108 ft. Diving Tender "Sooke" where paddlers were able to get periods of relief to warm up. The Victoria Marine Rescue Society provided a 16 person Zodiac for crew changes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**GORGE TILLICUM
AGM-May 16th
THURSDAY-7:30PM**

**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY
TILLICUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3155 Albina Street**

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD?

TILLICUM/BURNSIDE ACTION PLAN

Report by... Paul Gerrard

The Tillicum/Burnside Action Plan was initiated by the District of Saanich to address land use, streetscape, traffic management, and urban village opportunities along Tillicum Road and Burnside Road. Over 50 residents, property owners, and business owners attended the February 21st, 2002 public meeting at the Les Passmore Centre to hear about the Action Plan purpose and process, and provide community feedback. Residents worked in small groups facilitated by Saanich staff to identify strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats in the area.

The results of the community mapping exercise can be viewed at the Saanich Planning Dept., and will assist the Action Plan Advisory Committee in creating a draft

Action Plan. The Steering Committee conducted a walkabout of the study area on April 6th, 2002 to get a hands-on understanding of the situation. The next opportunity for public input will occur at a Community Open House prior to Summer, 2002.



▲ Neighbourhood Housing Project nearing completion at the corner of Tillicum and Burnside Roads. (above) Concept Sketch of an Urban Village Plan illustrating better interaction between people and their community environment. (right) ▶



EXCERPT FROM...

"The New Urbanism" Toward an Architecture of Community - By Peter Katz

The fundamental organizing elements of the New Urbanism are the neighbourhood, the district and the corridor. Neighbourhoods are urbanized areas with a balanced mix of human activity; districts are areas dominated by a single activity; corridors are connectors and separators of neighbourhoods and districts. The nomenclature may vary, but there is general agreement regarding the physical composition of the neighbourhood.

- The neighbourhood has a centre and an edge.
- The optimal size of a neighbourhood is a ¼ mile from centre to edge.
- The neighbourhood has a balanced mix of activities dwellings, shopping, working schooling, worshipping, and recreating.
- The neighbourhood structures building sites and traffic on a fine network of interconnecting streets.
- The neighbourhood gives priority to public space and to the appropriate location of civic buildings.

Neighbourhoods that are compact, mixed-use and pedestrian friendly, districts of appropriate location and character and corridors that are functional and beautiful can integrate natural environments and man-made communities into a sustainable whole.

...con't pg.2

GORGE TILLICUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD -cont'd from pg. 1

These entire components combine to form a neighbourhood, but the magic ingredient, which determines a successful and sustainable community, is the people.

Good architecture recognizes human scale and perspective. Today, there is a revival of the concept that people are the most important component of a community, where automobile traffic is less dominant, and other forms of transportation are given more consideration. Village centres are the hub of the community, and people walk and cycle more as they take back their neighbourhood. They even start talking to one another! With the Local Action Plan for Tillicum and Burnside Roads just started,



Community Action Plan Map indicating study areas and Urban Village boundaries.

we have an opportunity in the near future to revitalize our neighbourhood and create something special. It will take time, effort and money, of course, but even more important, it will take the will and imagination of the people in our community to succeed. We can do this!

?? WHAT'S UP ??

April 17th- New Saanich Active Living Guide
You can register for classes as of Saturday April 20th, 2002.

Pearkes Sunfest on Ice, Pearkes creates a "cool" setting on ice for everyone to enjoy. Tickets go on sale June 1. Only \$2 per person

Free Family Park Programs
The Reservoirs of Royal Oak: Sunday, April 28th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Preschoolers in the Park: Thursday, May 2nd (Copely Park) and Thursday, May 9th, (Majestic Park) 9:30 - 11:30 am
Playfair Park to Peacock Hill: Sunday, May 12th, 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Saanich Youth Arts Legacy Fund
Applications now available must be received by Saanich Community Legacy Foundation by April 30, 2002., contact: scff@shaw.ca

Community Arts Awareness Week May 4th to May 12th, opening event, Cedar Hill Rec Centre Saturday, May 4th, 11:00-3:00.

Volunteer Week - April 21 - 27, 2002
Give a volunteer a Hug!

If your group or organization has an event you would like included in our newsletter call Debbie@480-7522

4th Canada Day Picnic

Report by...Debbie Burkhart

Plans are well under way for our annual Gorge Canada Day Picnic. This year's event, on Monday, July 1st, promises to be better than ever. What a great time to come out and enjoy all the events of the day, such as the Bike Parade, Pancake Breakfast, Strawberry Tea, Antique & Custom Car Show, Street Hockey, Activities for the kids, Arts & Crafts, Live Entertainment and so much more.

The Gorge Tillicum Picnic Committee is eager to hear any suggestions our community members might have regarding the Picnic. One suggestion made is to stage a Salmon Barbeque, in the new portion of the Gorge Park, at the Tillicum Road end..

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help us make this another great Canada Day Event. If you are interested in helping with this community event, please call Debbie Burkhart @ 480-7522 or email signart@pacificcoast.net.

Can't find a title? Try us

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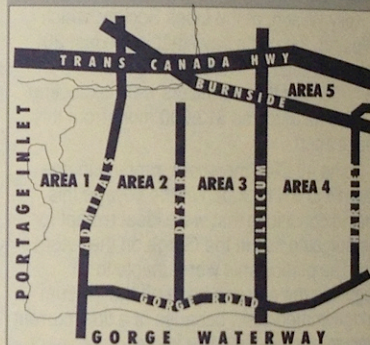
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pgerrard@pacificcoast.net
Vice President: Rob Wickson acting 383-9241
Secretary: Debbie Burkhart 480-7522
Treasurer: Rob Wickson 383-9241
Membership: Anne Genuist 384-9412
Newsletter: Rod Burkhart 480-7522
signart@pacificcoast.net

Past President: Harry Lewis

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Area 1: Ed Lyons 479-8030
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

Name.....

Address.....

P/C.....Ph:.....

Please mail to: Anne Genuist
820 Cowper Str.
Victoria, BC
V9A 2G3

the GREEN SPACE



Report by...Steve Legg

Our Local Water Resources

On April 20, 2002 from 2 to 4 pm, Garden City United Church, 4054 Carey Road will be presenting a visual display on the condition of our local water resources. This will be a time for people to meditate, learn and get involved with this important resource. Local environmental groups will offer information at booths in the lower level of the church.

We are extending an invitation to you to be part of this event. For more information please contact Bob Comerford at 383-8314 or e-mail kcomerford@ii.ca

Out-fall Waters Testing Continues

The GTCA water testing volunteers are accumulating data on water quality entering the Colquitz and Gorge waterway on a regular schedule. To date, data results appear to have reasonable levels and have allowed an excellent baseline of values for future comparisons. Seasonal changes or unusual daily extremes can explain most anomalies in data results. Presently, an unusual yellowish discharge can be observed at many of the outfalls due to the increase in pollen, which is being released by plants and trees. The pollen settles and is washed through the drainage system to the Colquitz/Gorge water system. This is nothing to be alarmed about, but does remind us to be careful of what we wash down our local drainage system.

A big pat on the back goes out to the water-testing volunteers who, through rain or shine, have assisted in accumulating data for this program. Anyone interested in becoming involved in this program should contact Anne at 384-9412.

Community Green Map

Community Mapping is a participatory educational and planning process which maps the social, economic and ecological assets, history and development of a given place. People of all ages share their knowledge, values and experience with others as a basis for visioning and planning. GroundWorks provides resources for projects related to locally-based and globally-linked sustainable community development. Common Ground runs the Groundworks Learning centre at 521 Superior Street, a public resource centre open Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00am 4:00 pm and is initiating a Common Ground Community mapping Project. They use mapping as a way to help local citizens re-inhabit their home place. GroundWorks stores historic maps of the Victoria area, and will soon have base maps for use by neighbourhood planning groups. Maps done by community groups are on a rotating display throughout the centre. Common Ground is working on a regional Green Map and has been doing work with local neighbourhoods and schools for the last two years.

Community green maps have been made around the world, in such places as New Delhi, Singapore, Havana, Calgary, Manhattan, Toronto and Dublin. Victoria is joining this global effort to affirm community health and sustainability, particularly in world cities where most people now live. The Community Green Map is being made for the community by the community, an entirely new notion for maps of Greater Victoria, and one that will contribute greatly to the sense of place and ecological awareness of the city's residents. Distinctive geographical features of nearby areas and community conservation efforts will be highlighted, such as the Cecelia Creek/ Gorge clean-up. This group intends to have this map available for conferences, tourists and for newcomers to Victoria so that they may see the city from the communities perspective. If you would like to find out more about this project, have some ideas to add or want to become a volunteer, please contact Groundworks at, GroundWorks Learning Centre (250) 360-0799 or email: groundworks@telus.net

NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING

Report by...Christine Helmink

The Traffic Calming Study of the area bounded by Tillicum, Harriet, Gorge and Burnside roads is proceeding well. Since the consultant, Richard James of Richard James & Associates was hired in January there have been two opportunities for the public to take part in the process. The first opportunity was a neighborhood walkabout on February 23rd, to discuss or identify any concerns that the community has about specific traffic issues. For those who could not attend, there was also the option of dropping off or emailing their opinions to the consultant. The second public event was an Open House that took place on April 11th at the Les Passmore Centre. The purpose of this event was to explain and to display traffic calming options that may be employed and to gather the response of the neighborhood to them.

Upcoming events include a second Open House at which the Traffic Calming Plan Options will be on display, on June 13th from 6-9:00 p.m. at Tillicum Elementary School Library. This event will be followed by a presentation to Saanich Council of the selected option. As your opinion is critical to this process, be sure to attend any meetings or presentations possible and please feel free to contact the consultant Richard James directly at 721-5897 or raj@rjassociates.ca

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Where you Pay Less and you Get More!

Hey, Who's this Under the Rock?

Report by...Judy & Chuck Sigmund

Would you like to get more familiar with your local seashore this summer? The Georgia Strait Alliance is continuing its program of surveying intertidal areas along the Greater Victoria coastline and volunteers are needed to help in the annual surveys. You don't need to know your crabs from your seaweeds to help out. On many of the scheduled surveys a biologist will be present to help with identification and repeat volunteers will be very happy to welcome you and help you get your feet wet - literally.

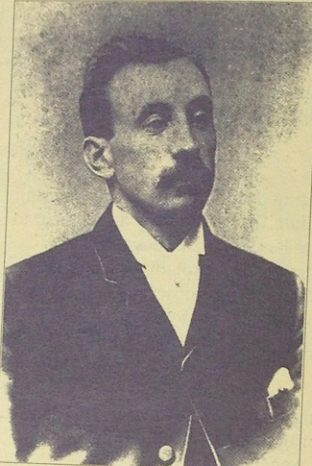
Hands on involvement in science is rewarding and it empowers us to keep tabs on our seashores and inspires us to take better care of them. If you think you might want to get involved why not contact us for more details. To reach us, Judy or Chuck Sigmund, the local team leaders, call the local Georgia Strait Alliance office. #12 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P7 (250)-381-8321 prondal@georgiastrait.org We look forward to working with you.

OF DAYS GONE BY

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

As discussed in the last newsletter, Craigie Lea Farm was established on 400 acres bordering the waterway in the 1850s by colonists James and Mary Yates. To the west lay the Ferniehurst Farm of the Ker family. According to legend, the border between the two estates became Tillicum Road in keeping with the two landowners customary fence-line greeting "Klahowya Tillicum," a Chinook phrase meaning "Welcome friend."

Ferniehurst Farm, which occupied about 120 acres between the waterway and



"Thomas Arnot Ker, third son of Robert and Jessie Ker, was born in 1866. Arnot Avenue was named in his honour"

Colquitz Creek westward towards Dysart Road, was the home of Robert and Jessie Ker of Scotland. Although lured to Victoria by the goldrush of 1858, Robert Ker settled into the colonial civil service, eventually to become both provincial paymaster and auditor general before retiring to Ferniehurst in 1874. There the couple raised four sons who attended both Craigflower School and the Collegiate School in town, reached by canoe each morning.

Robert Ker's retirement was short-lived. Despite having felt ill for several days, he set out on a snowy afternoon in February 1879 to collect a can of milk from a neighbouring dairyman. Instead he continued on foot to the Four Mile Tavern. After several glasses of whiskey he accepted a sleighride back towards Ferniehurst. Ker stepped down from the sleigh when 400 yards from home, intent on walking the remaining distance. He never made it. His body was discovered the next morning, partly covered by drifting snow. He was only 55 years of age.

Ferniehurst Farm was leased in the 1890s to other farmers before being subdivided by the eldest son David Russel Ker, a leading businessman in the province. Several local streets were named after the founders of Ferniehurst: Ker Avenue for the family; Walter and Arnot avenues for two sons; Inez and Davida for two granddaughters. Even today's Bodega Avenue was originally called Robert after another son. The location and fate of the original Ferniehurst farmhouse remains a mystery.

Join author Dennis Minaker for free historical presentations about the Gorge Waterway this spring. A tour of the Gorge Kinsmen Park will begin at 1:00 pm, May 5 at the Tillicum Road entrance. This will be preceded by a public slide show about the park's history commencing at 7:30pm, May 3 in the Pioneer Room of the

GORGE CLEANUP

The 2nd Annual Gorge Waterway Appreciation Day Clean Up held on April 7th was an overwhelming success in which eighty paddlers from Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club, Gorge Rowing & Paddling Club, Ocean River Club and six environmentally concerned citizens combed the Gorge Water from Johnson St. bridge to Portage Inlet (including Craigflower Creek and part of Colquitz Creek). Good Work, "Bravo!" to all involved.

Esquimalt Recreation Centre. Registration at 414-7102 is advised. Another historical tour along the Saanich side of the waterway will commence at 1:00 pm, June 9 from the foot of Inez Drive.

HEALTH watch

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