



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

“The Paddling Post”

December 2020

Be sure to check the website for information on when courses and activities are scheduled !!!

President's Message

End of the year, end of my two year term. You all have apparently survived both. Bravo.

As we all look ahead to a vaccine it is easier to imagine a better year ahead. I am proud of our club for maintaining such a high level of activity throughout this year, all within our COVID Mitigation Strategies. In spite of the optimism for the months ahead I must point out how important it is to continue following these strategies. Currently we are under some of the strictest province wide mitigation mandates to date. At present **the Provincial Health Officer has increased physical distancing to 3meters or 10' while participating in sports, indoors or out.** I am awaiting clarification on whether we will have to abstain from tandem canoe paddling. I have presented the case paddlers can maintain



"Before Times - Before my moustache was grey"

3meters (10') and should be allowed to paddle tandem canoes. I am hopeful we will be able to carry on as we have been. I only bring this to your attention to emphasize **it is of utmost importance to continue to follow our protocols. Wash your hands and all equipment/touch points, keep physically distancing (3meters when exercising), wear a mask indoors or within 3meters (10') when exercising, isolate when necessary (including avoiding high risk activities and people).**

In spite of such an irregular year our membership has reached near normal numbers, over 500. Many members have tried the new paddling program, SUP. Marathon Canoe has continued with minimal disruption. Canoe has offered a variety of courses since the club was able to reopen. Kayak has run many courses and have done a great job of training new club instructors. This past year saw the resurgence of many canoes and kayaks exploring local waters on day trips together. Many people have given favorable reviews of paddling the once, near forgotten, plastic OC1s. Well, you get the picture, there have been a lot of fun times paddling at VCKC. If you would like to see the picture, rather, some pictures, here is a link to a YouTube of photos that Louise compiled. [Here](#)

These strange times brought us a virtual Christmas Party. If you missed it, many members can tell you how great it was. Only an hour and nobody fighting for the closest parking spots! Wahoo! The best of the season to you all! Ken Gibbard won a \$26,000 bottle of 50 year old Scotch! Being that he is getting close to the last decade to 100 years

old, I think we should have given him two bottles! Yup, that is \$26,000 a bottle! Did I mention they were virtual bottles of Scotch? Try as I might the treasurer wouldn't approve the purchase. Sorry Ken. (This was the paragraph I used up what was left over of my year's allotment of exclamation marks.)

There are many executives remaining in their positions for next year. I think that is a good sign for the coming year. People are involved and keen to fulfill their plans for the club. I encourage everyone to follow the instructions given below to attend the virtual AGM in January. Any voting will take place at the meeting. Be sure to be a paid up member and have registered for the meeting.

In these last words as president, I say a genuine thank you to all the members of VCKC. If there weren't a bunch of people having fun paddling, there would be no club and much less opportunity for all. I particularly like to thank all those members that do the tasks that require doing. There are many things that need to get done. Members just chip in and do them. Typically, anonymous acts of service. Thank you.

The executives serve the club through many hours over the year. Each work so obviously for the best interest of the club. I consider it quite a privilege to have been president for a couple of years. If it were not for all you people making the club what it is, there would be no value or need of a president. Again, thank you.

Shortly, the days will be getting longer. It will be easier to paddle, warmer and less rain. Until then, stay warm, play safe. Paddles Up.

Season's Greetings

~ *Tim Marks, President*

VCKC Virtual AGM

These are indeed strange times and due to current gathering limitations VCKC will not be able to hold the AGM in person but rather will be conducting a virtual meeting.

We are holding our Annual General Meeting online at **7pm Tuesday January 12, 2021**. We are requesting members to register for the AGM in order that we can be sure the program is set up to accommodate all who wish to attend virtually. If you register for the meeting we will send you a Zoom link a day or two before the meeting with some basic instructions.



All participants will be placed in a waiting room when they log in. Once the executive is ready to commence the AGM you will be added to the meeting. When you are added your microphone will be on mute. The moderator of the meeting will unmute each person as they are called to speak. In the participant section you will see an option to raise your hand. This will alert the moderator that you wish to speak.

For the purpose of voting we will be using the poll function of Zoom. When the vote is called you will receive a notice of the poll and be able to provide your answers. We will not be tracking the answers of individual participants. Only the final tally will be provided. For voting purposes each member must sign into the meeting using a unique email to be able to vote.

[Call for Nominations](#) - Joe Boyd is chairing the nominations committee. If you wish to nominate someone for a position please connect with him [here](#). VCKC bylaws state that all executive positions are for a one year term.

Please register [Here](#) if you are interested in attending the AGM. Online registration will close two days ahead of January 12, 2020 so that we can finalize our work and setup our online accounts properly.

The AGM agenda, program reports, proposed budget, and last year's minutes will be emailed to all members approximately two weeks before the AGM. The year-end financial statements will go out approximately one week prior to the AGM.

VCKC Virtual Christmas Party



The Christmas party was a lot of fun! We had a very loose agenda and spent some time just talking to each other, telling jokes, and even attempting to sing a Christmas carol around the lag times of our various home computers/phones/iPads! We gave out some very expensive virtual bottles of champagne and whiskey, a free virtual trip (camping in Kenya), and a night at the movies with reviews by our members. The sky's the limit when the prizes aren't real! There was also an actual personal first aid kit donated by Susan so one lucky member won something they can keep. We had a few fun polls.

Canoe Director Louise put together a video of pictures taken throughout the year and we sure were busy as a club! It was really nice to see in the video that lots of members were enjoying our new SUPs. Treasurer Mark also showed parts of a 1933 canoe safety training film. There didn't appear to be PFDs at the time, and there were a lot of acrobatics in and around the canoes! We finished the party with a VCKC-adapted version of The Night Before Christmas.

~Kim Capson



The Night before a Club Trip

(with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

Twas the night before a Club trip and through the clubhouse
Many creatures were stirring including me, the old souse.
The paddles were hung by the furnace with care
In hopes that our members soon would be there.

While Joe in his drysuit and Tim in his wet
Were gathering supplies for the trip we had set
Our members were driving solo and losing their minds
Trying to find more parking to leave cars behind.

When out in the compound there arose such a clatter,
I ran to the dock to see what was the matter!

I looked through the fence and what did I see?
Handsome Dan standing there, under that tree.

He was pointing and calling and planning the day
And what did I hear as he started to say?
“On marathon, kayak, canoe, SUP, OC1!
Come on out with us, it’s going to be fun!”

But just as the members started to gather
To carry the big boats, though they’d really not rather.
Dan said “Stay where you are dragon boat, big canoe, OC6.
COVID protocols and you big guys sadly don’t mix.”

And then in a twinkling I heard on the beach
Our members were calling “The boats are in reach!”
They made a long line and started to carry
And reminded the others we’d better not tarry.

We loaded the boats with our dry bags and gear
And had a quick look, seeing all was well at the rear.
The smiles and the laughter meant we were all set
To have a great trip, expectations all met.

As we paddled away from the clubhouse at dawn
None of the members had to stifle a yawn.
The best thing in life is to be on the water
Maybe see heron or orca or otter.

Tim jumped in the lead boat, to the club gave a yell
His voice rang out, as clear as a bell.
“Paddles up, VCKC! We’re out for some fun!
Stay healthy, my friends, now let’s paddle like one!”

Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!



VCKC Night at the Movies



(in the comfort of your own home)

What kind of movie is on the agenda for tonight? A heart-warming family film. Then we suggest "Paddle to the Sea". Rated five canoes!

Paddle to the Sea

Rated: 

Bill Mason's film adaptation of the classic tale of an Indigenous boy who sets out to carve a man and a canoe. Calling the man "Paddle to the Sea," he sets his carving down on a frozen stream to await spring's arrival. The film follows the adventures that befall the canoe on its long odyssey from Lake Superior to the sea.

If you are in the mood for something a little heavier you might want to send the kids to bed and check out one of the movies below.

Black Robe

Rated: 

Real Indians/First Nations/Metis (Tantoo Cardinal, August Schellenberg, Billy Two Rivers, Lawrence Bain) canoeing with skill and doin' it doggy style, what more can you ask for?

Deliverance

Rated: 

Real rednecks, Burt Reynolds shoots the rapids and breaks his coccyx (really - he was a former stuntman or was that a football player?), Ned gets sucked into an eddy (really - there were no stuntmen, too expensive for the budget); canoeing and sodomy, what more can you ask for?

The Trap

Rated: 

Oliver Reed at his manliest raging around BC wilderness and Rita Tushingham, too; canoe stunts by Dinty Moore, founder of the Dogwood Canoe Club - maybe qualifies for another "canoe" thumbs up just because a real canoe legend was there.

The Last of the Mohicans

Rated: 

Great musical score, real Indians/First Nations/Inuit/Native Americans (Russell Means, Wes Studi, Eric Schweig), big canoes, fancy paddles, and Daniel Day-Lewis at his sexiest - probably worth another "canoe" thumbs up.

Some Like it Hot

Rated: 

No wait, that's a powerboat! Great movie though: Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Joe E. Brown, George Raft & Edward G. Robinson during the Golden Age of Hollywood: real adults, real humor, real fun.

The Forest Rangers - The River

Rated: 

For all you CBC drama watchers back in the day (1963-66), watch Joe Two Rivers (portrayed by Michael Zenon who was born in Ukraine - culturally appropriated for who knows what reason?) run the rapids & repair a canoe and teach the youthful FR troops stuff. [Here](#)



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