



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club Newsletter December 2014

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

VCKC Christmas Party & General Meeting Tuesday December 2nd, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

The VCKC Christmas party is December 2nd. More details in the Executive News section.

Please note: the Annual General Meeting is later for 2015 - January 13th



In Memory of Pauline Campbell

Pauline Campbell

When I was asked to write something about Pauline, I wondered what I could possibly say: not because there was so little, but because there was so much. What could I say that would honour her zest for life, her honesty and humanity?

I met Pauline one wet Sunday morning when Alan and Linda Thomson picked her up to go paddling. She was waiting outside the supermarket on Quadra, her orange wet suit a vivid marker in the early grey light. It came from Value Village - Pauline's favourite store.

I was immediately drawn to her by her broad, flat North Country vowels, music to my ears - even if they were from Lancashire and not my native Yorkshire. We hit it off right away, and over the years became regular paddling companions and friends.



Pauline loved the outdoors, paddling and hiking in all weathers. She owned a kayak, but preferred to paddle tandem canoe, or voyager so she could engage her partner(s) in conversation while paddling.

She was funny and self-deprecating, often telling stories against herself whether her mishaps on the trail, or about the personal quirks of her various employers. (She always had a least three part-time jobs which to shuttled between on her bike.)

During the winter we met often at Oak Bay Rec. Centre where Pauline had been taking Spanish (for years!) in the expectation that she would eventually go to Mexico. I hope she made it. We talked politics - local, global, municipal, current affairs, the push-and-pull of VCKC politics - always with passion and extreme opinions. Did I mention that she had a rich vocabulary of old English swear words?

Our Tuesday morning paddles with Jean (Chandler) and Graham (Lloyd) were quieter, more contemplative times, but almost always ending with coffee, and good conversation.

When Pauline was diagnosed with lung cancer she determined to give it a good fight. That she eventually lost that battle is our loss. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Maris Ratel

(Photographs from Alan Thompson)

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Christmas Party, 2015 Annual General Meeting

December 2nd is the VCKC Christmas Party

Preparation for the Christmas Party

- VCKC's annual Camp Shawnigan fundraiser raffle needs your donations.
 - Raffle items should be something you would give to a very dear friend or something you would dearly love to receive. (Skip the re-gifting of less desirable items.)
 - Please bring your donation to the office of the clubhouse by November 25th so that Mavis will be better able to organize the raffle items. (By the way, many kudos to Mavis for volunteering her time to run this popular social event again this year.)
- Decorating the clubhouse for Christmas will be on Sunday, November 30th at 1:00 p.m. (What a fun way to volunteer!)
- It's a pot luck: make a food donation to bring that you would share with your very dear friend and bring enough to fill you both up with a few leftovers. (If you're lucky, you'll get a taste of main course items and of dessert items.) For those of you who need structure, those whose last name starts with A - L, bring a dessert, M to Z please bring a main course.
 - Please identify possible dietary ingredients such as nuts, eggs, gluten, etc.
 - Remember to get something to bring for the VCKC donation to the Christmas Food Hamper.

The Party

- Arrive any time after 5:00 p.m., or earlier if you wish to help set up the kitchen. (This is another fun way to volunteer for your club!)
- Buy your raffle tickets and visit with friends. (Buying lots of raffle tickets increases your odds of getting a winning draw! It also is a bigger donation for Camp Shawnigan.)
- Dinner about 6:00 p.m.
- Later: Raffle draws and Christmas Carols.

VCKC's 2015 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 13th, which is the second Tuesday of January. There will not be a General Meeting on January 6th.

2015 Budget:

The executive made a first draft of the 2015 budget at the November meeting. The draft will be fine tuned at the December meeting so that it is ready for the membership review at the AGM on January 13th.

Nominations Committee:

Pam Carroll (pastpres@vckc.ca) is head of the Nominations Committee for the January 2015 elections. Please contact either Pam or Bon Lee if you are interested in volunteering on the executive. All executive positions are open for nominations. We will be seeking three Director at Large volunteers who will assist the club with volunteer coordination, organizing club wide events and social director duties such as bringing meeting drinks and goodies and getting the clubhouse ready for upcoming events.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Clubhouse Cleanup, New Flooring and Charitable Donations

Clubhouse clean up

Thanks to all those who participated in the house and grounds clean up party. We all had lots of fun and camaraderie. The side benefit is a great looking clubhouse.

VCKC Clubhouse Heating Costs

The clubhouse heat is on again. Please don't prop the basement door open. If you are in the clubhouse and use the heat, please be sure to turn it down again before leaving.

New Flooring for VCKC

Our House and Grounds Director, Sandy Rattray, (clubhouse@vckc.ca) has been busy getting estimates to replace much of the flooring in the upstairs of the clubhouse. This work is now approved and will be scheduled as soon as possible. Sandy will contact members to help move our things from the kitchen and the small upstairs rooms so that the contractor can proceed with the work. It would be great if some of you contacted him ASAP to let him know you may be interested in helping.

New Voyageur

As approved at the January 2014 AGM, the club now has sufficient funds to purchase a new canoe for the voyageur program. Joe Boyd (voyageur@vckc.ca) will be managing the purchase.

Retired Dragon Boat

The executive decided to fully retire the oldest Dragon Boat. When it was pulled out of the water during the clubhouse clean up, a fairly large hole was found in the keel. The boat absorbed saltwater and green growing things during the summer. The executive decided to retire the boat and dispose of it as it is no longer repairable.

Storage and Membership Renewals

Membership and Storage renewal is due January 1st, 2015 and, for those who wish to vote, must be completed before the January Annual General Meeting on January 13th, the SECOND Tuesday of the month.

The financials are all set to accept your dues

and fees now. If you write a cheque, make it payable to Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club!!! If you don't, we will have to return it to you to get you to write it out. The bank does not accept cheques addressed "VCKC" to our account.

Garbage from the Gorge

A plan has been developed with Saanich for flotsam that paddlers collect and bring to the clubhouse from the Gorge.

- For smaller pieces of flotsam that are too big for the residential pick up, we can store them on the waterside of the compound beside the compost pile, then include them in the spring pick up bin.
- If any item is too big, or if the pile gets too big, smelly, or ugly to be near the public walkway, move it to the top of the beach access and call the president (Jean Chandler 250-727-6923), the Treasurer (Anne Ardiel 250 658-2442) or the House and Grounds Director (250 386-9144). Please identify if it is recyclable or not (wood, foam, plastic, etc.) as this will make a difference to the vehicle sent by Parks.
- It is important that this process is timely due to the need to keep the beach open for emergency water access. Please be sure you talk with one these Executive members who will contact the appropriate person at Saanich for a pick up - don't just leave a message.

VCKC Donations

The executive is considering changing some of its fundraising charitable donations for the year 2016 to an alternative in Saanich. It will begin considering various charitable options at the December meeting. The membership will be advised of the progress of this new direction throughout the 2015 year.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

Club website, and Coffee donations

Website

The Website Replacement Committee is assessing an alternative to our website to see if it meets current and future needs. Contact person for this committee is Victoria Mann, (victoriavckc@gmail.com)

Coffee Donations

The money donated for the coffee fund has not kept up with the cost of coffee, sugar and

cream. Please be sure to collect donations if you make a pot of coffee from the clubhouse supply. Contact Director at Large, Shelley Scott (director2@vckc.ca)

Looking Forward to Changes

Planning is beginning for an annual Open House to which we will invite people from our local Saanich neighbourhood. Contact Darrelle Butler (marathon@vckc.ca)



Happy 80th Birthday Louise !! Warmest wishes from your fellow VCKC paddler friends
Photo by Wendy Clapp

CANOE PROGRAM

New students and the New Year's Day Paddle

Twenty-three students successfully completed the October 25th and 26th and November 1st and 2nd moving water courses, resulting in a lot of happy river paddlers and netting almost \$2300 for the Club. Two tandem and one solo river paddling courses were offered over these two weekends on the Cowichan River.

Special thanks to all the students for coming out and all the instructors (Rick, Doug, Jay, Alan, Tom, Greg and Dan) for all their hard work. It was a bit of a logistical challenge. Canoes and equipment were and went everywhere and Dan and Rick explored new logic-defying ways to do shuttles. I'm still trying to figure out who belongs to a throw bag I found in my truck. In the end, the Club has some new river paddlers. Many of these came out for the Club's Remembrance Day paddle.

The Canoe Program will run a river trip for newer Club river paddlers (an eddyhopper) on Sunday, November 30th. Please let Dan Walker (canoe@vckc.ca) know if interested or if you have any questions. Meeting times, locations and logistical details will be forwarded a week or so before the paddle.

There will be no Canoe and Kayak Program meeting in December.

Dan Walker
VCKC Canoe Program Director

New Year's Day Paddle.

The annual Club New Year's Day Paddle will take place on (surprise, surprise) January 1st, 2015. Meet at the Clubhouse for a 10:30 a.m. start. Bring your own canoe/kayak/SUP or come in a club voyageur or outrigger. We will paddle for 1 1/2 - 2 hours and then back to the Clubhouse for a pot-luck lunch. Bring your leftover food from the Christmas/New Year festivities and start the year with a clear fridge and empty cake/cookie tins. Linda and Alan will provide the usual soup and mulled wine (separately, of course). After lunch, help to take down the Christmas decorations and set up for the Club's Annual General Meeting on January 13th.

Any questions, contact Linda and Alan Thomson (3135thom@islandnet.com) or 250-592-4170.

Flatwater Paddle

There will be a Flatwater paddle on January 11th. Destination to be determined, but it will be suitable for novices and probably fairly short - there isn't a lot of daylight and the weather tends to discourage prolonged tripping. An e-mail will be sent a week ahead to all Canoe and Kayak Program members with a proposed route and the usual reminders.

Alan Thomson



VOYAGEUR PROGRAM

Big Canoe Sterner's Course and Remembrance Day 2014 on the Cowichan River

The Big Canoe Sterner's course was held at the clubhouse on November 15th and 16th. Nine students took the course, delivered by Alan Thomson and Tim Marks. All gained their Paddle Canada Intermediate Sterner certificate and their RCABC Big Canoe Sterner certificate. Thanks to Alan and Tim for devoting their weekend to deliver this 16-hour course.

Remembrance Day on the Cowichan VCKC river paddlers observed Remembrance Day at the Cowichan River again this year with the observance of two minutes of silence at the Burma Star Memorial at Stoltz Pool. We had a good turnout this year, with water levels on the river being the highest in several years for Remembrance Day. In all, thirty-five river paddlers assembled on the banks of the Cowichan for a sunny, yet crisp, day on the river.

Two Voyageurs were crewed by club members, lead by Tim Marks and Ellie James. With the river flowing at slightly above 100

cm/s, there was plenty of water to avoid hitting the rocks. The big canoes were joined by nine tandem canoes, and six solo boats. This was the biggest turnout for a river paddle the club had ever seen. We split into three groups to make it easier to keep track of each other, and avoid overcrowding the eddies.

New Years Day Paddle

The club has a longstanding tradition of paddling from the clubhouse on New Year's Day. Canoes, kayaks, Voyageurs, outriggers, are all welcome.

The paddle will start from the clubhouse at 10:30 a.m. and we will return in time for lunch. Bring your leftovers for the pot-luck lunch.

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



Voyageur paddlers rigging up on the Remembrance Day Paddle on the Cowichan River
Photo by Shelley Lipke



Voyageur paddlers running rapids on the Cowichan River
Photo by Shelley Lipke

THE RAGGLE TAGGLE SECTION

Fall 2014 Membershipa and Website Survey

VCKC Membership Website Survey Fall 2014
62 Responses: Sept 29 – Oct 6, 2014

VCKC Fall 2014 Member Survey

What is your role with VKCK? Choose all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses
Individual Member	58.06% 36
Family Member	40.32% 25
Program Leader (current or former)	6.45% 4
Executive (current or former)	16.13% 10
Total Respondents: 62	

For club paddling activities, please indicate your most frequent sources of information from the list below. Go to your first choice, click on the arrow and choose 1 – that option will go to the top. Then select 2 for your second choice, and so on. (The numbers will reorder with each change you make so you can correct any choices if you wish.)

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average Ranking
Talking with friends	18.33% 11	21.67% 13	10.00% 6	25.00% 15	25.00% 15	60	2.83
Monthly newsletter	28.33% 17	38.33% 23	23.33% 14	8.33% 5	1.67% 1	60	3.83
Checking the VCKC website	15.00% 9	21.67% 13	33.33% 20	13.33% 8	16.67% 10	60	3.05
Email from program director or team leader	35.00% 21	13.33% 8	25.00% 15	21.67% 13	5.00% 3	60	3.52
Program or team meeting	3.33% 2	5.00% 3	8.33% 5	31.67% 19	51.67% 31	60	1.77

When you use the VCKC website, how easy is it for you to find the information you want?

Answer Choices	Responses
- It's difficult to figure out sometimes.	13.11% 8
- I know where to look but the information is not always there.	34.43% 21
- I can find what I need	49.18% 30
- I often just give up.	3.28% 2
Total	61

THE RAGGLE TAGGLE SECTION

Fall 2014 Membership and Website Survey

Which of the following best describes your last experience with making a payment on the website?

Answer Choices	Responses	
- I had to call or email someone at the club for help with making an online payment but I was successful after getting help.	1.67%	1
- I made the payment okay but did not fully complete the membership form.	3.33%	2
- It worked OK.	80.00%	48
- I gave up trying to make my payment online and paid with cash or check..	15.00%	9
Total		60

Please tell us about how you use the VCKC website. Check all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
▼ For photos of club events and activities	43.33%	26
▼ To look for information about new things I might like to try	46.67%	28
▼ To look for updates and information about activities or programs I would like to reconnect with	58.33%	35
▼ To find phone number or email address for club executive members	41.67%	25
▼ The website is how I found out about VCKC, it was my intro to the club	23.33%	14
▼ Just to see what's new with the club	51.67%	31
▼ Review bylaws, policies, minutes and other official VCKC information	25.00%	15
▼ To pay my fees	76.67%	46
Total Respondents: 60		

In the past 12 months have you attempted to access the site and found it was off line?

Answer Choices	Responses	
- Never	69.35%	43
- Once	19.35%	12
- More than once	11.29%	7
Total		62

For other leisure activities you enjoy, do you use Facebook and/or Twitter to find out about events?

Answer Choices	Responses	
- Yes	47.54%	29
- No	52.46%	32
Total		61

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
Victoria Mann	

Note: The next deadline for submissions for the newsletter is December 18th.

December 2014

VCKC Events						
Today ◀ ▶ December 2014 ▼						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
		5pm VCKC General r				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		7pm Executive Meet				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				VCKC Newsletter D		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
3pm Lights on Gorge						
28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3
Events shown in time zone: Pacific Time - Vancouver						