



GORGE TILLICUM

*Neighbourhood**Saanich Centennial Library*

*As you are reading this, the new \$5 million Saanich Centennial Library branch, located next to Pearkes Recreation Centre, is receiving its finishing touches.*

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The tentative opening date is September 21st, but construction schedules and changes have delayed the project before, so we keep our fingers crossed.

The new 14,000 square feet library is the newest addition to the Greater Victoria Public Library system, and it will include fiction and non-fiction material and magazines; DVD rentals; an information commons area for computer use; a group study area; children and teen sections; a learning centre; a lounge; and quick book drops. A dedicated teen librarian will be based at the new branch, but this staff member will service all of the GVPL system.

The Saanich Archives will also be accommodated in approximately 1,400 square feet of the library. The archive space will include a climate-controlled vault to protect Saanich archival material, and it might also include some of the GVPL rare book collection.

The Gorge Tillicum Community Association applied for, and was pleased to receive, a Saanich Community Matching Grant to purchase new library furniture for the children's section, as this was not accounted for in the overall library budget.

Separate additions to Pearkes now house Saanich Neighbourhood Place and will include a new activity space, kitchen, meeting room, clothing exchange, toy storage, and an outside play area. The new teen activity room is already open.

This new library, now ten years in the planning, will be a valuable addition to the GVPL system and, of course, the Gorge / Tillicum community. GVPL data shows that library card usage was lower here than in most communities, and this is likely because access to library services has been a problem for many local residents. We can't tell you how excited we are that this is about to change!

— Paul Gerrard

# a word from the president

## LATE NEWS

The opening of the library may be delayed by industrial action. Check with local papers or contact the Greater Victoria Public Library.



## GORGETILlicUM Neighbourhood News

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

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Summer (September)  
Fall (November)

Unsolicited Articles Welcome.

The deadline for submissions and advertising for the next issue is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Graphic Design:

Go West Design Group Inc.  
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### Advertising Inquiries:

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### Distribution:

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

This is the time of year when I really appreciate living in this neighbourhood... Fabulous weather, BBQs on the patio, long walks on our wonderful Gorge Walkway, sultry evenings watching sports, and downing a few cold ones with good friends. Perfect!

The ninth annual Gorge Canada Day Picnic was another great success. Perhaps the highlight of the day was the opening ceremony.

It was our pleasure to honour Hugh Curtis, the former Saanich Mayor and provincial MLA, for his outstanding contribution towards the construction of the Gorge Walkway. We also delighted in presenting Canada Day Youth Awards to three exceptional young women in our community: Janeece Edroff, Nakita Sehkhoon, and Anna Slater.

On a smaller scale, we also joined with Saanich in putting on a neighbourhood event called "Music in the Park." It was held in a small pocket of green in our area, Rudd Park, where about 200 people enjoyed a beautiful evening of picnicking and listening to local bands. We even had some impromptu dancing! It was an excellent community event and something we might expand on, I think.



*With luck, our fabulous new library will be open soon. It will be a tremendous asset to our community and a legacy for future generations to enjoy.*

I hope you all enjoyed the rest of the summer in the wonderful part of the world in which we live.  
— Paul Gerrard

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



### GTCA Board of Directors 2006/2007

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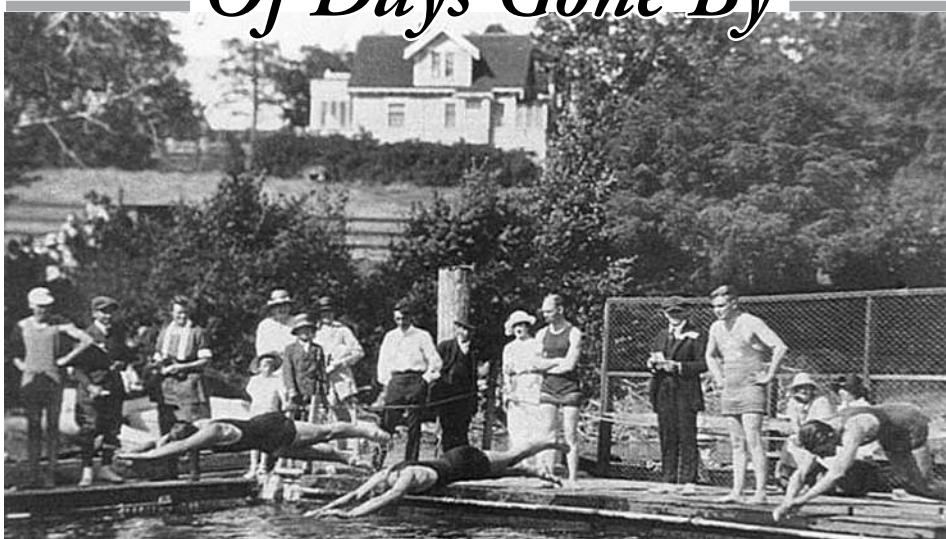
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The Board meets the first Thursday of each month, September to June, at Pearkes Recreation Centre. All members are welcome to attend!

# Of Days Gone By



The Victoria Amateur Swim Club (VASC) -- one of six aquatic associations active on the waterway in the 1920s -- was located along Gorge Road West from 1919 to 1925. The club's rustic facilities included a floating clubhouse, equipped with a pot-bellied stove, and a water polo "tank" fenced with chicken wire. A rectangular swimming enclosure, formed with logs and boarding and built to a regulation-length of 50 yards, allowed the club to host local, provincial, and national open-water championships.

Official swimming competition wasn't the club's only concern; working on water safety skills and simply allowing people to have fun were equally important. Kids would turn up at the club facilities on summer mornings with bag lunches, and they would while away the day swimming and baking carefree in the sun. Adults arrived after work, bringing along picnic suppers of watermelon, banana sandwiches, cake, and tea.

So many club members turned up on sunny weekends that residents along nearby Gorge Road complained to Saanich council about the unseemly laughter emanating from the swimming site on Sunday afternoons. Some councillors responded with wishes that they were young enough to enjoy the fun.

But the sport did not end with winter; the group also established the first annual Christmas Day swim in 1919. While onlookers, dressed warmly in heavy woolen coats and caps, watched from the wooden decks, brave swimmers plunged in and swam the full 50 yards! The cold winter of 1922 was particularly challenging as the pool had to be cleared of ice before the swim. Remarkably, some of those swimmers went ice-skating on frozen Portage Inlet later that same day.

In June 1925, the VASC moved to the newly-opened Crystal Garden pool where they hosted a grand swimming gala that featured Johnny Weissmuller as guest athlete. The club president on that occasion was former Canadian swimming champion Jock McNeill of Albina Street. The distant house at the top of this photo stands today at 2837 Inez Drive.

— Dennis Minaker,  
author of "The Gorge of Summers Gone"

## — Snippets —

**The success of the community concert at Rudd Park** suggests that this is a concept we should develop. Events of this kind are ideal for small local parks – Qu'Appelle Park and Meadow Park spring to mind – and they are easy to organize. So if there is anyone out there who is interested in helping with such an event in their neighbourhood next summer, let's hear from you.

**Saanich is still hopeful that pedestrian controls** can be installed at the Gorge-Wascana crosswalk by this Fall. As Saanich Transportation Manager Mike Lai explains, the problem is that there is only one crew doing this type of work; this crew already has a backlog, which they are trying to address while also coping with the day-to-day maintenance issues that continually arise. Mr. Lai has assured us that this project is still one of their priorities.

**Ever wonder what the 'fares' for the dragonboat rides** on Canada Day are used for? The \$500 raised this year was used to send kids to Camp Shawnigan. Well done, Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club!

**Speaking of the picnic**, yes, we know we need more food vendors and, yes, this will be taken care of next year.

**For those 'Doubting Thomases' out there**, yes, the traffic calming measures approved for the West Gorge area will be done. There have been the inevitable delays, mainly due to the acceleration of the plans to replace the Colquitz- Admirals bridge. Then there is the matter of having work crews available to actually do the work. Saanich will be letting us know later this month precisely what work will be completed this year and what is to be deferred to next year. When we know, we will pass it on.

## Target *How many words can you make from the letters in the grid?* Time limit: 30 minutes.

C	C	R
I	H	A
E	T	T

### Rules:

Each word must contain the shaded letter.

Each word must have four (or more) letters. One nine-letter word is possible.

Each letter may only be used once in each word, unless a letter appears twice in the grid.

All words must be in the Canadian Oxford Dictionary.

No hyphenated words (e.g. re-edit or de-ice).

### Your target:

36 words, GOOD; 39 words, VERY GOOD; 44 words EXCELLENT. Over 44 words, TOO GOOD!

**Solution:** Arch atitch architect ache achier chier char chart chat chatter chattering chair chit cheat catch er catcher chic chicer chitter each etch ethic earth hate hater heat hatter hear heir hectic hair heart hire hitter itch itcher rich rhea reach reacher rather rather teach tith their thar threath tither thrice that tach theta

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**Rob Fleming, MLA**  
Victoria - Hillside

## Celebrating 25 Years in the Community

Tillicum Centre would like to invite all of our neighbours to join us for 25th Anniversary Celebrations taking place this Fall.

Tillicum Centre was named after a small sailing ship, the "Tilikum," which sailed in the early 1900s. The boat was originally a dug-out canoe purchased from an aboriginal on Vancouver Island by Captain John Voss who modified it prior to embarking on his voyage. He sailed it for three years, three months, and twelve days, taking it over three oceans from Victoria to England. For our anniversary celebration, our partner, the BC Maritime Museum, will display the "Trekka" at Tillicum Centre. This is a slightly smaller but equally famous sailing ship, and it will be on display at from mid-September to October 13th.

Our celebrations kick into full swing on October 6 & 7 with a weekend of heritage dance demonstrations. This will be followed by three days (October 10, 11, & 12) of Maritime Museum educational presentations of "Hartack and Marlinspikes: Life and Work Aboard Ship." The Grand Finale takes place on October 13th with the ever-popular Pirate School, musical entertainment, a small ceremony, and free cake and coffee for all.

While you are at Tillicum Centre, don't forget to enter to win our 25th Anniversary Grand Prize Draw for your chance to win a family trip for four to Disneyland. This is our thanks to you for being our customers and friends for 25 incredible years.

For more information contact Laura at 381-7123.

# LOCAL HERO George Ball

I didn't know George Ball, but I wish I had. George arrived in the Gorge area in 1920 as a 10 year old, and he lived in the neighbourhood for over 80 years.

During those years, he married his wife, Rose; built a house on Maddock Avenue; raised two daughters, Marilyn and Joan; and followed his father into 'Ball Electric' which later became 'Ball and Shemilt'. The business -- a neighbourhood landmark for many years -- operated on the north west corner of Burnside and Harriet and evolved from automotive electrics to radio and television sales and repair.

George and Rose (who also worked in the store) retired in the late 1960s, but George stayed very active with another passion: astronomy. He was an honorary president of the Victoria Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and he built a classic domed observatory in his own backyard, complete with computer for calculations and his own telescope and cameras to view and photograph the northern night skies.

As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, George was also a keen gardener, an avid reader, and a trombone player.

He also built a family cabin on property at Prospect Lake, and he gained fame for being the first person in Victoria to successfully get TV reception from Seattle on his home built receiver.

Friends describe George as polite, humorous, practical, honest, and unassuming. After having lived a rich, full, productive life, most of it based right here in Gorge Tillicum, George Ball passed away in January 2007. Maybe you knew George Ball; I wish I had.

— Harry Lewis



## Scenes from the Free Community Concert



On July 24, over 200 people turned up to bask in the lovely early evening summer weather and to enjoy the delightful music of Mike Lefebvre and Perros Libros. The concert at Rudd Park was organized by Saanich Parks & Recreation

in partnership with the GTCA. This was the second of such events, and the first in our area. It was definitely a success, and we will be hoping for more such events next year.



**David Cubberley, MLA**  
Saanich South Community Office

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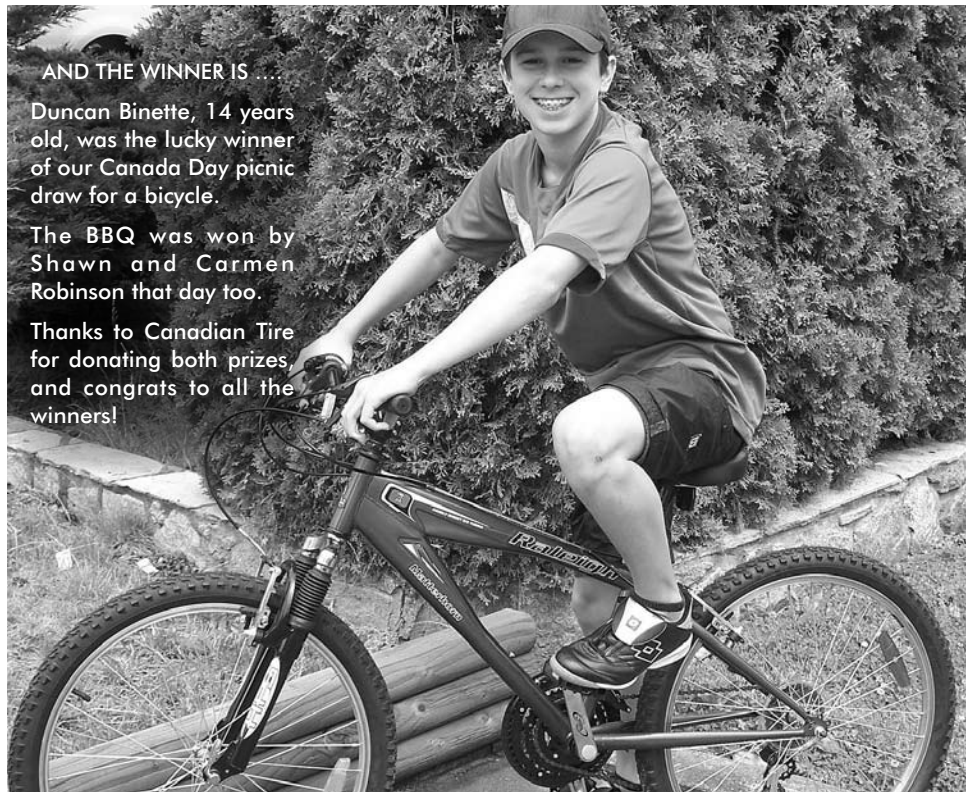




## 9<sup>th</sup> Gorge Canada Day Picnic



Another July 1st, another great Picnic! Once again, the weather cooperated beautifully, and people turned out in large numbers for a lovely day on the Gorge. From an organizer's viewpoint, everything appeared to go well; however, we are always interested in constructive feedback, especially as we begin to think about our 10th Gorge Canada Day Picnic. Please send your comments to [h.lewis@telus.net](mailto:h.lewis@telus.net) and mark your calendars for another great celebration on Tuesday, July 1st, 2008.



### AND THE WINNER IS ...

Duncan Binette, 14 years old, was the lucky winner of our Canada Day picnic draw for a bicycle.

The BBQ was won by Shawn and Carmen Robinson that day too.

Thanks to Canadian Tire for donating both prizes, and congrats to all the winners!



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## Compost for our Climate and Community

*There is a lot of talk in the news lately of climate change, but did you know that composting can reduce its impacts?*

Composting your food and yard waste means that fewer trucks go to the landfill and therefore less carbon dioxide is released in the exhaust. It also means less methane is released from the landfill. Furthermore, finished compost ("black gold") can replace synthetic fertilizers and prevent the greenhouse gases associated with their production and transportation.

For a limited time, the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre is pleased to offer subsidized compost bins and composting support to eligible community groups. Groups can join the Compost for our Climate and Community program for \$35. The program includes a workshop, access to subsidized composting supplies, materials for joining the Black Gold Rush Challenge, and follow-up composting support.

If your community group is interested in applying to participate in this exciting project, please contact the Compost Education Centre at 386-WORM or info@compost.bc.ca. The Compost Education Centre also has school programs available and continues to be a resource for families and individuals who would like to start composting. — Caitlyn Vernon

## Back to Gorge Park

Here we are, rapidly heading towards fall. Those of you who have been keeping an eye on Gorge Park know that it is time to get back there with our gloves on. Brambles need removing, and other invasive species keep cropping up in all those spaces we cleared out not that long ago.

The Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up will bring us all back to the park. We will clean up the shoreline and the park, and do some pruning work in the space across from Fairway Market.

We hope all of you will meet us in the green space across from Fairway Market on Saturday, September 22. We will work from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Wear your work boots, bring your thick work gloves, and join us for another day of exercise, neighbourly cooperation, and giving back to our environment.

*As you may have read last issue, three missing mute swans have been killed from crashing into the Craigflower Bridge.*



This worries the Gorge Waterway Initiative (GWI) and other organizations (including the GTCA) concerned about the safety and cultural features of the Gorge Waterway. GWI coordinator, Jody Watson, wrote to BC Hydro requesting that more birds from succumbing to a similar fate, as has happened to swans located within the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

In response to the GWI's letter, BC Hydro's senior manager stated that BC Hydro takes bird strikes seriously and works closely with Telus, as well as with Telus, to discuss future options for the bridges, as well as with Telus, to discuss future options for the bridges, as well as with Telus, to discuss future options for the bridges.

BC Hydro keeps records of bird strikes and have a list of bird strikes along the Gorge (approximate date, species, location). If you have any information, please forward it to Jody Watson: jwatson@crd.bc.ca

SIDE NOTE: Suspected West Nile cases should be reported to the health department.

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*...e, the tragic mystery of the  
...been solved. Last April, the  
...ng into the hydro lines above*



*...pppearance*

(GWI), a collaborative, community-driven group  
...erned with protecting and enhancing the natural  
...y, Portage Inlet and the surrounding watersheds.  
...o to determine what could be done to prevent  
...both the Craigflower and Tillicum Bridges are  
...d Sanctuary.

...environment official, Dr. Scott Harrison, says  
...ould like to work with the municipalities involved,  
...r the lines crossing the Gorge. Alternatives might  
...the interim, BC Hydro will place bird diverters on  
...idges. These markers are thick metal loops that  
...their flight paths. Hopefully, this will help the  
...ge lately.

...requested any available details on past occur-  
...s, which bridge). If you have such information,  
...ca.

...passed on to Vancouver Island Health Authority.

— Karen Laberee

## Issues in Global Warming

*This spring, Victoria, Saanich, and Esquimalt participated in forums on climate change.*

I attended the Victoria meeting held on April 10 and found myself catapulted from the rather complacent notion I previously held, to a realization that the world community will likely face significant challenges due to global warming. We can no longer ignore the fact that this phenomenon is occurring, nor that much of it is directly related to human activity.

*The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was established in 1988 by the U.N. and has just recently released Part 2 of its report, Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability. What is clear from this ten year study is that change will continue to be a part of our lives.*

Sea levels are already rising, and as that increases, land masses will be lost. Increased periods of precipitation and an increase in severe storms are predicted to follow. In between the heavier rains, we can expect increased droughts, crop failures, heat waves, and what is referred to as “abrupt climate changes” or surprises.

*We can no longer wait to do something. We will have to adapt to these changes while also beginning the process of mitigation.*

Without a doubt, we need to preserve our forests, conserve our fresh water, and protect our food sources. We also need to redirect our energy usage by changing our methods of transport, controlling development, and demanding efficient building practices.

Living as we do, between the beautiful mountains and sea, it is hard for us to think that we must look beyond the present moment. However, with such daunting evidence that global warming is occurring, it is hard not to think the time for action is now.

— Judy Sigmund

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**Why become a member?**

- Membership dues are only \$5.00 per person (\$25.00 per business).
- Your fee will help support our Annual Canada Day Picnic.
- Your fee also helps fund the publication of this quarterly newsletter, a valuable information link to the community.
- You will become part of a very active group of community-minded people, who care about the Gorge Tillicum Community and its neighbourhood.

**Don't Delay!  
Send in this form TODAY!**

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

**2007 Membership Application/Renewal**

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

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

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**At the Centre  
G.R. PEARKES  
RECREATION CENTRE**

*Pearkes*

The fencing is down, the landscaping is almost done, and the books are arriving for your New Saanich Centennial Library, scheduled to open Sept 21, 2007. Environmental design elements have created a “green building” that makes efficient use of natural resources. This new branch will be the first GVPL branch to pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

**This new ‘State of the Art’ library will include:**

- A computer training area, The Learning Centre
- Designated Internet stations in the Information Commons
- Digital reference and homework help stations
- Collections to enhance family literacy and lifelong learning
- Program space for children and families
- Adult reading/program area in the Living Room
- Teen Zone with computer gaming stations
- Group study room
- 32” flat screen T.V. installed to provide information about library programs and services

Thanks to a partnership between the Greater Victoria Public Library and the Municipality of Saanich, the new branch will also provide archive storage and public access. For more information, please visit [www.gvpl.ca](http://www.gvpl.ca) or [www.gov.saanich.bc.ca/visitor/archives](http://www.gov.saanich.bc.ca/visitor/archives).

**Everyone at Pearkes is very excited to share a location with this great new facility. See you in the stacks!**

**Special Events at Pearkes in the Fall**

- BC Women’s Show, Sept 22-23
- Woodworking Show, Oct 12-14
- Victoria Renovation & Design Show (Home Show) Oct 19-21
- Ski & Outdoor Show and Sale, Nov 3
- Creative Craft Fair, Nov 9-12
- Antique Show, Nov 16-17
- Kids Mega Sale, Nov 24
- Magical Dark Show, Dec 7-9

**FACILITY HOURS:**

**Sept 4 - Jan 1**  
Mon-Fri 6:30AM- 10:00PM  
Sat-Sun 7:00AM - 10:00PM

**Stat Holiday Hours:**

Oct 8	6:30AM - 10:00PM
Nov 12	6:30AM - 10:00PM
DEC 24	6:30AM - 12:00PM
DEC 25	CLOSED
DEC 26	10:00AM - 4:00PM
DEC 30	6:30AM - 12:00PM
JAN 1	CLOSED

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