



# Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club  
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Website: [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca)

June 2011

## **Potluck & BBQ Tuesday, June 7 6 - 9 pm**

Members with surnames A-K please bring desserts and L-Z brings salads or appetizers to share. Everyone can bring something to BBQ for themselves and beverage is BYO.



VCKC Members join flotilla  
celebrating the official inauguration of  
the B.C. Marine Trails Network  
(details on page 7)

## Clubhouse News

The annual June VCKC potluck and BBQ will be on Tuesday, June 7 from 6 to 9 pm. Members with surnames A-K please bring desserts and L-Z brings salads or appetizers to share. Everyone can bring something to BBQ for themselves and beverage is BYO. This is an annual BBQ for members to meet paddlers from other programs.

On Saturday, June 18, our dock will be the finish line for Boys and Girls Club's whale derby. The event will run from 1:30 to 4:30 pm with the race at 3:00 pm. Adopt a whale and then watch it race along the Gorge Waterway to the finish line for a chance to win some fantastic prizes. Then join the BBQ and other family orientated activities with games at Esquimalt Gorge Park. This event is FREE and is perfect for kids and the rest of the family.

Friday, July 1, is Canada Day and as usual, the Gorge Tillicum Community Association will have their Strawberry Tea event at our clubhouse. VCKC will be providing voyager and dragon boat rides at the Canada Day celebration at Kosapsom Park beach.

Have a great summer and get out for a paddle (or more). Our next general meeting will be Tuesday, September 6.

Bon Lee  
President



Bon and other VCKC paddlers  
at the inauguration of the  
B.C. Marine Trails Network  
(Photo: H. Gillis)

## Clubhouse Apartment

At the end of June, our present tenants will be moving to their new home and the apartment above our clubhouse will become vacant. Some renovations need to be done before it can be let again and the plan is to do this work during July and August so that the apartment will be ready for occupancy on September 1, 2011. If anyone is interested in helping with painting, preparation, carpentry, plumbing or electrical work please get in touch with Sandy Rattray at [clubhouse@vckc.ca](mailto:clubhouse@vckc.ca)

In the meantime we will begin a search for a new tenant.

The apartment has a living room with a tiny room off it suitable for a small study/computer room, one large bedroom with a good walk-in closet, an eat-in kitchen, bath and separate washroom. The rent has yet to be determined. The tenant is required to take on certain custodial duties.

VCKC members have priority. If anyone wishes to express an interest in the apartment or would like more information, please contact Linda Thomson at [treasurer@vckc.ca](mailto:treasurer@vckc.ca). This is a call for interest only and is NOT an application.

### Big Brothers Big Sisters Picnic

We will again be offering rides in two Voyageurs for their picnic at Gorge Park on Saturday, June 11.

We need several more helpers to load the canoes at the club, unload at Gorge Park, and to organize and help the riders, etc.

If you can help please contact

Mike Petrovic

[mile.petrovic@telus.net](mailto:mile.petrovic@telus.net)

or

Ken Gibbard

[Kengibbard@yahoo.ca](mailto:Kengibbard@yahoo.ca)

## Canoe Program Report

Thanks to everyone who came out for our Canoe/Kayak Meeting on May 16. We had a great time learning how to make a canoe pole, thanks to Tom Staebell's demonstration and simple instructions, and we enjoyed a great presentation from Yves Aquin and Patti Stevens on their kayak adventures in the north part of Haida Gwaii. Thanks very much to everyone for making it a great meeting.

As well, much appreciation to the dragonboating team that booked their potluck for our meeting night—thanks for sharing the space.

### Next Meeting

Watch your email inbox for notice of this meeting and what the presentation will be! Monday, June 20 at 7:30 pm. This will be the last meeting for the season.

### Evening Stroke Practice Sessions

Ellie James kindly led the first evening practice session on Wednesday, May 25. As instructors come forward to lead new dates I will add them to the calendar and for the first while, at least, send out a message to all canoeists so you are aware of anything newly added.

Jean Chandler is stopping her Tuesday morning sessions until at least July so these will hopefully give her regulars another alternative as well. Any instructors interested in leading, please just send me a message and I'll gladly advertise the date.

### MEC Paddlefest - Need Volunteers!

The annual MEC Paddlefest is taking place on Saturday, June 18 at Willows Beach. Help is needed to staff tables at the event and possibly help with canoe demos. Please let me know if you're available and able to provide assistance with either of the preceding. Send me an email to [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca) or call 655-4859.



## National Canoe Day

Sunday, June 26th, come join us at the clubhouse for an afternoon of friendly competition and truly wacky canoe hijinks. Bring a side dish to share and something to throw on the BBQ. A delicious cake will be provided as well!

In 2007, the canoe was named one of the Seven Wonders of Canada via a CBC Radio feature in which over one million votes were cast. In celebration of this, the [Canadian Canoe Museum](#) founded [National Canoe Day](#) with the aim of increasing participation in paddlesports in Canada, engaging new paddlers and reaching across generational and cultural divides to introduce the canoe to those who haven't had the opportunity to experience this great national heritage. In the intervening years, National Canoe Day has grown to become a truly countrywide event, with participants paddling across the country, from the midnight sun of the north to the urban rivers of the south. National Canoe Day is also celebrated internationally by groups in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and beyond.

Last year there were over 40 events held coast-to-coast and this year VCKC will once again join the celebration and at VCKC we know how to do that right. Don't miss it.

### Trips & Courses

Most of the organized trips and courses have concluded for the season, but if you are interested in anything, please contact me at [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca). In June, due to other paddling commitments, only one day paddle is planned, on Sunday June 19th. No destination has been chosen as yet - there is quite a low tide at mid-day, so somewhere the inter-tidal sea-life would be good. If there are any suggestions as to a suitable trip, let Alan Thomson know at [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com).

Have a great summer with lots of paddling adventures! Always looking for another fabulous trip to showcase at a future Canoe Meeting...

Until next time,  
Yasmin Rampuri

## Bad Housekeeping

We have a great clubhouse and I'd like to remind everyone to treat it like their own home—a home where Mother no longer is and, therefore, is not picking up after them any longer.

Please! Take your clothes, bottles, bags, etc., home. Don't go leaving them behind for others to worry about.

If you are having a social, clean up after yourselves. Take out the garbage and remember we have a compost bucket and all types of recycling containers so be sure what goes into the garbage is only what is actually garbage.

Also please remember to check that all coffee makers are turned off and emptied with the coffee grounds put in the compost bucket.

This past week I found a coffee carafe with burned on coffee. Clearly some group forgot to unplug the coffee maker. And whoever found it and turned it off but did not bother to clean the pot. I did and got them all ready for next use but that is not supposed to be part of my cleaning job I do not think.

Anyway just in general, club members, please treat the club the way you would like your own home treated.

Mavis Pillar  
Vice President



## Frost-Free Weekend Paddlers

(Photo: Alan Thomson)

## Trip Reports May 2011

May was a very busy month for VCKC canoe and kayak tripping.

### Running of The Cows April 30 & May 1

This was the 10th annual Running of the Cowichan River from lake to bay. The first few runs were one-day affairs but it made for a long day by the time you'd driven up to Lake Cowichan, paddled the whole river and across the bay to Hecate Park and then had to do the shuttle back up to Cowichan Lake to get your vehicle. So it was turned into a two-day event, with a camp-out at the Group site at Stoltz Pool. We would set up camp on the Friday evening, paddle the upper half of the river on the Saturday and the lower half on the Sunday. This also suited paddlers from Vancouver and up-Island as it meant they were off the river in time to get home on Sunday evening.

This year, the paddling group was smaller than in some year's past with about 17 paddlers on the Saturday and only seven on the Sunday. But the first year, there were only six of us, so size isn't everything. There were about seven of us at the campsite on the Friday night, which was dry and not windy, so a good time for sitting by the stove in the shelter and talking.

Unfortunately, Tom was in the throes of a nasty cold and by Saturday morning, very sleep deprived, he bequeathed the cow bell to me and drove home to his bed. A great shame as he had been on all of the past nine trips.

We put in at the lake, finding our way among a group of some 20 kayakers, and set off with a voyageur canoe, sterned by Don, three solo and four tandem boats. The river level was high enough to mean the big canoe wasn't likely to hit bottom in the riffles but not so high that the

newer paddlers would have a problem.

After an uneventful run own to Skutz Falls, the Kawa was portaged over and put-in at the start of the canyon run. The sight of the Cowichan Search & Rescue team practising swimming and rescues was reassuring—just in case.

By now Ellie was sterning the big canoe with Don in the bow. The canyon had been paddled in a voyageur canoe before, in 2009, but this was the new, light boat's first run down the canyon. It was an interesting run—the lighter boat turned well but seemed to take in more water — perhaps because we had six paddlers, not five as on the first time.

S-Bend went well and Bernie's Neglige was also run safely, if wetly. However at Double Whammy, our attempt to bouff the rock at the bottom was unsuccessful and over we went. Everyone came out safely, and the boat was

bailed and taken down to Last Drop. A little lighter due to the loss of Ellie's paddle and my hat!

The section below Last Drop proved our undoing. Having gone through the big wave and taken in water, we were eddying out to empty the canoe when the stern came up against one of the stone 'teeth' that are found at this end of the canyon. And so the Kawa was holed near the stern. The hole was repaired with duct tape and we came to Stoltz Pool about 4pm.



I had to go back to Victoria that night and when I returned on Sunday morning, sober second thoughts had clearly assailed many of the party. The Kawa was left at the campsite and three tandems and a solo boat ran the lower section as far as the Duncan road bridge. We didn't go to the Bay, or even the last bridge, as the log jam lower down was extensive and taking out and carrying round it, or to a road, would have been difficult.

So in terms of running the river from Lake to Bay, we didn't quite make it but the Sunday was gloriously sunny and warm. With the smaller group, all of experienced paddlers, the run was pure enjoyment and a very enjoyable finish to the weekend.

This year's trip is the last that Tom Staebell

and I will organize. Doubtless we will run the river in future years but not as a formal club event.

Thanks to Dwight for paddling with us and scouting the log-jam; and to the other paddlers who took part—Joe and Ben, Jeff and Marcy, Jean and Sue, Bob and Sharon, Don, Ellie, Jack, Barry, Tod and Martin.

### **Frost-Free Weekend May 7 to 9**

The Club's annual Frost Free-Weekend camping trip was held, as usual, on the Mother's Day weekend—May 7 to 9.

For the third year in a row, the site chosen was Blackberry Point on Valdes Island. A complication this year was the running of an Ocean Canoeing course on the same weekend



*(Photos: Yasmin Rampuri)*

so there were two groups of club paddlers setting off from Cedar ramp on the Saturday morning.

Four tandems and a kayak set off for Blackberry Point via Pirates Cove, while five tandems headed up through Dodd Narrows en route to Carlos Island. The first group had a good trip arriving just in time to set up a kitchen tarp and tents before it started to hail! But that was about the only rain they had all weekend. The second group wasn't so fortunate. Although less than 10 miles away, they had steady rain through False Narrows, and the hail storm hit while they were having lunch. Quite impressive, seeing and hearing the approaching line of hail as it crossed the water from Mudge Island and headed for us.

By the time this group reached Carlos Island,

it was starting to rain again, so job #1 was to put up a tarp and wait the shower out before putting up the tents. But the evening was dry and the sunset worth viewing up the strait. On the Sunday morning, the Blackberry Point group set off on what was supposed to be a half day hike, but, as in past years, Doug's enthusiastic leadership and optimism turned the walk into a rather more epic trek. Suffice it to say that by the time the Ocean Paddling course group arrived about 3pm, they hadn't returned to camp. We had had a very pleasant paddle along the cliffs of the SW side of Valdes Island, looking at the wonderful rock formations, the flowers growing on the cliffs and the sea-life on the rocks above the water.

The traditional barbecue was held that evening with baked potatoes cooked in the fire and a wonderful fruit grunt prepared by Linda on the Coleman. The afternoon had been sunny and warm so we were all satisfied by the day, the company and the food.



Ocean Paddling Course Students

Monday saw us leaving Blackberry—where we had been the only campers all weekend—and head back to the ramp at Cedar. The tide was just high enough to let us paddle through the narrow passage between Link and DeCourcy Islands and there was little wind to slow us down.

All in all, a good weekend, although it was the coldest frost free weekend I can recall.

Thanks to all those who took part and lead the trips—Jean and Doug, Bon and Susan, Jack and Sandy, Arthur and Pat, Linda—and to the Ocean Paddling course groups—Sam and Christine, Paleah and André, Yasmin, Kayla and Mike, Jay and Josh.

## **BC Marine Trails - Grand Opening of the Gulf Islands and West Vancouver Island North Trails**

Saturday, June 14 was a club flatwater paddle and it took place near Ladysmith to coincide with the formal opening of the first of the planned BC Marine Trails.

The VCKC contingent left from Chemainus and paddled up to Ladysmith, rendezvousing with many other paddlers behind the Dunsmuir Islands at around 12:45pm. The flotilla had about 100 boats, all kayaks apart from the six canoes paddled by Club members.

The flotilla made an impressive sight as they streamed across to Transfer Beach, where they requested permission to land from the chief of the Chemainus (Stz'uminus) band. This was granted and the paddlers all came ashore in time to welcome the dignitaries who were to formally open the Trails. They came in the Club's Blue Heron voyageur canoe and were also given permission to come ashore by the chief. So VCKC was well represented with 11 kayaks, six canoes plus the voyageur as the 'barge of honour'—26 members in all.

The trails were declared open by representatives from Parks Canada, the deputy mayor of Ladysmith, the local MLA and representatives from the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resource Operations - Recreation, Sites and Trails Branch. These two trails are the first to be substantially completed and more are in the works. The hope is to have the rest of the Island's shoreline covered by Marine Trails in the next year although completing the Johnstone Strait/Broughton area may take some time.

Thanks to the club members who came out to take part—Bon and Susan, Arthur and Pat, Rob, Harold and Eliot, John and Brenda, Bob and Sharon, Herb, Bob, Don and Diane, Peter, Duane and Cathy, Susan, Doug, Maris and son, Carolyn, Sandy and Christine.

By the way, for those who took part, we were very lucky with the weather. The forecast rain did not arrive until that evening - but then it poured. It continued to rain most of Sunday, which reduced attendance at the Paddlefest taking place in Ladysmith. All of the stalls packed up in very damp conditions.

Alan Thomson



## VCKC Executive

<b>President</b>		<b>Voyageur Program</b>	
Bon Lee .....	477-1381	Alan Thomson .....	592-4170
<b>Vice President</b>		<b>Marathon Canoe Program</b>	
Mavis Pillar.....	778-430-4390	Ron Williams .....	592-6456
<b>Treasurer</b>		<b>Education, Safety &amp; Standards</b>	
Linda Thomson .....	592-4170	Doug Linton .....	727-0216
<b>Secretary</b>		<b>Membership</b>	
Marie Lansdowne.....	<a href="#">email</a>	Maris Ratel .....	<a href="#">email</a>
<b>Past President</b>		<b>Clubhouse &amp; Grounds</b>	
Linda Thomson.....	592-4170	Sandy Rattray ..	386-9144
<b>Program Directors</b>		<b>Directors-at-Large</b>	
<b>Canoe Program</b>		Michael Fox .....	391-0160
Yasmin Rampuri .....	655-4859	Wendy Clapp ..	<a href="#">email</a>
<b>Kayak Program</b>		Diane Nishimura (Soc.) ..	589-3080
Herb Stark .....	<a href="#">email</a>	Elizabeth Hoffpauir .....	<a href="#">email</a>
<b>Dragon Boat Program</b>		Ron Crabtree .....	<a href="#">email</a>
Brian Clark .....	<a href="#">email</a>	<b>Executive Volunteer Positions</b>	598-9488
<b>Outrigger Program</b>		Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	<a href="#">email</a>
Dave Schweter .....	<a href="#">email</a>	Doug Magnuson (Boat & Locker Storage)	<a href="#">email</a>

## VCKC Calendar

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