



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

March 2020

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

- March 1st – Lock codes change- check the website for new codes
- March 17th - Middle-age Angst in the Sayward” -presentation by Mike Teachman
- March 28 - PPFTK
- April 4-5 - Wake Up the Gorge
- April 19 - Spring Showcase

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

President's Message

As I write this evening, I have hope for the coming year. In spite of the seemingly hopeless news around the globe politically, I am reflecting on the almost warm sunshine that made a couple hours at the beach so enjoyable today. Maybe it won't rain forever, and river flows will become more inviting. If the wind dies down a bit by the time our new SUP boards arrive, all will be well with the world.

If SUP and rivers are not your thing, you still have lots to look forward to at VCKC. The Big Canoe program has started the club's primary fundraiser, Easter Seals', "Paddle For The Kids". Not only is it our biggest fundraiser that has been going for nearly 40 years and raised over \$350,000, it is your chance to get a head start on your paddling this year.



I realize many of our club members paddle year round but for those that like to avoid the freezing rain you might like to get back into paddling early this year, meet some new people, and paddle some Big Canoes in various places on the South Island. We often finish up the day close to a pub. If this sounds interesting email Mary at BigCanoe@vckc.ca . It doesn't matter that we have started, there are still a couple of practice trips to get involved in.

The club calendar gets pretty busy by the end of March. "Wake Up The Gorge" is a major event in early April. If you haven't been training yet, no time like the present. If you are not planning to race, there are lots of opportunities to volunteer. Contact outrigger@vckc.ca to be part of the action.

Dragon boating is collecting paddlers. Who knows by the time you read this they might have paddled some. (I am sure some have done some preseason paddling in a Big Canoe. (You can too, call Mary, Bigcanoe@vckc.ca)

I am going to sign off with the same remarks as last year. They still seem to be relevant.

“Enjoy the lengthening days. And don’t forget to keep that upper body rotation. It improves your stroke strength and helps get that summer shape back from the extra winter insulation” (you may have acquired).”

Cheers

~ Tim Marks, President

Big Canoe News

We are off to a wonderful start with our 39th Paddle for the Kids. We had 35-people out for our February 9 breakfast kickoff, paddle and stern lead capsizing rescue demo. Thank you to Anna for heading up the breakfast crew with Debi, Kim and Lana (and others I’m sure!). Shannon Bernays from Easter Seals spoke to our group about various ways to fundraise for the Easter Seals Camp for children and adults with disabilities at Camp Shawnigan. VCKC has done an amazing job of fundraising over the years.



28 paddlers in Shawnigan, Tillicum and Canada happily paddled in Portage Inlet and on the high tide, we were able to head up Craigflower Creek. By the end of February, birds will be nesting and VCKC members do not paddle the creek for many months, so this was a rare bonus for us. We could not even hear our paddles dipping in the water as we stealthily viewed this area in the middle of our city. Ron then Ken led in Canada. Joe led in Shawnigan and Mark led in Tillicum. Each canoe was filled with returning and new paddlers.

A sunny day, we had the stern lead capsizing and rescue demo in Shawnigan when we returned to the club. Tim, Joe, David, Mark and Mary donned

drysuits and over we went. Ask Joe what it’s like under Shawnigan!!

It was a great start to our big canoe paddling adventures. Please consider joining us. Let Mary know at bigcanoe@vckc.ca

~ Mary Marks, Big Canoe Director
bigcanoe@vckc.ca

An Open Letter from Easter Seals

Dear Paddlers,

THANK YOU so very much for your support of Peninsula Paddle for the Kids and Easter Seals! We truly appreciate your support, hard work and fundraising these past few years! It is so exciting to be celebrating 39 years this year!

Your fundraising will go towards supporting specialized Easter Seals programs and services, just like our Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan right here on Vancouver Island.



Camp Shawnigan offers one of the best nature-based, outdoor summer camps for children and adults with disabilities. It's a place where campers can explore and develop their abilities in a safe, warm, fun and supportive environment. Campers are provided with an opportunity to try new activities, create lasting memories, and build life-long friendships.

Along with the **pledges sheets** that I dropped off at the Kick Off, you have many other ways to fundraise. Here are just a few **fundraising ideas**: Garage sales, bottle drives, dinner parties to name a few. At work you can host a luncheon, a bake sale or a guessing game (pay \$2 and guess how many jelly beans are in the jar). The possibilities are endless!

Another great way to fundraise is **online**. As I mentioned on Sunday your donors are able to donate online through our Easter Seals website <https://www.eastersealsbcy.ca/events/paddle-for-the-kids/>. The website has been updated a bit so it might look different to your regular donors, but it is very easy to navigate through. I have attached a step-by-step instruction to show how they can donate online.

ONLINE FUNDRAISING

Fundraising online has proven to be very effective. Your donors can click on the link you provide via email or social media and make their pledge securely with a credit card. We will track the online totals in the office, and I will bring the results of all totals to the event on March 28th, to add to the offline donations.

****Be sure to advise your donors that we need them to specify under the comment section (Message For Easter Seals BC/Yukon) :**

- 1) This is for **Peninsula Paddle for the Kids**
- 2) That they are pledging the amount to you, include **your name**.

Peninsula Paddle for the Kids Website: <https://www.eastersealsbcy.ca/events/paddle-for-the-kids/>

Just select **DONATE TO PADDLE FOR THE KIDS TODAY**, and it will take them to our donation page where your donors will make their donation. Be sure to let your donors know to reference both Paddle for the Kids and your name under the comment section (Message For Easter Seals).

One more thing, I have also attached a template letter that you can share among friends and family when you are appealing for donations. Feel free to personalize it to make it work for your audience!

Thank you once again for your wonderful support of Peninsula Paddle for the Kids and Easter Seals!

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything!

Take care,
Shannon

Shannon Bernays
Manager, Development

**Easter Seals, British Columbia & Yukon
& British Columbia Lions Society for Children with Disabilities**

Canoe Program

Although we saw our shadows on the Groundhog Day Club Paddle, forget the 6 more weeks of winter – spring is in the air! At this time of year, many of us start to dream of summer canoeing adventures, maybe on lake circuits like the world-famous Bowron Lakes, on one of our mighty rivers, or in sheltered archipelagos like the Broughton or Broken Group.

Whether it's lakes, rivers or ocean, get ready for your next adventure by upgrading or refreshing your paddling skills with an advanced canoe course: **Lakewater 3**, **Moving Water 1**, or **Ocean Canoeing**, all offered this spring. New to the Canoe Program is the **Canoe Tripping Paddler** course. This course is designed for people wanting an introduction to all there is to know about wilderness lake trips under the leadership of an experienced instructor: loading canoes, waterproofing gear, navigation, rescuing loaded canoes, planning and preparing food, and choosing the best equipment to take. Although we hope for the best, it is wise to be prepared for the worst.



Enjoying Bowron Lake in perfect conditions



And in the rain

Also new to the Canoe Program, is the **Canoe Tripping Leader** course, designed to build the skills and confidence to become a group leader for multi-day wilderness canoe trips. This course is ideal for teachers, outdoor program leaders, youth camp leaders, guides etc. For more information about any of these courses, please contact Canoe@vckc.ca

Our February **Club Day Trips** have been surprisingly lovely with warm sunshine and calm winds. They included a Groundhog Day paddle on February 2nd from Pedder Bay around Rocky Point to Becher Bay; a Family Day paddle on February 17th from Pat Bay to Roberts Bay; and a Leap Day paddle planned for February 29th. See the Day Trip descriptions below for details. A big thank-you to Alan and Linda Thomson for organizing and leading us on these wonderful trips! Please join us next time.

The **February Paddling Presentation** had Provincial Ecologist, Will McKenzie of Smithers, B.C. sharing with us, his incredible kayak adventure from Grise Fjord, Ellesmere Island across ice and open water to Qanak, Greenland. His spectacular photos and videos of the Arctic flora and fauna, stories of polar bears and shifting ice, and his unique underwater videos of belugas were much appreciated by a full house of canoeists, kayakers and guests.

Photo: Paddling across Baffin Bay to Greenland

Following up on our January presentation that was titled "Teen Angst in the Stikine", our upcoming **March Paddling Presentation** (on the 17th) is titled "Middle-age Angst in the Sayward" when Mike Teachman takes us on the Sayward Forest Canoe Route with a 40 km paddle across 13 lakes and with 7 kms of portaging between them, but not in a canoe, on a **SUP**! All are welcome, presentations start at 7pm.

Hope to see you at the club or on the water!

Contact Louise for information about anything the Canoe Program canoe@vckc.ca

~ Louise de Montigny, Canoe Program Director

CANOE TRIP REPORT – Pedder Bay Marina to Cheanuh Marina Becher Bay February 2, 2020

The third Club Day Trip of the year on February 2nd, took us from Pedder Bay Marina to Cheanuh Marina in Becher Bay. This trip was a little more exposed than usual, but sprits were high as the forecast was for sunshine, light winds from the east and a favorable current in the form of an ebbing tide.



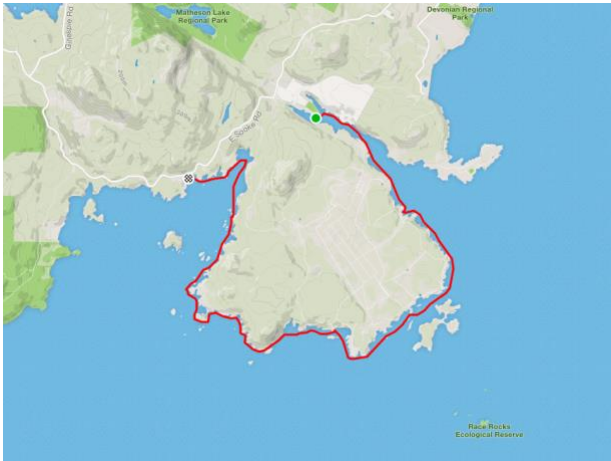
For this trip we had 4 tandem canoes and 3 solo kayaks totalling 11 paddlers. We left the clubhouse at 8:40 a.m. and regrouped at Esquimalt Lagoon to have a check of the seas. All looked good so coupled with the wind and tide, the final decision was taken to paddle from Pedder to Becher Bays. We arrived at Pedder Bay at around 9:30 to unload gear and to shuttle vehicles. With this complete, we were in the canoes and leaving the dock by 10:45 a.m. Both marinas were very generous to us, not charging the full parking or launching fees – much appreciated hospitality.

We initially had flat water, to be expected inside Pedder Bay but as we passed Watt Point, the swells began to pick up. We continued along the SW side of Pedder Bay with the swell until slightly past Cape Calver where the swell calmed. We chose an inside line through Eamdyk Passage passed the Bentinck Island (a former leper colony) taking full advantage of the current. Here we were treated to more than a 50 seals bobbing up and down and checking us out. The tidal surge picked up a bit around Christopher Point, but all was smooth heading into Shelter Bay for a lunch stop at 11:55 a.m. in beautifully sheltered beach behind a small island – sun, sand and no wind.

After a 30-minute lunch we continued west following the shore inside of the Church Islands to Smyth Head and into Becher Bay. The East side of Becher Bay was sheltered, and we wove in and out of the small islands and rocks to the head of the bay circling the small booming operation and back out a short way to the Cheanuh Marina. Raoul grew up on Becher Bay as his dad ran the booming ground there from 1953-1972. This portion of the paddle brought back a lot of memories of his youth on the booms. We arrived at the marina at 2:00 p.m. and used the dock to unload and pull-out.



The paddle was a lovely example of the weather gods cooperating. Today, the groundhog would have seen his/her shadow so 6 more weeks of winter is predicted. Although the temperature was low, 2 to 5 degrees C, the sun made the paddle very enjoyable. After loading the boats, we stopped at the My Chosen Café for a coffee/tea/milkshake and to have a pleasant chat. We agreed that this paddle, which navigated around the shore of Rocky Point, was well worth the price of admission. In total, we paddled for 3 ¼ hours (including a 30-minute lunch) and a distance of approximately 15.2 kms.



Many thanks to Alan and Linda for organizing and leading the trip and to provide such detailed logistical information. Thanks to the familiar and new faces that joined: in tandem canoes, Dorothea and Sandy, Jim and Roy, Louise and Raoul; and in kayaks, Mike, Celeste and David. If you missed today's trip in order to catch the Super Bowl, you could have done it and still have made it back for the opening kick-off!

~ Raoul Wiert

CANOE TRIP REPORT – Patricia Bay to Roberts Bay, February 17, 2020



he fourth Club Day Trip of the year was held on February 17th and took us along the coastline of the northern tip of Saanich Peninsula from Patricia (Pat) Bay to Roberts Bay. With a forecast of sunshine, light winds, calm waters and an ebbing tide to ease our travels, 16 paddlers loaded up 3 tandem canoes, 4 solo kayaks and the Club's wood/canvas freighter. We left the clubhouse at 8:50 am and regrouped at the put-in at Pat Bay at the edge of the Indian Reserve. After unloading the canoes and arranging the positioning of the cars at the take-out, we were ready to start at 10:15 am. Although the wind prediction had been mixed and changing over the preceding days, we were fortunate to be treated to very light winds. The temperature as we pushed off, hovered around 0° C, but the sun soon warmed us, and the temperature soon climbed to a comfortable 7°. The tides??? Waters were calm???

Heading north, we explored all the nooks and crannies of the shoreline between Warrier Point and Coal Point. We enjoyed practicing our maneuvers under and around the piers of Deep Cove behind the marina. Coming around Moses Point some of us kept our eyes peeled for a Royal sighting, but alas, not today. Nevertheless, some of the lovely mansions were astounding. Just before Schwartz Bay, we crossed over to Piers Island where we stopped for a well-deserved lunch break on the beach in front of Ken's cabin. With a south-facing vista, the sun was toasty warm, and we enjoyed a generous stop. Some of us even napped!

Coming off Piers Island and across Colburne Passage, we had to paddle quickly and all together to get past Swartz



Bay Ferry Terminal without hitting ferry traffic. Our timing was exquisite as no ferries were coming or going and we heard the ship's horn sound just as we reached the safety of Swartz Head. Thankfully, we still had a decent current, thanks to the ebb tide, and we continued on our way past busy Tsehum Harbour to our final destination at Roberts Bay. In total, we paddled for 4 ¼ hours over a distance of approximately 18 kms.



One of the many advantages to participating in these day trips, is sightseeing from the water, which is very different from on land. We were able to slow down and enjoy the scenery that many of us had never seen before, despite living in the Victoria area. An observation about North Saanich that we found particularly striking, was the diversity of housing, from large mansions on acreage to cute waterside houses with not much space between them. Today was certainly a wonderful paddle with great company, great weather and favorable conditions.

Many thanks to Alan and Linda for organizing and leading the trip. Thanks to all who joined in: in tandem canoes, Linda and Alan, Leigh and Phil, Louise and Raoul; in kayaks, Mike, Nick, Helen and Rich and in the wood/canvas big canoe, Ken, Sandy, Carolynne, Barb, Jim and Dorothea. If you would like to join these trips, we'd love to have you.

Happy Paddling

~ Raoul Wiart

Dragon Boat

Dragon Boat Season is approaching quickly! If you're interested in paddling and racing with us this year please contact our Dragon Boat Program Director, Jana, at dragonboat@vckc.ca. We'll be organizing a season kick-off meeting for later in March so get on the contact list now!

IMPORTANT NOTICE - we're seeking a steers-person for our dragon boat team!! Do you have experience steering, or know someone that wants to join a great group of women for practices 2 nights a week and some fun local festival racing?? I'd love to talk more about this with you!

Jana Savage, Director, VCKC Dragon Boat Program



2019 Team

Marathon



Participants getting ready for Saturday 8 am paddle

Like the hearty outriggers, the marathon program participants continue to enjoy year-round paddling. While not as care-free an excursion as warmer waters allow, the tides, rain run-off, and winds still provide challenging yet safe learning and training opportunities. The marathon canoes are on the water Saturdays at 8am, 8:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are a beginner, or want a trial run at paddling in a marathon boat, best to join the Saturday morning outing after connecting with the program director at marathon@vckc.ca. All the marathon program outings are listed in the marathon calendar.

We had the opportunity on February 8th to see a four-seat marathon canoe in action. Marathon program

member Tom Arnold and his crew are training for the [Yukon River Quest](#) on June 24-27, and took time to paddle circles around the rest of the



Four-seater marathon canoe in action

boats on the water! We appreciate all the work that has gone into renovating club storage areas, particularly the ease by which marathon boats can now be retrieved and stored.

Marathon events on the horizon include the **Wake Up the Gorge**, the small boat events on **April 5th**, following the outrigger competition on April 4th. The small boat competition includes: Marathon canoe (1 and 2 person), OC1, OC2, V1 and SUPs. Remember, if you want to compete, in the small boat competition you have to be a member of CORA **before** April 5th – *there is no longer on-site CORA registration*.

The **Switchblade Paddlesport Relay Competition** is also under development, scheduled for **May 9th**. Switchblade racing consists of 6 different paddling sports and is an exciting combination of race legs that will challenge any 6-paddler team to bring their best efforts both as individuals and working together. We're hoping the new VCKC paddleboard program will rise to the occasion and participate on a team!

Switchblade course (6 legs)

- **Recreational Ocean Kayak (1 paddler)** – Mass start on the water at the VCKC dock, and tide pending, the course will be in the Gorge Waterway and may involve buoy turns.
- **Stand Up Paddleboard (1)** – Mass start at the VCKC dock (either in the water or on shore) the course will involve several buoy turns and will be in the Gorge Waterway.
- **Marathon Canoe Tandem (2)** – Mass start on the water at the VCKC dock the course will be in the Gorge Waterway, expect buoy turns, finishing at VCKC.
- **OC1 (1)** – Mass start at Portage Park beach, loop through Esquimalt Harbour to far end of Esquimalt Lagoon (Coberg) Spit.
- **Surf Ski (1)** – mass start at Esquimalt Lagoon Spit to Inner Harbour mouth, finishing at Ocean Pointe Delta Hotel.
- **OC6 (all 6 paddlers)** – Staggered start in front of Ocean Pointe Delta Hotel, into the Inner and Outer Harbours, on to V21, counter clockwise turn around V21, then on to Brotchie Reach, counter clockwise around Brotchie, back to V21, clockwise turn around V21 and follow same course into Inner Harbour finishing at Ocean Pointe Delta Hotel.

For more information regarding the Switchblade or the WUTG Competition or any facet of the marathon program, contact Peter Elson, Marathon Director, at marathon@vckc.ca

~ Peter Elson, Director

Outrigger

The worst of winter seems to be over and outrigger crews have been enjoying fine weather on the Gorge. Ideas are being considered for an addition to the dock that should make it easy to get two boats in and out of the water. If anyone has an interest in such ideas let me know.

My focus at present is on finding volunteers to organize various aspects of Wake Up The Gorge, coming April 4th and 5th. The tides look favorable, so we only need hope for good weather. Several volunteers have come forward and more are needed. I am looking for people to organize draw prizes, market the race to other clubs, coordinate a group to help with parking, prepare a collection of outriggers for the races, manage the 50/50 draw and run the kitchen. If you are interested in any of these activities please let me know, outrigger@vckc.ca

For any club members who might want to try paddling an outrigger, sign in to the web site and go to Outrigger/Outrigger Practice Schedule, pick a time in the week that works for you and send a message or call the contact person for that team. There may be an open seat waiting for you. The schedule list 21 boats going out every week

~ Michael Wheatley, Director

SUP Program

We are very excited to welcome SUP as the seventh paddling discipline at VCKC. A whole group of eager SUP enthusiasts are working hard behind the scenes to get the program up and running. The only thing more anticipated than Spring lessons is the arrival of a brand new fleet of Cascadia SUP boards.

Keep a watch to the website and emails, as we may need help unpacking and arranging them into storage upon arrival. Once boards are safely stored in their new home, we will be posting the first rounds of lessons and group paddles. Exciting times - we can't wait to see you on the water!

Short notice but super fun! Feb 27 Paddle 6pm-7pm Followed by a potluck BBQ 7ish-9pm.

First VCKC SUP Social of 2020! While we wait for the club's boards to arrive, Brian of South Island SUP is helping us out! Boards, Paddles, Drysuits to try out FREE for club members provided by South Island SUP. Paddlers from all paddlesports invited. Bring your friends too as guests. Bring some food to share. (Some demo drysuits and boards will be available for sale.)

Shelby Hart, SUP Director

Storage Report



In February, one boat rack in the basement was rebuilt to hold more boats and the other removed to make room for the new paddleboard rack. A general cleanup and organization of the basement was done. All signage was moved to a back corner under the deck. Items loosely stored here and there around the basement fell into two categories. Items of use to the Club were boxed up for storage on newly built shelves. Items of no use to the Club were hauled to the landfill. Two full trailer loads of unused items were taken to the landfill.

Over the next couple of weeks, day-use lockers will be installed in the basement. These lockers will be available to members for storage of gear while they are at the Clubhouse paddling and must be emptied by the end of the day.

Two Club Canoes are available for sale to members for \$50 each OBO. A marathon mould with marathon canoe and old fibreglass canoe (no VCKC stencil) are also available to members free (no charge). These boats will be sold or given away as is and do not come with storage spots. They are on the temporary rack just to the right as you enter the compound and will be marked with orange surveyor tape for members to have a look at. Please let me know if you're interested in one of these boats.

~ Dan Walker, VCKC Storage Director



A new year and a new look at keeping everyone up-to-date with club information. We've suffered from too many emails, too few emails, website not up to date, website with information that conflicts with the copious emails, newsletters that are hard to read on cellphones. It's been a challenge!

This year we put two bulletin boards in the newly de-cluttered basement. One will have information the VCKC Executive wants you to know, upcoming events, calls for volunteers, courses, club trips, things that you might miss if

you aren't reading the newsletter (which will still be published!). The other board will be for members to post items like paddles for sale, keys that have been found, keys that have been lost, things you want to communicate to each other. Feedback (good, bad, or otherwise) can be sent to me, at director1@vckc.ca and we'll continue to evolve!.

~ Kim Capson, Director at Large



VCKC Spring Showcase

Saturday April 19th (noon to four) VCKC will host its first annual Program Showcase.

This will be an opportunity for members and the public to be on the water in all seven program areas. Ever wanted to try paddling in a dragon boat, see what it is like to be part of an OC6 team, experience a stand up paddle board or a kayak. This will be your opportunity.

This will be our opportunity to showcase all we do not only to our members but to the public as well. If you have friends or family that might be interested bring them along. Stay tuned for further information. It will be followed by the members and guest potluck.

Club Contact Information

Officers

President president@vckc.ca
Tim Marks
Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca
Tony Hopkin
Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca
Mark Sondheim
Secretary secretary@vckc.ca
Susan Logan
Past President pastpres@vckc.ca
Joe Boyd

Program Directors

Big Canoe Program bigcanoe@vckc.ca
Mary Marks
Canoe Program canoe@vckc.ca
Louise de Montigny
Dragonboat Program dragonboat@vckc.ca
Jana Savage Cain
Kayak Program kayak@vckc.ca
Sebastian Piper
Outrigger Program outrigger@vckc.ca
Mike Wheatley
Marathon Canoe Program marathon@vckc.ca
Peter Elson

Stand Up Paddle Board

Shelby Hart sup@vckc.ca

Other Executive Positions

Education, Standards & Safety safety@vckc.ca
Ryan Ovens
Membership membership@vckc.ca
Debi LaHaise
Clubhouse and Grounds
(maintenance) clubhouse@vckc.ca
Brit Kohn
Boat & Locker Storage storage@vckc.ca
Dan Walker
Director at Large
Kim Capson director1@vckc.ca
Ellie James director2@vckc.ca

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor newsletter@vckc.ca
Susan Logan
Webmaster webmaster@vckc.ca
Arthur Caldicott