

Gorge Tillicum Community Association NEWSLETTER

Fall 2000

GTCA Executive Members 2000/2001

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Area 3: Bob June
Ph: 381-0848

Area 4: Ray Farmer
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Area 5: Sue Koolman
Ph: 475-1889

Comments? Contributions?
Cartoons?
Call Harry at 384-8460

New Year Resolutions

At our Annual General Meeting in May a new executive was voted in for the year 2000/01. The priorities for this executive will be:

1. Local Area Plan – working with Saanich staff to implement the Action Plans detailed in the plan. These cover such topics as:
 - infrastructure (sidewalks, storm drains, water pipes, sewage pumps, roads);
 - streetscapes/village centres (the modification of Burnside, Tillicum and Gorge to make these more attractive centres of community life).
2. Gorge Waterway Park Extension- liaise with Saanich Parks as the development unfolds.
3. Representing Gorge Tillicum area at Saanich Council (e.g. monitor development plans, zoning etc.).
4. Newsletter – distribute GTCA newsletter to all residents.
5. Adopt an Outfall – continue to monitor water quality from storm drains into Colquitz Creek, Portage Inlet and the Gorge.

If you have any questions or comments about these priorities please contact an executive member.

And what we accomplished

As president I am happy to report that your executive has had a very active year working on behalf of Gorge Tillicum residents. Our accomplishments included:

- the Gorge Canada Day Picnic;
- working with Saanich Parks in developing the Draft Plan for the Gorge Waterway Park extension, which was adopted by Saanich Council in May 2000;
- working with Saanich Planning Dept. on the review and updating of the Tillicum Local Area Plan, adopted by Council in June 2000;
- hosting an All Candidates meeting prior to the municipal elections in November '99;
- initiating the Adopt an Outfall program in concert with the Veins of Life Watershed Society, which monitors storm water quality flowing into Colquitz Creek behind Tillicum Centre.

I am very proud of the work taken on by the executive of this community organization, and I ask you to recognize with me their contributions. We also need your continued support so we look forward to seeing new faces at our meetings.
Harry Lewis

GORGE TILLICUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 22nd November at 7:30pm
at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, 550 Obed St

Topics To Be Discussed:

Proposed development of Chevron at Gorge/Tillicum
Plans for Capital Region Housing at Burnside/Tillicum
Bylaw Amendments for Dogs in Parks

Chevron puts forward new proposal

Chevron have brought forward new plans to redevelop the gas station site at the corner of Gorge and Tillicum. Residents will be well aware of the controversy that has surrounded previous efforts to update this property, and should make every effort to attend the general meeting which will discuss the proposal (see front page).

At first sight the plans are much more modest than what was previously proposed. The gas bays will not be resisted but the pumps will be replaced with the modern pay-at-the-pump variety. The blue lighted strip over the gas bays will be replaced with the new design - if you want to see what it looks like it is the same as the station on the Trans-Canada.

The major change is the replacement of the kiosk by a Town Pantry,

which will be sited at the north-east corner hard against the CIBC building. It is smaller than most, about 1600 square feet, but residents of nearby properties will be most concerned that it may become a hangout for people they would rather not have loitering in their neighbourhood.

At present, the station operates 24 hours a day, including the kiosk which supplies cigarettes, confectionery and coffee but on a necessarily small scale. The licensee tells us that one of the factors in maintaining these hours is security which will presumably not be a factor if the project proceeds.

A suggestion which the Executive will bring to the meeting is that we could support the redevelopment provided that the retail part of the

Town Pantry were closed between, say, 11pm and 6pm. Items could still be bought through a security drawer, but there would be no access to the building.

It is a positive sign that Chevron, which now owns the site, has come to the community before making its formal application to Council. Also, they have offered increased landscaping and a reconfiguration of the sidewalk at the corner of Tillicum and Gorge as part of the conditions of any approval.

A Chevron representative will be at the meeting to hear your views, so do take advantage of this opportunity. If you cannot attend, please send us your views and we will bring them to Chevron's attention.

Farewell John

Our secretary, John Hoole has taken up a job in Vancouver, and we wish him the very best as he becomes a commuter to the Big City.

John has put a great deal of energy and time into the our Association over the past couple of years and for this work as secretary and sage, we would like to thank him. John has also been very visible at the Canada Day Picnic as he spearheaded the popular Pancake breakfasts and Strawberry Teas.

This leaves a vacancy for Secretary on the executive of the Community Association. If you or someone you know would be interested in finding out more about this position please contact any executive member listed on the front page.

Backhoe Anyone??

Our Association has applied for some matching grant funds which the District of Saanich has made available to community groups. Our applications focused on the need to green up some of our existing park spaces with trees.

Should we be successful in our grant application we will be planting some mature seedlings in a park or two in the Gorge Tillicum area.

Our community contribution to this project is to prepare the ground for the seedlings. Here's where a BACKHOE and operator would really be useful for an hour or two.

Is there a community spirited backhoe operator out there?

Please call Sue Koolman at 475-1889.

Newsletter Producer

Diana Gault has produced our newsletter over the past one and a half years, and has created a first rate product for us. Diana is unable to continue, and it is time to say a big thankyou for the great service.

Is there someone in our area who can step into this position? We publish three newsletters each year, and you get to work with a great editorial team and a dynamic community group!

Please call Harry Lewis at 384-8460.



Gorge Waterway Update

Many members have been following closely the plans for the extension of the Gorge Waterway Park. This extension has been on the books for years but only recently has the District taken over ownership of all the land between the Canoe and Kayak club and Tillicum Road.

During last winter and spring, meetings and open houses took place to determine the draft plan for the park extension design. Upon agreement of this design the first step was to arrange for the removal of several houses on the site. This work and the extension received a major boost at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic when the Attorney General of B.C. and our MLA for Saanich South, Andrew Petter, announced additional funding of \$150,000 from BC 2000 and the Provincial Capital Commission. Before long we should see some of the houses along Gorge Rd. W come down and paths begin to appear as this park comes to life!!

At the Saanich Council meeting on Monday 9 October, Council voted to remove two additional houses not originally slated for demolition. #305 and #307 Gorge Road West are in need of major repairs and would interfere with the new trail entrance at Tillicum Road, according to Dave Deshane, the Saanich Parks manager.

Tillicum / Burnside Housing Development

At the executive meeting on 5 October, representatives from the developer and from Capital Region Housing Corporation presented draft plans for the proposed development on the old Saanich yards, on the corner of Burnside Road and Tillicum Road.

The development consists of townhouses and an apartment block with a mix of family types and incomes and including dedicated handicapped units. There were some environmental concerns as this site has buried fuel tanks, but the Ministry of Transport is undertaking to meet the cost of the clean-up, which is now being done.

The developers are keen to build a project that is suitable to the community and are keeping our Association informed as to their progress. The next step is for the plans to be presented to the Saanich Advisory Planning Commission, the Saanich Design Panel and then to Saanich Council and public hearings.

Some concerns were raised at the meeting on some aspects of the proposed development and the developer gave assurances that he would present the executive with a modified version of the final plans to address those concerns before moving on to the next stage.

Cycling the Gorge

Bicycling along Gorge Road between Harriet and Tillicum Roads section of Gorge Road has become an even more hazardous occupation since the reconfiguration of the traffic lanes by Victoria City between the Selkirk Trestle and Harriet Road. This is especially evident when one is travelling west, as the sudden disappearance of the bicycle lane at Harriet seems to be a signal for vehicle drivers to increase speed and drive very close to the curb.

The Association has written to Council asking it to look into providing bicycle lanes for this stretch of road as a matter of priority. The request has been discussed by the Bicycle Advisory Committee and is now in the hands of Engineering which will check out the road widths to see if such lanes can be accommodated.

There is a separate question of creating bicycle lanes between Tillicum and Admirals Roads.

The Local Area Plan states that crosswalks should be created at regular intervals along this stretch and it may be that this in itself will reduce traffic speeds sufficiently to remove the need for bicycle lanes.

Will it be a problem if creating such lanes causes some on-street parking to be lost? A suggestion has been made to partly offset this by using the bus bays.

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CANADA DAY ON THE GORGE



July 1st marked the second successful Gorge Canada Day Picnic with a fun mixture of games and food, market and music, sunshine and neighbours. The day opened with the colourful kids parade led by the Saanich Fire Dept., followed by our own fund raiser, the pancake breakfast at Kosapsam Park.

At the opening ceremonies our MLA Andrew Petter delivered the welcome news that BC 2000 Millennium funding of \$100,000 for the Gorge Waterway Park extension would be supplemented by a further \$50,000 from the Provincial Capital Commission. This good news set the stage for a great community day.

The opening ceremonies were followed by stage entertainment throughout the day, the market along the Waterway, the Canoe and Kayak Club rides up and down the Gorge, kids games and street hockey, the antique car display, a bike rodeo with the Saanich Police Bicycle Team, and, joining us this year, the Saanich Parks Dept. which mounted a major display of their projects and equipment. All in all another great community celebration. It only happens with lots of help and cooperation, so many thanks to:

The organizing committee: John Hoole, Rob Wickson, Paul Gerrard, Sue Koolman, Bob June, Mary Ellen Wilson, Judy Ker, Donna Roth, Steve Legg and Anne Genuist.

Our major sponsors: Vanc. Island News Group, CFAX, Saanich Community Services, Thrifty Foods, Famous Players Silver City, Fairway Markets, Tillicum Centre, Times-Colonist, the Gorge Centre Merchants and Sun-Rype.

Organizations who helped: Saanich Community Services, Saanich Police, Saanich Parks, the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club, Russ Hay The Bicycle Shop, Craigflower School, Les Passmore Seniors Centre and Jeune Bros.

The volunteers: Rod Sample, Nigel Cocking, Elan Haverstock, Gary Rogers, Diana Gault, Gerry Buydens, Lou Hetke, Deb Hoole, Leigh McGovern, Kris Stephenson, Richard Hoole and Janet Hughes.



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PAUL GERRARD Tel: 382-5154
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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.