



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

March 2015

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, March 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Notices

March General Meeting (6:45 pm)

Please come early (6:45) to the March 3rd General Meeting to help the dragonboaters move the two dragonboats from the compound to the water. After our meeting, the "entertainment" will be an educational interactive presentation by Kitty Lloyd of the Gorge Waterway Initiatives. This opportunity came from our renewal of the VCKC - GWI (Gorge Waterway Initiative). See the executive article, Renewal of Associations and Liaisons, for more information.

Lock the Compound - Do you Know the Secret to the Padlocks?

On Tuesday February 10, the boat compound gate to the club's waterside yard was found unlocked. This prompts yet another reminder to keep all of our locks locked.

It is possible that people believe they are leaving the padlocks locked when in fact they are not locked. The reason is that the lock numbers need to be held tightly at the code position when the lock is pushed closed - then turned while the pressure on the closing mechanism is maintained.

VCKC Overflow Parking

The lot adjacent to VCKC is part of Saanich Parks. It is used by parents of children playing in the playground, by many people walking along the Gorge, as well as by us. When arriving in big groups please ensure that at least half a dozen spaces are left for other users. VCKC members may park at the rear of the Imperial Hallmark Cleaners (2922 Tillicum Rd) Drycleaners lot. In order to keep the drycleaning business parking area open, please park by:

- First filling up the space behind the building,
- Then park beside the trees on the west side of the lot. Preferably all VCKC vehicles will be parked south of the front side of the building.
- Overflow VCKC vehicles may continue along the west side by the trees, if necessary.
- Under no circumstance use any parking spaces in front of the building when there may be customers stopping by.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE

A Full Complement of Executive Members

Linda Thomson offered to participate in the executive this year as Vice President, our only vacant position. Linda explained that she would accept this position with the understanding that she would not move on to the president position. She further clarified that if any other VCKC member is interested in assuming the VP position with the intent to see if they would be interested in becoming president, Linda would step down from the position. The executive passed a motion to appoint her to this position.

Renewal of Associations and Liaisons:

1. Associate Group Membership renewals are underway with the involvement of the Program Directors and the Associate's VCKC member. Membership renewals are being prepared by Camosun, Montessori School, Power to Be (PTB), Shoreline Middle School (SMS) and Craigflower School and Victoria Youth Paddling Club (VYPC).
2. Gorge Waterway Initiatives (GWI) - The president and treasurer met with two executives from the GWI along with Don Munro who has been our representative contact since its inception. A report was made to the VCKC executive who confirmed our ongoing participation in the GWI.
 - a. The GWI is a collaborative, community-driven group of organizations concerned with protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural features of the Gorge Waterway, Portage Inlet and surrounding watersheds.
 - b. VCKC and GWI clarified our relationship and mutual interests:
 - i. VCKC is one member of this group. Any organization with an interest in the Gorge is welcome to join. VCKC supports this group by providing a meeting space and keeping a VCKC representative on the membership.
 - ii. VCKC has added a link from our website links page to the GWI website (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/gwi>). GWI activities and meeting minutes are available there.
 - iii. Look for ongoing updates on the activities of the GWI in subsequent newsletters.

- c. Don Munro will continue to be VCKC's representative to the GWI for 2015. The new alternate to Don is Derek Jenkins, our new Storage Director (an active marathon paddler). Derek will attend GWI meetings to become familiar with the way the organization works.

Web Development

VCKC's requirements for the new site are finalized. These requirements will be loaded into a web platform that is likely to meet VCKC's needs then tested by executive. Our webmaster, Victoria Mann is working with potential web platforms and persons who can assist VCKC with the transition. The executive passed a motion to increase the Capital Plan budget for the web site development from \$3000 to \$6000 based on preliminary estimates for this work. Additionally, the executive passed a motion to change the priority of the capital funding for the web to the second priority, following only the purchase of the Langley which is due to arrive this month.

The New Langley Canoe!

The new Langley is expected by the time the March newsletter is sent to press (in time for the Paddle for the Kids (PFTK)).

Long Term VCKC Planning

The 10-year plan is nearing completion and will be reviewed and completed by the 2015 executive. The executive completed a review of the document to its current state of development and updated expectations for 2015. Once complete, it will be updated annually and used as a guide for executive decision-making.

Volunteer Succession Support

Work is proceeding on Job Procedures for the executive so that each time a new person joins the executive, they will have a guide on how to do the job effectively.

VCKC Information Pamphlet

Last year, Renee Bagwell, one of our Dragonboaters developed an Information Pamphlet for VCKC. It has been very successful. Since there is a new executive, it is due for an update. Your executive is working quickly to make some changes and have a new pamphlet available as soon as possible.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

1550's Silver Coin Found in Gorge Waterway

Mark Tinkler (UK) of Tink Thank Productions for Marbella Productions came to VCKC to film an interview with guest Bruce Campbell of Victoria and an ancient coin enthusiast from Vancouver. The film crew included two cameramen and a soundman, all from Victoria.

The interview was about a coin found along the shore of the Gorge that significantly predates historical records of Europeans visiting Victoria. Retired security system specialist Bruce Campbell was looking for Victorian-era coins and artefacts along the Gorge Waterway in Victoria on December 13th, 2013, when he found a coin buried three or four inches deep in the mud flats at low tide.

The coin is one millimetre thick and 33 millimetres in diameter and was minted at the Tower of London between 1551 and 1553. For more information see

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/28872>

When the production is complete a copy will be sent to VCKC.



VCKC Annual Events

Please mark these dates in your calendar, whether you will be a volunteer or participant.

Paddle for the Kids (VCKC's annual fundraiser for Camp Shawnigan) sponsored by VCKC's Voyageur Program:	March 28
Wake Up the Gorge (Outrigger races) sponsored by VCKC's Outrigger Program:	Apr 11/12
Switchblade (multi-program race) sponsored by VCKC's Marathon Program:	May 17
Canada Day big boat rides sponsored by VCKC's Voyageur and Dragonboat Programs:	July 1
Guts and Glory (Dragonboat races) sponsored by VCKC's Dragonboat Program:	July 18



Picture of 2014 and 2015 Executive

Standing (left to right): Ryan Ovens, Derrick Jenkins, Maylene McMillan, Ellie James, Barbara Murray, Shawn Hamilton, Dan Walker, Jennifer Yee, Joe Boyd, Debi LaHaise, Sandy Rattray, Anne Ardiel, Kneeling (left to right): Darrelle Butler, Jean Chandler, Victoria Mann, Judy Leonard, Pam Carrolle, Bonnie McPherson

CANOE PROGRAM

Chemainus Delta Traverse 14th February

Valentine's Day - what better gift could you ask for than a day of perfect weather, paddling along new shoreline? The Chemainus river delta, like that of the Cowichan and Koksilah, is a maze of creeks, side-channels and meanders. The Club has run trips in this area from its earliest days - the April 1970 newsletter announces a trip there, with overnight camping on one of the islands off shore. But access to the mouth of the Chemainus is less easy - no public roads lead to it and paddling down the river can lead to log jams, not really suitable for a Club Flatwater trip. The options are to paddle a round trip from either Crofton or Chemainus, or to paddle from one to the other, using a shuttle.

This trip was planned to take advantage of a relatively high tide - 3.1m - in late morning. Almost half of the route crosses water that isn't there at low tides - i.e. it dries out, so timing matters. To this end, the trip was to start at the Clubhouse leaving at 8am, with a view to being on the water soon after 9am. What with later arrivals, no-shows and consequent changes in boats, we actually hit the water after 10am. On the plus side, one of the wind forecasts had shown strong winds up until 10 - 10.30am, so had there been any (there weren't) we'd have been able to launch in any case.

The route leaves from the Kinsmen ramp and crosses the mouth of Chemainus Harbour to Bare Point, following the coast line down towards Crofton. The shoreline is all sloping pudding stone rock slabs, makes you wonder how the trees manage to stay in place on the very thin soil. There are some houses/cottages for the first kilometre, then the Land is Indian Reserve and almost completely undeveloped. The idea was to paddle along the shore, behind Mainguy Island and so up the north arm of the Chemainus delta. We'd done this route back in the 1990s, with only one portage over a log jam. This time

was different - the arm was solidly blocked by multiple trees, stretching for probably 100m or more, so that plan had to be scrapped. So back round Mainguy, with Doug telling tales about his childhood trips to his aunt's house on the island and the fun they had had in the old ramshackle mansion and the surrounding land.

In past years, we have found the delta to have three arms; this year we could only find a one other. We paddled up as far as we could go but, like the north arm, came across log jams at the end of each trickle we followed. A good thing we didn't try the down-river approach. Lunch on the ridge of rock that bounds the delta to the south east, after a tricky climb up the moss-covered slippery-rock. Wonderful views across the delta, Shoal Islands, Saltspring and beyond to the Coat Range, all in sun and no wind. Best weather I can recall we've had on this trip.

Then out to the Shoal Islands and heading to the Crofton pulp mill, where clouds of sulphur-smelling water vapour rose in the sky like a beacon marking the way. The last time we paddled this route, we were stymied by strong winds coming from Osborne Bay and we'd had to land at the mill and walk out back to Crofton to fetch our vehicles. Not so this time - easy paddling with lots of opportunities to noodle in and out and under the jetties and docks of the mill. We arrived in Crofton at the ramp beside the ferry dock about 2.30pm after a very pleasant trip with none of the possible weather issues or portaging problems I had worried about.

The group consisted of 4 canoes and 4 kayaks, and the blend of people and experience worked very well, So thanks to Roger and Diana, Edmond, Brian, Doug, Jack and Linda, Dave and Leigh and Susan for putting up with my slow start and for being such a pleasant paddling group.

Alan Thomson



Photo by
Edmond
Duggan

CANOE PROGRAM (continued)

Upcoming Meetings

A Canoe Program meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, March 24th, 7:30PM. The evening's events will include a slide presentation by esteemed canoeist Rick Bryan and a short workshop on canoe maintenance and repair. Hope you can join us.

Spring Canoe Course Schedule

ALERT! Spring canoe courses (schedule below) begin on Saturday, March 7. There's still time and room to register so please help spread the word or sign up for fun and skill improvement.

Running of the Cows

This year, the Running of the Cows (ROTC) will be held on the May 2-3 weekend. For this annual Club paddle, members and friends test their skill and perseverance by paddling from lake Cowichan to Cowichan Bay (or almost Cowichan Bay) in one day. Please contact Dan Walker canoe@vckc.ca or Joe Boyd voyageur@vckc.ca for details.

Dan Walker

2015 VCKC Spring Canoe Course Schedule (Contact Dan Walker, canoe@vckc.ca for details.)

Canoe Course or Activity	Date	Instructor(s)/Contact	Cost
Lakewater I	March 7th	Alan & Linda Thomson 3135thom@islandnet.com	\$25 + membership (single \$50, family \$70)
Lakewater I	March 21st	Jay Crowley j.crowley@shaw.ca and Ellie James	\$25 + membership
Lakewater II	March 29th	Dan Walker canoe@vckc.ca	\$25 + membership
Moving Water I	April 11 & 12	Jay Crowley j.crowley@shaw.ca, Rick and Alan	\$100 + membership
Lakewater III	April 25	Doug Magnuson magnuson@shaw.ca and Edmond	\$25 + membership
Running of the Cowichan River	May 2-3	Joe Boyd voyageur@vckc.ca	free
Frost Free Weekend	May 9-10	Alan Thomson 3135thom@islandnet.com	free
Ocean Canoeing Course	May 16, 17 & 18 (Classroom ??)	Alan Thomson 3135thom@islandnet.com	\$100 + chart and compass if needed
Moving Water II	Will be offered if sufficient interest	Dan Walker canoe@vckc.ca	\$100 + membership
Basic Poling	May 14 & 19	Tom Staebell thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca	\$35 for flatwater, \$65 for moving water + membership
Lakewater Instructor	Will be offered if sufficient interest	Ellie James ejames123@shaw.ca	TBA

OUTRIGGER PROGRAM

Thanks to all the people that paddle in the Outrigger Program that came out to the first meeting we had. With just taking over the Director's position, I really appreciated the feedback and hearing all the different ideas and suggestions that you have.

We also had a Team Leader meeting, which went very well. Many ideas were passed around and you'll be hearing more about that later this year. This will include a number of different

courses such as: Steering an OC6, Huli drill, Paddling efficiency, Marine First Aid, etc.

I sent out a survey and had a pretty good response (33%) and got a good feeling as to what people's interests are. A big thanks to those who took the time to complete it!

For all those paddlers who are interested in our outrigger paddling program - please contact me. Or, if you would like to be on a substitute list for one of our teams, please contact me (outrigger@vckc.ca).

OUTRIGGER PROGRAM (continued)

Wake Up the Gorge

This year Wake Up the Gorge will be held on April 11th and 12th (Saturday/Sunday) and I hope that all you paddlers will attend as a competitor and or as a volunteer. This is an important event for VCKC and its continued success is dependent on participation by club members. It is suitable for all types of paddlers, recreational and racers alike, and is a fun event for both participants and spectators.

Registration for Wake Up the Gorge is online now and ready to go. So put your teams together and register.

April 11 will be for the large boats (OC6s).

Registration for OC6 races at:

<http://www.vckc.ca/wutg/Wutgregisterform.asp?type=OC6>

April 12 will be the small boat races. The small boat category includes Marathon canoe, OC1, OC2, K1, Surfski, and Stand Up Paddle Boards.

Registration for Small boat races at:

<http://www.vckc.ca/wutg/Wutgregisterform.asp?type=SB>

Congratulations go out to the VCKC paddlers who competed in the V12 races held (Feb.12) by the Fairway Gorge Paddling Club. The race was 10.5 km in length and went from the Fairway Gorge docks to V21 outside Victoria Harbour and back. A V12 is two OC6s lashed together and holds 12 paddlers. The paddlers were led by our own Darrelle Butler and included: Ron Williams, Bon/Susan Lee, Derek Jenkins, Norm MacDonell, Ian MacKenzie, Claire Skillen, Shawn/Molly Hamilton, Isabelle Cliche, and Ryan Ovens. They came in third overall, in very stiff competition (against 16 teams) and won their own heat. Considering they don't practice together as a unit, they did great!

Shawn Hamilton

GORGE WATERWAY INITIATIVE

Wildlife in Colquitz Estuary

by Kitty Lloyd, Gorge Waterway Initiative coordinator

We are coming up to the spring bird nesting season, and as all you paddlers know, that means lots of activity by birds and other wildlife that are busy building nests, raising young and foraging for food in and around the Colquitz River estuary, the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet. Did you know that all of Victoria Harbour, the Gorge and Portage Inlet are part of a federally designated Migratory Bird Sanctuary? The sanctuary also includes all the tidal waters that extend up into Craigflower and Colquitz creeks (e.g. to the Admirals Bridge). Disturbing migratory birds, nests or eggs are prohibited within a MBS.

Great Blue Herons have nested recently in Cuthbert Holmes Park along the Colquitz estuary, and every year there are large numbers of herons that depend on the rich marine life in Portage Inlet and the Gorge to forage and rest. The subspecies of heron on the south coast (*Ardea herodias fannini*) is designated as a species of special concern, warranting extra caution to not disturb them during nesting season. Many other birds (raptors, ducks,

songbirds) also nest and roost in the natural areas around creek estuaries and nearby trees. Here are a few reminders about staying a safe distance from resting and feeding birds and other wildlife so they don't waste precious energy leaving an area when they are disturbed by humans (or their pets):

- Help protect wildlife by staying out of the Colquitz estuary during the prime nesting and rearing season, **from mid-February through the end of August** (federal guidelines)
- Paddle at a steady slow pace to minimize disturbance
- Stay 100m from wildlife
- Protect foraging birds and the fragile intertidal ecosystems of the waterway

For more information about Great Blue Herons:

<http://www.wildlifetree.ca/docs/DWC-Herons.pdf>

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/iwms/documents/Birds/b_greatblueheron.pdf

For more information about the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet:

www.gorgewaterway.ca

VOYAGEUR PROGRAM

34th Annual Voyageur Paddle for the Kids - March 28, 2015

The 2015 Peninsula Paddle for the Kids is now well under way. This annual fundraising event at VCKC is in support of the Lions Society Easter Seal Camp Shawnigan. Funds raised by the club help the Lions Society operate the facility for children and families with special needs. The paddle route follows 75 km of shoreline between Brentwood Bay and the Clubhouse.

February 15th was the official Paddle for the Kids kick-off with a short paddle to Spinnakers, followed by a short tour of Victoria Harbour. This event was well-attended by about 48 paddlers.

There is a Voyageur practice every Sunday in March. All trips start by meeting at the Clubhouse at 8:30am where ride shares and boat towing are arranged. Please bring a paddle, PFD, dry bag, dry clothes, weather-appropriate clothing, food, and water.

Each trip will take up most of the day.

All trips but the first two will start by meeting at the Clubhouse at 8:30am where ride shares and boat towing are arranged. Please bring a paddle, PFD, dry bag, dry clothes, weather-appropriate clothing, food, and water.

This program is open to all VCKC members. If you cannot take part, please consider sponsoring a paddler to raise funds for Camp Shawnigan.

March Practice Dates

Sunday March 1 - Sooke Basin

Sunday March 8 - Ladysmith Harbour (daylight savings - spring ahead)

Sunday March 15 - Maple Bay to Cowichan Bay

Sunday March 22 - Saanich Inlet or Portland Island

Alberta Badlands Brigade - July 5 to 11, 2015

A brigade of voyageur canoes will travel 329 km in six days, in the heart of Alberta, on the Red Deer River from Burbank Park Campground to Dinosaur Provincial Park from Sunday July 6 to Saturday July 11 2015.

Cost: \$2,200 per team which includes

- Camping, facilities
- Early breakfast at the Rosedeer Hotel in Wayne on July 10th
- Badlands Brigade stickers
- Live band at Rosedeer Hotel - July 8th
- Coloured tape for each team to identify gear
- Live music at Tail Creek metis-run campground
- Maps



Paddling the Big Red Canoe to Spinnakers - February 15, 2015 Ken Gibbard, Don Munroe, Debi Lahaise, Dina Buccione, Chark Nipp.

- Voyageur Brigade Membership (insurance purposes)
- Wrap-up BBQ lunch on July 11th at Dinosaur Provincial Park

VCKC will likely send a team to this Brigade, especially if there is interest from club members. If you would like to join a team for this week-long event, contact Joe Boyd (voyageur@vckc.ca) or Ellie James (safety@vckc.ca).

Big Canoe Sterner Course - April 25, 26, 2015

The Big Canoe (Voyageur) Sterner's course will be held this spring on April 25 and 26. This 16-hour course will be of interest to those who want to grow their Voyageur skills to include trip leadership, fancy manoeuvres, and handling large canoes on the open water. The cost is \$100 per student. Pre-requisites include RCABC Canoe levels 1 through 3, plus Voyageur and/or big boat experience is an asset. If you are interested in taking the Big Canoe Sterner Course, contact Joe Boyd voyageur@vckc.ca.

VCKC Executive

Officers

President president@vckc.ca
 250 727-6923
Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca
 Linda Thomson, interim
Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca
 250 658-2442
Secretary secretary@vckc.ca
 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
 Barbara Murray & Judy Leonard 778-433-2510
 250-383-5279
Kayak Program kayak@vckc.ca
 Roy Scully
Outrigger Program outrigger@vckc.ca
 Shawn Hamilton 250 900-0540
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
 Ellie James 250 885-8030
Membership membership@vckc.ca
 Muriel Johnson
Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance) clubhouse@vckc.ca
 Sandy Rattray 250 386-9144
Boat & Locker Storage storage@vckc.ca
 Derek Jenkins
Director at Large (social) director1@vckc.ca
 Bonnie McPherson 778-265-4245
Director at Large (events& volunteers) director2@vckc.ca
 Jennifer Yee
Director at Large (events& volunteers) director3@vckc.ca
 Ryan Ovens 250 813-0635

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor newsletter@vckc.ca
 Maylene McMillan
Webmaster webmaster@vckc.ca
 Victoria Mann

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

March 2015

VCKC Events						
Today	March 2015					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar 1 PFTK Practice (Soc)	2	3 7:30pm VCKC Gene	4	5	6	7 Kan U Hakit
8 A Hui Hoe Small B PFTK Practice (Lad)	9 7pm Executive Meet	10	11	12	13	14 NCKC - Newcastle
15 NCKC NPI Attack PFTK Practice (Map)	16	17 Canoe & Kayak pr	18 VCKC Newsletter D 7pm GWI Meeting	19	20	21 FCRCC March Mad
22 PFTK Practice (Saa)	23	24	25	26	27	28 VCKC Paddle for th VIP Dry Heave Ind
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4

Events shown in time zone: Pacific Time - Vancouver