

*Capital Bike Presents:*

# Gorge Tillicum Discovery Ride

Go By Bike Week 



Photo by John Holland

[www.gobybikebc.ca/greater-victoria](http://www.gobybikebc.ca/greater-victoria)



# About this

May 31 - June 6 2021

## Welcome Discovery Riders!

Planning on logging those kms during Go By Bike Week but not sure where to go? We've got you covered!

Without our usual Celebration Stations to visit, Capital Bike has restarted our popular Neighbourhood Rides program with a few special rides released during Go By Bike Week 2021. To complete this Ride, visit the points below, taking pictures at your favourite stops/points of interest, then share them on social media with the hashtag "#GoByBikeWeek2021" to be entered to win prizes. Otherwise, you can send in photo submissions to [james@biketowork.ca](mailto:james@biketowork.ca).

### Log This Ride!

Log rides at [www.GoByBikeBC.ca](http://www.GoByBikeBC.ca) ! It's easy! You can even link your Strava account to make tracking kms even easier.

### How the rides work:

For each Discovery Ride and Scavenger Hunt we provide both an information sheet including clues and points of interest, as well as a custom Google Map to help make finding the route easier. Find this ride's google map here:

<http://ow.ly/dc4150ENfgx>

## This Ride Sponsored By:



*Please follow the COVID-19 Provincial Health Officer guidelines and protocols, as well as any local municipal guidelines in your community, while participating in Go By Bike activities.*

# Gorge Tillicum

*Discovery*  
**RIDES**

## Points of Interest

Welcome to the Gorge Tillicum Discovery Ride. This ride will take you through some old heritage and local gems on a route that is accessible for new riders. Enjoy!

1.

### **Background:**

Our Discovery Ride begins at what is now a regular suburban block, but was once the site of wealthy and brutal industrialist Robert Dunsmuir's large estate of Burleith Manor. Built in 1892, Burleith was the centre of Victoria's high society, entertaining the future King George V, among others, at fancy balls, regattas, and Mrs Dunsmuir's "Strawberry Socials." The grounds contained tennis courts, croquet lawns, and a dock on the Gorge for Dunsmuir's private yacht. When the Dunsmuir's moved to Hatley Castle, Burleith was left abandoned, until children playing with firecrackers on Halloween accidentally burned it down in 1931.



### **Action item**

Remaining structures from this mansion now include only the rock wall along Craigflower Road and part of the original gatehouse. Find one of these remaining structures.

# Gorge Tillicum

## Points of Interest

### 2. Background:

North America's first Japanese Tea Garden was built by Isaburo Kishida in 1907 right here along the Gorge. For years, the tea garden was a hugely popular destination operated by brothers Hayato and Kensuke Takata and featured hundreds of Japanese lamps, cherry trees, and wisteria trellises. Hayato and Kensuke were sent, as were all male Japanese Canadians aged 18-45, to an internment camp in 1942 for the remainder of the Second World War. Local residents then looted and destroyed the once popular tea gardens.



### Action Item:

Esquimalt has begun to recreate aspects of North America's oldest Japanese Tea Garden in this park. What reconstructed features can you see?



# Gorge Tillicum

## Points of Interest

*Discovery*  
**RIDES**

3.

### Background:

The head of the Gorge features several historically-significant sites. First is the Craigflower Schoolhouse, built in 1854 to educate the children of settlers and HBC employees. In fact, the schoolhouse is the oldest surviving public building in BC. Before European colonization, this was the site of the Lekwungen “Kosapson” village, until the land was purchased in 1850 and the village relocated. Archaeologists still investigate the shell middens present from this village.



### Action item

Take a photo of a landmark of your choosing at this historic site.



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## Points of Interest

### 4. Background:

Heading north to Cuthbert Holmes Park, we arrive where the Colquitz Creek meets the sea. One of the largest watersheds in Victoria, Colquitz Creek was once an important source of food, medicines, and other resources for local first nations. Indeed, spawning salmon were so numerous into the 19th and early 20th centuries that farmers speared them and tossed them onto their fields for fertilizer. Despite the impacts of urbanization, 200-400 Coho salmon enter the Colquitz creek each fall to spawn, as do several dozen chum salmon.



### Action item:

Take a photo on the small bridge spanning the creek just opposite from Meadow Park.



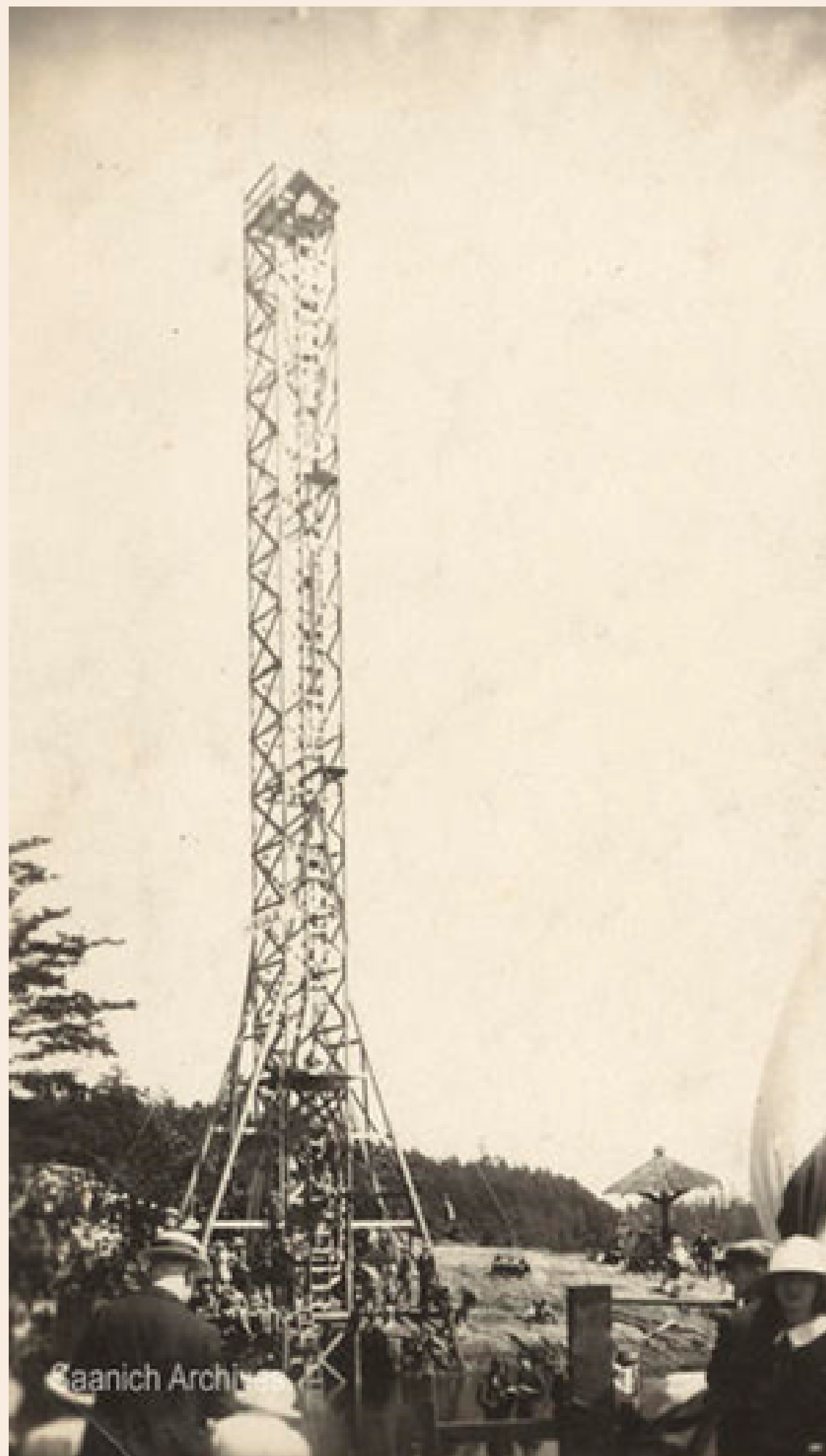
# Gorge Tillicum

## Points of Interest

5.

### Background:

Returning to the Gorge, we pass by the Gorge Park Community Gardens, started in 2015, which contain communal and allotted plots as well as areas designed for pollinators such as mason bees. Just past the park is Curtis Point, which was (100 years ago), the location of a deadly 110 foot diving tower. The Gorge was, in the early 1900s, the premiere destination for Victorians looking for a swim (despite its strong currents). The diving tower, built in 1922, saw divers landing in only 15 feet of water below. However, provincial diving champion Billy Muir died due to injuries sustained while diving soon after the tower was completed. The diving tower was therefore taken down.



### Action item:

The concrete slab that this tower sat on remains at Curtis Point, find it!

# Gorge Tillicum

## Points of Interest

6.

**Background:**

Crossing the Gorge for the final time on this Discovery Ride, we bike to the Selkirk Trestle. Built originally by the Canadian National railway in 1918, the trestle was converted to a pedestrian and bike trail after years of disuse. Looking towards Victoria harbour, The Island of the Dead (renamed Halkett Island) is visible. This small rocky island was an indigenous burial site in active use during the establishment of Fort Victoria. Sadly, vandals set the island on fire in 1867, destroying the burial site. Similar conflicts continue in BC as small rocky islands, which were often used as burial grounds by indigenous groups, are targets for developing expensive homes.

**Action item:**

Take a photo of the Island of the Dead.

You have now come to the end of your Discovery Ride! We hope you enjoyed the bike ride along the Gorge and enjoyed learning about some of the local history.

Remember to log your bike ride at [www.GoByBikeBC.ca](http://www.GoByBikeBC.ca) as well, and submit your photos using #GoByBikeWeek2021 or by email to [james@biketowork.ca](mailto:james@biketowork.ca)