



# GORGE TILLICUM

# Neighbourhood

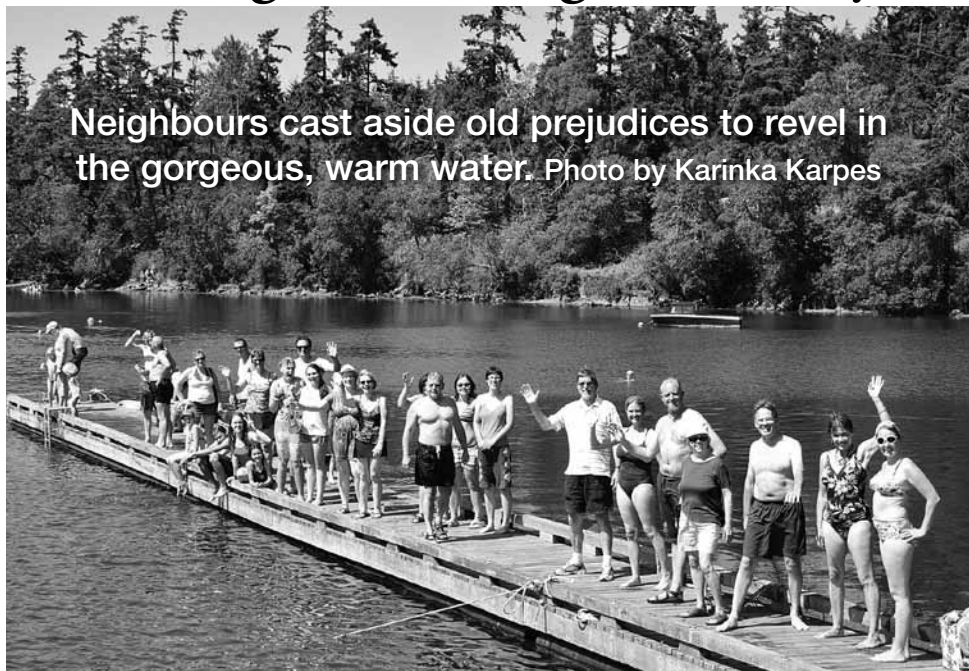
# NEWS

## The Revival of Swimming in the Gorge Waterway

The first Gorge Swim Fest, held on August 12, was a tremendously fun and refreshing event, drawing over 300 people to swim in this jewel that runs through our neighborhood — the Gorge Waterway. The water was the perfect temperature; not just “jump-in and quickly jump-out” water like you would find at most ocean beaches in Victoria, but at 23.5 °C warm enough to spend the afternoon alternately swimming and basking in the sun.

Most people are aware that swimming in the Gorge was a popular and common activity back prior to the 1930s (the Gorge Waterway Initiative website [www.gorgewaterway.ca](http://www.gorgewaterway.ca) provides a wonderful history if you are curious). But development, pollution and neglect over the years that followed put an end to all that, and the Gorge acquired a much more unsavory reputation. More than a few neighbours have recalled to me how they used to hold their noses when they were kids driving by the Gorge.

But thanks to the untiring efforts of many organizations (again, see [www.gorgewaterway.ca](http://www.gorgewaterway.ca)), the Gorge has been cleaned up! The garbage and the smells



Neighbours cast aside old prejudices to revel in the gorgeous, warm water. Photo by Karinka Karpes

are a thing of the distant past. From native Olympia oysters to humans, a large variety of animals are repopulating the Gorge Waterway. Water quality tests taken at Curtis Point on the days leading up to the event varied from 1 to 6 CFU/100ml (colony forming units per 100ml of water). To put that in perspective, VIHA issues an advisory at 200 CFU/100ml.

The 2012 Gorge Swim Fest was officially held at 3 locations: Vic West’s Bamfield Park, Esquimalt’s Gorge Park and Saanich’s Gorge Park at Curtis Point, and we saw many people enjoying the water at other locations along the waterway. When our family arrived at Curtis Point, we were thrilled to see a long temporary dock had been installed and fixed to the rocks. Thanks to hard-working volunteers, such as Ray Farmer and Scott Karpes who built the safe connection to the dock. The Harbour Authority provided the dock and Milt Barnes of Mercury Marine moved it into place.

The Gorge Swim Fest was a collaborative effort by community associations

in Esquimalt, Vic West, Burnside-Gorge and Gorge-Tillicum. In particular, Jack Meredith (Chair of the organizing committee), John Sanderson, Vickie Jackson and Rob Wickson were instrumental in launching the event. Thanks go out as well to many other dedicated volunteers who offered their time and expertise. And the event would not have been possible but for the support of generous sponsors, including CAPREIT, Il Terrazzo, Harbour Air, Victoria Drain Services, Promontory, Mac’s Heating, the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority and more (see [www.gorgewaterway.ca/PrizesforSwimmers.htm](http://www.gorgewaterway.ca/PrizesforSwimmers.htm)).

The best part of the event, for me, was the palpable sense of community as everyone shared in the fun. From parents to toddlers, teens to seniors, everyone was enjoying the revival of a common pleasure. The Gorge has been improved for years now but it takes events like the Swim Fest to build the enthusiasm necessary to re-think old habits. The event has reminded us to take advantage of the Gorge—it’s warm, it’s beautiful and it’s right here in our own backyard. — Norma Dowler

### Inside This Issue

- 2 > President’s Report
- 3 > Gorge Canada Day Picnic
  - > Upcoming Events
- 4 > The Green Space:
  - > Changes to Gorge Waterway Park
  - > Green Snippets
- 5 > Restoration in Cuthbert Holmes Park
- 6 > Celebrating Local Artists - Rhona McAdam
- 7 > Farewell and Thanks
  - > The Gorge Tillicum Community Table
  - > Let’s Connect!
- 8 > GR Pearkes Recreation Centre
  - > GTCA Membership

You are invited to attend the  
**Home Heating Oil Forum**

**Wednesday November 14th, from 6-9pm  
Room 159, Murray Fraser Bldg (UVic).**

The report, Preventing Home Heating Oil Spills in British Columbia, prepared on behalf of the GTCA by the University of Victoria Environmental Law Clinic, will be presented.



## Neighbourhood News

We welcome comments—please let us know what you think of your newsletter!

### Editor:

Karen Laberee 744-5491  
karenl@wulder.com

### Article Coordinators:

Karen Laberee – 744-5491  
karenl@wulder.com

GreenSpace – Dorothy Chambers  
381-6724 dotmot@shaw.ca

Local Artist – Chris Bullock  
384-8236 chrisbullock@shaw.ca

Upcoming Events – Katherine Brandt  
389-1560 kmbrandt@telus.net

### Published:

Spring (March/April)  
Summer (June)  
Winter/Fall (November)

Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions & advertising for the next issue is February 15, 2013

### Graphic Design:

Go West Design Group Inc.  
www.gowestgroup.com

### Advertising Inquiries:

Vera Wynn-Williams  
veraww@shaw.ca

### Distribution:

All 4000 copies of this newsletter are delivered by volunteers and we could always use more help. Please contact Ray Farmer 382-1122.

Additional articles posted online at:  
www.gorgetillicum.ca

Newsletter delivery help needed on Portage Rd.  
contact Ray Farmer

# a word from the president

The Gorgeous Summer is gone to paraphrase Dennis Minaker. But it is one we will not soon forget. Starting with the huge success of the “Royal” Gorge Canada Day Picnic, we followed up with the debut of Rusty and Roosters at our Music in Rudd Park at the end of July. The wrap-up event for the summer was the first annual Swimfest event held in partnership with Burnside Gorge and Vic West community associations and with the Esquimalt Residents Association. With swimming in the Gorge being promoted at Bamfield Park, Esquimalt Gorge Park and our own Gorge Park at Curtis Point, we could not have had a better day. Congratulations to all four communities for bringing some more fun back to the Gorge Water way.

Even though the summer weather kept going into fall, we have now turned our attention to the community agenda. To begin with the GTCA Board has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Sue Koolman, a director since 1999, who has recently moved away from the neighbourhood. Sue was instrumental in coordinating the Music in the Park events and will continue to work on the Community Tables project. We will miss her clear thoughts on the issues we face, along with the special treats she brought to our board meetings.

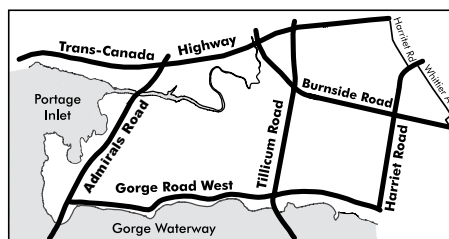
As the fall season unfolds, there numerous projects we are already working on. From the United Way sponsored Community Tables, the Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan, Art on the replacement Craigflower Bridge, traffic calming, and future events planning. In addition, we have been asked to contribute ideas for the future of the Craigflower Schoolhouse and Manor properties, as well as respond to Saanich’s plans for a sewer lift station at the bottom of Austin Street. We are in the process of reviewing the language in our local area plan with the idea of writing an update to reflect modern ideas about affordable housing.

All this serves to illustrate the amount of work being done in the community. While our Board is strong, we still need additional support from other members to do this work. If you are interested in any particular project, please contact any of the board directors as we can use your assistance.

As we continue to respond to issues in the community, we can only do so with your support. Please have a look at our web site ([www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)) or “like” our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/GorgeTillicum>.

I opened this message with a paraphrase of the title of Dennis Minaker’s book “the Gorge of Summers Gone” because, as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, Dennis and his wife Val have sold their house and are leaving the ‘hood. We have been very proud to have had them as neighbours and wish them both well as they continue their life journey.  
— Rob Wickson, President

## Gorge Tillicum Community Association [www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)



### GTCA Board of Directors 2012/13

President: Rob Wickson ..... 250-812-9164  
wickson@telus.net  
Vice-president: Scott Karpes ..... 250-477-3442  
skarpes@hotmail.com  
Treasurer: Chris Kask ..... 250-381-2844  
chriskask@hotmail.com  
Membership: Ray Farmer ..... 250-382-1122  
ramon.asm@shaw.ca  
Secretary: Arden Little ..... 250-360-2474  
ardenlittle@shaw.ca  
Ex-officio: Harry Lewis ..... 250-384-8460  
harrylewis36@gmail.com  
Katherine Brandt ..... 250-389-1560  
kmbrandt@telus.net  
Norma Dowler ..... 250-592-6402  
norma.dowler@onfire.ca

Gabe Epstein ..... 250-382-1328  
belle.leon1@gmail.com  
Christine Fedoruk ..... 250-595-5591  
christine.fedoruk@gmail.com  
Trevor Hancock ..... 250-721-9609  
greendoc@telus.net  
John Hoole ..... 250-386-7458  
jhoole@shaw.ca  
Karen Laberee ..... 250-744-5491  
karenl@wulder.com  
Pam Loadman ..... 250-370-0634  
ploadman@telus.net  
Brett Lowther ..... 250-480-4949  
bc.lowther@telus.net  
Julia Menard ..... 250-381-7522  
mab@pacificcoast.net  
Brian Menzies ..... 250-213-5397  
bmenzies@directpublicstrategies.com  
Vera Wynn-Williams ..... 250-478-7204  
veraww@shaw.ca

The Gorge Tillicum Community Association is a non-profit organization that advocates for the Gorge Tillicum community. The Board meets at 7pm the first Thursday of each month from September to June at Pearkes Recreation Centre. You are welcome to attend. Please email us at least one week prior to the board meeting for any additions to the agenda.

# Gorge Canada Day Picnic



Photo by Katrinka Karpes

*Another hugely successful GCDP! Thanks to all our friends and neighbours who showed up to support the efforts of the GTCA volunteers who put on this great community event each year. This year's event was notable for its royal flavour, with the 'Queen' in attendance to help with her Jubilee celebrations.*

A special thanks to Carmen Robinson who has been taking charge of the Kids Activity zone for the past number of years. Carmen has done a marvelous job orchestrating this busy area, but she is going to be relaxing next Canada Day, so we are looking for a new kids area coordinator. Thinking hats on!

While the GCDP seems to run seamlessly each year, we are always looking for new input and new ideas. As I write, some of the picnic organizing group are preparing to meet to consider some possible exciting extensions to the event, so if you'd like to be involved in these discussions please contact me at [harrylewis36@gmail.com](mailto:harrylewis36@gmail.com)

— Harry Lewis

## Upcoming Events

**Tillicum Elementary School's Annual Christmas Craft Fair:** Friday, November 9, 3.30 – 9.00 pm and Saturday, November 10, 10.00 – 5.00 pm, at 3155 Albina Street.

**35th Annual Creative Craft Fair:** November 9 am – 11 am, at G. R. Pearkes Rec. Centre. More information at [www.creativecraftfairs.com](http://www.creativecraftfairs.com)

**Annual Teen Christmas Craft Market:** Saturday, November 10, 9.30 am – 3.30 pm at Pearkes Rec. Centre.

**Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony:** Sunday, November 11, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Cenotaph in front of Saanich Municipal Hall at 770 Vernon Avenue.

**Lucy and Todd's Excellent Adventure: A Puppet Show:** Wednesday, November 14, 3.30 – 4.30 pm at Saanich Centennial Library. Join our puppets Lucy and Todd for stories and laughter! For young children and their families. No registration required.

**Magical Christmas Gift Show:** Saturday, November 17, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Burnside Gorge Community Centre, 471 Cecelia Road.

**Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers Meeting:** Sunday, November 18, 3-5 pm, Saanich Neighbourhood Place. Focus: "Grey Water".

**Kids Mega Sale (Twins and Triplets Sale):** Saturday, November 24, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm, Pearkes Rec Centre. Gently used baby, children's clothing, toys, equipment and maternity. FREE Admission.

**Deck the Hall: Winter Lights Festival:** Saturday, December 1, 5:00 – 8.30 pm, at Saanich Municipal Hall. Kick off your holiday season at the Hall with a festive lights display and a variety of seasonal activities. FREE.

**Santa Comes to Pearkes:** Sunday, December 9, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Tillicum Centre, Pearkes Rec Centre and Silver City present 'A day with Santa'. Join us for a FREE full day of family-orientated holiday activities.

**Old Fashioned Christmas Storytime:** Thursday, December 20, 7:00 – 8.00 pm, Saanich Centennial Branch. Pour a cup of cider, take a cookie and get comfortable as we read classic seasonal stories as well as some less familiar Canadian gems. This is a family celebration with stories for all. No registration required.

**January 1, 2013: Happy New Year!** It is time to renew your Gorge Tillicum Community Association membership (\$5.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for businesses)!



### GORGE-TILLICUM AREA SPECIALIST

*"I live in this area, and I love it!"*



**DEANNA NOYCE**  
YOUR FAMILY REALTOR  
(250) 818-8806



**WANT TO KNOW  
WHAT YOUR  
HOME IS WORTH?  
Call Deanna Today!**

**RE/MAX** Camosun

# The Green Space

## Changes to Gorge Waterway Park

Many will have noticed the recent demolition of two houses at the east end of Gorge Waterway Park, and seeding of the area. The one house remaining at 321 Gorge Rd W is heritage designated and so will be retained. What the future use of this house will be, and how the 'new' park space can be utilized will be part of a consultation process between Saanich Parks and the community. Details of the process will be posted on our website ([www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)) so stay tuned for further details.

In May, Saanich Engineering held an open house at Craigflower School to outline the plan for a new sewage lift station on the Gorge. (existing smaller lift stations are in need of replacement). The best location for the single new facility according to Saanich Engineering is at Gorge/Austin in the park.

See [www.saanich.ca/services/engineering/projects/index.html](http://www.saanich.ca/services/engineering/projects/index.html)

Other sites were considered, but cost and topography indicate this site works best from an engineering perspective, and also provides an opportunity for additional washrooms to be added in the park.

This project is scheduled for 2013, so please take time to review the proposal and provide feedback to Saanich Engineering via their website. — Harry Lewis

## Green Snippets

Andy Stewart, the biologist who formerly banded and monitored local Cooper's hawks, recently received a photo of one taken in Oregon. The Oregon Cooper's hawk was banded as a chick in 2008 in Cuthbert Holmes Park. While Andy has now moved out of Victoria, he is still interested in receiving photos of Cooper's hawks, particularly if the banded leg can be seen in the photograph. (Contact Dorothy Chambers [dotmot@shaw.ca](mailto:dotmot@shaw.ca) for more info)

Look for upcoming renovations to the nature house in Esquimalt Gorge Park. World Fisheries Trust is pleased to announce that the nature house has been selected as a legacy project by the Young Construction Leaders component of the Vancouver Island Construction Association. The Harbourside Rotary Club has also provided a grant to WFT for materials and to keep programming going over the winter. WFT are hoping to add a profile of the Colquitz salmon run to their updated space and would welcome input of time, expertise, or money to make this happen ([info@worldfish.org](mailto:info@worldfish.org) for more info).

Are you interested in working towards the establishment of a new community/allotment garden in our neighbourhood? Please contact Gabe Epstein at 250-382-1328 or [belle.leon1@gmail.com](mailto:belle.leon1@gmail.com).

You may have noticed a large Douglas fir tree that came down across the Colquitz River within Cuthbert Holmes Park. Saanich has assessed the tree and determined that it provides no flooding risk and will be a great wildlife tree left as is.

## Restoration in Cuthbert Holmes Park

*Did you know that even forests get tired? Cuthbert Homes Park, conveniently situated behind Tillicum Mall, enjoys extensive use by nature enthusiasts, dog walkers, and children from nearby school and out-of-school programs. Over the years, this intensive use has led to the loss of ground cover, and resulted in soil compaction, especially in the area near the Dysart Street footbridge.*

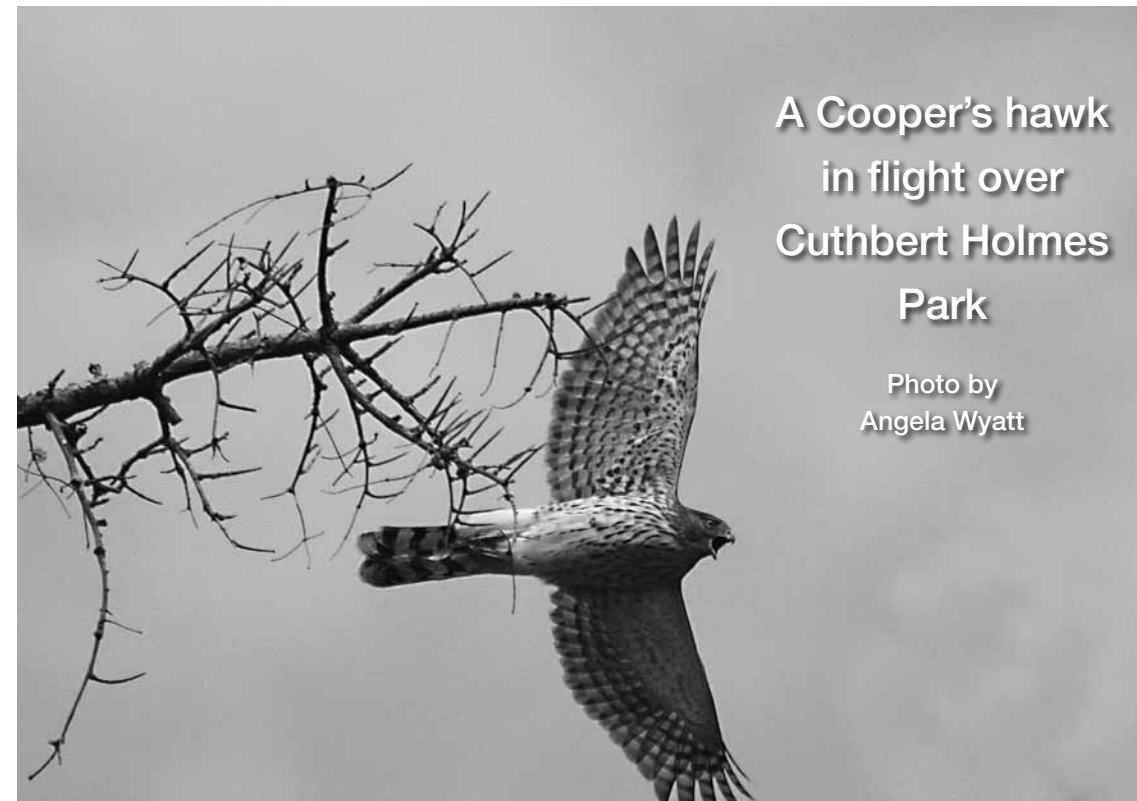
Why is this a problem? Pressure below ground in the compacted areas crushes tree roots, and prevents new roots from growing. Compacted soil typically has too little void space for air and water movement necessary for respiration and growth. In time, this could lead to the loss of the mature Douglas-fir

forest in the area, which includes trees over 100 years old. The lack of understory means that this forest will not be regenerated, and the absence of an organic layer on the forest floor means that no nutrients are available for forest growth. This organic litter layer is also important in regulating water supply to the site, serving as a reservoir during times

of drought, and preventing erosion from run-off during heavy winter rains.

Over the past 2 years, Saanich Parks has held three public open houses, with the goal of obtaining information necessary to develop a Park Management and Direction Plan.

*This plan will attempt to address the many complex and inter-related issues facing Cuthbert Holmes Park. These issues include, but are not limited to, natural areas management. With a view to implementing this plan, Saanich Parks will begin restoration of the Dysart Street site later this fall. Soil aeration and mulching will be utilized to help restore the soil composition.*



A Cooper's hawk in flight over Cuthbert Holmes Park

Photo by Angela Wyatt

This will be followed by a planting program in the fall of 2013, as well as mulching with recycled organic materials from the Park.

It may be necessary to temporarily close access to this area while restoration activities are underway.

*Do stop by and observe work in progress on this site.*

Also, **Julian Anderson and the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes** have partnered with Saanich Parks and the Gorge Tillicum Community Association to host several work parties in the Park. If you would like to be kept up-to-date on these activities, please send an e-mail to [CuthbertHolmes@telus.net](mailto:CuthbertHolmes@telus.net) to be added to the contact list.

— Carol Milo

### Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA



We're here to help constituents with Federal government programs and services.

Mon-Thurs, 10am-4pm,  
or by appointment  
A2-100 Aldersmith Place,  
View Royal  
250-405-6550  
[Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Randall.Garrison@parl.gc.ca)  
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

[www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca](http://www.randallgarrison.ndp.ca)

MLA Victoria-Swan Lake  
**Rob Fleming**  
Working for you  
1020 Hillside Avenue  
250 360.2023  
[rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
[www.rob Flemingmla.ca](http://www.rob Flemingmla.ca)

**IRWIN INDUSTRIES LTD.**  
(1988)  
875 Viewfield Road,  
Victoria, B.C. V9A 4V2  
[www.irwinvi.com](http://www.irwinvi.com)  
[irwin@irwinvi.com](mailto:irwin@irwinvi.com)  
Paul Gerrard Phone: 382-5154  
Fax: 382-5748

- 5" Continuous Gutter Systems
- Gutter Cleaning & Maintenance
- Gutter Protection Systems
- Fascia / Barge / Window Capping
- Vinyl / Aluminum / Hardboard Siding
- Steel Siding / Roofing
- Vinyl Aluminum Softing
- Canopies / Patio Covers
- Aluminium Railings

**Top Shelf Bookkeeping Ltd.**  
Efile Service from \$47 PLUS HST  
2 Convenient Year-Round Locations  
101-76 Gorge Rd. West 1253 B Esquimalt Rd.  
Victoria, BC V9A 1K5 Victoria, BC V9A 3P4  
Tel: 250-388-9423 Tel: 250-590-4050  
Fax: 250-361-9424 Fax: 250-590-5435  
Casual People - Professional Results  
Locally Owned & Operated Since 1994

WALK-IN+ EXTENDED HOURS  
**BURNSIDE FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC**  
NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED  
Mon. to Fri. 7:30am to 9:00pm  
Sat., Sun. & Hol. 9:00am to 6:00pm  
101 Burnside Rd. West (between Tillicum and Harriet)  
[www.burnsideclinic.ca](http://www.burnsideclinic.ca)  
ALSO ON-SITE: X-RAY • LAB • PHARMACY • PHYSIO



# Celebrating Local Artists: Rhona McAdam, Writer

The Gorge-Tillicum area is not jam-packed with poets, as far as I know, and it certainly isn't jam-packed with poets who have just published a book on urban agriculture. But Rhona McAdam, a ten-year resident on Gorge Road and a strong supporter of the Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers, has recently done just that. Her journey from childhood in Duncan to becoming a researcher in, and practitioner of, urban agriculture is a most unusual and interesting one.

*Rhona's interest in poetry developed after she moved from the island to Alberta to study arts and library science at the University of Alberta, and, while there, took a creative writing course.*

The result was five books of poetry, the most recent being *Cartography*, published by Oolichan Books, now based in Fernie, B.C., in 2006. The life of librarians and freelance writers is often a quiet one, but Rhona's life took a strong turn away from quiet when, after 14 years in Alberta, she went to live in London, England, and shortly became an I.T. trainer for a high-powered executive recruitment firm, jetting all over Europe and eating extraordinary European food.

You don't have to be talking long with Rhona before the conversation turns to food. Even in her earliest days of writing, food had a presence in her poems. She remembers that one of her early poems about canning vegetables was taken up by the Alberta Department of Education and put on one of the high school provincial examinations. So it's no surprise that when, after 12 years in England, she returned to Victoria to care for ailing parents, she eventually found her way to study at the University of Gastronomic Sciences, near Parma, Italy. Her Master's was in Food Culture and Communication, and while she studied food technology and cultural history, she also absorbed the university's deep commitment to the Slow Food movement.

Coming back from Italy began the process of Rhona trying to learn about food issues in her own country. From 2008–2010 she taught an online course



Photo by  
Alexis Yobbagy

on urban agriculture for St. Lawrence College in Ontario. When she heard that Rocky Mountain Books, who recently relocated to Victoria, were looking for book-length manifestoes she pitched the idea of her current book and her proposal was accepted.

**Digging the City: an Urban Agriculture Manifesto, due for formal release in October 2012**, has chapters on key issues in urban agriculture, and reviews in detail the various ways in which the movement towards urban agriculture has developed. Particularly useful in the book are her discussion of the educational function of the movement, and the definitions of emotionally charged terms like “community garden” and “food sovereignty” in a glossary at the end of the book, just preceding an equally helpful list for further reading.

*And why, I ask, did she choose Gorge-Tillicum as the part of the city she wanted to “dig” in?*

Initially, she says, the reasons were mainly family ones: the memory of a few years spent near the Gorge on Lotus Street, the proximity to her brother and father. Now she continues to stay because of the beauty of the Gorge waterway, and because the development of Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers, at about the time she was teaching her online course, gave her, and continues to give her, tremendous support in her work. Things she'd like to see more of in the area? Not surprisingly, she focuses on food. We have our own independent coffee bar now, but she'd love to see restaurants and food markets specializing in good local food.

It may be a while, I think, before we get Gorge-Tillicum restaurants a graduate from the University of Gastronomic Sciences can love. But, I find I end our interview with the sense that Rhona, through her recent book, is contributing to the movement towards profound changes in the way we think about food, changes that extend well beyond the possibility of European sidewalk cafes on Tillicum Road. (Though I wouldn't say no to that either!)

— Chris Bullock

## Farewell, and Thanks!

**B**y the time you receive this newsletter a couple who have contributed greatly to the community will have pulled up stakes and moved on. Dennis and Val Minaker moved to the Gorge 34 years ago, raised their kids here, worked as nurses at nearby hospitals, and are now recently retired.

However, Dennis is best known for his self published history 'Gorge of Summers Gone'. As he got to know some of his elderly patients, and heard their stories of the Gorge in times past, Dennis's interest was piqued enough that he began to accumulate this history, along with accompanying family and archival photos. The result, after much personal time and effort, was the essential 'Gorge of Summers Gone', a book I highly recommend for your personal library and which is available at local bookstores. For a number of us involved in building community in Gorge Tillicum, having Dennis's articulate history at hand provides a sense of place that helps inform and direct our work in maintaining the special nature of our neighbourhood. The recent revival of swimming in the Gorge is certainly an example of this link to the past.

Dennis and Val both gave their time freely at our Canada Day Picnics — Dennis with his illustrated talks at the old Craigflower Schoolhouse, and Val as a long time volunteer with the popular Strawberry Tea at the Canoe and Kayak Club.

**Thanks Dennis and Val, and our best wishes go with you.** — Harry Lewis

## The Gorge Tillicum Community Table – A new neighbourhood initiative

**D**o you have any ideas how to improve our community? Would you like to work with others to make this happen? We would love to hear from you.

We are the Gorge Tillicum Community Table, a group of people living and working in the neighbourhood and also a committee of the GTCA.

The result of a pilot project initiated by the United Way, with support from Office of Community Based Research (UVic) and BC Healthy Communities, the Community Table meets with residents and organizations to create and implement projects of all kinds that promote the wellbeing of the neighbourhood. We have already been collaborating with Saanich, among other agencies, on neighbourhood-based projects.

For example, we are planning a Winter Solstice celebration along the Gorge and a Fall Harvest and Arts event for 2013. We are also developing an inventory of artists living or working in the neighbourhood. In general, it is our intent to strengthen the economic well-being, the arts, and the quality of the Gorge Tillicum environment.

We meet as a "Community Table" whenever we need to consider our overall direction, to discuss the progress of projects particular members may be involved in, or to consider new projects. These gatherings usually take place in someone's home.

As a group of neighbours our success, of course, depends on participation by a reasonable number of people; the more people we have, the more we can create in and for our community.

### If:

- you would like to join the Community Table group;
- you'd like to be listed on Jayne's List ("I don't want to be on a committee, but I'd like to support community events and may be available to help"); or
- you have an idea or project you'd like to discuss;

then please contact Gabe Epstein at 250-382-1328 or belle.leon1@gmail.com.

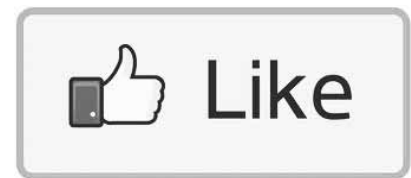
If you're an artist, professional or otherwise, and you'd like to be included in the Artist Inventory, please contact Chris Bullock at chrisbullock@shaw.ca.

More information is available through the United Way at <http://uwgv.ca/community-impact/community-tables-engaging-neighbours/> or UVic at <http://mapping.uvic.ca/uwgv/>

— Gabe Epstein

## Lets' Connect! Our New Website & Facebook Pages

**W**e started the GTCA Facebook page on January 7, 2011. Although we wondered whether anyone would want to be our friend, we are now very pleased with the results. It has turned out to be a very convenient place to have pictures and videos, to post upcoming events, and even to post breaking neighbourhood news. The discussions that have taken place after some posts are what community is all about! The other wonderful aspect is that the page turns into a kind of community archive.



*If you are on Facebook,  
we urge you to "Like" us!  
It's a great way to stay  
connected.*

Even if you are not on Facebook, our page is public so you can still search for our page and check it out; it usually comes up second, right after our new website! Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/GorgeTillicum>.

During 2012, we launched our new and improved website. There are many improvements. You can meet the Board, check out events, read our past major reports, access PDFs of all the newsletters back to 2004, and, most excitingly, you can now either download a membership application OR PAY FOR YOUR GTCA MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!! Check it out at <http://www.gorgetillicum.ca/site>.

— Chris Kask





Gorge Tillicum Community Association,  
P.O. Box 44152, Victoria, BC V9A 7K1

www.gorgetillicum.ca | /GorgeTillicum

## Membership Application

It is time once again to renew your GTCA membership for 2013. Congratulations to members Peter and Bonnie Bacica who won the BBQ, generously donated by View Royal Canadian Tire, at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic. We also appreciate their donation of a bike to one lucky young participant of the bike rodeo.

**New Membership(s) or**

**Renewing Membership(s)**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

\*EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*This will be added to our distribution list for occasional emails regarding upcoming events or community issues.

If you are paying for other members of your household, please list the other Members' names:

\_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT:

Please enclose payment and mail to above address.

**Individual:** \$5/each x \_\_\_\_\_ memberships = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Business:** \$25/each x \_\_\_\_\_ memberships = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation:** Your extra support helps offset Newsletter and other costs. Thank-you! + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment Enclosed** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILS:

Per GTCA By-law #3: Membership is open to any resident or property owner who is 19 years old or older living within the area defined in Article 5 of the Constitution, and persons engaged in business within the Association territory.

Per GTCA By-law #5: Membership is from January 1 to December 31 of the year. New membership shall be valid from the time of payment of membership fees to December 31 of the same year.

Per GTCA By-law #7: Membership is available in two categories:

- (a) Single is open to individuals and carries the right to one vote at meetings.
- (b) Corporate is open to businesses operating in the Association territory as defined in Article 5 and carries the right to one vote at meetings.



## Flipside Teen Lounge at Pearkes

Our Flipside Youth Activity Lounge is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after school until 5pm so the kids can play and have fun in a safe environment until their parents are home from work. We also host a free Friday night drop-in for the older teens where they can play pool and ping-pong, dome hockey and foosball in a drug- and alcohol-free zone with capable staff who listen, model positive behaviour and offer guidance and leadership.



*Pre-teens and teens once again have the opportunity to showcase their handiwork and creativity to the community at the 8th annual Youth Christmas Craft Market which runs alongside the Creative Craft Fair, attracting 1000s of viewers!*

These talented young people are displaying their jewellery, fine art, baked items, woodworking, paper and handicrafts, free for the viewing, and receiving many compliments and words of encouragement.

Our newest, innovative program intends to bring young people and young-at-heart people together. Trust Me! is an intergenerational community project to bridge teens and seniors specifically in the Gorge Tillicum area. Not only can teens earn course credits, this type of experience builds a resume while helping to create a friendlier and safer community.

**To find out more about what's happening for young people in your community, please visit the Community Services page in the Parks and Recreation tab of our website at [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca) or call Gaileen at 250-475-5462**

PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE | Follow us [www.facebook.com/saanichparksandrecreation](http://www.facebook.com/saanichparksandrecreation)



**PARKS & RECREATION**  
Pearkes Recreation Centre



**Facility Hours:**  
M-F: 6:00AM-10:00PM | S-S: 7:00AM-6:00PM

**Holiday Hours:**  
Nov 11, 7:00AM-10:00PM  
Dec 24, 6:00AM-2:00PM | Dec 25, CLOSED  
Dec 26, 10:00AM-6:00PM

3100 Tillicum Road | Phone 475-5400