



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

January 2016

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 Annual General Meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Notices

VCKC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

When: 12 Jan 2016 7:30 p.m. **Location:** VCKC Club House

This is the Annual General Meeting at which the Board of Directors will put forward the club budget and agenda for next year for consideration by the full membership.

Members need to pay their membership in order to vote at the AGM - or to stand for election!

We want your vote, so please ensure that you are an Active member in good standing beforehand. See Executive News section for details.

Presentations at General Meetings

Keep an eye on the newsletter for information about exciting topics to be presented at the general meetings in 2016!

Lock Combination Change

The club lock combinations will be changing at the end of January and will be available to paid up members.

Flatwater Paddle

There will be a Flatwater paddle for canoes and kayaks on January 16th. See Canoe Program section for details.

Voyageur Canoe Open Day

January 31, 9:30 to noon. Check the VCKC Events calendar on our new website!

<http://www.vckc.ca/event-2074788?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=1/20/2016>

EXECUTIVE NEWS

VCKC MEMBERS AT WORK AND PLAY Christmas Party

The 2015 Christmas Party was another great success. Scrumptious food, storytelling amongst friends, sales of 50-50 tickets and lots of raffle prizes to entice donations for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of \$473 and a box full of groceries for the Christmas hamper. The evening ended with Christmas Carols sung by all and led by Peter Bourne (photo below).



A big thanks to Mavis Pillar for again organizing the party, and to all the volunteers who made it happen: decoration group, raffle prize suppliers, cooks, set up crew, and of course, I've likely missed some. VCKC sent a cheque to Brothers and Big Sisters for \$2,035.50 for the year - including Canada Day boat rides, the Christmas Party and bottle returns!!

More party photos on the following page, thanks to Wendy Clapp!



Lots of great raffle items!



YOUR EXECUTIVE AT WORK

Our Safety Director, Ellie James will obtain 22 new PFDs (12 for children and 10 for adults) and net bags to store the child PFD's. These PFDs are primarily for use at community functions such as Canada Day and Big Brothers/Sisters summer picnic. They will also be used for new members when taking the basic courses. All members are still expected to supply their own PFD.

The voyageur boats will have foam installed to increase stability and to help with the rescue if there is an upset. Thank you Alan Thomson for the idea; and also thank you Joe Boyd for following up with it.

The outriggers will have new safety gear bags and deck cowlings. Thanks to Shawn Hamilton for identifying the need to replace these items.

EXECUTIVE NEWS (continued)
Christmas Party - photos thanks to Wendy Clapp



EXECUTIVE NEWS (continued)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGM Annual Reports and Elections

Although all positions are open for election, there are some positions that will be vacated at the end of this fiscal year. These are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Storage Director, Canoe Program Director, Dragon Boat Program Director, Voyageur Director, Director at Large (Social) and Newsletter Editor.

Other positions where the existing member is willing to stay another year are: Kayak Director, Marathon Director, Outrigger Director, Webmaster, Director at Large and Clubhouse and Grounds Director. Please consider volunteering by letting your name stand to join the executive. Our past president, Pam Carroll is looking for you. Contact her at pastpres@vckc.ca.

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55 Gorge Road West, Victoria, BC V9A1M9

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***We want your vote, so please ensure that you are an Active member in good standing beforehand.**

Renew now by clicking the Members link at the top of the main website page and choosing Member Profile on the next page to renew your membership for 2016 if you have

not yet done so. **Note:** please login with your registered email address. Request a new password if you don't remember it. Please do not register with a new email address if you are already a member - just login with the old email and then change your email address if you wish.

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Annual Financial Report and the 2016 Proposed Budget:

The executive worked long and hard with our Treasurer, Anne Ardiel to come up with a proposed budget for the 2016 fiscal year. It will be reviewed by the membership at the January Annual General Meeting on Jan. 12th at 7:30 p.m.

During the course of the budgeting, a decision was made to increase some spending from the 2015 operating budget to purchase some items required for safety. These were originally assessed as 2016 capital expenses but were deemed to be operating costs for ongoing safety supplies.

THIS AND THAT: NOTICES AND REMINDERS

Just a reminder

Overflow parking is kindly available at the Imperial Hallmark Dry Cleaners. Please keep 4 or 5 parking spaces open for parents of playground children, especially during the day times.

To keep the cost of heating fuel down, please keep the doors closed when you are accessing the clubhouse before and after paddling.

CANOE PROGRAM

First off, thanks to everyone who helped out during my three year reign as Canoe Program Director. It took me two years to figure out what was going on but I thought I managed to do a mediocre job the third year. Over the past three years, the canoe program has increased its canoe inventory from seven to twelve boats. Three new boat purchases and two donations account for the increase. A new paddle rack and canoe program locker have been installed in the basement. The idea of these two new additions was to centralize storage for

all program gear simplifying the search for painters, paddles, air bags and rigging, etc when needed. Both seem to have gained some acceptance.

RECORD CANOE COURSE REVENUES IN 2015! I don't know if it's a record but \$5,000+ was pretty good. Thanks to all the instructors who gave up weekends and beer time to help folks learn new strokes. Full sets of courses were offered in both the fall and spring. For the most part the intro flatwater and river courses were popular while some others struggled to fill the minimum

CANOE PROGRAM (continued)

number of students. This year's ocean course, tirelessly organized and led by Alan Thomson, had a record number of participants. Adding to the load, the canoe program offered freebie sessions to a couple of schools this year. A lot of paddlers, including about 50 SJ Willis and Montessori students, learned or refined paddling skills in 2015.

Along with new boats, the program added five new throw bags, 480' of 3/8" floating line for painters, a new centre flotation bag and various rigging to its inventory. In addition the safety program updated the Club's PFD and paddle inventory. We're ready to go for 2016.

On the paddling front, thanks to Alan Thomson for once again heading up the weekend flatwater paddles and to all the river gang for continuing to promote river paddling just about any day of

the week. Joe Boyd organized both the very popular Running of the Cows and Remembrance Day Paddles. Lastly, thanks to those who once again turned out for the very busy and fun MEC Paddle Fest.

David Dorosz is taking over as Canoe Program Director in 2016. Good luck David!

Dan Walker

FLATWATER PADDLE

There will be a Flatwater paddle for canoes and kayaks on January 16th. Destination will depend on wind, but it is intended to be a beginner-level outing to a relatively sheltered location. A notice will be sent to all Canoe and Kayak program members the weekend before to remind members and give more details about the likely destination.

Alan Thomson

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

SUNDAY MORNING PADDLES

This fall, a number of paddlers from various groups at VCKC paddled on Sunday mornings at 10:30. Many paddlers were wintering dragon boaters finding their inner hardy voyageur spirit! Depending on the numbers of participants, we paddled tandem boats, voyageurs, even the Tillicum! We usually paddled for about 1.5 hour toward Portage Inlet, regularly crossing paths with the Sunday morning outrigger team.

The Sunday Morning Paddle has been a great opportunity to many of us to learn or practice paddling in various boats in the company of new and experienced VCKC members.

As winter approached and the holiday season arrived, we cancelled our weekly paddle. We plan to resume after Paddle for The Kids. We hope you may join us in the spring!

Hélène Poulin, secretary@vckc.ca

Friday Flyers having a great time on the water



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (continued)

BOOK REVIEW

ONCE THEY WERE HATS by Frances Backhouse
Bill Mason wrote 'When you look at the face of Canada and study the geography carefully, you come away with the feeling that God could have designed the canoe first and then set about to conceive a land in which it could flourish.' True enough, but it could also be said that it was a country designed to for beavers to live in.

Frances Backhouse is a Victoria resident and has recently published a book about beavers. I have read it and thought it might be of interest to some Club members. Yes, Christmas is past, but buying it for yourself or someone else is still acceptable behavior.

Most Club members probably don't see signs of beaver when they are out paddling - there are none on the Gorge Waterway (that I have heard of) and they are not seen in the ocean, but canoeists and kayakers on Thetis Lake can see at least two lodges, while river paddlers often see beaver signs on the Cowichan River, sometimes on the Chemainus River and quite possibly on other rivers on the south of the Island. We have also seen them on Richards Creek and Somenos Lake near Duncan.

After a general introduction, the book has a chapter on the place of the beaver in First Nation culture, both practically and in myth. Then comes the history of the fur trade - which was so beaver-focused that the Hudsons Bay Company used the value of a 'Made Beaver' pelt as currency: other trade items were priced as so many 'MBs' and produced a coinage in the form of tokens that were valued at a certain number of MBs. These often had holes drilled in them so trappers could carry them on cords around their neck or tied onto something secure. If you want to know about catching beavers, skinning them, preparing the skins for the manufacture of hats, etc, it is all in this book.

There is also quite a lot of discussion of the role of the beaver in shaping the Canadian landscape, not only in terms of plant and animal life, but also in its effects on preventing erosion, shaping, shaping valleys by retaining silt and such like. Much of this was new to me and likely will be to you, too.

And while the Gorge may not have beavers living beside it, it isn't impossible. Beavers do make dams in delta waterways which are regularly flooded; the examples in the book are from Washington State. And not only do they make these dams, but their presence enhances the survival of Salmonids by creating ponds of water at low tides which are too deep for herons and others to feed in. So maybe in Cowichan Bay or the Chemainus delta we may see beaver dams someday.

I can recommend this book to those interested in the beaver; its place in Canadian history and its effects on ecology. It is published by ECW Press in Toronto and costs about \$19.

Alan Thomson

HIGH TIDE

Thursday, December 10 followed a few days of stormy weather and was a high tide with a morning flood. The McEvoy and Irving outrigger teams met to paddle. Winds were 70 km/h and gusting to 120 km/h. Although the water in front of the clubhouse was relatively flat, paddlers stayed in the clubhouse as wind like that cannot be good for recreational paddlers. Later on, it became known that white caps had been spotted in Portage Inlet. Watching out the window at the flood, it became obvious that the ramp to the dock was uphill, rather than downhill. Winter rains and high tides can affect the water levels up the Gorge in this way.



Ramp angling up over a foot from the walkway to the dock! Photo by Ellie James

Officers

President

Jean Chandler

Vice-president

Linda Thomson

Treasurer

Anne Ardiel

Secretary

Helene Poulin

Past President

Pam Carroll

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Program Directors

Canoe Program

Dan Walker

Dragonboat Program

Barbara Murray &

Judy Leonard

Kayak Program

Roy Scully

Outrigger Program

Shawn Hamilton

Marathon Canoe Program

Darrelle Butler

Voyageur Program

Joe Boyd

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Other Executive

Education, Standards & Safety

Ellie James

Membership

Muriel Johnson

Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance)

Sandy Rattray

Boat & Locker Storage

Derek Jenkins

Director at Large (social)

Bonnie McPherson

Director at Large (events& volunteers)

Jennifer Yee

Director at Large (events& volunteers)

Ryan Ovens

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Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor

Maylene McMillan

Webmaster

Victoria Mann

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

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 7:30 PM VCKC Annual General Meeting (AGM)	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	20 7:00 PM GWI Steering Committee Meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:00 AM Voyageur Program Annual Open Day	Feb 1	2 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting 7:30pm	3	4	5	6