



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

May 2018

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

May 5 – Club Spring Clubhouse Cleanup, Shoreline Cleanup – 9:30 am start

May 12 – Switchblade Paddlesport Relay Races – marathon@vckc.ca

May 27 - Power to Play – voyageur@vckc.ca

June 2 – Big Brothers, Big Sisters Picnic – 10:00 – 2:00

July 1 – Canada Day Picnic

Check our website (www.vckc.ca) for canoe and kayak courses

Save the Date: Saturday September 15th – VCKC 50th Year Anniversary Celebration

Please check website for details of events

President's Report

After years of research, **Alan Thomson** has authored a book on VCKC's history. Pre-sales of the book will be available on our website after June 1st and can be picked up at the 50th Anniversary celebration on September 15th. There is a limited print run, so be sure to place your order at www.vckc.ca. I see this project coming together and makes me feel proud of the club and community we have.

Be sure to attend our monthly General Meeting **on Tuesday May 1st at 7:30 pm**. Our guest speaker will be **Mariah McCooey**, Victoria Harbour Master. She will be giving an update to the **2018 Traffic Plan** for paddlers in Victoria Harbour. This will be of particular interest to those of us who paddle in our main local harbor – just about everyone at VCKC. We are fortunate to have Mariah back this year. Hope you can join us.

~ Joe Boyd, President

Call for Volunteers for VCKC 50th Celebration

I am looking for volunteers for the afternoon/evening of September 15th to help organize the after-party. The Lions Club will be selling burger and the clubhouse will be open to the public. Cake will be served to the public at 4:30, to be followed by a members-only beer and burger fest. I will be looking for help with: planning; setup of BBQs, kitchen and tables/chairs; cleanup; food prep, etc. (Not necessarily in that order!). You can call/text me at 250.388.3691 or e-mail: debilah@gmail.com. Let's put our party on!

2018 Wake Up the Gorge

The week leading up to the 20th Annual Wake Up the Gorge was interesting from a weather perspective and was causing some concern. On the Wednesday, the first Cruise Ship of the season was held at bay from entering the harbour due to challenging winds. The team from Powell River indicated that they boarded the last ferry to Comox on the Friday as the next scheduled crossings were canceled due to high winds. On Saturday Mother Nature decided to cooperate and events went ahead as scheduled.

The event featured outriggers on Saturday April 14 and small boats Sunday April 15. A total of 32 teams from Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Powell River, and Brentwood Bay, participated in the outrigger section with seven divisions. This included a senior woman's team from Vancouver preparing to compete in Va'a World Sprint Champions in Tahiti, as well as three junior (under 19) teams from Pearson College. Music was provided by Robin Deans, and of course Don (the Voice) Munro served as the Master of Ceremonies, periodically assisted by Marianne Pilon from Ocean River.

The event provided an opportunity for fun and comradery. As with all VCKC events it would not be possible without the support and contributions from our members. The Kitchen was ably managed by Delia's team, and food was provided by the following outrigger teams: the VaaVaaVaa Boom, Kingfishers, Delia's Team, Friday Flyers, Sufficient Thrust, Kama'Aina, Titanic Swim Team, Riptide, Let It Riders, and Marathon Swim Team. Comments overheard clearly indicated that the food was not only delicious but well appreciated.



A long race day on Saturday, ended fittingly, with a titanic struggle between two mixed teams, Latitude 48 and FGPC, who finished one second apart.



We also had a fun day of small boat racing on Sunday. Eleven paddlers showed up to race in the morning race. We had two surf ski's an OC2 and seven OC1's out racing. The course had been changed due to a full waterway closure under the Johnson Street Bridge while the old bridge was being deconstructed. As a result, the race was on protected waters in the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet.

In the afternoon, there was enough interest to hold the marathon canoe race. There were seven boats on the start line, six tandem canoes and one solo canoe. Several paddlers were racing marathon canoe for the first time.

Both races were about 8km in length. Ian Daykin was the fastest boat in his surf ski posting a time of 36:09.60 in the morning race. Norm MacDonell had the fastest time in an OC1 coming in at 42:05.60. Mel Conard and James Hill placed first in the afternoon race with a time of 42:20.62. Full results are posted on the VCKC website.

These events are not possible without lots of help. The following people should be acknowledged Arthur Cadicott, Mark Sondheim, Molly Hamilton, Shawn Hamilton, Joe Boyd, Ryan Ovens, Marianne Pilon, Delia Hill, Sharon White, Mari-Jane Cousins, Maria Eis, Bonnie Leadbeater, Brenda Stengel, Darrelle Butler, Bruce Porter, Kevin Stewart, Dave Barr, Mike Shannon, Brenda Kalynchuk, Betty Ann Thompson, Graham Hayes, Ken Gibbard, Donna Sainsbury, Dave Hill, Ron Williams, Bill Sainsbury Nicole Cherrington, Leona Doucet, Cathy MacLean, Kim White, Evelyn Reitmeyer, Jack Louie, Judy Leonard, Susan Logan, Louise Johnston, Mavis Purvis, Bon Lee, Jen Yee, Susan Lee, Pam Carrol, Dominique Poulin, Linda Nimshon-Barnes, Paula Gough, Ken Brown, Jim and Sharon Skouge, and Don Munro.

Thanks also go out to Ocean River Paddling club who provided a race boat for our event.

Finally, a big thanks to those companies and individuals who provided Door prizes:

Gorge Pointe Pub, Cob's Bakery, Canadian Tire (View Royal), Thrifty's Food (Admirals Rd), Fairway Gorge Market (Tillicum), Clapp Enterprises, Home Hardware (Burnside), Crooked Goose Bistro, Health Essentials, Esquimalt Pharma Save, Irena Jazwinski.

~ Tony Hopkins and Darelle Butler, Co-Chairs



Safety Boat Team in action



Lots of activity dock side



Volunteers in Action



BC Canoe Festival 2018

Friday afternoon arrivals saw warm sunshine gloriously adorning Camp Kawkawa. By 4:00 the wind and clouds arrived, but the spirit of the campers never flagged. Paddlers were on the lake in tandems, voyageurs and play-boats.

Wraps for dinner, hooray. All you can eat, get more if you're hungry, yum, yum. Race to your boat for the Night Hawk paddler, grab your dancin' shoes and shed your extra layers or cosy up to watch the Bonnet Plume slide show: choices, choices. What a day, we're here, it's fine again. Peaceful joy accompanies me to bed.

Saturday morning the rustle of early risers starts before 6:00 am. Choices for the morning took people to the water and forest and indoors for stretching. A glorious way to challenge the light rain and work up an appetite for breakfast where more choices were presented by the kitchen staff.

The Instructor AGM was a great medium for discussions about ways to grow the organization into extending opportunities for paddlers. Much food for thought and many ideas to extend our expertise to every day paddlers of BC. Nice to see the younger members actively working towards the future opportunities in BC's great outdoors.



Julie-Anne and Jean enjoy a moment of relaxation

A flood of paddles & PFD's exited towards the waterfront in short order. Groups gathered to explore wilderness first aid, keeping warm with tea and tarps and a voyageur slideshow along the coast and into the past. After a lovely pasta and salad lunch, boaters headed out for beginner solo, tryout play-boating and marathon racing. All of these activities involve a solo canoeist; all of whom had to control a wind sensitive boat from somewhere near the middle of the boat. For me, it was a workout as I was in the bow seat facing stern. Dry land activities include the waitlisted back country baking workshop, two mini slide shows featuring a cross Canada adventure and experiences from a university radio station and nature games where the joy and freedom of nature is reached by game participation.

Suddenly it is time to change for our next work shop, a half hour to refocus and change from indoors to outdoors or visa versa. Many people were in the dining Lodge, nursing a cup of tea or coffee. Paddle options included canoe games, (oh, games are so much fun), tandem instructor refresher and a big boat nature paddle. Fortunately, with two people in each boat and less wind, the joy of paddling returned. Off the water, workshops included river rescue, a slide show featuring canoe tripping with kids, a stone arrowhead workshop (I made an obsidian knife) and a hike up the hill behind the camp. So many choices, all of which are intriguing. Perhaps we can get the one we missed next year.

After a delightful chicken dinner, The Annual General Meeting tackled the task of reviewing the proposed changes to our Constitution and Bylaws, as mandated by BC's new Societies Act with extra changes as recommended by the executive. Following that, elections for new and ongoing executive members were very successful. Later in the evening was comfortably social. Some danced, some paddled, some visited. It's hard to believe that the weekend is passing by so quickly.

Sunday followed with more choices; knowing that we're almost ready to head home is a time for reflection. I treated myself to a workshop about photograph composition. Later my friend Julie Anne raved about the

advanced solo strokes refresher course including the “O” Stroke, the off-side bow pry, the stationary running pry, the box stroke and more. We had a wonderful weekend.

Looking back, I see that the choices I made were right for me and by the contentedness about me, I suspect that is so for most of the participants. The RCABC Canoe Festival is an annual event that is open to all paddlers. Check out <https://bccanoe.com> for RBC and <https://sites.goggle.com/view/bccanoe/festival/home> for this year's festival information.

~ Jean Chandler

Dragon Boat News



Team News

- It's been a busy time this past month. We now have 32 names on our team roster- 17 returning and 15 new people! We will be a women's' team again this year with a new name... **“Tillicum Racers”** This was voted on at our team potluck meeting. With Brenda S. as team captain and joining her as co-captain is Christine M. and Libby M. as treasurer.
- Some of our team participated in a group blood donation before the potluck took place. Way to go ladies!

Practice days are well attended with both dragon boats needed. Mile is giving us what time he has to help train potential new steer people. Thank you to Jim G. Tim M. and Sonya M. for volunteering to help.

Coach Ryan has a plan in place to get everyone ready for our first race of the season – the Fairway Gorge Super Sprints Sunday May 27. Come and cheer us on!!

Other news:

- Welcome Sonya McRae and her group of Shoreline students! They will be using the Dragon boat 1-2 times per week mornings and afternoons until mid-June. One of her goals is to give every grade 6 and 7 student the opportunity to try the Dragon Boat in order to create a team that will practice three times and then go to Burnaby to compete in the Canoe Kayak BC races. The other goal is to have fun.

The UVIC team is still practicing on Saturday mornings so the boats are getting plenty of use!



- Thanks to everyone that attended and contributed to the potluck party for Mile's send off. We had great food, shared stories and fun. Mile appreciated the photo book that Kim put together. So many great photos of him and the people he has met over the years at VCKC. Thanks to those that sent in pictures

****VCKC's Guts and Glory:** a 1 day festival in 10 paddler boats**
Saturday July 21st. Online Registration is open.

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!!

Please contact us at vckc.dragonboat.bc@gmail.com if you have any questions.
Paddles Up!

Paula Gough and Kim Capson

Marathon Program Update

The marathon program very much enjoyed the 20th annual WUTG with teams competing in the Men's Open and Open Mixed. Despite Victoria Harbour's close out, due to the dismantling of the Blue Bridge, there was a good turn-out for WUTG small boat race on April 15th. A big thanks goes out to Darrelle Butler, Tony Hopkins, and all the volunteers for their work making the small boat race happen. Kudos to all who participated.



Although there has been less than seasonal weather, the marathon program continues to have an excellent turnout each Saturday morning. On our most recent program 16 members participated. Still, we welcome more participants. If interested please contact marathon@vckc.ca to find out how to get involved.

The organizing committee is putting the finishing touches on the 2018 Switch Blade Relay race, to be held on May 12th. For all interested paddlers and volunteers, please contact marathon@vckc.ca for more information.

~ Ryan Mader, Marathon Program

Voyageur Program Update



Photo by Phil McEvoy

As we recover from all the activity of Paddle for the Kids, Big Canoe folks are gathering strength for activities in the other programs and planning spring and summer paddling adventures. The Voyageur calendar is full of meetings, camping planning and trips for Haida Gwaii, and other groups using VCKC Big Canoes.

Call for Volunteers:

- May 27th "Power-to-Be" at Beaver Lake Park
- June 2 Big Brothers/Big Sisters Picnic. Gorge Park – 10AM to 2PM
- July 1st Canada Day on the Gorge- VCKC Dragon Boat and Big Canoe rides

Other dates to consider:

- May 13 at the club from 9 - 4pm, Tim Marks will be teaching "Paddle Canada Big Canoe Stern Leader" if enough people are interested.
- June 23 - July 17 Big Canoe trip to Haida Gwaii!
- August 24 to 26 Thompson River Voyageur trip
- September 15 - VCKC 50th - all vessels!!!

To volunteer or information on any of these events contact voyageur@vckc.ca

~ Mary Marks

Kayak Program Update

Two Sea Kayak Basic Skills courses took place in April and one is scheduled for May. There is also a Sea Kayak Level 1 kayak course scheduled for June. All four classes are fully booked and we have people on a waitlist for future classes.

Although we offer the use of club kayaks to the participants in our courses, we are actually short two club kayaks. One of the kayak directors, Roy Scully, has kindly been lending two of his own kayaks to the club so that we can offer courses to six participants at a time. The club has approved the purchase of one kayak in 2018 (which will happen within the next few months) and we will be asking for a budget to purchase one more next year. That will complete the VCKC fleet. In the meantime, we thank Roy for helping to keep the courses running with a full complement of six paddlers.

The kayak directors get many inquiries about the use of club kayaks. The club kayaks are for VCKC members use only and they are reserved during courses for course participants. The kayaks must stay in the Gorge Waterway unless you are participating in a VCKC club sponsored paddle which is taking place at another location. As the days grow longer demand for the club kayaks increases. Members use them to practice paddle strokes or simply to enjoy a paddle on the Gorge Waterway. If you would like to borrow a club kayak, and you have completed the Sea Kayak Basic Skills course contact Linda Hall at kayakbooking@vckc.ca to book one.

Happy Paddling Everyone!
~ Linda Hall
Kayak Program

World Ocean Day at Esquimalt Gorge



June 2nd, 2018 11am to 3 pm
For more information visit [here](#)
Build a boat and race it on the Gorge



May 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Running of the Cowichan	30 6:00 PM Ocean Canoeing Course	May 1 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting	2	3	4 Voyageur HG Group 1	5 9:00 AM Spring Clean-Up: Club and Gorge Shoreline
6 Voyageur HG Group 1 8:00 AM Sea Kayak Basic Skills Course 8:30 AM Lakewater 1 - Basic Tandem	7 9:30 AM Voyageur - Shoreline Middle School 6:00 PM Ocean Canoeing Course	8 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	9	10	11	12 Ocean Canoeing Course 8:00 AM Switchblade Paddlesport Relay Races
13 Ocean Canoeing Course 9:00 AM Voyageur - Stern Leader School District #61	14 9:30 AM Voyageur - Shoreline Middle School	15	16 1:00 PM Basic and River Poling 7:00 PM GWI Steering Committee Meeting	17 6:00 PM Basic and River Poling	18	19 8:30 AM Lakewater 2 - Basic Solo
20	21 8:00 AM Basic and River Poling	22	23	24	25	26
27 7:00 AM Voyageur - Power-to-Play	28	29	30	31	Jun 1 Voyageur HG Group 2	2 8:30 AM Lakewater 3 - Advanced Tandem 10:00 AM Voyageur - R/R

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
Jean Chandler	
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 & Linda Hall	
Outrigger Program	outrigger@vckc.ca
Tony Hopkin	
Marathon Canoe Program	marathon@vckc.ca
Ryan Madar	
Voyageur Program	voyageur@vckc.ca
Mary Marks	

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	director1@vckc.ca
Susan Logan	

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	newsletter@vckc.ca
Susan Logan	
Webmaster	webmaster@vckc.ca
Arthur Caldicott	