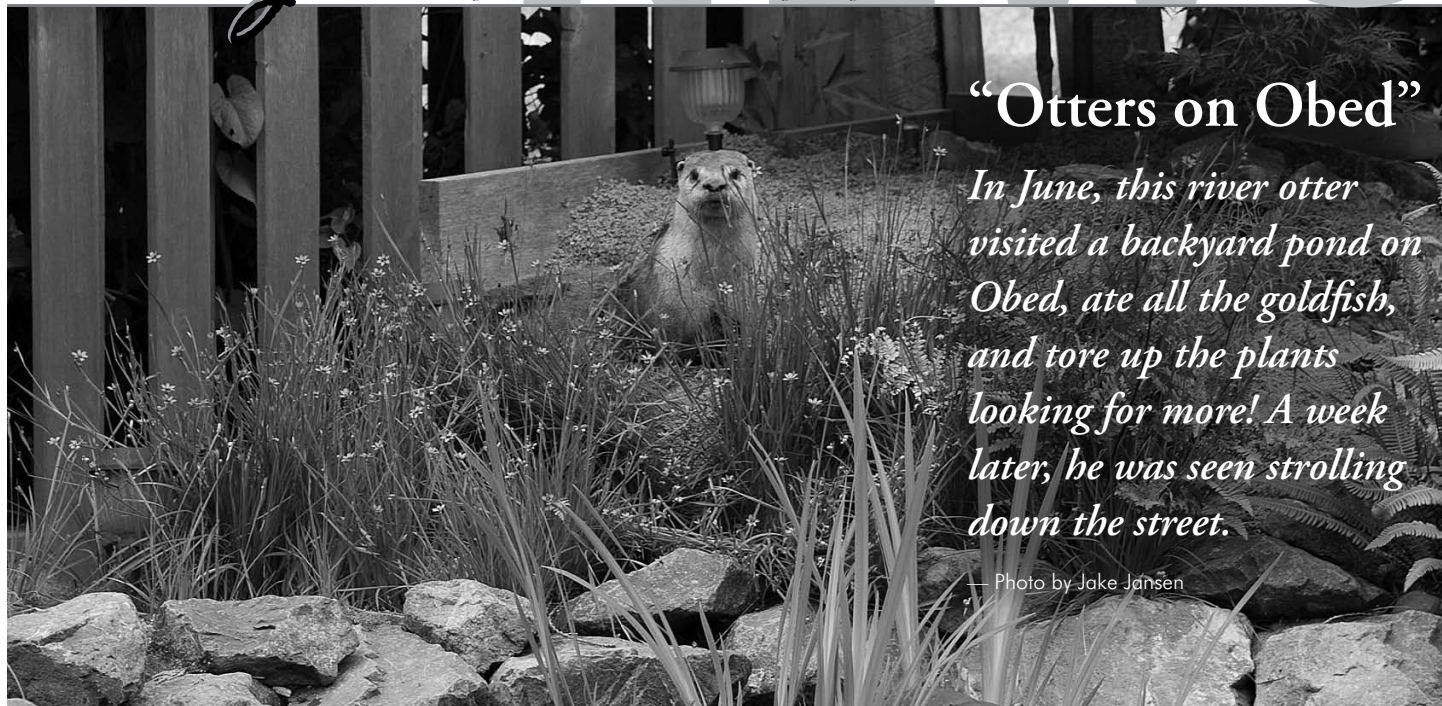




GORGE TILlicum

Neighbourhood



“Otters on Obed”

In June, this river otter visited a backyard pond on Obed, ate all the goldfish, and tore up the plants looking for more! A week later, he was seen strolling down the street.

— Photo by Jake Jansen

Let's Communicate (Some More)

Communication between and amongst the Gorge Tillicum Community Association (GTCA)

and neighbourhood residents takes many forms. We have regular monthly GTCA meetings; a website; email contact through the website; an email list for GTCA members; a printed newsletter that is distributed to homes three times per year; and various GTCA-sponsored events (including the annual Gorge Canada Day picnic).

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This is an invitation to help build another avenue for sharing information, creating opportunities, and networking — another way to make our neighbourhood a strong, safe, and fun-filled community.

We are envisioning a monthly electronic letter, sponsored by the GTCA, that will be sent to all residents who subscribe to it. (Note that by “residents” we mean everyone who lives or works in the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood.)

The e-letter will

- be brief;
- list upcoming events in the community (i.e. What's Happening);
- include invitations from residents to join and/or help plan a local activity (e.g. a potluck picnic in a park), start a group (e.g. a local cycling club), engage in a neighbourhood project (e.g. a local young people's theatre performance), etc. (i.e. What people want to see happen in our area); and
- be sent out around the 20th of each month with information relevant to the following month.

...continued on page 6

Neighbourhood News

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

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Published:

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

Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions and advertising for the next issue is February 15, 2010.

Graphic Design:

Go West Design Group Inc.
www.gowestgroup.com

Advertising Inquiries:

Arden Little 360-2474

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 west of
Admirals Road – contact
Ray Farmer**

a word from the president

Well...what did we do on our summer vacation? We began the summer with the 11th annual Gorge Canada Day Picnic, which to quote the Saanich News had the "biggest attendance [at a Sunfest event] with 8,000 to 10,000 people".

Even the closure of Admirals Road Bridge at the end of June did not seem to deter many from this wonderful event. Our success is surely a combination of good weather, world class venue, great financial support, and the fantastic volunteers who continue to step up each year.

Music in the Park events in Meadow and Rudd Parks were also very well attended, showing healthy growth from last year. We are looking forward to more of this kind of community music next year.

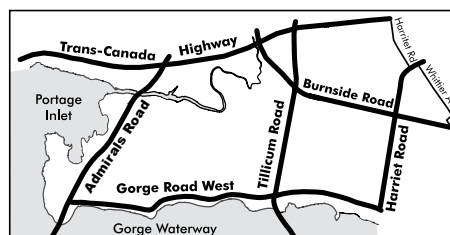
That was the fun part. From attending various committee meetings and park clean-ups, to considering urban forest strategies, traffic issues, neighbourhood art, and backyard hens, to tackling the problem of over-flowing waste receptacles in our parks, the GTCA Directors were kept busy well into the fall. Looking ahead, we are planning to hold a one day board retreat in early 2010 to review our strategic direction.

Outside of our neighbourhood, we were asked to provide comments for the community action plans around the Shelbourne Street corridor and the North Douglas Street corridor (now called the Uptown Saanich Action Plan). The GTCA supports both of these projects, but has suggested that each project begin with a charrette process (similar to the 2004 Tillicum Burnside Action Plan that was so successful in our neighbourhood), as this process allows for a truly inclusive community vision. We also commented on the CRD mixed-use proposal for the old Mount View High School site on Carey Road. While this development, which includes care for seniors and affordable housing, is urgently needed in Saanich, we agreed with the Mount View Community Association that their neighbourhood needs a better balance of recreational green space and development.

On a final note, we have always encouraged board directors to participate in learning opportunities as they relate to our community. To that end, your vice-president, Harry Lewis, and I attended the Gaining Ground Summit in Vancouver in October (www.gaininggroundsummit.com).

...continued on page 6

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



GTCA Board of Directors 09/10

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

LOCAL HERO Maggie Warren



If you ride a bike in the neighbourhood, especially north of Burnside Rd, you may well recognize our Local Hero, Maggie Warren.

She's lived in the Burnside area for over 15 years, and has become legendary in GTCA circles for her prodigious work in distributing over 500 copies of each newsletter edition!

Maggie looks upon it as part of her keeping-active regime; she's never had a driver's license so biking and bussing get her around town to all kinds of events. A dedicated reader, she's a regular at the Saanich Centennial library. She also attends many art gallery shows and is a self-confessed political junkie, taking a keen interest in the affairs of Saanich and Victoria.

Maggie also manages to spend some of her time helping others, canvassing for the Cancer Society for many years, running errands for neighbours, and walking dogs when the opportunity arises. If you run into Maggie, do say hello, as she loves to chat (our half hour coffee quickly became two hours as we talked about books, movies, and her days as a deckhand on a Campbell River boat).

Maggie is a lovely lady and a wonderful neighbour. The GTCA recognizes Maggie as a Local Hero—but if you do live north of Burnside, please consider lending a hand with those 500+ newsletters!

— Harry Lewis

Music in the Park

Some scenes from the free Music in the Park events. A steamy July evening in Meadow Park proved to be the perfect setting for the Latin-Caribbean sounds of Kumbia. Children of Celebrities entertained a large crowd at Rudd Park in August.

Photos by Rob Wickson.



The stage at Kosapsom Park at the 11th Annual Gorge Canada Day Picnic.

Photo by Claudia Wickson.



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The Green Space

An Admirals/McKenzie Bus Route?

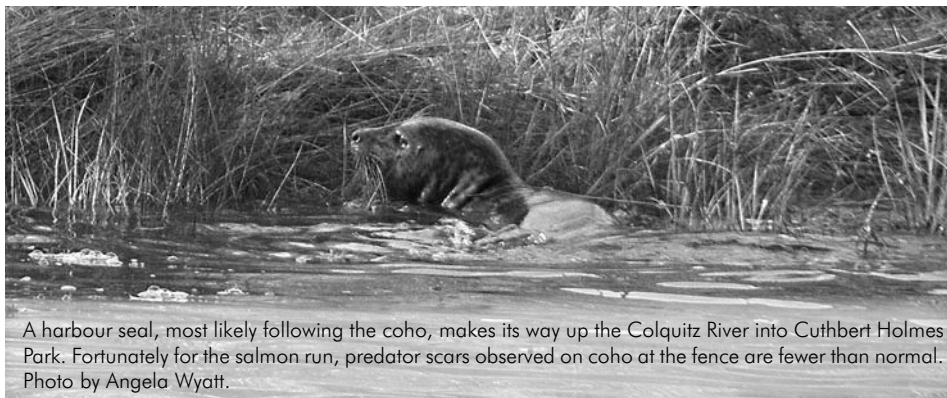
If you travel by car, you may have noticed that the corridor along Admirals/McKenzie is a commonly travelled route from our neighbourhood. If you use transit, you will know that there is no route by bus to take us from our neighbourhood to Esquimalt along Admirals Rd., nor out the other direction along McKenzie. It's nearly impossible to get to the Glanford area without taking multiple busses, which adds significant travel time. Or how about getting to the sports facilities at Bullen Park/Esquimalt Rec Centre?

Wouldn't it be great to have a direct route to UVic? Past inquiries to BC Transit about a possible route down Admirals/McKenzie were not even considered due to the old bridge. However, now that we have a very sturdy new bridge, we may have an opportunity to have this value-added service. If you think having this bus route would be valuable, please contact Graeme Masterton at BC Transit directly by email at Graeme_Masterton@BCTransit.com. Or, let us know your thoughts at info@gorgetillicum.ca.

Art in Gorge Waterway Park

We have an exciting bit of artistic news for the community. When Saanich developed the new section of Gorge Waterway Park in 2004, money was set aside to be dedicated to public art in accordance with Saanich's Comprehensive Art Policy. **This art, a sculpture, is finally going to be created and enjoyed by visitors to the park.** In the spring of 2009, Saanich organized and held an Art Jury process to choose a work of art. A call to artists went out through local papers and media sources, and 18 artists came forward with their proposals. The jury selected 3 finalists based on criteria outlined in the art policy. **In early October, a winner was chosen! Fred Dobbs, local to the Gorge Tillicum community, is a well known world champion sand-sculptor** who has sculpted local architectural pieces along with many notable sculptures throughout the capital. Look for his sculpture, to be located between the water and the red brick house, sometime in the spring of 2010!

— Scott Karpes



A harbour seal, most likely following the coho, makes its way up the Colquitz River into Cuthbert Holmes Park. Fortunately for the salmon run, predator scars observed on coho at the fence are fewer than normal. Photo by Angela Wyatt.



Interested visitors to Cuthbert Holmes Park watch Chris Bos and Barrie Goodwin of the Esquimalt Anglers count and measure adult coho salmon at the Colquitz Fish Fence. As of early November, 78 coho had reached the fence, an improvement from

West Gorge Transportation Committee Update

With the completion of the Admirals Bridge, Saanich Engineering and the West Gorge Transportation Committee (WGTC) met in October to discuss the Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plan (NTMP) for the West Gorge Area.

Traffic counts will be carried out this fall on all streets originally counted in 2004 to determine changes to the traffic pattern with the closure of Colquitz at Admirals Road. After completing a comparison analysis of the counts, Saanich engineers will meet with the WGTC to prioritize the remaining elements of the NTMP.

Two items of the plan were completed in the spring of 2008, the concrete sidewalk on Bodega and the pedestrian refuge on the Davida hill. These two projects alone have cost 60% of our allotted budget of \$160,000, approved in 2006. However, we have been assured by Saanich Engineering that they are committed to the entire process and will apply for funding each year until the NTMP is complete.

The Engineering Department has requested funding in the 2010 budget to complete 4 items of the NTMP:

1. Cowper/Colquitz intersection design,
2. Cowper/Austin intersection redesign,
3. Arena Road/Bodega median,



Pedestrians and cyclists got first crack at the new Admirals Rd. Bridge before it opened to cars and trucks in late September. Photo by Rob Wickson.

4. Austin/Newberry/Ker sidewalk with an unsignalled crosswalk near Ker and Dysart at the entrance to Cuthbert Holmes Park,

The redesign of the two intersections is a priority for Saanich. Cowper, a collector road, will likely see more traffic with Colquitz/Admirals closed and the design, consisting of a centre median, along with other features, is intended to increase safety and reduce speed.

The installation of a median on Arena Road approaching Bodega will curtail the continued shortcutting up Bodega. The Austin/Newberry/Ker sidewalk will start at the north end of Austin, run along the north side of Ker, and is intended for pedestrians to safely access both parks.

Saanich Engineering plans to make budget requests in 2011 that will undertake the remaining elements of the NTMP, which focus on the reduction of speed along our roads. Reduction of speed has consistently been identified at public meetings and on surveys as the number one concern of West Gorge residents.

At our meeting, we were also informed by Saanich Engineering of the plan to have a sidewalk built along one side of Dysart Road as a Greenway connecting Cuthbert Holmes Park and the Gorge Waterway. This is referenced in the Local Area Plan (2000) for the Tillicum Area. (See www.saanich.ca, under Business and Development follow the links under Community Plan to the Local Area Plan.)

Saanich Engineers also reminded us about the Boulevard Planting Policy. Planting on the boulevard can be used to improve aesthetics and would also act as a traffic calming measure. Residents can apply to Saanich for a boulevard permit to plant ground cover, shrubs, perennials, and even trees! A list preferred plantings and related policies are on the Saanich website (again under Business and Development, follow links to Development, then Permits).

Our next meeting with Saanich Engineering should be in January 2010. If you have any questions, please email Donna Roth at donnaroth@shaw.ca.

— Donna Roth



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Upcoming Events

Santa Comes to Pearkes: Sunday, November 29, 9 am–3:30 pm. Tillicum Centre, G.R.Pearkes Rec Centre and Saanich Centennial Library present 'A day with Santa'; join us for a full day of family orientated holiday activities to kick off your Christmas season.

Hampton Concert Orchestra Christmas Concert: Monday, Nov. 30, 7:30 pm; Les Passmore, 286 Hampton Rd. This year's concert, "Dancing on the Steppes", marks the beginning of our third season with Music Director and Conductor Michael Klazek, and will feature: Nutcracker Suite, Radetzky March, Sleeping Beauty, Polovtsian Dances, Russian Sailors' Dance, and Russian Folksongs. We will be joined by our special guests, the Newcombe Singers, for selections by Buxtehude, Charpentier, and Handel. Admission by donation.

Christmas Storytime at the Library: Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 am–noon, Saanich Centennial Branch. Festive stories, songs and a craft for families with 3–6 year olds. Register at 250-477-9030.

The 2009 Curbside Leaf Collection Program: is scheduled for the Gorge Tillicum area for Dec. 14–18. Guidelines are posted online at www.saanich.ca/resident/utilities/leaf.html

January 1, 2010: Happy New Year! It is time to renew your Gorge Tillicum Community Association membership (\$5.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for businesses!)

New Year's Levée: Friday, Jan. 1, 1 pm–2:30 pm, Saanich Municipal Hall. Mayor Frank Leonard and Council will host the annual Municipality of Saanich Levée, a Canadian custom where government officials exchange New Year's greetings with attendees.

Saanich Neighbourhood Place Parenting Programs – Programs scheduled for 2010 include *Families C.A.N. (Connect and Nurture)*, *Group Triple P*, *Parent-Child Mother Goose Program*, and *Food Skills for Families*. For further details, please visit www.saanichneighbourhoodplace.com, or call 250-360-1148.

10th Annual Winterfest 2010: Sunday, Feb. 28, Pearkes Rec Centre. Bring your family to enjoy an old fashioned winter wonderland on ice!

...continued from front page

Let's Communicate (some more)

What I need, as the convener of this project, is some help.

This includes:

- choosing a name for the e-letter (for the moment, I'm calling it GTEL for Gorge Tillicum Electronic Letter);
- creating guidelines within which this e-letter will operate;
- creating a process for gathering information to include in the e-letter;
- creating a 2-way process whereby residents can invite others to participate in and/or create events, projects, etc. and receive responses from others (while still protecting their privacy);
- creating a strategy whereby people are invited to subscribe to the e-letter;
- considering ways of covering the costs of this project; and
- searching for similar projects already in existence elsewhere and determining whether or not we can use their model(s).

If you'd like to help with this project — by working with me over time developing the e-letter or by passing on an idea, a resource, or some information — please call me at 250-382-1328. You can also email me at info@gorgetillicum.ca, entering "GTEL" in the subject are. I look forward to hearing your ideas.

— Gabe Epstein

...continued from page 2

A Word from the President

The title "Resilient Cities, Urban Strategies for Transition Times" attracted us given that the Gorge Tillicum Community fits the model of an ideal neighbourhood. One phrase coined "the 20-minute community" describes us perfectly—all the elements are here for a prosperous, vibrant, healthy, and ecologically-balanced community. We were very proud to show others how much we value our exceptional quality of life. More than a showcase, this conference was a tremendous opportunity to learn about the present and future challenges facing communities of the world. World-renowned speakers and breakout sessions brought forward many serious issues, such as climate change, transportation, affordable housing, social well-being and economic balance, yet, we left the experience inspired. We hope that we can bring some of this inspiration back to our community.

— Rob Wickson, president

Photo by Angela Wyatt



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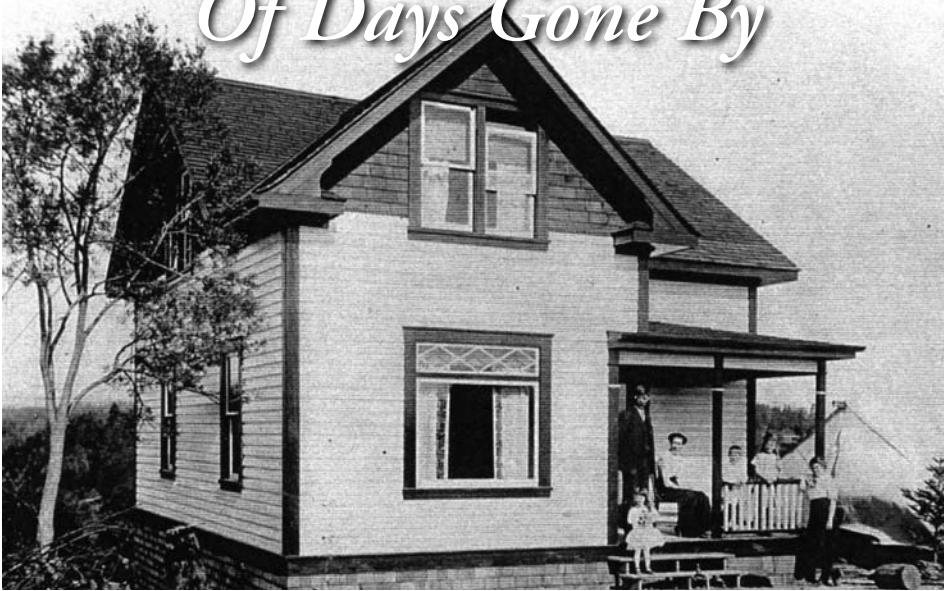
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Of Days Gone By



During the building boom that preceded the First War, numerous houses were erected locally by professional builders, either for profit or their own family use. Two adjacent houses built in 1913 by Arthur Bird across from Tillicum School fit these two categories.

Born in 1865, this Englishman was lured west by the Klondike gold rush of 1898. Briefly escaping the waning gold fever, Bird spent some time in Victoria building a house (seen here soon after construction) for wife Louisa and their young family at 3108 Albina Street. Soon afterwards, a second house (also still extant) was built next door to provide the family with rental income. This was a good thing because Bird then spent much of the next twenty years in the North West Territories trapping for furs and seeking an elusive wealth underground. Only a seam of coal came his way. At age sixty-nine, Arthur Bird was last seen in the summer of 1934 when he set out to explore the terrain around Great Bear Lake. Though his remains were never found, a diary retrieved from an abandoned cabin spoke of his last days: "1, January, 1935. Everything looks black. No fur, no money, near 70 and 120 miles back. Don't think I can make it."

Though Bird only spent winters at his Albina Street home, other members of the family resided there for over eighty years.

In 1916, daughter Gracie attended the one-room Tillicum schoolhouse then located on Burnside Road. A class-photo displayed in the foyer of the present-day school shows the young girl standing front-and-centre, her head tilted to one side. One of her many recollections in later years dated back to the First War: "I remember an army troop marching along Burnside Road and a whole bunch of us kids from Tillicum School followed them to town. A lot of us had never been that far and when we got there we were flabbergasted by the stores."

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

Snippets

Saanich would like to remind residents that they are responsible for clearing any snow or ice on sidewalks in front of their home. Remember to shovel early and often so that the snow does not become packed. Fulfilling your responsibility will improve safety and mobility for all. And regardless of the weather, do not park on sidewalks or in bike lanes.

*

Many thanks to Marian McCoy and Saanich Parks, Tim Hortons, and the volunteers who came out for our Gorge Park Cleanup in September. If you are a regular at our Gorge Park Cleanups, watch for more information in 2010 about the formation of a group dedicated to the park and regular cleanup events.

*

The Compassionate Warehouse Society is looking for donations of winter clothing and toys to fill containers heading to the Philippines, the Ukraine, and Moldova. Donations will be given to orphanages in those countries. For more information, please contact director Leif Wergeland at 250-888-6490 or visit their website at: www.crwarehouse.ca.

*

Be sure to check our website regularly, www.gorgetillicum.ca. There may just be an event come along in the New Year that you don't want to miss!!

*

Are you part of Block Watch? Numerous benefits include protecting your home, potential insurance discounts with some carriers, and connecting with your neighbours. For more information, contact the Block Watch Office at 250 475-4365, or blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca

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Become a member of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association TODAY!

It is time once again to renew your GTCA membership for 2010. We currently have 361 paid members, up 15 from last year. We would like to see our membership increase to over 400 in 2010 — still less than 5% of residents. The \$5.00 per person yearly dues helps offset the cost of our community newsletter. Thank you to our members who donated a little extra to help cover the cost of the mailout. Congratulations to Rod Sample who won the BBQ, generously donated by View Royal Canadian Tire, at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic.

Mail to:
Gorge Tillicum Community Association,
P.O. Box 44152, Victoria, BC V9A 2A0

2010 Membership Application/ Renewal

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Normal muscle development is generally complete by the age of 30. Muscle loss (sarcopenia) tends to occur by 10% per decade from age 30 to 60; 15% per decade to age 80, and a 30% loss per decade beyond the age of 80. Strength training is known to slow this loss in “normal” muscle, postponing the point where function is compromised.

Learn which important muscles are often ignored until they lose function when you sign up for fitness classes at Pearkes Recreation Centre. Osteofit classes are geared towards slowing the aging process. Or, sign up for a circuit class in the weight room. There are also many drop-in fitness classes taught by our qualified fitness staff. If you are looking for a more personalized program, we also offer private strength training consultation packages. Get started today! Call 250-475-5400

A Day with Santa

Sunday Nov 29, 9:00–3:30pm

A Day with Santa is a well-attended community family event held annually at Pearkes Recreation Centre, Silver City, and Tillicum Centre. Join in on this fun day of family holiday activities to kick off your Christmas Season.

The event starts off with a Pancake Breakfast at Pearkes, then enjoy a Christmas movie at Silver City. Wander over to Tillicum Centre for a children’s magic show. Join us back at Pearkes Rec Centre for a fun skate and /or Kindergym with a bouncy castle. Finish the afternoon with Santa reading you a wonderful Christmas story at the Centennial Library.

If you are joining us for this exciting community event, please bring a non-perishable food item for the Saanich Neighbourhood Place Emergency Food Cupboard.

Please call 475-5400 for all event information.

Facility Hours:

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