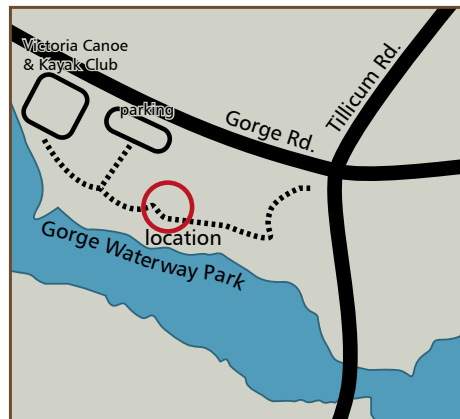


"In connecting the story of Camossung to the theme, 'Knowledge of Place' I was immediately inspired. I felt as if I could release an ancient story from the depths as a sculpture. Bringing to the surface a message from the past about how significant this area was to the people who lived here, and how similar the message is today in nurturing and caring for our environment."

Fred Dobbs

Arts Vision: Saanich as a lively and creative community accessible to artists, to a broad range of artistic expression and to the participation of all its residents.

*The District of Saanich's 1%
for Public Art Policy
encourages the creation of new
works of art to enhance public
spaces throughout our
community.*



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Saanich Public Art



Camossung
by Fred Dobbs



The District of Saanich, in consultation with area residents, completed the re-development and expansion of the Gorge Waterway Park in 2004. One component of this park initiative is the selection and installation of a work of public art. A Public Art Competition was held starting in the spring of 2009.

The Gorge Waterway Park Public Art Jury reviewed all submissions. The jury was composed of three local artists, a representative from the local neighbourhood association, and a Saanich Parks & Recreation staff member. The chosen work addresses the broad theme of "Knowledge of place; understanding the natural and cultural community along the Gorge waterway".

When people acquire a deep knowledge of a particular place, they care what happens to the landscape, creatures, and people in it. They understand its ecology and diversity, the web of relations it supports, and the rhythm of its cycles.

(Centre for Ecoliteracy www.ecoliteracy.org)

The Gorge Waterway Park offers access to a prominent water feature in our community and a connection between the pedestrian and natural environments.

The work of public art, "Camosung", installed at Gorge Waterway Park is an appropriate story to be told in this location reflecting the history of the First Nations People who first inhabited the area and as a display of one of Saanich's goals; to be a steward in the protection of the natural environment.

"Camossung"

An ancient Songhees story tells of a young girl named Camossung, turned to stone by 'Hayls' the Transformer. Camossung is believed to have spirit powers and is associated with protecting the local food resources (Coho Salmon, Herring, Oysters and Ducks) of the Songhees people. The sculpture symbolizes the significance of this location. A unique place, where fresh and salt-water merge with each ebb and flow of the Gorge Waterway. A place where animals thrive, and historically, people sought food and a spiritual connection.

The original sacred stone is located below the southern side of the Tillicum Bridge, viewable beneath the water at low tide.

The Songhees people have participated in this project in good faith and co-operation.

