



GORGETILlicum

Neighbourhood

Gorge Tillicum Jane's Walk



Volunteers participate in Jane's Walk for the Gorge Tillicum area. Photo by Arden Little



The Saanich side of Harriet Road is very unfriendly for pedestrians.

Photo by Katrinka Karpes



Telephone poles make many sidewalks too narrow. Photo by Arden Little

On Sunday, May 6th about 25 walkers took the streets of the neighbourhood to examine the 'walkability' of our community.

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Named in honour of celebrated urbanist Jane Jacobs, these walks now take place globally in early May, inviting citizens to look at their home places on foot.

Walkability means examining how comfortable or uncomfortable walking is in a community. For example, many of our streets don't have sidewalks making many feel unsafe while walking. Meanwhile, our main roads have narrow sidewalks and quite often speedy traffic passing close by making walking to shops, services, transit and parks less than pleasant. Paths leading to the mall site simply arrive in a parking lot. While there are pleasant places to walk in the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood, much can be improved upon.

We hope to build on the good work begun by the Jane's walkers by producing a walkability report later this year. In the fall there will be outreach efforts to schools, Silver Threads, Centennial library, and Pearkes to learn more about walking habits and issues in our neighbourhood. For more information on the walkability project please connect via info@gorgetillicum.ca. More photos can be seen on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/gorgetillicum

Congratulations to Barrie Goodwin, Chris Bos, and Dorothy Chambers!

Our nominations for the
2012 Saanich Environmental Awards.

Barrie, Chris, and Dorothy received the award in the Biodiversity Conservation category for their achievements in stewardship of the Colquitz River and its salmon population.



GORGETILlicUM

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 September, 30, 2012

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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

Our 2011/12 AGM has been deemed a grand success again this year. Following the rather dull business of electing directors and officers for the GTCA Board, the 40 association members in attendance were treated to very informative presentations from Chris Bos - Esquimalt Anglers, June Pretzer - Site Manager, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, and Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services for Saanich. Our thanks go out to our guests and members of GTUF who again provided wonderful nourishment for all.

Now that we have received notice of the delay in starting construction of the replacement for the Craigflower Bridge and corresponding sewer work for Gorge Road, we have an opportunity to work with our partners in Saanich and the region to be sure that the end result enhances our community and mitigates any negative impacts caused by traffic.

Two development proposals are being considered for our community - a Saanich Senior Living facility at the corner of Admirals and Gorge Roads and a 24 unit condo project at the corner of Earl Grey and Gorge Road. If you are interested in either of these projects, information can be found at www.saanich.ca/business/development/tillicum.html

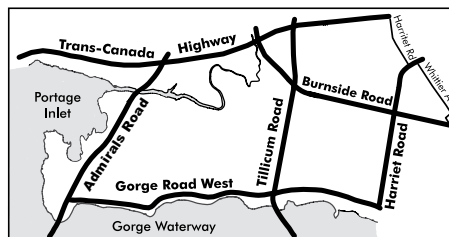
As we prepare for summer, I would like to remind everyone not only about the "Royal" Gorge Canada Day Picnic, but also our annual Music in the Park event scheduled for July 29th in Rudd Park. This year our own Rusty and Roosters will be the featured performers.

As summer moves toward autumn, we are planning for a swimming event at Gorge Park. Historically many folks living in Victoria spent many hours enjoying the warm waters of the Gorge Waterway and we have received strong interest in bringing back a little of this history. Look for more information on our Facebook page or our web site.

Finally, even though the GTCA Board does not meet during the summer, we will still be keeping up with issues and events as they come along. Please feel free to contact us anytime—we welcome your feedback. Have safe and enjoyable summer.

— Rob Wickson, President

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



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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 Peakrecreation Centre. You are welcome to attend. Please email us at least one week prior to the board meeting for any additions to the agenda.

Burnside Gorge, Bikes and Gardens

Recently, some of the GTCA Board had a meeting with the Burnside Gorge Community Association at their Community Centre on the Cecelia Ravine. The BGCA is our neighbour to the south, in Victoria. We have a shared boundary at Harriet Road and share many of the same struggles and goals for our communities. In light of this, the GTCA and the BGCA have begun to make a few connections in hopes of sharing ideas and helping one another.

Last fall, the BGCA built a new amenity, which many youth from within our community have begun to use. An off-road Bicycle Park!

The Bike Park is well situated, taking advantage of the natural slope of the ravine and its ideal connection to the Galloping Goose Trail. There are bridges, jumps, and ramp-walls on 3 separate routes marked from beginner to advanced.

This spring, to add to the fun in the ravine, BGCA has started a new Community Garden project with 40 raised garden-plots for food growing. There is a real interest in this sort of thing and it hasn't taken long to fill them up.

What is nice about these two projects is how they connect people from all age groups. These two projects also fill a need for some people from within our community, needs that as of yet, haven't been met within Gorge Tillicum. Coming off any one of three runs of the Bike Park, cyclists find themselves quite near those busy gardening. **Here, the potential for connecting young and old is quite heartening!**

— Katrinka Karpes



Kaedin Karpes having fun at the new Bike Park at Cecelia Ravine.
Photo by Katrinka Karpes.



Nancee Mari and family, eager new gardeners at the Cecelia Ravine Community Gardens in Burnside Gorge. Photo by Katrinka Karpes



Building Community

Neighbours from Murray Drive, Ashley Road and Dunkirk Lane share abundant food at last year's block party.

Photo by Karen Strawn Samis



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The Green Space



Taking a break from cleaning up Gorge Park to listen to a story
Photo by Katrinka Karpes



Volunteers hard at work during this year's Earth Day Cleanup at Gorge Park
Photo by Katrinka Karpes

Update from the West Gorge Traffic Committee

Beautiful Boulevards

The GTCA has signed a contract with Saanich Engineering and Parks that allows us to create beautiful leafy boulevards. The latest addition to our already-planted Obed Avenue traffic pinchers are the Dysart sidewalk boulevards (near Cowper) and the large boulevard on the north side of Cowper at Austin. A big thank you goes out to our neighbours who have volunteered to maintain the plants and keep the areas looking good for all of us to enjoy.

If you know a boulevard that needs some beautification or if you would like to be part of a travelling "boulevard brigade" dedicated to making sure these areas are well-watered and well-weeded all year round, please let us know at info@gorgetillicum.ca

Traffic calming in West Gorge

The traffic cushion trial on Vincent, Walter, Davida and Ker is now over. An evaluation of change in traffic flow and speed, along with submitted community input, will be analyzed to determine further steps required to make the neighbourhood more walkable and safer. Saanich engineering has guaranteed that the long-awaited traffic circles on Bodega WILL go in this summer.

When you are out in your car, please remember that in order for people to feel safe walking on our roads without sidewalks, the recommended speed is only 30 km/hour!
— Pam Loadman

Community Groups Working Together for Local Food Production and Sustainability

SNP's
Sheila Avery
is thrilled
with the
new garden

Photo by
Sharon Relkey



Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers (GTUF) and Saanich Neighbourhood Place (SNP) have been working together for some time. SNP provides GTUF with a meeting space and recently GTUF, along with other community organizations, worked to provide SNP with all that was needed to grow local food.

Earlier this year several GTUF members met with Sheila Avery, SNP Coordinator for Food Security, to consider what projects we might do together. Several ideas developed as a result of this meeting, including Sheila's expressed desire

for an extension of the small vegetable garden that she had created last year. Sheila wanted people participating in SNP programs to taste fresh locally grown food, explore methods of growing food, and see the plants that the food came from.

Sheila and several GTUF members met with two enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardeners from the District of Sannich to see what could be done. Before we knew it, Lifecycles was also involved. Jill Dalton, Urban Agriculture Coordinator for Lifecycles Project Society, coordinated and provided materials for the building of a raised garden bed. On a rainy Thursday night, with the help of GTUF and Lifecycles volunteers, the garden was built, while an SNP employee provided hot tea. The District of Saanich contributed several trellises for growing vertical vegetables.

Several days later, at GTUF's monthly meeting, several GTUF members demonstrated "planting" in the garden. Before long, the garden was full of plants. Various herbs,

lettuce, Swiss chard, peas, potatoes, and strawberry plants had found a new home. Spaces were left for beans, zucchini and tomatoes to be planted later. Sunflowers and other plants will also be added at a future date.

Sheila Avery's comments say it all. "Everyone at SNP is gobsmacked at the garden. Many hands and hearts went into this project - thanks again."

Community organizations working together make local food happen. As GTUF continues its work with SNP and other local organizations, the sky's the limit. — Sharon Relkey



Volunteers hard at work building SNP's new garden.
Photo by Sharon Relkey

Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA

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Celebrating Local Artists: Kyla Hubbard, Leather Design

Before I get to see Kyla Hubbard's art, I'm bowled over by her garden, a testament to the complexity of our neighbourhood and the commitment to sustainability on the part of Kyla and her partner Will. Some of the lots on Lurline Avenue are small, but this is a very large lot with two lines of old apple trees in the front garden, together with a strawberry and blueberry patch and a profusion of tulips. In the back are two greenhouses, apple, fig and quince trees, a house and pen for four chickens, and beds where potatoes, broccoli, kale, cabbage, beets and peas are, or will be, growing. She opens the door to the garage, which is crammed to the roof with bicycles and bicycle parts, reflecting Will's passion in life.

It's all a bit overwhelming, and so is the inside of the house, crammed with original paintings and tables with leather waiting to be cut and shaped into items both big — her signature leather aprons for artists — and small, such as belts, and earrings with a variety of colourful leathers delicately cut into feather shapes.

Why choose leather as your medium? Kyla likes the fact that leather items can last for generations and that leather is a mainly renewable resource; she insists on using no exotic leathers, but only leather that comes from food animals.

On this 8000 square foot lot with its cornucopia of trees, fruits and vegetables, there is no shop. Instead Kyla sells items like her aprons and earrings through her online store **Cyclonadesigns.etsy.com**. **Etsy is "the world's handmade marketplace" where over half a million artists from dozens of countries sell their own artisanal hand-made goods.** Kyla started her professional artistic career as a stained glass assistant to Cory Judge, the owner and lead designer at Shi Studio; Kyla is now an associate designer with the local studio, creating custom leatherwork to compliment Shi Studio's signature silk brocade accessories, which sell



Photo by
Kyla Hubbard



online at Shistudio.com as well as at markets, shows and festivals around the country.

There's a spanning of worlds here—the worlds of physical sales and cyber sales, the worlds of global and local. Even though Kyla sells on a national and international scale, and even though she only moved to Gorge-Tillicum in 2010, she is rapidly setting down roots in this area. Once she learned about Gorge-Tillicum Urban Farmers, she became an active member. She is also a new member of Gorge-Tillicum

Community Association. Her latest involvement is in the Tillicum Community Table, a group involved in various initiatives to build community in the area, under the auspices of the United Way.

Asked how she sees Gorge-Tillicum, she says she views it as "the next hot spot in Victoria," a community about to blossom. Its affordability, beauty and accessibility make it attractive to artists. And all that this blossoming needs is an artistic centre, both virtual (in the form of art walks and cyber resources) and physical (an exhibition space).

In this last comment I sense again her commitment to spanning worlds. When I ask her about this, she laughs and then says that her dream is a future in which an intense physical focus on locality is combined with global exploration via cyberspace. As I leave, reflecting on her art and her garden, it also occurs to me that Kyla Hubbard is the kind of artist who makes her dreams come true.

— Chris Bullock

'Royal' Gorge Canada Day Picnic

On Sunday, July 1st come and join us for the 14th Gorge Canada Day Picnic. This year's event will also celebrate the Royal Jubilee marking Queen Elizabeth's 60 years on the throne. And we will have the Queen at the Picnic!



Well known local 'Queen' Carolyn Sadowska (www.queencomedy.com) will be present for the Parade and Opening Ceremony, ready to meet her loyal Canadian subjects. So for those of us with British roots, it's a double cause for celebration. On with the Union Jacks and Maple Leafs for this year's Picnic!

On the mainstage we are pleased to headline The Bachands, Qristina and Quinn, who have a growing reputation for fine Celtic and bluegrass music. (www.qbachand.com). We will also have wandering entertainers along the Waterway, so look out for BucanBucan and the Morris Dancers. In addition we will continue to present our annual favourites – the Canada Day Family Parade, the pancake breakfast, the Canada Day market, kids games and road hockey, the classic car rally, Buskers' Corner, canoe rides courtesy of VCKC, and last but not least, the Strawberry Tea at the clubhouse. (See enclosed program for the full days lineup of events and entertainment, and check out the Canada Day video on our new website www.gorgetillicum.ca and on Facebook).

We are rightly proud of our event, part of the Saanich Sunfest celebrations, and so we encourage you to invite family and friends to the Gorge this July 1st for our fourteenth Canada Day Picnic.

— Harry Lewis

Upcoming Events

Saanich Trails & Treks: Sunday Hikes – Colquitz Creek to Cuthbert Holmes Park: Sunday, June 17, 1:00 – 3:30 pm. Meet in parking lot of Tillicum Mall, near Silver City Theatre complex. Suitable for all walking abilities. No fee or registration required. For details call 250-475-5408.

Gorge on Art: Saturday, June 23, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Walk the Gorge Waterway and visit a fabulous selection of art from over 45 artists, for viewing and purchase. Food, refreshments and ongoing musical entertainment. More information at www.saanichsunfest.ca

Royal Gorge Canada Day Picnic: Sunday, July 1, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm at Gorge Waterway Park and Kosapsom Park. Celebrate Canada Day along the Gorge Waterway with a pancake breakfast, parade, stage entertainment, classic cars, kids' activities, street hockey, strawberry tea, market and more. More information at www.gorgetillicum.ca

Sunfest on Ice: Thursday, July 5, 3.15 – 4.35 pm at G. R. Pearkes Rec. Centre. Enjoy an ice cream cone. Admission: \$3. Skate rentals are FREE. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Saanich Neighbourhood Place food cupboard. More information at www.saanichsunfest.ca

Saanich Trails & Treks: Gentle Walk & Talk – Gorge Waterway: Thursday, July 12, 9:30 – 11:00 am. Meet at Gorge Waterway Park, near Canoe Club at end of Tillicum Road. Suitable for all walking abilities. No fee or registration required. For details call 250-475-5408.

Guts 'n Glory Dragon Boat Festival: Saturday, July 14, 9 am at the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club on Gorge Road. More info. at www.vckc.ca

Music in Rudd Park: Tuesday, July 31, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Bring your picnic dinner, blankets and chairs and enjoy a free neighbourhood concert in Rudd Park! Food is available for purchase. For more information call 250-475-5408

Preschoolers in the Park – Gorge Waterway Park: Friday, August 17, 10:00 – 11:30 am. Meet at playground near 300 Gorge Road and Tillicum Road. Free park program. See details above.

Kids Mega Sale: Saturday, September 1, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm at G. R. Pearkes Rec. Centre. Gently used maternity/baby/children's clothing, toys and equipment. FREE Admission.

Gorge Park Cleanup: Saturday, September 15, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Gorge Park East, across from the Fairway Market on Gorge Road. Free coffee and refreshments.



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We are happy to have had many members renew at the AGM. If you haven't renewed yet, you should have received a membership renewal form in the mail. Each year the Gorge Tillicum Community Association mails out over 200 membership renewal forms to its members. This is very time consuming and costly, but most of the renewal forms are returned with the \$5.00 per person yearly dues. (Thank you to all of the members who donate a little extra to cover the postage cost.) If you don't get a chance to mail your form in, stop by the membership tent at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic. At the picnic, all current and new members will be entered in a draw to win a gas BBQ donated by Canadian Tire and other prizes donated by local businesses.

Thank you to all the GTCA members — you have helped make our neighbourhood a better place to live.

Mail to:

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

2012 Membership Application/ Renewal

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