



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

June 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, June 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Notices

June General Meeting

The June monthly general meeting is our annual spring barbecue. Please bring your own barbecue item and drinks, and something to share for the potluck table.

New Summer BBQ's at VCKC!

Come to the Clubhouse on the first Tuesday in July and August to socialize with your paddling friends. Meet at 5pm for a social paddle and stay for the BBQ or come at 6pm to join the BBQ!

This is a great time to meet up with fellow paddlers to plan summer trips and share your paddling adventures.

Bring something for the BBQ and a dessert or salad to share.

Looking forward to seeing you this summer, July 7th and August 4th

Clubhouse and Gorge Cleanups

The Spring cleanup of the VCKC clubhouse/grounds and Gorge waterway went well. Thanks to all who participated especially to Wendy Clapp, Jack Louis and Linda Thomson who organized the club cleanup and to Don Munro who organizes the Gorge cleanup. Thanks also to our sponsors for the waterway cleanup, Sooke Disposal, Tim Hortons, and the CRD.

Clubhouse cleanup and Gorge cleanup are held on the 4th Saturday each April.

Clubhouse cleanup is also held the 1st Saturday each November.

July 1st Canada Day Celebrations on Gorge Road

VCKC will give boat rides and the clubhouse will be used by the community association for the annual Strawberry Tea. Donations from the rides will go to Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Please volunteer!

Centennial Canoe Race

Prince George, Sunday, July 12th. It is the old Northern Hardware Race and is being run to celebrate PG's Centennial. See poster on last page of newsletter for details.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

VCKC VOLUNTEERS AT WORK AND PLAY

June General Meeting - June 2nd at 5:30 p.m.
The June monthly general meeting is our annual spring barbecue. Please bring your own barbecue item and drinks, and something to share for the potluck table.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Picnic

On Saturday, June 6th VCKC volunteers will be providing voyageur rides to the public at the Big Brothers/Big Sister picnic at Esquimalt Kinsman Park across from the clubhouse. Volunteers who would like to help please contact Joe Boyd at voyageur@vckc.ca.

Iron-Man

Jennifer Yee is still looking for a few volunteers. Anyone wishing to participate on Sunday, June 14th please contact Jennifer as soon as possible at director2@vckc.ca.

Portable Dock

A second portable dock will be made by VCKC volunteers in time for the July 1st Canada Day boat rides. If you would like to help, contact Alan Thomson at 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Canada Day Boat Rides and Tea

Judy Leonard will be organizing VCKC's participation in the July 1st Canada Day Celebrations on Gorge Road. The clubhouse will be used by the community association for the annual Strawberry Tea. The donations from the rides will go to Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Calling all volunteers - please email Judy (dragonboat@vckc.ca) to help.

July and August Barbecues

Due to the increasing activity at the clubhouse in the summer, the executive decided to have two social barbecues during the summer. Look for more information on these fun activities in this newsletter. Darrelle Butler (marathon@vckc.ca) is planning a fun get together July 7th and Judy Leonard (dragonboat@vckc.ca) will plan the August 4th get together.

Mountain Equipment Paddlefest

MEC Paddlefest is Saturday July 18th at Willows Beach from 10:00 until 4:00. Many thanks to Dan Walker (canoe@vckc.ca), Canoe Program Director for coordinating VCKC volunteers to represent the club and provide introductions to canoeing at this event.

Clubhouse and Gorge Waterway Clean Up

Sandy Rattray (clubhouse@vckc.ca) and Don

Munroe (voyageurguy@shaw.ca) were pleased with the success of the house and water clean-up day on Sat April 25th. Thanks to the many volunteers who came to help out and to Linda Thomson, Jack Louis and Wendy Clapp.

Youth in the Community

Saanich Parks and Recreation Youth Development Strategy held a strategy planning meeting. Tim Marks and daughter Dawn represented VCKC.

Kayak Bookings

Linda Hall has agreed to help our Kayak Program Director, Roy Scully by assuming responsibility for member request to book out the VCKC Kayaks. Contact Linda at kayakbooking@vckc.ca.

Ocean Training for Outrigger Paddlers

Alan Thomson, one of our two lifetime members, an ocean canoeing instructor and a voyageur instructor completed an evening training course for many outrigger paddlers. Feedback on the course has been very positive and spontaneously given. It was a great success. Shawn Hamilton, our Outrigger Director made this course a requirement for any stern wishing to paddle outrigger out of Cadboro Bay this summer. It was open to all outrigger paddlers. Thanks to both who have our member safety in mind.

YOUR EXECUTIVE AT WORK

Gorge Waterway Initiatives (GWI)

Derek Jenkins (storage@vckc.ca) attended the GWI meeting with Don Monroe (voyageurguy@shaw.ca). We are happy to have two representatives involved in the Gorge Waterway Initiatives group. Derek is actively sharing VCKC executive views with the GWI. GWI has increased its ability to influence development decisions to ensure protection of the environment.

New VCKC Website

Victoria Mann, our Webmaster (victoriavckc@gmail.com) is proceeding with the development of our new website based on executive input and basic approval of the look and feel of the drafted website. Merge Creative (an Alberta web design company) is working with Victoria to create our new site on Wild Apricot Web software (for small associations and non-profits). Victoria is facilitating its rapid development on our behalf.

EXECUTIVE NEWS (continued)

A Big Thank you from the BC Lyons Society

A copy of the thank you letter for VCKC funding for Camp Shawnigan is in this newsletter. The executive heartily thanks Joe Boyd, our Voyageur Program Director, the sterns, the paddlers, the fundraisers and the reception committee for contributing to our most successful Paddle for the Kids.

Mountain Equipment Cards \$25 Gift Cards

Bonnie McPherson obtained four \$25 MEC gift cards that will be included in the 2015 VCKC Christmas party raffle. Funds raised will be donated to Big Brothers and Big Sisters as approved at the December 2014 executive meeting.

Introduction to Outrigger Paddling

Outrigger Director, Shawn Hamilton is working with Marathon Director Darrelle Butler and Dragon Boat Director Judy Leonard to prepare a presentation to the June executive meeting for 3 monthly Saturday afternoons this summer when VCKC members may introduce paddling to the public for a small fee.

Voyageurs to SD61

In 1967 the federal government purchased a number of voyageurs for a centennial paddle across Canada. Following the celebrations, these boats were divvied up among the provinces. Ultimately, SD61 received 3 boats and worked with VCKC Lifetime Member Don Munroe to develop a paddling program at Esquimalt High School. Once VCKC obtained the lease of our current property, a decision was made to store the Alberta, Northwest Territories and the Blue Heron at VCKC. Over time, the Esquimalt program became less involved with these voyageurs. Tim Marks, VCKC Associate Group Member contact for Shoreline School has been developing a significant paddling program. Shoreline now has a compound, paddles and pfd's and a program available to the whole district. Many thanks to Joe Boyd for bringing this history to the executive and requesting that the boats be relocated at the SD61 compound at Shoreline. The executive agreed and decided to transfer possession of these boats to SD61, to assist with the ongoing development of young paddlers.

Dragon Boating

Barbara Murray (one of our Dragonboat Co-Directors) is building the program and its connections with the paddling community. She is

exploring an agreement to share boats with the Fairway Gorge club in order to better meet the needs of both clubs. A final decision has not been made. Congratulations to both Barbara and Judy Leonard who are working diligently to bring this program back to its previous levels of member participation.

Guts 'n Glory, the annual Dragon boat event will be on July 18th. Watch the new 2015 GnG webpage, <http://vckc.ca/gutsnglory/> as details are uploaded. Thanks to Judy and Barbara for including our event in the Western Canada and USA Dragon Boating event pages.

Outrigger Successes

Shawn Hamilton, our Outrigger Director, has been working on the maintenance of the outriggers. The old iakos have been repaired and new ones ordered. Boat damage has been repaired.

Additionally, program procedures, meeting and training have been reviewed and completed.

The annual outrigger event, Wake up the Gorge, was highly successful with teams coming from far and wide. The clubhouse was alive with paddlers and volunteers. Thanks to all who helped make this event so well received and to Shawn who worked tirelessly to make it happen.

Marathon Program Annual Event

Although our marathon paddlers compete throughout the world and do very well, Darrelle Butler, our Marathon Director, introduced the Switch Blade race to VCKC a few years ago. This unique race is a relay that involves many forms of paddling. This year's race on May 17th will be completed by the time this newsletter goes to print. Thanks to all of you who volunteered and participated in this fun event. And a big thanks to Darrelle who works tirelessly to help VCKC members have fun while improving their paddling skills.

INCOME AND EXPENSES

The executive decided to reorder the capital budget priorities. Two new sets of iakos will be purchased for \$1279.00. CORA has agreed to provide VCKC with a \$1000.00 grant with a copy of our receipt for this purchase. The net charge to the capital budget will be \$279.00.

The executive approved spending above the \$600 Voyageur budget for a boat cover to protect from ultraviolet rays, additional floatation, and VCKC decals.

MARATHON PROGRAM

Switchblade 2015

It was an exciting race! Changes to the kayak, SUP and MC courses which included a buoy turn in front of the VCKC dock made for a lot of excitement. Mass starts for all of the small boat legs meant that racers knew right away how they did in their individual event. At Colberg Spit spectators were able to see the OC1 finish and the Surf ski start.

Then, all team members raced together in an OC6 for the final leg. It was a staggered start with the first place team leaving first and then teams followed in order with 30 second intervals. The second place team managed to pass and beat the first place team by about 60 seconds, but it was not enough to take the overall first prize. Comox the reigning champions took home first place for the fourth time.

All enjoyed sharing stories and dinner at the Clubhouse after the race.

To see photos of this exciting event go to: <http://bluegiraffephoto.zenfolio.com/p671083754>

The Marathon Program wants to thank all of the club members, volunteers, and racers that helped make this year's Switchblade Race a success!

Special Thanks to our sponsors: Hoyne Brewery; Fairway Markets; and Ocean River Sports.



Switchblade 1st place winners



Switchblade 2nd place winners

OUTRIGGER PROGRAM

Iakos

We do have some good news regarding our iakos for the two Calmar outriggers we own. Our grant for funding two new sets of iakos has been approved. So we have placed an order with Western Canoeing and Kayaking (WCAK) to make them for us. WCAK has a set of the correct templates for our Calmar OC6s. We hope to receive the new iakos by the end of June if all goes well with WCAK. In the mean time I'll continue to refinish and re-rig the ones we currently have.

OC6 Steering Clinic

This is still in the planning stages and we should hope to announce more about this very soon. This will likely be held very close to the same time as the steering clinic (this September).

OC6 Introduction Clinic

This is still in the planning stages and we should hope to announce more about this very soon. This will likely be held very close to the same time as the steering clinic (this September).

Cadboro Bay

The location for the storage of the OC6s while in Cadboro Bay has not yet been made. Access and security being the main issues, with the length of time available figuring in to that, too.

The Ocean Paddling Familiarization course put on by Alan Thomson for those wanting to paddle on Cadboro Bay was well attended by over 30 members. Many people came away with a much better understanding of what is needed to have a safe paddle in that area. If you plan on

OUTRIGGER PROGRAM (continued)

paddling in Cadboro Bay, then please make safety your biggest concern for you and all your crew. Weather, tide and crew members' physical capabilities should be highest in your decision to go out paddling in that area.



Alan Thomson photo by Wendy Clapp

Comments

With Dragon Boat season in swing the OC6 teams are not quite as active. If you need paddlers to fill your teams, please contact the OC6 team leaders and they should be able to pass on paddler's names to fill any empty seats you might have.

Once again, thanks to those team leaders who continue to fill out the OC6 sign out sheets and clean the boats after use.

If you have any great ideas/suggestions for the outrigger program feel free to contact me. If for some reason you find out that your fellow paddlers did not receive this email, **please** have them contact me, as my email list may be incomplete.

Shawn - Outrigger Program Director

DRAGONBOAT PROGRAM

We had a sterning clinic on Saturday, May 9th and had 5 people try it out. Thanks to Bon Lee for putting this on. We have 2 teams going out at the moment and are expecting a 3rd one to start in June.

Guts 'n Glory

Guts and glory is going ahead Saturday, July 18th you can register now! Go to our VCKC web site

vckc.ca/gutsnnglory and register your team.

Early-bird price ends May 31st. Calling on all paddlers and volunteers to help us make our own Dragonboat festival here at VCKC a success!! All teams still accepting paddlers. If you are interested please give Barb or Judy a call or e-mail us at dragonboat@vckc.com

CANOE PROGRAM

Wow! Another Newsletter deadline. I was away for half of May so I'm not sure what happened although I have positive reports that the "Running of the Cows" (the annual running of the Cowichan River) was a fun event for all. This year nineteen paddlers took on the challenge and most ran the Cowichan Canyon. Thanks to Joe Boyd for all the organizational work and all others helping the group complete a long journey lasting from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Photo by Edmond Duggan

May 21st Amei Mai, a teacher at Monterey School, brought 60 eighth graders by the Club for basic canoe safety and paddle training. According to a phone report from our President, Jean Chandler, the day went wonderfully, with the kids picking up some paddling skills and having a lot of fun in the process. Double special thanks to Jean, Ellie James, Rick Bryan, Jay Crowley and Alan Thomson for giving up their day to help a bunch of 8th graders learn the basics of safe paddling.

Also in late April and early May, Alan Thomson taught both the classroom sessions of an Ocean Canoeing course and ran an Ocean trip. Not having heard anything bad, I'll assume this went extremely well, to the immense satisfaction of all participants. We're very fortunate to have Instructors like Alan in the Club to open the way for an amazing array of paddling adventures. Photos (thanks to Edmond Duggan) from the Ocean Canoeing Course trip follow.

CANOE PROGRAM (continued)

SPECIAL TRIBUTE!

Rick Bryan - VCKC Club member, canoe tripper, non-cranky retired teacher, almost unstoppable whitewater paddler and great guy (photo by Edmond Duggan below). Rick joined the Club a few years ago, after retiring and moving to the Island, and has been a tireless promoter of river of river paddling. Almost -no, strike that - every week Rick is organizing, daring, cajoling and urging paddlers to take to the river for a day of fun and skill improvement. Thanks Rick! Plus, Rick is always suggesting new ways I can enhance the Canoe Program. Gee, thanks Rick.



Upcoming Courses?

Yes, the VCKC Canoe Program is offering some last minute courses on June 6th and 13th. Lakewater 1 and 2 <http://www.bccanoe.com/> are one day courses that will be offered to Club members on both days. Please contact Dan Walker, canoe@vckc.ca for details.

Ocean Canoeing Trip Photos



VOYAGEUR PROGRAM

There are a few events over the summer months. All VCKC members are welcome, no experience necessary.

Date	Event	Description
June 6 11 am to 3 pm	Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual BBQ	Paddle the Voyageur and our portable dock across to Gorge Park and give rides to young kids and families.
July 1 8 am to 4 pm (shift work available)	Gorge Canada Day Picnic	Celebrate Canadian heritage by providing the public with Voyageur rides
August 2	Symphony Splash	Join us for a short paddle down to the Inner Harbour to enjoy a front-row seat with the Victoria Symphony. This one is a club classic!

Thompson River Trip - Saturday and Sunday, September 12th and 13th, 2015

This is a terrific two-day Voyageur event. The trip requires some planning and logistical arrangements to be made, so if, having read the description below, you want to take part, please let me know by Friday, Sept. 4th at the latest.

There is space for 10 paddlers. First come, first served. Paddlers taking their own canoes must have taken and passed the moving water tandem course. Paddlers in Voyageur canoes do not need formal moving water experience.

General Description

This trip runs the Thompson River between the bridge at Savona (Steelhead Provincial Park) and Ashcroft. We will use voyageurs: tandem and solo boats can come if they have airbags. While the big canoes will be provided, bring your own PFD and paddle. No river paddling skills are required if you plan to paddle in a voyageur, but it is helpful to have paddled in one of them before.

The river is large, generally flat, but with a good current. There are some good waves, but nearly all can be avoided if needed. The biggest set of waves comes early on, after the first bridge. Thereafter, they are generally smaller, less severe, and/or more avoidable. The weather is likely to be warm and the river not too cold, although there may be a head wind in the afternoon. Wet suits can be worn, but are not a requirement. There is some history to the area - the Wallachin settlement pre WW1 - and the scenery is lovely. On past experience, the day time temperatures should be quite warm, but the early mornings and evenings can be chilly.

Accommodation

We camp at Juniper Beach Provincial Park, which is half way between Cache Creek and Savona on the TCH from Cache Lytton to Kamloops. The Park is on the banks of the

Thompson River. There is tent camping on the lawn there; most users are trailer campers. There are toilets, showers and drinkable water. Sites cannot be booked, but we have not had any difficulties in past years. For details, see the website http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/exp/lore/parkpgs/juniper_bch/
Cost is \$21 per party per night for tent camping, \$25 if hooked up to electricity. The phone number is 250-457-6794.

The site is bracketed by two railway tracks, one next door to the campsite, the other across the river. If you don't like being woken up at night, take ear-plugs to dull the sound of the trains and their whistles. Also note that there are prickly pear cactuses in the scrub/bush beyond the campsite, so don't go beyond the park without thick-soled footwear. For those who don't camp, there are motels in Cache Creek and Ashcroft. There are no restaurants or fast food places near the Juniper Beach campsite - you need to be self-sufficient for food or willing to drive >15 minutes each way to the nearest diner.

Transport

Up to individuals, but if people commit, sharing of vehicles can be arranged. People who are working can catch the 5 p.m. ferry and drive up to Juniper Beach arriving between 11 p.m. and midnight. If you are driving up the Fraser Canyon, Juniper Beach is about 18kms east of Cache Creek - the sign is easily seen. If you go up the Coquihalla, head back towards Cache Creek and the park is < 10 kms west of the Savona Bridge. On the Sunday, we will leave in time to catch the 7, 8 or 9 o'clock ferry back to Victoria.

Program - Saturday

Drive boats and people up to Savona Bridge, east of Juniper Beach - about 20 minute drive. Unload boats, then shuttle vehicles to Ashcroft. Drivers return in one vehicle to put-in - about a

VOYAGEUR PROGRAM (continued)

1 hr shuttle. Paddle down river to Juniper Beach campsite where we have lunch - no need to pack one. Then paddle down to Ashcroft in the afternoon. The take-out is conveniently close to a pub; back to the campsite for dinner.

Program - Sunday

Drive boats to the put-in again, and paddle to Juniper Beach - half day run. We aim to be packed and on the road to Tsawassen by about 2p.m.

In past years, some members of the Thompson River and Interior Paddling Society (TRIPS) have joined us, which adds to the fun.

Costs

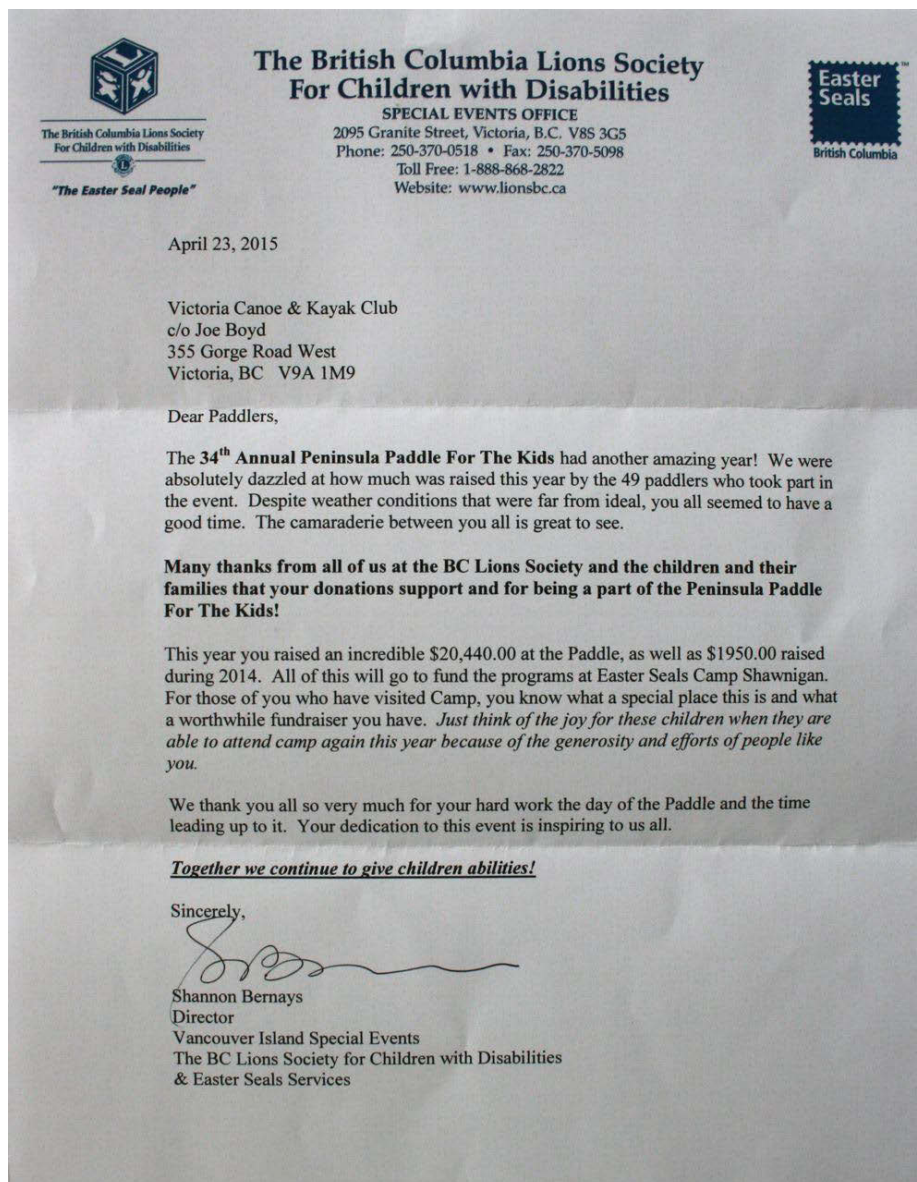
Transportation - ferry, gas - obviously reduced if shared. It is about 400km each way, so work out the costs based on your car's mileage.

Camping - see above. [\$21 per party per night]

Food - depends on what you eat and where. We usually have a beer or two in Ashcroft, and some people eat there, too.

Boats - paddlers in the voyageur canoes will have to contribute to TRIPS for the use of their voyageur or to pay for the cost of renting and transporting the other voyageur canoes from Maple Ridge. The estimated cost is \$30 per paddler, based on the rental charge for three canoes plus a share of the gas money. [Taking the Club voyageurs would cost the same, due to the ferry fares and require towing the boats further.]

If you have any questions, call or e-mail. I will also be at the September General Meeting on September 1. Joe, Voyageur Program Director



VCKC Executive

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

June 2015

VCKC Events						
Today June 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 7pm Alberta Brigadi	Jun 1	2 7:30pm VCKC Gener	3	4	5	6 Big Brothers/Big S
7	8 12:30pm Esquimalt H 7pm Executive Meet	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 VCKC Newsletter D	19 Alcan Dragon Boat	20 Alcan Dragon Boat
21 Alcan Dragon Boat	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 8:30am Canada Day 9am Strawberry Tei	Jul 1	2	3	4
Events shown in time zone: Pacific Time - Vancouver						

THE NORTHERN HARDWARE

Centennial Canoe Race

Sunday, July 12, 2015



Celebrate Prince George's Centennial and the history of this beautiful land and waterways in the territory of the Lheidli T'enneh. Explorers Alexander Mackenzie and Simon Fraser paddled these rivers with First Nations guides en route to the Pacific Ocean passing by what is now our City of Prince George.

Alexander Mackenzie Category

67.5 km from Isle Pierre

Mens', Womens', Mixed & Grand Masters (60+).
Only for tandem canoes.

Simon Fraser Category

35 km from Miworth/Wilkins Park: Open & Youth
(16-18yrs). *Open to all types of paddling craft: canoes,
kayaks and stand-up paddle boards.*



Race down the historic Nechako and Fraser rivers finishing at Fort George Park. Post-race salmon barbeque prepared in partnership with Intégris and Native Friendship Centre at Fort George Park. Spectator viewing at Wilkins Park, Cameron Street Bridge, Cottonwood Island Park and Fort George Park.



**OVER \$5000
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