



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

June 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

Tuesday June 5th at 6 pm - Annual spring BBQ:

Saturday June 2nd. Big Brothers Big Sister Picnic

June 2nd World Ocean Day at Esquimalt Gorge Park 11 am to 3 pm)

July 1st Canada Day Celebrations at the Gorge

Saturday July 21 VCKC Guts 'n Glory Dragon Boat Races

August 25 and 26 Thompson River Trip (Savona to Ashcroft)

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

This is our last newsletter until September as we embark on a busy summer of programs, trips and vacations. Check out the following pages to see all that has been and will be happening around the club during summer 2018. At age 50, VCKC is as active as ever. Have a safe summer.

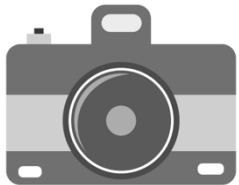
Plan to attend our Annual spring BBQ: Tuesday June 5th at 6 pm (Bring something to cook on the BBQ & something to share for potluck)

Volunteer to help with the Big Brothers Big Sister Picnic: Saturday June 2nd. VCKC volunteers will be providing Voyageur rides at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Annual Picnic from 12 – 2 pm. If you would like to help, please contact Alan or Linda Thomson at pastpres@vckc.ca

World Ocean Day June 2nd at Esquimalt Gorge Park 11 am to 3 pm - details here: (use this link: <https://www.tourismvictoria.com/see-do/festivals-events/world-oceans-day-esquimalt-gorge-park>)

July 1st Canada Day Celebrations at the Gorge: Stop in at the clubhouse for some strawberry tea, or join the Voyageur festivities up near Admirals road. VCKC will be offering Voyager canoe and Dragonboat rides to the public to raise funds for childrens' charities. To volunteer contact Kim at vckc.dragonboat.bc@gmail.com

~ Joe Boyd, President



Found camera May 23 in a Club PFD. Please contact Dorothea 250 598-1546 dhaeussler@shaw.ca Hint there are pictures from May 21 of a tandem canoe>

Marathon Program Update

2018 Switch Blade Relay Race

The weather was idyllic for the annual Switch Blade Relay Race, which was hosted at VCKC on May 12th. This race saw 6-person teams from around the South Island vying for the best overall time covering waters from Portage Inlet, Esquimalt Harbour, and Victoria Harbour. Relay heats included ocean kayak, SUP, tandem marathon canoe, OC-1, and surfski. There was an exciting OC-6 finale. Team “Fire Drill” captained by Darrelle Butler bested the day with the fastest overall time. Thanks to all the participants.



Team	Kayak	SUP	Tandem	OC-1	Surfski	OC-6	Total time
1. 360 +/-	27:00	31:57	23:18	51:14	44:21	52:06	4:43:11
	55:16		48:17				
2. Fire Drill	17:58	29:36	19:23	46:19	37:12	46:20	3:55:45
	36:56		39:22				
3. Rising Tide	23:34	34:06	24:15	49:45	48:02	48:45	4:34:41
	47:47		46:16				
4. The Kracken	21:54	39:56	27:34	48:22	37:09	50:14	4:31:51
	44:35		51:35				
5. Mixed Mavericks	18:53	38:28	20:51	46:05	40:04	46:57	4:12:40
	38:40		42:26				

Our appreciation goes out to all the volunteers who stepped up to make this event happen, Douglas Bain from Blue Giraffe Photography for the pictures and slide show, Delta Ocean Point for permitting the use of their dock, Fairway Markets for their donated food and refreshments, Ocean River Paddling Club for providing OC6 boats and dock space, Ocean River Sports and Starboard for providing the tetrahedron, and Hoyne Brewery for the prizes. Big thanks for all your supports.

An excellent portfolio of pictures capturing Switch Blade 2018 by Douglas Bain can be found at <http://bluegiraffephoto.zenfolio.com/p150259462>.

Snow to Surf Relay

The 36th Comox Valley Annual Snow to Surf Relay was held on Apr 29th. It's a multisport relay race where 117 teams composed of skiers, cyclists, runners, and paddlers pass the baton along an eight-legged relay that started on top of Mt Washington. It ended with a tandem canoe leg at Comox Marina. Paddlers from VCKC's marathon program were recruited for this final leg.







VCKC's Darrelle Butler and Sam Lu paired up for an impressive showing charging across the finish line as the fastest mixed canoe and the 3rd fastest boat overall. VCKC's Ryan Mader (stern) teamed up with Comox's Bill Bret (bow) were supported by a very fast team and cross the finish line winning the overall gold medal.

~ Ryan Mader, Marathon Director

Dragon Boat News

Fantastic weather and a full boat at practice make for an enthusiastic team and a happy coach. The **"Tillicum Racers"** have been diligently practicing twice a week in preparation for their first race of the season.

It will be a summer full of fun. Upcoming race dates are as follows:

-  May 27th - the GORGE SUPER SPRINTS
-  June 16th - FGPC X-SQUARED 300m Women's Dragon Boat Championships
-  July 6,7,8- NANAIMO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
-  August 10,11,12- VICTORIA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Come and cheer them on!

The Dragon Boat continues to be enjoyed by the students of Shoreline School until the end of June.

We will also be participating in the Big Brothers/Sisters BBQ, Gorge Canada Day celebrations and plan to take a crew to Symphony Splash. If you are interested in helping out at either of these events, or want to reserve a seat to paddle to the inner harbour for the symphony, email us and we will add your name to the list.

Please contact us at vcck.dragonboat.bc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Paddles Up!

Paula Gough and Kim Capson





Shoreline Middle School would like to thank VCKC for the use of the Dragon Boat. We have been able to take every grade 6 and every grade 7 class out paddling in the dragon boat. I have seen students that are shy in the classroom come alive paddling. I have seen students who don't know what to do with themselves in the classroom, focus and excel when paddling. Thank you VCKC for this and so much more.

Hay'sxw'qa / Thank you,

Sonya McRae

Art & Outdoor Education
Big Canoe Team Leader

Ecole Intermediaire
Shoreline Community Middle School
<https://shoreline.sd61.bc.ca>
Phone (250) 386 8367

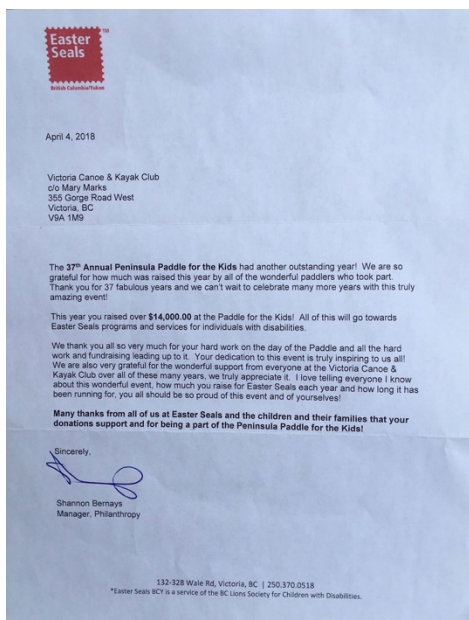
Voyageur Program Update

The big canoes have been busy with schools, a stern leader course and camping shakedown getting ready for our trip to Haida Gwaii.

Upcoming events are on the club calendar. Power to Play on May 27; Big Brothers, Big Sisters picnic on June 2; and the Gorge Canada Day celebrations on July 1. Various types of volunteers needed for all events. Emails will be coming out to detail what we need.



A final tally of **\$14,415.00** for Paddle for the Kids. Thank you so much to all involved with this fabulous event!



Sunset from Provost Island

Thompson River Trip – August 25 & 26, 2018

Saturday/Sunday,

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, please let me know by August 18 at the latest. 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/

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 a 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.

COSTS

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

Camping – see above.

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 TRIPS for the use of their voyageur or to pay for the cost of renting and transporting the other voyageur canoes from Maple Ridge. The estimated cost is \$30 per paddler, based on the rental charge for three canoes plus a share of the gas money. [Taking the Club voyageurs would cost the same, due to the ferry fares and require towing the boats further.]

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, which adds to the fun

~ Mary Marks

Kayak Program Update



Here comes those long lazy summer days, so perfect for getting out on the water! Two Kayak Basic Skills courses were completed in the spring and one is scheduled for June, so there are a number of VCKC members who are better equipped to get out on the water and be safe. We still have people on a wait list so we are hoping to schedule at least one more Basic course. There is also a two-day, Level 1 Kayak course scheduled for June, which is designed for the intermediate paddler – and the course is full!

July is the month when we begin our “Tuesday Night Paddles” on the Gorge. This is an opportunity to join with other VCKC members who are interested in kayaking and canoeing and work together to practice paddle strokes or just to take leisurely paddles up the Gorge and back. There is often an experienced paddler in the crowd who is willing to share their knowledge. Also, this is a good time to find a partner to practice re-entry techniques after a wet exit. Come out and join in the fun! Meet on the water at the clubhouse Tuesday evenings, beginning Tuesday July 3rd at 5:30pm. Club kayaks are available for this activity.



Club kayaks are for VCKC members use when taking courses or clinics, or when participating in club sanctioned paddles (Tuesday NightPaddles, 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 “buddies”. If you would like to borrow a club kayak contact Linda Hall at kayakbooking@vckc.ca to reserve one.

Happy Paddling Everyone!
~ Linda Hall
Kayak Program

If your summer plans include a trip on the northeast coast take a few tote bags along and help clean up the plastic. Take a photo of your cleanup efforts and send it to newsletter@vckc.ca and let's see what VCKC paddlers do for the ocean.

Canoe Program Update



Warm weather and recreational paddling go so well together. It's so nice to live where we have so many diverse paddling opportunities, protected water on the Gorge and local lakes, open ocean, and white water rivers up island. Twenty paddlers took Basic Tandem canoeing in May, and luckily the water is much warmer now than during the last class in January. There is a full slate of canoe courses on the calendar, so sign up now. There will be a flatwater paddle on June 3rd in local water. As soon as I get a chance to review the tides for the day I'll update the calendar with where we will paddle. The first group for Murtle Lake is full, but there is interest in a second group. If

you are interested sign up online before the June 7th trip planning meeting.

Canoesday! Starts Tuesday June 19th. What's a better reason to get out on the water other than just being Tuesday? Well there might be a few, but Tuesday is good enough. Canoe or kayak it's a good time to paddle. If there is an instructor onsite they will lead a paddle starting at 6:30PM. If not, then it's a good time for an individual practice paddle on the Gorge.

Running of the Cows (by Joe Boyd)

Running of the Cows 2018 took place April 28 and 29, with camping on the Friday and Saturday nights. This is an annual Canoe program event where river paddlers run the full length of the Cowichan River, from the lake to the bay - hence the name "Running of the Cows" or just "ROTC". The river was running at a generous level all weekend, at about 60 cms.

The weekend started quietly, with only about 6 or so members camping out on the Friday. Saturday saw about 22 paddlers in 9 boats run the upper half of the Cow. Our new Big Canoe



'Canada' was enjoying her first ever ROTC. It rained all that day, but the nice thing about river paddling -

you never notice rain. The afternoon portion included an epic run through the canyon. It was rough, wet, but a good thrill. All canoes made it to the Stoltz Pool group site gunnels up and smiling.

Saturday night dinner included chili, courtesy of Alan Thomson, and savory treats from Cobbs Bread on Oak Bay Avenue. About two

dozen members stayed and enjoyed the river after-party and the campfire. It is a good time to get to know each other better, particularly our new members who had recently completed the basic river paddling course. Paddling the river is fine but staying up half the night to talk about how great it was, is what ROTC is really all about.

Sunday saw most of the same paddlers continue on down the river, with a few more members joining us for just the one day. No rain. Nice. Lots of water, even better. Some paddled as far as "White Bridge"



because you have seen lots of river by then. A few of us went down as far as the highway, while a few more still made it down to the 'Last Bridge' at the Cowichan Bay estuary

~ David Dorosz, Canoe Director



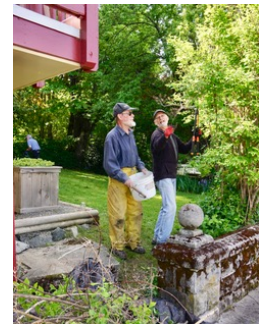
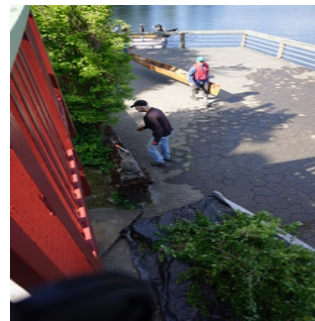
Summer Big Canoe Gulf Islands Trip

I am proposing a 5-night camping trip using two Voyageurs. This trip would start at Swartz Bay. The first night would be camping on my lawn on Piers Island. Then the next day on to Darcy Island. The next day would be up to Portland Island for two nights and the last night back on Piers Island. At each stop there would be three options, relax, hike on the island, or canoe around the island and adjacent areas. The tides are favorable for the longer paddles if we begin July 26 and return to Swartz Bay on July 31.

I have a few interested paddlers now, May 9. If you are interested contact Ken Gibbard at safety@vckc.ca or 250 477-4756

Spring Cleanup Club and Gorge

Thanks to all who came out to the VCKC and Gorge shoreline cleanup (new annual date of first Saturday in May) The weather was great, and the club certainly looked better after a couple of hours work. In particular, I would like to thank Wendy for organizing the interior work, Alan for leading the compound fence repair team and Don for handling the Voyageur cleaning up the shores trip and again, all those who gave time and energy to help. See you at the Fall Cleanup, Sandy



Safety Reminder



As the season gets underway here, I just wanted to send out a friendly reminder about staying in the boat lanes, especially outbound through the Middle Harbour (see highlighted lane below). We have noted an increase in vessels cutting straight across from the Narrows to Shoal Pt. and encroaching on the runway. Please ensure yellow buoys are kept close to port both inbound and outbound.

Thanks for your continued commitment to safety in the harbour!

Mariah McCooley, M.M.M.

Harbour Master/Port Manager
Victoria Public Harbour | Transport Canada | Government of Canada
mariah.mccooley@tc.gc.ca | Tel: 250-363-3578 | Cellular: 250-216-1106

Maitre de port/Directrice du port
Port publique de Victoria | Transports Canada | Gouvernement du Canada
mariah.mccooley@tc.gc.ca | Tél: 250-363-3578 | Cellulaire: 250-216-1106
24-hr emergency contact/en cas d'urgence: 250-380-8177

Celebrating VCKC 50 th. Anniversary

Commemorative Book ~ Final touches are underway by Alan and those working on this project with him. The sale price for the book will be \$19.99 for those who preorder prior to the end of July and \$25.00 after that date. Information on how to place your order will be out soon. Wait for the email that will explain how to order online via the club website.

Information Kiosk ~ the project in collaboration with the District of Sannich is also moving forward well.

September 15th Festivities ~ Final plans are being made and an email will go out that provides details.

Commemorative T-Shirts ~ if you would be interested in having a T-Shirt with the Anniversary logo let me know by email to director1@vckc. I would need to know your preferred size. We anticipate cost to be \$10.00. If sufficient interest is shown then we will order them. This would be a great way to identify our members at the various celebration events.

June 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 7:00 AM Voyageur - Power-to-Play	28	29 7:00 PM Cadbore Bay Navigation	30	31 9:00 AM Voyageur - Stern Leader Development	Jun 1 Voyageur HG Group 2	2 8:30 AM Lakewater 3 - Advanced Tandem 10:00 AM Voyageur - Big Brothers Big Sisters Picnic
3 Voyageur HG Group 2 10:00 AM Victoria Waterloops Trail Flatwater Paddle	4 9:30 AM Voyageur - Shoreline Middle School	5 6:00 AM VCKC Spring BBQ	6	7 6:30 PM Murtle Lake trip meeting	8 9:30 AM Voyageur - Shoreline Middle School	9 Sea Kayak Level 1 8:30 AM Lakewater 4 - Advanced Solo
10 Sea Kayak Level 1	11	12 Voyageur - Shoreline Middle School 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18 Voyageur HG June 18 - July 30	19 6:30 PM Canoesday!	20	21	22	23 8:30 AM Lakewater 1 - Basic Tandem
24 Voyageur HG June 18 - July 30	25	26 6:30 PM Canoesday!	27 9:30 AM Voyageur - Shoreline Middle School	28	29	30

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	