



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

December 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

- ✚ Saturday December 1st: **Clubhouse Christmas Decorating Party** -10 am to noon
- ✚ Saturday December 8th: **VCKC Annual Christmas Party** starting at 3 pm - see info below
- ✚ Saturday December 16th: **Lights on the Gorge** - Gorge-Tillicum Community Association 1 to 5:30
- ✚ Tuesday January 1st: **Annual VCKC New Year's Day Paddle** 10:30 am. Bring your own boat or paddle in a club big boat.
- Tuesday January 8th: **VCKC's Annual General Meeting** ; Elections for the 2019 club executive

Please check website for details of events

Christmas Party and Boat Parade – Saturday, December 8th



VCKC will be launching the holiday season once again with a boat parade followed by a potluck dinner. The parade was a big hit with VCKC members and the local neighbourhood last year. We need your participation to light up the Gorge once again!

1. If you are interested in decorating a boat and/or paddling in the parade please contact your program director.
2. If you choose not to paddle, we need a few Santa's Helpers to help with general set up, to hand out candy canes to the kids and to answer general questions about VCKC programs. If interested, contact Jayne: jaytak2018@gmail.com

Schedule

3 – 4:15	Boat Decorating
4:30 – 5:30	Boat Parade (rain or shine)
6:00	Christmas potluck social for VCKC members

Parade route: from VCKC Clubhouse to Craigflower Bridge (Admirals Road) and back

Recognition will be given to boats in the following categories:

- Most creative design
- Best lights
- Best animation
- Most Christmas Cheer
- Children's choice for favourite boat



Thank you to Fairway Market for donating the hot chocolate and candy canes.



We will be collecting donations for the Citizen Counselling Centre at this event.

Please help spread the word to family, friends and the community! And come join the fun!

VCKC Mugs

Would you be interested in purchasing a VCKC mug? Several years ago, a number of mugs were purchased and sold as a fund raiser. A member recently suggested that we order more so that broken ones can be replaced and current members have an opportunity to buy one.

The existing mugs were screen printed with the VCKC logo on both sides. A minimum order size is 72 cups. The cost would be just under \$15.00 per cup.

Before the executives decide to proceed with this suggestion, we decided to ask the membership about their interest.

If there is sufficient interest, the executive will commit the funds to order some and advise those interested that the mug order will proceed.



If you are interested in buying a VCKC glass coffee mug, matching the older mugs, please send an email to secretary@vckc.ca indicating how many mugs you would like to purchase.




The items not claimed were cleaned refurbished as required and donated to Our Place Society. The warm winter coats, rain gear and towels were well received.

Lights On The Gorge

An informal celebration of light
Sponsored by the Gorge Tillicum Community Association

Sunday, December 16, 2018
at
Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club



1:30 pm	Tree Decorating & Lantern Making
2:30 pm	Welcome & Karpes Family Band
3:10 pm	Storytelling
3:45 pm	Songs & Readings
4:15 pm	Carol Singing
5:00 pm	Mummer's Play
5:15 pm	Tree Light-up & Lantern and Drum Procession

GTCA Website
gorgetillicum.ca

Clubhouse and Gorge Waterway Cleanup



Thanks to all who came out to the VCKC house and grounds cleanup. In spite of threatening rain, there was a good turnout of members and a large volunteer group from Pearson College which helped us finish earlier than usual and the rain was very light and spotty.

Thanks Wendy for organizing the interior work and taking the pictures. See you all at the Spring Cleanup, ~ Sandy





DRY BAG SAGA



Blue dry bag has appeared after a nine month journey. Thank you for the return of said bag. It was found by a club member at the front door of the club house and placed inside where I saw it. I passed it by one day and a day later I thought I should check it out and YES it was my bag and all the belongings. To say I was thrilled is an understatement. Many thanks to all - who called other members, wrote e-mails and spread the word of a lost bag. I appreciated all of your efforts.

Thank you all, the best thing to do is not to give up, good does happen.

~ Louise Johnston

MEMBERSHIP 2019

Membership renewals for 2019 will be accepted December 02/18, and onwards. Current memberships will expire December 31st. A reminder will be sent if the membership has not been renewed and will be termed "lapsed" in January.

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. To 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 those family members will remain lapsed and each will have to renewed individually.**

Please renew on time! **Thank you!**

~ Muriel – Membership Director

Big Canoe Program Update (previously called Voyageur Program)

The Stern course was held November 23 & 24. It was full. If you are interested in taking a Stern Leader course, contact Mary (voyageur@vckc.ca.) We can consider putting on another course in the New Year.

Paddle for the Kids. We are working out the dates and will have them in the January newsletter. Watch for news of this weekly event early in the New Year.



November 11, our Lower Cowichan Paddle was well attended by members of VCKC and the UVic club. It was a beautiful sunny day on the water. Big Canoe, *Canada* with Bob B. in the bow, Jayne T., Mary & Tim M. in the stern enjoyed entering and leaving eddies amongst the tandem & solo canoes & kayaks. Big Canoe, *Munroe* also did the same with Mark S. in the bow, Pam C., Joe B., Ellie J., and

Ron W. in the stern. There were some fancy surfing spots to have some fun on as well.



Welcome all to December 8, our VCKC Christmas party. We will bring out our Big Canoes. Please contact Mary if you would like to join the Big Canoe Group: voyageur@vckc.ca. See details about the party elsewhere in this newsletter. We look forward to getting out on the water with our various groups of paddlers.

~ Mary

More Big Canoe Adventures



Hey, pressure is mounting to reveal the next Tim Trip destination. Not sure I can hold out much longer.

Aahhhh, Ok. I give up. Here are a couple of pictures of the place. If you are still in doubt all will be



revealed next News Letter.

Check last newsletter for some details, but save the **Dates: leave Victoria July 2, return to Victoria July 13**



If you are interested get your \$100 to Mary (Voyageur@vckc.ca) and reserve your spot! If you are still not convinced, next newsletter will reveal all.

~ Tim



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

The last opportunity will be at the Christmas Party

If you have not picked up your reserved copy of the book or wish to purchase one prior to December 20th, please contact Joe. president@vckc.ca



Canoe Program Update



The large number of paddlers was greatly increased by the crews from Monroe and Canada that could be used due to the good water level on the river. The level was about 55cms at the Duncan gauge and the river was a beautiful and easy paddle. Most rocks were well covered, yet the river was not high enough to be pushy. Vimy wave was in its wavy glory, but a little hard for solo canoes to get onto. The sunny and warm run down the river was accompanied by the fisherman lining the banks, and the salmon in the shallows. The run was over far too soon.

The Remembrance Day ceremony at Stolz Pool is getting bigger. This year featured veterans leading a short ceremony and mentioned that next year they are looking for a piper. The paddle also had a good turnout, with close to 30 paddlers (including 2 stand up paddle boarders!). The UVIC Kayak club also had a strong presence in the paddle with some members also paddling canoe.



The canoe program will need a new director for the new year. We have a new trailer and I plan to camp as much as possible and find new lakes to fish. You will need to attend two evening meetings a month, answer canoe email, co-ordinate courses and club paddles. If you love canoeing this is a great way to volunteer.

~ David

Dragon Boat Recruiting for 2019 season!!



dragon that you would like to unleash. **No experience necessary. Just a desire to learn, race and play/paddle well with others.**

It is our quiet time of year but things will soon be ramping up. We will have a "Kick-Off" meeting in February and "Learn to Paddle" sessions in March. Dates TBA. Let us know if you are interested and we can keep you posted on any new developments. Contact us if you have an inner

We would also welcome anyone interested in coaching and /or steering. We can't have a team(s) without these very important people. In recent years, the team typically partakes in 5 festivals (4 in Victoria and 1 in Nanaimo).

Well, that's our news for Dec. Keep an eye out for the dragon boat. It will be lit up for VCKC's Christmas Boat Parade and out on the water Saturday afternoons with the UVIC team.

Merry Christmas!

~ *Paula Gough and Kim Capson*

Co-Directors VCKC Dragon Boat Program

vckc.dragonboat.bc@gmail.com

Kayak Program Update

Our 2nd Kayak Program meeting took place Wednesday, November 14th at 7:30pm at the clubhouse. Of the 11 initiatives that have been identified for the Kayak Program there are 4 immediate upcoming clinics to watch for over the next month or two:

- **Use of a pool to practice kayak skills** – We have a new VCKC member – Pearson College!! Pearson College has a kayak program and their kayak instructor is Garth Irwin. Garth was a member of VCKC 18 years ago and has come back to the fold☺. The college has a pool that Garth has suggested we will be able to use for clinics over the winter months. This is so exciting! I will be meeting with Garth at the college over the next week or two to discuss the possibilities. We are looking at clinics to practice rescues, paddle strokes, braces and rolls. Keep your eye on the calendar for clinic dates.
- **How to choose a kayak** – Are you new to kayaking and confused about how to choose the right kayak for yourself? Skeg or rudder or neither, rotomolded, thermoformed, fiberglass, Kevlar - the list goes on - it's so confusing!! Come out and talk to the expert. Roy Scully will be offering a clinic in January to help you sort through all the confusion. If time permits he will also cover how to choose a paddle.
- **Practice wet exits and re-entry in cold water** - brrr☺ This is really hard to make yourself do, but actually a very valuable skill to practice. Getting dumped on a sunny, warm day in calm water is one thing. Getting dumped in cold, choppy water is quite another and the more likely scenario. We will be putting together a clinic during these cold winter months so that members can experience the cold-water wet exit in a safe controlled environment.
- **How to make a Greenland Paddle** – popularity of the Greenland paddle is growing exponentially. The Greenland Paddle has advantages where fatigue and wind resistance over longer distances are an issue. If you would like to learn how to make your own Greenland Paddle watch the calendar for the clinic date.

Two more initiatives are being actively worked on at the moment: VHF licensing and use, and an equipment "swap and shop" at VCKC - more on those events soon. I will send emails to members who have identified "kayak" as an interest when dates are set for each of the clinics.

The next Kayak Program meeting is scheduled for January 9th, 2019.

Come out and join the Christmas Boat parade. We had lots of fun and laughs last year as we decorated our boats and embarked on a leisurely paddle up and down the Gorge in the dark with our boats all lit up. Then back to the club for a pot-luck meal and more socializing. This year I know that there will be at least one Stand Up Paddle Boarder among us and I, for one, am interested to see how he will decorate himself and/or his board☺ If you would like to use a club kayak there are still kayaks available. Come out and join the fun December 8th. I'm sure details of time and place, etc. are posted in this newsletter.

Announcement: The Kayak Directors (myself and Roy Scully) are stepping down from the executive for our individual personal reasons. We are actively seeking a director. If you are keen to see the kayak program grow and would like to provide opportunities for VCKC members to become proficient sea

kayakers, there is no better time than the present! So many great things are already in the works and I would be happy to help you out as you become acquainted with the duties of the director. Please contact Linda Thomson who is organizing the nominations for 2019 (inda2016@shaw.ca) or contact myself to learn more about this rewarding position (kayak@vckc.ca). We all want to “give back” – here’s your chance.

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.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you at the Christmas boat parade.

~ Linda Hall, VCKC Kayak Program

Marathon Program



Just when you thought the 2018 race season was over our Marathon Program was invited to the Fort Langley Canoe Club's River Run Small Boat Race, which was held on the Fraser River during the last weekend in October. VCKC's Darrelle Butler teamed up with Norm MacDonell in the tandem marathon canoe class. They cruised passed the finish line in first place, over 11% faster than the second place finishers. Impressively, between all classes, they were the third fastest boat overall on the water that day. What a stellar finish to an outstanding race season for Darrelle and Norm and for all of VCKC's marathon canoeist. Well done! A big thanks goes out to all the race organizers and participants of the 2018 marathon canoe racing season.

We welcome VCKC members interested in becoming involved with our Marathon Program. Please contact the marathon director with any inquiries at marathon@vckc.ca.

Thanks,

~ Ryan Mader

Outrigger Update

New Associate Member at VCKC - Those of you who came out for the fall clean up probably noticed a large number of young paddlers both on the water and helping with club chores These were students from Pearson College, located on Pedder Bay. Pearson College is Canada's most international school with students from over 150 countries, who live, study and learn together pursuing the International Baccalaureate and an outdoor-oriented experiential education. The college is the latest of our Associate members. This arrangement allows for the reciprocal use of facilities and will benefit both VCKC and Pearson College.



The group of nineteen students is under the tutelage of College instructors Garth Irwin and Arno Dirks. Thanks to another staff member from the college, Corey Teramura, we were able to rig a third boat, which will be on the water until the dragon boat season starts. So, if you run into a large group of students on Saturday morning, or at club events, speaking multiple languages, these are our newest members. Please give them a warm welcome.

A reminder about the need to keep the boat at the dock bailed and rotated with the other Calmar. From time to time, the bulkheads should be drained on all boats
~ Tony



EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS FOR 2019

At the time of this publication, we have a nearly full slate of candidates prepared to lead VCKC in 2019. It is good to see that the club continues to have so much interest in volunteering.

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.

Photo Contest Submissions



Submitted by Wendy Clapp

Shutterbugs I know you are out there and that you take some amazing photos. Consider sending in a submission.

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.

Please send your submissions to [VCKC Director](#)

December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1 10:00 AM Christmas Decorating Party
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 3:00 PM VCKC Christmas Party
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 12:00 PM Lights On the Gorge - Gorge-Tillicum Community Association	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Jan 1 10:30 AM New Years Day Paddle	2	3	4	5

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	