

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club Newsletter

October 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, October 6, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Notices

October General Meeting

Please come early if you can to help move the Dragon Boat into the storage compound. The meeting will be followed by an interactive presentation by the new Harbour Manager, Mariah McCooey. She will talk about the do's and don'ts while paddling in the inner harbour and will update us on the Mega Yacht Marina Development.

Club PFDs - Just a reminder

The number of PFDs owned by VCKC has fallen over the last year. They are primarily for our community events to be used by non-members and for new members for their first few paddles with us. All VCKC members are encouraged to purchase their own PFDs.

VCKC Emergency Kits

It is the responsibility of all members who use the first aid and boat repair kits to keep them clean and dry. If supplies are damaged or waterlogged, then the user must report it to the program director.

Clubhouse Security

There were fewer issues with the clubhouse doors and windows left open this past summer than in 2014. Thank you to all for remembering to close the door when you are not near to it. However, there are still problems with the combination padlocks to the storage areas. They do not lock by just pushing them closed. The numbers have to be scrambled in the tumbler in order for them to be locked.

Clubhouse Use

Non-member use of the clubhouse is limited to paddling related or Gorge related organizations. Advance approval by executive is required. Clubhouse use is not allowed for non-paddling socials of members or their friends.

Club Cleanup

Club cleanup is coming up on Saturday, Nov. 7th at 9:00 am. Please bring what you can for indoor or outdoor work.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

VCKC MEMBERS AT WORK AND PLAY Dock Resurfaced

Sandy Rattray (House and Ground Director) reported that the dock deck replacement nears completion. We now have a long-lasting yellow cedar surface that should last for many years. VCKC owes many thanks to all the volunteers who helped this project along: getting supplies, measuring and cutting wood, carrying planks, ripping up old and screwing down new boards. Special thanks to Doug, Bill and Alan who spent many hours obtaining the wood and working on the dock.



Bill, Doug, and Sandy working on the deck



Sandy, Bill and Doug working on the deck

Summer Barbecues

There was a lot of fun and activity at the summer barbecues. One had a pre-dinner paddle and the other did not. Members have asked executive to continue these events and the executive agreed to recommend their continuation.

Fund Raiser

VCKC loaned 2 voyageurs and an OC6 on September 12 to the Paddle for Health that raised over \$31,000 for the Vancouver Island Family Support program of the BC Childhood Cancer Parents Association.

Medical Issues

All members who have medical issues that may occur during the time you are on a VCKC paddle are asked to let the trip lead know of you medical issue and appropriate care for you.

YOUR EXECUTIVE AT WORK

Succession Planning

Now is the time of year that executive start to consider whether they would like to continue in their current role on the executive or volunteer in some other way. At this point, the executive is looking for persons interested in the Treasurer, Vice President and Storage Director positions.

Most urgent is the need for a Secretary who would begin now and continue for 2016 and a Vice President for 2016 who will be willing to take on the role of President the following year (2017). Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the incumbent to discuss the responsibilities and to possibly sit in on one of the remaining executive meetings this year.

Club Equipment - PFDs

All members are encouraged to purchase their own PFDs as the club PFDs are intended for use during club events for non-members.

Our Safety Director, Ellie James scrutinized and inventoried the club PFDs. Ellie reported the current number of PFDs by size and identified 11 for disposal. The numbers have fallen from 193 to 110 (83 less including the 11 for disposal). She recommended that VCKC obtain net bags to contain the child PFDs.

The executive is asking for feedback from volunteers who helped with community events like Canada Day and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters picnic to advise how many of which size we are short for these events. Program directors are determining how many are needed for their program.

Environment Web Links

The executive agreed to put links on our website which reflect our philosophy regarding environmental issues. This may not happen until the new web site is up and running.

EXECUTIVE NEWS (continued)

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Capital income and expenses

Year to date Income for Capital purchases has exceeded the budget. Items identified for Capital expenditure are prioritized each year at the Annual General Meeting. The executive has the ability to adjust the priorities based on the urgency of items and the ability to proceed. Although the renewed storage compound was the highest priority, delays in design have pushed the expected completion date ahead into next year. Capital expenses approved by executive this year includes: wharf repair materials, 2 new sets of lakos, a Langley big canoe and Website development. At the October meeting the executive will consider holding a reserve for the storage compound, the proposed new river canoe and a replacement big boat trailer.

2016 Budget

The executive is starting to develop the 2016 budget. Each executive member is working within the VCKC 10-Year plan and developing a three-year plan for their area of responsibility. They may be asking you for your input!

THIS AND THAT: NOTICES AND REMINDERS VCKC Emergency Kits

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Events and other social activities often result in food (spills and garbage) left in the clubhouse.

Clubhouse Cleanliness

VCKC members are responsible for cleaning up after all events. This includes spills on the floor, cleaning kitchen linen, putting tables and chairs away, taking out compost (and inserting a new bag) and in general, treat it as you would your own home. If something is dirty, clean it; if something is broken, repair or report it; if something is left open, close and lock it. As with any shared kitchen, do not take things out of the refrigerator that are not yours, and conversely label food left in the fridge for future use.

VCKC has a cleaning contract that does not include all the cleaning that needs to be done. Here are the terms of the contract:

The Service Provider shall provide the following services ("Services") to VCKC • Maintain the clubhouse main and lower floor and passageways in a tidy and orderly state.

- Maintain the main floor and lower floor washrooms in a clean, sanitary and stocked state.
- Maintain the main floor kitchen and lower floor utility sink area in a clean, sanitary and stocked state.

1.2 Terms and Conditions

- To provide cleaning duties on a regular weekly basis. If absent, sick or unable to complete these tasks for more than 1 week contact designated club executive -VCKC Treasurer and/or VCKC President.
- 2. Performing various cleaning activities to include:
 - a. Clean washrooms wash floors, supply toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, sanitize toilets, sinks & tub;
 - b. Clean kitchen (excluding oven) including check fridge & discard food, sanitize sink, counters and stove top, stock essential cleaning products;
 - Clean floors vacuum main floor including meeting rooms and stairwell, weekly and lower level cement floor every second week. Damp mop floors as necessary;
 - d. General dusting such as windows ledges, fireplace mantle;
 - e. Remove garbage, compostable material, deposit returns & blue box recyclables from main & lower floor in timely manner;
 - f. Provide funds from refundable bottles & material to VCKC Treasurer for sponsoring Big Brothers & Big Sisters.
 - Purchase extra garbage tickets, cleaning products and toiletries at club expense;
 - h. Sanitize lower level utility sink and counter and remove clutter.

Services Not Included

- Cleanup post club activity members expected to sweep floors & clean up
- Twice yearly cleaning tasks as per Appendix 1

EXECUTIVE NEWS (continued)

Task List VCKC Club House Twice Yearly Cleaning - spring and fall-

Tasks to do

- 1. Clean Windows Inside and Out
- 2. Wash window sill
- 3. Vacuum pulling out furniture and chairs where necessary
- 4. Vacuum ceilings especially in corners (may use broom and cloth)
- 5. Dust and tidy mantle in meeting room
- 6. Dust tops of picture frames

- 7. Wash floors
- 8. Wash baseboards
- Wash stove, burner rings. Check oven and clean as necessary
- 10. Clean out fridge and wash
- 11. Clean bathrooms thoroughly
- 12. Clean out kitchen cupboards and tidy them (use some bleach in the water- signs of silverfish)
- 13. Wash fingerprints off walls
- 14. Tidy office and change room
- 15. Vacuum or s lower level floors as needed.

VOYAGEUR PROGRAM

The Badlands Brigade - by Victoria Mann

In July, ten VCKC members travelled to the heart of Alberta to join the Badlands Brigade. In included eleven Voyageur canoes for six days of paddling down the Red Deer River. We were ably lead by Ellie James and we chose the name Coastal Islanders. Team members took various routes and modes of transport to meet up in Calgary on Sunday July 5th, with a core group driving together from Victoria in a van with the trusty VCKC club canoe *Munroe* riding on top.



VCKC Badlands Brigade Team

The Badlands Brigade was organized by an energetic group of voyageur paddles from Calgary, having been handed the task at the close of VCKC's Gulf Island Brigade in 2014. The overall count of paddlers participating was capped at 150, with teams ranging for eight to twelve members each. We launched the Brigade in the early morning of July 6th from the Burbank Campground (close to Blackfalds, AB). From there we rode the slow-moving Red Deer for six days, traveling a total of 329 kilometers if measured in a straight line - but probably quite

a few more due to the zig-zags required to find a the deep water channel. Most days offered voyageurs the cooling opportunity to walk short stretches in the river, pulling the canoes through shallow areas.

For me, one of the best aspects of the brigade was seeing the badlands from the vantage point of the river, with all its changing moods and views. Some parts were green and verdant with range cattle drinking or resting in the shade on the banks. Other sections soared above us high and dry, a harsh landscape unlike any other. Bird watching was a constant pastime for everyone in the canoes as many unfamiliar birds could be easily watching and identified (or misidentified as the case may be) along the watershed.

This brigade was organized around mid-day crew changes. Water flow was evaluated each day and captains met each evening to plan the next day. The organizers walked and drove the river regularly to check water levels. Some days saw us loading the canoes at midday to portage around long shallow stretches. The Coastal Islanders got plenty of practice loading and unloading canoes and driving vehicles of various sizes. Each day started early with breakfast and getting the morning crew launched on time. The afternoon crew cleaned up the campsite, loaded the vehicles and met the brigade at midday to take their turn on the river. The morning crew then left the river, and took the vehicles on to our next campground where they chose a campsite and began dinner prep.

This was my first brigade and I really enjoyed it. Of course it was made much easier by having

VOYAGEUR PROGRAM (cont.)

vehicles along for the gear. On this brigade, the canoes held only paddlers and day bags. Days were long and hot. We were prepared for wet weather but experienced only one exciting evening of rain and hail just to remind us that it was worth it to bring that extra gear along. Happily, we encountered few mosquitoes, and when they were around they were quickly subdued by bug spray. Our tans improved spectacularly. I was reminded that sleeping on the ground is an acquired taste but it comes naturally after a day on the river. We rediscovered our appreciation for even rudimentary showers and our loathing of Port-A-Potties. It was a bonding experience. Because the canoes were loaded and unloaded at least once, and sometimes several times each day, the team was kept busy either paddling or driving. We still found time for ice cream and beer runs, and spent several memorable hours touring the buildings at the Atlas Coal Mine, and an afternoon at the Royal Tyrrell Museum (www.tyrrellmuseum.com/). A few members of the group also took in the Drumheller Passion Play, a moving open air theatrical event that made us feel we had stepped back in time and were actually living the story. Highlights of the brigade include the music and meals on the patio of the historic Rosedeer Hotel in Wayne where some of our brigade members donned



their traditional regalia and joined others in

some spirited dance steps.

Brigade finding the deep water in the Erd Deer River

Thompson River Trip - by Joe Boyd On August 29 and 30th, eight VCKC members met up with our Voyageur friends from Kamloops for our traditional paddle on the Thompson River between Savona and Ashcroft. This is a spectacular trip each year we do it, and this year was no exception. We met on the Friday at Juniper Beach. I was initially concerned about available camping. With the Thompson running at historic lows and river fishery closed, camp sites were plentiful. Nice to get the spot you like, but a bit concerning just how low the river was running.

Our Saturday run from Savona to Ashcroft was unique this year. Cold and wet in the morning. That never happens. Later in the day, we had the privilege of experiencing 85 kph headwinds and some accompanying sand clouds. Pretty cool. We would never paddle on the ocean with winds like that. Not surprisingly, the heavy wind has no impact on the flow of the river. It did, however, give us all quite the chore to paddle our Kawa all the way to the pub at Ashcroft - sometimes you think you may never get there.



VCKC Thompson River Team left to right: Joe Boyd, Tim Marks, Don Munroe, Dina Buccione, Pat Bracket, Jim Bracket, Helene Pouline, Julie-Anne Dorosz, David Dorosz (with Katie Stein-Sather)



Thompson River trip

CANOE PROGRAM

New Instructors Get Baptized

Three new canoeing instructors were christened this fall. Helene Poulin, David Dorosz and Edmond Duggan joined the congregation. Edmond and David (with the oversight of Ellie James) have already taught 10 students at the Sept 12 basic tandem canoe course and Helene is helping out at this weekend's basic solo course. They'll also be helping out with additional courses later this fall. Special thanks for their dedication and service to the Club.

Please have a look at the canoe course schedule shown below and contact canoe@vckc.ca for details.

Weekend Paddles Underway

Thanks to Edmond Duggan for leading the first Club flatwater paddle of the season. Keep an eye out for emails and newsletter notices for upcoming weekend

paddles. Beginner/intermediate river paddles will start when we see a rise in river levels.

New Stuff

Volunteer instructors teaching canoe courses for the Club have brought in over \$4000 in Club revenue so far this year. The budget is now such that the Canoe Program has been given the goahead by Executive to price out a new river canoe. Despite the scarcity in Royalex inventory, there are some excellent materials and designs out there so I'm hoping to have a new river boat in place for the October river courses.

Canoe Program Meeting

On Monday, October 19, 7:30 - 9PM, we'll hold the next Canoe Program meeting. I've had a couple of offers to speak already from members who took some very interesting trips this summer. I'll email details for meeting activities. Please set aside the evening, I personally guarantee a night to remember.

Frontiersman canoe for sale

A red Frontiersman canoe was very generously donated to the Club. We've decided to sell this canoe, asking \$300. I power washed this boat and gave it a good going over. It looks pretty good but it does have some cracks on the bottom of the hull. Not sure if these cracks affect the finish or hull integrity. I have not had time to paddle this boat so if interested, please take it out for a spin. The boat is on the first rack to

the right as you enter the compound. Contact canoe@vckc.ca with any offers.



Red Club Canoe for Sale

Greenwood Canoe Tale

Several years ago I got the Wood n' Canvas canoe bug and sooo..... I went lookin' for one. My lookin' took me to the backwoods of Abbotsford to view a Chestnut Prospector. Another day I ferried over to the Sunshine Coast to view a "project boat". Turned out to be too much of a project for me but a nice ride none-theless. Finally, a Vancouver Greenwood caught my eye. After another ferry ride and 'negotiations' with a determined husband-wife duo, I was the owner of a Greenwood Prospector Special with half-ribs. Mint condition, a real beauty!

I sort of knew a bit about Greenwoods. Bill Greenwood built them on Mitchell Island from about 1954 to 1974. He was innovative, using sitka spruce for the ribs, red cedar for the planking and Philippine Mahogany for the gunnels with some white oak thrown in. One story had it that he switched to ferrous fasteners after a dispute with a supplier and another that he had limited use of one arm. All I really knew about Greenwoods was that they were nicely proportioned and well made.

Bill Greenwood intrigued me. I really wanted to know the guy's story. For a while I made inquiries with Vancouver canoeing old-timers, googled 'Greenwood canoe' and chased leads. No luck! One of the old-timers told me that Bill's daughter had been out to see him and wanted to write a history about her dad and his boats but he didn't know if anything had come of it. He couldn't remember her name and I couldn't find her.

Eventually I found a Quebec made Faber wood and canvas boat. It used more traditional

CANOE PROGRAM (continued)

eastern woods and laced seats so I moved on. Karen and I donated the Greenwood to Alexandra Neighborhood House in White Rock, where it now hangs from the ceiling of their main hall.

Time passed, I'd stumble across Greenwoods here and there but added nothing to the story. More recently a new Club member told me he'd worked for Bill Greenwood building boats and filled me in a bit. A couple of weeks ago I met another boat builder who told me Bill's

daughter, Susan Greenwood, had built a website http://www.greenwoodcanoecompany.com om dedicated to her dad and his boats. Since viewing and reading the site I've swapped a couple of emails with Susan and hope to get her to speak at the Club if she's ever over our way.

Thanks to Susan, a Greenwood is headed for the Canadian Canoe Museum and her dad's fine work is better known.

Dan Walker VCKC Canoe Program Director

Canoe Course *, **	Date	Cost
Lakewater III	Saturday, Sept 26	Membership + \$25
Lakewater IV	Saturday, October 3	Membership + \$25
Moving Water I	(2 day course) Saturday-Sunday, October 24-25 th	Membership + \$100
Moving Water II	(2 day course) Saturday-Sunday, October 17-18 th	Membership + \$100

^{*}an Ocean Canoeing course may be organized dependent on interest and instructor availability. Please contact Canoe@VCKC.ca if interested.

DRAGON BOAT PROGRAM

Now that the leaves are turning colour, it is once again time to wrap up the dragon boat program for the season. We would like to thank all our volunteers who made this season possible. We are extremely grateful to our dedicated volunteer coaches and sterns -- Bon, Stephen, Mile, Mavis and Ryan -- without whom the program could not have functioned. The teams participated in several festivals, from the small Nanaimo festival in May to Sproat Lake in September. Fun was had by many at our own Guts 'n Glory in July, and we are happy to report that the festival raised about \$3,300 for VCKC.

We will be putting the big boat to bed just before the general meeting on October 6th. Many hands make light work, so please come early for the general meeting and join us in carrying the boat into the canoe compound Thank you!



VCKC United Dragon Boat team windup party Photo courtesy Wendy Clapp

^{**}Canoe course details can be found at http://www.bccanoe.com/

OUTRIGGER PROGRAM

We had a successful summer this year with the weather being wonderful and two great places to paddle our OC6s - the Gorge and Cadboro Bay.

I hope those people that had never paddled out of Cadboro Bay got a chance to do so. If you did get an opportunity to paddle an OC6 out of Cadboro Bay you would have noticed the wonderful cover Sharon White made for the boat. It looks terrific and just what we, and the boat needed. Kudos to Sharon for volunteering her time and show casing her sewing skills.

Our new iakos, made by Western Canoe and Kayak have arrived......finally. The old iakos seemed to require one repair after another. One boat now has a new set on and the other boat will soon too. These new iakos are the proper ones for our Calmar outriggers. We will be templating these new iakos and building another two sets for spares.

At this time some of our teams have completed their required huli drills and I hope that those of you who haven't done a huli in the last two years will do so while the weather remains warm.

Photos below (courtesy of Wendy Clapp) are of the huli drill on Sat. Sept. 20th. 16 members are now certified.











OUTRIGGER PROGRAM (continued)





Courses and Clinics:

There have been numerous requests to hold some courses, so we are happy to offer these three opportunities.

**How to Steer an Outrigger Canoe Saturday, October 17, 2015 at VCKC Time: 09:00am - 2:00pm Cost: \$25.00 We have had a good number of requests to hold a steering course. Maybe you have been paddling outrigger canoes for years but have never had the opportunity to steer. Doubtless you've wondered what needs to be done to keep the boat pointed in the right direction. Just how and when do you poke and paddle? How do you handle the boat to accommodate high winds and big swell? There is a good deal more to steering an outrigger canoe than you realize. Until you know how to steer a boat, even though you have paddled a very long time, you haven't really enjoyed the whole of outrigger canoeing. By learning how to steer you will become a better all-around paddler.





**Rigging the Outrigger Canoe
Saturday, October 17, 2015 at VCKC
Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm Cost: Free
As you probably already know, properly rigging an OC6 is very important, for safety and performance. Once learned, you can rig the boat for certain weather conditions, stability, performance, and crew variables.
After you have learned to do it the right way and have done it a few times, it is relatively quick and easy.

**Learn to Outrigger Canoe
Saturday, October 24, 2015 at VCKC
Time: Noon - 1:30pm Cost: Free
Want to try outrigger canoeing in a relaxed, 1.5
hour free class? This session is designed to give
anyone who is curious about outrigger canoeing
the chance to try the sport in a fun and safe
environment.

If you are interested in registering for any of these courses, please email me at least one week before the course starts.

Paddle On,

Shawn - Outrigger Director

Officers President Jean Chandler Vice-president	president@vckc.ca 250 727-6923 vpresident@vckc.ca
Linda Thomson, interim Treasurer Anne Ardiel	treasurer@vckc.ca 250 658-2442

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Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor <u>newsletter@vckc.ca</u> Maylene McMillan

Webmaster <u>webmaster@vckc.ca</u> Victoria Mann

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

October 2015

