



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

“The Paddling Post”

January 2021

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

President’s Message



As 2021 begins we welcome a couple of new members to the VCKC Executive. Craig Thomson is our new Kayak Director and Tim Hall is our new Director One. The rest of us shuffled our positions so we have a lot of returning experience to guide us through the upcoming year. I have moved into the President position after many years of trying out various spots on the Executive. We thank Joe Boyd and Tony Hopkin for their years on the Executive and wonder what they will be doing now with all their free time!

This year promises to be a good one, starting off with a vaccine roll-out that might get us back together in groups in person without masks! Remember those days? Although we still need to be extra careful with the new COVID

variants floating around things do seem to be looking up. We are very happy to report that our membership numbers are actually slightly up from this time last year. It proves what we have seen this past year, that we might be under tight restrictions, however we are still having lots of fun on the water. For anyone who missed it Canoe Director Louise put together a slideshow of all the paddling we did last year and showed it at the Zoom Christmas party. It's available on the members' page once you sign in.

Our solo boats are seeing lots of action, including the old OC1s, which are pretty amazing to paddle in! The Directors are planning lots of courses for the spring to get everyone certified on whatever boat they'd like to paddle. Big thanks to Shelby Hart, and then James Roorda for starting our brand-new SUP program in the middle of a pandemic and making it a roaring success. Lots of us tried the SUPs and found them a lot of fun!

We're hoping to get the General Meetings back on track, virtually through Zoom, and have some great topics to present. Stay tuned to the webpage for good things to come!

~ Kim Capson, President

Meet the 2021 Executive



*Arthur Caldicott,
Webmaster*



*Kim Capson,
President*



*Louise de Montigny, Canoe
Director*



*Peter Elson, Marathon
Director*



*Britt Kohn, House &
Grounds*



Tim Hall, Director



Ellie James, Director



*Debi Lahaise,
Membership*



*Susan Logan, Secretary &
Newsletter*



*Mary Marks, Big
Canoe Director*



*Tim Marks, Past
President*



Ryan Ovens, Safety Director



James Roorda, SUP Director



*Jana Savage, Vice President
& Dragon Boat Director*



*Mark Sondheim,
Treasurer*



*Craig Thomson, Kayak
Director*



Dan Walker, Storage



*Mike Wheatley, Outrigger
Director*

40th Anniversary of PFTK



2021 marks the 40 Anniversary of Paddle for the Kids and you don't want to miss the event. This year's virtual event will look a little different. The event will be open from March 1 to April 30. The objective will be to paddle the equivalent distance between Victoria and Port Angeles (return trip) which is approximately 45.18 nautical miles (84 km). Paddlers can participate in either a canoe, kayak, OC1, or SUP or a combination of these. You get to choose your locations, dates and time for each paddle. Any paddle you undertake during this time frame can count - a leisurely trip on the upper gorge or a day trip elsewhere.

Past year event

will maintain a log of their trips and it will be submitted to the event lead on the 15th and 30th of each month. An ongoing tally will be posted on the website, in the newsletter and on the VCKC Chat Page so that all members can see the progress and cheer on participants. We encourage participants to send in pictures as well.

As in past years the event is a fundraiser for Easter Seals Camp Shawigan. Registered paddlers will receive their pledge sheets at the beginning of the event and a final tally will be posted at the end. You can register [HERE](#)

VCKC will host a virtual start and finish via our Zoom platform. This will provide some camaraderie and the opportunity to congratulate our participants as well as for Easter Seals to accept the funds and thank the participants.

Canoe Update

Happy 2021 everyone! Ever the optimist, I am assuming at least some of the Covid restrictions will be lifted early this year and we can get on with what we love – canoeing in our beautiful Victoria waters and beyond!

For a successful year, the Canoe Program has an ambitious agenda:

- 1) Promote safe paddling
 - a. Offer basic lakewater canoe lessons to the public at low-cost, advertised on the VCKC website;
 - b. Encourage members to advance their paddling skills with ocean, moving water and tripping canoe courses;
 - c. Encourage training and certification for new, or recertification for continuing canoe instructors;
 - d. Provide workshops to improve the paddling skills of club members across all programs.
 - e. Improve our canoe borrowing system to make access to canoes easier.
- 2) Provide Day Trip and other paddling opportunities



This is why we paddle

- a. Offer Day-Tripping opportunities each month;
- b. Complete information for the Day Trip Inventory Project after each Day Trip and post on the Members-only webpage;
- c. Encourage development of Trip Leaders;
- d. Host the 'Running of the Cow' and 'Cowichan River Remembrance Day' events for club members and the larger community who are certified for river paddling.

Check out the Canoe Program webpages over the coming months. If you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an email. Meanwhile, stay safe and hope to see you on the water soon!

~ Louise de Montigny, Canoe Director

Dragon Boat Update



Dragonboat quietly waiting for paddlers

With Crazy Covid still lingering about it's still an '**All Boats HOLD**' for Dragon Boating. Rest assured, when we get the green-light from our local Health Authorities we'll be ready to get back on the water - so stay tuned to club updates!

If you know of people who would like to join us on the water when it's time to return please encourage them to contact us via dragonboat@vckc.com to have their name put on the contact list! Any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out as well. And in the meantime, I encourage everyone to look at the smaller boat paddling options we currently have available to all members of the club (Canoe, Kayak, SUP, OC1)!

Stay safe, and paddle on Dragonz!

~ Jana Savage, Dragon Boat Director

Kayak Update



Hopefully we will be able to all get together

Hello. I'm Craig Thomson, newly elected VCKC Kayak Program Director. I started kayaking in the summer of 2018 and I finished my Paddle Canada Level 2 program this past summer. I joined VCKC originally as way to find potential storage for my sea kayak after downsizing from a house to a condo. I didn't find any storage space but did find a very welcoming community of kayakers. I've had opportunity to paddle with some of you already, and I'm looking forward to future opportunities to meet more club members in-person on the water during one of our (hopefully) many trip or training opportunities in the coming year or around the clubhouse.

I'd like to offer genuine thanks to Susan Logan for serving as Acting Kayak Director thought 2020. I'm really excited about continuing to build the VCKC kayak program in 2021. I know I've got a great team of people to work with this year, and I know they're looking forward to getting club members back out paddling as soon as we can do it safely and within the limits set by the Provincial Health Officer. Stay tuned for updates in future emails and on the club website & Facebook page. My club email address is kayak@vckc.ca ... please feel free to drop me note if there's anything you'd like to share with me. I'm always looking for feedback and ideas from club members.

~ Craig Thomson, Kayak Director

Marathon Update



Bon and Sue Lee sanitizing their boat after an early morning paddle in January

While the early morning may be a bit frosty, it hasn't dampened the spirits of a core of marathon paddlers who continue to make it out on the Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet three or four times a week. Generally, the weather has been very cooperative, with flat water and very little ice. Early morning tides are also high this time of year which makes it easier to navigate the full circumference of Portage Inlet. While COVID restrictions means that while only those in a bubble can use a C2, several have stepped up and are using their own C1s. This has been a very important contribution to the Marathon program as the club has only two single marathon canoes. As a result, we have been able to average six or seven participants per outing; but it's clearly frustrating for others who are keen to be on the water and have yet to migrate from doubles to singles. Patience, patience, patience....

Plans for 2021: A Vancouver Island Classic?

This time last year there were plans for several events and special outings, all to no avail. We have been cautiously planning for the annual Wake Up the Gorge in April, but as we are in the transition period between physical distancing and other COVID prevention measures and a widespread vaccination program, it's likely the Wake Up the Gorge will likely go back to sleep for another twelve months. What the marathon program will consider this year is the idea of hosting a dedicated marathon race in late Summer or early Fall. The Vancouver Island Classic was planned for last year at this time and would involve C1 and C2 races across a wide range of categories to test the endurance and skill of novice and expert alike. Tentative plans for such a race will be explored in the next few months.



Early morning on the Gorge

See you on the water

~ Peter Elson, Marathon director

SUP Update

The SUP program at VCKC is still open, but there aren't any practical training courses in the near future. When we can safely run SUP training sessions we will, hopefully it is sooner rather than later! If you want to use the equipment or have any questions about using the equipment please reach out to sup@vckc.ca

Looking forward to seeing people back out on the water in 2021. Until then, happy paddling!

~ James Roorda, SUP Director

Outrigger Update



VCKC has a pair of yellow plastic single seat outrigger canoes that all club members who have taken the COVID orientation can take out for a paddle. These OC1 boats are a pleasure to paddle and you don't need the technical skills needed for other boats. You need to dress for the possibility of getting wet. You sit only inches above the water and if it gets a bit rough you will be sitting in water. There is never any need to bail as they have a closed hull that doesn't take on water. With the outrigger and a relatively wide flat bottom they are very unlikely to tip. If they do tip then you push them right side up, climb on and continue paddling. Like any activity on the water, there are risks that you need to prepare for regardless of how stable they are. If you want to take out one or both boats just send an email to outrigger@vckc.ca explaining what you want to do and when you want to do it. I will get back to you. Cheers.

~ Mike Wheatley, Outrigger Director.

Storage Update

Thanks to everyone for so promptly paying their boat storage fees. Thanks also to Arthur Caldicott for the fantastic job setting up the database for all the newly assigned storage spots. The online payment system has been working perfectly.

Reminder: Those accessing boats in storage at VCKC must have completed the Covid orientation.

Some outdoor storage related projects will be started up again in early Spring. The compound fence is in need of repair and a gravel transition between the driveway and the compound will be laid down. Inside projects are probably going to have to wait for the reopening of the Club.

Happy New Year and Happy Paddling!

~ Dan Walker, Storage Director



A special thanks to Tony Dalmyn for the donation of paddling equipment. His donation included kayak, canoe, dragonboat and OC paddles as well as number of other items.

A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers who made it possible for VCKC to offer programs for members and the community.

Comox Valley Canoe and Kayak is offering VCKC Club members a discount as indicated below

Merchandise: 10% off
Rentals: 15% off
Boats, when purchased 2 at a time:
2 boats up to \$1000= \$50 off each boat
2 boats over \$1001-\$1800 = \$75 off each boat
2 boats over \$1801-\$2000 = \$100 off each

Club Contact Information

Officers

President president@vckc.ca
Kim Capson
Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca
Jana Savage Cain
Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca
Mark Sondheim
Secretary secretary@vckc.ca
Susan Logan
Past President pastpres@vckc.ca
Tim Marks

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
Craig Thomson
Outrigger Program outrigger@vckc.ca
Mike Wheatley
Marathon Canoe Program marathon@vckc.ca
Peter Elson

Stand Up Paddle Board

James Roorda sup@vckc.ca

Other Executive Positions

Education, Standards & Safety safety@vckc.ca
Ryan Ovens
Membership membership@vckc.ca
Debi LaHaise

Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance)

Brit Kohn clubhouse@vckc.ca
Boat & Locker Storage storage@vckc.ca
Dan Walker

Director at Large

Tim Hall director1@vckc.ca
Ellie James director2@vckc.ca

Executive Appointed Positions

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