



Thanks to the 50 or so people who came out to the Cuthbert Holmes Park community mapping event on May 2nd. The themes of safety and security, natural areas management, community gardens, trails, and recreation opportunities were discussed following a walkabout in the park. Now Saanich park planners will sift and sort the information gathered as they work toward a concept plan later in the year.

Photo by Arden Little.

## Cheltenham Court Motel Site: The next idea

About 25 Gorge-Tillicum residents gathered on Monday night, May 10, at Craigflower Elementary to hear a plan for an independent seniors' living development on the Cheltenham Court Motel site.

Saanich Senior Living president Doug Regelous explained that there is currently no facility in our area (within 5km) that could allow the estimated population (400) aged 75–85 to move out of their houses and into supportive housing. As such, they face the double trauma of leaving their homes and their neighbourhood.

"Nobody goes looking for senior housing," he observed. Most is need-driven: adult children believe their parents to be at risk, becoming isolated by the loss of a spouse or reduced mobility, and unable to safely maintain their own home.

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*Independent living is a first stage, with no on-site medical support. It provides safe, secure private accommodations with 24-hour staffing; shared meals; on-site services such as bathing, hairdressing, and fitness; and group transportation through shuttle buses.*

Surely, he argued, we must provide the people who built this neighbourhood an opportunity to stay here—and enjoy premium views of the Gorge—at this vulnerable time of their lives?

Concerns raised at the meeting included: size of the structure (varying from 2–4 stories, with 2 elevator shafts of 6 stories, although these may be lowered); rezoning (applications are project-specific and do not automatically open the floodgates to additional multi-occupancy projects);

...continued on page 7



## Neighbourhood News

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

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Winter/Fall (November)

Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions & advertising for the next issue is October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

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

**Carriers needed along Admirals Road – Contact Ray Farmer**

# a word from the president

It always amazes me how fast time flies. It was just a year ago that I began my term as President of The Gorge Tillicum Community Association. With the completion of our Annual General Meeting on April 15th, the membership has confirmed the return of all of the existing directors and officers plus adding Chris Kask as Treasurer, along with Virginia Bennett and Brian Menzies as directors. I can assure you that this is a strong and skilled group working on behalf of our community.

The full house at this year's AGM was treated to an evening of reflection and education on Cuthbert Holmes Park, starting with Angela Wyatt and her wonderful photographic study of the park, followed by Julian Anderson, Friends of CHP, and then Saanich Park's specialists Becky Goodall and Marion McCoy. A special thanks goes out to GTUF for the great snacks.

What a perfect lead in for the May 2nd mapping exercise in CHP. For the 45 cheerful folks who turned up, thank you. There is much to do as we found out. Please stay turned for further developments.

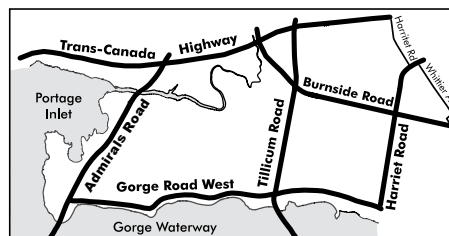
*Since our last newsletter, much has happened in the municipality. From examining proposed legalization of secondary suites, reviewing climate action plans, participating in discussions on urban chickens and listening to development proposals, we are keeping busy.*

Your board continues to forge links with Gorge Tillicum Urban Framers (GTUF), the Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI), and the Native Friendship Centre.

Next up is the picnic. When this newsletter hits the streets and airways, we will be building our energy to put on the 12th Annual Gorge Canada Picnic. Come one, come all, and be sure to bring your friends and families.

— Rob Wickson, President

## Gorge Tillicum Community Association [www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)



### GTCA Board of Directors 09/10

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

# LOCAL HERO Bruce Parisian



*Our Local Hero this time is an outstanding community leader who works in the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood, but whom few of us know.*

**B**ruce Parisian has been Executive Director of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) for almost 11 years and has overseen its relocation into the former Hampton School on Regina Avenue, and its growth as a service provider. VNFC now has a staff of over 60 and an annual budget of approx \$5M targeted at improving the education, health, and welfare of native families living in the capital region.

*Bruce speaks with pride and commitment about the programs provided by staff at the centre, and there is certainly a happy, lively buzz to the centre on the day of our meeting.*

Born and raised in Regina of Cree and Métis background, Bruce worked for the Saskatchewan provincial government in child and family services before moving to the island and beginning a career with Canada Manpower that would bring him into contact with many of the native bands on Vancouver Island. At a time in life when many are thinking of scaling back on work, Bruce took on the ED job at VNFC and has steered it into a formidable organization working on behalf of Victoria's native population.

VNFC has become a strong community centre in the midst of our neighbourhood, and it welcomes both native and non native people to come and find out more of what it has to offer — much of it thanks to Bruce Parisian. ([www.vnfc.ca/services](http://www.vnfc.ca/services)) — Harry Lewis

## Snippets

Contrary to what was reported in the last newsletter, **Saanich will not be doing any work on Admirals Road this summer.** They have decided to wait until 2011 when the Craigflower Bridge will be completely upgraded. At that time they plan to finish the Admirals Road “safety-scaping”, completing the bike lanes and sidewalks.

\*

With respect to the **Craigflower Bridge work**, this will be a joint venture between Saanich and View Royal. We have been assured that there will be a chance for input from residents and herring fishers. Check our website ([www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)) or join our email list for notification ([info@gorgetillicum.ca](mailto:info@gorgetillicum.ca)).

\*

If you missed the **Cuthbert Holmes Community Mapping event**, you can still give input: online at [www.saanichparks.ca](http://www.saanichparks.ca) (click on the link to ‘Parks Planning’); contact Becky Goodall, Park Planner and Designer, [becky.goodall@saanich.ca](mailto:becky.goodall@saanich.ca), 250-475-5535; or visit Saanich Parks’ kiosk at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic.

\*

**Join us for neighbourhood soccer:** Tuesday nights, 6-7pm at Meadow Park. Just for fun and a bit of exercise. For more info: 250-384-8460.

\*

**Frustrated by an un-mowed and unsightly yard in your area?** You can call Saanich, ask for bylaw enforcement, and lodge a complaint under the noxious weed bylaw. An officer will check the situation out and, if warranted, notify the homeowner by mail that they have ten days to mow the lawn or the municipality will do it for them, adding the cost to their taxes. This is a simple and safe way to keep our neighbourhood beautiful.



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# The Green Space

## Victoria Native Friendship Centre Community Garden

A year ago, on the wish list for my job, which includes providing The Victoria Native Friendship Centre community opportunities to learn about healthy food, was a nice big garden.

*One that would provide fresh vegetables and fruit, offer a learning opportunity, and is a beautiful, restful place for community members.*

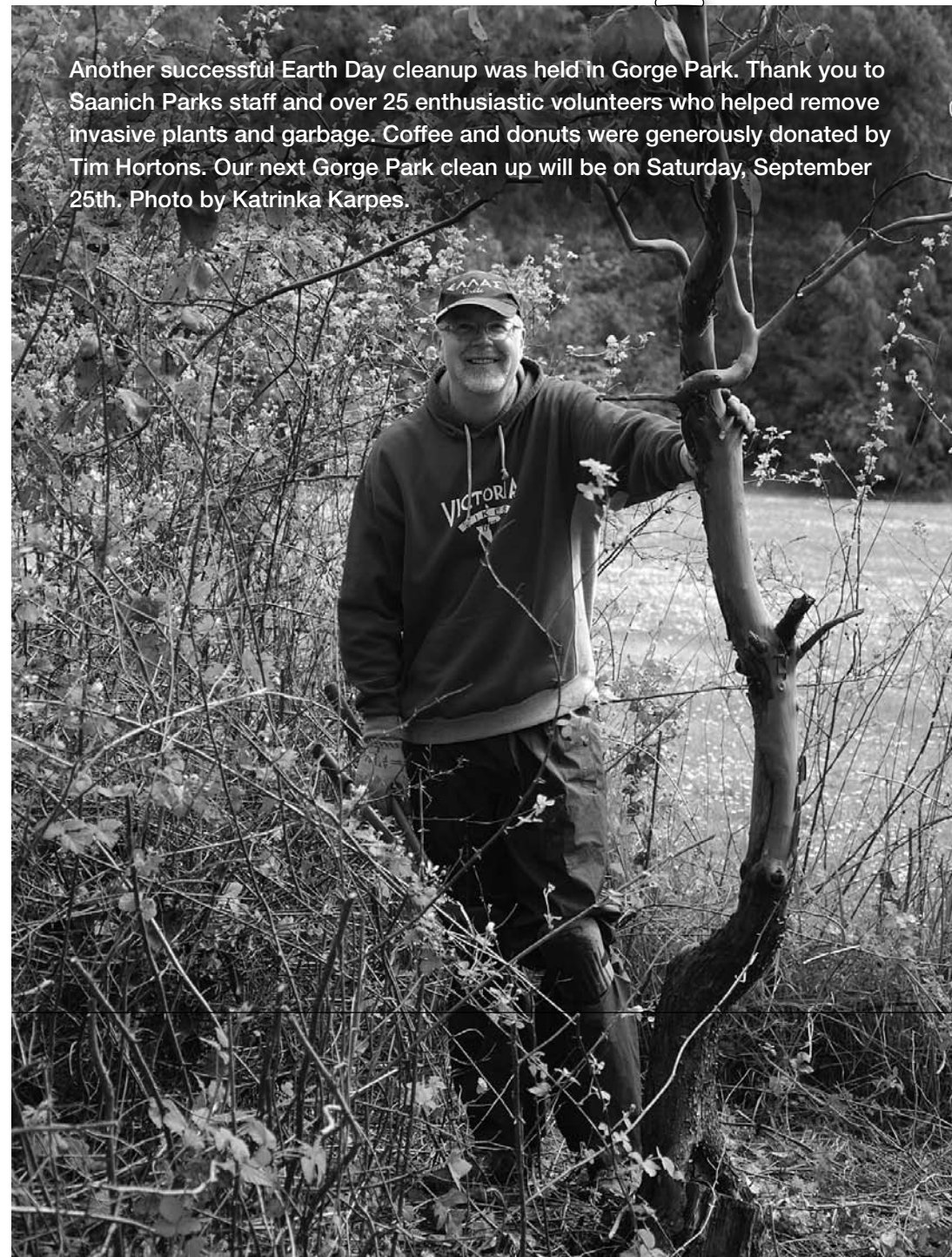
Oh, and a smokehouse/pit cook site ... and a Vita Mix blender, and new wooden spoons, too. I honestly thought I would have the spoons sooner than a remarkable 35' x 70' garden, resplendent with a greenhouse, future smokehouse/pit cook site, running water, all in a 10' high fence wrapper. Everything I had wished for, the only thing missing was the bow.

It started last spring, when I brought my wish list to Bruce Parisian, our Executive Director at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. I had been dragging my feet, lamenting the idea of starting spring planting with community members here at the VNFC because, during the previous summer, our little garden in the parking lot was involved in much more activity than just gardening. Our little garden was used as a bed (he said it was a really comfortable sleep, though); food was harvested by people other than VNFC community members; it was set on fire (honest); used as a garbage receptacle; and occasionally, a bathroom by cats. I could understand the bed part and the harvesting by the neighbourhood. The last straw was a toss-up between the fire and the garbage dump. The need for cat-proofing goes without saying. I think the fire was the eye opener, addressing the need for a secure garden area, safe from fire, cats, and sleepy people. The only stipulation Bruce had was that it absolutely needed a 10' high fence. I thought, great.

The rest happened quickly. Jen McMullen (lovely!) and I had worked together to find funds from the Aboriginal Health Initiative Program (AHIP), and a design. We put the call out for volunteers to VIHA, LifeCycles Project Society and the VNFC community. Day one, 18 volunteers brought the desire and willingness to be a part of something that would make a lasting difference in this community. I am grateful to them.

This morning, I picked kale for green smoothies for our Friendship Soup Fridays. We are on the trail to self-sustainability, one wish at a time. Next come the spoons.

— Carrie Pollard



Another successful Earth Day cleanup was held in Gorge Park. Thank you to Saanich Parks staff and over 25 enthusiastic volunteers who helped remove invasive plants and garbage. Coffee and donuts were generously donated by Tim Hortons. Our next Gorge Park clean up will be on Saturday, September 25th. Photo by Katrinka Karpes.

## Pesticide By-Law

As of May 1, 2010, residential pesticide use, for cosmetic purposes, is no longer permitted. Pesticides include any substance designed to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate living organisms and the term "pesticide" encompasses insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides.

Products containing synthetic chemicals including glyphosate (e.g., Roundup, Sidekick), 2,4-D (e.g. Weed n' Feed, Killax), Malathion, Carbaryl (e.g. Sevin) and Diazinon are some of the more common pesticides that are not permitted under the new bylaw.

Pesticides which ARE permitted include: acetic acid, corn gluten meal, methoprene, botanically-derived pesticides (pyrethrins and rotenone), insect bait stations and pheromones, insecticidal or herbicidal soaps, mineral oils (dormant oil), sulphurs, ferrous sulphate, diatomaceous earth, and biological pesticides (Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) and nematodes).

Enforcement will be done through education, warning tickets, and fines (\$250-10,000). To report an offence, contact the Saanich Bylaw Officer at 250-475-5456.

*To safely dispose of pesticides and containers, you may drop them off at the Hartland Landfill or Ellis Recycling (524 David St.) at no charge.*

For information on pesticide alternatives and to view a copy of the bylaw, visit [www.pesticide.saanich.ca](http://www.pesticide.saanich.ca).

— Katherine Brandt



Sculptor Fred Dobbs at the unveiling of Camossung in Gorge Waterway Park. Photo by Rob Wickson

## GTUF Community Garden Proposal

Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers (GTUF) recently sent a letter of intent to Saanich Parks Department expressing their interest in developing a community/allotment garden on the Burke Street property adjacent to Cuthbert Holmes Park. The land, situated on part of the original Craigflower farm is well suited to vegetable gardening. It has good sun exposure, access to city water, and proximity to parking. The waiting lists for existing allotment gardens in Saanich are long and getting longer as more and more people get introduced to the benefits of growing your own food. GTUF's goal with this project is to develop and implement a proposal by mid-2012 with the aid of interested individuals and groups throughout Saanich. These individuals will then take on the long-term management of the project.

— Virginia Bennett

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# — West Gorge Traffic Calming Update —

The West Gorge Transportation Committee recently met with Saanich Engineering to review results of traffic counts taken last November (after the Admirals Bridge was finished) and to discuss the implementation of the long-awaited traffic calming measures.

*The table below shows the top speed of 85% of drivers, which means that 15% of the traffic is going faster (see [www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca) for full table).*

ROAD	SPEED (85 percentile) KM/HOUR
Cowper	52
Obed	51
Walter	54
Ker	50
Vincent	49
Dysart	46
Inlet	45
Austin	48
Colquitz	45

While the posted speed across Saanich is 50 km/h, the Motor Vehicle Act compels drivers to drive according to the condition of the road. When a road is narrow and does not have sidewalks, a slower speed is necessary to ensure driver, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. At a town hall meeting on June 8, 2006, 27% West Gorge residents in attendance reported that the speed of vehicle travel was their largest traffic concern.

## Saanich has made some plans that will start this summer and continue through 2011:

1. Cowper intersections at Austin and Colquitz: S curves will be replaced with concrete medians prior to and within the intersections.
2. A crosswalk on Ker from Meadow Park to Cuthbert Holmes Park.
3. A short sidewalk from Austin/Newbury along Ker to the entrance to Meadow Park
4. A trial of temporary speed humps along Vincent, Walter, Ker, Davida, and Dysart. An evaluation of speed will be done after a few months. (Speed humps are planned on the remaining roads for 2011.)
5. Traffic circles at Bodega and Vincent, Walter, Davida and Ker (2011)
6. Pinchers (narrowing) on Obed (2011).

— Pam Loadman

## Ongoing Events

### Saanich Neighbourhood Place (Pearkes Rec Centre)

#### Tuesday Night Community Dinner Weekly 6pm

Bring the whole family and join us for a healthy meal that is also delicious! Dinners include a vegetarian and wheat-free option, and are prepared by our trained chef, Mike, by our Community Kitchens facilitator, Theresa, as well as parents who generously donate their time and energy. Please sign up by dropping by or calling 250-360-1148 to let us know that you are coming.

Suggested Donation: \$2/person  
\$5/family


#### NEW! Dad's Drop-In Saturdays, 9–11am

The Dad's Drop-In provides opportunities for male caregivers and children ages 0–5 to grow in a safe, positive and supportive environment. Join facilitator Jordan Czop for free-play activities, as well as monthly activities which could include: pancake breakfasts, nursery rhymes, kinder-gym, arts and crafts, BBQs and more.

Suggested donation: \$2/family

Email: [admin.sn-place@telus.net](mailto:admin.sn-place@telus.net)  
[www.saanichneighbourhoodplace.com](http://www.saanichneighbourhoodplace.com)

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# Have you discovered the Saanich Centennial Library yet?

Since the Saanich Centennial Branch opened its doors to an eager community in October 2007, we have served thousands of visitors from Saanich and Greater Victoria. This beautiful and spacious “green” facility is a Centennial project and the first Greater Victoria Public Library branch to pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification.

Located beside the G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre, the library is a wonderful meeting place that has something for everyone. Families gather in the Kids’ Place for free story programs for babies, toddlers and preschoolers and other school age programs such as the popular Summer Reading Club. Adults read in the comfortable “living room” and magazine areas or take advantage of the programs we offer on topics such as health, travel, computer education and gardening. Teens meet in the Teen Zone to play video games on the gaming stations, study together or participate in teen programs.

Many computers are available for free Internet research, e-mail and document preparation such as resumes, letters and essays. A small study room can be reserved for a two-hour period. There are other quiet nooks for study and laptop use around the library as well.

Finally, for the local history buffs, the Saanich Centennial Branch shares space with the Saanich Archives where you can learn more about Saanich’s history.

We have circulated more than 1.5 million items in 2.5 years! Our circulation continues to grow as more children and adults daily discover our large collections of books, magazines, dvds, video games and other audiovisual materials.

Come by and visit us. The Saanich Centennial staff will be happy to meet you, make you a free library card and help you with your information needs. For information, go to [www.gvpl.ca](http://www.gvpl.ca)

— Anne Parker

*...continued from page 1*

## Cheltenham Court Motel Site: The next idea

parking (underground resident and visitor parking); access (uses same Gorge Road access as the current motel);

increased traffic (seniors’ developments are relatively low-impact, since few occupants can drive, and—an unfortunate statistic of our times—few will have regular visitors).

There was concern about adding seniors’ housing to an area “where young families are needed”. However, another resident observed there’s actually a real need for senior housing that goes farther: supporting us from the time we leave our homes until our final days.

In order to accommodate 105 rental units—the minimum number allowing the business to be viable—a sizeable structure will be needed. Architect Paul Merrick’s preliminary plan covers the same footprint as the motel; its design strives to match the feel of the houses in the neighbourhood. “We could put something in that would do the job and look like a bunker” Regelous observed, “but we’d rather satisfy this need with an architecturally-pleasing building.”

He invites residents to join his mailing list and promises more public meetings as plans progress. For more information: contact Doug Regelous, President, Saanich Senior Living: 250-384-1969 (c/o Christine Lintott Architect).

— Rhona McAdam

## Upcoming Events

**Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers:** Interested in growing food and food security? You’re welcome to attend the Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers’ monthly meetings, including the next one on Sunday, June 20, from 3:00–5:00 pm. For more information, contact Gabe Epstein at (250) 382-1328 or [belle.leon1@gmail.com](mailto:belle.leon1@gmail.com)

**12th Gorge Canada Day Picnic:** Gorge Waterway, Thursday, July 1, 8:30 am–4:00 pm at Gorge Waterway Park and Kosapsom Park. Celebrate Canada Day along the Gorge Waterway with a pancake breakfast, parade, stage entertainment, classic cars, kids’ activities, street hockey, Strawberry Tea, market and more. [www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)

**Gorge on Art:** Saturday, July 3, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Walk the Gorge Waterway and visit a fabulous selection of art from over 45 artists, for viewing and purchase. Food kiosks and more. [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca)

**Saanich Trails & Treks: Gentle Walk & Talk – Gorge Waterway:** Thursday, July 22, 9:30–11:00 am. Meet at Gorge Waterway Park. For all walking abilities. No fee or registration required.

**Preschoolers in the Park – Craigflower Park:** Friday, July 23, 5:30–7:00 pm. This free program lets children (1 month–6 years) enjoy outdoor play on our adventure playgrounds, an organized circle time and a guided nature walk through the neighbourhood. Bring a stroller or child carrier. Registration not required.

**Music in Rudd Park:** Tuesday, July 27, 6:00–8:00 pm. Bring your picnic dinner, blankets and chairs and enjoy a free neighbourhood concert in Rudd Park! Food available for purchase. For more info: 250-475-5408

**Preschoolers in the Park – Gorge Waterway Park:** Friday, August 6, 5:30–7:00 pm. See above.

**Preschoolers in the Park – Rudd Park:** Friday, August 13, 5:30–7:00 pm. See above.

**Music in Meadow Park:** Tuesday, August 24, 6:00–8:00 pm. See above.

**Preschoolers in the Park – Meadow Park:** Friday, September 17, 10:30 am–12:00 pm. See above.

**Kids Mega Sale:** Saturday, September 18, 9:30 am–12:30 pm at G.R. Pearkes Rec. Centre. Gently used baby, children’s clothing, toys, equipment and maternity items. FREE Admission.

**Gorge Park Cleanup:** Saturday, September 25, 9am–1pm, [www.gorgetillicum.ca](http://www.gorgetillicum.ca)

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*Become a member of the Gorge Tillicum Community Association TODAY!*

We are happy to have had so many members renew at the AGM. If you haven't renewed yet, you should have received a membership renewal form in the mail. Each year the Gorge Tillicum Community Association mails out over 200 membership renewal forms to its members. This is very time consuming and costly, but most of the renewal forms are returned with the \$5.00 per person yearly dues. (Thank you to all of the members who donated a little extra to cover the postage cost.) If you don't get a chance to mail your form in, stop by the membership tent at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic. Thank you to all the GTCA members—you have helped make our neighbourhood a better place to live.

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

**2010 Membership Application/  
Renewal**

Name(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed  
(\$5/person \$25/business):

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



# At the Centre

## G.R. PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE

### Let us entertain your child this summer

#### Kiddie Camp for 3-5 yr olds

Week after week of exciting activities are planned for your preschooler. Each camp will include arts and crafts, outdoor exploration, music, games and circle time. Please bring a snack.

Location: Pearkes Rec Centre, 9:00am-11:30am M-F | \$68 per week

Each week has a new exciting theme including:

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dora and Diego                      | Max and Ruby                |
| Nine Leagues Under the Sea          | High Five                   |
| Play with Me, Sesame                | Curious George              |
| Out and About in Your Neighbourhood | Can You Solve Blue's Clues? |

#### Summer Camp of Fun for 6-10 yr olds

Let our energetic and qualified leaders keep your child active this summer. Each week will include 1 or 2 daytrips to places throughout the city as well as outdoor activities in the neighbouring parks, sports in the gym and creative craft projects

Location: Colquitz School, 8:30am-4:00pm M-F | \$140 per week

**Saanich**

### Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program

*Affordable, fun summer camp in your community... only \$80/week!*

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JULY 2 – SEPT 6, 2010  
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 SAT- 7:00AM - 8:00PM  
 SUN 8:00AM - 8:00PM



**PARKS & RECREATION**  
 Pearkes Recreation Centre

**Holidays:**

JULY 1 & AUG 2 - CLOSED  
 JULY 2 - 4, 31 & AUGUST 1  
 8:00AM - 8:00PM  
 SEPT 4 - 6 - 8:00AM - 8:00PM