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Winter 2000

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# Gorge Tillicum Community Association NEWSLETTER

## GTCA Executive Members 1999/2000

President: Harry Lewis  
Ph: 384-8460  
email: hlewis@pacificcoast.net

Vice President: Paul Gerrard  
Ph: 386-2745

Secretary: John Hoole  
Ph: 386-7458

Treasurer: Rob Wickson  
Ph: 383-9241

Membership: Ann Genuist  
Ph: 384-9412

### Area Directors:

Area 1: Ed Lyons  
Ph: 479-9030

Area 2: Steve Legg  
Ph: 384-9412

Area 3: Kirk Campsall  
Ph: 381-8008

Area 4: Ray Farmer  
Ph: 382-1122

Area 5: Sue Koolman  
Ph: 475-1889

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Comments? Contributions?  
Cartoons?  
FAX to Diana at 386-7458  
or email to:  
diana.gault@ag.gov.bc.ca

## COUNCIL APPROVES PARK EXTENSION

After many years of waiting, the proposed extension to the Gorge Waterway Park became a reality on Monday, January 24 when Saanich Council voted unanimsly to accept the concept plan proposed by the Parks Department.

The plan had been formulated by Parks staff after three public consultations with area residents along with public input at each stage of the process.

The executive of this Association voiced its support for the plan, acknowledging at the same time that it still needs some 'tweaking'.

Among others standing in support of the plan were the Gorge Waterway Action Society, the Veins of Life Watershed Society and the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club.

Also, a statement of support signed by over 180 people was presented.

Council also voted to issue notices to vacate for several of the rental properties that front Gorge Road West, so that demolition may begin during the late summer/fall.

Applications to match the Municipality's contribution of \$200 000 will soon be forwarded to Community Spirit 2000 and the Provincial Capital Commission.

Once this project is completed, attention will turn to removing the remaining non-heritage houses at the eastern, or top, end of the park, and providing a link under Tillicum Bridge to Gorge Park to the east.

So, all in all, a great night at Council, where we took a significant step toward making the extension to Tillicum Road a reality.

To request the plan, call Saanich Parks at 744-4321.



### WE WANT YOOOUU!



Volunteers are needed to help us organize, create, facilitate and generally make happen

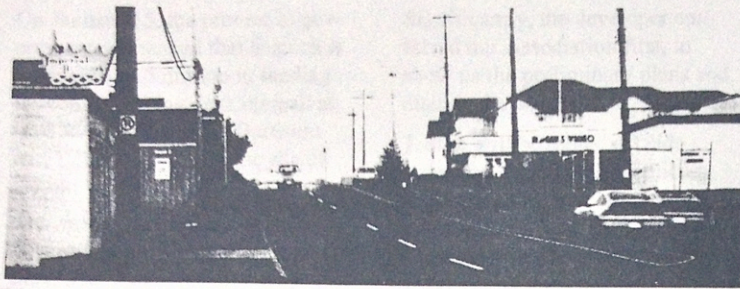
### THE 2nd ANNUAL GORGE CANADA DAY PICNIC

If you can help with

• food • activities • entertainment • set-up • other

please call Harry at 384-8460  
or John at 386-7458  
with your name, phone number  
and area of interest

## TILLICUM ROAD – URBAN VILLAGE OR URBAN EYESORE?



This article is written in the shadow of the pedestrian fatality which occurred on Tillicum Road at Obed on Tuesday, January 11th. This most recent tragedy at an intersection which has witnessed a number of accidents brings into question not only safety at this corner, but the whole character of Tillicum Road from Maddock to Gorge.

Tillicum Road is an eyesore. Over 20,000 vehicles stream along its four lanes on the average working day. The largest store in the area has its loading bays facing the road, and other commercial space on the west side is dull and underutilized. Telephone and power lines march down each sidewalk. The commercial core at the Gorge Centre is a busy hub, but not easy to access or egress with a vehicle, and positively dangerous to access as a

pedestrian or cyclist coming from the west side of Tillicum.

There is nothing to invite and draw people to the area, save to shop and move on. Are there alternatives to this status quo which would create a safer, more pleasant experience for neighbourhood people?

I believe so. Many of us look at examples of 'village centres' which can be found elsewhere in Victoria (Cook Street, Cadboro Bay and the newly designed Esquimalt Road) and wonder if the same agreeable features could, with vision, be created on Tillicum.

We believe we have a great location for a village, with established neighbourhoods, the Gorge Waterway and its parks nearby, the recreation centre and proximity to downtown, the Island highway and

Tillicum Centre attractions. "Tillicum Village" could be an attractive place to live and for small businesses and services to grow. But the right conditions for a village are created by design not chance.

So, imagine.....

.....if Tillicum Road were reduced to three lanes (one for turning);

.....if well-designed commercial and residential developments replaced the buildings west of Tillicum;

.....if you could safely cross Tillicum at Walter to Gorge Centre.

As Greater Victoria planners grapple with how to deal with an estimated population growth of 100,000 over the next 25 years, and as Saanich quickly races towards the limits of its Urban Containment Boundary, there will be increased attention paid to 'infilling', creating more density around established commercial hubs. Tillicum Road need not be doomed to be an urban wasteland forever, but presents an ideal opportunity for some innovative village design.

Picture it!!

*Harry Lewis*



## PROVINCE FUNDS HOUSING PROJECT

On January 13, the provincial government announced that Saanich is to receive \$5.5 million in funding to build a housing development at the southeast corner of Burnside and Tillicum roads, on the site of the old Saanich yard.

The project will consist of town-houses and a small apartment complex, a total of 40 units. Henry Kamphof, executive director of the Capital Region Corporation, described the development as an attractive project that will blend in well with the neighbourhood and will help to address the need for low-cost housing in the greater Victoria area.

Significantly, the developer contacted our Association first, to show us the preliminary plans and discuss the proposal.

Traffic will be routed off side streets of Burnside and Tillicum roads and the sight lines will be at a low level as the buildings will be situated well below the road level. There is also there is a commitment to provide sensitive landscaping at this important intersection.

If the development obtains the approval of Saanich council, construction is expected to begin later this year.

*P. Gerrard*

## Help Colquitz Creek and the Gorge Waterway

The Gorge Tillicum Community Association, in cooperation with The Veins of Life Watershed Society, is initiating an education and monitoring program to improve the water quality of Colquitz Creek and the Gorge Waterway.

One of the goals for both groups this year is to reintroduce swimming to the Gorge, and helping to monitor and improve storm water will go a long way toward reaching this goal.

A first step is to begin testing the water quality of various storm water outfalls along the Colquitz River and Gorge Waterway.

The storm water runoff will be tested for oxygen content, turbidity and PH level and notes made of other observations (smells, slicks). Our objective is to build up a database in order to do a simple comparative analysis and report any drastic changes in the water quality to the Ministry of Environment if necessary.

We are seeking volunteers from the neighbourhood to assist in the water testing program. The testing takes less than an hour to complete and would be done on a regular basis.

Interested in this program?  
Please contact **Anne Genuist** at 384-9412.

## Saanich Neighbourhood Place

Guess who's in your neighbourhood?

Saanich Neighbourhood Place is your neighbourhood family resource centre located in the Pearkes Recreation Centre behind Tillicum Mall.

We offer a variety of family support programs such as Parent and Tot Drop Ins, parenting courses, a Clothing Exchange, Toy Library, free bread, Community Kitchens, a Parenting Resource Library and much more.

Our Parent and Tot Drop Ins are probably the most well known of all our programs. These drop ins are designed to give children the opportunity to socialize, play and learn in a safe and comfortable setting while their parents supervise. Our hope is that your children will be so occupied that you might actually get to talk with other parents!

Most recently we've begun a Young Parents Drop In. This drop in is aimed at parents 23 years and under. It runs the first and third Monday of every month from 1:00-2:30. If you or anyone you know fits this age group please come down and join us!

All of our programs (except Toy Library) are free with a suggested donation.

If you have any questions please call us at 360-1148. We look forward to hearing from you.

Can't find a title? Try us



**PIC A  
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VIDEO**



2967 Tillicum Rd.  
Victoria, B.C. V9A 2A6

Telephone  
361-4494

### Membership grows by leaps and bounds in 1999

1999 was a year of building and great progress for the Gorge Tillicum Community Association – our membership exceeded 140.

We encourage members to renew, and anyone else who would like to be part of this enthusiastic and progressive association to join. The yearly fee for each household is only \$5.00 [If you can manage a little more, donations are much appreciated and carefully used.]

The Association's executive members are friendly, approachable and ready to listen to your concerns.

As a member you will be kept informed of the major issues, projects and concerns involving our community.

Join us – or renew your membership – now!

Gorge Tillicum Community Association Membership

Membership in the GTCA runs from Jan - Dec at a cost of \$5.00 per household.

Name.....

Address.....

Postal Code.....Phone.....

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

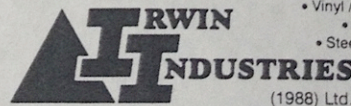
### Welcome Quenton!

The G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre has a new manager. Quenton Lehmann has replaced Jean Wilmshurst, who has taken a lateral move to the Administrative section of Saanich Recreation. Originally from Saskatchewan, Quenton is a graduate of U.Vic and has been with Saanich Recreation for the last five years, most recently as manager of Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. He has worked with the Community Services section of the Saanich Recreation Department and was instrumental in the establishment of the teen centre located at Pearkes – teen and youth programming is one of his special interests. Pearkes Recreation Centre has gone through tremendous growth over the past few years and program demands continue to grow, largely stimulated by the surrounding community.

"My staff and I will continue to work closely with the Community Association in order to deal with the needs of the area," promises Quenton. "We encourage all residents not only to use their local neighbourhood centre but to drop by and help us work with them to build programs that will enhance the neighbourhood. Please feel free to call me or any staff member at Pearkes to help you. We look forward to providing recreation in our community for many years to come."

### WESTCOAST MIDWIFERY CARE

KIM MILLAR LEWIS CNM MScN RM  
2823 Dysart Road, Victoria, BC V9A 2J7  
Off: 384-5940 Fax: 361-9545 Cell: 216-2823



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Fax: 382-5748