
Spring 2000

**GTCA Executive Members
1999/2000**

President: Harry Lewis
Ph: 384-8460
email:
hlewis@pacificcoast.net

Vice President: Paul Gerrard
Ph: 386-2745

Secretary: John Hoole
Ph: 386-7458

Treasurer: Rob Wickson
Ph: 383-9241

Membership: Ann Genuist
Ph: 384-9412

Area Directors:

Area 1: Ed Lyons
Ph: 479-9030

Area 2: Steve Legg
Ph: 384-9412

Area 3: Bob June
Ph: 381-0848

Area 4: Ray Farmer
Ph: 382-1122

Area 5: Sue Koolman
Ph: 475-1889

Comments? Contributions?
Cartoons?
FAX to Diana at 386-7458

Gorge Tillicum Community Association NEWSLETTER

Tillicum Local Area Plan – latest update

At a special meeting on Tuesday, April 4th, Saanich Council considered a draft of the updated Tillicum Local Area Plan. It was gratifying, from a local perspective, to see about 15 Gorge Tillicum residents turn out to make presentations to Council on topics ranging from the community vision, to environment, transportation, housing and engineering infrastructure.

The two 'action plan' topics that the document recognizes are of primary concern to the community are infrastructure (e.g. upgrades to water and sewage lines, storm drains and sidewalks) and the development of more neighbourhood friendly village centres on Tillicum and Burnside (e.g. traffic calming and safety, streetscape enhancement, appropriate commercial development). These were the issues identified at the community meetings held as part of the process to develop the Plan, and the Executive has pressed the planners to make the sections dealing with these issues as forceful as possible. Our aim has been for the new Plan to also serve as a solid base for the ongoing improvement in the quality of life in our area and help protect our neighbourhood from being victimized by traffic volumes created by the planned population explosion in the western suburbs.

Planning staff will now make the alterations to the draft version that were suggested at the meeting, before a final version returns to Council for a public hearing. Notice of this hearing will be given to all residents. It is hoped that as many people as possible will take the time to look through the Plan (copies are available from Saanich Planning Dept. 475-1775) and if they have comments or criticisms, will voice them at the hearing – or pass them to any of the Executive.

And a "heads up" – the preparatory planning work for the Regional Growth Strategy is apparently nearly completed, and there will be surveys, workshops and information sessions during the summer. We will do our best to inform you when the timetable is available.

Gorge Canada Day Picnic

Saanich Council has approved the closure of Gorge Road West between Tillicum and Admirals, on Saturday, July 1st, from 8am to 7pm for the **Gorge Canada Day Picnic**. The organizing group is moving into high gear, so if you would like to join, to be a volunteer helper on the day, or if you have any ideas on how we can make this day even more enjoyable for everyone, contact Harry (384-8460) or John (386-7458).

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association will be held at the Lounge, G.R. Pearkes Arena, on Thursday, May 18th at 7.30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Councillor David Cubberly

Traffic Calming/Street Reclaiming

This topic is one that is gathering more and more momentum, not only in the Gorge Tillicum area, but also throughout the Saanich municipality. People are beginning to question more and more whether they have to put up with local traffic problems, or whether there is something that neighbourhoods and local government can do to alleviate some of the symptoms, and to make where we live more liveable.

Recently some Association members attended a couple of workshops put on by Saanich Engineering to assist in developing direction and policy regarding requests for neighbourhood traffic calming. Out of these lively discussions, emerged a group of citizens who are working with Engineering to draw up guidelines for dealing with traffic calming initiatives and projects.

However, as one who attended the workshops, I think the strongest message I brought away was that we can begin to address some of the issues **ourselves** because **we** are a part of the problem!!! In this, I am very much guided by the work of David Engwicht, an Australian, who has developed many of his ideas on 'Street Reclaiming' from his own experience in Brisbane.

Engwicht uses the 'garbage' analogy when thinking about traffic. Not too many years ago it was assumed that we would have to find larger 'landfills' for our ever-increasing volumes of garbage. Then, when we really examined what we were labeling as garbage, it was discovered that a

good percentage of it could be reduced by fairly straightforward methods.

Engwicht suggests that some of the same ideas pertain to traffic. For example:

- **Replace** some car trips: walk, cycle, use public transit. The exercise will do you good, and you may even talk to your neighbours!!
- **Remove** unnecessary trips: save and combine trips, car pool and share rides, use telephone, fax and email, use home/office delivery services.
- **Reduce** trip length: use closer destinations, shop and employ locally.

Another of Engwicht's novel ideas is the Traffic Reduction Treaty between two streets, or two neighbourhoods, which agree to the following commitments:

- Reduce car use and put less traffic in each other's streets.
- Reduce speed and act like guests in other people's neighbourhoods.
- Reclaim the streets to improve the social, cultural and economic life of the neighbourhood and city.

This is a priority matter for our Association and has been an important issue in developing our Local Area Plan, particularly as part of the Urban Village concept. You will be hearing more about it over the next year.

Harry Lewis

In our last newsletter we introduced advertising for the first time and we would like to explain the rationale behind the executive's decision for this move.

Our desire has been to distribute the newsletter not only to our 140 member households, but also to every doorstep in the Gorge Tillicum area - roughly 3500. We believe it is important to keep everyone informed about community issues and ideas, and a newsletter is the best tool for the job.

But, there is a price. Though the newsletter is written, formatted and delivered by Association volunteers (more help is always appreciated), printing costs run to a few hundred dollars for each edition.

We cannot meet our distribution goal without financial help, so we have approached local businesses that we knew to be supportive of the Association. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank these business supporters, and urge Gorge Tillicum residents to support all local businesses when possible. The executive recognizes the important role that local entrepreneurs play in our community and will continue to seek ways to work cooperatively with them for the benefit of all.

What's The Answer?

For some months now the former Kan's store at the Obed/Dysart intersection has been for lease, and is now for sale. There must be a good, appropriate, neighbourhood commercial use for this property. Your ideas??

Let us know!

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOTES – Chords and Dis-Chords

THE BAD.....Sloooooow Down!

Ray Farmer

A few nights ago, my neighbour and I stood talking on the side of our street. In that 5 minutes, 3 motorists zoomed by us. As they passed, I yelled out "SLOW DOWN!" They did, less than 50 feet away at the stop sign on the corner. Some people are always in a hurry.

On our street alone, there are at least 30 kids under 10 years of age. As summer approaches, these kids are playing outside a lot more. As in most streets, there are numerous vehicles parked on the boulevard. Kids, pets, cars or adults can and do appear out of nowhere.

So please act responsibly and drive as you would want others to drive in *your* street. Let's all make our neighbourhood a safer place to live.

THE UGLY.....Scoop the Poop!!!!

For whatever reason, some dog owners seem to have decided that they don't need to scoop in Cuthbert Holmes Park – and, inevitably, others are following suit.

W-R-O-N-G, people! We now have a problem. Take your bags and pick it up.....it's no hardship and ensures that this wonderful amenity may be properly and safely enjoyed by everyone.

And if you won't do it for your neighbours, do it for your dogs. Otherwise, the anti-dog brigade will agitate to have dogs banned from the Park or required to be leashed, so the dogs won't get the exercise they need, and we humans will have a neighbourhood conflict we can do without.

So.....scoop for peace!

AND THE ULTIMATELY GOOD..... Diary of an Unwitting Polluter

John Hoole

Dec. 15....attended Gorge Tillicum Association general meeting at which the guest speaker was a representative of The Veins of Life Society. A major theme of her talk was the problem of waste water going into the storm water system, and thus into the Gorge. And the threat it poses to the plants and creatures living in the Gorge itself and the waterways that feed into it.

Dec. 29.....in basement while washing machine emptied. Had thought....where *is* that water going? Decided I might not like the answer and fled upstairs.

Jan. 6.....after week of unsuccessfully trying to forget my suspicion, took closer look. Worst fears confirmed.....my waste water was a neighbourhood nasty!

Jan. 10.....called plumber, assuring the answering machine that it was a matter of the gravest urgency.

Feb. 14.....plumber arrived. "Crisis?" I explained the problem. She explained how to fix it. ".....and you'll need a soomp poomp". "I know I'll need a soomp.....I mean a sump pump. How much?" She told me.

Feb. 18.....sufficiently recovered from head wound, suffered when I fainted at her response, to call. "Go ahead," I commanded bravely, if quaveringly.

And so it's done. No longer does my washer water blind fish or kill plants or contribute to the murk of our remarkable waterway. And sure, I had other plans for my tax refund, but no regrets.....instead, a sense of pride, of having contributed, whenever I stroll down the Gorge.

By the way, do you know where *your* waste water goes?

'Approachable and ready to listen'



SHEILA ORR
Councillor

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH
770 Varnon Ave Victoria BC V8X 2W7
(250) 595-0114 FAX: (250) 595-7421

IRWIN INDUSTRIES
(1988) Ltd.




- 5" Continuous Gutters
- Gutter Cleaning / Maintenance
- Vinyl / Aluminum Siding
- Hardboard Siding
- Steel Siding / Roofing
- Canopies
- Sofits

542 Hillside Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8T 1Y9

PAUL GERRARD
Home: 360-1037

Tel: 382-5154
Fax: 382-5748

Can't find a title? Try us



2967 Tillicum Rd.
Victoria, B.C. V9A 2A6

Telephone
361-4494

SAANICH INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEED OF REPAIR

The District of Saanich provides a wide variety of services to its residents. Underground systems provide clean water and take away sewage and storm water; roads, sidewalks and traffic signals safely and efficiently accommodate vehicles and pedestrians; and recreation facilities provide for our health and wellness.

But the infrastructure that delivers these services is aging. Many of our water mains, sewer pipes and storm water drains are deteriorating and need to be replaced. Roads, sidewalks and municipal buildings need repairs and seismic upgrading. And, many of our parks need upgrading and expansion.

Maintaining the municipal infrastructure preserves the quality of life we enjoy in Saanich. In many ways it is like the maintenance we do on our homes – regular upkeep and repairs keep things running smoothly. Ignoring these things means bigger problems, and bigger bills, in the long run.

Rising costs, and repeated government cutbacks and off-loading, have limited the municipality's ability to fund these pressures. The situation in Saanich is not unique. Municipalities across the country are experiencing the same problem.

In Saanich, we are developing a 5-year enhanced infrastructure-fund-

Councillor David Cubberly
ing program to address this. Council is currently reviewing the program and its funding options. Increasing taxes and user fees are one of the options being considered.

Saanich Council is interested in hearing from you. A telephone survey has been conducted and an information phone line and e-mail address set up. If you would like more information, or would like to comment, please call the Clerk's Office at 475-1775; e-mail us at:

upgrade@gov.saanich.bc.ca or write to Saanich Council at the District of Saanich, 770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8X 2W7.

Who'd Want that Job? Reflections on Budget 2000

All too often we hear criticism of elected politicians and the decisions they make on our behalf. But I, for one, hold them in some esteem, while at the same time feeling some sympathy for them and the difficult questions and issues they are asked to resolve. Take for example the current budget deliberations going on at Saanich Municipal Hall.

When all Saanich municipal departments had made their funding requests for 2000, and the province had once again reduced their support for municipalities, local politicians were faced with the prospect of a 12% raise in property taxes to cover the proposed expenditures. Clearly this would be a bitter pill for Saanich residents to swallow, so naturally the Mayor and Council have been examining the books and priorities closely to try and bring any increases down to a more moderate level. Council and staff intend to announce shortly a public consultation process about priorities for the 2000 Budget.

So, while constructive criticism of political decisions is sometimes warranted, spare some empathy for those who choose to lead, and the thorny issues they are required to deal with on our behalf.

Harry Lewis

Thanks and Farewell

Recently we received the news that our Area 1 director, Kirk Campsall, is moving to Sidney and therefore is resigning from the Executive.

Kirk's enthusiasm and energy will be greatly missed. He played a big part in making the first Canada Day picnic a success. He has also been in charge of our newsletter distribution system, and has canvassed residents regarding reduced speed and improved safety on Gorge Road West.

Our thanks and best wishes go with Kirk.

Gorge Tillicum Community Association Membership

Membership in the GTCA runs from Jan. - Dec. at a cost of \$5.00 per household.

Name.....

Address.....

Postal Code.....Phone.....

Please mail to: Anne Genuist, 820 Cowper St, Victoria, V9A 2G3.