

## GTCA AGM Presentation

APRIL 23, 2024



## GTCA – What We Do

#### **Communications & Information Sharing**





#### New Streetscape Coming to Gorge Road

they expected to begin work to repair along Gorge Road West between Tillicum and Admirals. At that time they shared a partially completed set of engineering drawings illustrating a new design for the road as part of the project. (These plans can be found on at gorgetillicum.ca, under the resource

Saanich typically tries to tie in road work with underground work to save money so this is entirely consistent with past practice. Though the road work plan is still under discussion, the general idea is to create a protected two way bike lane on the south side of the road with 'floating' bus stops between the new bike lanes and the road. The project also includes a new side walk on the north side of the road.

#### Inside This Issue

- 2 > GTCA AGM Notice
- 3 > An Update from the GTCA 4 > GTCA Community Art Project
- 5 > History of 100 Burnside Rd. W. 6 > Tillicum Road
- 7 > Tillicum Road cont'd 8 > The Green Space Owl Update
- 9 > Cuthbert Holmes Tree Removal
- 10 > Walter Park Natural Space
- 11 > Heat Pump Rebate



Picture of AAA cycling infrastructure from the Spanish Active Transportation Plan. Spanish is proposisimilar bike lanes for the south (water) side of the Gorge Road between Tillicum and Admirals

The project manager is confident that work will start this summer and of observations to Saanich along with a request for broad community consultation before the plan is finalized

Anyone wishing to be heard on this project may do so by phone through the Saanich switchboard 250-475-1775 or by email: engineering@

While plans for improved bike lanes along this stretch of Gorge Road are in the Saanich Active Transportation Plan, the timing, and prioritization of this stretch of Gorge Road comes as something of a surprise to the community association. The GTCA has long lobbied for pedestrian and cycling improvements along Gorge Road between Tillicum Rd. and Harriet Street, as many community residents have expressed safety concern

We are also actively lobbying to see streetscape improvments on Tillicum Road and pedestrian and cycling improvments on the Gorge Bridge. See pages 6 and 7 for more information on Tillicum Rd.

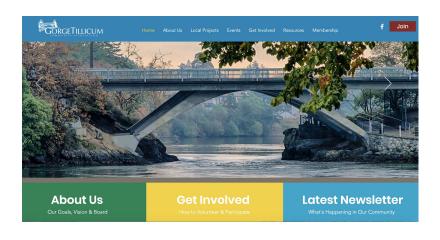
The Board will continue to monitor this project closely and will keep you informed via our website.

-Phil Lancaster Chair of the GTCA Transporation and Mobility Working Group

- 3 issues per year
- 3800 hard copies delivered to every home in our neighbourhood



#### Facebook 2600+ Followers





**Instagram 483 Followers** 

#### Communications & Community Engagement





## Informal communications & conversations

- Responding to questions and concerns
- Community discussions
- Meetings over coffee

#### Engaging in the Development Process



#### WHAT THE GTCA WOULD LIKE TO SEE FROM NEW DEVELOPMENTS

#### Preserving and Increasing Green Space

- · Saving trees and wherever possible adding additional green space
- Planting new trees
- Landscaping features such as:
  - rain gardens and swales
  - drought tolerant plants/native plants shrubs, ornamental/flowering plants
- · Tenant garden space for multi-family buildings



#### Sidewalks

- · Inset from the traffic, with trees and other landscaping providing a buffer between cars and pedestrians
- · Better curb cuts for mobility challenges · Proper sidewalks i.e. not substandard sidewalk
- such as on Cowper St.
- Meandering sidewalks where space allows



GTCA Community Design Guidelines (2019) DRAFT

#### Mixed Use Buildings

- · Would prefer spaces suitable for business that would improve services to the neighbourhood such as dining, coffee shops, pubs/bars, retail, bakery and green grocers
- . On larger properties such as the V lot (Burnside/Tillicum), businesses that are economic drivers such as day surgeries, hospice, long
- Would like to see service organizations, offices, small commercial along Burnside and Tillicum



#### Parking, Bikes, Personal Mobility and **Drop off Zones**

- · The GTCA is in favour of giving reductions to current Saanich parking requirements
- · Buildings must build in some flexibility with respect to transportation
- Parking should be unbundled from units
- Providing space for recreational & commuter bikes, scooters etc. (This would include charging stations for electric bikes and scooters)
- Drop off zones for delivery vehicles (increasingly important in the Amazon era)
- Guest parking & guest bike racks
- Alternative transportation such as free bus passes or car share for tenants that don't have

Page 3 of 4

- Meeting with developers at various stages of the process
- Encouraging them to follow the Community Design Guidelines
- Encouraging and supporting robust public consultation
- Negotiating Community Amenities
- Preparing official letters to Saanich **Planning**
- Speaking to Council







- 20+ years
- Largest event in Saanich with 10,000+ visitors
- Strong neighbourhood & business support

#### Burnside Buzz





 An event celebrating pollinators by the new pollinator garden.

#### Pumpkin Parade





- Third Annual Pumpkin
   Parade
- Great community response
- Sooo many pumpkins

#### **Pollinator Gardens**





- New pollinator garden at the Sunflower Mural thriving
- New fencing + signage coming soon.



#### Music in the Park



- Joint initiative with Saanich
- Great turn out!
- Everyone was up dancing







- Volunteers who take care of these planted areas
- Without these volunteers
   Saanich would have just put
   in grass or concrete
- Lots of spring bulbs added in the last few years

### Gorge -Exploring an Identity





- Poetry & Musical performances
- Hosted at Cedar Shores
- Well attended and received



### Gorge Park Clean-ups



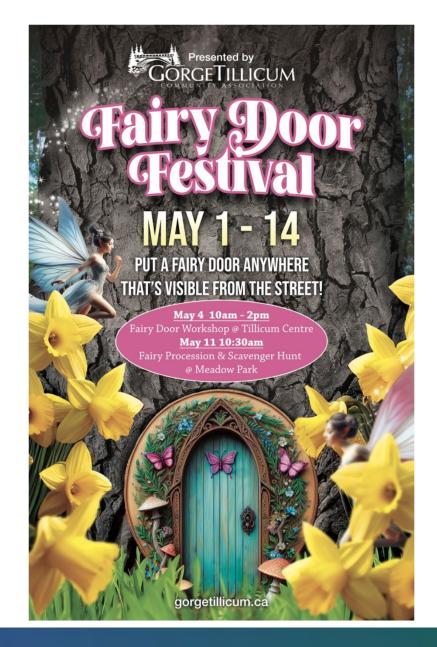
- Cleanups of Gorge Park
- Last cleanup was this past weekend – April 20
- Good turn out





### Curb Appeal

- Neighbourhood art displays
- Last year May 1-14





#### New this year - Fairy Door Festival

- May 1-14, 2024 community displays
- May 4 Fairy Door Workshop
- May 11 Fairy Procession & Scavenger Hunt



#### Return of Number 11 Bus Campaign



- Multi-media campaign
- Series of well attended public meetings with BC Transit
- Ultimate result was the return of the much needed bus route.



## GTCA – How We Do It Our Working Groups

April 15, 2021



#### Climate & Environment Working Group

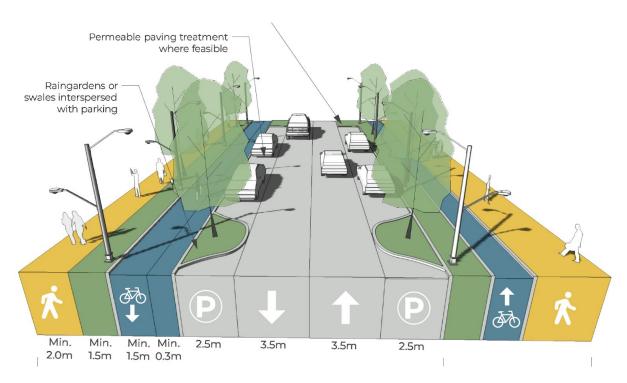


#### Key Initiatives:

- Walter Park Stewardship
- Pollinator Projects
- Boulevard Brigade
- Tree Group

#### Land Use Working Group





Combination of the former Buildings Working Group & the Mobility and Transportation Working Group

#### Key Initiatives:

- Lobbying for multi-modal transportation
- Better public realm infrastructure
- Community amenities



### Arts Working Group



Promote all things artistic in our neighbourhood:

- public art installations
- performing arts
- •art shows etc.



#### Canada Day Committee



- Dedicated group of volunteers who organize the Canada Day Event.
- A few have been involved since day one!
- Co-Chaired by Chris Kask & Brandon Devnich



## What's Happening in the Neighbourhood

### **Housing Developments**







VERY slow progress on housing developments



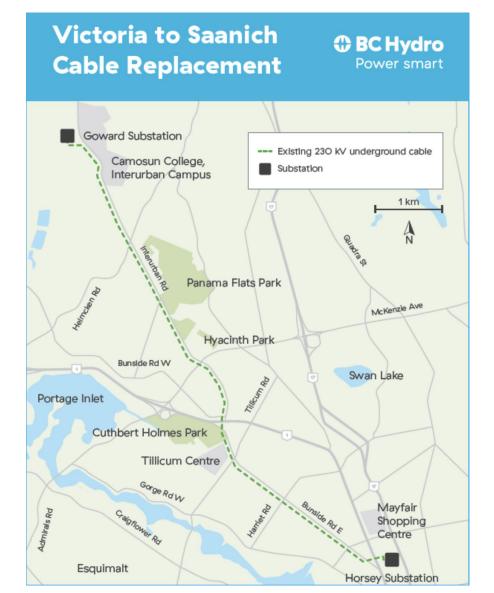




#### Albina Supportive Housing Development



- Managed by Our Place Society
- Now occupied
- A GTCA board member sits on the community advisory board





#### **Burnside Road Works**

- Presentation coming up
- Work presents an opportunity to long promised and much needed improvements to Burnside Road.



# 2024/2025 Key Initiative #1 Community Celebrations & Public Art



## 2024/2025 Key Initiative #2 Getting More Trees Planted



## 2024/2025 Key Initiatives #3 Neighbourhood Advocacy

- Speeding/Traffic concerns
- Burnside Roadworks
- Development Housing & Amenities



## **Together We Can a Difference**

Thank You