



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

November 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

- 🚣 November 3rd Fall Cleanup: 9-1
- 🚣 November- 6th: program updates, and presentation on Murtle Lake in Wells Gray Park
- 🚣 November 11th -Remembrance Day paddle on the Cowichan River - see Canoe and Big Canoe sections for details
- 🚣 November 14th – Kayak program meeting 7:30
- 🚣 **December 8th** -Early Heads up: VCKC Christmas Party will be Saturday

Please check website for details of events

President's Report

The fall weather is upon us. A good time to check our habits: be prepared for cold, wet weather, check those marine forecasts before heading out, and always carry the right gear for winter, including that spare set of dry clothes.

This may seem a little early, but the club is changing its December party tradition. We will forego the club general meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. Instead we will have our Christmas celebration on Saturday December 8th. Last year's canoe and kayak light-up and paddle parade was a hit with members and with the community. By moving it to the next Saturday, we are opening the event up to broader participation.

Our plan is this:

- 3 to 5 pm: canoe/kayak/boat lighting and decorating
- 5 to 7 pm - paddle parade on the upper gorge
- 7 pm onward - VCKC's Christmas party.

Hope you can join us.

~ Joe Boyd, President

Many thanks to Ken Gibbard and Sandy Rattray for building and installing boot brushes by the basement door. Please wipe your feet before you enter, particularly if they have sand and gravel bits from the ramp. The efforts to keep the clubhouse clean are quickly hidden by dirt tracked in this door.



Photo Contest

Hey all you shutter bugs, we want your pictures!!!!

VCKC is hosting a photo contest that is open to members, their families and friends. All pictures submitted must have been taken within the last **five** years and be of an event, trip or excursion that you have taken part in. You must be willing for VCKC to use your photo for promotional or internal publications. If we are successful in obtaining a good variety of photos consideration will be given to compiling a calendar for 2019.

Please send your submissions no later than November 30, 2018 to [VCKC Director](#)



Clubhouse and Gorge Waterway Cleanup

When: Sat , Nov 3

Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Please come on out and help to clean up the clubhouse and grounds. Please bring whatever garden tools or house cleaning stuff that you are able to.

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. Thanks, Sandy

If items in the lost and found are not claimed they will be donated to charity as part of the fall cleanup.



MEMBERSHIP 2019

Membership renewal for 2019 is fast approaching. Current memberships will expire December 31st and can be renewed during the month of December. A reminder will be sent if the membership has not been renewed and will be termed "lapsed" after a short period.

Please login to your profile at www.vckc.ca using your email and password and verify that the information provided is correct and then renew your membership. Those who are designated as Family Administrators, renewal will include yourself and all your family members.

After a membership has lapsed, members can still renew as described above. **Family Administrators** may renew their memberships **but the family members will remain lapsed and each will have to renewed individually.**

A number of Family Administrators who renewed their 2018 memberships after they had lapsed, will find that their family members are still lapsed and are no longer counted as members for 2018.

Please don't let this happen to you – renew on time!

A message from your friendly Membership Director - Muriel Johnson



The book was officially launched at the 50th celebration event and is now ready for pick up. Copies will be available at the November General Meetings the first Tuesday of the month. If you cannot drop by at these times to pick up your copy contact me via [email](#) to make alternative arrangements.

"I would describe it as a thorough yet succinct account of the club's first 50 years. It would be interesting to anyone who has ever been an active member of VCKC." Comment by reader

There are still copies available for sale. This would make a great Christmas gift!!

To purchase your copy, Click [Here](#)

Please remember to adhere to VCKC Wildlife and Habitat Policy

- Every effort should be made at all times to avoid disturbing wildlife during club trips or when using club boats, especially in the upper Gorge waterways from November through December (salmon spawning season) and from March through June inclusive when herons are nesting in Cuthbert Holmes Park. Avoid entering the Colquitz River during these times.
- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Habitat should be left as found. When paddling the Gorge, enter the creeks and rivers only when water is deep enough to prevent boats and paddles from hitting the bottom. Do not turn boats longer than 20ft around in the mudflats of Colquitz River. These boats are required to back out.

Big Canoe Program Update (previously called Voyageur Program)

Remembrance Day on the Cowichan River:

On Sunday, November 11th, we hope to take a big canoe on the Cowichan River if river levels are acceptable. If you have moving water experience and would like to express your interest in joining us in a big canoe please see contact details below. There is limited space for this so we will take names and create a wait list if necessary.

Christmas party:

Would you like to join our group in a Big Canoe for the "parade"? Let us know. We can fill up our big canoes for this event. The more the merrier!! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Stern Leader Course:



2018 Thomson River Brigade

Friday & Saturday, November 23/24 are the dates for the Big Canoe Stern Leader Course. Watch the club calendar for more details on this event. Registration will be set up soon on the VCKC website.

PFTK:

Hold the date for Peninsula Paddle for the Kids in 2019. It is later next year: Saturday, April 13th! More details in the December newsletter!!

Let Mary know at 250-642-7498 or voyageur@vckc.ca if you are interested in any or all of these events.

More Big Canoe Adventures

Tim is planning the fourth “Tim Trip”. It is time to save the dates, July 2-13. Last year’s trip (Haida Gwaii) was pretty epic on all fronts. Epic, all in a good way. Remote, exotic destination, unique First Nations cultural experience, floatplane shuttle, rare wildlife (puffins and whales and Risso’s Dolphins) (lone inhabitant Goetz might also be considered rare wildlife), were all pieces that made last year’s trip epic. Not to mention the cool group of paddlers that partook. It was also considerably more expensive than previous trips but still was of exceptional value.



Falling somewhere between the first “Tim Trip” of 2016 (a week paddling the Southern Gulf Islands in a 35’ Salish style canoe), and last year’s adventure, the 2019 trip will no doubt be another crowd pleaser.

The 12 day trip will not incur large travel expenses, but as usual, will require individuals to be competent wilderness campers and physically fit enough to move the heavy canoes both on and off the water. These are club trips, just a little different flavour than the usual Big Canoe Brigades.

Details and destination of the 2016 Tim Trip will be revealed in the February Newsletter. Some keen past participants have already put down \$100 to reserve their spot. Space is limited, so keep current with the VCKC Newsletter, and contact Mary, your Big Canoe Director, if you want to reserve your spot on the next “TT”. You never know when it is the last trip.

Cheers to all and more red skies at night.

~Tim



Remember to bring your items to support our food bank drive!!!

Canoe Program Update



2017 Remembrance Day Paddle ~ photo by Edmond

The Remembrance Day paddle will be a club paddle, if there is enough rain.

Annual Cowichan River Remembrance Day Paddle will take place November 11. Timing will be to have a minute of silence at the Burma Star Memorial at Stolz pool at 11AM. ([A little reading of the history of the Memorial.](#)) Car shuttle will need to be setup first and arranged at Serious Coffee if possible at 9:30AM.

Contact canoe@vckc.ca if a canoe is needed,

RCABC MW1 is a requirement for canoeists. Dependent on water level: 15 cmps for solo, 35cmps for tandem. (We need some rain...) The paddle has morphed into something beyond just the club and is participated in by many in the island white water community.

~ David Dorosz

Flat Water Paddle



On October 13 there was a club flatwater paddle scheduled for Island View Beach. The early forecast was for reasonable tides and wind from the north up to 10km/hour and slightly higher gusts. Two days before the paddle the forecast was upgraded to wind gusts up to 35km/hour, so the paddle was moved to Sunday. On Saturday the high gusts did not happen, but at least by Sunday afternoon there was no wind and on the return part of the paddle the ocean was glassy. We met at the club and were mostly ready to go at 8:30AM. The change of days resulted in a few people not being able to make the paddle, but also allowed a few others to join. The club canoe trailer was used to take three (it was originally going to be all six) of the club kayaks. The canoe trailer works very well for transporting the

club kayaks... We arrived at Island View beach with full sun and a slight wind (maybe 8km/hour) wind from the North East. It was slated to be the highest for the day and that forecast was accurate. Seven single kayaks and two tandem canoes pushed off from the beach and headed south towards the prominent distant landmark of Mount Douglas. We paddled with the wind and the current and so made good time down the coast and when past Cowichan Head we set two crab traps.



This is my usual crabbing area and I was wanting to see if the catch was any different on the other side of the Head and in the kelp bed. We then continued south into Cordova Bay. Being a flatwater beginner paddle the pace was leisurely and we stopped for



lunch early at Cordova Bay Park at the southern end of the bay, and so did not make it all the way to Mount Douglas park. The park at least did have its washrooms open. At the beach was a group of young adults paddling with stand-up paddle boards and not a single life jacket among them, and no wet or dry suits! We saw at least one fall in, it must have been chilly. My tandem partner was still getting over a cold and by this point was not feeling too well, so the sand beach was welcome. After lunch we learned that although kayaks are harder to get into they are easier to seal launch.



My partner had a balance issue getting into the canoe with the waves at the beach and fell in. Even worse her foot caught in the canoe which made it tip, and I was not able to keep my brace as my paddle was on the side away from the tip, and over we went. I was just in shallow water and stayed dry but Hélène fell into deeper water but luckily was wearing a wet suit and had a change of shirt. She did have to empty water out of her neoprene tidal boots and then again later at the take out. A good reason to always be prepared for a dip.

The paddle back was nice as along the way the wind slowly died down and as we approached Cowichan Head the water was very flat. This confused me as I thought my crab traps were much farther from shore then they ended up being. A good haul, as is the case when there is no marina close by

and it's a nice sandy location with good tidal flow. At the take out there was a small swell hitting the beach. I at first thought it must be waves from a large ship, but they did not end. It made for a more interesting take out than usual but it was beautiful seeing the waves breaking on the beach.

~David

Kayak Program Update

David Dorosz, director of the Canoe Program, organized an ocean-going flatwater paddle in October. David sent out an email to all Canoe and Kayak members to see who was interested. He found that many kayakers were interested – in fact two canoes and seven kayaks participated. Five new kayak program members borrowed club kayaks for this event. David was awesome! He pulled the club boat-trailer out and loaded up the kayaks because most of the new members do not have a way to transport their kayaks yet. It was a bit of a slow start at the beach as the kayakers got their gear sorted out and foot pedals set up and found spray skirts to fit each kayak. In the meantime, the canoeists waited patiently. But once we got going it was a gorgeous day on the water! And...David and Helene managed to catch dinner in their crab traps!



The two kayak courses that were planned for the fall had to be cancelled due to the unavailability of members on the dates that were scheduled (even those members who were waitlisted for these courses were unavailable). It may be worth noting that the water *is* much colder in October and these courses require spending a certain amount of time in the water. Not that that had anything to do with our hardy members reluctance to register. I'm just saying: the water is much colder in October☺

Watch the calendar for a new schedule of courses in the spring. I will not be carrying the waitlist over to the new year. Everyone on the waitlist has had at least one opportunity to take the courses that they were waitlisted for, so we will start fresh in the new year.

Our 2nd Kayak Program meeting will take place **Wednesday, November 14th at 7:30pm** at the clubhouse. If you have an interest in kayaking please attend. The following are a few updates on some of the ideas put forward at the 1st meeting, which took place in September:

- **Use of a community pool to practice wet exits and re-entries** – Susan Logan got the ball rolling by contacting Panorama Recreation Centre only to learned that they do not offer this service. We subsequently learned that the Crystal Pool does still offer this service and the cost is approximately \$300/hour. Tony Hopkins is planning to contact UVic to see what might be arranged there, with an eye to combining the Outrigger and Kayak Programs
- **A VCKC Kayak Program Facebook page (members only) to share launch site ideas and kayaking experiences** – Ludek Nesnidal volunteered to set this up for us. However, the idea was brought up at the Executive meeting and it very quickly became apparent that this is a controversial topic, so it has been tabled for future discussion
- **Club sanctioned Sea Kayak trips so that novice members can use club kayaks and get some experience outside the Gorge Waterway** – see the note above regarding the ocean-going flatwater paddle organized by David Dorosz, director of the Canoe Program. Thank you David! I hope to follow up with more day-paddles. An email will go out to announce any plans.

Some of the other ideas put forward at the last meeting will be explored and discussed at the next Kayak Program meeting. See last month's newsletter for a complete list. We need you, the kayak members, to come out and contribute to these meetings and help to make the Kayak Program relevant to you.

Finally, once again a reminder: The club kayaks are for VCKC members use when taking courses or clinics, or when participating in club sanctioned paddles (Tuesday Night 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 "buddies". If you would like to borrow a club kayak contact Linda Hall at kayakbooking@vckc.ca to reserve one.

Happy fall paddling everyone!

~ Linda Hall, VCKC Kayak Program

Marathon Program



Startline Bridges Race ~ Bon Lee

The 2018 race season wrapped up with the Bridges Race, a 6km race held on the Gorge Waterway and hosted by ORPC. Of the 8 marathon canoes entered, 5 mixed tandem racers and one solo racer hailed from VCKC. It was a nail biting finish with the first 6-teams finishing within 50 seconds of each other. The winners were our very own Darrelle Butler and Pavel Astrakhantsev. VCKC's mixed teams also placed 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 7th. Well done by all!

Now it's time to lick our wounds and patch our canoes, in order to be ready for next year's race season.

~ Ryan Mader

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS FOR 2019

The AGM is only two Executive Meetings away, so it is time to plan!

All Executive positions are for one year and are eligible for voting at the next AGM in January 2019. The expectation of the Vice- President is that the person will carry on to president, but it is a one-year position. Some of the current Executive would like to continue, but if anyone is interested in a particular position or would like to come onto the Executive as a Director at Large for a year and learn how the Executive functions, please contact Linda Thomson at pastpres@vckc.ca phone: 250-592 4170, or any other member of the Executive.

If you know of anyone whom you think would be interested or you would recommend for a position, again, please let us know. Positions can be shared, as is the case at the moment in the Dragonboat and Kayak Programs, although the position will still have just one vote.

Meanwhile, come to one of the next Executive meetings and observe. All meetings are open to a club member.

November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3 9:00 AM Fall Clean-up: Clubhouse & Grounds
4	5	6 7:30 PM General Meeting	7	8	9	10
11 8:00 AM Remembrance Day on the Cowichan River	12	13	14 7:30 PM Sea Kayak Program Meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 7:00 PM GWI Steering Committee Meeting	22	23 Big Canoe Program Stern Leader Course	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 3:00 PM VCKC Christmas Party

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	