



GORGETILlicum

Neighbourhood

NEWS

President's Year In Review

Fall is probably my favourite season. We are on the downhill side of the year, and all of the groundwork and preparations begin to bear fruit.

For example, just look at the Gorge Park Community Gardens. We have completed the stage of detailed planning and consultation, thanks to Gabe Epstein and the Transitional Garden Committee. The garden is now entering the stage of implementation and by next



Canada Day 2014

spring will blossom into the role for which it has been created: building community through the growing and sharing of ideas and produce. I hope everyone takes a walk through Gorge Park to check out the garden as it grows.

If there is one underlying principle for the GTCA, it is just that: we are working to build community. To create those spaces where folks can gather, those places where we can be safe, where we can carry on our lives productively. The 16th Annual Gorge Canada Day Picnic is a spectacular example of how a small idea for a community event can reach a status of favoured annual celebration.

This year we surpassed our expectations, with Chris Kask taking over the leadership of the committee from our good friend Harry Lewis, which simply increased the resources devoted to the

planning. We came up with a new family stage, which from my viewpoint was a great hit. Everything worked very well, and everybody seemed to be pleased with our efforts.

There was a group of ladies lined up for the Strawberry Tea who told us that they began planning for this year while attending last year. Hmm. I wonder if we should look for opportunities to hold afternoon teas at other times of the year. Congratulations and a big thank-you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the picnic such a success.

Building community also means the building of our

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GTCA AT A GLANCE

600+

Volunteer Hours

10,000+

Canada Day Attendees

10

Presentations to Council

12+

Meetings with Saanich staff and other groups.

Calling our neighborhood youth!

We want to hear your perspective on our community.

If you are you are interested in submitting some original content, please contact Christine Fedoruk at christine.fedoruk@gmail.com



Neighbourhood News

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

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Unsolicited articles welcome.

The deadline for submissions & advertising for the next issue is Jan. 30, 2015.

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Distribution:

All 4,000 copies of this newsletter are delivered by volunteers, and we could always use more help. Please contact Ray Farmer at 250-382-1122.

Additional articles posted online at:
www.gorgetillicum.ca

Newsletter delivery help needed on Portage Rd.
Contact Ray Farmer.

Colquitz Salmon Update



Chris Bos with Coho Salmon

The fish fence was installed in October behind Montana's Restaurant at Tillicum Mall. The volunteers count the returning adult Coho Salmon that are heading up the Colquitz River and Swan Creek for their fall spawn.

Last year, a whopping 1,400 Coho passed through the fence.

This year, watch for a new addition of educational signage being installed at the site. In collaboration with the District of Saanich, the Gorge Tillicum Community Association have received grant money for this project and are working in partnership with the District of Saanich and The World Fisheries Trust.

It's always a good day on the river. See you there.... usually at 10:00 a.m. daily.

—Dorothy Chambers

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



GTCA Board of Directors 2014/15

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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.

President's Year In Review cont'd

community. There have been a number of developments that have now passed the application stage, starting with the Saanich Senior Living facility, currently under construction at the corner of Admirals and Gorge Road. If you have not been by lately, you will see that all the buildings have been taken down except for the original Brookman's store, which is to be retained and relocated on the site.

Two other projects we expect to see begin construction soon are the Lasik Commercial Building at Tillicum and the highway as well as the condos at Earl Grey and Gorge. Plus Saanich is still intending to build a new sewer pump station at the bottom of Austin on Gorge Road. So just a heads up that we will see a number of construction projects over the next year or so.

The next opportunity for us all to get together will be what has become our annual Lights on the Gorge celebration in December. The date will be December 21, and hopefully it won't be quite as chilly as it was last year. In any event, we will make sure we have a supply of hot drinks to keep the chill away.

When we first began to get involved with the old West Gorge and District Ratepayers

Association, we asked ourselves the question: "How do we build community?" It is this question that is the foundation for the Gorge Tillicum Community Association.

Every project, event, idea, discussion, has the underlying principle of how to build community.

Everything we do, from the annual Canada Day Picnic to working with development proposals, has an element of building community. That is why you will not see your community association take sides on issues. Our job on controversial subjects is to facilitate and reflect community discussions to those that make the decisions.

That brings me to the most important work we do, and that is to communicate with you. Ever since we took on this role 17 years ago, we have put a great deal of effort into finding ways to communicate with all of you and with those who are finding out about us for the first time. I am still surprised from time to time when folks tell me they have just found out about us. The good news

is that as time goes by, more and more folks are actually looking for us on line, as well as through our newsletter and at any of our events and projects. As we continue to work to find ways to communicate with you, I hope you will take the time to let us know how we are doing.

Lastly, it is municipal elections season again. By the time you read this the 2014 Municipal Elections will be almost upon us. November 15th is your chance to choose between all the candidates for who are vying for your support.

You will be asked to vote for eight councillors and a mayor. You do not have to vote for all eight. If you only like a few of the choices, go with them, but please vote. The turnout in the last few elections hovered around 20 percent. Remember, the terms for municipal politicians have now been extended to four years, so we want to take extra care to make sure we have the right people for the job ahead.

I hope everyone has some great final months to the year, and we'll talk to you again in the New Year.

--Rob Wickson

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Celebrating Local Artists:

Arden Little and Earl Grey Music

Several months ago I was in Gorge-ous Coffee in the early evening, and the place started filling up with somewhere between fourteen and twenty people, all talking animatedly with each other, some with musical instruments and some without. I wondered: is this a performance or something else? Someone started setting up a mike and speakers, but everyone carried on talking, and by the time I needed to go, no one had played an actual note.

Later I discovered nearly everyone there that night was from Earl Grey Street in Gorge-Tillicum and that this street was home to a goodly number of musicians.

From then on, I became curious about this musical “scene,” and when I finally decided to write about it, I was sent to Arden Little. But as soon as I started to interview Arden, and he started to mention Malcolm next door, Malcolm’s daughter, Ray across the street and his daughter, Craig in the next



Photo by Katrinka Karpes

Earl Grey Garden Crawl

block, and too many others for me to remember, I realized this couldn’t be an ordinary artist interview; I would have to write not just about the man and his music but, more importantly, about the music of the community, and the community itself.

However, let’s start with the man. Arden moved from Thunder Bay to Victoria in 1980, had a brief career as a travel agent, a longer career

working for Canada Post, and for the last twenty-four years has worked at the University of Victoria’s bookstore. He and his wife, Maggie, have three grown-up children. He didn’t start really playing guitar till he was in his mid-thirties, when a friend and colleague in the Post Office pushed him to take his music seriously. Besides playing and singing, he’s also a songwriter and quite a prolific one; his basement studio has a collection of his

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ten-song, self-recorded CDs, each with a theme and complex and interesting musical arrangements (as I can testify, having listened to one).

Arden doesn't sing his songs much in public, though, because he's usually singing along with others. And how did that start? Maybe, he thinks, with a "garden crawl," sometime not too long after he moved to Earl Grey Street in 1993. In the garden crawl, people visited each other's gardens. Then there were more and more social events, and somehow music became a frequent part of these events. To understand how this "scene" could happen pretty organically, you have to understand that many people on Earl Grey have lived there

as long or longer than Arden has.

And what music is part of the scene? Pressed for an answer, Arden says that a typical evening might include songs by singer-songwriters like Neil Young, the Beatles, Tom Petty, the Eagles, John Prine, Bob Dylan, Stan Rogers. But he clearly doesn't want to focus much on the music by itself, or on the level of skill among the musicians. Instead he wants to tell me how Scott Karpes from a few streets over brought more musicians into the growing community, and how musicians from "outside" the community are continually being drawn into it.

Put together stability of tenure and the spark of some creative

and community-minded people, and you get a scene in which music and community-building are inextricably mingled. As I walk home after the interview, I think back to that night at Gorge-ous Coffee, and realize that what I was seeing was a community event in which music was an important but not exclusive part. In a world in which musicians are paid to entertain the rest of us, this is an alternative worth aspiring to.

—Chris Bullock



Photo by Katrinka Karpes

Scott's Night of Song

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Cuthbert Holmes Update

When visitors to Cuthbert Holmes Park cross the Dysart Street footbridge over the Colquitz River, they are greeted by an attractive split-rail fence and a sign posted by Saanich Parks, announcing that the area behind the fence is a Natural Stewardship Area.



This forested site has long been a focus of concern for the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park, local residents, and the District of Saanich. The site's prominent location, close to a park entrance and community park (Meadow Park), has led to heavy use over the years. This has resulted in the loss of understory vegetation, and loss and compaction of surface soil layers. This is an issue, since soil compaction leads to increased runoff into Colquitz River, reducing its value as salmon habitat, and the increased erosion (combined with other effects such as decreased aeration and water retention) will eventually lead to loss of the forest itself, which is an asset to the local community, and to the hawks

and owls which nest there.

Following a 2011 environmental review commissioned by the District of Saanich, and a student project carried out for the Restoration of Natural Systems program at the University of Victoria, remediation of the site was begun by Saanich Parks in

the fall of 2012. Approximately 25 cm of composted leaf mulch from Saanich's leaf collection program was spread over the site. The fence and sign were also installed at this time.

After a year under the mulch (with the occasional top-up by Parks, and judicious removal of invasive species by the Friends), the soil at the site was deemed suitable for planting. On Tree Appreciation Day 2013 (November 3), Saanich Parks teamed up with the Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Program to plant the area. Over 2,000 plants selected from species typical of dry Douglas-fir forests (including salal, Oregon grape, and sword fern) were planted with the enthusiastic participation of local residents and their families.

Locations at two other Saanich parks were also planted at this time.

Since then, branches and logs of various sizes have been added to the site. In the parlance of foresters and horticulturists, this material is known as coarse woody debris (CWD). It serves several important functions, including the retention of rainwater and slowing of erosion. It also provides valuable habitat for many living organisms, and as it decays, the slow release of nutrients will help to feed the soil. A messy forest is a healthy forest!

This site needs your help. The plantings behind the fence represent a considerable investment of financial resources and community effort. As this is a dry location with no convenient water source, Saanich Parks and concerned community members struggled to keep the area watered over the summer months. This will likely continue to be necessary over the next few years, until the plantings are established. During this time, they will continue to be vulnerable to trampling and other disturbance. Be kind to the forest and your community by staying on the paths. The forest will thank you.

--Carol Milo

Space

Gorge Park Community Gardens Membership

You are invited to become a member of Gorge Park Community Gardens.

By the coming spring, Gorge Park Community Gardens (GPCG) will be well on its way to becoming a vibrant community space and resource — a place we can gather in, be involved in, and help develop; a place that is about food and about more than food.

GPCG will consist of a rain garden; common areas (food, flowers, seating, storage, washroom, etc.); native plants; fruit and nut trees; about sixty allotment plots of various sizes and designs (some for wheelchair gardeners); easy access paths; and artistic elements.

As a member, you can help form the backbone of the community garden, whether by growing in a personal allotment, by helping tend the common garden areas, by participating in a way other than gardening, or through some combination of these activities — all depending on your abilities, interests and circumstances. You can take part in guiding the garden's operation and development by discussing and making decisions about policies and practices, planning and maintaining the common areas, organizing workshops, raising funds, and/or hosting



GPCG as they are imagined. (Artist's rendering.)

celebrations and cultural events.

GPCG membership is open to anyone 15 years of age or older — living in Saanich or elsewhere — as well as to groups, agencies, businesses and organizations. Members pay an annual membership fee.

By becoming a member now you'd share in the excitement that comes from getting a project off the ground, perhaps even becoming part of the first Garden Committee, the leadership group overseeing and coordinating all garden activities.

If you can imagine growing (or supporting others in growing) food and flowers, meeting new

people, sharing information, skills, food, seeds, plants and tools — if you can imagine benefiting the community as a whole by promoting environmental, recreational, educational and cultural uses of the Garden — then you may want to become a GPCG member. To do so, or for more information about GPCG and upcoming membership information meetings, please contact Gabe Epstein at 250-382-1328 or belle.leon1@gmail.com.

—Gabe Epstein

Cherishing the Past, Embracing the New

Valerie Burgess has been back living in Gorge Tillicum for over a decade now, at Cedar Shores Condominiums. After years away, mostly living in Northern BC and China, she and her husband returned to her roots, within sight of her very first home on Earl Grey Street.

After many meetings with the GTCA, between the landowners and directly affected neighbours, the properties on the corner of Gorge Rd and Earl Grey are now in the later stages of approval for redevelopment and soon, the home of Valerie's early childhood at 2921 Earl Grey, will be taken down



Photo courtesy Burgess Family Collection

Valerie Burgess with her older brother and a neighbourhood friend, in the backyard of 2921 Earl Grey, under a then young oak tree, in about 1941.

Looking over her old photos, one can't help noticing the slender trunk of a young Garry Oak in the family's backyard. This Oak tree is still there (about 70 years taller and much broader now!) and it will be saved and included within the landscape designs. What was once a smaller tree with children and chickens running about its feet, is now a very tall and lovely specimen.

When I spoke to Valerie, she had a few fond family memories to share. Although too young to remember, her family was there in 1939, when the King and Queen and their entourage drove along Gorge Rd (then the Island Hwy) and she has the photos

to prove it! Apparently her grandparents came from the mainland for the event and camped across the road on the grounds where she now lives! (The land Cedar Shores is situated on had a couple of different Auto Camps on it over the years.)

Valerie, like so many others, remembers fishing for herring, more so in later years, when the family moved to Oak Bay. They fished at the wharf at Gorge Park. "Most mothers didn't drive then and the fishing poles and bucket didn't work well on the bus, so our dad dropped us off before heading to work downtown, picking us up at the end of his workday. We usually had



Photo by Valerie Burgess

2921 Earl Grey as it looked in the late 1980's

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quite a few fish in our bucket to show for our day at the Gorge.”

It's noteworthy that Valerie's path has brought her back to her roots. "We have been members of the GTCA almost since coming back here because we think of life and being part of a community as being synonymous." Valerie is looking forward to the new Community Garden that is presently going in at Gorge Park. "This is quite exciting for both my husband and myself as we each grew up with productive family gardens and continued the tradition with our own children. We don't expect to have a plot ourselves although I am sure we will get our hands in the dirt from time to time as the Garden evolves!"

As for the changes she will see at her family's old home, she says she's sad but, "I'm very happy that the very beautiful oak tree that has always been growing there and admired will continue to be able to thrive on the property.

—Scott Karpes

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Light Up The Gorge 2014

Lights on the Gorge, an informal, local, multicultural celebration of light, will be back on the Winter Solstice this year. The event is still being shaped as the newsletter goes to press.

Here's what we know so far:

- We'll gather on Sunday, 21st December, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the vicinity of the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club.
- The focus will be on the various ways people mark the transition from darkness to light at this time of year.
- This year's celebration will include time spent inside the warmth of Gorge-ous Coffee enjoying readings, music, and lively conversation.
- We will have a lantern procession and launch

ice lanterns into the Gorge Waterway.

- We will decorate and light the tree.

Lights on the Gorge is an event organized by a small group, the Gorge Tillicum Community Table, in collaboration with the Gorge Tillicum Community Association. We need your help to make it a success.

So, please:

- Volunteer! To join the organizing committee or assist on the day, see below.
- Offer a spoken or musical contribution (solo, group performance or sing-along). Contributions inspired by the transition from dark to light especially welcome.
- Bring decorations to put up during the event, especially lights.

- Bring lanterns for the lantern procession – including ice lanterns.
- Watch for posters indicating where to meet, or consult the sources below.

For more information and to help/volunteer:

Contact Chris Bullock at chrisbullock@shaw.ca or at (250) 384-8236 before Nov. 10 and after Nov. 23, or Lilaine Galway at Lilaine.Galway@uwgv.ca, from now onwards.

Keep checking the GTCA website at <http://www.gorgetillicum.ca> (under "Events").

--Chris Bullock

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

Advance Polls for Saanich Municipal Election 2014: Thursday, November 6, 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., at Pearkes Rec Centre. More info at www.saanich.ca

Author John Wilson, Wings of War: Friday, November 7, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., Saanich Centennial Branch. For Grades 6 to 8. Join author John Wilson to hear about his exciting World War I novel, *Wings of War*. Register at gvpl.ca, or call the library for more information.

Tillicum Elementary School's Annual Christmas Craft Fair: Friday, November 7, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 8, 10:00 – 4:00 p.m., at 3155 Albina Street.

37th Annual Creative Craft Fair: November 7 – 9 at Pearkes Rec Centre. More information at www.creativecraftfairs.com

Annual Teen Christmas Craft Market: Saturday, November 8, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Pearkes Rec Centre. More info at www.saanichrec.ca

Saanich Remembrance Day Ceremony: Tuesday, November 11, 10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Cenotaph in front of Saanich Municipal Hall at 770 Vernon Avenue. More info at www.saanich.ca

Municipal Election 2014: Saturday, November 15, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Get out and vote at your closest voting stations: Tillicum Elementary or Spectrum Community School. More info at www.saanich.ca

The Magic of Christmas Gift Fair: Saturday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Burnside Gorge Community Centre, 471 Cecelia Road. More info at www.burnsidegorge.ca

Gluten Free Gala: November 15 – 16, at Pearkes Rec Centre. More information at www.glutenfreegalaevents.com

Emergency Preparedness Begins with You Workshop: Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Pearkes Rec Centre. FREE. Register online at www.saanichrec.ca

The 2014 Curbside Leaf Collection Program is scheduled for the Gorge Tillicum area for Nov. 20 – 28 and Dec. 15 – 19. Guidelines are posted online at www.saanich.ca/services/garbage/leaf.html

Pirate Tales: Friday, November 21, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Saanich Centennial Branch. For 6 to 9 year olds. Join us for swashbuckling

stories, piratical crafts, and discover your pirate name! Register at gvpl.ca or call the library for more information.

Hampton Concert Orchestra Christmas Concerts: Monday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Les Passmore Centre, 286 Hampton Rd. Admission by donation. More info at www.hamptonconcertorchestra.ca

Deck the Hall: Winter Lights Festival: Saturday, December 6, 5:00 – 8:30 p.m., at Saanich Municipal Hall. Kick off your holiday season at the Hall with a festive lights display and a variety of seasonal activities. FREE. More info at www.saanich.ca

Saanich Sunday Hikes – Winter Walk around Gorge Waterway: Sunday, December 7, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Meet at Gorge Waterway Park, corner of Tillicum Road and Gorge Road (near Gorge Canoe and Kayak Club). No fee or registration required. More info at www.saanichrec.ca or call 250-475-5408.

Christmas Storytime: Saturday, December 13, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Saanich Centennial Branch. For young children and their families. Enjoy a festive storytime, a craft, and a tasty holiday treat in anticipation of Christmas Day. Register at gvpl.ca or call the library for more information.

A Day with Santa and the Saanich Junior Braves: Sunday, December 14. Join us for a FREE full day of family-oriented holiday activities: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: a movie at Silver City; 12:00 – 1:20 p.m.: skate and/or kindergym with Santa and the Saanich Junior Braves at Pearkes Rec Centre; 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.: Christmas crafts at Tillicum Centre.

Please bring a non-perishable food item. More info at www.saanichrec.ca

Lights on the Gorge: Sunday, December 21, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., in the parking lot beside the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club. An informal, local, multicultural celebration of light will be back on Winter Solstice this year. To help/volunteer, contact Gabe Epstein at leon1@gmail.com or (250) 382-1328. For more information, keep checking the GTCA website at www.gorgetillicum.ca

January 1, 2015: Happy New Year! It is time to renew your Gorge Tillicum Community Association membership (\$5.00 for individuals, \$10.00 for couples and \$25.00 for businesses!)

Spring Bridal Exhibition 2015: Sunday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Pearkes Rec Centre. More info at www.bridalexhibition.ca

Victoria Health Show 2015: January 24 – 25 at Pearkes Rec Centre. More info at <http://10times.com/victoria-health-show>

GottaCon 2015 Gaming Convention: February 27 – March 1 at Pearkes Rec Centre. GottaCon is a three-day all-ages broad spectrum gaming convention that celebrates the science fiction and fantasy genres. More info at www.gottacon.com

2015 Home Renovation & Decor Show: February 27 – March 1 at Pearkes Rec Centre. More info at www.homeshowtime.com

Victoria Women's Show: March 7 – 8 at Pearkes Rec Centre. More info at www.victoriawomensshow.com

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www.gorgetillicum.ca | /GorgeTillicum

Membership Application

We thank the many members who visited us under the red tent at this year's Gorge Canada Day Picnic. It was great to see new faces and to welcome back our renewing members for 2014. It's not too late! Though our membership year runs January 1 to December 31, our renewing members remain in good standing for one year after renewal. Join or renew today!

- New Membership(s) or
- Renewing Membership(s)

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*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 = \$ _____

Couples : \$10/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.



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