



# Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

## Newsletter

February 2015

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)

## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club General Meeting Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

### NOTICES

#### **VCKC Lock Codes and Renewal of Membership and Storage**

VCKC's Year End was December 31<sup>st</sup>. Members who have let their membership expire need to renew their membership. Storage that has not been renewed will be assigned to other members on the wait list. The door lock codes will be changed February 1<sup>st</sup>. Current members may access the code by logging onto our website. Please do not share the new code with people whose membership is not current. If somebody known to you asks you for the door code, just open the door for them and remind them to log on to the VCKC website to get it themselves.

#### **VCKC Overflow Parking**

VCKC is again grateful that we are able to park at the rear of the Imperial Hallmark Cleaners (2922 Tillicum Rd) Drycleaners lot. Peter, the owner of the business, rents the building and the parking lot from Fairway Market across the road. Fairways staff also uses this lot for overflow parking.

In order to keep the 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.
- Under no circumstance use any parking spaces in front of the building when there may be customers stopping by.

# EXECUTIVE NEWS

## 2015 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was Tuesday January 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The 2015 VCKC executive is:

### Officers

President	Jean Chandler (continuing)
Vice President	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer	Anne Ardiel (continuing)
Secretary	Debi LaHaise (continuing)
Past President	Pam Carroll (continuing)

### Programs

Canoe Program	Dan Walker (continuing)
Dragon Boat Program	Barbara Murray (executive new member)
Dragon Boat Program	Judy Leonard (executive new member)
Kayak Program	Roy Scully (continuing)
Marathon Program	Darrelle Butler (continuing)
Outrigger Program	Shawn Hamilton (executive new member)
Voyageur Program	Joe Boyd (continuing)

### Other Executive

Education Standards & Safety	Ellie James (executive new member)
Membership	Muriel Johnson (continuing)
Clubhouse & Grounds (Maintenance)	Sandy Rattray (continuing)
Boat & Locker Storage	Derek Jenkins (executive new member)
Director at Large (Social Convenor)	Bonnie McPherson (executive new member)
Director at Large 2 (Events and Volunteers)	Jennifer Yee (executive new position)
Director at Large 3 (Events and Volunteers)	Ryan Ovens (executive new position)

### Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	Maylene McMillan (executive new position)
Web Master	Victoria Shirley Mann (continuing)

### Activities of the New Executive

Renewal of associates and liaisons:

Associate Group Membership renewals;

Gorge Waterway Initiatives (GWI) - The president and treasurer hope to meet with executives from the GWI along with Don Munro who has been our contact representative for the purpose of clarifying our relationship and mutual interests;

Transfer of responsibilities from outgoing members to incoming members;

Review of responsibilities of the executive members; and

Executive follow-up from AGM includes formal appointment of newsletter editor and webmaster as well as acceptance of the budget recommended by the previous executive and the members at the Annual General Meeting.

## EXECUTIVE NEWS

### The New Langley Canoe!

The new Langley is expected in late February, in time for the Paddle for the Kids (PFTK).

### New Floors in the Clubhouse

The Kitchen, hallway and two small rooms upstairs in the clubhouse have new floors.

### Web Development

The web committee listed and prioritized VCKC's requirements for the new site. The executive will review this work and advise of any additions or changes. Once finalized, these requirements can be loaded onto a web platform that is likely to meet VCKC's needs, then tested by executive.

### VCKC Annual Events: 2015 Dates Identified

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 Dragon Boat Programs:	July 1
Guts and Glory (Dragon Boat races) sponsored by VCKC's Dragon Boat Program:	July 18

### Long Term VCKC Planning

The 10-year plan is nearing completion and will be reviewed completed by the 2015 executive. This document and the updating process are used as a guide for executive decision-making.

### Dragon Boat Program

The Dragon Boat Program is planning a kickoff party on Feb 27 or 28 to unite like-minded paddlers who would like to get involved and paddle on a dragon boat team.



Pictured here is the end of the December 2014 Executive meeting. Left to right: Jennifer Yee, Anne Ardiel, Debi LaHaise, Darrelle Butler, Doug Linton, Joe Boyd, Pam Carroll, Ryan Ovens, Jean Chandler Shelley Scott and Roy Scully. Missing are Dan Walker, Erin Sexton, Muriel Johnson, Maylene McMillan, Shelley Scott, Bob Rempel, Victoria Mann and Graham Lloyd.

The 2014 executive worked very hard throughout the year to address the business of the club. For their hard work, I am extremely grateful. Please take a moment to thank each of them for the tremendous amount of volunteer time they have invested in our club this past year. Jean Chandler, President.

## CANOE PROGRAM

### Club Flatwater Paddle Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

A new year and a lot of pent-up paddling energy. In spite of the attraction of a parallel river trip, 28 paddlers in 16 boats turned out to explore Somenos Lake, Creek and Richards Creek. The water level was lower than we'd have liked (5.8M on the gauge on the Forestry rail line trestle), but OK for the outing. In spite of vehicle sharing, there were at least 10 cars/trucks at the put-in, which didn't leave much room for any one arriving later. Thanks to people being on time and quick to move equipment, the Victoria contingent were at the ramp by 9.30 and everyone was on the water by 10.05.

The lake had mist across the surface - we couldn't see the far side, but the honks of geese and swans told us there was more water out there. There was also the presence of a seal in the lake, something Tod has seen before, but I've never noticed. Up Richards Creek past Herd Road and on towards Richards Trail. Our presence disturbed some water fowl, but not as much as the duck hunters in a punt on the adjacent (flooded) field. With 28 chatting paddlers, no ducks were sitting for their 'pleasure'.

The creek bed - really a ditch - could be followed quite far, but new fences with taut barbed wire prevented some of the 'over field' excursions we've enjoyed in the past. We managed a couple of side trips onto parallel fields, but there were always shallow grassy patches to pole over. Also, some of the fields appeared to have been left fallow, which made for more grasses. Peter put on a 'how not to exit your kayak' display, and was lucky to have Tod, John and Brenda nearby to help him to shore and safety.

Lunch on the far side of the lake, dry, no wind and the mist vanished, then on down the rapids of Somenos Creek. There are no rapids, but with a falling tide in Cowichan Bay, there was noticeable current. There was quite a lot of freshwater weed that we hadn't noticed on past trips - probably *Elodea Canadensis*. It is rapidly narrowing the creek below Lakes and Tzouhalem roads, and most people turned back at the latter bridge due to dense weed. It was possible to

proceed further, almost to the Cowichan River, where a log across the stream made further progress impossible without landing and dragging the boats over. As nearly everyone else had turned back at the Tzouhalem Road Bridge, we didn't try this but headed back up stream. The seal made its last appearance just at the log jam: although some say it was a beaver, there was no tail slap, so I am not sure.

In fact, for the first time in a number of years, there was little sign of beaver activity on either Richards or Somenos Creek - no lodges, no freshly cut and peeled twigs of willow. Back on Somenos Lake, there were about 100 swans out in the centre of the lake - lovely to see, and to hear their honking conversation.

All in all, a very good start to the flatwater paddling for 2015. Thanks to all those who turned out, some for the first time - Peter, Ken, Barb, Brian, Wayne, Bon, Susan, John, Brenda, Sandy, Carolyn, Roger, Pat, Tod, Dan, Karen, Mollie, Shawn, Helene, Julie-Ann, Mark, Debbie, Joe, Dina, Jack, Jen and, of course, Linda. dishes and drinks. Thanks to all who took part, especially John and Brenda, absent from this event for a few years, and Don, for whom this was probably his 32<sup>nd</sup> New Year paddle with the Club.

Alan Thomson



## CANOE PROGRAM (continued)

Happy New Year Everyone! The Canoe Program's 2015 paddle season started with a splash last weekend when over thirty Club canoeists participated in Club lake and river paddles. Special thanks to all organizers and participants. Over the coming year, the Club will be offering fairly regular lake and river paddling opportunities. Keep an eye out for email notice of these Club paddles. In addition to the courses, the annual Frost Free Weekend and Running of the Cows (the one day Cowichan lake to Duncan paddle) are open to qualified paddlers.

### **Trip - Lower Cowichan run Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

Twelve canoeists took to the Lower Cowichan River on Sunday, Jan. 11 for the first Eddy-Hopper of the New Year. With a spontaneity shocking for a VCKC event, the trip was organized in 48 hours. Turnout was great, with 4 OC-1s and 4 OC-2s, although only two paddlers were truly qualified for an Eddy-Hopper! Originally envisioned as easy runs for newer, or less-experienced paddlers, Eddy-Hoppers are also popular with veteran river-bashers looking for a mellow trip with old friends. A wealth of instructors, ex-instructors, experienced, and weathered paddlers turned out for the Stoltz Pool to Vimy section of the lower Cowichan with plenty of time for on-river socializing and playing at the Splits and Vimy hole, with the Cow running in the mid-80s.

With the Duncan Gauge reading 1.35 (84 m<sup>3</sup>/s), the river was still in the 'high' range, but many playable features, inundated in recent weeks, were beginning to show. And while the Lower run, (Stoltz Pool to Vimy,) might appear featureless to paddlers in small kayaks, there was a good assortment of eddies, wave trains, and surf waves well suited to larger solo or tandem canoes. In particular, the Vimy Wave was prime for tandem boats, and well worth the wait in line for a turn. Doug still misses the turn for the Vimy takeout every time, and Rick provided ample puns. Some things never change. Thanks to Rick, Tim, Bob, Sharon, Craig, Martin, Anita, Jay, Pete, Lorne, and Jack. Our thanks to Doug Magnuson for organizing the event.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The first Canoe Program meeting for 2015 will be held on **Monday, February 16th, 7:30PM, VCKC Clubhouse**. An email will be sent out as soon as the speaker and activities are confirmed. Hope you can join us for a fun and informative evening.

The Recreational Canoeing Association of BC (RCABC) AGM will be held on April 17-19, 2015 in Hope BC. Members and non-members are welcome, lodging is in cabins or tents and meals and fun evening activities are included with the registration fee. Camp Kawkawa, just outside Hope, is the venue for the conference. Curiously enough, the Camp is located on the shores of Lake Kawkawa. At the core of this meeting are some excellent on-water and off-water canoeing workshops and clinics. In addition, there are some nice hikes in the area.

### **Spring Canoe Course Schedule**

Details for this spring's canoe course schedule are shown in the table below. Please contact either the Lead Instructor or Dan Walker at [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca) to sign up or get details for the course of interest. Certification in Lakewater I, the introductory tandem course, entitles Club members to use Club boats privately for practice on the Gorge Waterway above Tillicum Bridge. Members taking advantage of this Club benefit must follow Club boat use policies. Club canoes can be reserved by emailing the Canoe Program Director, [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca) for approval.

Course details can be found at <http://www.bccanoe.com/>

Dan Walker

## CANOE PROGRAM (continued)

### 2015 VCKC 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 thestatbellfamily@shaw.ca	\$35 for flatwater, \$65 for moving water + membership
Lakewater Instructor	Will be offered if sufficient interest	Ellie James ejames123@shaw.ca	TBA

## DRAGON BOAT PROGRAM

As your new co-directors of the VCKC Dragon Boating program, we would like to welcome you back to dragon boating, and to welcome you for the first time if you've never dragon boated before. We are delighted to have you join us and help us in any way you can. Our goal is to revive the program, put on a fabulous Guts and Glory on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> (our club's own little dragon boat festival), and have at least 3 teams (1 mixed, 1 woman's and 1 grandmaster). We'd like to encourage our teams to participate in the following festivals, possibly by sending united teams if need be: Nanaimo (July 10-12), Victoria (August 14-16), and either Portland or San Francisco (September).

Boat maintenance, planning a pre-season kick-off party, and recruiting are at the top of our agenda, so if you can help or have any

suggestions for us on anything dragon boating we would love to hear from you. We are hoping to have the boat in the water by the end of March and have practices start soon after. So we will be busy and needing help before we can make the March deadline happen.

Our **VCKC Dragon Boat Season Kick-Off** is **Friday February 27<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9 pm**. Please pass along the word to anyone and everyone who might want to join a fun dragon boating team at VCKC. We look forward to receiving any concerns or suggestions you may have, and are very excited the dragon boating season will be here soon. We hope you are excited too. Again, thank you and welcome and see you soon.

Barbara Murray and Judy Leonard,  
VCKC 2015 Dragon Boat Co-Directors

## VOYAGEUR PROGRAM

### 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Voyageur Paddle for the Kids - March 28, 2015

Planning for the 2015 Peninsula Paddle for the Kids is getting under way. This annual fundraising event at VCKC is in support of the Lions Society Easter Seal Camp at Shawnigan Lake. The camp allows children with disabilities to enjoy a summer camp experience in a safe environment. Funds raised by the club help the Lions Society operate the facility for children and families with special needs.

The route follows the shore of the Saanich Peninsula from Brentwood Bay to the Clubhouse. We paddle Voyageur canoes with two teams of 6 or 7 per boat. Each team paddles up to 2 hours and then switches off with another team. The whole trip is about 40 miles and takes 10-12 hours to complete. Bus transportation, great food, and a warm dry rest area are provided by the local Lions Club. It all makes for a great day of paddling for a good cause.

The paddle will take place this year on **Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>**. There will be 7 practice paddles leading up to that date. Practice paddles can be the best part of the program. You can expect an adventure on every outing.

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 can't paddle with us, please remember to help support Camp Shawnigan.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Boyd: [voyageur@vckc.ca](mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca) Tel: 250-386-6004

#### Practice Trips and Dates

Sunday February 8th - Portage Inlet - Intro to Voyageur (9:30 am start)

Sunday February 15th - Victoria Harbour (9:30 am start)

Sunday February 22nd - Discovery Island or Shawnigan Lake

Sunday March 1st - Sooke Basin

Sunday March 8th - Ladysmith Harbour

Sunday March 15th - Maple Bay - Cowichan Bay

Sunday March 22nd - Portland Island or Saanich Inlet





## VCKC Executive

### Officers

**President** [president@vckc.ca](mailto:president@vckc.ca)  
 Jean Chandler  
 250 727-6923  
**Vice-president**  
 vacant  
**Treasurer** [treasurer@vckc.ca](mailto:treasurer@vckc.ca)  
 Anne Ardiel  
 250 658-2442  
**Secretary** [secretary@vckc.ca](mailto:secretary@vckc.ca)  
 Debi LaHaise  
 250 388-3691  
**Past President** [pastpres@vckc.ca](mailto:pastpres@vckc.ca)  
 Pam Carroll  
 250 479-8878

### Program Directors

**Canoe Program** [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca)  
 Dan Walker  
 250 721-6913  
**Dragonboat Program** [dragonboat@vckc.ca](mailto:dragonboat@vckc.ca)  
 Barbara Murray &  
 Judy Leonard  
 250-383-5279  
**Kayak Program** [kayak@vckc.ca](mailto:kayak@vckc.ca)  
 Roy Scully  
**Outrigger Program** [outrigger@vckc.ca](mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca)  
 Shawn Hamilton  
 250 900-0540  
**Marathon Canoe Program** [marathon@vckc.ca](mailto:marathon@vckc.ca)  
 Darrelle Butler  
**Voyageur Program** [voyageur@vckc.ca](mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca)  
 Joe Boyd  
 250 386-6004

### Other Executive

**Education, Standards & Safety** [safety@vckc.ca](mailto:safety@vckc.ca)  
 Ellie James  
 250 885-8030  
**Membership** [membership@vckc.ca](mailto:membership@vckc.ca)  
 Muriel Johnson  
**Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance)** [clubhouse@vckc.ca](mailto:clubhouse@vckc.ca)  
 Sandy Rattray  
 250 386-9144  
**Boat & Locker Storage** [storage@vckc.ca](mailto:storage@vckc.ca)  
 Derek Jenkins  
**Director at Large (social)** [director1@vckc.ca](mailto:director1@vckc.ca)  
 Bonnie McPherson  
 778-265-4245  
**Director at Large (events& volunteers)** [director2@vckc.ca](mailto:director2@vckc.ca)  
 Jennifer Yee  
**Director at Large (events& volunteers)** [director3@vckc.ca](mailto:director3@vckc.ca)  
 Ryan Ovens  
 250 813-0635

### Executive Appointed Positions

**Newsletter Editor** [newsletter@vckc.ca](mailto:newsletter@vckc.ca)  
 Maylene McMillan  
**Webmaster** [webmaster@vckc.ca](mailto:webmaster@vckc.ca)  
 Victoria Mann

**Note: The next deadline for submissions for the newsletter is February 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## February 2015

VCKC Events						
Today February 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Feb	2	3	4	5	6	7
		19:00 Instructor Re 19:30 VCKC Genera	19:00 WUTG Comm	19:00 DB Organizing	11:15 GWI - VCKC	Gorge V-12 Races
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
PFTK Practice (Por		19:00 Executive Me				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
PFTK Practice (Vic	19:30 Canoe Progra		VCKC Newsletter D			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
PFTK Practice (Sha					19:00 DB Kick-Off	

Events shown in time zone: Pacific Time - Vancouver