



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

June 2017

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

Dates to Remember

Annual Spring BBQ: Tuesday June 6th at 6 pm (Bring something to cook on the BBQ & something to share for the potluck)

Big Brothers Big Sisters Picnic: June 10th. VCKC Volunteers will be providing Voyageur rides at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters annual picnic from 11 am to 2 pm. If you would like to help, please contact Mile Petrovic at mile.petrovic@shaw.ca.

July 1st Canada Day Celebrations on the Gorge: VCKC is celebrating Canada 150 with the launch of a commemorative Big Canoe following a parade on Gorge Road, beginning at 9 am. Dragonboat and Voyageur rides will be offered to the public. Strawberry Tea at the clubhouse. Come down and join a special edition of our annual Canada tradition.

VCKC Guts 'n Glory Dragon Boat Races: Saturday July 22nd.

Thompson River Trip (Savona to Ashcroft) August 26 and 27.

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

Executive News

Canada Day at VCKC will be a special celebration this year as we join communities across the country in recognizing Canada 150. The Executive approved the purchase of a Canada 150 commemorative Big Canoe to named 'CANADA'. The canoe will be blessed during the Canada 150 celebrations on the Gorge. Our bright red and white canoe will first be part of the parade down Gorge road, beginning at 9 am.



We are happy once again to join the Gorge-Tillicum Community Association Canada Day picnic on the Gorge. Of course, Voyageur rides will be offered to the public in consideration of a donation to Boys and Girls Club. This year we expect to bring our older historic canoes and put them into service as part of Canada 150. Her Majesty the Queen and the Duchess of Cambridge will also be in attendance for this special occasion. I hope you join us on the Gorge this July 1st.

This is the last edition of our newsletter until September as we do not publish in July and August. That does not mean the club is quiet for activities. See the rest of this newsletter, and keep tabs on our website, for all the events and activities over the summer. In the meantime, have a fun, safe summer of adventure on the water. Paddles Up!

Joe Boyd, President

2017 Running of the Cow

This year's running of the Cow was in a bit of jeopardy due to high water. Luckily the week's rain mostly held off and the river dropped to a better level. The lower section was scouted during the week from the campground to Duncan, but not the upper section. That and a bit of a gear issue led to a shortened first day for the top half, plus the takeout eddy at Skutz Falls was not too nice looking at the high water level.

Tim Marks was both the trip leader and took charge of voyageur crew training for the Fort to Fort brigade paddlers. The first day was a bit shorter than expected for paddling, but that left more time for the chili dinner and sitting around the fire. Sunday the



weather changed and it was a beautiful blue sky and the river looked inviting.

The first day's voyageur training came in handy when trying to get a 25 foot canoe into little eddies... However, rapids do look smaller when in a 25 foot canoe when compared to a small solo whitewater canoe. Trade-offs. Though Vimy Wave looked small at the high water level it could easily surf a voyageur canoe, and almost two at the same time! (Joe was getting jealous of our surf time, and decided a bump was in order. At least I think they meant too...) Lorne Dickieson showed off his great canoe control skills by balancing his paddle on his neck while surfing the wave. Duncan then came up

fast, and since the water was high and we did not know the log jam situation between Duncan and the ocean, it was the takeout and end of another great weekend.



David Dorosz – Canoe Director

The first annual 3-day **David Thompson Paddlesport Classic** will be held on Lake Revelstoke August 18 – 20, 2017. The lake is long and narrow, stunningly beautiful, with clear turquoise water and surrounded by snowcapped mountains. The event is named after explorer David Thompson who was the first European to descend the river in a homemade canoe in the early 1800's .

More information and Entry forms are available at www.paddlerevelstoke.ca or by phone at 250-814-7473 or by mail at P.O. Box 78, Revelstoke, BC, V0E 2S0. Or email billpollock40@gmail.com.



Outrigger Race Team Update

The mixed crew for both races were, Darrelle, Susan, Jan, Jim, Haley and Bon.

Barges Outrigger Sprint Nationals

It was another great weekend of racing for VCKC outriggers. VCKC made a late entry at this year's Barges outrigger sprint nationals held on Apr 29. Barges is an exciting sprint race for spectators. Spectators can view the whole race course and watch the buoy turns where races are won or lost. Barges is actually 2 races, a 500M straight away sprint and a 1000M buoy turn race, (a 250 meter straight away race course with 3 buoy turns). Only the 3 teams from each division with the best total times will then complete in a final 1000M-buoy turn heat in the afternoon.

We're not sure what we did right or how, but everything must have just come together at the right time for the team. We did have awesome starts with almost no mistakes in our buoy turns. In our 500M race we finished 1st with a 3+ length ahead of next canoe. Then in our 1000M buoy race we finished 1st in 6.02, and again with 3+ boat length ahead of next canoe. With the best overall combine time in the mixed division we qualified for the finals in afternoon.

In the finals, we probably had the best start all day, jumping a boat length ahead, but the race was called back and re-started. Our re-start wasn't quite as good as our first but we still manage to pull ahead. We cross the finish line in 5.44, winning 1st place with a 3+ boat length over the second place boat.

To our amazement our final time was the third fastest in all the divisions including the men's heat. We were one of 3 crews to go under 6 minute, excellent showing for a mixed team and for VCKC.

Brotchie Reach Outrigger Race

The following weekend (May 6) was Brotchie Reach Outrigger Race. Brotchie is scheduled as a 13.5 Km race starting at the Fairway Gorge dock to V21 and then out to the Brotchie Reach Marker and returning to V21 and finishing at the Fairway Gorge dock. The first heat in the morning was able to complete the full 13.5 Km race. At the 2nd heat stern's meeting they announced the conditions had deteriorated and the race was being shortened to 10 km, going only to V21 and back. This was due to the unsafe water conditions as the safety boats were having difficulty safely making it out Brotchie Reach.

We raced in heat 3 but can't say if condition got worse or not. All we know is it was a wild ride. Our seat 1 (Darrelle) took it all in stride getting the blunt of the waves getting soaking her from head to toe. It was definably a wet one; even seat 4 was getting waves at face level. By the end of the race our fully skirted canoe still took in 3 or 4 inch of water. Challenging conditions for all, we finished 4th in our heat with a time of 57.45 and 7th overall out of 14 crews in 10 km mixed. 3 other mixed crews in our heat decided to stay within the safety of the harbour opting for the shorter 8km race. Overall this was the biggest water conditions our crew have experienced.

Submitted by Bon

Kayak Program Update

Spring is coming to a close and those long lazy summer days are ahead. Two Kayak Basic Skills courses were completed in May, so another 16 people will be a feeling better equipped to get out and enjoy time on the water this summer.

We have one more kayak course scheduled for the season – June 3rd and 4th is a two day Level 1 Kayak course- and the course is full!

Club kayaks are available for courses, clinics and club sanctioned paddles (day trips and camping). These kayaks are also available to VCKC members for personal use on the Gorge Waterway - on the club side of the Tillicum Bridge only. Members must have successfully completed the Paddle Canada Kayak Basic Skills course or have equivalent skills. Members using club kayaks must always paddle with one or more paddlers. If you would like to borrow a club kayak contact Linda Hall at kayakbooking@vckc.ca to reserve one.



Happy paddling!

Linda Hall



Paddledays

June is the month when we begin our Tuesday night practice paddles. These were originally called "Canoesdays" because it was the canoe program that started them, but now that the kayak program has joined in we are open to finding a new title. For now we will call them "**Paddledays**". Come out and join in the fun! Practice their canoe and/or kayak paddle strokes. Meet on the water at the clubhouse beginning Tuesday June 6th at **6:30pm**.

Voyageur Update

The summer will soon be upon us and the **Year of the Canoe** will really spring into play with the numerous events and brigades celebrating 2017.

For the club sponsored and supported events the following will be the club contact person

- Don Munroe - the Power to Be Corporate Fund Raiser May 27 at Beaver Lake.
- Mile Petrovic - the Big Brothers Big Sisters June 10 at Esquimalt Gorge Park
- Alan Thomson - the Canada Day July 1 at the Gorge Park
- Joe Boyd is organizing the Thompson River Run August 26 and 27 so if you are into Voyageur contact Joe our fine President.

I am off to Ottawa see you all later in the summer. Be safe and enjoy our 150 party.

Phil McEvoy

Thompson River Trip in Voyageurs – August 26 and 27

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, send an email to president@vckc.ca. 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/explore/parkpgs/juniper_bch/

Cost is \$21 per party per night for tent camping, \$25 if hooked up to electricity. The phone # is [250.457.6794](tel: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 5pm ferry and drive up to Juniper Beach arriving between 11pm 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 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.

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 2pm.

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

COSTS: Transportation – ferry, gas – obviously reduced if shared. It is about 400km each way, so work out the costs based on your cars mileage.

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 the cost of transportation. The estimated cost is \$30 per paddler, based on the rental charge for three canoes plus a share of the gas money.

Dragon Boat

Our women's team the **BLUE HERONS** have been practicing every Tuesday and Thursday. Despite the weather, the boat has been bursting with enthusiasm in preparation for our first race, Sunday May 28, at the Fairway Gorge Super Sprints. Everyone is welcome to drop by and cheer us on!



Warming Up In the Rain



Despite our efforts we have been unable, at this point, to form a mixed team. Many more men are needed! If any of you gentlemen are interested in gathering a few of your friends, please contact us. It's not too late.

Guts'n Glory update: Saturday July 22nd at the clubhouse.

We will have at least 2 teams from VCKC and would love to see more. We issue a friendly challenge to the outrigger teams and to all other enthusiastic paddlers.... Gather together a team of 10 paddlers and get registered online today. We can even supply the stern and caller!

Choose from Two different race types race one or both!

Sprints: 200-meter races in 10-paddler boats

Chase:- 2500-meter combined-time race in 10-paddler boats

Races are offered in the following categories: Mixed open, women

Cost: \$230 per 10-paddler team for EITHER the 200m sprint or the 2500m chase.

Only \$50 additional to race in both.

It will be a grand day of fun, both on and off the water. There are medals to earn, food to eat, and prizes to win! Let's all get out there and share our gusto for racing and at the end of the day, we'll meet in the beverage garden!

Volunteers and Sponsors: All great events happen with awesome volunteers and generous sponsors. Please contact us if you'd like to spend a few hours that day helping out and/or if you know of a business that would like to show their support for our dragon boat festival and community clubhouse. Thank you.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Paddles Up!

Paula Gough and Kim Capson
Co-Directors VCKC Dragon Boat Program
vckc.dragonboat.bc@gmail.com

For sale:

- 1 home made sea kayak - \$500
 - 1 [perception dancer kayak](#) (river kayak with skirt, 2 air bags, pfd, helmet) - \$300
 - 1 Helmann Scout canoe rigged for artistic paddling with pfd - \$900
 - 1 river kayak paddle \$35
 - 1 ocean kayak paddle - 35
 - 1 ocean kayak carbon fibre kayak paddle with case - \$300
 - 3 of a set of 4 roof top carrier foams. - \$10
- Contact Jean 250-686-6923 after 5:00 pm. Pictures available upon request.



Sept. 16-17 at Newcastle Island Provincial Park off Nanaimo, the grand **opening of the Salish Sea Marine Trail**. We are looking at a number of events including workshops on a variety of subjects, keynote speakers, a group paddle/lotilla to converge on the opening ceremonies, and a race around Newcastle and Protection islands. Perhaps the latter would be of most interest to your group, but we are also looking at this as an opportunity for club outreach that may be beneficial to your group, both in terms of participating and hosting. We are hoping that clubs will offer to host a workshop or two, or host event such as at an on-water "games" session (as clubs seem to have favorite games to offer).

Here's a tentative itinerary: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cZPqYrdW6fNFe0h2fJKBORwBe2k-YKuCKd0LSyPo5-w>. This is a "live" link so the information accessible will be updated as the itinerary becomes filled in with details.

Thanks in advance for any help you can offer in promoting this through the club. Cheers, John Kimantas

Celebrating Harolds 89th Birthday



June 2017 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3 Level 1 Sea Kayak Skills - 2 day course
4 Level 1 Sea Kayak Skills - 2 day course	5	6 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting	7 7:00 PM Crabbing clinic classroom session	8 7:00 PM G&G Planning	9	10 8:00 AM Lakewater 3 - Advanced Tandem
11 8:00 AM Lakewater 4 - Advanced Solo	12	13 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	14	15	16	17 8:00 AM Skill clinic - Crabbing
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1
2	3	4 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting	5	6	7	8

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	