



## Development Has Come to Gorge Tillicum

Development has come to our neighbourhood, and the response is mixed, to say the least.

Over the past year development signs have popped up around the neighbourhood, and there are a variety of developments proposed throughout the GTCA. (see the current list on the back page) This push for development is not unique to our neighbourhood, as the need for housing, particularly rental, has become a crisis that is finally being addressed.

*The neighbourhood responses range from “finally” to “absolutely not”, and everything in between.*

Concerns are usually about traffic, parking, building height and density



These development signs are put up to advise neighbours about a proposed development at that location.

and the ever nebulous retaining neighbourhood character. According to Saanich planning and housing advocates, these are the same complaints about almost every development, in every neighbourhood and in many ways have contributed to urban sprawl and the housing crisis.

Within the association, we have to grapple with how to deal with developments. We all volunteer our time to improve our community and our neighbourhood - but in practical terms, what does that look like? It certainly makes for some lively debate.

While Saanich would like us to speak for the entire neighbourhood, our community has a variety of opinions. Therefore our responses reflect the variety of opinions that we hold and that we have heard.

We are also mindful that as a community group, we need to represent the greater good of the community even when a small number of people may be negatively affected.

There are so many complexities and

questions that arise in the face of development:

- What is attractive, and how does one define community character?
- Does owning property give one the right to block housing opportunities for a future resident?
- What should developers have to provide in terms of Community Amenity Contributions?
- Is increasing density inevitable in the face of climate change?
- How do we get the amenities we want (i.e. bakery, pub, etc.) without development?

As the GTCA, we are doing several things to help our community deal with the increase in development.

We have formed a Buildings Working Group to tackle some of these issues. It is open to anyone, and you can check the website or email us at [info@gorgetillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca) to find the next meeting date.

We have added a section to our website that provides information on developments in our community.

We are also going to have a presentation on Development and Building a Great Community at our AGM. (see next page for date and time).

You should also be aware that as a citizen you can always comment on proposed developments by writing or emailing Saanich Planning (see back page for details) and City Council. This is important, as the final decision on all proposed developments lies with City Council.

**-Vera Wynn-Williams  
GTCA Vice President & Chair of  
the Buildings Working Group**

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

**Editor:**

Vera Wynn-Williams 250-516-4903  
v.wynnwilliams@gmail.com

**Article Coordinators:**

GreenSpace – Dorothy Chambers  
250-381-6724  
dotmot@shaw.ca

Local Artist – Chris Bullock  
250-384-8236  
chrisbullock@shaw.ca

Historic Content - Scott Karpes  
skarpes@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events – Katherine Brandt  
250-389-1560  
kmbrandt@telus.net

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Unsolicited articles welcome.

The deadline for submissions & advertising for the next issue is April 30, 2020.

**Advertising Inquiries:**

Vera Wynn-Williams  
250-516-4903  
v.wynnwilliams@gmail.com

**Distribution:**

All 3,800 copies of this newsletter are delivered by volunteers, and we could always use more help. Please contact Scott Karpes at 778-679-3545.

## GTCA Board Meetings

The Gorge Tillicum Community Association is a non-profit organization that advocates for the Gorge Tillicum community. The Board meets at 7pm the second Thursday of each month from September to June at Pearkes Recreation Centre.

**Everyone is welcome to attend board meetings.** If you want to put an item on the agenda please email our president one week in advance.

Agendas will be posted to the GTCA website a few days in advance of the meeting.



## Annual General Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

### Less Passmore Seniors Centre

286 Hampton Road  
(at the corner of Tillicum and Burnside)

### Please Join Us For:

Annual Report Presentation, Bylaw Update & Board Elections

### Special Presentation

## Development & Building Great Communities

Hear from our expert panel and have an opportunity to ask questions.

*Refreshments will be served*

**General email: [info@gorgetillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca)**

President: Gabe Epstein  
belle.leon1@gmail.com

Vice President: Vera Wynn-Williams  
v.wynnwilliams@gmail.com

Treasurer: Chris Kask  
chriskask@hotmail.com

Secretary: Scott Karpes  
skarpes@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary: Irena Jazwinski  
irenajaz@shaw.ca

Communications Coordinator: Phil Lancaster  
philplancaster123@hotmail.com

Chris Bullock  
chrisbullock@shaw.ca

Katherine Brandt  
kmbrandt@telus.net

Russ Godfrey  
rustyg@shaw.ca

Pam Loadman  
ploadman@telus.net  
Edward Pullman  
edwardpullman@gmail.com

Elise Cote  
velaquez.cote@gmail.com

Evan Leeson  
evan@catalystinternet.com

Arden Little  
ardenlittle@shaw.ca

Paul Savinkoff  
savvykod@gmail.com

Lewis Rhodes  
lewro@me.com

Jon Rathbone  
jondrathbone@gmail.com



The GTCA boundaries are the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet shorelines, the Trans-Canada highway to the north and Harriet/Whittier/Harriet to the east.

To learn more about Saanich Community Associations and view the boundaries, see <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/community-associations.html>

# *an update from the* GTCA

Winter is in retreat, with snowdrops replacing snow, buds developing on trees, and the sun working its way back into our lives.

Our recently established Working Groups have been getting to know each other, considering their options, selecting priorities and carrying through with selected activities. These include working with Saanich Parks on invasive removal and native species planting in the new Walter Park (at the corner of Walter and Dysart); developing a program to enhance local pollinator habitat; considering transportation and mobility needs in the area; and identifying potential sites for public murals. Should you wish to join a Working Group, there is always more room at the table for another voice -- just send an email to [info@gorgetillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca) and we'll get back to you.

As always, the Board -- through its Buildings Working Group, meetings with developers and neighbours, and other avenues -- has been reviewing development projects proposed for our area and, when requested by the Saanich Planning Department, writing to Planning and Council to share its views on these proposals.

The project on Qu'Appelle Street has received unanimous council approval and will go to a public hearing in the near future. Other projects -- including one at Obed and Harriet, two on Gorge Road West, one at Gorge and Tillicum, and one on the site of the former bingo hall -- have been submitted to Planning but have not yet (at the time of writing) been addressed by council. The Board

has also been considering the need for improvements to the section of Tillicum Road between Arena and Gorge Roads and has written to Saanich urging the District to give this section of roadway the attention due to it and considered in earlier plans (i.e. the 2005 Tillicum Burnside Action Plan and 2008 Tillicum Local Area Plan). The recently approved Active Transportation Plan makes no reference to multi-modal improvements along this roadway.

Planning is under way for the annual Canada Day Picnic, Music in the Park, and the Earth Day cleanup in Gorge Park; planning for the winter celebration, Lights on the Gorge, will kick off in the spring. If you'd like to volunteer with any of these events -- helping with planning or at the event -- please let us know at [info@gorgetillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca).

Finally, as you're no doubt aware, there has been another oil spill due to a leaking tank. If you have such a tank, please check that it's in good shape -- post-leak cleanup can be VERY expensive and we don't need any more damage to our ecosystems. You could also receive a rebate if you have it removed and replaced with a heat pump. See page 5 for more information about rebates.

Some other items of interest:

- The anticipated update of the Tillicum (and other) Local Area Plans has been delayed for a few years as Saanich has decided to use its planning resources to fast track work towards the creation of a housing strategy. It is anticipated that this

strategy will, subsequently, inform LAP updates. (Note: Local Area Plans are vision documents created through a process of municipal-community collaboration; they describe what it is that local citizens envision for the future of their neighbourhood in areas such as housing and commercial development, mobility and transportation infrastructure, parks, the arts, and more.)

- Saanich council recently approved a new Climate Plan: 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich. This plan proposes "actions to improve our quality of life, protect our community now and in future, and reduce local and global risks associated with a changing climate" The Board will use this plan as it considers how it might address current and potential climate and ecosystem changes in our neighbourhood and how we might collaborate with Saanich on these matters.

- Directors recently met with representatives from Saanich Parks, Saanich Police, Pacifica Housing, and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to consider what might be done -- by way of housing and other services -- to both support the people in Gorge Park that are experiencing homelessness and to keep the park in good shape.

Again, we try to keep our website as current as we can -- feel free to check it out regularly (at <https://www.gorgetillicum.ca>) to see what's happening in, or what's planned for, our community or to become a GTCA member.

**-Gabe Epstein**  
**GTCA President**



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## Reporting Spills, Dead Fish, Hydrocarbons, Sediment & Watershed Issues

Dorothy Chambers, our local watershed advocate has put together this list of who to call when you spot an issue.

### Emergency Management BC (EMBC formerly PEP)

1-800-663-3456.

Please request a Dangerous Goods Incident Goods (DGIR) number. It is the file number attached to your call. Get this number and please quote it when proceeding with other calls.

### Report All Polluters and Poachers (RAPP)

1-877-952-7277

This is also called the Natural Resource Violations Report Line

### Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

1-800-465-4336.

ORR, Observe, Record and Report line

### Fisheries and Fish Habitat Protection Program (FFHPP)

1-866-845-6776



### ATTENTION HAMPTON PARK BASEBALL PLAYERS & FANS

The GTCA has become aware of parking issues resulting from ball players and their families parking at Burnside Plaza. The parking along the plaza and the spots at the back, by Tillicum Road, are reserved for customers of Burnside Plaza only - others may get towed.

Parking is still available in the old bingo hall parking lot, but you **MUST** buy a ticket. This lot is actively patrolled and ticketing is frequent!

**And for your own safety please do not cross mid block by the park. It is extremely dangerous.**

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# Climate-Friendly Heat Pumps: Make the Switch Away from Fossil Fuels or Electric Baseboards

Heat pumps use renewable electricity rather than natural gas or oil to operate and use half to a third as much energy as electric baseboards or a natural gas or oil furnace. For the average home heated by oil, switching to a heat pump reduces your carbon footprint by about the same as not driving your car for 15 years.

Oil spills from aged or damaged oil heating tanks can quickly have a direct environmental impact on fish and wildlife habitats by leaching into groundwater or stormwater systems. Even a small home heating oil spill can be quite damaging.

*Cleanup costs typically range from \$65,000 to \$118,000, are the responsibility of the homeowner, and are not typically covered by home insurance.*

When upgrading from oil, installing a heat pump reduces your greenhouse gas emissions by more than 97% and eliminates the risk of an oil spill in your back yard.

There is up to \$5,200 available in rebates when you switch from oil or natural gas heating to a heat pump.

Visit the CleanBC Better Homes website at [www.betterhomesbc.ca](http://www.betterhomesbc.ca) and learn about the Group Heat Pump Purchase Offer that rewards groups of homeowners working together to



With a heat pump you will have efficient heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer!

reduce greenhouse gas emissions by switching from an oil, natural gas, or propane heating system to an air source heat pump.

The Group Purchase Rebate ranges from \$200 per home, for a group of 2 homes, and up to a maximum of \$500 for a group of 20 to 30 homes. Participants are encouraged to spread the word about their heat pump purchase group. The larger each group becomes, the larger the rebate.

The Group Purchase Rebate is in addition to the up to \$3,000 available from CleanBC, \$350 from the CRD and \$350 from Saanich in local government top-ups, the \$500 Electrical Service Upgrade Rebate and the \$500 Electrical Service Upgrade rebate top-up from the District of Saanich for a total of up to \$5,200 in available rebates.

Up to \$2000 is also available when switching from electric baseboards to

an efficient air source heat pump.

If you have questions about specific rebate programs, heating systems or if you're not sure where to get started you can contact the free Clean BC Better Homes Energy Coach Service. View the website at [www.betterhomesbc.ca](http://www.betterhomesbc.ca), contact an Energy Coach at ask@betterhomesbc.ca or call 1-844-881-9790.



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# Celebrating DYLAN THOMAS (QWUL'THILUM)

It may be as surprising to readers as it was to me to learn that we have an award-winning young Coast Salish artist with a home and studio in this neighbourhood. This artist, Dylan Thomas (Qwul'thilum), was, in fact, born in Victoria in 1986, and has lived here his whole life. His tribal background is Lyackson First Nation (Valdes Island), but he also has heritage from the Snunymuxw, Songhees, and Squamish nations through his grandparents.

Growing up with professional parents – his mother is a professor in social work and his dad an indigenous counsellor for the school district—in a household with walls full of Northwestern First Nations art, Dylan's interest in the visual arts started an early age. But his journey towards becoming a professional artist only started when he realized that Salish art was inextricably intertwined with Salish culture, and thus that becoming an artist in this tradition would involve a deep cultural immersion.

It would also involve learning from his first, and most important mentor, Rande Cook of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, that thinking like an artist meant not so much having a grand vision as focusing on details like weight and flow, and other aspects of design as a technical skill. Working in Cook's shop over a period of several months gave Dylan, he believes, the essential launching pad for his work.

The next step after learning technique was finding places to exhibit, and he



Photo: Courtesy Dylan Thomas

Dylan Thomas with one of his signature designs.

credits Coast Salish artist lessLIE for help in opening gallery doors for his work. Dylan's first show as a feature artist was exhibiting with Rande Cook, lessLIE and Francis Dick in the 2013 show *Urban Thunderbirds/ Raven in the Material World* at the Art Gallery of Greater

Victoria. His first solo show, held at the Alcheringa Gallery, was an exploration of geometric pattern titled *Sacred Geometry* (2016). 2018 was the year of the City Hall multi-artist show *Sacred*; one of Dylan's three contributions was a spectacular mural for City Hall's spiral staircase. And to

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# Local Artists (LUM) : COAST SALISH ARTIST

cap this, in 2019 Dylan won the Victoria Summer Banners contest, and, in November, was named Indigenous Artist in Residence for the City of Victoria (a two-year appointment).

What's most striking to me about Dylan's art is that, while his work has strong structural design and contemporary immediacy, it comes out of a deep historical engagement with, and renewal of, Coast Salish art traditions. One good example of this is his current "obsession" (his word) with stone carving. Stone carving, a Coast Salish tradition for thousands of years, died out several hundred years ago. Reviving it has not been easy. The original black and green rock traditionally used has not been quarried for years, but Dylan has found a substitute in black African pyrophyllite to carve his pendants and small figures from. His hope is to pass on the skill of stone carving to other young Coast Salish artists.

Though he loves stone carving, Dylan acknowledges that painting and print-making are his main focus and source of income. Each print I admire turns out to have a story. For example, a circular print with a moon face in the centre, surrounded by a double headed serpent, turns out to be based on an old Salish wooden spindle whorl. I ask what this is and discover that, in earlier times, the Coast Salish kept and bred pet dogs, and used the fur from these dogs for spinning and weaving. Collecting and weaving from this fur was labour intensive work though, and was, in time replaced by weaving from traded sheeps' wool. Another print I especially like, titled "Thunder" refers to a story involving the mythic Thunderbird, and a man who absorbed much power from this giant creature, but had to be exiled when he started abusing this power. Then there

are the more unusual prints. One is of a leaf, reflecting Dylan's attempt to depict the value of the plant world, which has been displaced by an increasing stress on animal images in the Salish tradition. Another is of a lily pond, reflecting his interest in Buddhism.

When I ask Dylan for his impressions of Gorge Tillicum, he said he walks his little daughter down to the Gorge nearly every day, and he finds himself fascinated by its First Nations history. For example, his grandmother had told him that the Esquimalt nation would offer the Songhees nations refuge when they were attacked by hostile tribes, since attackers had to pass through Camossung's territory, and could only come through the Gorge narrows one canoe at a time.

And his great grandmother, every time she passed over the Bay Bridge, would point south and tell the children that she once lived in a village "over there." (A First Nations village near Songhees Point was dispersed in 1911.)

As I leave Dylan Thomas's basement suite, I must admit that I feel a certain envy of the depth of connection to place and history which I have just witnessed. And I feel inspired by the way in which he is bringing this cultural history into an art that is very much of the present. In our era, where art is largely identified as a form of entertainment, his art, and those of other significant First Nations artists, offers a vibrant and exciting alternative.

**-Chris Bullock**



Thomas' spectacular mural on Victoria City Hall's spiral staircase.

# The Green Space

## Birds Disturbed by Boats Entering the Colquitz Estuary

The Craigflower, Colquitz creek estuaries and Portage Inlet are being monitored for birds suffering from dehydration, starvation and hypothermia resulting from contact with hydrocarbons from the oil spill on Gorge Creek.

Watershed bird monitors and those waterfront homeowners who are also involved with the bird watch, have been alerted recently to boats entering the Colquitz River by the sudden flight and distressed bird calls, as water fowl panic.

There is much to be concerned about as these birds, recently exposed to surface oil, are struggling. Boats add another level of stress on these birds, disturbing their eating and forcing them to leave their nests open to predators.

Many water fowl with less oiling were usually worse off than heavily oiled. Scantily oiled birds lingered in the environment, growing colder

and sicker by the second, whereas birds completely caked in oil beach themselves immediately, to avoid drowning. Beached birds are clearly in distress and can often be helped.

Recently, Saanich Parks blocked off a large part of the estuary river front area, where our rare Wilson's Snipes visitors are nesting. Shy and skittish, these birds that are easily alarmed, and leave their nests whenever approached.

For Boaters: <https://www.bewhalewise.org/marine-wildlife-guidelines/>  
**"AVOID approaching closer than 100 metres/yards to any marine mammals or birds."**

It is impossible to maintain this distance in the very narrow Colquitz River and estuary and therefore boats should stay out of the river completely to avoid disturbance to this important habitat area.

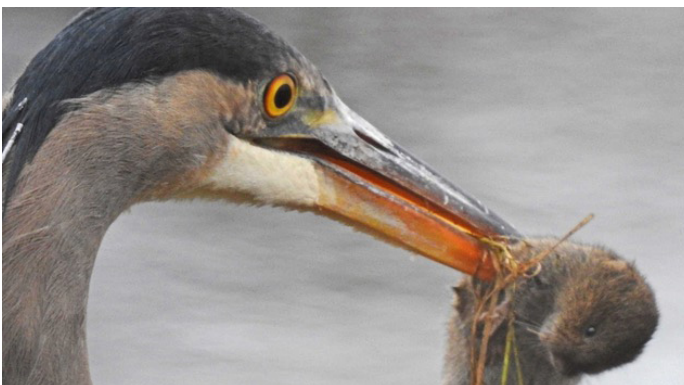
These guidelines apply to all boaters

including kayakers and canoeists. The mere presence of such boats in a small, sensitive area is highly disruptive to the birds.

I appreciate that the Federal Environment Canada, Migratory Bird Sanctuary Conservation Enforcement Officers, came here from Vancouver a couple of weeks ago to better understand the impacts in this sensitive area. Phone numbers for reporting violations of bird disturbances are being circulated and posted, and CCTV cameras have been set up on the river.

**Boaters please do not enter the Colquitz Creek as you are harming the birds and this fragile ecosystem.**

**-Dorothy Chambers,  
Salmon In The City project,  
Colquitz River, Cuthbert  
Holmes Park advocate.**



Photos: Angela Wyatt

This heron is a terrestrial hunter, walking stealthily through the estuarine grasses, seemingly not interested in fish, but hunting small rodents like this vole. Photos were taken in December on the Colquitz Estuary, in Cuthbert Holmes Park.



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The Gorge Park Community Gardens' (GPCG) 2020 Spring Plant Sale is coming up on Sunday May 3rd. This is the Gardens' major fundraiser – drop by, spend some cash on

plants and veggy starts about as local as you can get, and head home with a nice assortment of plants for your garden! In preparation, our plan this year is to hold three or more seed planting gatherings in different backyards in the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood. This will start veggy plants for the sale – lettuce, leeks, tomatoes, squashes, brassicas, flowers, native food and pollinator plants and more -- and also be a great opportunity for neighbours to get together. No doubt some food and an impromptu garden tour will be thrown in with the work of chatting and planting seeds.

We're just getting starting our Plant Sale planning, but keep your eye out for details about the seed planting work parties. We are always grateful to the Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers (GTUF) for their help with extra plants and starts for our sale. (For those wondering what GTUF is, find information about our



### Community Gardens' (GPCG) 2020 Spring Plant Sale is coming up on Sunday May 3rd.

fantastic network of Gorge Tillicum food gardeners on the web at <http://growfood.wixsite.com/gtuf> -- join us if you live in the neighbourhood by sending your name and address to [gturbanfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:gturbanfarmers@gmail.com). Details about the Gorge Park Community Gardens' Plant Sale on May 3rd will as usual be posted online and on colourful posters and flyers in businesses and telephone poles

throughout the neighbourhood. Come out and be part of making our Gardens buzz!

**-Laurie Jones**

Gorge Park Community Gardens  
W: <http://gorgegardens.ca>  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/gorgeparkcommunitygardens/>  
E: [gorgegardens@gmail.com](mailto:gorgegardens@gmail.com)

## Cuthbert Holmes Park

Now that the interchange project is almost complete, the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes have started up again. On Saturday, Feb 22 a small group of dedicated volunteers cleared out a large pile of invasive species.

Founded in 2005, Friends of Cuthbert Holmes is a non-profit organization comprised of people who care about the ecological health of the park

To find out about future cleanups check out <https://www.facebook.com/CuthbertHolmesPark>.

## Annual Earth Day Gorge Park Clean Up

Join other concerned members of the community to help clean up Gorge Park. We remove invasive species and do a general garbage sweep of the area.

This project is supported by Saanich Parks who bring a variety of clean up tools.

It is a good idea to bring your own heavy duty gardening gloves if you intend on helping remove invasive species. Blackberries are treacherous!

We will have our red GTCA tent set

up in the park across from Fairway Market.

The GTCA provides FREE Starbucks coffee and Tim Horton donuts.

Kids welcome!

**Saturday, April 25  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm**



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# Introducing the Green and Blue Working Group

Our newly hatched group, the Green and Blue (GAB) Working Group, provides the Community Association with support around the natural areas in our neighbourhood. The idea is to consider our local green spaces and waterways, focusing on potential initiatives that complement the exemplary work done in Cuthbert Holmes Park by Dorothy Chambers and Julian Anderson and all those who have stewarded the Gorge and other waterways and the surrounding landscapes, both in recent memory and far back in time.

As an initial action, the GAB group is working with the Saanich Natural Areas Team to add native species to Walter Park. Located at the corner of Dysart and Walter, this lot was left to Saanich with the proviso that it be transformed into a non-manicured, 'wild' park planted with native species. The GAB team came out twice in December to work with Saanich staff to clear non-indigenous plants, Saanich put down a sweet-smelling bed of leaf and bark mulch to settle in the cleared area, and a wish list of indigenous flowers and plants is being devised. Look for future invitations to come help plant!

Adding native plantings to Walter Park will help restore a small garry oak ecosystem and provide pollinator food sources and habitat. According to the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT), garry oaks once filled the coastal areas of southwest British Columbia and now less than 5% of these ecosystems remain, typically in small patchwork sections. But, we thought, what if restoration work in Walter Park is just a place to start? Native pollinators thrive in stretches of contiguous food sources, i.e., they require linked habitat attractive to their needs. What if homeowners throughout Gorge Tillicum built up our local biodiversity by adding wildlife habitat to their front and back yards? This might include a mix of native plants (woolly sunflowers, bee balm, golden



Blue and Green Working Group restoring areas in Walter Park.

rod, lupine), edible plants to also harvest from (thyme or blueberries), or some of those cottage-garden favourites (hollyhocks, lavender, crocus, forget-me-knots). An easily obtained permit from Saanich is required to plant our boulevards and a generous list of suggested native plants is available on the Saanich website. In addition to this typically unplanted street-space, our front and back yards too offer potential planting areas, with no permit required. Balconies and decks too!

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see and walk down streets where land has been put to use increasing the region's pollinator counts. Perhaps owners and renters planting their yards to connect with the native plantings coming soon to Walter Park or linking to beds already built by their neighbours, on whatever street they live? Pollinator paths and corridors in cities worldwide are features that add biodiversity, beauty, and walkability to urban neighbourhoods. They also help restore the land, allowing it to reclaim its key place as part of the natural food cycle.

Spring and a new gardening season are coming. The Green and Blue Team hopes to put together a list of pollinator plants for different yard conditions. This list will highlight the native and non-native species that are structured to attract and be accessible to our indigenous insects and birds, meeting their unique dietary, housing, and/or reproductive requirements.

Building something begins with a vision. Watch out for calls to help with Walter Park's transformation and consider if there are small ways your yard could increase our local biodiversity and habitat, providing food for pollinators, places for insects to thrive, and spaces for birds to sing, hide, and dine. Imagine and help make it happen!

## Green and Blue (GAB) Working Group

### GAB BOX

*A tidbit of information brought to you by GTCA's Green and Blue Working Group.*

Are you looking for a showy plant for a hot, dry area -- even in poor soil? The native woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*) is a cheery yellow, low growing, very easy care choice. Cut it back hard in the fall for fresh silver-grey leaves in the spring and loads of yellow aster-like blossoms from May to late July, which are nectar and pollen rich, supporting pollinators and other beneficial insects. Deer resistant too!





# Upcoming Events

**55+ Lifestyle Show:** Tuesday, March 10, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at [55pluslifestyle.com/victoria/](http://55pluslifestyle.com/victoria/)

**Soup Day:** Thursday, March 12: Every second Thursday until the end of March is Soup Day at Saanich Neighbourhood Place (Pearkes Rec. Centre.) Come on down between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm for a bowl of delicious soup and a fresh homemade bun. Proceeds go towards supporting food security programs at Saanich Neighbourhood Place. A 'souper' lunch for a great cause! More info. at <http://saanichneighbourhoodplace.com>

**Branch Out! At Esquimalt Gorge Park:** Saturday, March 21, 9:45 – 1:00 pm at Esquimalt Gorge Park. Join us a hands-on learning experience. All supplies and light refreshments provided so grab a friend or bring your family and help us protect this beautiful environment! For more information on the Township of Esquimalt's Branch Out initiative, please visit [www.esquimalt.ca/branchout](http://www.esquimalt.ca/branchout)

**Soup Day:** Thursday, March 26: Soup Day at Saanich Neighbourhood Place (Pearkes Rec. Centre.) Come on down between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm for a bowl of delicious soup and a fresh homemade bun. More info. at <http://saanichneighbourhoodplace.com>

**Gorge Tillicum Community Association AGM:** Thursday, April 2, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, at Les Passmore Seniors' Centre, 286 Hampton Road. Special presentation on Development and the Building of a Great Community.

**2020 Wake Up the Gorge:** April 4 – 5, Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club, 355 Gorge Road. Wake Up the Gorge is the VCKC's annual weekend of racing for OC6 Outrigger canoes and Small Boats. It kicks off the racing season for many of the Victoria and area paddling clubs who use the Gorge for racing. More info. at [www.vckc.ca/Switchblade-Paddlesport-Relay](http://www.vckc.ca/Switchblade-Paddlesport-Relay)

**Free Easter Skates:** Saturday, April 11, 12:25 – 1:35 pm and Sunday, April 12, 1:35 – 2:45 pm at Pearkes Rec. Centre. Attach bunny ears to your helmet and get in FREE. Have a chance to win an Easter treat. More information at [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca)

**Earth Day 2020 - Saanich:** Sunday, April 19, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Explore Saanich by bike, celebrate Earth Day, and learn about the different ways we can care about the Earth and decrease human impact on our climate. The free event, outside Saanich Municipal Hall, will showcase the expansion of the Saanich cycling network and investment in active transportation, raise awareness of our natural assets and highlight green initiatives outlined in the 2020 Climate Action Plan. Guests who cycle to the festival can register to win a variety of prizes including a \$500 gift certificate to a local cycling shop. More info. at [www.saanich.ca/EN/main/news-events/events-list/saanich-community-events/earth-day-2020-saanich.html](http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/news-events/events-list/saanich-community-events/earth-day-2020-saanich.html)

**Hampton Concert Orchestra 2020 Spring Concerts:** Sunday, April 19 at 2:30 pm and Monday, April 20 at 7:30 pm, at Les Passmore Seniors' Centre, 286 Hampton Road. Admission by donation. More info. at [www.hamptonconcertorchestra.com](http://www.hamptonconcertorchestra.com)

**Emergency Preparedness Presentation:** Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Pearkes Rec. Centre. Free. Register early to reserve a spot. FREE. More info. at (250) 475-5400 or [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca)

**Annual Earth Day Gorge Park Clean-Up:** Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Gorge Park East, across from the Fairway Market on Gorge Road. Free coffee and refreshments.

**Victoria Pet Expo:** May 2 – 3, Pearkes Rec Centre. The fun-filled family event will feature pet related vendors along with interesting and unique entertainment. More info. at [www.victoriapetexpo.com](http://www.victoriapetexpo.com)

**11th Annual KidsRun Victoria:** Sunday, May 3, at Tillicum Centre, lower parking lot in front of Montana's Cookhouse. Help raise money to help kids to win their race against childhood cancer. More info. at [www.solesistersvictoria.com/kidsrun-victoria/](http://www.solesistersvictoria.com/kidsrun-victoria/) or email [kidsrunvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:kidsrunvictoria@gmail.com)

**Kids Mega Sale:** Saturday, May 9, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm at Pearkes Rec Centre. Kids Mega Sale is a large sale of second-hand items that occurs three times a year. It is run by Vancouver Island Multiple Births Association. Arrive early for the best selection! Cash only and small bills preferred. More info. at [www.facebook.com/KidsMegaSale/](http://www.facebook.com/KidsMegaSale/) or contact [kidsmegasale@gmail.com](mailto:kidsmegasale@gmail.com)

**Switchblade Paddle Sport Relay Races:** Saturday, May 9. If you are a fan of this fun competition and have participated in past years, organize your 6-paddler team now. Switchblade racing consists of 6 different paddling sports and is an exciting combination of race legs that will challenge any 6-paddler team to bring their best efforts both as individuals and working together. More info. at [www.vckc.ca/Switchblade-Paddlesport-Relay](http://www.vckc.ca/Switchblade-Paddlesport-Relay)

**Victoria's Ultimate Hobby & Toy Fair:** May 23 – 24, at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info. at [www.ultimatetoyfair.co](http://www.ultimatetoyfair.co)

**Selkirk Waterfront Festival:** Sunday, May 24, 11:00 – 5:00 pm in Selkirk Green Park. This fun-filled multi-cultural family event offers something for everyone. For more info. please call Travis at 250-388-5251, or email [travis@burnsidegorge.ca](mailto:travis@burnsidegorge.ca)

**Fairway Gorge Super Sprints Dragon Boat Races 200m 2020:** Sunday, May 24, at Fairway Gorge Paddling Club (FGPC), 2940 Jutland Road. Fairway Gorge Super Sprints is the first FGPC Festival of the season and is always a great way to begin a year of Dragon Boat Racing. Come and race or watch these quick and crazy 200 m sprints! More info. at <https://fgpaddle.com/races/> or contact [info@fgpaddle.com](mailto:info@fgpaddle.com)




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[www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca) | [f/GorgeTillicum](https://www.facebook.com/GorgeTillicum)

## Membership Application

Beginning on January 1, 2018, membership is valid from the time of payment of membership fees to the end of the month of the anniversary date of payment. Join or renew by mail or online on our website!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### PAYMENT:

Please enclose payment and mail to above address

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

Couples : \$10/each x \_\_\_\_\_ memberships = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \$25/each x \_\_\_\_\_ memberships = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### DETAILS:

Membership is open to any resident or property owner who is 19 years or older, living within the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood as well as person engaged in business in the neighbourhood.

If membership is not renewed you will remain on our email distribution list for one more year before being deleted. Memberships are available in three categories; individual, couple or organization.

## Major Neighbourhood Developments

### 1. Proposals approved by Saanich:

- 2933, 2941 and 2949 Albina Street – a 39 unit 5-storey multi-family rental apartment building. (Project has been delayed due to the Albina sink hole)
- 2931 and 2947 Qu'Appelle St – one four-storey and one three-storey multi-family rental building with a combined total of 44 units.

### 2. Proposals submitted to Saanich:

- 300 Gorge Rd West and 2900 Tillicum Rd – a 53 unit, 5-storey multi-family residential building (condos and rental units) with commercial space on the ground floor.
- 1 and 21 Obed Avenue at Harriet – 3 storey multi-family rental building with 26 units.
- 3400 Tillicum Rd., the former bingo hall site – a multi-family residential rental building with commercial space included. The proposal is for two, 6-storey buildings with 242 units.
- 630 Gorge Road West - 26, 3-bedroom, family-sized strata townhomes.
- 992 Gorge Road West at Rockwell Ave. - 6 story building multi-family residential with 148 units and 18 townhouse units. All units would be strata.

### 3. Potential proposals:

- 2921 Earl Grey St at Gorge Road West. This site, formerly approved as a 4-storey, 24 unit condo building, is currently up for sale with an undetermined future.

For more information about active development applications check the Saanich website at <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/development-applications/active-development-applications/tillicum.html>

**As a member of the community you can always comment on developments by writing or emailing Saanich Planning at the following:**

- 770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8X 2W7
- [planning@saanich.ca](mailto:planning@saanich.ca)

Once a public hearing date is set, the GTCA will make every effort to promote the date through our communications channels. We have also added development information on our website [gorgetillicum.ca](http://gorgetillicum.ca).

## ROLE OF THE GTCA IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The GTCA will meet with developers at various stages of the process with two main purposes: 1. To encourage development in line with the Design Charrette and the Tillicum Burnside Action Plan; and 2. To encourage developers to thoroughly consult with the community through open houses and meetings with directly affected neighbours. **Note: Saanich recommends, but does not require, public open houses or meetings with affected neighbours**

Saanich formally asks the GTCA to respond in writing to all development applications within our boundaries. The GTCA is asked whether it:

- Has no objection to the project;
- Generally has no objection with suggested changes or concerns; and
- Does not support the project (please provide reason).

It is the policy of the GTCA to only provide comments on proposals. The GTCA comments reflect what we heard from the community, both pros and cons.