

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club  
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February 2012



Photo by Deb Thurlbeck

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club  
Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday, February 7, 2012  
7:30 pm.

## CLUBHOUSE NEWS

### 2012 AGM Election Results

The 2012 Annual General Meeting was standing room only. Thanks to everyone who made the effort to renew their membership and take part in electing the 2012 executive. A special welcome to the new members of the executive. A complete list of your newly elected executive is on the last page of this newsletter.

### 2012 Proposed Budget

A draft 2012 budget was discussed at the AGM. Concerns raised included the following:

- Financial planning and revenue allocation
- Membership fees
- Capital asset management and replacement
- Programs' plans for the next 1-3 years
- Club goals and principles that should be taken into account (or developed) to guide Executive decisions
- Boat storage

A motion passed for the new executive to review the budget process and budgets to address the concerns raised. The executive committee will be doing this work over February and March.

### First Paddle of the Year

The first paddle of the year brought out paddlers under a sunny New Years Day morning. Taking part was a mix of voyageurs, kayaks, and canoes. No ice or snow in sight! Back at the clubhouse, everyone warmed up on the mulled wine and soup provide by Alan and Linda Thomsen. Thanks to all the members who provided a variety of food for the potluck. After lunch, everyone helped to take down the Christmas decorations. It was a good way to start the New Year.

### Monthly General Club meetings

Get more from the VCKC monthly meeting! Discover perks of VCKC membership! Learn about each program!

We're revamping the monthly general meeting! Each program will take turns profiling their vision, successes, challenges, plans for the future and just interesting stories at meetings this year. We have awesome programs and we want everyone to know and celebrate our love of paddling.

Programs will reduce the number of individual program meetings by integrating a session into the general meeting. This integration aims to lower the meeting workload for program directors and members, while increasing the effectiveness of the general meeting.

The schedule to try revamped meetings is:

February 7, 2012

Safety & Education program - Doug Linton

March 6, 2012

Outrigger program - Dave Schweter

April 3, 2012

Canoe program - Yasmin Rampurri

May 1, 2012

Dragon boat program - Mary Kirchner

June 5, 2012                      Club BBQ

July and August                      No meeting

Marathon canoe, Voyageur, House & Grounds and Boat storage will host the fall meetings.

Monthly general meetings continue to provide an update of club business and individual program highlights.

### Upcoming Events of Interest

Program open house information sessions are kicking off across the club. Discover the perks of a VCKC membership - check out the program offerings. We have an interesting paddling year ahead. See you all at the February meeting.

Pam Carroll, President, VCKC

## *PADDLE FOR CAMP SHAWNIGAN - March 31st, 2012*

The 2012 Peninsula Paddle for the Kids is getting under way. This annual fundraising event at VCKC is in support of the Lions Society Easter Seal Camp at Shawnigan Lake. The camp allows children with disabilities to enjoy a summer camp experience in a safe environment. Funds raised by the club help the Lions Society operate the facility for children and families with special needs.

The route follows the shore of the Saanich Peninsula from Brentwood Bay to the Clubhouse. We paddle Voyageur canoes with two teams of 6 per boat. Each team paddles up to 2 hours and then switches off with another team. The whole trip is about 40 miles and takes 10-12 hours to complete. Bus transportation, great food, and a warm dry rest area are provided by the local Lions Club. It all makes for a great day of paddling for a good cause.

This program is open to all VCKC members. Those who can't paddle can raise funds for Camp Shawnigan.

The paddle will take place this year on March 31st. There will be 7 practice paddles leading up to that date.

### Practices

- Sunday February 12th
  - - Victoria Harbour (9:30 am start)
- Saturday February 18th
  - - Maple Bay to Cowichan Bay
- Sunday February 26th
  - - Sooke Basin
- Saturday March 3rd
  - - Pat Bay to Sidney
- Sunday March 11th
  - - Saanich Inlet
- Saturday March 17th
  - - Ladysmith Harbour
- Sunday March 25th
  - - Pedder Bay to Beacher Bay

All trips but the first will start by meeting at the Clubhouse at 8:30am where ride shares and boat towing are arranged. Please bring a paddle, PFD, dry bag, dry clothes, weather-appropriate clothing, food, and water.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Boyd, [voyageur@vckc.ca](mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca), 250-386-6004



## THETIS LAKE FREEZE REPRISE - Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> 2012

Some years ago, a Club trip to Finlayson Arm had to be postponed because the Boathouse Marina refused to let us launch there due to ice on the Arm. Who says it doesn't get cold in Victoria? Instead, we did a short paddle on Thetis Lake and indulged in some ice breaking and other unusual canoeing adventures. The highlight of that trip was Emmerich's one-legged (un)balancing act when getting back into his canoe after lunch. It was a mighty splash, and it was good to be within 5 minutes of the parking lot!



*Photo by Alan Thomson*

This weekend, the plan had been to drive up to Somenos Lake, in Duncan, and to paddle the lake, up Richards Creek, down Somenos Creek to the Cowichan River and back again. The water level wouldn't be as high as it has been in some years, but would have been OK. But a severe weather advisory led me to change plans and avoid the Malahat in snow, while the forecast of double-digit wind speeds in mid morning, made me avoid the ocean – so Thetis Lake was the fallback.

There was a little snow on the ground at the Park, but we didn't expect the amount of ice we found. The arm of the lake at the far car park was ice covered all the way out to the main lake, and we had to keep close to the shore to avoid breaking our way through >1cm thick ice.

(I initially typed 'think ice' - quite a nice portmanteau word for ice that isn't very thick, nor very thin, don't you think?). Roy and Jeff were happy to break a path in their Royalex boat, but the rest of us avoided ice where we could.

The main part of Lower Thetis Lake was ice-free, and we paddled the shoreline, picking up cans and general debris along the water's edge. But once we went under the bridge into the Upper Lake, the situation was reversed -

most of the lake was frozen. As we crept along the shoreline we noticed that some of the ice was neither frozen into sheets that shattered when hit, nor was it simply slush that disintegrated as you passed through. This 'ice' was very flexible and couldn't be picked up, looked like a very thin layer of foam that adhered to itself so when the wake hit it, it folded up like cloth when pushed along a flat surface, or the paper interior of corrugated cardboard. Most unusual - not something I have seen before, but we found it all the way round the Upper Lake.



*Photo by Alan Thomson*

## THETIS LAKE FREEZE REPRISE, CONTINUED.

Towards the far end of the lake we found signs of active beaver feeding in the form of chewed stumps of alder, and later on a lot of branches that had obviously been chewed down and dragged on to the surface of the lake. No sign of the beavers themselves - Roy says he saw a big mammal last summer while paddling on the lake - but we did watch a mink standing on a falling tree trunk beside all cut the branches. He seemed to be pretty unconcerned by 6 boats coming up to see him. This was in the arm of the Upper Lake that leads very close to the path and only a short portage back to the car park, but we kept to

the shoreline and paddled out way back.

In spite of the forecast, we had no rain or snow, little wind and even some sun, which was an unexpected bonus. Back to the beach, a chilly boat-loading period, then off to the 6-Mile Pub for food and hot drinks for most. We had 4 canoes and 2 kayaks on this trip, so thanks to Deb, Jeff, Justin, Ken, Linda, Orla, Roy, Sandy for coming along. Next time, I'll bring my Mohawk paddle, not my Collis bentshaft!

Alan Thomson.



Photo by Deb Thurlbeck

### ANNUALLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

- General meetings with speakers (6)  
February, March, April, May, October, November
- New Years Day paddle (January 1)
- Camp Shawnigan paddle March
- Spring club cleanup April
- Wake Up The Gorge (April 14th)
- Frost free campout Mothers Day (May 11-13)
- Boys & Girls Club Voyageur paddle
- Club BBQ June Meeting (June 5)
- Cowichan R. Cleanup Rivers Day (June 10)
- Gorge Canada Day paddle (July 1)
- Guts 'n Glory (July 14th)
- Club BBQ September Meeting (September 4)
- Fall club cleanup September/October
- Remembrance Day Paddle (November 11)
- Club Christmas party (December 11)

### FLATWATER PADDLE

- February 2012

There will be a Club Flatwater Paddle on Saturday February 11th. The destination will, as usual, depend on weather, but if the winds cooperate, we will do an ocean paddle. If not, perhaps Shawnigan Lake. This is open to anyone who has taken the basic Canoe or Kayak courses.

An e-mail will be sent to all members of the Kayak and Canoe Programs before the date asking who plans to take part.

Alan and Linda Thomson 250-592-4170;  
[3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com)



## *DRAGON BOAT PROGRAM REPORT - Jan. 12, 2012*

The new Dragon Boat Program Committee, chaired by Mary Kirchner, met on Jan. 7 and will be meeting regularly during the Spring to launch the 2012 season and plan for VCKC's third annual Guts and Glory race day, to be held July 14. At the top of the Program's agenda is a Dragon Boat Orientation and Social evening, to be held Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse. Returning paddlers and anyone in the community interested in finding out more about dragon boating at VCKC are encouraged to attend.

Most of the five teams have met to discuss their goals for the year, and all will be represented at the Orientation night. There will also be an opportunity for people to renew or take out a VCKC membership.

### Program Organization

In response to the membership, this year's Committee has been reorganized to include the Captains of each team; and a Program Communications position has been added to ensure that communication passes promptly and easily between the teams and the Committee. The Committee includes officers responsible for recruitment and team liaison (the latter will help coordinate "VCKC United" teams when we want to have a presence at certain festivals)

Here are the members of the Committee for 2012 (some team names may change during the year, as noted below):

- Mary Kirchner            Director
- Karen Armstrong        Secretary
- Ron Crabtree            Treasurer
- Renee Bagwell           Team Liaison
- Barbara Abercrombie    Communications
- Brittany Kohn            Paddler  
                                  Recruitment:  
                                  Novice team

- Penny Brady             Genesis team, 2012  
                                  team name still to be  
                                  determined
- Heidi Schwartz         Lightning team, 2012  
                                  team name still to be  
                                  determined.
- Greg McKinnon         Grand Dragons team
- Wendy Clapp &  
• Anne Ardiel             Blue Herons team

A primary focus of the new organization is to give our teams considerable autonomy while providing a framework for close communication and smooth functioning of the Program; and to that end the following steps have been agreed upon:

- Planning - Teams will meet during January to discuss their plans for: goals, any team name changes, and team jerseys. The goals for each team, its culture, its competitive level and its member composition will be determined early in the season, preferably at the January team meeting.
- Jerseys - Teams will be able to design their own shirts keeping them consistent with the Club colours of royal blue and black with the Club crest in yellow; however, the style, fabric and graphics will be at the team's discretion.
- Team Names - Teams will be able to choose their own names, provided each name is preceded by "VCKC". Proposals for name changes will be vetted for appropriateness by the Committee.

Continued...

## DRAGON BOAT PROGRAM REPORT, CONTINUED.

- Team Finances/Festival Registration - The Executive, Program and Team Treasurers will call a meeting to educate teams on the collection and payment of fees and the payment schedule for 2012 festivals. Each team will be issued a receipt book and paddlers will be given receipts for all payments. Each Team Captain will designate a Team Treasurer to be responsible for the team finances. Each team will be responsible for its own festival registrations.
  - Team Rosters - Teams will organize their own rosters and work at recruiting paddlers for their team (with the assistance of the Paddler Recruitment officer).
- The Program welcomes Coaches Brian Clark, Jack Louie, Brittany Kohn and Mile Petrovic, who will be working with our teams.
- The Program is looking forward to an exciting and rewarding season of dragon boating.

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### VCKC EXECUTIVE

#### **Executive**

**President**  
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**Vice-president**  
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**Secretary**  
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**Voyageur Program**  
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#### **Other Executive**

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**Executive Appointed Positions**

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**Webmaster**  
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Note: the Deadline for submission of content for the next newsletter is February 21.

## FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	01-Feb	2	3	4
		19:00 DB Orientation & Social Evening		18:00 Canoe Instructor Meeting		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		19:30 VCKC General Meeting				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Valentine's Day 19:00 Executive Meeting				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Alberta Family Day		19:00 GWI meeting			
26	27	28	29	01-Mar	2	3



### *For Sale*

Capella Ocean Kayak

Triple layer polyethylene  
with foam core

width-22 inch  
depth 14 inch  
length 16 feet-8 inches  
\$900.00  
Accessories negotiable

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