



GORGE TILLICUM

Neighbourhood

NEWS



Four of the intrepid volunteers prepare for battle with the Gorge Park undergrowth

Gorge Park Clean-Up

About 30 people came out early Saturday, September 17 and — as part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean up — gave Gorge Park a helping hand.

Starting at the shoreline and moving up into the park area itself, we collected lots of metal garbage including shopping carts and discarded bicycles. Regular trash was also cleaned from the walkways, underbrush, and trails. Then the pruning shears provided by Saanich Parks came out.

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Residents Voice Safety Concerns

On September 27, nearly 50 residents from the Gorge-West and Harriett Road area attended a meeting with senior representatives from Saanich Police

and Saanich Parks. The meeting was organized by the Gorge Tillicum Community Association and chaired by Paul Gerrard.

A number of specific safety concerns were raised, including many about dangerous speeding on Gorge Road between Harriett and Tillicum, which will be investigated further. The majority of the meeting, however, concerned itself with increased vagrancy in Gorge Park and increased crime (including assault, pilfering and vandalism) particularly in the Cedar Shores complex.

Ann Fedora, a long-time resident of Cedar Shores, pointed out that there has always been vagrancy in Gorge Park and that only recently has it escalated into a problem.

It was suggested that Saanich Parks should remove a good deal of the undergrowth in the park, as this provides 'cover' for the campers. This issue was taken up by other speakers who were torn between the need to create a safer park and the desire to preserve its existing environmental values. Ray Roer, Director of Saanich Parks, confirmed that the policy had been to 'naturalize' Gorge Park, but perhaps that needs to be reviewed.

Inspector Bob Downie, who heads Saanich Police's Uniform Division, acknowledged that vagrancy has increased in Gorge Park. Over recent weeks, the police presence has also increased. However, the police can't solve homelessness. They can remove people and their possessions, but many times the individuals return, simply because there is nowhere else for them to go. Several speakers were concerned that there be no 'witch hunt' against the homeless, pointing out that being homeless is not a crime. The meeting generally agreed that the underlying social problems need to be addressed by Council through, at a minimum, the provision of safe shelters for the homeless.

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NOTICE

Municipal Council Elections

The GTCA has organized an all candidates meeting for those standing for election to the Saanich Municipal Council.

All Saanich residents are invited to attend to hear and question the candidates.

The Meeting will be held at:
SPECTRUM SECONDARY SCHOOL
on **NOVEMBER 1, 2005, at 7pm.**



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 Dec 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

We are coming to the end of beautiful weather, and I hope everyone had a good summer.

Your GTCA board members were kept busy with various projects. Let me list the highlights:

- The 7th annual Gorge Canada Day Picnic was another huge success and just gets better every year.

- On the environmental front, we held clean-ups of Cuthbert Holmes Park, Gorge Park, and Colquitz Creek. We also continue to work with other stakeholders on the Gorge Waterway Initiative.

- Regarding transportation, after years of waiting, we finally have a Harriet Road streetscape plan approved. The Admirals Road streetscape plan will also go in front of Saanich Council for approval soon, and work has begun on the first phase of the Tillicum-Burnside Action Plan too.

- After much discussion and budget reworking, the new Tillicum Centennial Library, as well as the renovations and additions to Pearkes Rec. Centre, should finally be underway before the end of the year.

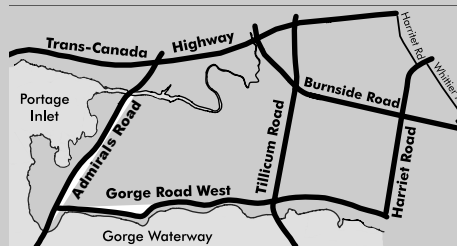
- The community programs offered at Colquitz School have been very successful, and congratulations go out to Maegan Thompson and the other Pearkes programmers.

- In response to reports of break-ins and assaults near Gorge and Harriet Roads and the recent attack on two transients camping in Gorge Park, the GTCA has asked the Saanich Police Liaison section to work with our Social Committee. The GTCA wants to be involved in possible solutions to these problems. We are also working with Saanich Parks Dept. to improve safety and design in Gorge Park.

On a final note, I will be taking a leave of absence to run for a seat on Saanich Council in the November 19th municipal elections. I encourage all residents to exercise their vote, and I leave the GTCA in the capable hands of your excellent board members.

— Paul Gerrard

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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 Terry Marra



With the materials arranged, Terry then found a way for 95% of the work to be done by volunteers.

In the end, Terry saved the Gorge Soccer Association saved hundreds of thousands of dollars and helped provide the community with an all-weather soccer field.

Terry Marra, President of the Gorge Soccer Association, along with several parents and coaches have been very busy this summer.

Three years ago, when the Gorge Soccer Association transformed the old lacrosse box into an artificial turf practice field, Terry wanted to take it one step further: he wanted to turf the entire soccer field at Hampton park. Unfortunately, the expense to cover this project was prohibitive. Terry did not give up, however. Over the next few years, he spent many hours contacting various organizations. Ocean Cement agreed to donate all of the concrete required for the retaining walls; Tower Fence supplied a perimeter fence at less than cost; and Field Turf gave the Gorge Soccer Association an incredible deal on the turf.

What's more, the field he organized is also environmentally friendly. It requires no water, and most of the materials used are made from recycled products. Recycled glass was mixed in with the silica-sand base, and ground-up running shoe soles were mixed into the turf for cushioning as well.

The grand opening of the field - complete with alumni soccer games, 50/50 draws, and a dance - was held on Oct. 8. All proceeds went to Cops for Cancer. This fantastic facility will, no doubt, be used by many thousands of soccer players for years to come, and we owe Terry a big thank you for it!

— Harry Lewis

ADMIRALS ROAD

Saanich Engineering has completed the watermain connections to residences along Admirals Road. They have also recently surveyed Admirals Road and will begin to fill in the open ditches in early October. They will start to construct the sidewalk on the south side starting at Colquitz Avenue later in the year, and they will work on that section up to Cowper Avenue as funding allows.

The design of the Admirals Road streetscape plan, which will be recommended to Saanich Council later this year, shows sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of Admirals Road and two traffic lanes. This design was approved by the GTCA at an earlier board meeting.

Fall 2005

HARRIET ROAD Upgrades Approved!

At a Special Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2005, Saanich council unanimously adopted the proposed streetscaping plan for Harriet Road between Burnside and Gorge.

The plan creates on street parking bays on the Victoria side with new curbed landscape bulbs in the existing roadway and eastbound bicycle lanes. The plan also includes a separated sidewalk on the Saanich side with parking bays, left hand turn lanes, pedestrian refuges in the center medians and crosswalks at Maddock and Obed.

The project will be included for consideration in the Financial Capital Plan and will be considered on a phased basis according to priorities and available funding.

This has been a long time in coming, and the GTCA is very pleased.

— Christine Helmick

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Tillicum-Burnside ACTION PLAN

The ground work has been laid. The concepts have been discussed. The plans have been drawn. After due consideration, the Tillicum-Burnside Action Plan (TBAP) has achieved a grand milestone: our TBAP is now part of the Local Area Plan (LAP). Some may recall that when our LAP was updated in 2000, Saanich Council committed to reviewing options for the busy Tillicum and Burnside corridors. After five long years, we now have a document that outlines many streetscape and redevelopment ideas for these roads. Smart Growth BC has been a significant partner in this process, and it is doubtful that we could have achieved this goal without their partnership.

If you pick up a copy of **Tillicum-Burnside Action Plan Streetscape Concepts** at Saanich Municipal Hall, you will see that it focuses on three separate village areas: Tillicum Centre; Burnside near Harriet; and Tillicum near the Shopping Plaza and Fairway Market. Design concepts, implementation strategies and streetscape improvements were considered for each village concept. You can view the concept documents at www.smartgrowth.bc.ca under the title "Transportation and Land Use in Saanich, BC".

Saanich staff has now begun to implement some of the streetscape ideas. You will soon see new street furniture, lamp standards, banners, landscaping and transit shelters popping up. This is all part of the municipality's commitment to encourage redevelopment opportunities along our busiest corridors. The progressive plan also seeks to make these roads more friendly to bicycle and pedestrian traffic. As one person said at the open house, "These concepts are excellent. It is great to see the municipality taking such forward looking actions."

Of Days Gone By

Henry Claypole: Schoolmaster – 1859-65

*In previous issues, we met
the first schoolmaster of Craigflower School.
This time we meet the second: Henry Claypole.*

Claypole was one of the thousands to arrive in Victoria with the rush of 1858-60. He brought a letter of introduction from the Duke of Newcastle addressed to James Douglas. Reverend Cridge appointed Claypole to Craigflower despite the fact that he was not trained as a teacher. Cridge believed Claypole to be "fully competent for the charge in point of educational acquirements, moral character & general intelligence." Moreover, the appointment was understood to be "a provisional arrangement."

In 1861, Claypole wrote to Cridge, stating that his remuneration was "insufficient." Claypole also expressed concern about the dilapidated condition of the schoolhouse. Pemberton, the colonial surveyor, was dispatched, and his description presents an appalling picture:

The building is insufficiently supported and the foundation being insecure has sunk considerable. This has caused the plaster to crack in every direction, the ceiling to fall in and the floors to sink. The backs of the fireplaces are burnt out, the chimneys smoke, the wind blows through the school room and the rats have made holes in every direction. In the outer premises common decency

has to be neglected, the well has tumbled in and the pump out of order, and fencing down.

Despite Pemberton's gloomy description, it does not appear that any major repairs were undertaken at that time.

As the general economy declined so did Claypole's enthusiasm, and when the School Act of 1865 established non-sectarian education, Claypole tendered his resignation. However, it is possible Claypole's high moral stance simply hid his own ineptness as an educator. Following his resignation, The Colonist wrote a scathing attack:

Craigflower School ... has been of late suffering from the most wretched mismanagement. The new Superintendent of Education ... found the system of teaching most inefficient, and the backwardness of the pupils most pitiable, exhibiting the grossest negligence on the part of the managers It is deplorable to think that the children of this community should so long have suffered through the incompetence and negligence of [their]teacher...

It does not appear that Claypole remained in Victoria.

— Judith Stricker

INTERVIEW WITH AN *Aspiring Councillor*



Of the declared candidates for Councillor in the Saanich municipal elections, only one is from the Gorge – Tillicum area: our GTCA president, Paul Gerrard. We asked Paul a few questions about his plans.

GTCA: What made you decide to run?

PG: There is no doubt that our neighbourhoods will face a number of changes over the next decade or so. The Regional Growth Strategy envisages a significant increase in population density; we will be affected by major development in View Royal; and Tillicum Mall has been designated as a major urban centre. I know this area very well, and I want to be involved in managing these changes so that the best of what we have is protected.

GTCA: What are the main issues, and what is your position on them?

PG: I see the main issues as land-use, transportation, the environment, economic development, and social issues, and here is where I stand on them:

1. I will encourage sustainability based on Smart Growth principles and promote the concept of complete communities with amenities close to mixed-use development.

2. I will promote a co-operative regional vision for a balanced transportation system, including car share programs, increased transit use, more bike lanes, and a better pedestrian environment.

3. I will protect the Urban Containment Boundary and ALR lands.

4. I will promote more economic development in Saanich, particularly green, high-tech and sustainable businesses.

5. I will promote safe, healthy, affordable communities.

GTCA: There has been a tendency in some municipalities for Councils to run roughshod over community plans. Do you see yourself as a protector of Local Area Plans?

PG: Very much so. Local Area Plans are living documents representing the wishes of the community and should be respected and kept up to date.

GTCA: Of late, Saanich Council appears to have split along party lines. If elected, where would you stand?

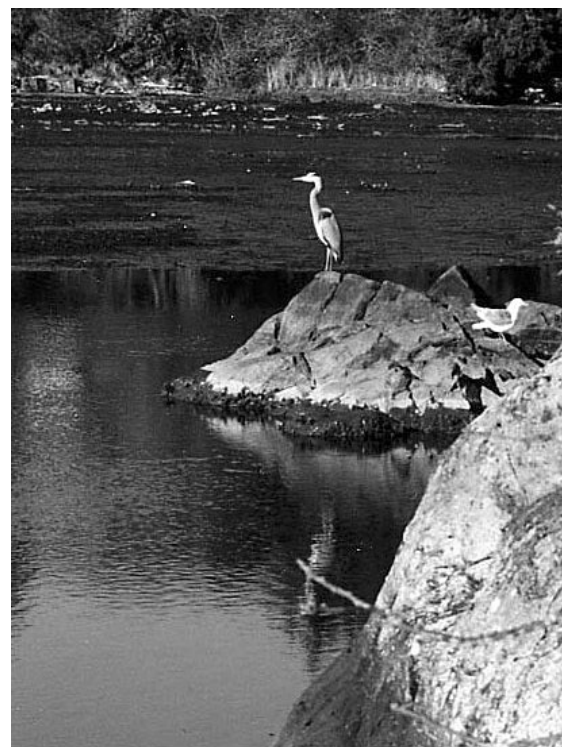
PG: I will make my own independent evaluation of any issue and cast my vote accordingly. I see myself as a consensus builder seeking to make Council work more effectively.

GTCA: Over recent years, you have served on a number of community boards and committees: the GTCA, the Greater Victoria Public Library Board, the Saanich Advisory Planning and Transportation Committee and several others. What has this experience taught you, and how would you apply that experience as a Councillor?

PG: I am also a business owner, so understand budgets, value for money, and fiscal responsibility. Combine this experience with a strong belief in community values, and I believe that this balanced approach will benefit all Saanich residents.

GTCA: Thank you, Paul, and good luck!

On July 19th
Portage Inlet



...Continued from page 1

Resident

It was suggested that the upsurge in criminal activity is related to the drug houses on Irma Street and Harriett Road. These became a problem following the efforts by Victoria Police to shift drug traffickers and users away from the downtown core. Constable John

Top Ten Tips

from City Green's EnerGuide for Houses Program*

1. **Windows...** are best if double paned or covered by storm windows (the air pocket keeps the cold out and the heat in)
2. **Doors...** are most efficient if they are solid, have a metal surface, are insulated with foam or wood, and fit the frame snugly.
3. **Insulation...** blocks air currents, divides cold areas from warm ones, and creates pockets of still air that maintain their moderate temperature.
4. **Heating Systems...** must be kept clean and maintained to ensure maximum efficiency.
5. **Programmable thermostats...** can be set to lower the temperature at night and increase it just before morning.
6. **Ventilation Systems...** replace 1/3 of the stale air every hour. (Finding the right balance between air-sealing and airflow is critical).
7. **Vapour barriers...** look like thin plastic sheets and sit on the warm side of your home's insulation to protect against water damage.
8. **Fireplaces...** can be sealed off when not in use by closing the damper and locking the airtight doors. An outside combustion air duct can minimize the amount of heated air flowing out the chimney.
9. **Caulking and weatherstripping...** act as air barriers. Caulk around air vents, floor drains or where a wall frame meets chimney brick. Weatherstrip between the frame and the moving part of a window or door.
10. **Gaskets...** are strips or sheets of foam that fit behind electrical outlets, light switches or light mounts to reduce air leakage into the walls or attic.

*EnerGuide for Houses is an official trademark of Natural Resources Canada. Used with permission.

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 December 15th.



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PEMBERTON HOLMES

Space

Keepers on Portage Inlet

your local Shore Keepers were back on for their fourth annual beach study.

The Shore Keepers operate under the direction of Jody Watson from the Victoria Esquimalt Harbours Environmental Program (VEHEAP), and the project is possible with the support of the GTCA. Each year, we study a 52 foot long piece of shoreline located on the north shore of Portage Inlet west of the mouth of the Colquitz River. Using protocols set up by the VEHEAP, we map the area, lay down several 50 X 50 cm quadrants, and count the plants and animals we find. The information goes into a DFO database.

The goal of the project is to monitor water quality and inter-tidal marine habitat changes by assessing the abundance and diversity of life forms at the site over time.

The data can also be used to promote the health of our local waterways.

One of the reasons for studying this particular beach is that the flushing potential of the inlet is reduced by the geography of the area. We still have some difficulty determining low tide in the inlet as the water usually comes flowing back in before the low tide reaches its supposed lowest point.

If you would like to be involved with this project next year, please phone Chuck or Judy Sigmund 384-3841.

We are also involved in regular outfall testing at two sites in the neighbourhood (one in Gorge Park and one at the settling pond by Tillicum Mall), and we can always use volunteers with that too.

— Judy Sigmund

Residents Voice Safety Concerns

Price, Public Information Officer, emphasized that the police depend on public assistance. If there is any wrongdoing, even if it seems petty, it is important to report it. Then, even if the Police cannot react to the specific complaint, they can spot a trend developing and increase their presence in the area. There is also no incorrect time to call the police if there is any instance of drug use.

Karen Wallace, who oversees Block Watch, said that as the strength of a community grows, so does its safety; the Block Watch program, she believes, provides the tools to build that strength.

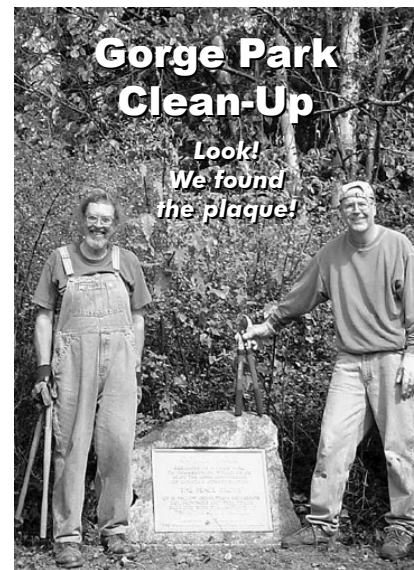
Fall 2005

Karen distributed pamphlets detailing how to respond to an emergency, who to contact, and how to ensure personal safety. These can be obtained by contacting her at 475-4634 or blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca.

The meeting was seen by all present as a positive first step towards resisting the negative influences that have encroached on the neighbourhood. Those interested in helping to develop some ideas on how to deal with these or similar social issues are invited to contact the Chair of the GTCA Social Committee, Trevor Hancock, at greendoc@telus.net.

— John Hoole

...Continued from Page 1



Gorge Park Clean-Up

Look!
We found
the plaque!

Several volunteers hacked tons of ivy and blackberry, and those working at Aaron Point began to clear the overgrowth on several of the trees. The plaque in the center of the park (placed there in the 1992 dedication of Gorge Park as a Peace Park) again saw the light of day, and work also began around the 12 yellow cedars planted at that time. Four of those trees can now spread their branches, and hopefully we can help the others at our next cleanup. We were all captivated by the beauty of the area. Aaron Point stands as a beacon inviting visitors to enjoy views of the Gorge from its serene vantage point. We would like to thank all those who participated and encourage you to join us next time; it feels great!

— Judy Sigmund



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*A New
Vicar for
St.
Martins-
in-the-
Fields*



Canon Morrison is shown above wearing the stole presented to him by the children of St. Columba and the carved cross was a gift from the children of St. Martin.

There has been a change at the helm of St. Martins-in-the-Fields, one of the oldest churches in our area. The Obed Avenue church was built by its parishioners in 1926 and held its first service on September 11 of that year. On June 26 of this year, the current congregation celebrated the retirement of Canon Bill Morrison who had served there for seven years. Then, on September 11, 2005, the parishioners formally welcomed their new vicar: Father Christopher Parsons. Father Christopher brings his wife, Anka, and their daughter, Hannah to the neighbourhood as well. We wish the Father Christopher and his family all the best.

If you would like to visit St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, please contact Father Christopher at 386-732. You are also welcome to join the worship at 9:30 Sunday morning and the social time after the service.

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At the Centre

**G.R. PEARKES
RECREATION CENTRE**

Tour De France comes to Pearkes Recreation

What if we could bring the Tour De France to you? Well, we've done it! We are happy to announce the arrival of our new LeMond Spin bikes!

The LeMond Rev Master was designed by a team of specialists with road cycling ergonomics and the benefits of indoor fitness in mind. Leading this team was 8 time National Cycling Champion, Paul Swift, and the first ever American to win the Tour De France, Greg LeMond.

This new addition to our roster could not have come at a better time. With the ever growing popularity of running & cycling on South Vancouver

Island, the cross training demand for this indoor sport is popular and beneficial.

Whether you are looking for a sport specific training session, or an amazing low impact cardio workout, we likely have a class on these bikes are for you. Furthermore, programs are structured to fit every fitness level from absolute beginner to advanced cyclists.

Pearkes Rec Centre will be offering daily AM, lunch time, and PM classes. For schedules, pricing or general info, contact reception at 475-5400 or Steve Robinson (cycling programmer) at 475-5463.

What's Happening at Pearkes!

Halloween Spooktacular

Oct 31, 3pm-6pm. Free (Pre-register)

Skate with Santa.

Dec. 18, 1pm-2:30pm. Tickets on sale Nov 25.

Victorian Xmas Family Skates

Dec 13 and 20 5:45-7:05pm. Bring one non-perishable food item per person.

Christmas Light Tour & Skate

Dec 13-23 and 27, 5:45-8pm. Register early; they fill up fast.

New Year's Eve Skate

Dec 31 Noon to 1:20pm \$2. Rentals free.

FACILITY HOURS

to Jan 1, 2006:

Mon-Fri	6:30AM	- 10:00PM
Sat-Sun	7:00AM	- 10:00PM
Stat Holidays		
Nov 11	10:00AM	- 4:00PM
Dec 24 & 31 ...	6:30AM	- 12:00PM
Dec 26	10:00AM	- 4:00PM
Dec 25 & Jan 1		Closed



Pearkes
Recreation Centre
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Phone 475-5400



24 hour info line: 475-5576

www.saanich.ca