



Spring = Renewal

As I write, it's early February and already it feels as if spring is in the air as the days get longer and warmer.

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his period of *renewal* in nature coincides with a time of renewal for your community association.

In early January, the GTCA board held a one-day retreat, during which we examined our organization and developed goals for the future. (You can read more about this retreat and its outcomes in the President's letter on p.2.)

One focus in our *renewal* efforts will be to increase the GTCA membership. We finished last year with almost 400 members, and have set our goal at 500 for 2010. As a volunteer organization seeking to represent the neighbourhood on a variety of issues and engage in a number of activities, a strong membership base is key, so please take the time now to renew or sign up—only \$5.00. And when you do sign up, please make sure your contact info is included, especially your email address. We want to be able to send out timely information in the most efficient way, and today that's by email.

A further **renewal** project this year will be focused on Cuthbert Holmes Park (CHP). This year marks the 20th anniversary of its dedication and we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the park's current status and begin to look ahead into the next twenty years. To this end, our AGM on Thursday, April 15th will feature a selection of speakers and presentations about CHP, followed by a late spring event in the park itself. There will also be a major planting of native species in the fall in conjunction with the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes and Saanich Parks.

So please join with us as we embark upon our renewal projects in 2010.

— Harry Lewis

AGM

NOTICE is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

Gorge Tillicum Community
Association will be held at the
Gardom Room. G.R. Pearkes
Arena
Thursday April 45, 2040, 7pm

Thursday, April 15, 2010, 7pm.

All members and residents of the community are encouraged to attend.



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

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Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions and advertising for the next issue is May10th.

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Distribution:

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

Carriers needed along Admirals Road – Contact Ray Farmer

a word from the president

s president of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association, I am constantly amazed at the richness of our organization. This fact was clearly demonstrated when, on a wintry Saturday early in the New Year, the GTCA Board spent the day in a retreat to regain our focus, refresh our vision, galvanize our future goals, and clarify our sense of direction. These are all words that can be summed up with the term renewal.

With the dedicated assistance of our facilitator, Brian Menzies, and scribe, Christina Mitchell, the Board has come away with a great list of action items for the next year or two. Those priorities include communications, community engagement, arts and culture, parks and green spaces, and transportation.

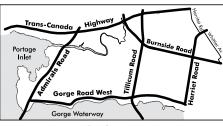
But we can't stop there. *It is also time to find ways to attract more folks to become involved with the GTCA*. There is so much to do and the 14 members of the board, though talented bunch they are, all have limited resources to give. The recent Dance for Hearts is a good example of an event that will need volunteers to take over the organization and implementation if it is to continue next year. As our vice-president has requested, "please join us for our renewal projects."

As you know, planning and building strategies are not the only things we do. We are always being asked for our comments on various issues from secondary suites to development proposals to waste collection services. We also continue to bring issues forward that are concerns to our neighbours. Issues around transportation continue to be fodder for some enthusiastic coffee conversations. To that end, we have recently written the Saanich Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee for support in finding solutions to the lack of needed cycling and pedestrian amenities along the stretch of Gorge Road between Harriet and Tillicum Roads. This stretch of road does not fit with the rest of Gorge Road, and makes accessing Gorge Park especially difficult.

There is much to do and never enough hours or people to do it all. If you are reading this and have any interest or abilities that can help us make our community a better place, please join us at our Annual General Meeting on April 15th, 7pm, at Pearkes Recreation Centre. I am sure we can find something to suit your personal interests. See you then.

— Rob Wickson, president

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



GTCA Board of Directors 09/10

GTCA Board of Directors 09/10
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Katherine Brandt

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Karen Laberee7 karenl@wulder.com	4	4	-	5	4	9	1
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Ed Lyons	7	9	-	8	0	3	0
Julia Menard3 mab@pacificcoast.net	8	1	-	7	5	2	2

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month, September to June, at Pearkes Recreation Centre. All members are welcome to attend!



In the early 1850s, when colonial surveyor Joseph Despard Pemberton mapped the wilderness bordering Colquitz Creek, he couldn't have imagined that one day the area would be parkland named after a yet-to-beborn family member.

ut such was the case approximately 130 years later when Cuthbert Holmes Park came into being.

Major Henry Cuthbert Holmes was a man of many parts. In 1933, sixteen years after marrying Pemberton's granddaughter Philipa, he became president of the family's real estate firm known today as Pemberton Holmes Ltd. Other accomplishments of this Oxford-educated gentleman included co-founding Brentwood College, serving on Victoria's city council and the senate of the University of British Columbia, plus chairing both the Victoria Real Estate Board and the Chamber of Commerce. In 1968—the year of his death—he was honoured with the title Freeman of the City. Likewise, our neighbourhood park acknowledges his life-long support for public green-space, a goal he pursued while chairing Victoria's advisory planning commission.

In Pemberton's day, the forested land (that now backs up on Silver City Cinema and Tillicum Mall) was owned by a variety of former Hudson's Bay Company employees, including the retired surgeon John Kennedy, publican James Yates and three members of the colonial police force recruited from the company's Métis boatmen. By 1890 much of that land was absorbed into the extensive Rowland farm. More recent owners—BC Hydro, the Crown, and Saanich Municipality—contributed lands that made up the park's 68 acres by 1986.

In 1962, when this aerial photograph was taken, part of the park served as an archery range. The rectangular clearing visible at the bottom seems to have been planted as an orchard. At top right is the Tillicum Drive-In Theatre. At top left is the original Burnside Road crossing of the Trans Canada Highway, site of Saanich's first traffic light installed in 1956. That mechanism was built by former Maddock Avenue resident George Ball, who was also responsible for constructing the city's first television set in 1948—but that is another story.

— Dennis Minaker, author of "The Gorge of Summers Gone"

Upcoming Events

Vancouver Island Outdoor Adventure Expo: Friday, April 9–Sunday, April 11, Pearkes Rec Centre. More info at www.ifmevents.com

Gorge Tillicum Community Association AGM: Thursday, April 15, 7:00–9:00 pm, G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre. Come hear speakers discuss various aspects of Cuthbert Holmes Park and elect your community association board for the upcoming year.

The Hampton Concert Orchestra Spring Concert: Monday, April 19, 7:30pm, Les Passmore Centre, 286 Hampton Rd. Admission by donation. More information at:

http://hamptonconcertorchestra.ca

Annual Earth Day Gorge Park Clean-Up: Saturday, April 24, 9:00 am–1:00 pm, Gorge Park East, across from the Fairway Market on Gorge Road. Free coffee and refreshments

Victoria's Ultimate Hobby & Toy Fair 2010:
Sunday, May 2, Pearkes Rec Centre. Action figures, vintage & antique toys, models, trains, comics, Barbie, dolls, LEGO, Star Wars, Gl Joe, Transformers, die cast cars, video games, Hot Wheels, vinyl records and more! Over 100 tables of fun! Bring a non-perishable food item or money donation for the MUSTARD SEED and you could be going home with some great draw prizes! Tax receipts available for anything over \$10. More info. at (250) 385-8697.

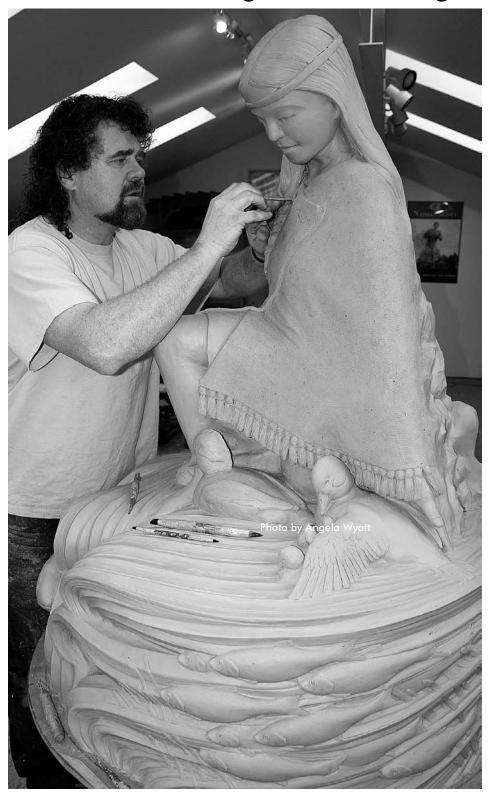
Family Game Night in the Park – Rudd Park:
Friday, May 7, 6:00–7:30 pm. Family relays,
co-operative games, prizes and lots of fun for the
whole family. Hot dogs and drinks available for
purchase. Free. No registration necessary. Cancelled
if raining by 5:00 pm. For more information phone
Judy Wallace at (250) 475-5408.

Preschoolers in the Park – Meadow Park: Friday, June 4, 10:00am–12:00 pm. This free park program lets children (1 month–6 years) enjoy outdoor play on our adventure playgrounds, an organized circle time and a guided nature walk through the neighbourhood. Bring a stroller or child carrier. Registration is not required.

Bike to Work Week 2010: Monday, May 31–Sunday, June 6. Get on your bike and celebrate cycling and the health, wellness and fun benefits that go along with it. Check out www.biketoworkvictoria.ca for a detailed schedule of fun and free events to be held throughout Greater Victoria and information on how to register a Bike to Work Week team.



Camonssung to inhabit Gorge Waterway Park



s was mentioned in the last issue, a sculpture will be installed in Gorge Waterway Park. We now have a few more details to share with you concerning this forthcoming public art.

Artist and Gorge Tillicum local, Fred Dobbs is just finishing the details on his piece entitled "Camossung", based on the traditional Songhees story of a girl by that name.

In ancient times, "Haylas the Transformer" met Camossung and offered her several kinds of foods. Many she refused, but herring, coho, ducks, and oysters she accepted eagerly. Consequently, such foods were found in abundance along the Gorge. Fred's sculpture shows these creatures at her side and under her where tidal waters rush to meet fresh waters. Later, Camossung was deemed greedy, and Haylas transformed her into a stone. This stone famously rests beneath Tillicum Bridge, in the reversing falls, where she was left to forever watch over the Gorge and its food supply. The sculpture shows Camossung as she was being transformed-her front in human form, her back becoming stone. Most impressive is the care that Fred has taken in researching the history of Camossung, right down to the pin that holds her woven shawl.

Saanich Parks expects the sculpture to be set in place this spring. Keep an eye on our website for updates and join us for an unveiling and dedication of Camossung then!

Scott Karpes



EXTENDED HOURS

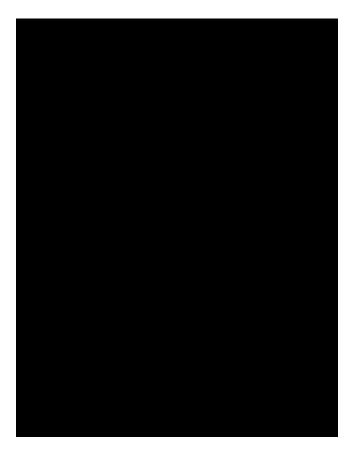
Mon. to Fri. $7:30\,am$ to $9:00\,pm$ Sat., Sun. & Hol. $9:00\,am$ to $6:00\,pm$

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LOCAL HERO Julian Anderson



more self
effacing 'hero' it
would be hard
to find, but Julian
Anderson certainly
deserves credit for
leading the way in
drawing our attention
to Cuthbert Holmes
Park (CHP), and the
need for us to take
more community
ownership and
responsibility for it.

Born and raised in the Gorge area, Julian grew up enjoying the green

spaces around him, with his interest in the natural surroundings being nurtured by his mother, Laura, a long time local advocate for the environment.

Julian began his restorative work in CHP about 10 years ago by attacking invasive Scotch broom, and this interest has since taken him on to the UVic diploma program in Restoration of Natural Systems. As a result, he has been instrumental in establishing the Friends of CHP, a community group trying to turn back the invasive species and re-establish native plants.

Last year he helped organize two large work parties and several smaller ones, and the difference is most noticeable! This year, in conjunction with GTCA and Saanich Parks, Julian will be orchestrating a large scale native species planting. As CHP turns 20 this year, GTCA will be trying to stimulate more education and discussion about the park and its future; no doubt Julian Anderson will be featuring prominently in this important community work —thanks, Julian.

Dance for Hearts

rell, we cannot say our community does not know how to have some fun. The folks who came out to the Dance for Hearts on February 13th at Pearkes Recreation Centre all agree that the event was a success. Not only did we raise \$552 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and the Yukon, but I woke up on Sunday feeling like I had gone through the work-out of the year!

The music, provided by Rusty and Roosters, which later morphed into Peace Jeep, was first class. Rusty and Roosters is made up of Russ Godfrey on lead vocals and guitar, Rob Lifton on lead guitar and backing vocals, Dave Wallace on bass and backing vocals and Ben Godfrey on drums. The second band, a local group from the late 60's (once winning the battle of the bands in Victoria) had the same line-up except Russ moved to drums and backing vocals and Pete Willing took over on lead vocals and keyboard. This great sound was engineered by Gordie Cheney and his expert team.

Events like this don't just happen. The idea began in conversations with Anna Haney from Tillicum Centre, who put us in touch with Jennifer Brock, Special Events Coordinator for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. As the event took shape, Clayton Postings, manager of Pearkes Recreation Centre, connected us with Chuck Groot and "Children of the Dump" team to run the concession. We thank all of our partners; it has been an absolute pleasure working with you.

My thanks also goes to those who helped set up the hall, especially Christine Knox for her helium balloons and stage decorations, Harry and Ray for their dedication to the project, Arden and Scott for their help, and those who spent time taking tickets at the door.

Dance for Hearts was an event enjoyed by all who attended (I know I saw Paul and Pat Gerrard dancing most of the night), and I for one am looking forward to doing this again. See you all next time.

— Rob Wickson.



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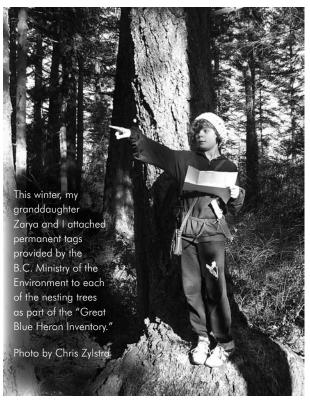


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Cuthbert Holmes Park – 20 Years Later



he signs of spring are beginning to show in Cuthbert Holmes Park. Plants are starting to bud and bloom.

The Great Blue Herons have returned to inspect last year's rookery and are showing signs that they intend to nest in Cuthbert Holmes Park again this year. Soon the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park will return as well to begin the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the park.

With climate change altering temperature and rainfall patterns, it has been said that one of the best ways to increase the resilience of forests is to remove invasive exotic species which are competing for space, water and nutrients and in some cases altering soil chemistry.

A healthy, complex biodiverse ecosystem will be more adaptable to change than a simpler degraded one.

Last year the Friends worked with Saanich Parks and the Gorge Tillicum Community Association to host several work parties working toward the removal of invasive exotic species from the park. 300 person hours of volunteer labour resulted in the removal of tonnes of invasives, including ivy, holly, daphne, privet and hawthorn. This year we will be maintaining and expanding the cleared areas in anticipation of the autumn planting of over 1,000 native trees and shrubs which have been donated or purchased with a grant obtained by the GTCA.

In addition to the cleanups and planting, we will be partnering with Riversong to host a 20th anniversary park / volunteer / salmon-return appreciation event on Rivers Day on September 26th. Hopefully you are able to attend one or more of these events, or visit the park on your own and appreciate how lucky we are to have such a gem of a natural area in an urban setting.

If you would like to be kept up-to-date regarding activities in Cuthbert Holmes, email CuthbertHolmes@telus.net to be added to the contact list. — Julian Anderson





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Paul Gerrard

Phone: 382-5154



Addicted

Plastic, as you know, is everywhe future is uncertain, at least from but all the plastic we ever bought centuries to come. It does break a been producing it long enough to

hat is certain is that every piece of plastic ever manufactured still exists on this planet; and yet the madness continues. I try to shop low-plastic, but going plastic-free is literally impossible in today's world.

I rented Addicted to Plastic not so long ago, from Gorge Video: it's a surprisingly optimistic

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Space



to Plastic

re. Produced from fossil fuels, its
a manufacturing standpoint;
t or used will be with us for
down eventually, but we haven't
know what "eventual" means.

documentary, given its themes of waste and danger.

The film begins in the ocean; perhaps you've heard of the Gyre, where all plastic thrown or washed into the sea ends up. This is basically a big whirlpool, where plastic spins in a relentless circle, acquiring barnacles, attracting toxins, and—unfortunately—tricking fish, seabirds, and other marine life who mistake it for food. You may have seen photos of young albatross who've gorged on plastic and literally starve to death as a result. The eventual effects of plastic ingested by fish on those of us farther up the food chain are unknown, but certainly cause for alarm, given what we've heard about the toxicity of plastic compounds like bisphenol-A and phthalates.

The film also looks at our waste stream, and at recycling: entrepreneurs can give plastic a second life, but not if we throw it on the ground, into the Gorge, or send it to the landfill. Encouragingly, the film talks to scientists working on new and genuinely biodegradable plastics made from such substances as cornstarch or feathers

On my walks along the Gorge I see a lot of plastic, both in and out of the water. I'd like to propose a challenge to all of you who enjoy our parks. When you go out, take a bag with you.

Use it to collect discarded plastic from public spaces, and bring recyclables home to your recycling bins. We may not solve the problem—it's not responsible people who throw it around in the first place—but we can at least keep some plastic out of our oceans and, perhaps, inspire others to do likewise.

- Recycling options in the CRD: www.crd.bc.ca/waste/recycle
- Many of the plastics you can't put in your blue box can be handled by: Pacific Mobile Depots 250-893-3851 or www.pacificmobiledepots.com

— Rhona McAdam

Snippets

Join us again for an **Earth Day Clean-up** in Gorge Park. We will be continuing our efforts to rid the park of invasive species and garbage on Saturday, April 24th from 9am–1pm. For more information, please contact Ray Farmer.

In response to the tremendous need that **Haiti** requires after suffering such a devastating earthquake, the **GTCA** board has voted to donate 1000\$ to the relief efforts.

The next phase of the Admirals Road Streetscape Safety Project will begin this summer. Saanich will be continuing the sidewalk and bike lane on the northwest side from Arundel to Cowper. There is no word yet when they will upgrade these facilities the entire way to Gorge Road.

The Care of the Gorge Monitoring Project is looking for volunteers to submit monthly bird counts. If you have an interest in the waterbirds of the Gorge and would like to participate, please contact Kitty Lloyd for more information. kelloyd@telus.net.

Planning for the 12th Gorge Canada Day Picnic is once again underway. This event requires many volunteers along with their energy and ideas. If you would like to help, please contact Harry Lewis.

Interested in some evening recreational soccer at Meadow Park? Contact info@gorgetillicum with soccer in the subject line.

2009 Season: Eagles 1 - Herons 94

attunning turnaround for the Great Blue Herons in Cuthbert Holmes Park last summer! In 2008, only nine young herons survived the intense attacks by bald eagles. Yet the herons, undaunted, made a comeback in 2009—raising an estimated 94 youngsters in 54 nests. Only one successful eagle attack was reported. Other birds were often seen running interference and defense for the herons—seagulls, Cooper's hawks, crows and ravens were all seen chasing eagles out of the heronry.

Trudy Chatwin, Rare and Endangered Species Biologist with the B.C. Ministry of the Environment, gathers data for each of the 33 heron colonies on Vancouver Island; she is watching with great interest the return of these majestic birds to our park.

This year we saw the first herons arriving on the bank of the Colquitz River at the end of January, and we're all cheering them on for another great season!

— Honica Zylstra

Become a member of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association TODAY!

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 donated a little extra to cover the postage cost. By the end of last year we had 361 members (an increase from the previous year). Please help us reach our ambitious goal of 500 members this year. 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 2A0

2010 Membership Application/ Renewal

Name(s):
Address:
Phone:
Cheque enclosed
(\$5/person \$25/business):
\$



Did you Know?

he earliest skates were worn in Sweden in the 9th century and were made of bone. Wooden skates with iron facings appeared in the 14th century. Skates made entirely of iron were introduced in the 17th century. Steel skates, with straps and clamps to fasten them to the shoes, were sold in the 1850s, and later came the skate permanently attached to the shoe. Skating has long been a means of travel in countries with long, cold winters. By the 18th century, skating was not only a means of travel but also a well-established sport. Europeans introduced it early into America and Canada.

Adult skating (19+) at Pearkes is on Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:20pm, or Sundays 6:40-8:00pm.

Adult Figure skating (19+) at Pearkes is on Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-1:50pm.

Preschool at Pearkes Anne Renwick - Instructor

nne has worked with Saanich Recreation as a Preschool Instructor for over twenty years. Since 1986 she has expanded her preschool programs from one or two classes a week and now teaches the 4 year old preschool program. She enjoys preparing children for a smooth transition into kindergarten. Anne's warm, caring personality ensures that all children feel comfortable in her classes.

Prior to, and during, her years with Saanich, Anne also worked as a teacher's aid with Carrot Seed Preschool and volunteered with Christopher Robin Co-operative Preschool. Anne has also been very active with Girl Guides of Canada, working for 25 years with all ages of children as well as training adults. She was one of a few people selected to train in Germany at the North American Treaty Organization (N.A.T.O.) for Canadian Girl Guide Leaders.

Anne is very happily married and has raised three wonderful children of her own. Her family is very supportive of her job.

"I feel I have the best job in the world as it gives me an opportunity to watch children grow and develop in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, share some of my skills and still have fun."

There are still spaces available! For more information on 3 or 4 year old preschool classes. call Deborah at 475-5467.

Facility Hours until June 29, 2010:

Mon-Fri 6:00AM - 10:00PM Sat- 7:00AM - 9:00PM Sat-Sun 8:00AM - 9:00PM



PARKS & RECREATION

Pearkes Recreation Centre

PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE 3100 Tillicum Road Phone 475-5400



Holidavs:

APRIL 3 - 8:00AM - 8::00PM

APRIL 4 - 8:00AM - 8::00PM

APRIL 5: CLOSED

May 22 - 8:00am - 8::00pm

May 23 - 8:00am - 8::00pm

May 24: CLOSED

June 30: 6:00am - 8::00pm

24 hour info line: 475-5576 www.saanich.ca