



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

“The Paddling Post”

June 2021

*The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club respectfully acknowledges that its activities take place on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples, and that the land and waterways' historical relationship with the Songheesand and Esquimalt peoples have existed **since** time immemorial. The Club is committed to taking meaningful action to build respectful and reciprocal relations with the Songheesand and Esquimalt peoples on whose land and waterways club members have the privilege of living, working, and playing.*

President's Message



Welcome back, tandem canoe paddlers! We finally had some good news this past couple of weeks as restrictions are starting to ease. Although we still need to take it slow, we are finally able to see a return to normal club operations peeking over the horizon. With rising vaccination rates and falling COVID-19 cases we are feeling hope! It has been a long rough stretch of water, but we might be almost through it. As we begin to gradually re-open the club and all of our programs, we are looking forward to catching up with everyone. Plans are in place for some events later in the summer. We'll be getting the clubhouse ready for potlucks and barbeques. The asbestos taping and fibreboard has been removed, as you would have seen in the email. Things are happening so watch your emails for more news as we head into full re-opening of our programs and clubhouse. I can't wait until we're together in person again, my friends!

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Paddles up!

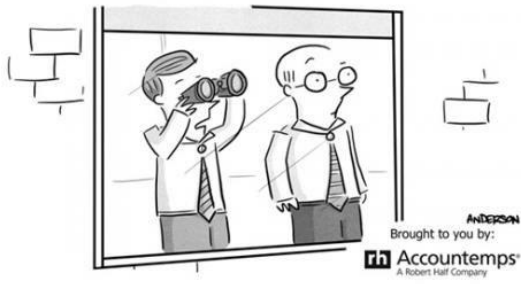
~ Kim Capson, President

2021 Waivers

Some members have not as yet completed the waivers and sent them to the secretary. When completing your 2021 waiver be sure to **initial the three sections** at the top and have it **witnessed**. It would be a shame to delay your paddling due to a clerical error. Once completed take a picture with your phone (or scan the waiver) and send it to secretary@vckc.ca. A copy can be found on the members section of the website.

A Note from our Acting Treasurer

I want to start by acknowledging the tremendous contribution Mark Sondheim has made to VCKC over the time he has been treasurer. I know I am not alone in feeling this way, but as Acting Treasurer until the next AGM, Mark has been an invaluable source of information and guidance to me. Together with Arthur Caldicott, web guru, the fog is slowly clearing, and some light is indeed shining on my understanding of the club's finances.



"I know this accounting in the cloud is supposed to make things easier, but how do we know which one is ours?"

The club is in a strong financial position and memberships, while not as high as last year, are still very healthy, and will likely increase as programs open up and more courses are offered. We're still some distance from hosting competitive events like Wake Up the Gorge, but we're optimistic that next year will see a bustling number of activities around the club as we play catch-up from cancelled events. We see this interim period before the next AGM as a good time to review our financial accounting system, so we are taking the necessary time to do just that. A full financial briefing will be presented at the 2022 AGM.

~ Peter Elson, Acting Treasurer

Canoe Update

Tandem canoeing for members outside a household is allowed at last! We are grateful that the ban on tandem canoeing was 'just' 6 months and not over the entire Covid event. During that time far fewer canoe lessons were run, and members were not able to book canoes nor to participate in Club Daytrips if they were not from the same household. Fingers crossed that all that is now behind us!

We did manage to run 2 sets of Lakewater 1 and 2 courses this spring, and there will be 1 more Lakewater 1 on July 24th. With enough interest, a Lakewater 3 will happen on July 3rd. With luck, we may have a Lakewater 4 in August - if there are any instructors who are not out celebrating the return to travel with their own canoe adventures!



At the end of May, a classroom of keen young students from Maria Montessori School, as part of its Associate Membership with VCKC, learned some safe canoeing basics. Despite a bit of wet weather, the kids had a great time and are excited to come back. Andrew Farrell, a VCKC member and teacher at the school, has provided a description below of how VCKC has helped his students over the years and the importance of their Associate Membership with the club.

For those of you who have recently joined the club and are dreaming of where a canoeing future will bring you, VCKC can help you get to some wonderful places. If you have taken the most basic Lakewater 1 course, then go further and explore the range of great advanced courses on offer. My first course was just 5 years ago but since then, with the excellent instruction from the club in advanced lakewater skills, my husband and I have paddled many of our local

lakes, the Bowron Lakes (twice), the Sayward Canoe Route (three times), and much of the Rideau Canal waterway in Ontario. Taking moving water gave us the skills we needed to paddle local rivers and then to achieve my dream of paddling over 700 kms of the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Dawson. This summer, the ocean canoeing course we took is giving us the confidence to explore the waters around the southern Gulf Islands, the Discovery Islands, and the Broughton Archipelago. If I can learn this, you can too! Take advantage of what your club has to offer, and you will find yourself on many wonderful canoeing adventures.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer, happy paddling

~ Louise de Montigny, Canoe Director



For over ten years, Maria Montessori Academy has had the privilege of being an associate member at VCKC. We have had many days of instruction on the Gorge Waterway in tandems and paddled with bigger, younger groups in Voyageurs with the help of so many club volunteers. We have also borrowed gear for multiple day outings outside of Victoria on a few occasions. One spring, we even made a trade with the club: the services of Ellie James for three days with our grade 6s in voyageurs (picture above), in exchange for the use of our school van for a club paddle in the interior of BC!

Our high school students over the years have used the club's amenities for many days of instruction equivalent to RCABC Level 1 Lake water Tandem skills. We have done basic strokes, knots, gear talks, construction and history of different canoes, and some rescues on the Gorge or in pools. These students then take these skills with them into their senior years at Maria Montessori Academy, as they now start every school year with a two-day paddle on Lake Cowichan.

Being an associate member at VCKC, is vital to our Outdoor Education Program at our school for students in grades 4-12. We are so fortunate to be able to use the club and have the help of so many amazing VCKC volunteers! Even this year with so many restrictions in place, we were able to safely use some equipment and allow an opportunity for our school population to get outside and enjoy a day or two of paddling!

Thank you, VCKC for continuing this partnership with us! We look forward to many more days on the water!

~ **Andrew Farrell**

*Athletic Director, PE Teacher, Outdoor Education Teacher
Maria Montessori Academy*



A big thanks goes out to all the members who provided loaner wetsuits so that members were able to participate in the various canoe and kayak courses over the last few months.

(Adrien, Craig, Denise, Dorothea, France, Lynda, Glen, Jack, Jean, Ken, Su Susan)

Kayak Update

On The Sea

(part 3 of "A Paddler's Haiku" series)

Orca swims below -

Otter cradles her young pup.

Did I lock the car?



Happy summer paddling from your VCKC Sea Kayak Program!

As of this moment there's one day trip on the June calendar (Cattle Point to Discovery & Chatham Islands – June 19th) and one trip in the planning stages for July 24th or 25th with destination TBD. Keep an eye on the club calendar for updates.

Paddle Canada Basic and Level 1 skills courses are booked solid – there was a huge demand for these courses which was only made worse by Covid's curse. Expect skills courses to open up again in late August or early September. If qualified instructors / coaches / trip leads are available throughout the summer, we hope to be able to offer occasional evening paddles or skill development sessions on the Gorge Waterway through July and August. Please keep checking the club calendar for events and openings.

On a personal note, I've just completed my Paddle Canada Level-1 Sea Kayak Instructor certification course with Blue Dog Kayaking in Mill Bay! It was a tough 5 days of paddling, skill development, lesson planning and delivery, but worth every moment. If you've completed a PC L2 skills course let me encourage you to consider an instructor course (even if you don't ever want to teach) – there's nothing more rewarding than building your kayak handling skills to an instructional level.

If you've got requests for particular skill development sessions or day trip destinations, please email me (kayak@vckc.ca) and I'll try to see what can be arranged.

Finally, another request for anyone who may be interested in taking on the mantle of VCKC Kayak Program Director for 2022. Email me if you're interested or have any questions (or let Susan Logan know: secretary@vckc.ca). Hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

~ Craig Thomson, Kayak Director

Requesting Club Paddle Equipment

We are searching for a more streamlined way to accommodate bookings across programs, however, have not a yet found anything that works. All equipment bookings are handles by **volunteers**. Like the rest of us they are not always available at a moments' notice. It is important to provide advance notice of your request – requests made in with less than 48 hours are not likely going to be answered in time. Below are the current request emails.

Canoe - canoebooking@vckc.ca

Kayak – kayakbooking@vckc.ca

Outrigger -outrigger@vckc.ca

SUP – sup@vckc.ca

Marathon Update



Photo of a socially-distant-after-paddling gathering of marathon regulars at Admiral's Beach
(From left to right: Darrelle Butler, Claire Wallace, Gord Wallace, Ron Williams, Norm MacDonell, Sue and Bon Lee)
Absent: Jan Urban, Blaine Holden (Photo by Peter)

As some of the constraints come off the paddling programs and we cautiously tread toward more contact with friends and strangers alike, I wanted to share this group photo to illustrate how conscientious the Marathon Group has been for the last year and a half. We've been privileged to be able to continue in singles, thanks to the number of marathon program members that own their own marathon canoe (some more than one!). Without their contribution we would have been

sorely limited by the two single club boats. Otherwise, masks have been worn, canoes sprayed, numbers limited inside, and out, and tandem boats reserved for bubble members only.

Our three to four early morning outings a week have been a real high point when any time to socialize beyond Zoom and our personal bubble has been severely limited. When we have gathered together after a paddle, it's been at Admiral's beach where there is plenty of space to socially distance.

If everything opens up safely, the marathon program will look at hosting the Vancouver Island Classic in August. Meanwhile, our club protocols have kept everyone safe, and before long most of us will have had their second COVID jab. When that happens, we will all be able to breathe a sigh of relief.

See you on the water

~ Peter Elson, Marathon director

Outrigger Update

If anyone wants to take one of the OC1s out on their own, you don't need another person to help with getting the boat to the water. The wheels that are used for moving the kayaks and canoes work very well under the OC1s. When you walk in the basement at the clubhouse follow the wall on your left and you will see the wheels. In the compound, set the wheels behind the boat and pull the boat out onto the wheels. If you have any questions send me a message at outrigger@vckc.ca. Be aware that paddling alone increases the risks associated with paddling. Be prepared.



Our new Hurricane OC1 is still expected in Comox July 4th. Shortly after that it should be available for paddling. I will let everyone know when it arrives here, but I may be able to inform you sooner if you let me know you are interested in booking the newer, faster, tipper boat. Send me an email at outrigger@vckc.ca if you are interested in booking some time on the new outrigger.

~ Mike Wheatley, Outrigger Director

SUP Update

Hello fellow paddlers, for the newsletter this month I wanted to share a recent paddle I did. In the future I hope the SUP program at VCKC will be able to organize trips like this.



On Saturday May 29 I decided that I wanted to take advantage of the amazing weather and favourable conditions and do a big paddle. It had been over a year since I had paddled from Gordon Head to Ross Bay, but I felt up to it. The wind was forecasted to be low, and the

tide was ebbing thereby adding some very welcome assistance on a longer paddle.

My fellow paddler and I set off from Gordon Head just before 9 am. I felt confident in the conditions having done this paddle previously but my paddle partner having some experience paddling around Discovery and Chatham Islands suggested we cross Baynes Channel if it looked okay when rounding Ten Mile Point. I was hesitant as Baynes has a well-earned reputation and I knew that if we crossed, we were then committed in a decent ebb tide. Sure enough, the channel looked calm, so we crossed over to Chatham Island. In the calm Sunday sun, it was amazing to trace the shorelines and cross between Chatham and Discovery Island and feel like we had it all to ourselves (but of course we were sharing with the local eagles, cormorants, other sea birds, otters, and plenty of seals).



We crossed over to the Chain Islets where it started to get a bit rougher, and the current wasn't as much in our favour. It was a bit of a fight to get over to the 'mainland' of the golf course and Enterprise Channel. The water surface and the tidal current eased as we got closer to the shore, and we started to contemplate rounding Trial Island. By this point the ebb was easing towards low tide and my partner and I were feeling good and enjoying the beautiful morning. As we saw the lighthouse and the southern point of Trial Island, we realized that the kelp was going to cause more issues than any tidal flow. The water surface was flat and allowed us to take in and enjoy the surroundings. From here I

started to feel the two and a half hours of paddling (and lack of bathroom breaks) and we headed straight for Ross Bay where we got back on *terra firma*.

All in all, it was a great morning for a paddle. I'm grateful that I was shown a new amazing place to explore and hope to respectfully share this with others in the future.

Please reach out if you have any questions or want to set up a club paddle in the future. Be safe, have fun out there and happy paddling!!

~ James Roorda, SUP Director

Cub Contact Information

Officers

President president@vckc.ca
Kim Capson
Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca
Jana Savage Cain
Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca
Peter Elson(acting)
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) clubhouse@vckc.ca
Britt Kohn
Boat & Locker Storage storage@vckc.ca
Dan Walker

Director at Large
vacant director1@vckc.ca
Ellie James director2@vckc.ca

Executive Appointed Positions
Newsletter Editor newsletter@vckc.ca
Susan Logan
Webmaster webmaster@vckc.ca
Arthur Caldicot