

Building a Great Community

There are so many things we love about our community – the character homes, the beautiful Gorge walkway, its long and interesting history, the urban forest that is Cuthbert Holmes Park, the wonderful and caring people, the community garden, community celebrations, such as Canada Day, and so much more. But what we also hear from our community is that there is still much that can be done to improve the neighbourhood, particularly better pedestrian environments along our key corridors of Gorge, Burnside and Tillicum Roads and more services, such as shops, bakeries, pubs and restaurants that people can walk to. Basically, we want our commercial streets to have the same community vibe as our neighbourhoods, instead of being expedient routes to somewhere else.

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So what can be done? Well, you'll be happy to know that there is a plan, actually a variety of plans that outline the type of developments we would like to see.

In 2004, the community came together to produce the [Gorge Tillicum Burnside Charrette](#) which led to the completion of the [Tillicum Burnside Action Plan](#) (2005) and the [Saanich Official Community Plan/Tillicum Local Area Plan](#) (2008). (These documents are available on the GTCA website and the Saanich website.)

These documents continue to guide all developments in our community. Developers use them as guides, while Saanich Council uses them as their criteria when reviewing development proposals.



Gorge Tillicum Burnside Charrette (2004)

The Charrette outlined a vision for three village centres within our community (Burnside/Tillicum, Burnside/Harriet, and Tillicum/Gorge), along with pedestrian friendly streetscape designs. These villages would be robust, pedestrian friendly, local shopping, dining and service destinations. They were also identified as areas which could benefit from higher density developments, such



Tillicum Burnside Action Plan (2005)

as mid-rise multi-family buildings and mixed-use buildings (office/retail at ground level and housing above). Another key element of the Charrette and the Tillicum Burnside Action Plan were improved streetscapes that connected these centres with pedestrian/bike friendly tree-lined streets.

So you may be thinking, "Well these plans are 10-15 years old. Why haven't we seen more progress?" Well, planning and development are often slow, particularly in Saanich. However, we have seen some progress with improved streetscapes on Burnside (beside Tillicum Centre), traffic calming and improved streetscaping on some side streets and new higher density housing developments, such as the Ardea at the corner of Burnside and Tillicum.

Great communities are built through symbiotic relationships between private developers, local government and the community, and right now there is an opportunity to move towards the community we envisioned.



Neighbourhood News

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, 2019.

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.



Annual General Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Victora Canoe and Kayak Club (VCKC)

355 Gorge Road West

Please Join Us For:

Annual Report Presentation

Constitution & Bylaw Update

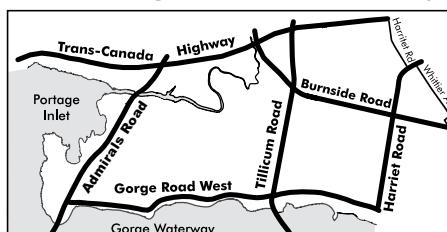
Board Elections

&

Meet and Greet with the new Saanich Council

Refreshments will be served

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



GTCA Board of Directors 2018/19

General email: info@goretillicum.ca

President: Gabe Epstein
belle.leon1@gmail.com

Vice President: Vera Wynn-Williams
vwynnwilliams@gmail.com

Treasurer: Chris Kask
chriskask@hotmail.com

Secretary: Scott Karpes
skarpes@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary: Irena Jazwinski
irenajaz@shaw.ca

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

Phil Lancaster
philiplancaster123@hotmail.com

Evan Leeson
evan@catalystinternet.com

Arden Little
ardenlittle@shaw.ca

Immediate Past President
Rob Wickson
wickson@telus.net

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. If you want to put an item on the agenda please email our president one week in advance.

an update from the GTCA

As always, the list of items calling for our attention is lengthy. Here are a few of them:

Cuthbert Holmes Park and McKenzie Interchange

- While there has been almost no overnight sheltering in this park since the change in the relevant Saanich bylaw, activities of an illicit nature continue to take place. Monitoring the park and, if necessary, reporting concerns to Saanich Parks and Saanich Police is still called for.
- With intersection construction ongoing, there is a need for continued vigilance and monitoring, by the Board and by other citizens, of potential negative impacts on the park and our waterways.

Boulevard Trees

- We have lost a few large trees in the neighbourhood to wind and/or BC Hydro needs. To counteract the steady reduction in our urban forest canopy, we are working with Saanich Parks to plant new trees on boulevards in our neighbourhood. If you'd like a tree, please let us know and we'll tell you what's involved.

Developments

- Proponents for the project at Gorge Road West and Tillicum hosted an open house on 29 January. A steady stream of people came to view the proposed design of the building, ask the architect and property owners questions, and share their views on the proposal.
- Developers for the project at the corner of Gorge Road West and Earl Grey Street are renegotiating financing for the project and hope to continue

construction this spring.

- There have been no further conversations regarding open houses or submissions to Saanich Planning for the proposed developments at Albina, Qu'Appelle and Obed / Harriet.
- The directors have also been discussing ways to share information, amongst directors, with GTCA members, and in the wider community, about the broader context for development in our neighbourhood. This includes a review of the design charrette initiated by the GTCA some years back, familiarity with relevant Saanich documents, enhancing communication opportunities within our area and a draft GTCA "Community Design Guidelines" document. (See cover story for more information.)

Events

- December 16th, 2018, saw another successful annual Lights On The Gorge celebration.

Want to Have a Say in Your Community?

There are so many ideas about what we might do in and for our community; the question is, how might we make even a few of them become realities?

The GTCA is setting up three "working groups" to explore our options and to take steps to implement ideas that seem feasible.

One group will address building development in our neighbourhood; another will consider various modes of transportation; and the third will address actions in support of our

- Planning is already under way for our 21st Gorge Canada Day Picnic

Other items

- We've been reviewing the GTCA Constitution and Bylaws (proposals for change will be publicised soon and brought to the AGM for consideration and voting) as well as our vision, objectives, operating principles, and strategic actions.
- We are working towards the development of a new GTCA website
- We continue working with other community associations through SCAN, the Saanich Community Association Network by participating in monthly SCAN meetings, as well as in the SCAN-organized workshop for community associations last November.
- We are establishing three new working groups that we hope will strengthen our ability to collaborate with people and organizations within and beyond our area and allow us to select and act on a number of local projects. (See below)

parks, boulevards, gardens and waterways.

These groups will operate both reactively (responding to what's coming our way) and proactively (initiating new actions). They will each consist of one or more directors and a number of volunteers from our local community thinking together, consulting with others, suggesting actions to the GTCA Board, and guiding selected projects.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, or you want more information, please contact us at [info@gorettillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca).



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Due to a variety of factors, developers are now actively investing in our community, and there are a few proposals in the works. Governments at all levels are also keenly aware of the housing crisis and are actively investing in, and helping facilitate, new housing developments.

So our goal is to encourage development that will help us build the kind of community we envisioned in 2004, both from the private sector and from all levels of government.

We also want to encourage developments which will provide much needed housing for a variety of people (including seniors and young families), be attractive and add to the character and uniqueness of our community, preserve or add green space, and be designed to limit their carbon footprint and create homes of the future.

To that end, the GTCA is working on a set of Community Design Guidelines. These guidelines would work within

the Tillicum Local Area Plan (LAP) and identify what we would like to see in proposed developments beyond what is in the LAP.

We have focused on the following categories:

- Defining our community character
- Preserving and increasing green space
- Design features (how buildings look)
- Mixed use buildings (preferred businesses)
- Parking, bikes, personal mobility and drop-off zones
- Sidewalks (designed for safety)
- Housing types (unit sizes, rent and own, etc.)
- Green features (solar, electric charging stations, etc.)
- Other attributes (pet friendly, etc.)
- Public amenity contributions
- Proposal features (3D models for large developments, etc.)

These guidelines will be shared with the community and developers with the hope of streamlining the process

and improving the community consultation process.

Currently the development can take between 1.5 years for a simple process to 4 years for a complex one. All that time significantly adds to the cost of new housing. On page five we have outlined Saanich's development process and the GTCA's role within it.

Our draft Community Design Guidelines will be up on our website, and we welcome your feedback.

Also, if you are interested in developments in our community please join our Development Working Group. You can reach us at info@gorgetillicum.ca

- Vera Wynn-Williams

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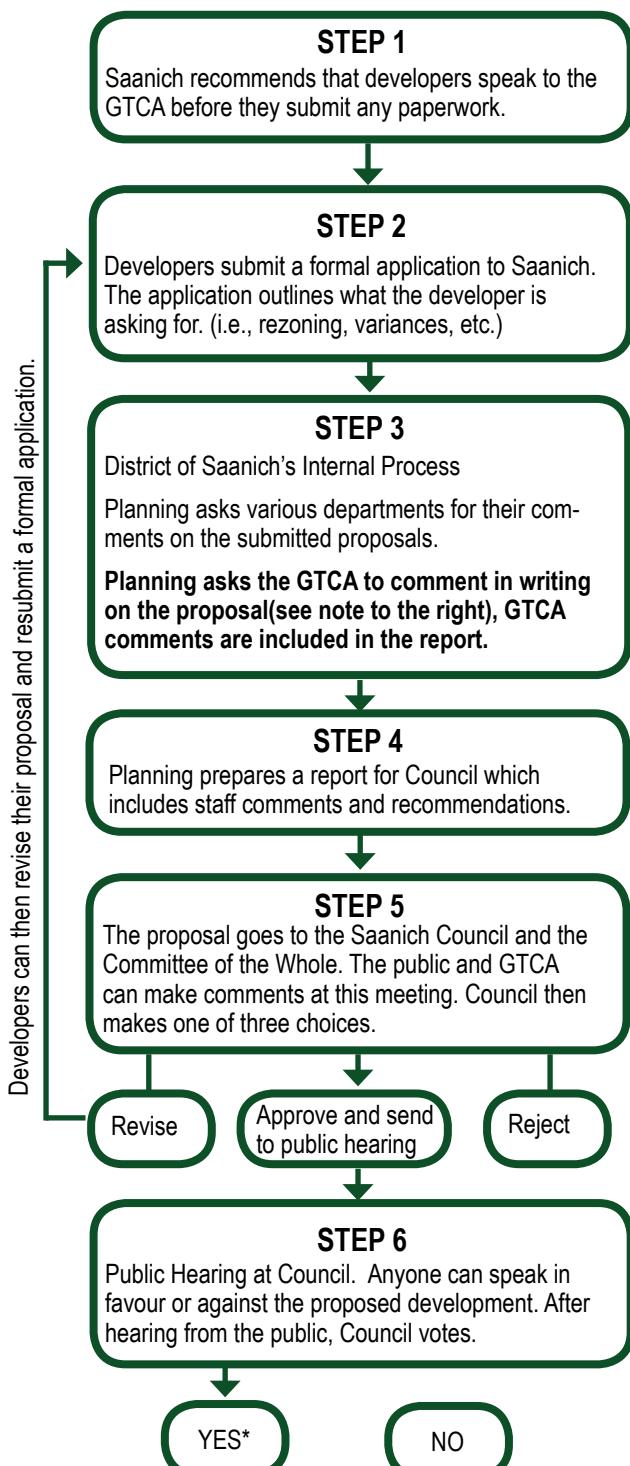
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Saanich's Development Approval Process



* Even a proposal that Council votes in favour of could have "subject to" clauses added by Council

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The developer is required to consult the community anywhere between Step 1 to Step 4. This consultation can take numerous forms, including public open houses, meetings with neighbours and meetings with GTCA.

In the end the developer needs to **demonstrate** to Council, that they have consulted the community.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

Once a developer has submitted a formal application (STEP 2), Saanich puts up a development sign on the property and the development is listed on Saanich's website.

To see active development applications in our neighbourhood, see: https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Community/Documents/Planning/plans/Tillicum_lap_web.pdf

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.

Saanich formally asks the GTCA to respond in writing to all development applications within our boundaries during STEP 3. 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.



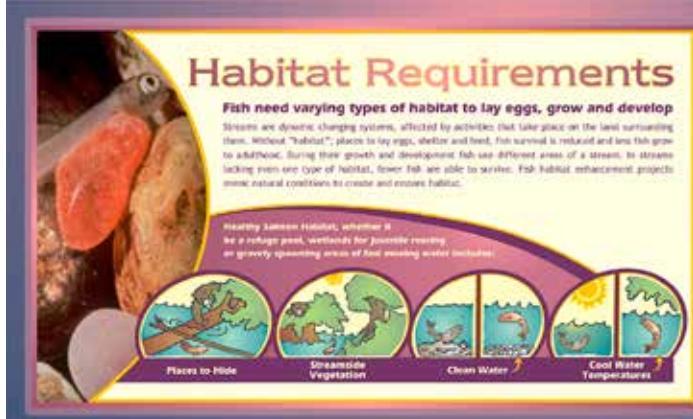
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10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday–Thursday
or by appointment
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www.RandallGarrison.ndp.ca

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Randall Garrison, MP ESQUIMALT-SAANICH-SOOKE

The Green Space

New Educational Signage at the Fish Fence



Feb. 12 on the frozen Colquitz River



Photo: Cheryl Redhead

Great Blue Herons present year round,
feeding in the shallows of the river.

- Cheryl Redhead

FEATURED BUTTERFLY:

The Mourning Cloak butterfly (*Nymphalis antiopa*) is native to North America and Eurasia and is a visitor to Cuthbert Holmes Park. It has one of the longest lifespans of all butterflies, having a period of dormancy in summer and also hibernating in winter. On Vancouver Island it burrows under the snow at Mt. Washington and emerges in spring to search for a mate.



Photo: Angela Wyatt

- Angela Wyatt



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Tufted Duck Confirmed in Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary

2019 started with a surprise - a vagrant duck from Eurasia, possibly a first record of this species in our historic sanctuary, which extends from Portage Inlet to Cadboro Bay (28 km long).

On January 19, a Tufted Duck (the first winter drake) was swimming with 200 plus Lesser and Greater Scaup near Seabird Park, Portage Inlet, View Royal.

Since then, it was seen by numerous birdwatchers at various locations in Portage Inlet, including Christie Point. The latest sighting that I have is from February 10.

A regular in Alaska, but rare winter visitor to the south coast of British Columbia, this duck is very common in the Old World. Interestingly, individuals often return to the same location year after year.

Eurasian Wigeons, uncommon in the



Photo: Jacque Sirois

Tufted Duck, Jan. 19, 2019, near Seabird Park, Portage Inlet, View Royal. Among 200+ Lesser and Greater Scaup

sanctuary, have also been reported on February 5 at Gorge Creek (one drake) and at Seabird Park (two drakes + and hen), mixed with common American Wigeons.

I always enjoy seeing Old World migratory birds in our New World sanctuary.

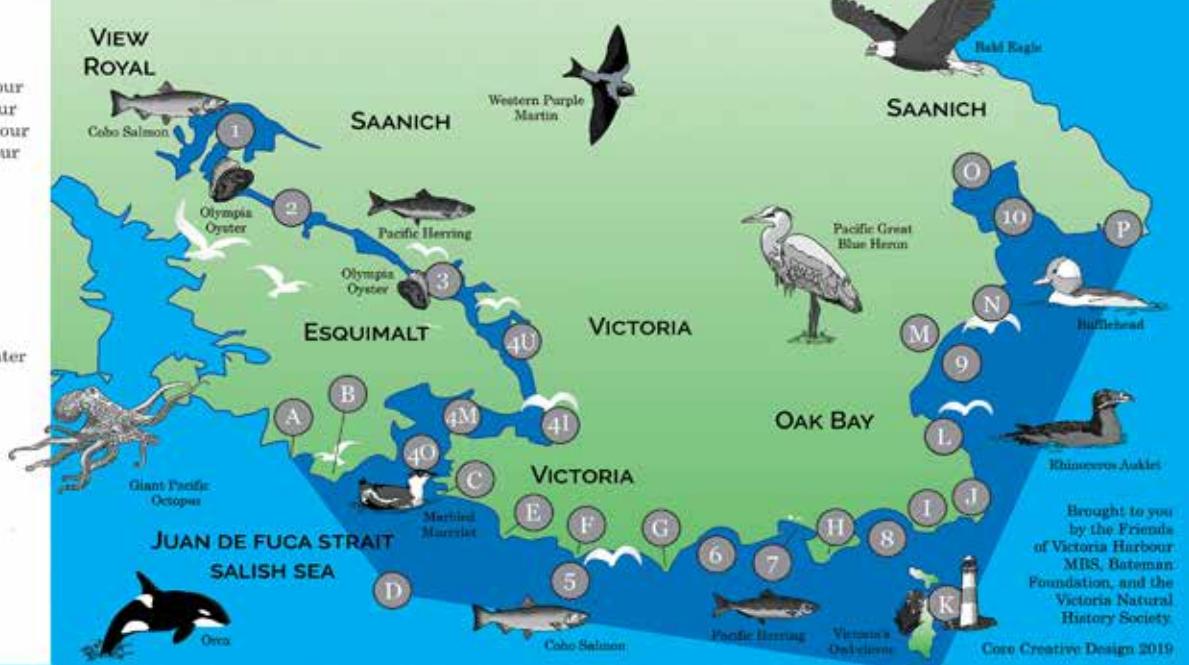
-Jacques Sirois
chair, Friends of VHMBS

VICTORIA HARBOUR MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

Est. Oct 27th, 1923 | 28 km in length | 1840 hectares of seafront waters

- 1 Portage Inlet
- 2 Gorge Waterway
- 3 Selkirk Water
- 4U Victoria Upper Harbour
- 4I Victoria Inner Harbour
- 4M Victoria Middle Harbour
- 4O Victoria Outer Harbour
- 5 Dallas Waters
- 6 Ross Bay
- 7 Gonzales Bay
- 8 McNeill Bay
- 9 Oak Bay
- 10 Cadboro Bay
- A Macaulay Point
- B McLoughlin Point
- C Ogden Point Breakwater
- D Brotchie Ledge
- E Holland Point
- F Finlayson Point
- G Clover Point
- H Harling Point
- I Kitty Islet
- J Gonzales Point
- K Trial Islands
- L Turkey Head
- M Willows Beach
- N Cattle Point
- O Gyro Beach
- P Ten Mile Point

A LOT MORE THAN VICTORIA HARBOUR A LOT MORE THAN BIRDS



Saanich Climate Action Planning

I attended two Saanich climate action consultations on behalf of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association. Though useful as an indication of municipal interest in mitigating the anticipated effects of climate change, neither event led me to think that we have either the imagination or the collective will to make a vigorous start on any of the actions that climatologists have been telling us are urgent. But rather than share a lengthy report, I want to mention only that the major conclusion so far is that a very high percentage of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in Saanich come from fossil fuel driven transportation. That said, I'd like to discuss some of the broad challenges of climate change from the perspective of someone living near the high water mark.

First, whatever happens to sea levels and global temperatures will be the result of the cumulative action of peoples around the world. Even if every person in Saanich stopped driving, converted to radical vegan diets and put solar panels on their houses, the water would still rise unless similar sorts of actions occurred in most other countries. It will take all of us to fix this problem.

Second, we have followed a pattern of residential development that makes it impossible for most of us to give up our cars without some radical investment in public transit, which even then would generate GHG emissions unless all modes of transportation were converted to electricity or hydrogen. Consider for a moment the implications of living in suburbs served by a centralised food production and retail system - food is

packaged, stored and retailed in ways that require most of us to have some form of transportation just to eat. Add to this the need to commute to work and school, as well as the need to get to various recreational activities and voila, we need cars. Well, most of us.

Third, Saanich infrastructure is built around the existence of privately owned vehicles. No matter how much we might want to change, it will be difficult to do so quickly. We have too much invested in pavement and parking. Even gradual change will be challenging as long as the need conflicts with perceived economic imperatives. Whatever reasons might drive people to ignore the dramatic climate challenges that are coming, the fact remains that we would need a strong consensus for meaningful change to happen. Fighting among ourselves will only delay the action we need.

So where does this leave us? As long as we are burning fossil fuels ourselves, we are poorly placed to argue against pipelines and increased tanker traffic. But it is already apparent that the auto industry is making a massive shift towards electric vehicles that might offer realistic and functionally efficient alternatives. So, while we wait for the wheels of government to grind out solutions to public transit, zoning, water conservation and tree canopy problems, we might all quietly consider the possibility of driving less or replacing our cars with electric vehicles or bicycles.

That way we might at least take the moral high ground when it comes to fighting pipelines. Changing our own behaviour might help us convince the people who live on higher ground that we take the problem seriously enough to act, and need their help.

-Philip Lancaster



Plug In BC is a broad collaboration between the Province of BC, BC Hydro, the Fraser Basin Council, Powertech Labs, over 180 communities and businesses, the University of British Columbia's Transportation and Infrastructure Public Space Lab, the BC Institute of Technology, the University of Victoria's Institute for Integrated Energy Systems and Simon Fraser University.

On their website you will find all you need

to know about electric vehicles (EVs), electric bikes and more. The site includes information about incentives, charging stations, EV models, installing a charging station and even has a community forum program where EV owners share their stories.

So if you are thinking about switching to an electric vehicle check out:
www.pluginbc.ca.

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Ruminations of an Experimental Gardener

Hi. I am an experimental gardener and I garden down at the Gorge Park Community Gardens. I call myself an experimental gardener to offset the lack of expertise I have in gardening. My motto: "Plant the seed, and watch it grow." It seems a fairly straightforward philosophy and you can't help but feel, a little successful to see the first shoots of the year emerging from the soil. And so begins the journey.

It all began two years ago when I was offered an allotment plot at the Gorge Park Community Gardens; and so, with a friend willing to be my garden partner, I hit the ground running and winged it. My initial survey of the bed itself introduced me to swiss chard, potatoes, and lemon balm, not to mention a lot of empty space. And that's when it hit me, I had to plant something, anything...but what? And how? I realized I needed a plan and I had nothing.

This is where I felt the benefit of growing "my" garden within a community setting. For every question I had about what to plant and how to plant in my garden; I received information, conversation, comradery and loads of jocularity, and I realized then a kinship of spirit that inspired and encouraged. It has been intriguing to wander throughout the gardens these last few years, taking note of the variety and choice of plants, both in the common area and each gardener's bed and to witness the life cycle of these plants as they progressed from seed to maturity and back to seed again. I found it very inspiring to hear the stories each gardener presented when conversation took place, as there was almost always a pearl of wisdom garnered from their experiences.



Over the years, I have been stockpiling seeds. At first, I wasn't too particular on brand name. Any seed that sparked interest was, and still is, fair game. But as the idea of seed preservation took hold, I began to look more for heritage seeds with the intention of preserving their lineage. Rummaging through my stash, I chose varieties that were both familiar and almost exotic. Of course, knowing absolutely nothing of the rules of planting, there was no barrier to planting anything; thus I planted several varieties of peas, including purple peas, as well as various mustard greens, kale, multi-coloured carrots, parsnips, quinoa, tomatoes (bush and cherry), and blue corn, among others.

When the first tiny shoots sprung out of the earth I became excited. When other areas I had planted remained bare, I grew disappointed. As I watched the earthly spaces of my garden plot diminish to the glory of absolutely voluminous foliage, I became aware of the issue of space and overcrowding. By the time I realized my mistake, the plants were established and really did not want to give up their spot to aid in another's spacial wellness plan.

I was intrigued with the lifecycle I saw unfold before my eyes, from first planting to final days, the progression was fascinating. Through my observations and "experiments", I had begun to garner some revelations:

1. Research is your friend. There are many sources available to you. All you have to do is ask the question.
2. Timing is everything, whether it be planting, sowing, transplanting, thinning, harvesting, seed collecting, there is a time for a reason.
3. Be aware of how your plant will grow, as those very tiny seeds pack an amazing amount of foliage and can spread far and wide.
4. Thinning is very, VERY, very important! Failing to thin on time has its share of repercussions.
5. Plants will self seed if you let them. If you can't harvest before they go to seed, thin as soon as they appear the following year.
6. Tomatoes need a support system or they run amok.
7. Unlike most standard corn varieties, which need to be planted close together, blue corn needs space to allow it to branch out.
8. Chilling seeds for a two week period, called striation, sends a message that spring has sprung, it's time to rise.
9. Sometimes you win and sometimes you gain knowledge.
10. Mulch is a great medium. Use it often and reap the rewards.
11. It's okay to trim vines and foliage that extend into another plants spaciousness.

This is my third year working my plot, and I am eager to see where my choices will take me. I have begun the process of choosing haphazardly from my stack of seeds and starting them indoors for their eventual release into the great outdoors.

My name is Julia Mountifield, and I am an experimental gardener.



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Lights on the Gorge 2018: Report and Appeal for Help

On December 16, a team of dedicated volunteers put on Lights on Gorge, the GTCA's annual celebration of winter solstice and Christmas at the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club building on Gorge Road West. Our hardy outdoor crew, coordinated by Maria Christian, gamely combatted rain and wind to put up lights and decorations on the big tree outside VCKC, and, led by Rob Wickson, on trees near the Gorge/Tillicum bridge.

Indoors, the lantern-making workshop was followed by the Karpes family band; storytelling by Jennifer Ferris and Lee Porteous; solstice songs and readings from Quicksbottom Morris, Burke Rosen, Chris Bullock and Kay Stewart; and carol singing from the

Earl Grey Choir. Events concluded with Quicksbottom's spectacular Mummers' Play, the tree light up and the lantern procession, led by Russ Godfrey.

This year's event was distinguished by the large number of families and small children who attended, no doubt initially drawn in by Katrinka Karpes' very successful lantern-making



Photo: Saanich News

Karpes Family Band performing at Lights on the Gorge

workshop and Deb Heighway's cookies and treats. Many thanks to all performers and volunteers!

Next year presents a problem, though. Our tireless lead coordinator Kay Stewart has become less tireless, and wishes to step back. And our longtime baked goods maker and kitchen supervisor, Deb Heighway, is resigning. So we really need some help. We most need people to take charge of 1) publicity/promotion; 2) organizing beverages and donations from grocers; and 3) coordinating cookies and treats. Please consider volunteering for one or more of these roles: for more information, contact Chris Bullock by email (chrisbullock@shaw.ca) .

-Chris Bullock

Gorgeous Coffee Under New Management!

In November, new owner Gino Marrelli and daughter Gina reopened Gorgeous Coffee. Gina has a background in the restaurant/coffee and Gino had long dreamed of running a small coffee/food shop with a musical flavour. They began a search two years ago and both worked hard to find a location.

They began to make some changes to establish their own identity. Gina makes soups and enjoys cooking. Gino loves music and restarted the music nights Friday and Saturday evenings and hosts the Tuesday night open mic session. They also plan to host a music and general trivia night. The first one in January was a great success.

They switched to local suppliers of coffee and now serve locally roasted Fernwood Coffee. "This came about as a result of customer input," says Gina. "We are open to suggestions

about customer preferences. We kept everyone's favourite treats". They kept Portofino baked goods and Rising Star Bakery goods. They want to support locally operated businesses. Gina and Gino, who are both very community oriented, realize how important this small coffee shop is to the local community. They want a place where locals meet and feel at home over a cup of coffee and snacks. "We want people to feel at home here", says Gino.

If you are fortunate, you may be able to catch Gino and his wonderful voice singing in Italian when he hosts the Tuesday night sessions. And Gina's friendly welcoming smile and Italian hospitality adds a special warmth to Gorgeous.

"Feedback from the community has been positive and welcomed," says Gino.



Photo: Russ Godfrey
Gina and Gino Marrelli, new owners of Gorgeous Coffee

Check out Gorgeous Coffee Facebook page for activities and updates. And come on down and try the coffee and treats.

Welcome back Gorgeous !

-Russ Godfrey



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Upcoming Events

creativ festival west: March 8 – 9, at Pearkes Rec. Centre. Join others who share your creative passion in sewing, quilting, knitting, crochet, crafting and so much more at this two-day event offering over 70 hours of classes, seminars, and free on stage shows, along with exceptional shopping. More info at <http://creativedestitcheshow.com/bc-shows/>

Tillicum Centre's LEGO Mania: March 9 – 10 at Tillicum Mall. Bring in your LEGO masterpiece featuring this year's theme – Around the World. Tillicum Centre's LEGO Mania challenge is open to participants 5 – 14 years old. Register online at www.tillicumkids.com by March 1.

55+ Lifestyle Show: March 12, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info at 55pluslifestyle.com/victoria/

27th Annual Brown Cup – Rowing Regatta: Saturday, March 30 at the Gorge Waterway. More info. at <http://rowingbc.ca>

Gorge Tillicum Community Association AGM: Thursday, April 4, 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club. See page 2 for details.

2019 Wake up the Gorge: April 6 – 7, 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

Hampton Concert Orchestra 2019 Spring Concerts: Sunday, April 14, at 2:30 pm and Monday, April 15, at 7:30 pm at Les Passmore Seniors' Centre, 286 Hampton Road. Admission by donation. More info. at www.hamptonconcertorchestra.com

Free Easter Skates: Saturday, April 20, 12:25 – 1:35 pm and Sunday, April 21, 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 info. at www.saanich.ca

Lions Gorge Park Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 21, 12:00 – 3:00 pm. The Esquimalt Lions present their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Esquimalt Gorge Park. The event includes entertainment, food, crafts, face-painting and a massive Easter Egg Hunt. An egg-ceptional event for the whole family! More info at www.esquimalt.ca

Annual Earth Day Gorge Park Clean-Up: Saturday, April 27, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Gorge Park East. Meet at the Gorge Park Community Gardens. Free coffee and refreshments.

Vancouver Island Pet Expo: May 4 – 5, Pearkes Rec Centre. The fun-filled family event will feature pet-related vendors along with interesting and unique entertainment. More info at www.vancouverislandpetexpo.com

9th Annual KidsRun Victoria: Sunday, May 5, 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/ or email kidsrunvictoria@gmail.com

Saanich Cycling Festival: Sunday, May 5, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Bike-related displays and activities, food and music at Saanich Municipal Hall and festival stations along the Goose and Lochside trails where you can get bike trail and route information, refreshments and pick up your Cycle Fest passport for a chance to win prizes. More info at www.saanich.ca

Switchblade Paddle Sport Relay Races: Saturday, May 11. 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

Kids Mega Sale: Saturday, May 11, 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/ or contact kidsmegasale@gmail.com

Victoria's Ultimate Hobby & Toy Show: May 25 – 26, at Pearkes Rec. Centre. More info at www.ultimatetoyfair.com

15th Annual Fairway Gorge Super Sprints Dragon Boat Races 2019: Sunday, May 26, 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 200m sprints! More info at <https://fgpaddle.com/races/> or contact info@fgpaddle.com

Selkirk Waterfront Festival: Sunday, May 26, 10:00 – 3:00 pm in Selkirk Green Park. This fun-filled multi-cultural family event offers something for everyone. Enjoy exciting activities in the Family FUN Zone, world cuisine in the inter-national food court and unique arts and crafts in our colourful street market. For more info please call Travis at 250-388-5251, or email travis@burnsidegorge.ca

2019 Bike to Work & School Week: Monday, May 27 – Sunday, June 2. 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 & School Week team.

World Oceans Day Event: Saturday, June 8, at Esquimalt Gorge Park. Come out to the Gorge Waterway Discovery Centre to learn about protecting your local waterways and celebrate and learn about the ocean's diversity and importance to our ecosystems. More info at www.esquimalt.ca

Gentle Walk & Talk – Gorge Waterway Park: Thursday, June 13, 9:30 – 11:00 am. Meet at Gorge Waterway Park, near Canoe Club off Tillicum Road. Suitable for all walking abilities. Dogs not permitted. No fee or registration required. More info at www.saanichrec.ca

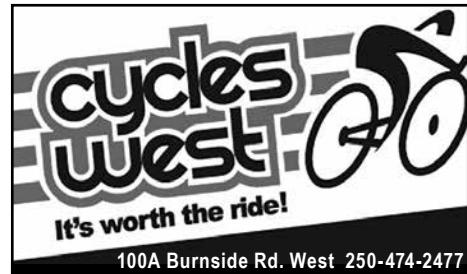
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Membership Application

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)**
 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.

Around the Neighbourhood: The Great Piano Move



For a long time now, there has been a kind of musical camaraderie between some of the neighbours on Earl Grey Street and some of the neighbours near the corner of Obed and Orillia Streets. Over the past decade, there have been countless parties and gatherings, always including music and songs, and often, late night jams and backyard beers. Usually, there are guitars and mandolins, banjos and ukuleles and sometimes, at a couple of homes in particular, old pianos. Malcolm and Margie Purdy have hosted many of these events but recently decided it was time to pass along their beloved old piano to a new home. So, on Sunday January 20th, it was organized that a bunch of the neighbours would get together to help move it out of the Purdy living room over to the Karpes family home on Orillia Street. The weather was mild and sunny as about a half dozen of us carefully lowered the piano down the front steps and proceeded to roll it on a cart down Obed Avenue to Orillia Street. We had a good laugh, making our way down those three blocks of Obed, a spectacle to neighbours and passers by, before managing to haul the piano through the back door of the home we sometimes call the "Orillia St Music Hall". A big thanks to all those involved - Malcolm and Margie, Shawn and Celeste, Paul Magnusson, Paul Cote and Kirk Karpes. We look forward to many more musical seasons and parties yet to come!!

- Scott Karpes



Photos: Katrinka Karpes