



## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

# Newsletter

April 2018

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

### Dates to Remember

March 29<sup>th</sup> Canoe and Kayak Meeting 7:30  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> Monthly General Meeting 7:30 -presenter **Earle Shirley** of **Victoria Search and Recue (RCMSAR)**  
April 8<sup>th</sup> Send Off Party for Mile Petrovic 4:00  
April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Wake Up the Gorge outrigger races for OC-6 and small boats respectively  
April 21<sup>st</sup> 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Harold Nishikawara  
April 28 and 29 Running of the Cow (canoe moving water)  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Spring Cleanup Day 9:00 to 1:00  
May 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 Switch Blade Relay Race  
Canoe and Kayak spring course schedule now available at [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca)

**Save the Date: Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup> – VCKC 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration**  
**A friendly reminder to avoid paddling in Colquitz Creek estuary from March 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup>**  
*Please check website for details of events*

### President's Report

VCKC had its first general meeting of members in March 1968. Our club just turned 50. I hope you save the date, **Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup>**, to join in the celebration. We are planning a full-on event. It includes our biggest ever paddling extravaganza, a book launch of the club's history, and just about the biggest gathering of paddlers and community members past present we have ever seen. The weather will still be warm, and summer not yet completely gone. This will be the perfect cap to an ambitious paddling season. Makes you think 50 isn't so bad.

You will see on our website, calendar, and this newsletter that we are a going concern in spring. This is the best time of year to be involved. Hope to see you at the clubhouse or on the water.

I hope you can join us for our monthly General Meeting Tuesday April 3. Our guest presenter will be Earle Shirley of the Victoria chapter of the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Society. Earle will be sharing with us the experiences RCMSAR has while protecting boaters and paddlers on our local waters.



*What a beautiful place to have our clubhouse*

~ Joe Boyd, President

**Important Reminder: The basement door should not be left ajar, while we enjoy our paddles on the gorge. This presents an opportunity for intruders to enter the building.**

## Voyageur Program Update - 2018 Paddle for the Kids Recap

March 24<sup>th</sup> marked the 38<sup>th</sup> Paddle for the Kids and an accumulative sum of \$349,000 raised to support BC Easter Seals. Wow what an accomplishment. Over the years the number of paddlers has varied and this year we had forty enthusiastic individuals brave the elements, enjoy the challenges and ask for friends and family to sponsor their efforts.

As in past years this is not a one-day event, but rather six weeks of paddling with the culmination of a paddle around the Peninsula. This years' practice sessions took us to many interesting areas and provided opportunities for enjoyment, spectacular views and to challenge and build our skills.



*Portland Island*

We started off with a paddle on a very cold snowy day in Sooke Basin and Sooke River Estuary and followed the next outing with a short day in blustery and sunny weather on the Gorge with a paddle up to Portage Inlet. No practice sessions would be complete without a capsize and rescue demo. After the demo we headed out to Victoria Harbour for a trip around to West Bay and back to VCKC.

An additional twist was added this year; a women stern lead day! We started off on a beautiful calm day from Goldstream Marina. We paddled four big canoes this time with an enthusiastic group of paddlers. Helene Poulin sterned Tillicum. Ellie James sterned Munroe. Sonya McRae sterned Sta'qeya (from School District 61, Shoreline Middle School). Mary Marks sterned Canada. We headed up Finlayson Arm with a warm sunny snack break on the water.

The final practice paddle for PFTK was gorgeous. A long day to paddle with our group; we are ready! Led by Ellie and Roy with Munroe, Canada, Tillicum and Sta'Qeya, we left from Esquimalt Lagoon. We had a short instruction from Ron and David, reminding us how to switch while sharing a seat in a big canoe.

Finally, the day was here. Two shifts of paddlers divided up the long journey; each paddling for approximately two to two and half hours shifts. Again, the weather man was not extremely helpful thus we faced some strong winds and waves at points in the journey. However, after all the practice we were up to the challenge.



~ Mary Marks, Voyageur Program





Anglers Cove was the last switch over point for the shift one. It was now up to shift two to bring the boats home.



Shift two successfully maneuvered the big boats under Tillicum Bridge. David and his team were ready and on site to assist with ropes, but the skillful paddlers were up to the challenge.



## Canoe Program Update

Our spring canoe courses are now on the website. April is the month when canoeing really takes off.

One thing to do is attend the RCABC canoe festival in Hope.



The festival is [April 20-22](#) and is at a great camp on Kawkawa Lake. You can choose to tent or stay in a cabin. Price includes all meals. It's really a non-stop weekend of paddling, eating, and having fun. It's appropriate for all levels of canoeist from new to instructors, as there are various and continuous canoe clinics and activities.

The following weekend April 28 and 29 is the annual Running of the Cowichan. We rent the group campsite at Stolz Pool and paddle the Cowichan River from the Lake to the ocean (or at least Duncan). To paddle you need to have already taken and passed a Moving Water course, but club members can still tent camp with us. (Costs are low, don't have the exact number yet, but it probably be about \$20 for camping.) There is great hiking and biking in the area, though not as good as the paddling.



*Stolz Pool Campsite*

~ David Dorosz, Director



Hi there! We at the BC Marine trails need updated information on the campsites on the Cape Scott Marine Trails campsites. We are hoping that club members who are paddling this trail could fill out site condition reports on these sites for us. If you look at the sites on our map for this trail you will find that some have been done and require some type of work. Very minimal work that will have tools or cleaning materials on hand. It would be awesome if some folks could do some of this for us as well. Thanks so much, Louise

As a paddling club representative for BC Marine Trails Network Association, I want to share the excitement around our new initiatives for 2018. Our board is working tirelessly with Recreational Sites and Trails BC, First Nations, BC Parks, and other stakeholders to identify specific sites for recreational site status, connecting our coast with safe access points, exceptional campsites, and a consistent philosophy of sustainable conduct which respects and preserves the natural treasures we are so privileged to enjoy.

The Trail Development Committee and Stewardship Committee need your help in establishing new marine trails in the Discovery Islands between Campbell River and Lund, and on the Cape Scott Circle Route marine trail on the northern tip of Vancouver Island. With summer paddling season on everyone's mind, we want to reach as many of your members as possible, as they plan their trips for the months ahead. BC Marine Trails needs recreational paddlers to be the eyes and ears of conservation on the coast. We have made it possible to easily submit data on the condition of launches, campsites, and day use areas so that our information remains current. If we are aware of conditions that need correction or improvement, we can focus our volunteer resources on those areas most in need. And we have made our Site Condition Reporting process as convenient as sending a text. Even if you're not much of a techy, it is straightforward to submit important information through our website, or on your phone, or if preferred, by mail. Coming this spring, you will be able to see on our map what sites need to have a more current report, and we want to organize this year's volunteers around local and west coast clean up efforts. Whether removing invasive species of plants or collecting debris, spreading the word or making donations, there are so many ways to be actively involved with caring for our coast.

BCMTNA is also campaigning with other concerned Canadians to impress upon the government in Ottawa, the importance of financially supporting efforts to remove debris from our coastline, particularly fishing gear, plastics, and



Styrofoam. As the breakdown of plastics continues to contaminate our ecology, we support efforts to reduce the production and use of single use plastics at source.

We all have the opportunity to make a real difference. As we all strive to exemplify respectful, cooperative use of our rich environment, we hope to see many of you sharing what you see this summer in a site condition report, joining us in beach cleanups, and supporting the creation of new marine trails for continued, sustainable, water-based public recreation along the entire BC coastline.

Happy Paddling, Gene Gapsis

## Dragon Boat News

Our "Learn to Paddle" sessions were a success in introducing over 20 new paddlers to experience the sport of Dragon Boat racing. Thank you Bon L for helping out with this!

Here are some dates to add to your calendar:

March 28<sup>th</sup> Wednesday- team blood donation 4:05 followed by a potluck at the clubhouse at 6pm

April 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: the start of regular practices- Monday and Wednesdays 5:45 warm up. Paddle 6-7:30



*Learn to paddle session*

**Send Off Party for Mile**- Open to all club members!

April 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday- Potluck/BBQ 4pm at the Clubhouse

Our dear friend Mile is moving to Serbia very soon. He has been a valuable part of the Dragon boat program for many years and a very active member of the club. His commitment, knowledge, sense of humour and kind spirit has been invaluable to us, as the directors of the program and to the women's team. Please join us in sharing food, fun and stories!



**VCKC's Guts and Glory**: a 1 day festival in 10 paddler boats

**Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup>**. Online Registration is open. Early bird deadline is April 15th.

Get your team registered in one or both race types. There will be an on-site food concession and beverage garden available for all paddlers.

Check out our website for more details. **New this year**- - we are registered with Dragon Boat Canada as a CCWC qualifier !!

We will need volunteers to help make this event a success. We have a few main areas that we are looking for someone right now to head up-

Master of Ceremonies, head of the beer garden, and head of kitchen/BBQ area. Let us know if you'd like one of these positions. We look forward to working with you.

Please contact us at [vckc.dragonboat.bc@gmail.com](mailto:vckc.dragonboat.bc@gmail.com) if you have any questions.  
Paddles Up!

~ Paula Gough and Kim Capson  
Co-Directors VCKC Dragon Boat Program

## Marathon Program Update

Despite the cool and downright cold temperatures of the past month, Saturday morning sessions continue to be busy with upwards of 15 marathon paddlers in attendance.

A marathon canoe clinic was held last month, with 5 participants taking 4x1-hour sessions. It was instructed by Norm MacDonell, Darrelle Butler, Bon Lee, Gordie Wallace, and Ryan Mader. Our goal was to introduce or reintroduce paddlers to marathon paddling and, in the end leave them with enough know how to feel comfortable participating in the Saturday morning sessions. In that regard we feel it was a success. We plan to hold another clinic in June. More to follow.

WUTG small boat race organization is in full swing. Darrelle Butler is doing a great deal of the behind the scenes work with Tony Hopkins to organize the small boats day on April 15th. So a big thanks to them.

The Switch Blade Relay organizing committee is well on their way to have all the pieces together in plenty of time for race day. Like WUTG we depend heavily on our volunteers to make this event happen. Thanks in advance for your support.

LOST: A VCKC member's paddle was misplaced in the clubhouse over the past 2-weeks. It is a bent shaft carbon paddle with black electrical tape covering the blade tip. It also has a Canada sticker and a grey blob of epoxy on the blade. Please contact [marathon@vckc.ca](mailto:marathon@vckc.ca) if you have any information about this paddle. Thanks.

~ Ryan Mader, Marathon Program



*Saturday morning session*



## CANADA 150 FOUR PROVINCES FIVE BRIGADES

Don Munroe undertook a journey to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada's founding, the canoe, the cultural cooperation and paddling culture across Canada. He has compiled a video that can be seen on youtube with this link <https://youtu.be/SELdBZ2fQ8k>

## Outrigger Program Update



2017 Event

The annual Wake Up the Gorge Festival planning is underway will be held April 14th (outrigger) and 15th (small boat). This is a major club event that benefits the Outrigger Community and VCKC. Thanks to those of you who have volunteered for this activity. We hope to see others out as racers or observers. There will be music and food on Saturday April 14, so please come out and support the event. For more information on WUTG contact [outrigger@vckc.ca](mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca). Darrelle Butler (Small boat race).

For information on how to register a team, where the event will be held etc. Go to

[Wake Up the Gorge \(WUTG\)](http://www.vckc.ca/Wake-Up-the-Gorge-(WUTG)) [http://www.vckc.ca/Wake-Up-the-Gorge-\(WUTG\)](http://www.vckc.ca/Wake-Up-the-Gorge-(WUTG))

For information on how to register a team, where the event will be held etc. go to [Wake Up the Gorge \(WUTG\)](http://www.vckc.ca/Wake-Up-the-Gorge-(WUTG))

~ Anthony Hopkin, Outrigger Director and Darrelle Butler Event Co-Cha

## Blast from the Past

This is the space to share memories from the last **FIFTY** years. Do you have a unique story or picture to share? Send them to [newsletter@vckc.ca](mailto:newsletter@vckc.ca)



2006 PFTK



2011 Backward Race



2007 Ageless Warriors

2007 Taking public for a paddle





# Volunteer

## Opportunities

Volunteers are an integral part of all events held by VCKC. Without them our events could not be a success. This is a fun way to contribute, meet people and even introduce others to the club.



Special thank you to Mary Marks for all her work to make this years PFTK such as

- ✚ April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Wake Up The Gorge contact [outrigger@vckc.ca](mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca)
- ✚ May 5<sup>th</sup> – Spring Clean-up
- ✚ May 12 Switch Blade
- ✚ July 21 – Guts and Glory Festival- contact [dragonboat@vckc.ca](mailto:dragonboat@vckc.ca)



**"Harold is turning 90"**

Come and help celebrate Harold

Nishikawara's 90th birthday with a potluck dinner at our clubhouse commencing 5:30pm, Saturday, April 21, 2018. Harold would be thrilled to see many of his old VCKC friends again."

~ Jack Louie



## Refreshment Fund

We all enjoy a hot beverage on a chilly evening and that is what our refreshment fund supports, however, to make it work we need to remember to add our looney to the jar. Without the contributions supplies cannot be provided.

May 5th 9:00 - 1:00, VCKC needs members to help tidy inside and outside the club (please bring whatever tools etc you can) or come prepared to paddle a voyageur and pick up detritus in the Gorge. Thanks, Sandy





## April 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Moving Water 1 - Tandem
8 Moving Water 1 - Tandem 4:00 PM Potluck with Mile	9	10 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	11	12	13	14 2018 Wake Up the Gorge
15 2018 Wake Up the Gorge	16	17	18	19 1:00 PM Voyageur - PTB	20 RCABC Paddle Conference in Hope	21 4:00 PM Harold's 90th Birthday
22 RCABC Paddle Conference in Hope	23 6:00 PM Ocean Canoeing Course	24	25	26	27	28 8:00 AM Sea Kayak Basic Skills Course Running of the Cowichan
29 Running of the Cowichan	30 6:00 PM Ocean Canoeing Course	May 1	2	3	4 Voyageur HG Group 1	5 9:00 AM Spring Clean-Up: Club and Gorge Shoreline

## Club Contact Information

### Officers

President	<a href="mailto:president@vckc.ca">president@vckc.ca</a>
Joe Boyd	
Vice-president	<a href="mailto:vpresident@vckc.ca">vpresident@vckc.ca</a>
Tim Marks	
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@vckc.ca">treasurer@vckc.ca</a>
Mark Sondheim	
Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@vckc.ca">secretary@vckc.ca</a>
Jean Chandler	
Past President	<a href="mailto:pastpres@vckc.ca">pastpres@vckc.ca</a>
Linda Thomson	

### Program Directors

Canoe Program	<a href="mailto:canoe@vckc.ca">canoe@vckc.ca</a>
David Dorosz	
Dragonboat Program	<a href="mailto:dragonboat@vckc.ca">dragonboat@vckc.ca</a>
Paula Gough	
& Kim Capson	
Kayak Program	<a href="mailto:kayak@vckc.ca">kayak@vckc.ca</a>
Roy Scully & Linda Hall	
Outrigger Program	<a href="mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca">outrigger@vckc.ca</a>
Tony Hopkin	
Marathon Canoe Program	<a href="mailto:marathon@vckc.ca">marathon@vckc.ca</a>
Ryan Madar	
Voyageur Program	<a href="mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca">voyageur@vckc.ca</a>
Mary Marks	

### Other Executive

Education, Standards & Safety	<a href="mailto:safety@vckc.ca">safety@vckc.ca</a>
Ken Gibbard	
Membership	<a href="mailto:membership@vckc.ca">membership@vckc.ca</a>
Muriel Johnson	
Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance)	<a href="mailto:clubhouse@vckc.ca">clubhouse@vckc.ca</a>
Sandy Rattray	
Boat & Locker Storage	<a href="mailto:storage@vckc.ca">storage@vckc.ca</a>
Arthur Caldicott	
Director at Large	<a href="mailto:director1@vckc.ca">director1@vckc.ca</a>
Susan Logan	
Director at Large (events& volunteers)	<a href="mailto:director2@vckc.ca">director2@vckc.ca</a>
vacant	
Director at Large (events& volunteers)	<a href="mailto:director3@vckc.ca">director3@vckc.ca</a>
vacant	

### Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:newsletter@vckc.ca">newsletter@vckc.ca</a>
Susan Logan	
Webmaster	<a href="mailto:webmaster@vckc.ca">webmaster@vckc.ca</a>
Arthur Caldicott	