



## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

# Newsletter

January 2020

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

- 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

Congratulations, you are starting another decade. I am looking forward to writing 2020 this year. It seems like a cool number.

The start of another year, like a "do over", a mulligan. I'm not saying last year was a mistake, just nice to have another year to try and make all your dreams come true.

For VCKC the January AGM is very important, particularly this year as there will be at least a couple of elections for positions on the executive, including President. The AGM is also a good time to ask questions of or make suggestions to the executive. The coming year's financial planning is also voted on by the membership. Be sure to come out and voice your ideas.

Last year the executive had started a few initiatives that could make significant long term changes to the club, I believe, changes that will better serve the next generation coming into the club. Starting a SUP program is one initiative. (Make sure you avail yourself of SUP paddling this spring.)

As homeownership becomes financially unattainable, the storage of personal paddling craft becomes an increasing problem. I have started a conversation about how the club provides access to club equipment that will better meet the needs of the membership. There is a variety of opinions, some members are concerned we might make access too difficult and therefore not be very helpful to the membership. Others are concerned the club will make it too easy to use club equipment and it will be damaged, or personal safety put at risk. This conversation should be encouraged, and a committee struck to bring forward some recommendations before next summer.



Cleaning up and decluttering of the club house is phase two of the facilities improvements that were started last year (with the new gate and boat storage changes in the compound). Inside the club house, it is hoped, we can declutter and update the main floor to better meet the needs of the membership and showcase the current activities of the club. ( Probably some paint and carpentry to finish a bit of door trim will be required. ) Downstairs, some storage juggling will hopefully make room for about half a dozen SUP boards.

Joe Boyd has been spearheading an effort to improve (make easier) the use of our big boats, primarily OC6s. We were planning on finishing the compound before tackling this, another large project. The design has not been settled and even at the last month's executive meeting two new options were presented. The goal is a trouble free, low maintenance storage, with an easy launch for our OC6s and maintain easy access to our Dragon Boats. All this with an affordable price. Presently, we have favor with our neighbors and Landlord to expand our dock footprint. If we ever anticipate improvements here, now is the time. A small group interested in solving this problem should be gathered with the goal of finalizing the plan by early spring.

This is the direction I have planned for the coming year. It does not even touch on the individual paddling programs. I know each director has their goals to continually better serve our members and those not yet our members. It takes a lot of people to make this club the success that it is. Thank you for the privilege of being president this past year. It is my intention to serve the club in this capacity another year but realize it is your vote that will decide that. I encourage everyone to attend the AGM and become involved in VCKC. It a great club full of opportunities, opportunities to paddle all kinds of boats, and opportunities to meet all kinds of people.

See you at the AGM

*~ Tim Marks, President*

### **Storage Report for Jan 2020 Newsletter**

Boats have been assigned spots in the new storage shed. Invoices have been sent out to members storing boats at VCKC.

In the new year, the basement storage will be re-designed to improve storage efficiency and to make room for new Club paddle board and kayak purchases.

Thanks again to all for your support of the 2019 Storage Projects. It was a good year for Storage.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!  
Dan

*~ Dan Walker*  
VCKC Storage Director

Safety Message: Caution is required in the Colquitz estuary, syringes/needles are being flushed down from Panama Flats by the winter rains and have been found in the mud.

## Christmas Boat Paddle



*Best Animation*

The VCKC Lighted Christmas Boat Paddle enjoyed a beautiful evening on the Gorge in early December. Although there were fewer entries than last year, there were some spectacular displays of lights! As the boats set off from the club we could hear spectators along the Gorge cheering them on. The judges had a hard time deciding on the winners and there was much debate as they watched the boats come and go. The “Most Christmas Cheer” went to the canoe that arrived back at the VCKC dock loudly singing Christmas carols! People walking along the path by the club enjoyed the hot chocolate and candy canes, as well as the festive atmosphere. Special thanks to Fairway Market for the donation of the hot chocolate, it’s always appreciated on a chilly evening!



*Best Big Boat*



*Best Lights*



*Best Small Boat*





## Big Canoe News

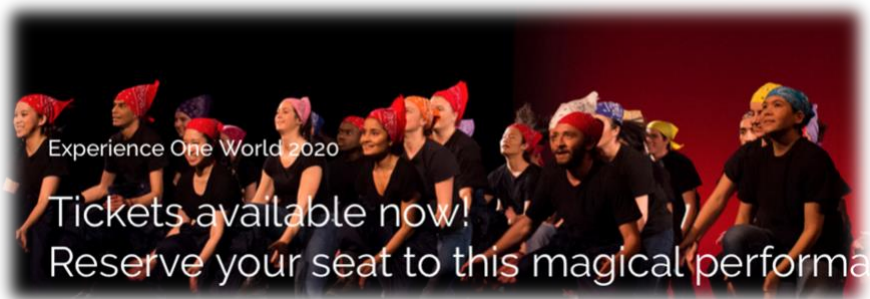
We had two big canoes out on December 7<sup>th</sup> for the VCKC Christmas Paddle Party and Parade! Many boats out on the water made for a festive, colourful and bright VCKC Merry Christmas!! *Canada*, led by Ken and Ron, sported a lit up heron! Five paddlers in total in *Canada*, made for nicely lit up canoe from all angles. *Tillicum*, led by Joe with 13 paddlers in total had festive lights and lots of singing while paddling up the Gorge and back again.

We are planning a stern lead course in the New Year, with three interested VCKC members and possibly some associate members. We are working out the dates. Please let us know if you are interested. You Email Mary at [voyageur@vckc.ca](mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca).

Planning is underway for Peninsula Paddle for the Kids (PPFTK). We will confirm our dates soon but for now expect a Sunday paddle in big canoes during late February and March. All are welcome to join us. It is best for beginner participants to have a basic flat-water course of some type or experience on the water of some kind. If you have selected "voyageur" interest in your membership profile, you can expect to receive an email with all the plans.

Happy Holidays and more paddling in 2020!!!

~ Mary Marks, Big Canoe Director  
[voyageur@vckc.ca](mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca)



Don't miss the amazing stage performance and interactive EXPO showcase featuring the students of Pearson College at the **2020 One World** performance in March. You may have met some of the students at our VCKC paddling and social events - now you have an opportunity to experience their dazzling international dance, storytelling and musical talents at the McPherson Playhouse. Plan on getting your tickets

early. Friday, March 20 (rehearsal) \$15.00 or Saturday, March 21 (matinee or evening) \$30.00. This has become one of my annual "must see" events!

## **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**

Big Canoe Program [voyageur@vckc.ca](mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca)  
Mary Marks  
Canoe Program [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca)  
Louise de Montigny  
Dragonboat Program [dragonboat@vckc.ca](mailto:dragonboat@vckc.ca)  
Jana Savage Cain  
Kayak Program [kayak@vckc.ca](mailto:kayak@vckc.ca)  
Karen Thrussell  
Outrigger Program [outrigger@vckc.ca](mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca)  
Tony Hopkin  
Marathon Canoe Program [marathon@vckc.ca](mailto:marathon@vckc.ca)  
Bon Lee

### **Other Executive Positions**

Education, Standards & Safety [safety@vckc.ca](mailto:safety@vckc.ca)  
Ken Gibbard  
Membership [membership@vckc.ca](mailto:membership@vckc.ca)  
Debi LaHaise  
Clubhouse and Grounds  
(maintenance) [clubhouse@vckc.ca](mailto:clubhouse@vckc.ca)  
Sandy Rattray  
Boat & Locker Storage [storage@vckc.ca](mailto:storage@vckc.ca)  
Dan Walker  
Director at Large  
Susan Logan [director1@vckc.ca](mailto:director1@vckc.ca)  
Ellie James [director2@vckc.ca](mailto:director2@vckc.ca)

### **Executive Appointed Positions**

Newsletter Editor [newsletter@vckc.ca](mailto:newsletter@vckc.ca)  
Susan Logan  
Webmaster [webmaster@vckc.ca](mailto:webmaster@vckc.ca)  
Arthur Caldicott