



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
355 Gorge Road West
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9
Phone: 361-4238 (Info only)
Website: www.vckc.ca

February 2008

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club General Meeting

Tuesday, February 5, 2008
7:30pm

Guest Speaker will be
Master Paddler, Wally Priedolins
"Mr Ocean Canoer"
presents a slideshow of the Johnston Straits



Don Munroe
receives
Life Membership
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President's Message

Farewell and Welcome!

The changeover of the 2007 and 2008 Executive was marked by a half hour get together before the first Executive Meeting on Tuesday, January 16. Retiring members were present at this meeting to facilitate the change over. Many thanks to Tony Copping, Susan Duhamel, Kathleen Gunn, Michael Jackson, Irena Jazwinski, Glynis Newman, Lorna Petrovic, Mavis Pillar, Fred Trudell and Fraser Tweedy for all their hard work in 2007. A special thank you to Judi Murakami who retires after two years as President and one as Past President. May they enjoy their new leisure time.

Thanks also to returning members Mike Fox, Harold Gillis, Keith Larusson, Doug Linton, Don Munroe, Joy Newham, Diane Nishimura, Maris Ratel, Ron Williams, and Mile Petrovic. Mile finishes a busy year leading the club as President and returns as Past President. They are all gathering their strength for more of the same by welcoming new members Tony Dalmyn, Larry Irvine, Muriel Johnson, Sharron Rivest and Marie-Eve Tessier to the Executive.

One position on the Executive remains empty, that of Kayak Program Director. This is not the first time a program has started a year without a director and temporary arrangements are made until the position is filled. Doug Linton, who paddles kayaks and outriggers, and is Education, Standards, and Safety Director on the Executive, has offered to act as facilitator and contact person for the kayak program temporarily. Many thanks, Doug. Please read Tony Dalmyn's excellent contribution under Kayak News for more information.

Muriel Johnson and Mike Fox have been busy already with the new on-line registration and payment for membership, which is going well and which will, in time, make the positions of membership director and treasurer less onerous. Mike has taken on the duties of Webmaster for the club on top of those of Dragonboat Program Director.

So, we start a new year of individual and team paddling. VCKC is one of the few clubs run by volunteers across Canada to offer such a range of paddling experiences to its members. We are extremely fortunate. Paddling is great fun and, in the case of VCKC, cheap as well!

Linda Thomson
President, VCKC

Membership

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their 2008 membership, storage and locker, by cheque or on-line. For those members who have not yet renewed, welcome to the new VCKC on-line membership registration. It is an efficient and secure way to pay your dues and generate accurate records for the club and for the membership. If you prefer not to pay on-line using PayPal, please renew by cheque as before. But make yourself familiar with the system so that you can make changes to your own information (change of address, phone number, email address, etc.) as you wish. For now, this system can process only membership renewals. Storage and locker fees will still need to be paid by cheque.

Online Registration 101:

From the VCKC web site, please click on "Members". This will take you to where you will enter your email address. Then move on down to "Retrieve Password", click on that. Don't worry about filling in the space for password at this time. Then you will be prompted to again fill in your email address. In a short time you will receive an email giving you a password. You can then start over at the beginning, enter your email address and your new password, and you will see your on-line information, which you can update any time.

Please contact me at any time if you have problems or questions regarding renewals.

Muriel Johnson
Membership Director



Kayak Program Changes

Our long serving Kayak Program Directors, Glynis Newman and Susan Duhammel, stepped down at the end of 2007, and there were no nominations for new directors. Glynis and Susan were tremendous leaders and great volunteers and they leave with the gratitude and congratulations of the Club.

They recruited informed and enthusiastic speakers on weather, navigation, nature, kayak tourism and travel and the Victoria waterways for the kayak program. Your executive will try to maintain the lecture series. We are aiming to promote all the paddle sports for active living and sensitivity to the environment.

Glynis and Susan succeeded at getting kayakers, supposedly solitary and private, to come out in numbers for Club paddles. For the time being, the Canoe Program welcomes kayakers to its scheduled group paddles, to explore our waterways and enjoy relaxing, sociable paddles. The next event is Saturday February 2, 2008. The canoe program prefers to have people check in by email and then make the final decision on launch and destination with current information on wind and tide - see the Canoe Program announcements for details to sign up for the next event and dates for future paddles.

The Kayak program has had great instructors teaching Paddle Canada Certificate courses. We will be finding someone to coordinate with Paddle Canada and to coordinate instructors and schedule courses. These courses will expand your paddling options, subject to your fitness, practice and devotion to planning, safety and skill. We don't expect to run programs until the water warms up (kayak courses involve time in the water, trying to get back into an overturned or swamped boat). The club kayaks are available for use of club members through contact with Colin Ross at vckckayakbookings@gmail.com or 744-2669. We also have a great library of kayak and paddling resources in print as well on VHS and DVD video.

Past and renewing Kayak program members can expect an email message from Doug Linton on behalf of the Executive scheduling a Kayak program meeting for February 21 (note this is Thursday) to have a serious and frank discussion

of what kayakers need and what the Club Kayak program can do to help people to build their skills and knowledge to paddle safely and enjoy the waters and shorelines of Victoria, the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island. We are hoping that a few experienced kayakers will help on the skills side, and we are looking for volunteers to handle administration and coordinate programs. This meeting on Thursday, February 21 will be held at the clubhouse unless otherwise notified. Please check the club website (www.vckc.ca) for possible changes.

Tony Dalmyn



Canoe Program Report

We are off to another busy paddling season with flatwater and river trips taking place twice per month, weather and water levels permitting. Some high winter tides are allowing for some good delta paddles. Let's hope the winds will stay calm.

Information on upcoming courses will be placed on the Canoe Program page of our website around the middle of February, following a meeting of canoeing instructors. That information will also be in the March newsletter. There is a moving water course tentatively scheduled for March 29 & 30. Check the website next month for confirmation.

Tom Staebell has once again offered to be the Course Coordinator. Thanks very much Tom! If you are interested in taking a Lakewater or Moving Water course, please contact Tom by phone or e-mail; he will put your name on the list.

Res: 655-7113 after 5:00 pm
Office: 652-1121 7:00am - 4:00pm
Cell: 588-2207 after 6:30 am.

E-mail: thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca

**26th YEAR
VCKC PADDLE FOR THE KIDS
LIVES ON !!!**

This special Voyageur Canoe Event is our Club's big fundraiser on behalf of the Lions Society of B.C. The event raises money to assist in the funding of programs for Kids with Disabilities. Its special focus is to support Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan where the children can safely experience the fun of camping and waterspouts.

In the last 25 years, the membership of VCKC have raised

over \$180,000.00 which has contributed hugely to our clubs very high standing in our community. This year's paddle to Port Angeles and back will be on Saturday, March 29, 2008 (weather permitting). We'll begin from our clubhouse at 6:30 am and finishing around 5pm in Victoria's Inner Harbour. It's a fun day and you do not have to paddle the whole day as we paddle in shifts of approximately 1½ hours.

Training began Sunday, January 27. The rest of the Sunday training sessions start at 9am from VCKC and a carpool is set up for the training site.

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- Feb 3 Pat Bay to Sidney with a stop at the Stonehouse Pub for lunch
Feb 10 Sooke Basin (Bring lunch)
Feb 17 Island View Beach to Oak Bay (Bring lunch)
Feb 24 Maple Bay to Cowichan Bay via Cowichan River (Bring lunch)
Mar 2 Portland Is. to Rum Island and back to Sidney (Bring lunch)
Mar 9 Thetis and Kuper Island from Chemainus with lunch and refreshments stop at Pub
Mar 16 Sidney, James Island (Bring lunch)
Mar 23 VCKC to Oak Bay (Bring lunch)
- Mar 29 (Saturday) Port Angeles and back. Meet at VCKC at 6 AM.
Bring snacks and refreshments for the round trip.

You don't have to make every practice but you should try to make at least two depending on your experience and physical condition.

For further info. Contact Don Munroe at 385-2268 or Alan Thomson at 592-4170.

LET'S MAKE THIS YEAR'S PADDLE SPECIAL!

Gear Required: paddle, life jacket (pfd), rubber boots, rain gear, water, snacks and a change of clothes in a watertight container (e.g. dry bag)

The David Thompson Brigade

**Four Provinces
Three Drainages
Two Centuries of History
All for One Big Event**

On May 8, our club hopes to send a representative team of voyageurs to participate in the Bicentennial of the David Thompson Brigade from Rocky Mountain House in Alberta to Thunder Bay, Ontario -- a total distance of 3600km. The route includes paddling downstream, upstream, across open water, and approximately 35 portages. It will end in Thunder Bay on July 12.

If anyone would like to take part in this memorable historical trip, our team (Shawnigan) has an opening for either a full or part distance paddler.

Details of the event at:

www.2008thompsonbrigade.com

Kayak Trip Report

Cabbage Island/Prevost Island September 12 - 15, 2007

John Levey and I had done a camping trip from Sidney to Cabbage Island last year, so this time the plan was to paddle to Cabbage Island on the first day; spend the second day checking out the area around Boiling Reef; on the third day paddle from Cabbage Island to Prevost Island for another overnight stay, going along the Strait of Georgia side of Mayne Island and through Active Pass; and then paddle back to Sidney from there on the fourth day.

On the day we departed from Sidney it was extremely foggy and we had to fight our way into a very cold wind and a strong outgoing tide. We expected to reach Fairfax Point on the East side of Moresby Island in about an hour but we soon realized that with both the wind and the tide against us we would have to allow more time. Paddling by Ker Island in dense fog we set a compass course, trying to compensate for the wind and the current, hoping to leave Reay Island to our right before reaching Fairfax Point. After what seemed a long time we made out an island to our right but to our great surprise we had drifted much too far to starboard and had only reached Dock Island.

After consulting our chart, which we thought we would never need in an area we had paddled dozens of times before, and making a much bigger offset of 30 degrees for wind and current, we set off again, by this time freezing cold. When the fog finally lifted we found ourselves perfectly on course. Making surprisingly good progress once we were past Moresby Island we reached Bedwell Harbour to stop for lunch under very welcome warm sunshine, having covered 10 nm that morning. After lunch we paddled the remaining 8 ½ nm to Cabbage Island, inspecting the sunken 'Robertson' in Winter Cove and shooting through Boat Passage on the incoming tide without any trouble. We were almost falling asleep in the hot afternoon sun with no wind at all and totally calm seas during the last hour of the trip. Luckily we found our favourite camping spot on Cabbage unoccupied and after setting up camp and having dinner we soon disappeared in our tents for a good night's sleep but not before turning our kayaks upside down to avoid having the resident raccoon population climb all over and into the kayaks with their sandy paws.

On day two of our trip we paddled out to Boiling Reef, this time at slack tide with no wind, which made the Reef appear disappointingly calm and very much unlike the previous year's experience. For lunch we stopped at the far end of Navaez Bay on Saturna Island and in the afternoon we checked out some dilapidated abandoned farm buildings and orchards at the south end of Tumbo

Island. The ten miles we paddled that day were a little more than we had planned after having paddled for six hours the previous day.

The distance from Cabbage Island to Prevost Island, going the long way via Active Pass rather than through Boat Passage and then continue between North Pender and Mayne, is 17 nm, so the next day we had an early breakfast and got on our way. We were hoping to catch the outgoing tide for the early afternoon run through Active Pass. But by the time we got there it was almost slack tide and we were too late to get much of a push from the tide. In Miners Bay we waited for the two Spirit class vessels to pass by before crossing over to the Galiano Island side of Active Pass. By now a stiff breeze was blowing into our faces and as we came closer to the south end of Active Pass the seas became increasingly turbulent with the incoming tide building up. Just then there was a loud blast from a ship's siren but there was no ship in sight. As we came out of the pass fighting the wind and the turbulent seas close to the shore of Galiano Island a big ferry appeared from the north turning left into Active Pass. The ensuing swell certainly did not help matters and since there was no place to hide, we decided to keep paddling across to Prevost Island without a rest despite the wind, the incoming tide and the swell of passing ferries. By the time we arrived at our camping spot we were dead tired, totally wet and freezing cold. Dripping wet and cold we quickly took off everything and put on a double layer of dry clothes. There was no let up in the still howling wind as we tried to put up our tents and we had to hide behind a protected rock ledge to cook ourselves a hot dinner. The wind did not let up until well after midnight and in the very early morning hours we were awoken by the sound of ships sirens as they entered and left Active Pass - more dense fog! Luckily the fog lifted later on in the morning, the wind died down, and we had a pleasant 8 1/2 nm paddle back to Sidney.

The total distance we travelled in four days was 54 nm and the most memorable experience of the trip was the rough passage coming out of Active Pass and crossing over to Prevost Island.

submitted by Hans Voermann



**Don Munroe Honoured
with
VCKC Life Membership**

At the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club Annual General Meeting on January 8, 2008, "The Voyageur Guy", Don Munroe, was presented with the award of a Life Membership and a framed certificate by outgoing President Mile Petrovic. Don is only the third person to receive this award joining Doug Collis and Dick Kirby. Mile also showed off a trophy which will include small brass plaques with the honorees' names and the year the award was given.

Don is best known among our current members as organizer of the annual Paddle to Port Angeles. This is an annual event that raises funds for the Lions Society Camp Shawnigan where children with disabilities spend some time in the summer enjoying camp activities. He has been the "mover and shaker" of this event for most of its 25 years.

Throughout his 29 years with VCKC, Don has been very involved with numerous other activities as well. In the early years he was a marathon canoe racer and participated in the marathon racing circuit throughout the Pacific Northwest. He and Ron Williams, our current Marathon Canoe Program Director, were competitors way back then. During that same era, Don also organized the annual VCKC Gorge Regatta, an event that brought the marathon

racers to Victoria from throughout B.C. and Washington state. The regatta was a two day event. Day one was for the marathon racers and day two was set aside for fun races for our members and the general public.

As Don left his racing days behind, he took more interest in regular tandem paddles and often organized day trips or weekend trips. Kayakers frequently joined the canoeists.

In recent years Don has become very involved with environmental projects. He has been a regular participant in Rivers' Day where VCKC members canoe down the Cowichan River filling their canoes with garbage. He also spearheaded the VCKC "Clean Up the Gorge" where paddlers from all VCKC programs head out in voyageur and tandem canoes to pick up garbage from Portage Inlet and the Gorge. Currently Don represents VCKC on the Gorge Waterway Initiative committee, an umbrella group made up of various local groups interested in stewardship of the Gorge.

The award of Life Membership honours not only Don's dedication and participation with VCKC but also recognizes his involvement with our local community.

Congratulations!

Submitted by Joy Newham



Photo: Wendy Clapp

Canoe Trips

Flatwater Paddles

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Sunday, February 17, 2008

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Canoeists and Kayakers Welcome

All trips start at 9am from the parking lot beside the Clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

These trips are for members and guests who have taken and passed the basic tandem paddling canoe course or have equivalent experience. Kayakers are welcome to join in.

While Club equipment - canoes, PFDs,

paddles - can be borrowed, regular participants are expected to bring their own equipment as required by the Canadian Coastguard

http://www.tc.gc.ca/MarineSafety/TP/TP511/boat.htm#Canoes_kayaks_less_6m

Let the trip leader (usually Alan Thomson) know by the evening of the Thursday before the trip if you plan to attend so that matching of partners and equipment can be arranged.

Contact him at 592-4170 or
3135thom@islandnet.com

Bring spare clothing in a waterproof container and food and drink for the trip - we are not usually nearby a restaurant or inn at lunch time.

MARINE BIRDS COURSES FOR NATURALISTS AND ENTHUSIASTS

This series of slide and video illustrated talks is ideal for those interested in learning more about marine birds and bird behaviour.

Discover fascinating secrets about how marine birds live and feed. The emphasis of this course is on unique and interesting biological and behavioural information that will capture the imagination of both amateurs and professionals.

The course is instructed by James Clowater, an ornithologist who specializes in the behavioural ecology of marine birds. Two shoreline field trips are included.

MARINE BIRDS COURSE

February 28 to March 27 2008,

5 sessions, 7-9 pm at
Swan Lake Nature House,
plus 2 weekend field trips.

Cost is \$89.00

Call Swan Lake to register
(250) 479-0211.

BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

April 2,9,16 2008. 7-9pm

Field Trips April 6,13,20th
3 classroom & 3 field trips

Call the University of Victoria
Division of Continuing Studies
to register: (250) 472-4747

VCKC Executive

<p>President Linda Thomson..... 592-4170</p> <p>Vice President Marie-Eve Tessier 386-5652</p> <p>Treasurer Sharron Rivest 478-2981</p> <p>Secretary Tony Dalbyn 483-5224</p> <p>Past President Mile Petrovic 250-733-2013</p> <p>Program Directors:</p> <p>Canoe Program Joy Newham 385-5876</p> <p>Dragon Boat Program Mike Fox 391-0160</p> <p>Outrigger Program Keith Larusson 598-7193</p> <p>Sea Kayak Program Vacant</p>	<p>Voyageur Program Don Munroe 385-2268</p> <p>Marathon Canoe Program Ron Williams 380-7496</p> <p>Education, Standards & Safety Doug Linton 727-0216</p> <p>Membership Muriel Johnson..... 391-0560</p> <p>Clubhouse & Grounds Lawrence Irvine 920-3622</p> <p>Directors-at-Large Diane Nishimura 383-3080 Maris Ratel 592-7082</p> <p>Executive Volunteer Positions Ray Patts (Social Coordinator) 294-4445 Harold Gillis (Newsletter Editor) ... 598-9488 Maris Ratel (Boat & Locker Storage) 592-7082</p>
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VCKC Clubhouse Bookings and Club Activities February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
3	4	5 General Meeting 7:00pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 VCKC Executive Meeting 7:30pm Linda 592-4170	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Kayak Program Mtg 7:00pm	22	23
24	25	26 GM - Outrigger 7pm	27	28		

The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club is a member of:

RCABC (bccanoe.com);
Paddle Canada (paddlingcanada.com);
CORA (canadianoutrigger.com)

General Meetings

First Tuesday of each month (September to June)
March Newsletter deadline: Feb 14, 2008