



## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

# Newsletter

December 2019

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

- December 7 ~ Christmas Lights Paddle and Party (**no meeting Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>**)
- January 1, 2020 ~ New Year's Day Paddle
- January 14, 2020 ~ AGM

*Be sure to check the website for information on the various courses and activities planned over the fall!!!*

### President's Message

Well, for getting into the slow wintry season it seems to be very busy. If you haven't been by the club to check out what is happening in the compound lately you are in for a big surprise! Led by Dan Walker our storage director, Tom Staebell, Ron Williams, Ray Milan, and others, have transformed our outside storage facilities. The November club clean up saw a bunch of members out attending to the usual maintenance items, also efforts to de-clutter and enhance our club's interior are showing results. Thanks to all that have participated. It is great to be a part of an active, conscientious club.

It is not all work, work, work! I hope you are planning on participating in our club wide Christmas parade and party (Dec 7). If you don't have your own paddle craft, you can contact program directors to be a part of a big boat group our make arrangements to use a club small boat. Decorating starts at 3:00, paddle/parade/and potluck follow. Details can be had from [kimcapson@gmail.com](mailto:kimcapson@gmail.com) (Rumor has it, Joe is decorating with abandon, expecting to win all the prizes.)

I am particularly excited, the Executive, at the November meeting, formally approved a SUP program for next year. Expect to have introductory lessons and paddling opportunities on the Gorge in the spring of 2020.

This past month whenever I was at the club there was always a steady stream of members coming and going, all ages, a couple hundred middle school kids, small groups getting regular fitness in OC6 or Marathon, teachers training in Big Canoes, individuals using a club canoe for a meditative solo paddle, not to mention the opportunity to share a snack in a warm room with a fabulous view.

You have to work pretty hard to take advantage of all that VCKC has to offer, but it is worth it. Speaking of good value, membership costs are expected to increase for 2020, but you can avoid the coming increase by renewing your membership in December at the 2019 rate. Be sure to pay online and save about twenty bucks. Even if you forget, 2020 rates are still a great value. Nobody likes to pay more, but the executive believes to keep this great club full of great opportunities, we must keep current with our fee structures.



Looking into the new year, be sure you mark your calendar for the club's AGM, January 14th. That is an important time that you can have input into the executive for the year. You never know, if only you voted, everything would have been better.

Shortly after the AGM, look forward to longer days bringing us to summer, and another Paddle For The Kids. Well, the Big Canoe fund raising for Easter Seals happens well before summer. It does happen in the early part of the calendar, when the days are getting longer.

See you at the Christmas parade/party.

~ Tim Marks, President



### **MEMBERSHIP 2020**

Membership renewal for 2020 is fast approaching. Current memberships will expire December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

Only online renewals will be accepted prior to the AGM. If paying by cash or cheque it will need to be done at the Clubhouse the evening of the AGM in order to be eligible to vote. Volunteers will be on hand one hour prior to the AGM start. A fee increase is recommended for 2020 for ratification at the AGM. If you renew before the AGM, then it will be at the 2019 fee.

Please login to your profile at [www.vckc.ca](http://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** must renew not only their membership but complete the process for ALL family members individually.

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



**VCKC 2020 AGM**  
**Tuesday January 14, 2020**  
(second not first Tuesday)



Dear VCKC Members,

This is a call for nominations to the club's 2020 Executive! All positions are open for nomination and are elected by the membership for a one-year term. Elections take place at the club's Annual General Meeting on January 14, 2020. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm and held at the VCKC clubhouse (355 Gorge Road W.)

Most of the 2019 Executive members are choosing to stay on for 2020, but all positions are open for election and are subject to member approval at the AGM.

At this time, we are in particular need for member volunteers to stand for nomination for the positions of:

-House & Grounds Director: This person will be in charge of the day-to-day management of the clubhouse facility, organizes clubhouse cleanup events twice per year, coordinates contractors and repairs, and the associated budget. This is an excellent role for anyone who loves old heritage houses and takes pride in managing our leased property on the Gorge. We are looking to make some improvements to the clubhouse over the next couple of years.

-Safety & Standards Director: This is a position for a technical expert with a strong background in policies and best practices for on-water safety. This is an ideal position for an experienced program leader, preferably with credentials and training in the range of programs we offer.

-Director at Large: This is a general position for our members who want to be more involved in the directions, decisions, and program development at the club. The purpose of the position is to offer an introductory role for new club leaders, and to be a back-up resource in the event other Directors cannot complete their term.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, or who you would recommend for a position, please contact Joe Boyd at [pastpres@vckc.ca](mailto:pastpres@vckc.ca),

Meanwhile, come to the next Executive meeting on December 10th and observe. We will be finalizing the 2020 club budget for presentation at the AGM at that time. All VCKC Executive meetings are open to club members to attend.

***REMINDER: As per VCKC Bylaws You must be in attendance at the AGM to vote for the Executive. Proxy voting will not be considered for the election of the 2020 VCKC Executive.***

~ Joe Boyd, Past President

## **VCKC Christmas Potluck and Paddle Parade**

Saturday, December 7th!

Time to start designing your Holiday boat decorations!

Decorating award categories:

- Most creative design
- Best light display
- Best animation
- Most Christmas cheer
- "Gotta be kidding"
- Best small boat
- Best big boat

For details check out the website





**Come out January 1<sup>st</sup> and start the new year with a paddle and great company.**

**Check the website for details.**

## **Big Canoe News**

November has seen a lot of activity with big canoes. The new gate to the compound has made access to the big canoes incredibly easy. The new big canoe storage rack was tested this week. Check it out!!

We tried a new idea for Remembrance Day this year. Monday November 11th saw 23 paddlers out for a flat water paddle from Fleming Boat Launch in Esquimalt to the Inner Harbour for the Remembrance Day activities at the Cenotaph in front of the Parliament Buildings. It was crowded along the closed street and a beautiful if a bit chilly experience. We tied up along the ladders at the causeway with Tillicum, Canada, Munroe and Shawnigan.



Before heading back to VCKC we headed

around the Inner Harbour, under the Blue Bridge in hopes of a coffee at Fantastico. Alas it was closed so we paddled back to Fleming Beach where we loaded canoes and gear to return to VCKC and unload it all again. Several of us went to Gorge Point Inn to warm up.

December 7th will be a great opportunity to get out in big canoes along with all our other VCKC vessels for our Christmas celebration on the water and in the clubhouse! See details of this event elsewhere in the newsletter. Joe is leading in Tillicum. Ron & Ken

are leading in Canada. Let Joe, Ron or Ken know if you would like to join them. Contact Mary for more information or if you would like to lead a team in Shawnigan or Munroe.

January 1 - start out the new year on the water! Contact Susan Logan or Kim Capson for New Year's Day paddle plans. Contact Mary if you are a stern lead and would like to book a big canoe for this event.

Associate members from Colquitz Middle School and Shoreline Middle School have been involved with big canoes many times during November. Three or four big canoes have been used every week on the Gorge filled with new stern leads and students enjoying the water!

We now have three people interested in becoming a big canoe stern lead. We hope to put on a course in the new year. If you are interested, please contact Mary.

Paddles Up!!

~ Mary Marks, Big Canoe Director

## Canoe News

Those of you who regularly read this newsletter may have noticed there were no canoe updates the last 2 months and that's because your Canoe Director was traveling through Central Europe and mostly out of touch. For me, no matter how interesting the trip, it's always a pleasure to return to this beautiful corner of the world!

While I was away, the final Lakewater 1 and 2 courses of the year were offered and were fully attended; for those that missed this opportunity, the courses will be offered again in late winter/early spring.

There were several Club Paddles organized, and these day trips were well attended and provided fun opportunities not just for newer members to practice their newfound skills, but also for the more seasoned paddlers who know that the more you paddle, the stronger and more efficient you will become.



Bill Mason

Bill Mason, one of Canada's best-known canoe enthusiasts, once described his desire to improve his canoe skills: *"A long time ago, as I sat before my fire on the rocky shore of a northern lake, a canoe appeared out of the mist propelled by an Indian fisherman on his way to tend his nets. The poetry of motion was indescribable. He paddled effortlessly with this whole body, yet he went across that lake and disappeared faster than I would have thought possible. I leaped into my canoe and tried to emulate his technique. I've been trying ever since with less than perfect results. Like riding a horse, you can learn to stay on the horse in a few hours, but it can take a lifetime to look like you belong there."* We on the west coast, are very fortunate to live where we are able to canoe almost year-round. Take advantage of VCKC's club trips to improve your paddling skills.

Happy paddling!

~Louise de Montigny, Canoe Program Director

## Eddyhoppers!

VCKC will be running monthly river trips for beginners. These are Class I-II river trips for paddlers who have completed a Basic River Paddling course and want to practice their moving water paddling. Please contact Dan Walker [Storage@vckc.ca](mailto:Storage@vckc.ca) for details.



## Dragon Boat News

A big Thank You to All that came out and assisted moving our new big dragon boat into the yard for the winter.

Many hands (and a wheel cart!) truly made light work of this exercise. The boat's hull is now cleaned and she's safely tucked away for the winter now. The small boat is now on the dock ready for smaller groups continuing practice over the winter, and the older large boat is still on the line ready for a full crew (when the weather's cooperative?!). Shortened Practices are continuing on Wednesday's starting at 545pm. With an extra layer or two and some gloves it's really not that cold... please let me know if you'd like to join us! We're welcoming new and previous paddlers.

~ Janna Savage Cain , Dragon Boat Director



## Kayak News

It's hard to believe we are entering the holiday season already and 2019 is nearly over.

On Oct 29, 2019 Mike Teachman, Richard Cormier and Jim Johnston did a bow-to-stern inspection of our 6 club kayaks. Overall, all 6 kayaks are in decent condition. None need to be replaced but some require upgrades and minor repairs. Thank you so much for your volunteer time and effort Mike, Richard and Jim and for conducting such a thorough inspection of the club kayaks. Excellent documentation Mike! Work will commence on kayak maintenance in the next weeks.

On November 23, 2019 the final kayak course was delivered out at Pearson College. Garth was impressed at the skill level of those Basic kayak course participants. Way to go!

On November 24, 2019, Mike Teachman also led another beginner kayak/canoe flatwater paddle. Be sure to check out his article below.

Pool sessions at Pearson College will be delayed until the new year. We still need to find volunteers to help organize the sessions. If you are interested in taking the lead as organizer, please send an email to me at [kayak@vckc.ca](mailto:kayak@vckc.ca)

It is with mixed feelings that I announce that I will be stepping down from the role of Kayak Director and leaving the Victoria Canoe and Kayak club. On a very positive note, I am thrilled to be moving to my new home on Protection Island in Nanaimo but on the other hand, I am sad to leave behind my VCKC family. This past year has been filled with a lot of positive experiences as well as a few challenges. Overall, it has been a great year and I am excited with the direction the kayak program is headed.

I fully support nominee Sebastian Piper to take on the role of Kayak Director in the new year. He is new to the club but very interested in getting more involved. He is an experienced kayaker (PC Level 2 certified) who recently moved to Victoria. He is enthusiastic, personable, professional and has demonstrated initiative in pursuing a leadership role with the club. I do believe Sebastian will be an asset to both the kayak program and the VCKC executive.

2020 is looking to have many opportunities to expand the club's kayak program to include family paddling programs, additional training and more trips but it can only be successful if we get a team of volunteers to help organize and facilitate activities. Stay tuned, get involved and support your VCKC kayak program.

~ Karen Thrussell, Kayak Director



just under the surface.



### ***Sunday November 24, 2019 Flatwater Paddle***

How did it come to be that Telegraph Cove is found the end of Telegraph Bay Road? And what's the difference between a bay and a cove anyways? Well, the quandary quickly came to pass as we unloaded 6 kayaks from our cars and launched into an inviting sea state.

The conditions were fantastic. The strong west winds in the Juan de Fuca had little presence during our excursion. It was smooth paddling with just a hint of flood current pushing us north. Lots to explore along this route. Home to lottery winners, small caves, and numerous lurking rocks

If you paddle near Purnima you get exposed to some fine water fowl identification skills. She pointed out various ducks: Harlequins, two types of Mergansers, and Buffleheads. And a single seagull in the middle of them all looking a bit out of place. Herons too. And, a family of river otters perched on a rock bluff who weren't too pleased with our encroachment - they scrambled further up the bluff and disappeared into a small cabin.

In paddle conditions like today time goes by quickly and it didn't take long before our lunch destination was upon us - Glencoe Cove. It was only 11am so we decided to explore further to the north. We continued to noodle along the shoreline revelling in the day's warmth, almost to Cormorant point, then back to the sun exposed Glencoe Cove for lunch.

We retraced our route back to reach our launch around 2pm. Back to the clubhouse to rinse and stow the club boats.

Our travel distance is a bit uncertain. My phone tracker suggested 11.5km was paddled. Craig's more trustworthy Garmin unit indicated around 10km. Purnima's technology called out 12km and a bit.

Lastly, props to Ken who was out on his first day trip following the basic kayak course a few weeks earlier.

Another excellent south coast paddle day with Ashley, Craig, Johanna, Ken, Mike, and Purnima  
~ Mike

## Outrigger News

*Another Month, another race*



On November 17, the VCKC Grey Wolves entered the FGPC Wetdashe, a fun fundraiser for men's health.

The team, ably directed by Linda Nimshom, consisted of 11 club members and one experienced female paddler from California.

There were a number of last minute surprises. The team originally had only 10 members for this 24 km race (3 km segments with a change of paddlers). We had a last minute entry of Mike Wheatly, after his routine Sunday morning paddle; we think he was looking for some food.

A chance last minute email on Saturday from a visiting paddler from California filled out the roster. Thank you, Lauren Barker for traveling on the ferry, getting a ride from one of a Victorians you chatted with, to make the race in time. BTW, Lauren is a competitive racer and likely knocked a few minutes off our time.

France Gagnon, who was on the injured list but spent the weekend cheering on teams and serving as official photographer, just happened to have a PFD and paddle in her car for Lauren; this is VCKC spirit.

Greywolves thanks Kevin Stewart for his sterning, coaching and for encouragement during race and practices, and keeping us focused.

Louise Johnston and Lynda Cameron did a great job in baton passing and gong work during the race. The rest of the team was made up of Mike Shannon, Tony Hopkin and Dave Brar. Bon and Sue Lee, came to race in between moving homes, as well as Carolyn Ratray, Lauren Barker (California USA) and Linda Nimshon,



The winds Sunday were brutal during the race , but the aging team did very well with an average time of 18.25 min per round with a total time of 2hrs 26min 42sec coming in 4th.

Team Wolf pack, a collection of multi-club paddlers was led by VCKC Darcy Graham. These hardy souls entered the Walrus event (48 km) and had a total time on Saturday 4 hours 18 minutes; talk about tough.

~ Tony Hopkin, Outrigger Director

## Boat Storage Newsletter Report

We're done! The new boat storage sheds are completed. Over the winter and spring, we were able to get all the construction and funding approvals needed from Saanich. After taking the summer off, a construction team was assembled, plans finalized, materials ordered, and construction completed over a 6 week period. We began demolition of the old canoe racks on October 10th and finished building the new shed on Nov 21st.



Lots of people to thank: Tim Marks designed the structures and drew up the plans. Tom Staebell negotiated a discounted price for the construction supplies from Slegg Lumber. Mark Sondheim managed the money. Joe Boyd, Mark S. and Tim M. coordinated our discussions with Saanich. Tim M., Tom S., Ray Milan, Ron Williams, David Kilshaw and Dan Walker formed the construction team. The plan was a revision of a 2018 renovation plan submitted to Saanich by Tim, Joe, Mark and Arthur Caldicott. Finally, many Club members offered encouragement and even coffee and cookies.

Over the next month, we'll be re-constructing the basement storage racks to improve storage efficiency and opening up some of the basement now used for boat storage for general Club use. We also plan to build a Paddleboard rack for the new SUP's the Club will be purchasing in the Spring

~ Dan Walker, VCKC Storage Director



The BC Marine Trails Network Association (also known as BC Marine Trails) is a BC-based registered non-profit society and a registered charity under the Canada Income Tax Act dedicated to both creating and preserving a network of BC coastal marine

launch points and public recreation sites and to the protection of the environment through our environmental stewardship practices. As written in the ['History of the BCMTNA'](#) major progress began on this initiative in 2007. The success of the BCMT to date rests with hard-working volunteers and dialogue and consultation with First Nations (rights holders), stakeholder groups and government agencies.

At the heart of the Association is our Board and committees. Their roles and responsibilities have become complex and far-reaching. Given the length of the BC coastline — estimated to be around 27 000 km long — and the huge number of actual and potential sites, there is a significant amount of work yet to be done. Our three committees -



Trails Development, Stewardship and Communications - are well organized to understand complex areas of responsibilities.

VCKC is one of 12 paddling clubs from Vancouver Island, Salt Spring Island and the mainland of BC providing support to BC Marine Trails. Each club assigns designated representatives to liaise and volunteer with the BCMT.

As I will no longer be a member of VCKC, BC Marine Trails will need a new VCKC club representative for 2020. If you are interested, please contact [karen@bcmarinetrails.org](mailto:karen@bcmarinetrails.org)

### ***Club Contact Information***

#### ***Officers***

President [president@vckc.ca](mailto:president@vckc.ca)  
Tim Marks  
Vice-president [vpresident@vckc.ca](mailto:vpresident@vckc.ca)  
vacant  
Treasurer [treasurer@vckc.ca](mailto:treasurer@vckc.ca)  
Mark Sondheim  
Secretary [secretary@vckc.ca](mailto:secretary@vckc.ca)  
vacant  
Past President [pastpres@vckc.ca](mailto:pastpres@vckc.ca)  
Joe Boyd

#### ***Program Directors***

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Mary Marks  
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Bon Lee

#### ***Other Executive Positions***

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#### ***Executive Appointed Positions***

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