



# Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club  
355 Gorge Road West  
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9  
Phone: 250-590-8193 (Info only)  
Website: [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca)

December 2011

## Christmas Party Tuesday, December 6 5:30 pm

Please remember, those with surnames A to L should bring main courses or appetizers and those with surnames M to Z should bring desserts or salads.

Also if you want to 'do' Santa you should bring a small gift with a value around \$5.00.

As usual, there will be a 50/50 draw and items to be raffled off. Please let me know if you have any items to donate to the raffle.

And as is our custom, please also bring a non-perishable item for donation to the food bank. For more info or details call Mavis at 778-430-4390.



## Clubhouse News

Great News! VCKC has renewed its clubhouse lease with Saanich for another five years. The duration of the lease will run until October 2016. Many thanks to the District of Saanich for their support.

The annual fall club cleanup is complete and it was another great job by our volunteers. Thanks to all the members who came out to help. The clubhouse and yard looks great and is ready for our Christmas Party.

Our next general meeting takes place on Tuesday, December 6. And it's also our Christmas party beginning at 5:30 pm.

This is a potluck so remember to bring something to share. Members with surnames A to M should bring a main course or appetizer and those with surnames N to Z bring dessert or salad.

Volunteers are welcome to come and help decorate the clubhouse for the party on Saturday, December 3 from 11:30 am until we finish. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Your 2012 membership, along with any boat and locker storage fees can be renewed in December. The simplest and preferred way to renew is by going to VCKC website. Paper renewal is acceptable but creates a lot more work for our membership director. If you would like to vote or become a candidate yourself, please have your

membership renewed before the Annual General Meeting on January 3, 2012.

The club is missing a red Necky Amaruk double kayak, in polyethylene construction. The last time it was used was back in August. Please keep an eye out for it if you are paddling around the Gorge waterways.



The basement and compound door has been found unlocked numerous times. If you have been in the clubhouse or compound please ensure everything is locked on your way out. Never leave the padlock in its open position without turning the tumblers. Anyone walking by will have access to the numbers if it is left unlocked.

Special thanks to Alan Thomson who organized and did most of the dock repairs. The ramp and strong arms are now back on the dock. The whole process of disassemble and reinstalling when smoothly with help from our marathon paddlers.

See you at our holiday party on December 6.

Bon Lee  
President, VCKC

### VCKC Memberships about to expire

A friendly reminder to renew your membership and pay any storage fees before January 1, 2012.

There's a lot of data entry to do for each membership so it's a big help to the incoming Membership Director if renewals come in early. Especially helpful if you renew via [vckc.ca](http://vckc.ca).

Only paid-up members can vote at the AGM which is held in early January and we do want everyone to participate.

Thanks from me and the new Director.

Maris Ratel (Membership Director 2011)

**Clubhouse Clean-Up  
Saturday, November 5, 2011**

*"Twas brillig, and the slithy toves.  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe."*

The quote seemed suitable as I left the Clubhouse Clean Up. The only jabberwocks were the weather and our use of the clubhouse and grounds over the past year. Let me see now: "our use" was 363 members, plus several associate member groups and various groups of school children.

51 took part in the great cleansing of house, grounds, boats and dock.

Given that we enjoy the option of signing up for any of the 5 programs as well as partaking in executive duties, here is the summary of program and executive participation:

Canoe	_____	26
Kayak	_____	10
Marathon Canoeing	_____	6
Dragon Boating	_____	25
Outrigger	_____	22
Voyageur	_____	12
VCKC Executive	_____	6
Power to Be Exec	_____	3

Total Participation \_\_\_\_\_ 110  
(the average is more than two programs per member.)

Wow, what a great way to get to meet and greet members from other programs. And Double Wow: look how many program members are represented. Many of us already participate in lots of the opportunities afforded to us. So you think it may have

been a lot of bother? Most members were there by 9:00 am. I heard several people saying things to the effect of, "is it all done already?" These comments started about 11:15 in the morning. People started to drift off and others stayed to see what could be done to finish up.

Can you tell where this picture was taken?



Standing room only at recent Outrigger Meeting  
(Photo: Wendy Clapp)

## **Trip Report Going up the Kok Cold November 20, 2011**

The paddle for November 20 was planned to go up the Koksilah, branch off to the old main channel of the Cowichan River and paddle up that until we could portage across to the present channel of the Cowichan River. The tide was going to be quite high at 11.2' and the winds were forecast to be light - perfect.

So on Sunday, three vehicles left the Clubhouse in a deep hoar frost and headed over the Malahat to Hecate Park on Cowichan Bay. There was frost on all the trees and grass, so heavy that we didn't realize until the return journey that there had been a light skiff of snow in the Mill Bay area.

We launched from the ramp at Cowichan Bay at 9:30 am and headed for the jetty at the head of the causeway that forms the western side of the Koksilah river delta. From the sound of it, there were plenty grunting sea lions on the docks at Cowichan Bay, but we only saw seals in the water as we paddled. Lots of water fowl in the Bay and on the river—mainly real, but one set turned out to be decoys, betrayed by the fact that they didn't fly away as we approached—and the presence of two hunters crouched down on the bank under some broom.

We headed up the river and branched off to the Cowichan, all in very good conditions—dry and almost no wind. Cold, yes, but a good cold that responded to steady paddling. The flow down the Cowichan was stronger than I'd expected—the river is not in flood or anything near it—so we had to take care navigating round the many fallen trees and logs in the river. We hadn't gone more than a kilometre from the bridge when we came to a river-wide log jam. After an extensive exploratory expedition upstream, it seemed safest to head back downstream as the water was not getting slower and some of the paddlers had no

river experience. We took a side trip up the Koksilah for about 500 metres or so, until we came across another river-blocking log jam. Time for lunch on a gravel bar covered with cottonwood tree leaves - quite pretty and not too cold.

Then back down the river until we could portage over the causeway and into the next inlet to the west. That took us up a small unnamed creek that is bridged by Cowichan Bay Road and leads up behind the Lawn Tennis Club grounds. The creek banks seem to be mainly composed of broken up concrete—seems to be an artificial water way to a large extent, but there were quite a few salmon, so it is, to some extent, natural I suppose. By the time we reached the section where the water level was too shallow for canoes, we had crossed under the Cowichan Bay Road again and were probably not far from the main Koksilah channel. But it wasn't immediately obvious, so we headed back with the ebbing tide down river to the put-in.

Highlights were the small groups of swans that were on the river and flew passed, sometimes very close with noisy wing beats plus the many salmon in the rivers.

Thanks to the five brave club members who showed up and came out on this cold (but at least dry) trip with us - Jeff, Jennifer, Sandy, Carolyn and Andre.

Alan Thomson



## **Trip Report Head of the Peninsula Paddle Sunday, October 30, 2011**

The plan was to paddle from Whiffen spit up Sooke River and back via the harbour, but with gale-force winds in the Environment Canada forecast for Juan de Fuca Strait and even Sailflow predicting winds above 10 knots, we opted for a more sheltered route.

It was drizzling and overcast as we drove up to Pat Bay for the put in, and likewise as we did the shuttle. But by the time we put in at 10:45, the air was dry and a slight chink of blue showed between the cloud cover and the mist rising from the forests on the Malahat. The water was calm, only

a little ruffle from the SW as we paddled out to Warrior Point. Lots of ducks on the water, which was very clear. It became a little windier as we rounded the point and paddled up to Coal Point, but nothing above the (Sailflow) forecast of around six knots. Once in Deep Cove, the Club canoe pursued an erratic course, ducking under gangplanks and walkways as we followed the shoreline. As was appropriate for a Sunday, we found the praying position (getting down on our knees) the best way to avoid hitting our heads.

At Moses Point we stopped for an early lunch break, taking advantage of the shell beach just south of the point itself. By now the sky was clearing and there was sun on



Mt Tuam on Saltspring and on Separation Point between Cowichan Bay and Sansum Narrows. The paddle along Satellite Channel was aided by the ebbing tide and the mild westerly wind. Even the ferry terminal co-operated, with only one ferry in dock and not about to sail. It is a long time since I've seen it look so deserted.



Round Swartz Head and down by the inside passage to Curteis Point. Tsehum Harbour had the usual quota of power boats coming and going, but our only near encounter was with three sailing dinghies. With a 9.2' tide, Roberts Bay mudflats could be paddled over with ease, so no long dragging of boats up to the take-out.

We'd seen a few seals, plenty heron, some eagles and kingfishers, plus jumping salmon, especially at the east entrance to Satellite Channel, but no porpoises or sea-lions.

By the time we got back to the Clubhouse, it was starting to drizzle again, and later in the afternoon, the wind was up in Oak Bay, so we definitely got the best of the day. Thanks to the 20 club members who took part in 10 boats - 3 kayaks, one Kanoe/Canak, 5 tandems and the Club canoe.

Alan Thomson

## Flatwater Paddles in January 2012

There will be a flatwater paddle on Saturday, January 14.

I only plan to lead one paddle per month in 2012 but I'm happy to help others plan trips. Please get in touch if you are willing to coordinate a trip but are not sure of the ins and outs of the process.

## New Year's Day Paddle

The VCKC New Year's Day paddle will take place (you guessed it) on Sunday, January 1. Be at the Clubhouse at 10:30 am and paddle with us up (or down) the Gorge Waterway for a couple of hours, returning to the Clubhouse for a pot-luck lunch.

You can paddle in your own boat, or get into a Club voyageur canoe or maybe an OC6 and share the paddling with others.

For lunch, bring any left-over food you want eaten up. There will be a good soup and mulled wine provided but everything else is up to the participants. After the lunch, the Christmas decorations will be taken down and packed away for another year, leaving the Clubhouse cleaned up for our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, January 3.

Any questions, contact Alan Thomson 250-592-4170 or at [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com).

Alan Thomson



Wendy Clapp reports (and has the photos to prove it) that VCKC member, Gay Stone, (above) celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in November with a get together with friends at the Fifth Street Bar & Grill.

## 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>

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