

# Burnside Gorge Community News

Volume 17, No. 20 November 2003



**AND THEN CAME THE RAIN...** In Victoria, the deluge of rain smashed records unleashing 136 mm (5.3 inches) in one day, surpassing the previous record set in 1986 of 92.8 mm

## GORGE ROAD: Building a Vision

On October 28, 2002 the Burnside Gorge Community Association hosted a Community Meeting to give residents a venue to air concerns with recent developments along Gorge Road. Burnside Gorge is home to many of the old Highway 1 motels. The conversion of two motels, the Jolly Knight and Chestnut Grove, to Single Room Only's (SRO's) and the potential conversions of three more motels in quick succession, the Dutchman, the Fountain Inn, and the Friendship Inn were of great concern to the community.

Many of the motels were in disrepair and conversions were a viable option for motel owners to improve their properties and, at the same time, offer permanent housing for low-income singles. The community was aware of the need for SRO's in the City as they play an important role as affordable housing for a certain segment of the population. However, the community felt that too many of these conversions would create a demographic imbalance and be detrimental to the health of this community. More low-income single, predominantly men, living in the area could decrease the number of families who would want to stay in or move to the area.

...continued on p.3

### Community Open House

\*November 22nd, 2003  
\*Burnside Community School Gym  
3130 Jutland Road  
\*12:00 - 2:00pm Drop-In Open House & Lunch  
\*A structured discussion will be held  
between 2:00 - 4:00pm with presentations  
by the City of Victoria

*The purpose of the Open House is to give community members an opportunity to participate in the re-evaluation of the overall plan for the redevelopment of Gorge Road, including housing, commerce and green space.*

All community members are invited to attend. This Open House is hosted by the BGCA and the City of Victoria. For more information please contact Rachel O'Neill at the BGCA at 388-52

## -Next Community Meeting November 17-

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The  
Burnside Gorge  
**Community News**

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*Burnside Gorge Community Centre in partnership with the City of Victoria and Burnside Community School*

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## Burnside Gorge Community News

is published by the  
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#### TO CONTRIBUTE

If you would like to contribute to the Burnside Gorge Community news please call Cody or Dean at 388-5251 or email newsletter-bgca@shaw.ca

#### TO ADVERTISE

As a non-profit, we depend on advertising to cover publishing costs. Please contact Cody, Dean or Shirley at **388-5251** or email **newsletter-bgca@shaw.ca** for rates and information.

[www.burnside.city.victoria.bc.ca](http://www.burnside.city.victoria.bc.ca)

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May be forwarded to Cody Graham and sent by email or snail mail to the addresses above.

Contributions to the Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the BGCA or its' staff.

## Editorial

by Dean Fortin

This month's community meeting is the beginning of the much awaited Gorge Road Charette, whereby residents in the area can participate in building the neighbourhood, community and city they want. The Charette was a response to public clamour over what was happening to the motels on Gorge Road - see the accompanying BG community news article.

I ran across a piece from the Vancouver Sun (October 15/03) by Trevor Body, entitled "Downtown Eastside an Artificial Slum". It is an exploration of how that area of Vancouver came about and why it continues today. Some of his points are most insightful, and provide some interesting thoughts in relation to our current community context.

His first main point is that public policy mistakes have condemned the area to ever-more marginal status. The first he cites is differential policing - that there are different standards for this part of the city of Vancouver.

"A key turning point was in the early 1980's when a campaign . . . chased prostitutes out of the middle class West End and Pleasant districts and back to the Eastside... Vancouverites let out a collective civic sigh with that change, similar to the one that was released when crackdowns on drug dealing on the Granville Mall, Skytrain stations and Commercial Drive areas further concentrated that activity you know where. . ."

His second point is that the location of Vancouver's social housing followed the same pattern. Urban planners used to try to create diverse, socially intergraded communities. In the past 10 years a dozen social housing

developments have gone up in the Downtown East End. Elsewhere in the city? The Concord Pacific Bayshore Coal Harbour development was required to provide social housing on site. Vancouver City Council agreed to the developers request to give cash in lieu of social housing, as long as it was located somewhere else - it went to the east side.

The City of Victoria has seen brief elements of these two policies. In regards to policing, we have seen that there has been contentment to keep the Holiday Court and a few other motels as the unofficial holding tanks. As well, the attention to the downtown - which was needed - has had the effect of pushing activities into the surrounding communities.

We have been fortunate in Victoria to see a greater spread in public housing, but it was clear that the Gorge Road was at risk of developing a large scale concentration of SRO's beyond the community's ability to absorb.

Burnside has always been close to it's blue collar roots, and has been very accepting and accommodating. Even now the community is saying it welcomes affordable housing. The community has expressed a concern with concentration in one area (Burnside's success has been in spreading out our public housing) and a need for a diverse social and economic make up. It has been identified that this community needs more affordable housing for it's families.

This is what the Gorge Road Charette is intended to provide - an opportunity for the residents of Burnside Gorge to shape their community. See you there..... it is important.

## ATTENTION BURNSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARENTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HELPING YOUR CHILDREN IN GRADES 3-6 DEVELOP LITERACY SKILLS?

You can take part in a study that will help in the planning of literacy learning opportunities!



For more information contact:  
 Mrs. Heather Meidinger at 881-1180  
 or email: [hmeidinger@shaw.ca](mailto:hmeidinger@shaw.ca)

## Gorge Road: Building a Vision

*continued from front page...*

At the meeting, Council liaison to Burnside, Denise Savoie, recommended that the City initiate a Gorge Road Charette, a community planning process, to address redevelopment issues and to re-assess the neighbourhood plan. Council reaffirmed this proposal in March 2003. The first step in the community planning process (Charette) is community consultation.

On Saturday, November 22nd, 2003, the BGCA, in partnership with the City of Victoria will host a Community Open House. The purpose of the Open House is to give community members an opportunity to participate in the re-evaluation of the overall plan for the redevelopment of Gorge Road, including housing, commerce and green space. All community members are invited to attend, and share their visions of Gorge Road in coming years. All information gathered from the Open House will be presented to a steering committee meeting to ensure community inclusion in the decision making process.

The Open House will be held in the Burnside School gymnasium, 3130 Jutland Road. Lunch will be provided from 12:00pm - 2:00, and from 2:00pm - 4:00pm a focus group will be run for those wishing to participate in a more structured discussion. Anyone who lives and/or works in Burnside Gorge is welcome to attend. If you have any questions please contact Rachel O'Neill at the BGCA, 388-5251.

### **Species at Risk Act (SARA) Community Information Session** Monday, November 3 6:30 - 9:00pm University of Victoria

Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Parks Canada Agency would like to invite your community to a general information session on the Species at Risk Act (SARA) in your area.

SARA was created to help prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct and to recover wildlife species that are endangered or threatened as a result of human activity.

For further information on SARA,  
please visit: <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca>

### **The Burnside Community School Choir** presents

#### **Family Karaoke Night**

November 7th 6:30 - 8:30pm  
Located in the School Gym

Admission: \$2 / person or \$5 / family

All proceeds go to support the choir

If you have any questions, please call  
Karen @ 382-8242.



Above: The Gorge Road Charette, a community planning process, has been implemented to address redevelopment issues and to re-assess the neighbourhood plan as traffic, cyclists, and motels all jostle for space along Gorge Road.

	6th Floor - 395 Waterfront Crescent Victoria, BC V8T 5K7	Telephone (250) 381-7188 Fax (250) 381-7804 E-mail <a href="mailto:lawyers@carlaw.ca">lawyers@carlaw.ca</a> <a href="http://www.carlaw.ca">www.carlaw.ca</a>
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Visit a club in the Burnside Gorge Area

Trestle - Wednesday, 12:00pm  
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection  
2975 Jutland Rd  
Contact: Raymond 356-9821

Victoria Beaver - Wednesday, 6:00pm  
Travelodge, 229 Gorge Rd. E.  
Contact: Patricia 995-1382

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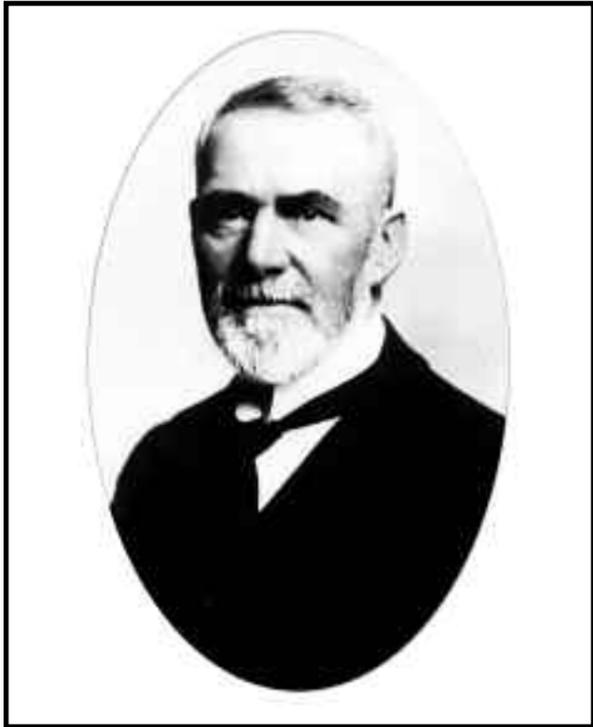
# Burnside History

## THE DYNASTY THAT WAS NOT TO BE

### *The Dunsmuirs*

by GR Tomblin

*Burleith, once an opulent mansion on the Gorge, was the home of James and Laura Dunsmuir. James was the eldest son and heir of Robert Dunsmuir, the coal baron and railway tycoon, as well as British Columbia's first millionaire. Time has passed, things have changed, and all that remains of Burleith today is a pair of stone gateposts.*



James Dunsmuir Sr.

And all that remains of the Dunsmuir dreams of a feudal dynasty, other than their castles, is a ghost.

If one believes in such things, the ghost is the melancholy one of James Dunsmuir Jr., darling son of James; and whom – some say – can be seen floating over the little lake by the bridge in the Japanese gardens at Hatley Castle, now Royal Roads University, wearing his WWI Lieutenant's uniform, and an expression of infinite sadness...

James Dunsmuir was born in 1851, the first son of Robert and Joan Dunsmuir, during the couple's yearlong voyage to Vancouver Island from Scotland. James attended school first in Nanaimo, then, in the 1870s, in Virginia, where he studied mine engineering. It seems young James was less driven than his father; the most he seemed to want of his lot in life (perhaps in conflict with what he was groomed to want) was becoming a mine manager.

It was during his time in Virginia that he met and married Laura Surles, of Fayetteville, North Carolina. She was the daughter of a plantation owner. Eventually the couple moved to Vancouver Island where for a time they lived at Fairview, Robert and Joan's house in James Bay,

before taking up residence at Burleith, on what is now Craigflower Road.

In 1888, James duly took over as manager of the newly formed Union Collieries Company. He was thirty-three.

A dynasty was coming about; or so it seemed.

In 1889, Robert Dunsmuir died. This left the Dunsmuir Empire in the hands of James and his younger brother Alexander. Alexander lived in San Francisco, where he looked after company interests in California. Together, the two brothers controlled the fortunes of the company for the next decade.

Then in 1900 Alexander died, leaving James in sole command of such a vast amount of wealth as to be far beyond the dreams of ordinary folk. This wealth consisted of coal mines, railways (including the E&N), shipyards and shipping lines, and vast tracts of land up and down the north Pacific coast, including over 2 million acres on Vancouver Island – all of which included water, mineral and building rights.

And meanwhile, James and Laura had been busy producing children – at least ten (some sources say twelve) including their favourite, James Jr.

James Jr., affectionately called "Boy" by the rest of his family, including his eight sisters (everyone else called him Jim) was born in 1893. He was sent to the strict Loretto School in Scotland, where it seems he developed his love of horses and became a fine horseman. Upon his return to Canada, Jim worked for the Bank of Montreal. In Montreal he bought a show-jumping grey mare named Kismet. Kismet never went without her feed, even if it meant Jim had to scrimp on his own meals, millionaire father notwithstanding. For James Dunsmuir Sr. believed that his favourite son and eventual heir must not suffer the "easy doldrums of spirit" peculiar to having too much money too young, as he himself had experienced.

After a year or so spent in Montreal counting other people's money, Jim (and Kismet) returned to Victoria.

Then the First World War broke out in August 1914.

Jim Dunsmuir was among the first to join up. And for him, of course, it had to be the cavalry. He took the Cavalry School course in Winnipeg and won his commission as a lieutenant in the Canadian Mounted Rifles. According to accounts of the time, Jim was "exceedingly popular with his brother officers and the men under his command."

He was twenty-one.

Then, Jim resigned from the CMRs in order to join the Royal Scot's Greys in England, which promised him sooner action against the cursed minions of the Kaiser.

And so, leaving his beloved Kismet at home, he traveled to New York, and on May 1, 1915, boarded the

Cunard liner Lusitania, bound for Liverpool.

On May 7, the Lusitania was torpedoed and sunk off the southern coast of Ireland by a German U-Boat. Nearly 1200 lives were lost, including that of Lieutenant James "Boy" Dunsmuir Jr. (along with six or seven of the 15 people from Victoria known to be aboard the Lusitania on that voyage.)

When news of the loss of his darling son and heir reached James Dunsmuir Sr., he was completely shattered. He was never the same. He lost interest in business, in politics, in seemingly everything. He would shut himself away in his study for most of the day, punishing the whisky, shunning all company. He died, wealthy but broken, in 1920.

Because a father had lost a son, a dynasty would never be.

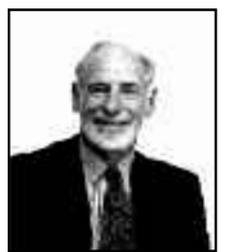


*The Lusitania was torpedoed and sunk off the southern coast of Ireland. Nearly 1200 lives were lost, including that of Lieutenant James "Boy" Dunsmuir Jr.*

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**Sheila Orr**  
MLA, Victoria-Hillside



**B.O.A.T.** - The Burnside Outdoor Adventure Team receives instruction on sailboat operation and safety at the Oak Bay Marina. For information on joining B.O.A.T., please contact the BGCA at 388-5251.

# BURNSIDE GORGE YOUTH PROGRAMS

## Afternoon Programs

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
<b>Girls Group*</b> (10-13 years)  3-5pm	<b>Boys Group</b> (10-13 years) 3-4pm  <b>B.O.A.T.*</b> (ages 13+) 4-6pm	<b>SPORTS DROP-IN</b> (10-13 years) 2-3:30pm  <b>MONTHLY MADNESS</b> 4-5:30pm (ages 11-15)	<b>COLQUITZ Girls Group</b>	<b>COMPUTER Drop-In</b> (10-13 years)  3-5pm

## Evening Programs

<b>REC NITE</b> (10-13 years) 6-7pm  (13-15 years) 7-9pm	<b>SORRY, We're Closed Tonight</b>	<b>SORRY, We're Closed Tonight</b>	<b>REC NITE</b> (10-13 years) 6-7pm  (13-15 years) 7-9pm	<b>DROP-IN</b> (10-13 years) 6:30-8pm  (13+) 8:30-10pm
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\*Program times may be subject to change. Please call 388-0223

# Trekkin in Timbuktu (ages 11 - 15)

This camp is similar to our summer Camp Survivor Series! We are offering a camp that has activities such as: PAINTBALL, MOVIES, BOWLING, SWIMMING, ICE SKATING, LASER TAG & JOHNNY ZEE'S. Our main goal is to have fun! There is limited space, so do not wait to register!

Lunch will be provided on select days

Mon - Wed, & Fri 9:00 - 4:00pm  
December 29-31 & Jan 2

\$145 / week or \$38 / day

To sign up please call the Burnside Gorge Community Centre @ 388-5251.

## Public Internet Site

Burnside Gorge Community Association has two Community Access Program (CAP) computers setup for public use. These are available during regular centre hours:

Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 4:30pm.

Also, Andrew, an employee of the Victoria Free-Net Association will be available to help with any questions regarding internet, email, and general computer use during the following times:

Monday 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
Wednesday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

## Sol Food Cafe & Sol Fine Foods

### The Market

Cafe, Deli, Catering @ 101-2955  
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"The Market" @102-2955

8am - 5pm Monday - Thursday  
8am - 6pm Friday

9am - 3pm Saturday ph: 381.6629 fax: 381.6618  
www.solfinefoods.com

## Attention: Residents of Burnside Gorge "Safety Audit of Burnside Road"

On Monday, November 10th at 7:00pm, the Burnside Gorge Safety Committee will be conducting a Community Safety Audit of Burnside Road. All community members are invited to attend. Come out and learn more about the Safety Committee and the Burnside Gorge Safety Strategy. The Audit will be followed by hot chocolate at 8:30pm. Those interested can meet at the Burnside Community School at 7:00pm. For more information, contact Rachel O'Neill at the BGCA at 388-5251.

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## Out of School Care Programs

The Burnside Gorge Community Centre provides Licensed, Quality Out of School Care Programs at Burnside, Quadra and Tillicum Elementary Schools. Before and after care available in all grades. Kinder care at our Burnside location. We also provide care on school days and school break sessions

For information please call  
Gloria at 388-0223

## Burnside Gorge Community Centre

### Dinner Drop-In

Join us in the Family Centre to share a FREE meal with other families in the community.

- Who: Families with children of all ages
- Where: 484 Cecelia Rd. Upstairs in the Family Centre
- When: Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm.



### Parent & Tot Evening Drop-In

An opportunity to socialize with other parents while your child enjoys toys and playtime. Coffee, tea, juice and light snacks are provided. Come early and enjoy a free meal at our Dinner Drop-In!



- Who: Parents with Children 0-6 yrs
- Where: 484 Geceila Rd. upstairs in the Family Centre
- When: Wednesday Evenings 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

For more information please call Dorothy @ 388-5251.

Burnside Gorge Community Centre Presents:

### The Great Big Garage Sale

Our annual garage sale is scheduled for:

**Saturday, November 8, 2003**  
**From 9:00am-1:00pm**  
**@ The Burnside Community School Gym**  
**(3130 Jutland Road)**

\*\*\*We are accepting donations of items that are in working order and good condition\*\*\*

If you have quite a few items that you would like to sell you can rent a table of your own for only \$20!!!

Please phone Deb at the Community Centre to book a table!  
ph# 388-5251

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Burnside Gorge Community Centre is looking to the community members and local businesses to help us with donations for Christmas Hampers. There are many families in need within our neighborhood and we would like to provide for as many as we can.

Please call 388-5251 and ask for Julie or Suzanne if you are interested in donating. A tax - deductible receipt is available upon request.

## Community Fruit & Veggie Box

- A Fresh Produce Buying Project -- Open to All -  
**What is the Community Fruit & Veggie Box?**

*A volunteer-run, innovative food program to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables*  
*Supported by various agencies throughout Victoria*

*Provides local-when-available produce*

*Boxes are packed once monthly*

*\$5, \$10 and \$15 boxes are available*

*Typical box items include potatoes, carrots, onions, apples, oranges, bananas plus additional items are added for variety*

### For information on where to order, pay and pick up boxes contact:

**Victoria Native Friendship Centre:** 610 Johnson Street, 384-3211  
**James Bay Community Project:** 547 Michigan Street, 388-7844  
**Blanshard Community Centre:** 901 Kings Road, 388-7607  
**Burnside Gorge Community Centre:** 484 Cecelia Rd, 388-5251  
**Worklink Employment Society (Colwood)** 2234 Sooke Road, 478-8664

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# Adult Programs

## Athletics & Sports

### Basketball

Slam, shoot and dribble your way to Monday and Thursday night excitement! All levels welcome.

*Location: Selkirk Montessori School Gym (2970 Jutland Rd.)*

Mon Sept 8-Dec 8, 8-10pm

Thu Sept 4-Dec 11, 8-10pm

Drop-In \$4.50

### Volleyball

Drop-In to dig, volley and spike your way to a great evening of fun, recreational volleyball. All levels welcome.

*Location: Selkirk Montessori School Gym (2970 Jutland Rd.)*

Wed Oct 29-Dec 3

8-9:30pm 6/\$25

Drop-In \$5



## Dance

### Latin Dance

*Instructors: McGregor Dance Assoc.*

This class covers a variety of the most fun and popular Latin dances. Possibilities include merengue, mambo, salsa, to name a few. Dances to be covered and amount of material to be taught will be gauged to the class. Previous dance experience not necessary. Couples and singles welcome (although even numbers cannot be guaranteed).

*Location: Burnside Gorge Community Gym (3130 Jutland Rd.)*

Mon Nov 3-Dec 8 8:15-

9:30pm 5/\$40

(No class Nov 10)



### Social Dance

*Instructors:*

*McGregor Dance Assoc.*

This class will cover a variety of social dances that are most likely to be used when social dancing for pleasure, for example weddings, parties, etc. Possibilities include foxtrot, jive, waltz to name a few. Dances to be covered and amount of material to be taught will be gauged to the class. Previous dance experience not necessary. Couples and singles welcome (although even numbers cannot be guaranteed).

*Location: Burnside Gorge Community Gym*

Mon Nov 3-Dec 8 7-8:15pm 5/\$40

(No class Nov 10)

## Family

### Santa Pancake Breakfast

**When:**

**Saturday December 13**

**Time:**

**10:00-11:30am**

**Cost: \$3/Family**

**Where:**

**Burnside Community**



## Health & Wellness

### Drumming-Cuban Rhythms

*Instructor: Jordan Hansen*

This workshop covers traditional rhythms in a fun and easy-going group setting. Beginners are welcome. Please bring a tape recorder if you have one. Class handouts and drums are provided.

*Location: Selkirk Montessori School MP Room (2970 Jutland Rd.)*

Sun Nov 30 7-9pm 1/\$18

### Beginner Kripalu Yoga

*Instructor: Amy Rubin*

In this class we will be focusing on breath awareness and physical sensation as a means of drawing our bodies and mind into harmony. Classes consist of a warm-up, stretching, yoga postures and relaxation.

*Location: Selkirk Montessori School MP Room (2970 Jutland Rd.)*

Thu Nov 6-Dec 11 5:25-6:55pm 6/\$54

### Qigong-8 Brocades

*Instructor: Wayne Wilson*

An ancient system that enables the practitioner to maintain vibrant health while attaining inner peace. Similar to Taiji, the 8 pieces of Brocade are much easier to learn, as their movements are simpler to perform.

*Location: Burnside Gorge Out of School Care*

Mon Sept 15-Nov 17 7:30-8:30

\$8 Drop-In

### Feng Shui-Level 1

*Instructor: Marlyna Los*

Learn how to improve relationships, health and prosperity through Feng Shui. Includes the discussion of the flow of chi, yin and yang, five elements, the bagua, clutter and how to use a compasses. Compasses will be available to purchase at the first class.

*Location: Burnside Gorge Child Care Centre (3130 Jutland Rd.)*

Tue Nov 4-11 7-9pm 2/\$33

### Quit Smoking Workshop

*Instructor: Barb Miller*

Develop your hidden 'Will Power' with a drug free program that makes quitting smoking easier. In this workshop you will understand why the psychological hold is so strong and how to disarm it. Learn how to 'Get Ready' and know when to 'Go For It.'

*Location: Burnside Gorge Child Care Centre (3130 Jutland Rd.)*

Sun Nov 16 9-4pm Free

## Island Culture

### Wine Tasting 101

Join us in our attempt at class and sophistication, as we learn the basics of wine tasting, sample some great wines and check out Vancouver Island's newest and largest working winery.

*Location: Burnside Gorge Community Centre*

Sat Sept 27 2-5pm 1/\$25



## Adventure Sports

### Adult Learn to Row

A great way to combine the beauty of nature with a new skill or activity. The gorge Rowing Centre's skilled instructors will take beginners step by step through the basics of rowing.

*Location: Gorge Rowing/Kayak Centre (2940 Jutland Rd.)*

Sat/Sun Nov 1-23 11-2:30pm 8/\$125

### Kayaking in the Gorge

This introductory course is designed for novice paddlers or those who are interested in improving their current sea kayaking skills. Basic boat handling, sea kayaking safety and trip planning essentials will be discussed.

*Location: Gorge Rowing/Kayak Centre (2940 Jutland Rd.)*

Sun Nov 9 11-2pm 1/\$40



### Scuba Diving-Open Water Diver



PADI Open Water Diver is the most popular dive program in the world-and your ticket to a lifetime of intense adventure. You'll learn about scuba fundamentals, equipment and techniques. The PADI

Open Water Diver certification card is recognized in more countries worldwide than any other, and is your ticket to dive charters, resort diving, equipment rentals and purchases.

*Location: Burnside Gorge Community Centre (484 Cecelia Rd.)*

Thu Nov 20-Sun Nov 30

(Thu Evenings & Weekends) 1/\$400

### Indoor Rock Climbing

Learn the proper techniques and commands for climbing such as good hand placement and belaying. **The class provides one evening of instruction and three days of free passes to practice on your own during the Crag X open hours:** (weekdays 1-11:30pm and weekends 10am-6pm). All climbing gear is included.

*Location: Crag "X" Climbing Centre (341 John St.)*

Thu Nov 3 7-9:30pm 1/\$65

## First Aid

### Standard First Aid

*Instructor: St. John Ambulance*

Includes CPR 'C', also bleeding, shock & unconsciousness, head and spine injuries, multiple casualty management, and burns. Certificate good for 3 years. Must be 16 years of age.

*Location: Burnside Gorge Child Care Centre (3130 Jutland Rd.)*

Sat Nov 8 & Sun Nov 9 8:30-4:30pm 2/\$112

