



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

April 2014

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

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club General Meeting

Tuesday, April 1st, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

NOTICES

The club lock combinations will be changed in the morning on Monday, March 31st. Paid up members can find the new codes on the VCKC web site members page a day or two in advance. Please do not share the lock codes with others.

Clubhouse and Gorge Waterway Clean-up Saturday, April 26th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Please come and help clean up the clubhouse and the Gorge Waterway. Wear suitable clothing and for the clubhouse, please bring any garden tools or house cleaning stuff that you are able to. Our sponsors provide: gloves and garbage bags (CRD), dumpsters and dumpage fees (Waste Management), and refreshments and treats (Tim Hortons.)

Thanks for your help,

Sandy Rattray, VCKC Clubhouse and Grounds and Don Monroe, VCKC rep for Gorge Waterway Initiatives

Switchblade Race

Volunteers needed to support this exciting event!

If you are available to volunteer for the day or part of the day on May 18th, 2014 please contact:

Darrelle Butler (Race Director) - marathon@vckc.ca

Bon Lee (Volunteer Coordinator) - bonklee@telus.net

Thanks for helping make Switchblade a success again this year!

Canada's 150th Anniversary

Support the Voyageur Canoe as the Symbol for Canada's 150th Anniversary
(See The Raggle Taggle Section for more details.)

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Paddling Activities:

Due to safety considerations, only experienced paddlers may paddle in the Kawa. The Kawa is a very tender boat and is extremely responsive to weight shifts.

Please see the Program Reports for planned paddling activities.

Volunteer Activities

Subaru Western Triathlon Series - Our executive was asked to make a commitment to this race to provide race marshals. We are unable to find sufficient numbers of members who are willing to make a commitment this far in advance of the event. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Rachel Macatee at r.macatee@triseriess.ca or (250) 220-2259

Time Colonist Run - VCKC anticipates that we will provide a team of volunteers for the TC Run again this year. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Paddle around the Peninsula. Please see the Voyageur Program information.

Please return recyclable bottles to provide money for Camp Shawnigan.

Club Business:

The asset inventory and the 10-year capital plan are pending program director review of depreciated value and current input from some directors.

Plans to rejuvenate the inside of the clubhouse are commencing and will be included in the Capital Plan.

Our recent website issues have a relatively permanent fix now; however these problems put a major website revision into our capital plan sights. A capital plan budget for the website will be developed by our Webmaster and reviewed by the executive.

The Coach Boat purchase is in the review stage.

Boats that have been replaced by capital purchases will be disposed of in a manner chosen by the program director and in consultation with the executive.

Oil to Gas conversion will advise membership as we hear from the contractor

Heating costs continue to impact budget. (On going loss of heat during the winter due to

propped open basement door and single pane windows.) Please keep the door closed and the thermostat down whenever possible.

Clubhouse lock combination is to be changed on March 31st. For security of our assets and for insurance purposes, please do not share the new combination. If a member needs the door open, open the door for them and tell them how to find the combination. Thus only members will have access to it. Never say our door combination out loud.

Committee Reports:

Instructor Reimbursement (pending.) Contact Roy at kayak@vckc.ca

Storage contact Maylene at storage@vckc.ca

Storage renewals are to be addressed.

Directions to storage committee: maximize small boat storage. Plan for half of the outside storage to be covered. Use the capital plan and executive input for the number of big boat spaces to be stored in the compound. All programs are to have a representative on the committee.

Consider storage of the Power to Be Langley voyageur until such time as VCKC has a Langley.

Associate Members: Guidelines are being reviewed. The following Associate Memberships are current or being considered for this year.

Craigflower School (2014)

Power 2 Be (PTB)

Girl Guides

Victoria Youth Paddling Club (VYPC)

Camosun College

Montessori School

Shoreline Middle School

Friends Uniting for Nature Society (FUN)

SISKA Pacific Paddling Symposium: VCKC has supported this with a donation.

Nanaimo River Watershed Society: Riverside property is being developed. The NRWS is attempting to save river access for canoe and kayak take out

CANOE PROGRAM

Moving Water trips: So far this winter VCKC has run two Class I-II river trips for members who've recently completed the Moving Water course. We'll continue these trips as far into the spring as weather and river levels permit. The March 15th trip was well attended and some new playboaters got a chance to test their skills including rescues. If you're interested in these trips (open to members and non-members) and haven't been receiving the notice emails, please let me know at canoe@vckc.ca.

Running of the Cows: Preliminary organizing work has begun on this annual Club event (May 3rd and 4th). For quite a few years now Club diehards, led by Alan T. and Tom S. have literally 'run the river' start to finish, putting in at Cowichan Lake and taking out at Cowichan Bay. Details will be forwarded well before the event, but if you'd like to join this adventure please mark a spot on your calendar. The Cowichan is a Canadian Heritage River and its many wonders are open to all.

Canoe Program Meetings: With the busy Easter weekend preceding the usual Canoe Program meeting night, there will be no April Canoe Program meeting.

Revised Canoe Course Schedule (below): Some slight revisions have been made to the Spring VCKC Canoe course schedule. Costs for the Moving Water courses have been lowered to \$100/person, the Frost Free Weekend paddle date has been added and the date for the Ocean Paddle course has been corrected. Although the March 8th course was cancelled due to a lack of participants, the March 23rd course is filling up nicely and we're hoping for good participation for the remaining courses.

Dan Walker
VCKC Canoe Program Director

Canoe Course or Activity	Date	Instructor/Contact	Cost
Lakewater I	March 8th	Ellie James/Roy Scully ejames123@shaw.ca	\$25 + membership
Lakewater I	March 23rd	Dan Walker/Kym Thrift canoe@vckc.ca	\$25 + membership
Lakewater II	March 29th	Tim Marks timjmarks@yahoo.ca	\$25 + membership
Moving Water I	April 12 & 13	Doug Magnuson magnuson@shaw.ca	\$100 + membership
Lakewater III	April 26	Bonn Lee bonlee@shaw.ca	\$25 + membership
Running of the Cowichan River	May 3 & 4	Dan Walker canoe@vckc.ca	free
Frost Free Weekend	May 10 & 11	Alan Thomson 3135thom@islandnet.com	free
Ocean Canoeing Course	May 17 to 19 th (proposed Classroom Apr 22, 28 and May 5)	Alan Thomson 3135thom@islandnet.com	\$100 + membership and supplies if needed
Moving Water II	Will be offered if Sufficient interest expressed	Dan Walker canoe@vckc.ca	\$100 + membership
Basic Poling	May 14 & 19	Tom Staebell thestatbellfamily@shaw.ca	\$35 + membership
Lakewater Instructor	Will be offered if Sufficient interest expressed	Ellie James Ejames123@shaw.ca	TBA

VCKC Membership \$70 family, \$50 individual
Course details can be found at <http://www.bccanoe.com/>

CANOE PROGRAM

1. Flatwater trips - open to all kayak and canoe program members. Notice of these trips is sent to all program members about one week in advance.

March 29th (Sat). If the month has been wet enough, we will try the Somenos Lake/Richards Creek trip, just north of Duncan. If things are drying up and winds allow, a paddle along the Island coast from the Mill Bay ferry terminal up to Cowichan Bay is the alternate option. A note will be sent out to all members ahead of time.

April 19th (Sat) - trip to be arranged.

Contact - Alan and Linda Thomson 250-592-4170;
3135thom@islandnet.com

2. Ocean Canoeing Course

There will be an RCABC ocean canoeing course run in April and May. The course consists of 12 hours (3 evenings) of classroom sessions and a 2 or 3 day overnight paddling trip in the Gulf Islands on the Victoria Day weekend. Topics covered include chart reading, navigation, tides and currents, weather and risk assessment in addition to canoe tripping topics.

Proposed dates for the evening classroom sessions at the Clubhouse are Tuesday April 22nd, Monday April 28th, and Monday May 5th. Sessions will run from 5.30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The tripping part of the course is planned for the Victoria Day weekend May 17th - 19th. A 3-day trip is desirable, but this will be discussed with participants if that is too long.

The Basic Tandem canoeing course is a pre-requisite to taking this course (unless you only want to do the classroom sessions).

Cost of the course is \$100. If you need charts, a compass and such like, this will add to the cost, as is any transportation for the trip proportion of the course. Anyone who wishes to take the classroom sessions and not take part in the trip is welcome to do so - cost \$50. If you have taken the course in the past, you are welcome to sit in on the classroom sessions and join in the trip for free.

Contact Alan Thomson. 250-592-4170;
3135thom@islandnet.com.

3. Frost Free Weekend - May 10th/11th

The Club has had a tradition of running an overnight camping trip on the Mother's Day weekend, which happens also to be the first weekend of the gardening season that is guaranteed to be free of frost. In the early years of this event, the Club paid for a steak for each member who took part, a policy that has, sadly, had to be dropped as the Club has grown. But we still bring a barbeque, provide baked potato and a fruit grunt for dessert, and you can bring something to cook as suits your taste.

For the first thirty years, the Club camped out on Portland Island, but recently, we have camped out on Blackberry Point on Valdes Island. This year the plan is to paddle out to Saltspring Island to camp at a site south of Musgrave Point, opposite Cowichan Bay/Cherry Point. This has been a Forest Recreation site for many years, but has not been much used. There is to be a sign-raising event held there on June 21st, organised by the BC Marine Trails Network Association. In preparation for this, the site needs to be cleaned up a bit - low brush cleared, logs taken off the beach, path from the beach cleared/improved and such like. So the plan is to put in from a site in Cowichan Bay on the Saturday morning and to paddle over to the site and spend some time in the afternoon doing these chores. Saturday evening will be the barbecue and Sunday morning will be either more work or time to explore along the coast to the south a little. There are old forestry roads in the area, and a dirt road leads from Musgrave Landing over Mt. Tuam to Fulford Harbour. The plan is to be back in Victoria mid afternoon.

This trip is open to kayakers and canoeists who have taken the basic courses in the relevant discipline. The crossing to Musgrave Point is about 2 nautical miles, so the trip is suitable for novices. We may well take a voyageur canoe or the Club freighter canoe so that the barbecues and necessary tools can be carried - shovels, saws, etc.

If you are interested, contact Alan Thomson 250-

CANOE PROGRAM

January's flatwater paddle had to be postponed because of high winds and rain; river paddles have been cancelled due to either too little or too much water - winter paddling is possible here, unlike in most of Canada, but it isn't always idyllic

February's trip was planned to be off the east side of the Saanich peninsula, if the winds were good, or on Shawnigan Lake if they weren't. The winds were due to rise about mid-day on the Saturday, so Shawnigan was decided on; then the forecast was for 4" of snow on the Malahat. Ummmm. Switch to Saanich Inlet, launching from the Tsartlip Ramp. Snowing alright - large fluffy flakes, with no wind, so they came straight down. Senanus Island was visible through the flurries, but the far shore of Bamberton was hidden. The calm water meant that the reflections of the flakes could be seen as they fell towards the water - white above, black in the water, moving to meet when the flakes hit the water and disappeared with no splash and the tiniest of ripples. Quite magical - like an old film's ending when the reel runs out and you see black with white stars spooling by, only seen with a mirror reflecting this.

No wind, but not warm. After Ron and Shawn got their rudder sorted out, they joined us after the Hagan Creek waterfall and we headed out to Senanus Island. There Julie and Shawn swapped seats and Shawn demonstrated how not to get into a kayak, subsiding gracefully into the shallow but chilly waters of the little cove. After that, there was an incentive to paddle quickly over to Willis Point and round towards Tod Inlet to warm up.

As we neared the entrance, we came across four divers getting into the water. I thought we were a bit daft to be out in the cold, but at least we were dry and above the water. Brrr!

The snow was easing up and the other side of the Inlet could be seen, but still no wind. There was snow lying on the bald and mossy rocks and on the trees on the Gowlland range side of Tod Inlet - quite picturesque. There were lots of small jellyfish in the Inlet, all about a foot or more below the surface - probably due to the freshwater layer from the creek. We had an early lunch at the dock behind Butchart with welcome hot drinks and food. The picnic tables have been moved away from the immediate area of the dock - didn't notice them until we were leaving.

The last part of the trip was a follow-my-leader along the shoreline, under gangplanks, docks, cables and similar obstructions, even under the hull of a large catamaran. All silly, but it adds interest and keeps you flexible as you bend down and sideways to get underneath. Back to the ramp and loaded up to get back to the Clubhouse. About 3.5 hours on the water and the happy thought of getting home mid afternoon with the glow of satisfaction of having done something with the day. Thanks to Ron and Shawn, Julie, Andre and Susan, John and Jill, and, of course, Linda.

Alan Thomson



Photo by Wendy Clapp

THE RAGGLE TAGGLE SECTION

Outrigger Races

Hi Race Paddlers;

The Victoria Youth Paddling Club (www.vypc.ca) is hosting its first outrigger races (short sprints) on Saturday March 29th. VCKC should send its best paddlers in support of the kids - they have done so much for WUTG and PFTK. (Dale and Ryan will be at Fort Langley.)

Possible Team: Joe, Ben, Bob, Marie, Claire, Ron W, Darrelle, Mary, Maria, Carole....the list goes on. Heck, we could send 2 teams! Send me the names.

If we get enough paddlers, I promise to show up for practice with the Rum Runners for several weeks. Wait, that might discourage them.

Race Details

500 meter straight away

1000 meter 3 buoy turns on a 250 meter course at the Ocean River Docks

Saturday, March 29th, 2014 - 9 a.m. start

Fees:

\$90.00 / Adult team \$75.00 / Junior team

More info: <http://www.vypc.ca/p/race.html>

Please let me know if you are interested.

Wanted - loan of a camping toilet

This year, the Club is running/taking part in two events in the Gulf Islands that require us to provide two camping toilets for the participants. One is the Gulf Island (Voyageur) Brigade, which will see 50 - 60 paddlers paddling from Nanaimo to Victoria - from July 26th - August 1st. The campsite at Blackberry Point on Valdes Island has a proper outhouse, but for this size of group, two additional toilets are needed. The other event is the BC Marine Trails Network's sign-raising at Musgrave Point on Saturday June 21st, where up to 100 paddlers are expected to converge on the site for the occasion. Most will only stay for the day, but the one outhouse on site isn't enough to cope with them all.

I have one camping toilet (chemical type) and the offer of a tent to put it in, but would like to borrow another one. If anyone has such an item, please contact Alan Thomson 250-592-4170

3135thom@islandnet.com.

Switch Blade Paddlesport Relay Race.

Sunday, May 18th.

9 a.m. start at Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club.

Forms and Race package at: package@vckc.ca

Race Information:

<http://members.shaw.ca.ca/Swichblade.Relay/>



Support the Voyageur Canoe as the Symbol for Canada's 150th Anniversary

Paddle Canada is asking its members to consider promoting the Voyageur Canoe as a symbol for Canada's 150 Anniversary at <http://canada150.gc.ca/eng/1344275798109>

Check it out! Since VCKC's all-member program is the Voyageur Program, it seems likely that most of our members and their friends would like to promote the Voyageur Canoe in this way! Our club continues to put as many children as possible into big canoes to introduce them to life values.

VOYAGEUR PROGRAM

33rd Annual Voyageur Paddle For The Kids - April 15, 2014

The club's Voyageur Program will complete its annual Paddle for the Kids on April 5th. Practices took place each Sunday in March. After meeting early at the clubhouse, we trailer our fleet of Voyageur canoes and set out for adventure. Some days were warmer - and dryer - than others. A perfect way to finish off our winter Sundays. Our March trips included Saanich Inlet, Ladysmith Harbour, Cowichan Bay and Sooke Basin. We paddled up to 30 kilometres on some days, all so we would be ready and in shape for the April 5th Peninsula Paddle.

The Peninsula Paddle for the kids is an 80 km paddle relay from Brentwood Bay to our clubhouse on the Gorge. Our purpose is to raise funds for Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan - hence the name 'Paddle for the Kids'. Please consider sponsoring us. You can donate online through a link on the club's website. If you know a paddler in this event, please consider sponsoring them.

For those who missed it, we had a pleasant paddle in the warm sunshine down to Spinnakers for brunch.

Please see the note below from the Lions Society plus links to explain what our paddling efforts are supporting.

*"Hi Everyone,
I wanted to email you all a HUGE thank you from all of us at the BC Lions Society for your support of Peninsula Paddle for the Kids!! I feel so bad that we weren't able to make it on Sunday at*



Spinnakers, I hope you all had a great time and a great first practice!

Just to give you an idea of where all of your hardwork and fundraising goes to, here is a couple of links to some wonderful videos of Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan! Sorry...I wasn't able to narrow it down to just one video, these 3 are all so great!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUc1yL3-YaM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGR6QBbrVLE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiU3Mz2cVc0>

Again, thank you all so very much!! From all of us at the BC Lions Society and from all of those amazing kids that will be able to go to Camp Shawnigan this year, due in part to your amazing support!!

Take care and we will see you all at the Paddle!

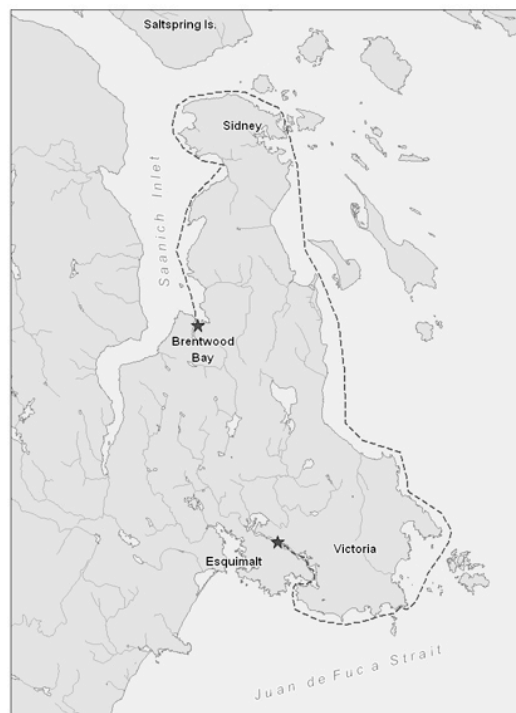
Shannon Bernays

Director

Vancouver Island Special Events

British Columbia Lions Society for Children with Disabilities

Easter Seals BC"



The Peninsula Paddle Route 2014

KAYAK PROGRAM

Pacific Paddling Symposium May 30-June 1, 2014

We're delighted to be offering the Pacific Paddling Symposium for a second year, and we're looking forward to bringing the sea kayaking community together again for an inspiring three-day experience focusing on skills, education, leadership, heritage, safety, and camaraderie. Our 'kayak kamp' for adults is where everyone — instructors and participants — have the chance to connect, learn, and have fun!

We have an exciting symposium lined up for you. Once again we are at our beautiful host venue Lester B. Pearson United World College. On Friday night, we have a special screening of "The Last Baidarka of Prince William Sound" with creators Andrew Elizaga and Katya Palladina, and on Saturday night we have Ken Campbell and Steve Weileman of the Ikkatsu Project presenting their latest film "Secrets of Augustine." Stay tuned to our website. We'll be updating the session offerings and schedule over the next month along with some other special announcements by newsletter.

Please see web site for more information
<http://pacificpaddlingsymposium.ca/index>



Port Angeles Kicks-Off Inaugural Kayak & Film Festival

Port Angeles, Wash., March 13, 2014 - Anyone living in the Pacific Northwest who has toyed with the idea of learning to properly maneuver a kayak or standup paddle board (SUP) won't want to miss a one-of-a-kind event that is coming to their own backyard this next month. Nine experts specializing in all genres of kayaking and SUP will gather in Port Angeles on April 12-13 to offer two days of on-the-water instruction at the inaugural Port Angeles Kayak & Film Festival. Designed for novice to expert level paddlers, classes ranging from introductory sea kayaking and SUP to Eskimo rolling to debacle deterrent and much more will be offered at Hollywood Beach, Crescent Beach, Freshwater Bay, and the Feiro Marine Life Center on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Advance registration is highly recommended.

A corresponding outdoor film festival featuring adventure kayaking expeditions in scenic locations around the world will take place on Saturday, April 12 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Port Angeles' Gateway Transit Center Pavilion. Titles include Bhutan: The Last Shangri-La; the Of Souls+Water series; Wildwater; and Mountain Mind Collective, which was filmed on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. The Next Door Gastropub will serve street tacos with beer and wine during the film festival.

Experienced paddlers can test their sea kayaking finesse during the Skills and Obstacle Race at Hollywood Beach. Balance and rescue techniques will be equally challenged, and efforts well-rewarded with a \$100 prize package going to the winner. The fun begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 12.

For more information contact:
Deborah Anastasi Black
(425) 357-1651 or (206) 799-4233
deborahblack@comcast.net

Gulf Island Brigade July 26th to August 1st

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club's organization of the Gulf Island Brigade from Nanaimo through the world-renowned Gulf Islands to Victoria for a week at the end of July is well under way. It will be the opportunity to enjoy paddling in some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.

The Brigade is now full with nine voyageur canoe teams registered, of which three are from VCKC. Although the teams have been registered, there may be paddler positions still available as some participants back out due to family or work commitments. If anyone is interested in being on a VCKC team they should e-mail their interest to gulfislandbrigade@vckc.ca

Teams are expected to be self sufficient in their canoe. Think 'back packing' in order to limit gear - some of the campsites will be fairly primitive. The tour will be visiting some coastal and island communities, but connecting daily with a road crew will not be possible. The goal is to reduce the environment footprint.

We are also looking for volunteers who may be

interested in being involved in one of the tour's celebrations or driving for the shuttle of paddlers and/or vehicles. There will be a celebration event both at the beginning and end of the trip. The plan is to camp on Newcastle Island just off Nanaimo on the night of July 26th and be at the VCKC Clubhouse on the evening of August 1st.

A shuttle will be organized so that vehicles and boat trailers will be in Victoria when the Brigade arrives. The shuttle will happen on the afternoon of the 26th.

Registration fee is \$1200 per boat of six people, which is \$200 per individual. Other expenses will include team food, travel and equipment expenses, which are organized by individual teams.

Once again, to indicate an interest either as a paddler, a volunteer or for more information e-mail gulfislandbrigade@vckc.ca

Gulf Island Brigade Committee

Ellie James

Brigade Chief



Photo by Darelle Butler

VCKC Executive

Executive

President	president@vckc.ca
Jean Chandler	250-727-6923
Vice-president	vpresident@vckc.ca
Jennifer Yee	250-727-2049
Treasurer	treasurer@vckc.ca
Anne Ardiel	250-658-2442
Secretary	secretary@vckc.ca
Debi LaHaise	250.388.3691
Past President	pastpres@vckc.ca
Pam Carroll	250-479-8878

Program Directors

Canoe Program	canoe@vckc.ca
Dan Walker	250-721-6913
Dragonboat Program	dragonboat@vckc.ca
Erin Sexton	250-580-6916
Kayak Program	kayak@vckc.ca
Roy Scully	
Outrigger Program	outrigger@vckc.ca
Ryan Ovens	250-813-0635
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
Bob Rempel	
Director at Large	director2@vckc.ca
Shelley Scott	

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	newsletter@vckc.ca
Graham Lloyd	250-381-5090
Webmaster	webmaster@vckc.ca
Brittany Kohn	
(Ron Crabtree interim)	778-430-4545

Note: The next deadline for submissions to the newsletter is April 16th.

April 2014

VCKC Events						
Today April 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Camosun expeditio	31	Apr 1 7:30pm VCKC Gener	2	3	4	5 Paddle for the Kids
6 National Tartan Day	7	8 7pm Executive Meet	9 Vimy Ridge Day	10	11	12 Moving Water I can VCKC - Wake Up Th
13 Moving Water I can VCKC - Wake Up Th	14 7pm Ronnie Lee Tea	15	16 5:30pm Gulf Islands	17	18 Good Friday VCKC Newsletter D	19
20 Easter Sunday	21 Easter Monday St. George's Day	22 5:30pm Ocean Canoe	23	24	25	26 Lakewater III cano 9am Club + Gorge C
27	28 5:30pm Ocean Canoe	29	30	May 1	2	3 GRPC - Broachie Re Running of the Cow
Events shown in time zone: Pacific Time - Vancouver						