



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

October 2013

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club General Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Please see page 4 for details on the entertainment which will prove to be very informative to local paddlers.

NOTICES

FALL HOUSE AND GROUNDS CLEANUP

Put this date in your calendar: November 23rd, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. That's when the Club will hold its annual Fall Cleanup. Come prepared to help out inside the Clubhouse or around the property - gardening, cleaning, eaves trough cleaning, picking up trash - whatever is your forte. Remember, the Club relies on volunteers like you! More details in the November Newsletter

If you would like to bring along your tools and work on a specific project email Sandy at clubhouse@vckc.ca or phone (250-386-9144) to discuss.

Sandy Rattray

PARKING

Imperial HallMark Cleaners Ltd. at 29220Tillicum Road kindly offered the rear of their parking lot to VCKC members.

The parking lot adjacent to VCKC is a public lot and is used by people at the park. Often strollers and other toddler paraphernalia are loaded and unloaded by these parents. Please be sure to leave sufficient room for other users of the parking lot. If you plan to be out for a day, after unloading boats, please move your car to the dry cleaners' lot. Also, when the lot is crowded, please move your vehicles to Imperial HallMark Cleaners.

Businesses at the restaurant and coffee shop parking lot on Tillicum and Gorge have and will continue to have cars towed away that are not using their businesses.

Please act as good neighbours and respect the parking issues of the neighbourhood.

DRAGONBOAT PROGRAM REPORT

Congrats to the following club members have qualified for the 2014 Club Crew World Dragon Boat Championships in Ravenna, Italy:

Diane Nishimura
Joanne Cowan
Karen Armstrong
Liz Hoffpauir
Mavis Pillar
Molly Hamilton
Pam (The Prez) Carroll
Barbara Abercrombie
Brenda Kalynchuk
Katherine Davison-York

The competition to get place on the island team was stiff and the women trained hard from October. The competition at Elk lake on Aug 23rd - 25th was very good with local teams posting their best times of the year.

You can see all 100+ races at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX4WgNVA0wk&list=PLEUfaZJn1whIXHwg2hAzyI9NnMChq3eSs>

Vancouver Island teams were in Races 1, 15, 21, 33, 37, 39a, 45, 51, 59, 64, 69, 75, 84, 86a, 90, 107,123,131,137

Ron Crabtree. Dragon Boat Program Director

CANOE PROGRAM

The VCKC Canoe Program is offering beginner & advanced lakewater courses and a beginner river paddling course over the next two months (schedule attached). These courses can introduce you to safe fun canoeing or improve your skills to participate in more advanced flatwater trips or river canoeing. Hope you find a course that meets your needs.

Along with the courses, the Canoe Program will be running flatwater and beginner moving water weekend trips. Keep an eye on the VCKC website 'Calendar' for details on courses, trips and meetings.

Meeting

The Canoe Program may hold meetings the third Monday of the Month. Please check the VCKC Calendar for details.

Weekend Paddles

Bi-weekly weekend Flatwater and Moving paddles are run for members. Weekend Class I-II river paddles will be held for those who have completed the Moving Water courses and want to improve their skills. Once again, keep an eye of the VCKC Calendar and special announcements for details.

Flatwater contact: Alan Thomson, 250-592-4170 (H) or 250-812-3799 (C)

Moving Water contact: Dan Walker, canoe@vckc.ca

September 29th 33rd Annual BC Rivers Day - River Clean Up Day & Eddyhopper

Canoe Courses

October 5th

Beginner Lakewater Tandem Paddler
Instructor: TBA

October 6th

Advanced Lakewater Solo Paddler
Instructor: Jay Crowley

October 12th

Advanced Lakewater Tandem Paddler
Instructor: Alan Thomson

October 19th - 20th

Basic Tandem Moving Water Instructor:
Rick Bryan, Ellie James



CANOE PROGRAM, cont'd - Trip Report - Canoe-Tripping with Grandchildren

The call of the loon, the slap of a beaver's tale, the crackle of a campfire at the end of the paddling day. Sharing these experiences with grandchildren is one of life's greatest joys. Canoe-tripping with youngsters means adapting your game, though. We offer the following tips:

Trip planning is an adult activity. Children live in the moment. Older, analytical ones may show some interest in route planning and logistics, but most kids prefer just the need-to-know information. Where will I go to the bathroom? Can I bring my iTouch? These key questions should be covered in advance of the trip.

First-timers and picky eaters must participate in menu planning. Oatmeal flavours, the composition of trail mix, the colour of the juice: expect strong opinions, and do your best to comply. Really picky eaters should be asked to sign off on the meal plan.

Oops! Granola bars plop overboard, marshmallows fall in the fire, kids slip, trip, and fall into mud puddles. Bring extra food, extra clothes (especially socks), and plenty of band-aids.

Super-size the tents. Children are smaller than adults, but kids are not tidy, and they need a lot of space. A three-person tent works well for one or two kids.

Water, water everywhere. Kids drink - and waste - an amazing amount of water. (We've seen one gallon used to brush teeth). A gravity water filter is a good investment.

Safety first. PFDs, of course, and all the usual on-water rules. On land, everyone should wear a lanyard with a whistle and instructions to blow it if they get hurt or see anything that causes them concern (a bear, for example). Some kids are immune to swimmer's itch, insect bites, and temperature extremes. Others have sensitive skin and are accident-prone. Refresh your first aid knowledge and supplies before departure.

Embrace uneven numbers. Even numbers are easy: one grandchild, one grandparent per canoe. An extra grandchild gets a solo kayak. This solution was first suggested to us by Alan Thomson, and it has been a huge success.

Adapt your pace. Some kids are born to paddle. Others prefer to design leaf boats, build rock-dams across creeks, and throw sticks over waterfalls. If you have a landlubber, keep paddling times short and expect to stop at every creek.

Rain happens. Bring a deck of cards. Play Go Fish, Slapjack, and War until the rain stops.

Where can you take your grandchildren? Here are four destinations to consider:

Clearwater-Azure Lakes in Wells Grey Provincial Park. For a shorter, easier trip, take the water taxi to Rainbow Falls, then paddle back down the lakes. This saves a buggy portage and some upstream paddling between the two lakes.

Murtle Lake in Wells Grey Provincial Park. This is a family-friendly destination, with great day-hiking possibilities for all ages and abilities. Note: dogs are now allowed here.

Valhalla Provincial Park. A short (3-4 days), easy trip along the western shoreline of Slokan Lake. Avoid weekends (power boats will be partying) and be bear aware: this is prime habitat for grizzlies.

Turner Lake Canoe Route, Tweedsmuir Park. An expensive but fun trip that starts and ends with a floatplane flight over a big waterfall. For a real splurge, stay in a cabin at Nimpo Lake before and after the trip. Note: this trip is portage-intensive.

Doug and Cathy Hull

Credentials: five grandchildren, ages 7 to 14



VOYAGEUR PROGRAM

Stern Course

RCABC Big Canoe (Voyageur) Sterner Course - **November 16/17**, VCKC clubhouse, 8:30-4:30, The instructor candidates (see below) will teach the students and take part in the assessment.

Big Canoe Instructor Course

RCABC Big Canoe (Voyageur) Instructor Course - **September 23, 30; October 7, 14**, VCKC clubhouse, 3:00 - 6:00 pm.

What - Pre-Requisites

1. Current membership of RCABC
2. Current RCABC certification as a Flat Water Instructor.
3. Big Canoe Leader certification
4. Logged evidence of substantial big canoe experience - at least 20 days/100 hours tripping in a big canoe acting as trip leader/sterner - on varying water settings and conditions. If you have any questions re relevant experience and qualifications, contact the course instructor.

The course curriculum can be viewed by instructors in the RCABC Instruction Manual, available on the RCABC website www.bccanoe.com under the DOCS tab.

Who - This course is intended for Big Canoe Leaders who want to be able to teach the Paddler and Leader/Advanced RCABC Big Canoe courses.

The course will be taught by Alan Thomson. Other Big Canoe Instructor Trainers will be invited to take part in teaching the course and assessing the candidates.

How Much - The cost of the course is \$250 per student for the Instructor course.

Club paddlers will be asked to volunteers to make the numbers up to 6 paddlers for each session so the canoes are properly loaded.

Nov 16th/17th - RCABC Sterner course at the Clubhouse where the candidates (you) will teach the students and take part in the assessment.

Alan Thomson
250-812-3799



VOYAGEUR PROGRAM, cont'd

It was a busy summer for our Voyageur paddlers.

We provided rides to the public during Canada Day picnic on the Gorge. This has been a long-standing tradition of the club, and this year it was particularly hot on July 1st. Both Voyageurs and Dragon Boats were on hand at the park to provide rides to the public, giving people of all ages and abilities a chance to try out our favourite activity, and get to know who we are at VCKC.

Through this effort we raised \$1,300 for Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan that day. That brings our total fundraising to over \$16,000 so far this year to help send kids with special needs to summer camp.

Many of our Voyageur members participated in brigades this summer. A Voyageur Brigade is a multi-day paddling trip (several days to several weeks) that brings together big canoes and paddlers from across the country to simulate the experiences of the early explorers and

aboriginal people along old trade routes.

Doug Linton paddled on the Rideau River from Kingston to Ottawa.

Ellie James, Bill and Barb McEvoy paddled a much longer trip to Churchill Falls.

VCKC sent a team to the Fraser River Brigade hosted by the Fort Langley Canoe Club (FLCC) at the end of August.

This 5-day paddle event travelled from Harrison Lake to Delta (near the ferry terminal). That was just over 150 kilometres. We met other Voyageurs from across BC, Alberta, and Ontario. The weather cooperated with us for paddling, but not so much for camping. It was an opportunity to reflect on what the Voyageur experience might have been in a world without Kevlar, gor-tex, propane, tarps, etc. At the end of our trip, FLCC put some pressure on for VCKC to host a Coastal Brigade in 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Boyd: voyageur@vckc.ca.



EXECUTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Committee had its first meeting of the Fall season on Tuesday, Sept. 10th, following a summer of very enjoyable boating activities for all and sundry. Here's the news so far:

VCKC's three major 2013 festivals cleared profits as follows:

Guts N Glory \$3701.69;

Switchblade \$211.73;

Wake Up the Gorge \$4017.15.

We received a letter from the BC Lions Society thanking us for our most recent contribution of \$1310 to Camp Shawnigan (Thank You to all of you who came out on Canada Day to give rides to families!)

The Committee has begun examining Program's three-year plans in the run-up to constructing a budget for 2014. In the meantime, following priorities laid out in the 2013 budget, it has authorized the Canoe Program to go ahead with purchasing two canoes; and the Committee will release funds for revamping boat storage once that plan is finalized.

Once again children from Craigflower School will be taking paddling lessons at VCKC, first in the dragon boats and later in voyageur canoes. The children will have their safety drill at Kosapsum Beach on Sept. 23rd, and will begin their weekly lessons shortly after that. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pam Carroll.

The Dragon Boat program is investigating the offer of a 20-man boat, three years old and in good condition, free for the taking. If it proves safe and sound, the boat should require only some refinishing of the seats, a job our members can do. This boat would replace the aging, very heavy original member of our fleet which is rapidly becoming unusable.

The Committee will be making a recommendation to the October 1st General meeting that VCKC members confer an Honorary Life Membership on Alan Thomson.

The Committee agreed to consider moving the date of the annual September BBQ to avoid having it fall close to Labour Day.

The Executive is concerned that a fairly small group of members is shouldering responsibility for the majority of volunteer tasks at the Club. Volunteer participation - by everyone - is what keeps the Club operating, and it helps to keep our annual fees down to a very reasonable level. In the future there will be more recognition of volunteers; and members will be asked at renewal time which activities they would like to participate in. A guideline of at least 10 hours of work for the Club is suggested.

A Nominations Committee is being set up to find nominees for next year's Executive. The term of office is one year. A call for nominations will go out later in the Fall, but in the meantime if you know someone who would be a good fit for any of the posts (see the masthead at the end of this Newsletter), or if you would like to find out more about serving yourself, please do not hesitate to approach any member of the Executive for more details. It's fun, and there are cookies!

Barbara Ambercrombie, Secretary

TUESDAY OCTOBER 1st GENERAL MEETING ENTERTAINMENT

Paddlers! Do you know the rules of the road when sharing the waterway and harbour with other craft? Are you SURE? Are you familiar with the latest iteration of the Harbour Traffic Scheme? Do you know where to go to get information on tides, currents, and weather? Do you want to know how the Johnson bridge construction and megayacht marina are going to affect YOUR enjoyment of the outer harbour? For answers to these and any other questions you may have, don't miss the information session being presented by Rick Goner of the Harbour Patrol at the October 1 general meeting, commencing at 7:30. Members of Harbour Patrol are on contract with Transport Canada and work under the direction of the Victoria Harbourmaster, who is also employed by Transport Canada.

His talk will be about the Victoria harbour waterway, which is managed by Transport

Canada. His focus will be on the Port of Victoria Standard Operating Procedures and the Port of Victoria Traffic Scheme. He will also talk about the Victoria Harbour water airport (which is controlled by Nav Canada and regulated by Transport Canada), how Patrols duties relate to airport safety and what boaters, including paddlers, need to know about the runways.

Rick is the Senior Patroller, Transport Canada Harbour Patrol. He has been with the Patrol for ten years. Prior to that he spent 30 years as a cop.

As a note of interest, the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority has no on water "authority". (GVHA are marina managers and landlords).

This is a meeting not to be missed!

The September Bar Be Que was a fun event. No meeting was held.



VCKC Executive

Executive

President	president@vckc.ca
Pam Carroll	250-479-8878
Vice-president	vpresident@vckc.ca
Jean Chandler	250-727-6923
Treasurer	treasurer@vckc.ca
Anne Ardiel	250.658.2442
Secretary	secretary@vckc.ca
Barbara Abercrombie	250-598-7931
Past President	pastpres@vckc.ca
Bon Lee	250 477-1381

Program Directors

Canoe Program	canoe@vckc.ca
Dan Walker	
Dragonboat Program	dragonboat@vckc.ca
Ron Crabtree	778-430-4545
Kayak Program	kayak@vckc.ca
Roy Scully	
Outrigger Program	outrigger@vckc.ca
Ryan Ovens	
Marathon Canoe Program	marathon@vckc.ca
Darrelle Butler	
Voyageur Program	voyageur@vckc.ca
Joe Boyd	250-386-6004

Other Executive

Education, Standards & Safety	safety@vckc.ca
Doug Linton	250 727-0216
Membership	membership@vckc.ca
Muriel Johnson	
Clubhouse and Grounds	clubhouse@vckc.ca
Sandy Rattray	250 386-9144
Boat & Locker Storage	storage@vckc.ca
Maylene McMillan	
Director at Large	director1@vckc.ca
Wendy Clapp	250 220-5787
Director at Large	director4@vckc.ca
June Parker	

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	newsletter@vckc.ca
Jean Chandler	250-727-6923
Webmaster	webmaster@vckc.ca
Vacant (Ron Crabtree interim)	778 430-4545

Note: the Deadline for submission of content for the next newsletter is September 17, 2013.

Note: the DEADLINE for the November Newsletter is October 23

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	01-Oct	2	3	4	5
River Clean-Up Day & Eddy hopper - come out to paddle and clean up the river	15:00 RCABC Big Canoe (Voyageur) Instructor Course	School Dragonboat Paddle 19:30 VCKC General Meeting				Beginner lakewater tandem canoe course
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Advanced Lakewater Solo Paddler	15:00 RCABC Big Canoe (Voyageur) Instructor Course	School Dragonboat Paddle 19:00 Executive Meeting				lakewater Tandem canoe course Outrigger OC6 - Bridges
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Outrigger - OC1/2/Ski	15:00 RCABC Big Canoe (Voyageur) Instructor Course	10:00 Craigflower School Dragonboat Paddle				Basic Tandem Moving Water canoe course Outrigger - Battle in the Bay 17:00 Birthday Party - Louise
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Basic Tandem Moving Water canoe course			VCKC Newsletter Deadline			Outrigger - OC1/2/Ski
27	28	29	30	31	01-Nov	2
Outrigger - OC1/2/Ski				Halloween		