



GORGETILlicUM

GORGE TILlicUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Neighbourhood NEWS

Gorge Canada Day Picnic Committee Welcomes New Chair



Photo: Vera Wynn-Williams

Chris Kask (left) and Brandon Devnich (right)

After a decade of dedicated service, Chris Kask is passing the baton as Chair of the Gorge Canada Day Picnic Committee to Brandon Devnich. Brandon has spent this year as co-chair alongside Chris, preparing to take on the full role after this year's event.

The planning of this highly successful event, the largest in Saanich, is a year-round commitment. Responsibilities range from applying for grants, forging sponsorships and securing permits to ensuring the committee stays on track. Chris has been meticulous in documenting each task and timeline, creating a master binder that is a sight to behold. His vision has always been to ensure the Picnic's continued success and facilitate leadership turnover within the planning committee. Chris will remain on the Committee and continue to be a vital contributor in the years ahead.

Brandon, elected to the GTCA Board in September 2023, quickly took on the role of GTCA Communications Coordinator. This year, the challenge has been to adapt the event to the new streetscape, and next year, the 25th picnic, promises to be an extraordinary celebration. (The first picnic was in 1999, but there were two cancelled due to COVID) Brandon is enthusiastic about leading the dedicated Canada Day committee and embracing the challenges ahead.

www.gorgetillicum.ca

**Gorge Canada Day
Picnic Programme
Inside!**

**July 1st Road Closure Advisory -
see back page**

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

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Please contact email at
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Many thanks to these long term advertisers. Your advertising support helps make this newsletter possible.

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GORGE TILLICUM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Our Neighborhood

The GTCA boundaries are the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet shorelines, the Trans-Canada highway to the north and Harriet/Burnside East/Whittier/Harriet to the east.



To learn more about Saanich Community Associations and view the boundaries, see <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/community-associations.html>

Board of Directors 2024-2025

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Chris Kask

Communications Coordinator:
Brandon Devnich

Membership Coordinator:
Xi Yao

How to Stay in Touch

www.gorgetillicum.ca @gorgetillicum

info@gorgetillicum.ca [gorgetillicum](https://www.instagram.com/gorgetillicum)

P.O. Box 44152, VICTORIA, BC, V9A 7K1

Fairy Door Festival

Our Fairy Door Festival which included a Fairy Door Workshop, a Fairy Procession through Cuthbert Holmes Park and whimsical displays all around the community was a resounding success! Thanks to Anthem Properties for partnering on the workshop and Foxgloves Flowers (www.foxglovesflowers.com) for donating the prize. The winner of the gift certificate was Olivia Anderson!

We hope to do this again next year.



Photo: Reb Stevenson

Gorge Park Clean Up

Our latest Gorge Park Clean Up took place on Saturday, April 20th, with around forty enthusiastic participants. Volunteers successfully removed numerous invasive species, and we're pleased to report a minimal amount of garbage. It was a fantastic family-friendly event, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us.

The Gorge Park Clean Ups have been a community tradition for over 15 years, occurring twice annually—typically around Earth Day and on the second weekend in September.



Photo: Courtesy Jason Finster

Jason Finster of Walter Ave and family.



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Report Graffiti ASAP

Graffiti has been popping up all over our neighbourhoods – on bus shelters, post boxes, garbage cans, telephone poles, BC Hydro transformer boxes and more. The majority of this graffiti is tagging, which because its nature, devalues our properties and demeans our community by making our spaces feel uncared for and even unsafe. As a community, each and every one of us can combat graffiti by reporting it as soon as a tag appears. The faster it is removed, the less likely it will continue. Who to contact to have the damage removed depends on what object was tagged. It is dealt with on a first come first served basis, so the sooner we contact the appropriate organization, the sooner it will be removed. The district of Saanich website has links to the different organizations responsible for their own property, simply type 'graffiti' into their search bar on their website to see the links.

By keeping the email addresses (or phone numbers) in your cellphone, reporting a new tag can be quick and simple; take a photo and email it and its location to the appropriate organization. Quick and easy! You can also call the organization and leave the information on their voice mail. The contact information is listed below. Eradicating graffiti as soon as it appears helps our community look cleaner and feel safer. Don't accept tagging as a 'normal' occurrence, help fight it by taking action right away. We each have a role to play in keeping our neighbourhoods safe, clean and family-friendly.

- Saanich public works: traffic signs, garbage cans,
- Bus shelters without advertising: publicworks@saanich.ca phone: 250-474-5599
- Saanich Parks: trails and any structures in a park: parks@saanich.ca phone: 250-475-5522
- Canada Post: cell call only: 1-866-607-6301 – press 1, press 1, press 2, press 2, this will send you a chat link where you can communicate the issue.
- BC Hydro: Any hydro box or structure (and telephone poles): graffiti@bchydro.com
- Telus: graffiti@telus.com – we can also report vandalism at any local Telus store.
- Bus shelters with advertising: Pattison Outdoor: L.Moffat@PattisonOutdoor.com phone: 250-413-3212

Sandra Szalipszki

Music in the Park

Tuesday, Aug 20, 6:00 - 8:00pm, Rudd Park, 3259 Irma St. Best Laid Plans (Soul, R&B)

Join us for a great evening of music with **Best Laid Plans!** This dynamic band, known for their captivating performances and versatile repertoire, will be bringing a fantastic selection to the stage. Featuring the talents of Nick La Riviere, Diane Cameron, Kelly Fawcett, Ashley Wey, Louis Rudner, and Alex Campbell, the evening promises that they will have you dancing and singing along.



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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Canada Day Picnic

Gorge

Monday, July 1st, 2024 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Gorge Waterway Park & Gorge Road West



gorgecanadaday.ca

Full, interactive, up-to-date event map available via website.



AMICA

ON THE GORGE

PRESENTED BY:

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Features / Events

8:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Pancake Breakfast

9:00 AM
Canada Day Family Parade

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Canada Day Market
Gorge on Art
Classic Car Show
Community Engagement Displays

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Drumming Workshop
Gorge Soccer
Kids Activities/Inflatables
Road Hockey
VCKC Canoe Rides

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Strawberry Tea

Food Vendors

See zone numbers for vendor locations

ZONE 1
Poutine 66
The Ice Cream Truck
Willie Wonka Candy Factory

ZONE 2
Artisan Empanadas by Scorpion Chef
Greek on the Street
Kira's Cookie Jar
Namaste India Cuisine
Road Treasure Treats (Ice Cream Bus)

ZONE 3
Langos by Louie #1
Salt Spring Island Fruitsicles
Softies Ice Cream



ZONE 4
Ali Baba Pizza
Big Boss Tacos
Bite Me Cookie Company
Cup-A-Roni
Kuku's Indian Cuisine
Oh Sugar!
Shiraz Persian Cuisine
Sub Zero Ice Cream

ZONE 5
Greek n' Go
Hide N' Seek
Lemon Heaven
Tamales Don Carlos Mexico

ZONE 6
Langos by Louie #2
GTCA Concession
Optimist Club

Information

Lost & Found, information and memberships are available at the GTCA tent.

Recycling/Compo

Help the environment by designed recycling and co containers located along



Entertainment

BUSKERS' CORNER

10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

AM: Esquimalt First Nations

PM: Local Neighbourhood
Talent

GORGE ON ART STAGE

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Music by Performers from the
Victoria Conservatory of Music

MAIN STAGE

12:00 NOON - 4:00 PM

see column on the right



[More info on
the website](#)

Main Stage Performers

12:00 PM - Penny Belle



1:15 PM - Avram McCagherty Quartet

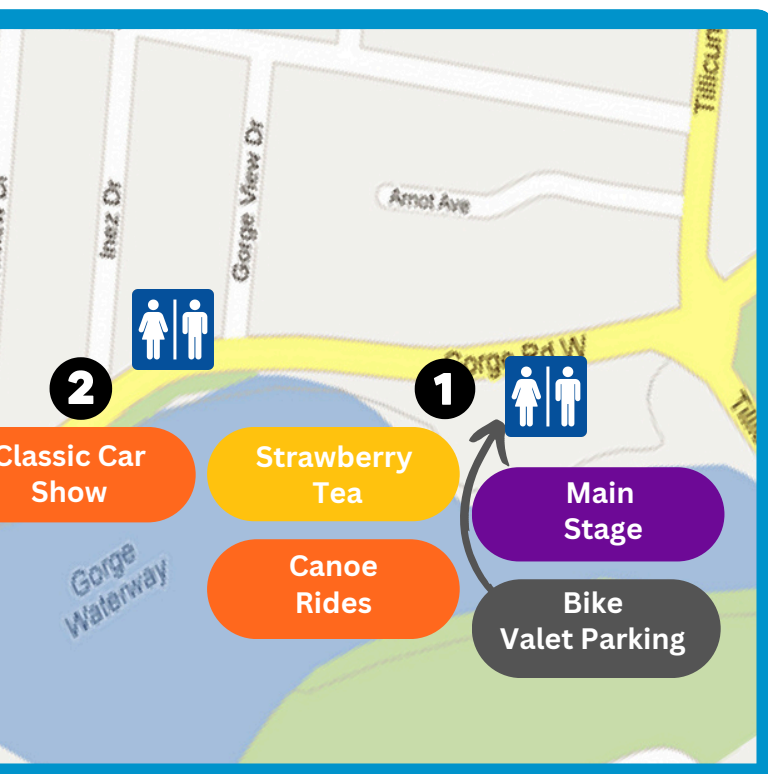


2:30 PM - The Fabulous B-Sides



Composting

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ong the road.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST



The pancake breakfast starts at 8:30 am at Craigflower-Kosapsom Park, on the Admirals Rd end of Gorge Road, and runs until 11 a.m. This is a very popular event so come early.

Proceeds to the Saanich Fire Charitable Foundation.

STRAWBERRY TEA



The delicious Strawberry Tea is set in the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club building. Fresh strawberries on cake are served with tea, coffee, or lemonade for \$5 per person. The tea is served from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Enjoy a break and an excellent Gorge waterway view from an historic house.

TIPS TO ENJOY YOUR DAY

- Please bring a reusable water bottle. Water is available at the water fountain beside the public washrooms in Zone 3, near the Austin Street intersection.
- Bring hats & sunscreen.
- Look for the volunteers in blue shirts if you have any questions or need help.
- Some vendors only take cash. Please note there is no cash machine on site.

SUPPORTED BY :



Gorge
Tillicum
Community

June 22nd
9-12pm

Garage sale!!!



Visit www.gorgetillicum.ca/garage-sale
(or scan QR code) for list of participating addresses

**In case of rain new date will be June 23 9-12 pm



Controlling Invasive Plants in our Gardens

May was BC Invasive Species Action Month. If you garden, I expect you can attest to the work required when plants outgrow their welcome. On a wider scale, invasive plants and other species can negatively impact the province's environment, economy, and in some instances human health. Focusing on things with roots, what makes a plant invasive? Often invasive plants are those introduced from other regions but that arrive without whatever keeps them in check at home. Normally an ecosystem is delicately balanced, with feeding insects, grazing animals, or weather conditions keeping plant populations under control. Not all plants transported here from their natural range are a problem and they settle in without much concern. Other introduced plants, however, are too good at capturing water and soaking up nutrients and they spread aggressively via root and/or seed. Left to their own devices, these vigorous invaders can dominate an ecosystem, outcompeting and pushing out the plants local to an area. Think Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, or periwinkle. Other plants - like giant hogweed, poison hemlock, Dalmatian toadflax, spurge laurel and Lesser celandine - are to different degrees toxic to humans and/or animals. Walking in a local park the other day I saw slow growing common camas on one side of a narrow path and easily spreading Spanish bluebells on the other. Uh oh, I thought. We commonly see English ivy and daphne pushing out the native understory plants in parks everywhere. Many of these escape our gardens, transported by birds.

How can I check what's in my garden and make sure nothing is invasive? Search the web for the keywords invasive species and CRD to find a list of the species to watch out for. Two good brochures to start with are [Invasive Plants in Your Garden](#) (Habitat Acquisition Trust) and [Grow Me Instead](#) (Invasive Species Council of BC). These short handouts include suggestions for alternative non-invasive plants and instructions for removing invasive plants that we do find safely.

What could we plant that has a positive impact on the environment? To make our yards more pollinator friendly, we want to provide what Dr. Elisabeth Elle, a conservation biologist from SFU, calls non-invasive plants that offer "pollen on a plate". These are wide open flowers without too many intricate folds or with long tube-shaped flowers, where pollen and nectar is easily accessible to insects or hummingbirds. These can be introduced species, but better yet is including plant species native to this region. Alas it is often inadvertently at our nurseries that invasive species first become available, either in pots or in enticing packages of 'wildflower mixes' which often includes seeds from other regions that can become a problem. (Satinflower Nurseries, however, does offer seed mixes specifically for our area.) Dr. Elle has long recommended adding native plants to our yards to create an enticing array of pollen sources and much needed habitat, ideally making sure there are options available from early spring to late in the fall. Another resource to look for, [Gardening with Native Plants](#), includes a list of native plants, the conditions they like, what is deer resistant, and what pollinating insects they attract. Definitely if you can, plant these instead!

By Laurie Jones

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GTCA UPDATE

We had a great turnout at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on April 23 at Tillicum Centre. We extend our gratitude to Anthem Properties for generously donating the space.

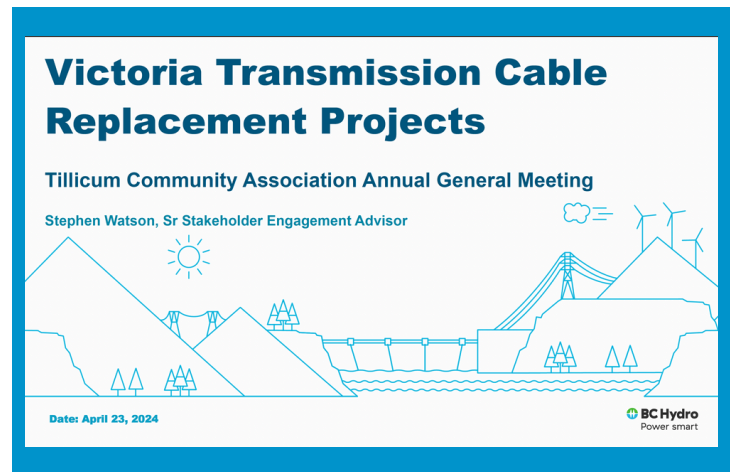
During the AGM, we welcomed two new board members: Nathan John-Gill and Julia Gellman. At the same time, we bid farewell to two long-standing board members who are moving on to pursue other interests. Katherine Brandt, who served on the board for 19 years and contributed to various working groups, and Gabe Epstein, who dedicated 15 years to the board including a three-year term as President. Gabe was instrumental in establishing the Gorge Park Community Garden and numerous other community initiatives. We deeply appreciate their hard work and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

We also had a presentation from BC Hydro about the Victoria Transmission Cable Replacement Project. This project will significantly impact

Burnside Road, causing major traffic disruptions in our community for years to come. Given the necessity of this project, we at the GTCA see it as an opportunity to make essential streetscape improvements to the Burnside Road Corridor. We will advocate for Saanich to coordinate with BC Hydro to ensure that, after the disruption, we end up with a significantly improved street. The planning and budgeting need to start now!

To learn more about this project, we have uploaded the BC Hydro presentation to the documents section of our website.

Vera Wynn-Williams - GTCA President



Boulevard Brigade

I'm excited to say that my Pathfinders (Girl Guides) weeded some of the boulevard gardens on Dysart last night. Even with the girls working for over an hour, there's still a little bit to do, but they look better already - I can see the rose bushes now.



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Membership Application

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Our distribution list is for occasional member communications and is kept confidential and never shared with others. See our Privacy Policy at: <https://www.gorgetillicum.ca/copy-of-terms-of-use>.

If you are paying for other members of your household, please list their names:

PAYMENT:

Please enclose payment and mail to the P.O. Box address above.

Individual Memberships:

\$5.00/person x _____ members = \$ _____

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\$25/business x _____ members = \$ _____

Donation to Newsletter Fund:

\$5 offsets printing costs of your 3 issues each year
+ \$ _____

Donation to Arts & Culture Fund: Thank you for any help towards events + \$ _____

Donation to GTCA: Your extra support helps the GTCA operate. THANK YOU! + \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED

\$ _____

Membership is open to any resident or property owner who is 19 years old or older living at a fixed and officially recognized street address within the Gorge Tillicum neighbourhood and to businesses and other organizations operating at a fixed and officially recognized street address within the Association territory.

Membership is valid from the time of payment of membership fees to the end of the calendar year. In December of each year, those paying membership fees during December may designate them to be the fee for the upcoming calendar year and, in such cases, membership is valid from January 1st to December 31st of the following year.

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2024 ROAD CLOSURE ADVISORY



On Monday July 1, 2024, the Gorge Tillicum Community Association is hosting the Gorge Canada Day Picnic to celebrate community and our beautiful neighbourhood. We again expect over 10,000 people to attend and stroll along Gorge Road itself and the Gorge Waterway paths.

An integral part of the day is the closure of Gorge Road West between Tillicum and Admirals. We applied for and received a Special Event Permit from the Municipality. This road closure is permitted by the Municipality of Saanich and the Saanich Police Department and coordinated with BC Transit. Here are the details of the road closure:

1. Gorge Road West between Tillicum Road and Admirals Road will be closed to vehicle traffic from 7:30am to 5:00pm on July 1st. The bicycle lanes will be needed for the event and for pedestrians and therefore closed to bikes.
2. Vehicle access to/from Gorge Road West properties will be for emergency purposes only, and thus residents are advised to park their cars on the side streets on the evening of June 30th and all day on July 1st until 5pm if you need to leave the area. Access to and from all side streets will be by Vincent Ave, Cowper Ave, and Admirals Rd (for Rockwell & Inlet).
3. All side streets will be blocked for the day at their intersection with Gorge Road West by a police vehicle or an unattended parked vehicle.
4. The westbound lane of Gorge Road West is a designated emergency access route for police, fire, and paramedics. It MUST be kept free of obstacles for emergency vehicles if necessary. Please do not set up games, furniture, or anything at all on the road or public sidewalks.
5. No residential parking is permitted in Gorge Road West parking lots/areas between 7:30am and 5:00pm on July 1st.
6. All BC Transit bus service will re-route away from Gorge Road West during the closure.

Thank-you for your understanding and co-operation. For further information and a detailed map of the Picnic, please visit the Picnic website at gorgecanadaday.ca