



GORGETILlicUM

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 44152
Victoria, B.C., V9A 7K1

2018/2019 Annual Report GTCA Annual General Meeting April 4, 2019

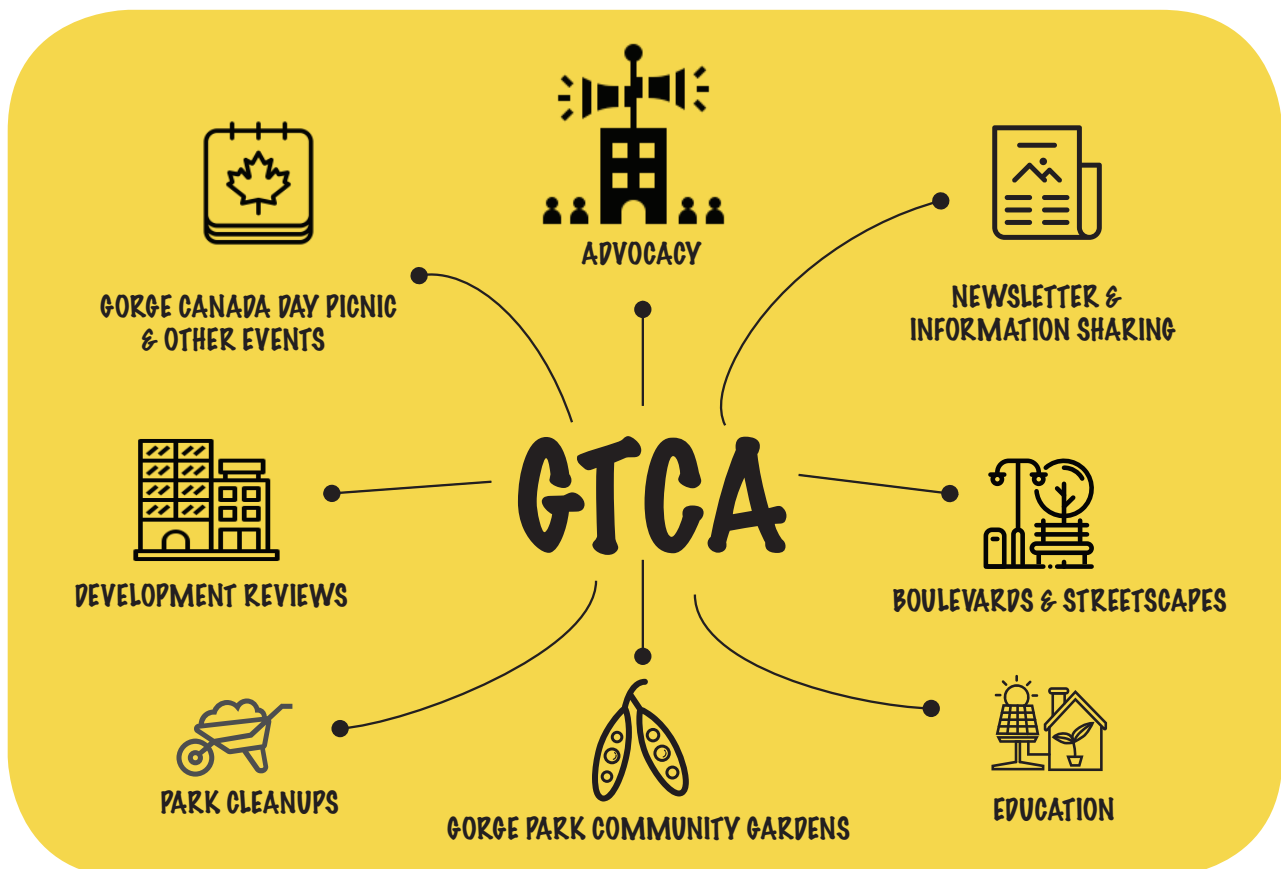


GTCA Vision

The Gorge Tillicum Community Association envisions a welcoming, inclusive, and caring community whose diverse citizens collaborate in creating a distinct neighbourhood that is informed, creative, resilient, and sustainable.

GTCA Objectives

1. Build a diverse, responsive, proactive, collaborative, and robust Board and Association.
2. Promote engagement, participation, and a sense of belonging and pride in our community.
3. Optimize individual and collective well-being within natural ecosystems and built environments.
4. Create and promote welcoming community spaces.
5. Promote learning and the sharing of ideas.
6. Promote Association and community collaboration with governments, businesses, developers, and other organizations in support of the GTCA's stated purposes.



AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Minutes from 2018 AGM – Motion to Approve

Treasurer’s Report – Motion to Approve

Special Resolution at Annual General Meeting: Rescind existing bylaws and replace with the new bylaws

President’s Remarks

Recognition of Retiring Board Members?

Election of 2019 Board Officers and Directors

2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes Pearkes Community Centre, 7:00 PM, March 13, 2018

Attendance: 47

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda – moved by Gabe Epstein, seconded by Bill Williamson. Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes from 2017 AGM – moved by Karen Labaree, seconded by Ray Farmer. Approved.

4. Treasurer’s Report presented by Chris Kask.
Moved by Phil Lancaster, seconded by Russ Godfrey. Approved.

5. Presidents report by GTCA President Rob Wickson.
Special thanks to departing board members Trevor Hancock, Ray Farmer and Marcus Fedoruk. Robson Wickson also stated that after twenty years on the board, ten as President he was retiring from the board.

6. Harry Lewis thanked Rob Wickson and Ray Farmer for their twenty years of service and presented each of them with a framed photo of the Gorge Waterway.

7. Election of 2017 Board Officers and Directors presided over by Harry Lewis

Officers:

President – Gabe Epstein – nominated by Rob Wickson and seconded by Gabe Epstein - acclaimed
Vice-President – Vera Wynn-Williams – nominated by Scott Karpes and seconded by Gabe Epstein
Treasurer – Chris Kask – acclaimed
Secretary – Scott Karpes – nominated by Vera Wynn-Williams and seconded by Chris Kask – acclaimed
Membership Secretary – Irena Jazwinski – acclaimed

Directors at large:

Returning: Katherine Brandt, Pam Loadman, Chris Bullock, Edward Pullman and Russ Godfrey.
New: Elise Cote – nominated by Russ Godfrey and seconded by Rob Wickson; Phil Lancaster nominated by Gabe Epstein and seconded by Belle Leon; Arden Little – nominated by Vera Wynn-Williams and seconded by Pam Loadman; Evan Leeson – nominated by Scott Karpes and Dorothy Chambers.

All were acclaimed.

8. Motion to adjourn business portion of AGM. Moved by Phil Lancaster, seconded by Gabe Epstein. Approved.

We, the Board of Directors for the year 2018-2019, are pleased to offer you this report addressing the activities we have been involved in since our Annual General Meeting a year ago as well as a brief look at what might be forthcoming.

It was, as usual, a busy year for our relatively small group of volunteers. While events in and around our community engaged us on many fronts, as an organization that is both proactive and reactive we also spent a good deal of time reviewing the nature of our organization itself and the way we operate. (Thanks to Laurie Jones for volunteering to help us with the latter process.)

As you're no doubt aware by now, we're bringing proposals to the AGM regarding revisions of our Constitution and By-laws. These changes, together with our revised Vision statement and a set of organizational Objectives, are designed to help clarify our procedures and contribute to further building "a diverse, responsive, proactive, collaborative, and robust Board and Association".

We plan to continue this review process by further clarifying and documenting the roles and responsibilities of directors as well as the various practices we engage in. These documents will serve, amongst other purposes, to orient new directors to the Board's activities and to promote the smooth functioning of the organization -- leaving directors with more time to attend to the primary purpose of the GTCA, "to identify and further the collective interests of the residents of the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood".

Now, on to some of the activities we've engaged in during the past year -- starting with our annual local celebrations.

The 2018 Gorge Canada Day Picnic was, yet again, a resounding success. The small planning team, led by Chris Kask, spent months planning the details -- seeking sponsors, contacting participants, planning the pancake breakfast and strawberry tea, and lining up the wonderful group of volunteers that would set up, operate, and take down the site. The weather was windy but glorious, and thousands of people (and many dogs) once again enjoyed our waterway and the activities provided.

August saw us in Rudd Park for the annual Music in the Park event -- an event sponsored by the GTCA, Saanich Legacy Foundation, and Saanich Parks and Recreation and organized by Russ Godfrey, Rob Wickson and Ray Farmer. This year we danced to the sound of the Radcliffes, met old friends and made new ones, and watched the sun go down in an (unfortunately) hazy sky. A good time was had by many!

The Gorge Park Community Gardens, a highly successful GTCA project, hosted its annual Fall celebration in September -- an event ably organized by Kay Stewart and her team. As before, participants were able to visit and learn about the Gardens and to buy homemade produce. This year there were more vendors in attendance, more live musicians (the Inlet Avenue Band and others), and a few information booths engaging visitors in conversation.

Our winter/solstice celebration, Lights On The Gorge -- thanks to the small and mighty planning group led by Kay Stewart -- once again drew people together at the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club to add lights to trees in the park and to eat, drink, sing, listen to poetry, and enjoy a Mummers' Play by the Quicksbottom Morris Dancers.

Neighbours continued to care for boulevards, with some signing up, via the GTCA, to have Saanich plant new trees in front of their homes -- trees that they would care for during their early years.

The GTCA organized its two annual cleanups in Gorge Park, removing invasive plants and garbage with the assistance of community volunteers and Saanich Parks staff. The Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park, led by Julian Anderson, continued removing invasive plants from that park and the Salmon in the City program, led by Dorothy Chambers, continued its wonderful education program at the fish fence on Colquitz Creek.

There have certainly been challenges in our waterways and parks. The GTCA has been involved in efforts to ensure that boats are not moored or abandoned in the Gorge Waterway -- a process that is ongoing.

There have been some major issues needing attention in Cuthbert Holmes Park -- ones that have involved local citizens as well as the GTCA. A major challenge involved the presence of long- and short-term "camps" in the park as well as the accumulation of a large amount of garbage and other items in many areas of the park. After considerable effort

by a number of people, Saanich amended its parks bylaw (overnight sheltering is no longer allowed in, amongst other places, parks zoned P4N) and truckloads of garbage were removed from the park. We are aware that there is still a need for vigilance to ensure that no “campers” return to the park and that instances of littering and other damage are addressed.

The other threat to the well-being of Cuthbert Holmes Park, the creek, and the Gorge Waterway comes from the ongoing construction of the McKenzie interchange. Environmental management practices and monitoring have been insufficient to prevent a number of soiled water spills into the waterways. Some progress has been made in addressing these issues as a result of the work done by a number of dedicated people in the neighbourhood. They all deserve our appreciation.

Communication and the development and maintenance of strong relationships is a key element of the Board’s functioning and one we’re always striving to improve -- whether we’re working with developers and other organizations or with individuals.

With regard to developers, the Board has consulted on a number of multifamily residential development projects in our neighbourhood. Here is a quick update on some recent projects:

- The project at Gorge Road and Earl Grey Street has been stalled due to refinancing -- it hopes to proceed this spring.
- The project on Albina Street (opposite Fairway Market) has been approved by Saanich council
- Other projects are in various stages of development, with proposals having been submitted to Saanich Planning Department or still to be submitted. These include proposed projects on Qu’Appelle St. near Gorge Road (rental units); one at Gorge and Tillicum (commercial spaces, condominiums, and rental units); and one at Harriet and Obed (rental units).

Other local and regional organizations we work with include: The Gorge Tillicum Refugee Sponsorship Group; The Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park; The Salmon in the City program; The Gorge Waterway Initiative; Saanich Community Association Network; and Saanich mayor, council and staff. We have, in particular, participated in consultations on climate change mitigation and adaptation with the Saanich Sustainability department.

We continue publishing and distributing three newsletters a year -- thanks to an extremely capable group of writers and editors under the leadership of Vera Wynn-Williams and to the large number of people willing to deliver the newsletters throughout the neighbourhood.

Our Facebook page continues to draw more people to its posts, our website continues to host information about the GTCA (it is, by the way, due to be replaced by a new one in the near future), and we’ve had the pleasure of meeting administrators from a number of local organizations through presentations to, and conversations at, Board meetings.

We have also initiated a number of projects during the past year, ones that we expect will grow over time. As indicated in our Spring newsletter, we are particularly interested in assuming a proactive stance towards Building developments in our neighbourhood -- not just receiving and commenting on proposals from beyond the community but also helping define what it is that this community wants in this area. To that end, we have started developing a document -- the GT Community Design Guidelines -- and are establishing a workgroup that will address local building development. We are also launching two other workgroups at this time -- one addressing mobility, transportation and parking and the other addressing the needs of our various green and blue spaces (our parks, waterways, boulevards, etc.). All three working groups will consist of both Board directors and other members of the community.

With heartfelt thanks for all past work and anticipated future collaboration, and on behalf of all the directors,



Gabe Epstein (GTCA President)

