



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

April 2017

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club 355 Gorge Road West Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9
Phone: 250-590-8193 (Info only) Website: www.vckc.ca

Notices

Next General Meeting: Tuesday April 4th at 7:30 pm (Phil McEvoy "Broughton Brigades and Brigades of 2017")

Canoe and Kayak Course schedule now available – see below and at www.vckc.ca

Wake Up the Gorge: Registration now open – April 8th and 9th for OC6 and small craft respectively

Spring Clubhouse Clean-up and Grounds April 22 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

April 1 – Paddle for the Kids

NB: See calendar item on website for details; meet at the clubhouse unless noted otherwise

President's Update

April is a full month of events at VCKC. We start with **Paddle for the Kids on April 1**. This is the 36th year our club has completed this 75-km paddle-a-thon in support of Camp Shawnigan.

The following weekend we have **Wake Up the Gorge** outrigger races on April 8 and 9. Our **Dragon Boat** is, or will be, back on the water this month with two learn to paddle sessions. Then add the canoe and kayak courses and we have a full schedule for the month. Check the calendar on our website for details.

Please join us for our **General Meeting on April 4th**. Voyageur Program Director **Phil McEvoy** will be sharing his experiences on the **2016 Broughton Brigade** and also talk about **Voyageur Brigade Opportunities in 2017**.



Jean Chandler, our dear friend and long-time VCKC Executive member, lost her son Luke in a tragic accident on February 27. Our hearts are broken with this news and our club supports Jean as she goes through this most difficult time. A memorial service was held in Nanaimo on March 19. When you see Jean, be sure to give her a big hug.

Canoe Program Update

Before the last Canoe meeting our canoeing instructors met to determine when we would offer our Spring canoe courses. The below canoe classes and events are now scheduled for the spring, sign up online on the vckc.ca website now to reserve your spot.

- **Movingwater 1** - March 25 and 26
- **Lakewater 1** – April 15 and May 13
- **Lakewater 2** - May 20
- **Lakewater 3** - June 10th
- **Lakewater 4** - June 11th
- **Ocean Canoeing** - May 6th and 7th – are the tripping days, with the 3 evenings of classroom time being at the end of April during the week of 24th – 28th.
- **Running of the Cows** - April 29 and 30
(There will be a follow-up email about times and camping closer to the event.)
- **A crabbing clinic** June 17
- **Poling** - A couple of Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at Beaver Lake, followed by one day on river. - Dates to be worked out between the students and the instructor Tom. Sign up online so we know you are interested



Movingwater 2 – will be scheduled if enough interest is shown, sign up online to show interest!

- Dave -

Clubhouse and Gorge Waterway Clean-up

When: Sat, April 22.

Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Please come on out and help to clean up the clubhouse and the Gorge Waterway. If you want to participate, be sure to wear clothes and footwear that you don't mind getting muddy. For the club clean-up please bring whatever garden tools or house cleaning stuff that you are able to.

The paddling group will be out in the voyageur canoes – it's a messy job so wear appropriate clothing.

We are so fortunate to have such a lovely location for our club so please try to spare a couple of hours to help keep it looking spic and span.

Dragon Boat Program Update

This year, we are privileged to have Bon Lee returning as coach and Mile Petrovic as steer. We have a new coach this year, Jennifer Yee, who is willing to coach a second team.

“Learn to Paddle” new dates: Thursday April 6th and Tuesday April 11th held at the clubhouse 5:30-7.

We will combine classroom style learn to paddle techniques then proceed out to the boat for a paddle. This is open to anyone that is interested. Both members and non-members are welcome. Please RSVP to reserve a seat. If you are interested in steering, these sessions are perfect for you to learn more.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE: Regular practice is planned to start Thursday April 6 (the first two practices will be combined with “Learn to Paddle”)

Tuesday and Thursday
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

KEY FESTIVALS DATES: The team(s) will decide which festivals it wants to attend. Paddlers will be asked to pay festival cost up front before the festival can be booked.

May 28	Fairway Gorge Super Sprints
July 7-9	Nanaimo Festival
July 22	Guts & Glory (VCKC's own 10-person boat festival!)
August 12	Fairway Gorgefest
August 18-20	Victoria Festival

Call Out for Help: With moving the big dragon boat to the water! We have many on the team but we need some experienced boat movers and more muscle to help us! The date is for Tue, April 4th at 6:30. This is the same night as our club's General Meeting. Please email us if you can be there to help.

VCKC's own Guts and Glory:

This year it will be held Saturday July 22nd. This is the race that our club hosts and all proceeds go to the club. It is a fun event with two different race types: a 200 meter race and a 2500 meter combined – time race. Both races in 10-paddler boats. There will be an on-site food concession and beverage garden available for all paddlers. Check out our website for more details. All club members welcome to participate! Gather a team together and register online!

Jack Louie has graciously volunteered to be Race Director again this year and we will be gathering a team of people to form a planning committee meeting in April. If you wish to volunteer to help out at this event, send us an email and we will forward it to the committee.

- Kim Capson & Paula Gough -



Ken Gibbard shared the pictorial story of club members as they travelled the waters in Pacific Dancer after the General Meeting in March.



Racing News

Due to the limited number of marathon canoe events available in BC our paddlers from the Marathon Program have started entering local outrigger races (OC6). Both the Men's and Mixed crew entered their first race of the season at Kan-U-Hakit. Kan-U-Hakit is an OC6 1500m sprint race with 2 buoy turns. The Men's crew had 2 practices to get ready for this race, trying to perfect their technique, timing and buoy turns. The Mixed crew entered this race without having paddled together as a complete crew.

Regardless of our practice time together and both crews looking kind of ragged in their timing, both crews placed extremely well. The men's crew finished 1st overall in the finals with a 32 second lead ahead of the 2nd place boat. The mixed crew finished 2nd overall behind a strong Fairway Gorge team. Not too bad for our 1st race of the season.

Men's Crew members: Norm, Barry, Jan, Jim, Gord, and Bon.

Mixed Crew members: Norm, Darrelle, Claire, Jim, Haley, and Bon.



Kan-U-Hakit

Our 2nd race a week later was entering a mixed crew in the Nanaimo Crazy 8 outrigger race. This is a 13km race in the shape of a figure eight around Newcastle Island and Protection Island. We were in the last heat in heavy rain and with the worst water conditions of the day. On the south end of Protection and the North end of Newcastle the conditions had changed, with developing large steep waves, making it exciting, but challenging. We finished 1st in our heat with a 4 minute lead over the second place boat, but only managed 2nd place in the Masters Division. The other masters teams having raced in an earlier heat. We blame our 2nd place finish on more challenging water conditions and that's our excuse and we're sticking to it. We would like to acknowledge and thank ORPC for lending us their Mirage at this event.

Mixed Crew members: Darrelle, Haley, Jim, Norm, Susan, and Bon.

Special thanks to Corey who is coaching and getting us ready for an exciting season of outrigger racing.

Come out on April 8th & 9th to support your VCKC teams at our own Wake up the Gorge outrigger races.

- Bon -



Nanaimo Crazy 8



Kayak Program Update

The first kayak course of the season took place March 11th with six participants successfully completing the Basic Kayak Skills course instructed by Doug Linton and Susan Zedel. By all reports the course was very informative and lots of fun.

Additional scheduled courses are as follows:

April 2 – Basic Kayak Skills

May 13 – Basic Kayak Skills

April 22 & 23 Level 1 Skills

June 3 & 4 Level 1 Skills

You can register for any of our courses by going to the website calendar, clicking on the course and following the prompts. If you find that the course is full your name will go on a waitlist. If we have more demand than spaces we try to schedule additional courses.

We will begin our Tuesday evening Kayak paddle clinics in June – exact date and time yet to be determined. An email will be sent out to all members who have checked “kayak” as an interest. The dates will also be posted on the website calendar. Come out and join the fun. Learn some new paddle strokes or simply practice what you’ve already learned.

We presently have 4 kayaks available for use by members and one new one on order. If you would like to borrow a club kayak, and you have completed the Basic Kayak Skills course, contact Linda Hall at kayakbooking@vckc.ca to book one. The kayaks must stay in the Gorge Waterway. You might want to use one for our evening paddle clinics, or maybe you just want to paddle around the Gorge Waterway for the joy of paddling. The club kayaks are for use by members (but are reserved during courses for course participants).

Happy Paddling!!

- **Linda Hall** -

Sea Kayaks for sale

The orange boat (top) is a Necky Gliss 7’11”. 2 flotation bags included. \$300. Great river runner or a perfect boat for learning to surf.

The green machine is a “Dick Wold Custom” surf specific fiberglass boat built for speed and carving ability. As new. \$1000.

If interested contact

Karen Hoffman



Recreational
Canoeing
Association of BC

(RCAB) February 22nd report from our representative to the RCABC executive. (He lives up-island but represents VCKC’s interests.) The RCABC instructors of our Club bring them to his attention.

Island interest in watershed issues is increasing at breakneck speed. Of the four rivers in the S. Island, which are most suitable for canoeists, all are attracting much public attention, and inviting input.

Koksilah -- as mentioned, a local community group is on the brink of launching an independent ecological study of the watershed. Local paddlers are making a strong case to be recognized as stakeholders, and to be involved in the study.

Cowichan -- major public attention has occurred because of several years of summer drought, resulting in water shortages (domestic and industrial), and salmon die-off. The local regional district proposes to combine efforts with the local watershed board, in order to pressure the provincial government to act on the need to improve the weir which controls storage of water in Cowichan Lake.

Chemainus -- as previously reported, paddlers have gained recognition as stakeholders in the Municipality of North

Cowichan's Parks and Trails Master Plan. We are in the process of being consulted in the provision of access and amenities for the recreational use of the river.

Nanaimo -- paddlers continue to hold seats on the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable.

As Zone Rep, I am empowered by the Executive to represent the RCABC officially in the affairs of the Cowichan and Nanaimo Rivers; my involvement with the other two is unofficial, as an interested individual citizen/paddler.

- Rick Bryan-

Submission by Jean Chandler

Voyageur Program Update

The years *Paddle for the Kids* program has gone quite well.

We have done three trips prior to this newsletter. They were Sooke, Sydney and Race Rocks. We have had three boats worth of folks and fun has been had by all. We especially enjoyed a once in 5 year trip to Race Rocks on an excellent weather and tidal day that included an up and personal view of



a pod of Orcas ~just meters from our canoes.



Still on the itinerary for those who want to join is Ladysmith Harbour on May 19 (led by myself) and on May 26 Don Munroe's famous Maple Bay to Cowichan Bay. This of course ends with the big Paddle the Peninsula April 1st. All for Camp Shawnigan and the children who most enjoy the rewards of our efforts.

I am still canvassing for a leader and volunteers to man the Potluck dinner on April 1.

2017 is a big year for Brigades and there are openings in a few of them. The Sunshine Coast Brigade is looking for paddlers as two boats need some help. If you are interested in any of these brigades check out the voyageur brigade society web site or contact me directly. Our club is placing two boats in the St John River Brigade in early June but that is full. We do not have any boats going to the other brigades but going as a paddler or two you can always join a boat. This is how I started brigading.

Paddles Up

- **Phil McEvoy** -

VCKC Voyageur Director



The Fort Langley Canoe Club has three seats available in our canoe for paddlers to enjoy participating in the Sunshine Coast Voyageur Brigade [from June 13 to June 18](#). For information please contact: sylvialangmann@hotmail.com or [604 856 5645](tel:6048565645)

A big thank you to Bill Buckley, VCKC Director at Large, for sponsoring the PFTK kick-off brunch on February 19th. A fun time had by all, and a great start to our fundraising season. Give Bill a pat on the back when you see him.

Outrigger Program

Wake Up the Gorge, a sprint race for oc6, Saturday, April 8, & both sprint and longer course for small boats April 9, is fast approaching. Because it's a sprint, it is exciting for the spectator.

There will be plenty of food & prizes as well.

On another note, we are awaiting an arrival date for the new oc6, which we hope will be delivered in time for the summer season.

Oc6 teams, when you bring the canoe onto the beach, the resting position for the wheels is between seats 4 & 5. Placing them further back puts undue stress on the hull.

Wishing everyone happy paddling with the coming of more light & warmer weather

- **Ralph** -



St Patricks Day Social

The numbers may have been small but the fun was not!!
A special thanks to Wendy and Jenny for organizing the fun.

SWITCH BLADE RELAY

8 AM Sat May 20th, 2017

Kayak, SUP, OC1, Tandem Canoe, Surfski, OC6
(Teams supply own boats)

Legs 30-45 minutes, OC6 75-90 minutes

Mixed teams of six - at least three women

\$180 per team including dinner

Registration Deadline Monday May 8th

vckc.ca/Switchblade-Paddlesport-Relay

switchblade@vckc.ca

sponsored by:

HOYNE fairway market Ocean River

Since 2012

April 2017 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00 AM Moving Water 1 - Tandem	27	28 6:00 PM Dragon Boat Potluck	29	30	31 6:00 PM VYPC/DRPC NCCP Coaching Course	Apr 1 6:00 AM Paddle For The Kids: Finale
2 8:00 AM Kayak Basic Skills Course 8:30 AM Lakewater 1 - Class FULL	3	4 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting	5	6 5:30 PM Dragon Boat Learn to Paddle	7	8 2017 Wake Up the Gorge
9 2017 Wake Up the Gorge	10 7:00 PM Vancouver Island Ladies Field Hockey League AGM	11 5:30 PM Dragon Boat Learn to Paddle 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	12	13	14	15 8:00 AM Lakewater 1 - Basic Tandem
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Level 1 Sea Kayak Skills - 2 day course 9:00 AM Spring Clean-up: Gorge Waterway Shoreline 9:00 AM Spring Clean-up: Clubhouse & Grounds
23 Level 1 Sea Kayak Skills - 2 day course	24 Ocean Canoeing Classroom Sessions	25	26	27	28	29
30	May 1	2 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting	3	4	5	6 Ocean Canoeing Course

Club Contact Information

Officers

President	president@vckc.ca
Joe Boyd	
Vice-president	vpresident@vckc.ca
Tim Marks	
Treasurer	treasurer@vckc.ca
Mark Sondheim	
Secretary	secretary@vckc.ca
Hélène Poulin	
Past President	pastpres@vckc.ca
Linda Thomson	

Program Directors

Canoe Program	canoe@vckc.ca
David Dorosz	
Dragonboat Program	dragonboat@vckc.ca
Paula Gough & Kim Capson	
Kayak Program	kayak@vckc.ca
Roy Scully	
Outrigger Program	outrigger@vckc.ca
Ralph Rossman	
Marathon Canoe Program	marathon@vckc.ca
Darrelle Butler	
Voyageur Program	voyageur@vckc.ca
James (Phil) McEvoy	

Other Executive

Education, Standards & Safety	safety@vckc.ca
Ken Gibbard	
Membership	membership@vckc.ca
Muriel Johnson	
Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance)	clubhouse@vckc.ca
Sandy Rattray	
Boat & Locker Storage	storage@vckc.ca
Arthur Caldicott	
Director at Large (social)	director1@vckc.ca
Jean Chandler	
Director at Large (events& volunteers)	director2@vckc.ca
Jennifer Yee	
Director at Large (events& volunteers)	director3@vckc.ca
Bill Buckley	

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	newsletter@vckc.ca
Susan Logan	
Webmasters	webmaster@vckc.ca
Victoria Mann / Arthur Caldicott	



VICTORIA WATERWAYS LOOP – a regional amenity There's a stretch of blue for you!

Last year the idea of a new 15-km circular paddle and portage route around Esquimalt / Vic West was introduced and quickly became a topic of interest to the paddling community. Winding its way through five municipalities the route includes rest stops and points of interest where paddlers have the opportunity to experience a section of or the entire loop based on their skill level and abilities. This is truly unique to North America – no other urban centre has anything like it and we want to ensure the route is safe, accessible and fun for all. Just as the region will soon have a multi-use land loop with the E&N Rail Trail and Galloping Goose, volunteers are promoting this water loop as another important regional amenity.



New Shoreline Ave boat launch and portage

Not only does it promote recreation, economic development, tourism, and environmental awareness, it showcases Victoria as a wonderful place for young professionals to live, work and play. Because the loop is suitable for a wide variety of skill levels it presents many opportunities to learn about boating safety and marine traffic as well as an appreciation and respect for the wildlife that inhabit our waters and shoreline.

Last year we participated in five community events and, along with the February 2016 VCKC article, we gained tremendous support from municipalities, paddling clubs (SISKA, BCMTNA), Tourism Victoria, local chambers of commerce, the Victoria Harbour Master and others. The dedicated volunteers of “the Loop Group” now have a logo, promotional banner, and an updated website. We also field-tested our brochure and made necessary edits all of which will be formally released in a few weeks.

The portage section of the Loop between the Gorge and Esquimalt Harbour is expected to be completed this year. The First Nations traditional route disappeared decades ago as the area became developed. Restoration began in the 1970s when Portage Park was created in hopes of recreating the heritage route. Now, some 45 years later this dream will become a reality. The Shoreline Trail and the E&N sections were built in 2015 with thanks to View Royal, CRD and SD61. In 2016, View Royal invested \$70K for the Shoreline access ramp – a critical link connecting to the Gorge waterway. While incomplete, it is accessible. View Royal is expected to also install wayfinding signage along the 900m-connector trail.

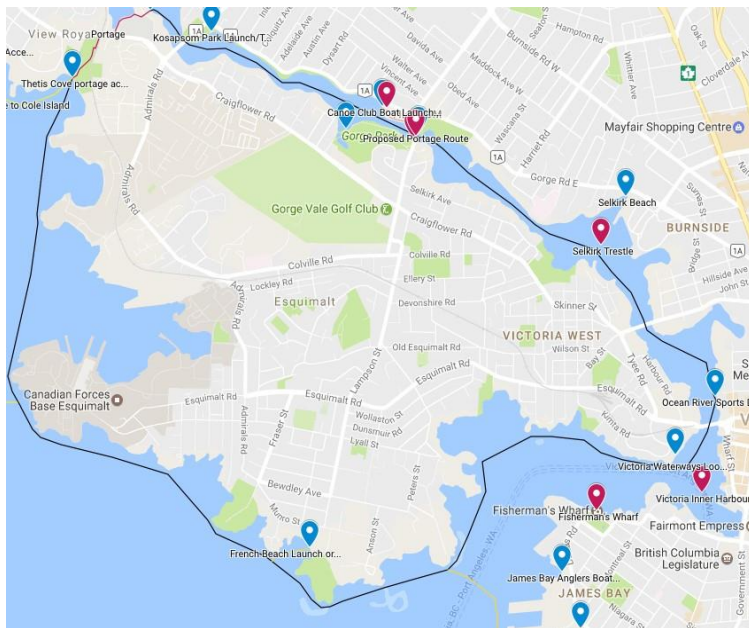
The Loop Group objectives include:

- Safety: paddler education, especially for our busy harbour; mitigate the hazards of the Gorge Narrows currents; provide accurate information concerning tides and currents, and/or a dock portage route on the Esquimalt side.
- Environmental awareness and responsibility: encourage and educate paddlers to “stay on the path” and avoid sensitive ecosystems.
- Signposting: install standardized wayfinding signage indicating access points and the portage route.

- Access locations: promote the retrofitting of public access docks to accommodate various paddle craft, and work with municipalities to improve or build more public access points around the loop.
- Public awareness: provide useful information via a website (vicwaterloop.ca) and a brochure available to clubs, businesses and municipal venues.
- Local businesses: promote restaurants, culture and heritage, shopping, parks, and playgrounds along the way as well as where paddlers can access washrooms and drinking water.

The Victoria Waterways Loop is a good fit with the BC Marine Trails newest endeavor: the Salish Sea Marine Trail. We have collaborated closely with them to link the loop to this one between Victoria and Vancouver.

Tourism Victoria has called the Victoria Waterways Loop an innovative project. Let's work together to make this a regional success. Please contact us to see how you can help. John Rogers john.rogers007@shaw.ca
250-727-7736



Launch/Takeout Points

- Esquimalt Lagoon Launch/takeout
- Kosapsom Park Launch/Takeout
- Songhees Point Beach
- Portage Inlet portage access
- Public Dock
- Thetis Cove portage access
- Canoe Club Boat Launch/takeout
- James Bay Anglers Boat Launch
- Esquimalt Gorge Park Beach
- Ocean River Sports Docks
- Dallas Rd Launch
- Route to Dallas Rd Launch
- Selkirk Beach
- Stewart Ave Beach Access
- Esquimalt Anglers Boat Launch & Flemington