



GORGETILlicUM

Neighbourhood

NEWS



Uminari Taiko Drummers captivated the crowds at the last two picnics.

Canada Day Highlights

By the time this newsletter hits your hands, the Gorge Canada Day Picnic will be less than a month away. While the 'old favourites' — Family Parade, Pancake Breakfast, Craft Market, Strawberry Tea, Classic Cars, VCKC Canoe

Rides, Wild Seafood BBQ — will again be a part of the program, there are other highlights to note this year.

A new attraction at the Kids' Activity centre will be the Conservatory of Music's Petting Zoo!

The Zoo provides a hands-on chance for kids to learn what some classical and modern instruments look, feel and sound like. I foresee some 'older kids' wanting to play here too, but parents must move to the back of the line, please!

Another not-to-be-missed highlight is the Uminari Taiko Drummers. At the past two picnics, this vibrant group captivated the crowds they drew to the main stage. This year, the drummers will be featured as our

headline performers. They will start at 3pm at Kosapsom Park. If you haven't caught this act before, be sure to take them in this year.

In light of the 60th anniversary of WWII's conclusion, 2005 has been designated 'The Year of the Veteran.' We are therefore very happy to announce that the Maritime Pacific Forces Marching Team will be a part of our parade and opening ceremony. The team is in training for an annual marching contest that takes place in Nijmegen, Holland each summer.

Their presence at this year's contest will have added significance because of the special part Canadian troops played in the liberation of the Dutch people. Of course, we are very honoured to have them at our celebration too. In a similar vein, we also wish to extend a special invitation to veterans and to those with ties to WWII Europe; we would be proud to have you come join us on July 1.

All in all, another great Canada Day is brewing on the Gorge, so dig out the red and white, bring your friends and neighbours, and help us celebrate our great country!

Traffic reminder - Gorge Rd W. between Tillicum and Admirals will be closed to traffic from 8am to 5pm on Friday July 1st. Gorge Rd.W. residents are asked to park off the roadway during these hours, and if you will need your car during the day, please park on one of the sidestreets leading up to Cowper or Vincent.

— Harry Lewis

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Stop Press

The West Gorge Transportation Committee has just been notified that Saanich will conduct a formal traffic calming study in the area. Details in the next Newsletter.



GORGETILLICUM Gorge-Tillicum Neighbourhood News

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

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Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions and advertising for the next issue is October 15th.

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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.

a word from the president

A community is only as good as its volunteers, and the GTCA has a volunteer board that has served this community admirably and responsibly this past year. We have been pro-active in bringing issues and opportunities forward, and the result has been a good working relationship to the mutual benefit of both Gorge/Tillicum and Saanich.

Examples of our efforts can be found in our ongoing traffic calming projects; the evolving streetscape plans for Harriet, Tillicum, and Burnside; and an impending concept plan for Admirals. We are also encouraging a Car Share program and working towards creating safer streets for cyclists and pedestrians. Further, renovations to Pearkes and our new library are positive steps towards our 'Urban Village' concept at Tillicum Centre.

We are helping to improve our environment as well. To this end, a board representative sits on a stakeholder committee that is investigating the future stewardship of the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet. As we are interested in a more active involvement in the welfare of the Colquitz watershed, we continue the Adopt-an-Outfall program to monitor stormwater. Recently, we also held an Earth Day

clean-up of part of Cuthbert Holmes park where we pulled invasive species from the trails.

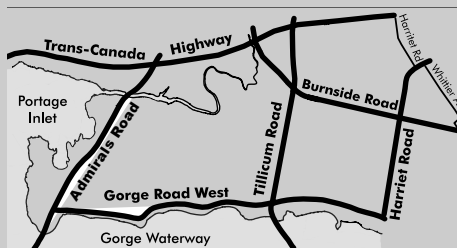
From the social perspective, we donated \$500 to the Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund (a global response from one community to another) and created an Emergency Preparedness Committee. This committee received a community matching grant to stock a kiosk at Pearkes with disaster supplies. We also created a Social Committee to identify and address our community's social needs, and this group also received a community matching grant to develop its protocol. Further, we hosted an ACM for the provincial election and will do the same for the municipal elections in November. Of course, we also produce an outstanding newsletter and (with much volunteer help) deliver it to 4,000 households.

Finally, we are about to host the 7th annual Gorge Canada Day Picnic. This event (made possible through a special events grant) is part of the Saanich Sunfest celebration; it has become an institution and source of pride.

I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the GTCA board for the commitment and energy they continue to provide for this community.

— Paul Gerrard

Gorge Tillicum Community Association www.gorgetillicum.ca



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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 Heroes **Judie Ker**



Judie's greatest satisfaction is seeing a child's reading "take off and fly." The parents and staff at the school obviously appreciate Judie's commitment, which explains why they submitted her name to us asking that she be acknowledged as a local hero. In fact, Judy has also been nominated for this year's YWCA Women of Distinction in Education award.

In addition to her volunteer work at Craigflower, Judie has been actively involved with the Canada Day Picnic since it began in 1999. She has helped

A report in the newspaper incited this issue's local hero into action. Nine years ago, Judie Ker read about kids leaving school with poor reading skills and decided she could do something to help. Since then, she has been a regular volunteer at Craigflower School. Judie also persuaded some of her friends to join her and, at one time, she had as many as eight adults coming in to the school to help.

While some of her team have moved on, Judie remains dedicated to this important work. She still volunteers every morning and is loath to miss even a day. She works mostly with Grade 1 students, helping them build their reading basics.

organize, produce and serve the excellent Strawberry Tea which is an annual feature on the Canoe and Kayak Club patio. The day just wouldn't be as delicious without her!

What a great gift our community, especially those the kids of Craigflower School, receive from our local hero, Judie Ker. We thank you, Judie!

(If you'd like to help next school year, call Judie in September at 382-1778 And if you would like to suggest someone to be a local hero, please contact Harry Lewis at 384-8460.)

— Harry Lewis

...Continued from Page 3

Welcoming Our New Neighbours

Bruce Parisien is of Cree descent and originally from Regina, Saskatchewan. He has extensive experience in aboriginal social services and has been executive director of VNFC for the past five and a half years. He is also a director on the boards of other aboriginal organizations such as the Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services and the Ma'Kola Housing Society.

It is good to know that Hampton will again come to life in our community. We welcome Bruce and VNFC to our neighbourhood and look forward to building a strong relationship with them.

— Harry Lewis

Summer 2005

HARRIET ROAD STREETSCAPING

PROJECT UPDATE

In November 2004, Saanich Engineering hosted an Open House for the public to view and select one of two proposed streetscaping options. The majority of residents in attendance selected Plan A. Victoria Parks then undertook a study and discovered that four mature trees would have to be removed and six more may be damaged if Plan A was to proceed. They could therefore not support the public's first choice.

In Plan B, the trees could be preserved. This plan does not require cutting into the existing boulevard or sidewalk on the Victoria side; instead, parking bays would be created by constructing landscaped bulbs within the existing road width.

We encourage the public to call Saanich Engineering to view the plans and/or indicate whether you support switching to Plan B. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, you can also call Christine Helmink at 385-3388.

The Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse are now open to public visitors, Wednesday to Sunday, 1pm to 5pm. If you are interested in volunteering as a tour guide or gift shop attendant.

Please contact Sheila at 479-8053

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Social Issues Committee

At its December 2005 retreat, the GTCA Board noted the section on social and cultural policy in the Local Area Plan that makes a recommendation to "Encourage resident associations ... to have a consistent role in determining the need for community services." Accordingly, the Board established a Social Issues Committee. Its mandate is to identify and address the social concerns of community residents. Our approach is a positive one; we want to recognize and build on the existing strengths in the community as well as address any challenges we currently face.

We will begin by updating existing data on social conditions. In consultation with community leaders, we will then establish a preliminary list of key concerns. In the summer and fall, we hope to hold several (issue-specific) forums with social agencies, community organizations and residents. Our aim is to determine our strengths, identify our weaknesses, and establish our priorities on these matters. We will also target resources and agencies that can assist us.

A more extensive second phase is anticipated in which we will take action on the issues identified in the forums. This might involve such things as the creation of community teams, establishing advisory groups, or conducting a community social survey.

Throughout the entire process, community residents will be kept informed, and we welcome your comments or involvement. Please contact Trevor Hancock (721-9609) or Harry Lewis (384-8460).

— Trevor Hancock

Of Days Gone By

In a previous issue, we mentioned the circumstances that brought the first Craigflower schoolmaster to Saanich. This issue, we discuss his time here.

Charles Clark and his wife arrived from England in November 1854. By January 8, Charles had "taken up his school" even though the building was not completed until late February. Bailiff Kenneth McKenzie soon wrote to Alexander Colville, a Hudson's Bay Company Governor, giving qualified approval of the new teacher.

Mrs. Clark gave birth to a daughter on May 1, 1855. Although the infant lived, Mrs. Clark died on June 10. McKenzie noted that "Her loss [was] sincerely felt by the whole community." Clark threw himself into preparing, "on a Royal scale," for the upcoming examination of the school. The event was quite spectacular: triumphal arches were erected at both ends of the bridge, a 21 gun salute was fired, and wine and "dainties" were served. Many important community members attended the event, including the Cridges, the Finlaysons, and Sir James Douglas.

At the end of 1855, McKenzie once again expressed satisfaction with Clark, who had undertaken further construction to the schoolhouse. In 1856, Reverend Cridge examined the children at Craigflower and found the 21 pupils (11 girls and 10 boys), aged 4 to 16, to be well grounded in reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, grammar and scripture. The reverend also noted "a considerable improvement" over the examination of the previous year.

Once a year had passed since the death of his wife, Clark decided to remarry. His wedding to Matilda Botwood took place in the schoolhouse in August 1856. Unfortunately, by this time, the relationship between Clark and McKenzie was deteriorating. They argued over money and, by late March, brought their disputes before the court, which found in McKenzie's favor.

By 1857, McKenzie had finally rendered the total cost of the schoolhouse to the colonial accountant. However, despite the earlier carpentry, the building had become quite dilapidated. That year, Clark family gained another daughter.

Aware that his five year contract expired in the spring of 1859, Clark agitated not only for a salary increase but for guarantee of a free passage to England. The request was denied. Clark replied that he was willing to re-engage for a period not exceeding five years at the same salary if he could be granted the sum of 200 pounds as equivalent to the passage. This request was also denied. On March 23, 1859, Clark, his wife, and their two daughters sailed for England on the Princess Royal.

In the next issue, we will meet Charles' replacement, Henry Claypole.

Notice of Public Meeting

RIOCAN Property Services, the Owner of Tillicum Centre, is proposing a three-part extension to the Mall.

They hope to create additional retail space by enclosing the area under Old Navy and Linens 'n Things; add a freestanding building, probably a restaurant, adjacent to Montana's Cookhouse; and add a fast-food restaurant with drive-through window in the area between Burnside Road and Safeway.

**These proposals will be presented by RIOCAN
at a public meeting to be held
at the Lam Room, G.R. Pearkes Arena,
on Thursday, June 16th, at 7:00pm.**

The meeting will be chaired by the Gorge Tillicum Community Association.
We urge you to attend and have your voice be heard.

SAFE & SOUND *In Saanich*

**"Safe & Sound in Saanich" was held on
April 30th at G. R. Pearkes.**

While attendance was disappointing, many of the displays were quite impressive. Saanich shared information about their Emergency, Emergency Communications, and Emergency Social Services Programs, and many organizations — St. John's Ambulance, Saanich Fire and Paramedics, Pearkes Recreation Centre, the Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team, and Blockwatch — also provided valuable information. We thank them all for participating.

We would also like to thank the sponsors for this event. Columbia Fire, Safety & Medical Inc., donated 250 Mylar blankets to our kiosk and Safeway donated two \$50.00 gift certificates, one of which will be used to purchase kiosk supplies. Arts Bakery donated cookies, and Mt. Doug Springs Water Bottling Co. donated a raffle prize of a water crock. A special thank-you also goes to the team who helped put this event together: Martha & Doug Symington, Judy Sigmund, Kelly Binette, Sharon & Charles Nisbet, Quenton Lehman, Meagan Thompson, Bob Kennedy, Arthur Robinson and the GTCA.

There will be future opportunities for the community to learn more about Emergency Preparedness. Please watch for our information table at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic and upcoming information in this newsletter or in the Saanich News.

Voices

Welcoming Our New Neighbours

A few weeks ago, it was announced that the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) had signed a lease with the Greater Victoria School District for use of the former Hampton School on Regina Avenue. Neighbourhood News contacted Bruce Parisien, executive director of VNFC, to obtain more information about our new neighbours.

The VNFC will take possession of Hampton School in September with a view to having the building ready for their program use in January 2006. The Victoria Native Friendship Centre was drawn to the building by the expansive space it offers plus the availability of a gymnasium. While VNFC doesn't have plans for extensive changes at this time, they are interested in the possibility of a new kitchen capable of catering to large gatherings.

While it is early days yet, Bruce also indicated that VNFC may be interested in sharing the space with other aboriginal or non-aboriginal groups. This determination will be made once staff members have a chance to assess their needs within their new space. In the meantime, VNFC is considering hosting a community celebration, likely before Christmas, as a way of introducing the centre and educating the neighbourhood about its programs.

...Continued on Page 7

Save a To

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Gorge Wateru
water is mesm

Natural History of Portage Inlet – Glacial Geology

In the Fall 2004 article, we saw how the grid of faults and fractures in the southern part of Saanich Peninsula were formed 44 million years ago.

The strongest force that formed our landscape here was the Vashon Glaciation. It started about 29,000 ybp (years before present). The glaciers built up first in the Coast and Island Mountains, filling the local valleys. By 20,000 ybp, the Vashon ice became thicker, filled Georgia Straight, and flowed right over the peaks of the Island Mountains towards the ocean. By 15,000 ybp, the ice covering Victoria was over 1.5 kilometers thick. Global warming occurred rapidly and, by 12,000 ybp, the Vashon glacier was limited to remnants in the mountains. The land was slow to rise from the sea. When the ice melted, the sea was about 75 metres higher than today. The fine sediments from the melting ice deposited clay in the sea, hence the clay in our yards.

The weight and flow of ice sculpts bedrock by picking away at any fracture. Northerly fractures paralleled the ice flow and become linear valleys, like Wilkinson Road north of Burnside Rd. The major faults ran almost east-west across the area of Portage Inlet. Their edges formed broad depressions like the north shore of Portage Inlet and the Gorge. Harder rock between weak zones forms resistant knobs that have a rounded nose (like a submarine's bow) pointing into the ice flow. Excellent examples can be seen south of Cowper Rd under the north end of Wyndeatt Ave. and at Christie Point.

We see this history preserved in the north-trending bays on the south side of Portage Inlet separated by resistant ridges on the relatively regular north shore. We don't know how deep the separate depressions are; they can be quite variable. As we'll see in a future article, these landforms affect the waters that flow into and fill the basins and also determine many unique characteristics at the head of Victoria Harbour.

— Edward Lyons

Goldeneye birds swoop and splash to a landing while a Cormorant, wings out-stretched, suns itself. Six months ago, the drafts through the bay window made it too uncomfortable to enjoy this view. In the home office on the floor below, the lack of insulation and the drafty sliding doors caused room temperatures to fluctuate dramatically and energy bills to spike.

"We knew this was an inefficient home when we bought it," says Toivo, "but we loved the location." It is surrounded by natural beauty and is close enough to Victoria to avoid a long commute. The

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Space

onne – And Money, Too

sk sits in his living room overlooking the
way. The air in the room is warm, and the
erizing.

Suurkasks can also ride a bike or walk for most errands. Increasing their home's energy efficiency was their next logical step in achieving an environmentally-aware lifestyle.

Toivo called Wendy Smith, City Green's Certified Energy Advisor. She helped identify and prioritize heat-loss areas in the home. Using an individualized retrofit report, Toivo focused his renovation dollars on the most inefficient zones of his home.

"We upgraded our old single-pane windows, added insulation to our basement and replaced our home's hollow front door with a solid one," says Toivo. "Now that the drafts are gone, our home is much more comfortable." The heating bills have shrunk too.

Better still, Toivo received a cheque for \$479 from the EnerGuide for Houses program. As part of its Kyoto plan, the federal government's One Tonne Challenge calls upon individual Canadians to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one fifth (about one tonne). Home upgrades like the Suurkasks' can easily reduce a home's annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2.2 tonnes. "It makes us feel better that we're not wasting," says Toivo. "We've got a much more comfortable home, less drafty, less moisture...a warmer house. What's good for the world ends up being good for you."

— Paula Steele



To find out more about the EnerGuide for Houses,
call City Green in Victoria at 381-9995.

Know Any Local Environmental News?

If you know of any environmental news specific to the Gorge-Tillicum area, let us know!
E-mail the Green Space coordinator at smurdoch@shaw.ca with a news idea or story.
300 word limit, next deadline October 15th.

Earth Day Clean-Up



'The Anti-Ivy League'

About 25 caring folk turned up on Sunday, April 24 to combat the ivy invasion of Cuthbert Holmes Park. After two hours of hacking, pulling, tearing and stripping, an impressive pile of the interloper was stacked up in the car park. The participants left with a clear understanding of the extent of the problem and how much more needs to be done to get it under control.

As just reward for their exertions, participants were rewarded with Starbucks coffee and tasty muffins thanks to RioCan. A special thanks also goes to Kelly Mulhern of Saanich Parks who made sure we left the good and removed only the bad.

— John Hoole



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Got Graffiti?

Don't just get mad; get it fixed! Call one of these numbers and report it.

- If the graffiti is on a park sign, trail marker or other park structure, call Saanich Parks 475-5522
- If it is on a Saanich traffic sign, road structure, garbage container, bus shelter *without* advertising, or any other municipal structure, call Public Works 475-5599
- For bus shelters *with* advertising, call the Pattison Group 388-7664
- If it is on a Canada Post box, tell the operator at 1-800-267-1177
- A BC Hydro box or structure can be reported to 1-800-224-9376
- For a Telus box or structure, call 1-888-811-2323

Visit the District of Saanich website: www.saanich.ca/resident/utilities/graffiti.html

Gorge Tillicum Community Association

P.O. Box 44152, 2947 Tillicum Rd.,
Victoria, BC V9A 2A0

2005 Membership Application/ Renewal (delete one)

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At the Centre

**G.R. PEARKES
RECREATION CENTRE**

What would you do in a catastrophic emergency? Could you survive?

It may not be something you want to think about, but the staff at Pearkes feels it is better to be prepared than sorry. If you attended the first "Safe and Sound in Saanich" day, you saw Saanich's presentation of plans and procedures for emergency management. Perhaps this eye-opener encouraged you to think about your own family's safety and emergency plan. Do you have a plastic bin in your backyard filled with water bottles, non-perishable food, blankets, rain gear, eyeglasses, prescriptions, a radio, batteries, band-aids, toiletries and anything else you may need until help arrives?

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre just might be your destination in the event of a community emergency, so we are doing our best to get ready to open our doors, parking lot, and new emergency kiosk in the event of an earthquake, chemical spill, fire, flood or other catastrophic event. Staff members are therefore undergoing training through the Justice Institute and BCBC in Rapid Damage Assessment, Light Urban Search and

Rescue, Becoming a Reception Centre, Emergency Management Planning and First Aid.

Part of this important project is the ongoing collection of supplies. Our kiosk is not yet full of the items that may be vital in an emergency. For example, we are in need of large plastic bottles of water (5L, 10L, 15L), plastic dishes, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, rain gear, shoes, flashlights, tools, tarps, toiletries, and first aid supplies. If you are available to donate any of these items, please call 475-5400

What's Happening at Pearkes!

International Darts - June 3 and 12,
Pearkes Arena will host the Victoria Open, the inter-provincial championship and the Canadian Open darts tournaments. Top players from over a dozen countries, as well as from all over Canada, will be competing. Free admission. **Call 361-4334**

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Girls Only Camps (8-12yrs)
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