



## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

# "The Paddling Post"

October 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 Songhees and Esquimalt peoples have existed since time immemorial. The Club is committed to taking meaningful action to build respectful and reciprocal relations with the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples on whose land and waterways club members have the privilege of living, working, and playing.

### President's Message



Although the rainy fall weather has started, we are still experiencing some fantastic sunny paddling days. I hope everyone is managing to get out and enjoy the sunshine.

Some very good news this past week, we received the lease renewal from Saanich so we will be enjoying our clubhouse and grounds for another five years. I want to thank each and every one of you for taking good care of the building and grounds and treating our waterways with such great respect. Saanich mentioned again what a positive working relationship we have with them and that has a lot to do with everyone at the club, so thank-you all!

You may have seen the email about the information session we are holding on October 28 regarding our proposed bylaw revisions. The Executive has had many discussions about the proposed changes and now it's time to hear from all of you. We can't make any of these changes until the 2022 AGM, however we want to have discussions with the membership before then. This is not a process to be rushed so the information session will give everyone a chance to speak their mind. You can register on the club calendar or by clicking [Here](#).

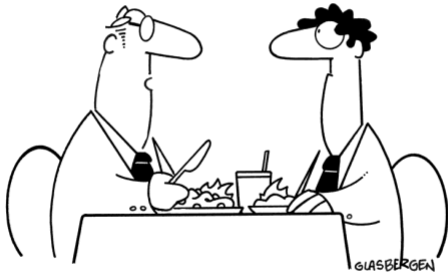
And finally, this is another call for anyone interested in running for the 2022 VCKC Executive. Although there are a few positions that are being vacated please remember that any and all positions are open to challenges if someone wants to run against the incumbent. We have had a few members put their names forward (thank-you!) and here is the complete list again for anyone who missed the email: Secretary, Big Canoe Director, Kayak Director, Education Safety and Standards Director, Storage Director, Membership Director (Debi will stay if no one steps up), Director at Large, Newsletter. You can email your interest to [president@vckc.ca](mailto:president@vckc.ca) and I can provide details regarding the position.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

~ Kim Capson, President

## A Note from our Acting Treasurer

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"I believe it was The Beatles who said, *In the end, the money you take is equal to the money you make.*"

As Fall makes its present felt on the water and the annual club clean-up looms, I'm pleased to report that the club is also in good financial shape. Membership registrations have been stronger than anticipated as have the number of people signing up for kayak and canoe courses. Covid constraints have muted any ambitious gatherings or work projects, so expenditures have remained modest. This modest expenditure is underpinned by the tremendous amount of volunteer work that goes into the day-to-day operating of the house and grounds, programs, and administration such as memberships and website updates.

Item	2021 Budget	YTD Sept 2021	YTD Sept 2020	% OF BUDGET
Total operating revenue	24,900	35,248	28,732	116%
Total operating Expenses	(34,920)	(22,327)	(23,617)	52%
Excess of revenue over expenses	10,020	12,921	5,115	129%

All going well, VCKC is positioned to take advantage of the newfound interest in the Gorge Waterway and all things aquatic, assuming of course, that everyone continues to follow the public health guidelines.

~ Peter Elson, Acting Treasurer

## Big Canoe Update

### Big Canoes, Again!



No longer just a memory

~ Mary Marks, Director

Hey All,

It has been quite a long COVID disruption in the Big Canoe Program, but we are seeking members interested in a November 11th paddle. It has been a long standing tradition to take Big Canoes on the Cowichian November 11 along with other canoes and kayaks. On occasions where there were not sufficient river experienced participants, we have organized ocean or lake paddling.

Members interested in Big Canoes for November 11th please contact Mary at [BigCanoe@vckc.ca](mailto:BigCanoe@vckc.ca) . Please state your preference of river or ocean paddling (and your experience if Mary doesn't know you).

Paddles Up, Again!

## BIG CANOE STERNER COURSES

The Club has 5 big canoes – a 29' Langley (Tillicum); 3 x 26' voyageurs (Shawnigan, Munroe, Kawa) and a 22' Mariner (Canada). You can see them on the trailer in the compound. It also has a 20 wood/canvas freighter canoe, aka 'Big Red'. To use these big canoes requires paddlers who know how to steer these large canoes from the stern. Unlike OC-6 and the Dragon Boats, which are primarily designed as straight-ahead racing craft, Big Canoes are often used for coastal tripping, often with novice paddlers as crew. Skills required including manoeuvring and crew management as well as assessment of risk due to weather and water movement.

The Big Canoe Leader course is one day long, and open to anyone in the Club who has taken and passed the Lakewater Basic Tandem canoe course. The plan is to offer at least one Big Canoe Leader course early in 2022 so that the Club has enough qualified sterners to run Paddle For The Kids that year if it is decided that it is safe to do so at that point. If you are interested in taking this course, please contact the Big Canoe Program director, Mary Marks ([bigcanoe@vckc.ca](mailto:bigcanoe@vckc.ca)) to let her know of your interest.

## Canoe Update

Our final Lakewater 1 course of the year is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and this is your last chance of the year to improve your paddling skills either by taking the course for the first time, or if you have already passed the course, auditing the course as a refresher free of charge. Please register on the Canoe Courses webpage.

Also happening this month is the certification of new, and the recertification of existing canoe instructors. If anyone is interested in becoming a canoe instructor, there are options to achieve RCABC Level 1 or 2, or Paddle Canada Introduction or Intermediate certification levels. Costs can possibly be covered by VCKC if you are willing to volunteer to teach for the club. Please see the Canoe Courses webpage or contact Ellie James [ejames123@shaw.ca](mailto:ejames123@shaw.ca) for more information.

The higher-than-average rainfall these last few weeks means the river levels are up and canoes are back on the river! For those interested in learning river skills, we will be running our Moving Water 1 course on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Please see the Canoe Courses webpage for more information and to register.



The VCKC Canoe program will be holding its Annual **Remembrance Day Cowichan River Paddle** on Thursday November 11. This event starts with an 11:00 am moment of silence at the Burma Star Memorial cairn built on the banks of Stoltz Pool in the Cowichan River Provincial Park. This cairn is a half-size replica of the cairn built at Kohima in Myanmar, the site of a savagely contested and decisive battle in 1944, now considered to be a “forgotten war”. It was situated there in honour of Duncan’s Maj. Charles Hoey in recognition of his having won, posthumously, the Victoria Cross - the highest award for valour in the British Commonwealth; Maj. Hoey loved to fish these ripples as a boy.

The event, open to all VCKC members who have completed the Basic Moving Water course, both novice and experienced river paddlers alike. Register [Here](#)

The schedule is as follows:

- 8 am – meet at VCKC clubhouse to gather equipment and, if possible, arrange ride shares to Duncan
- 9 am – meet at Serious Coffee, Boys Road, Duncan to arrange shuttles
- 10 am – Arrive at Stoltz Pool boat ramp to gear up, dress up, and run shuttle vehicles
- 11 am – Observe Remembrance at the Burma Star Memorial (Stoltz Pool Boat Ramp)



- 11:30 onward – Paddle the Cowichan River (class 1&2) down to Vimy Road takeout.

If you are interested in attending this event, please register indicating if you will meet at the club or at the launch site. This will help us get an idea of numbers and ensure that no one gets left behind. And if you require a club canoe, please email [canoebooking@vckc.ca](mailto:canoebooking@vckc.ca) and remember that you will need to come to the Clubhouse to help get your boat loaded onto the VCKC trailer on the evening of Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup>.

~ Louise de Montigny, Director

## Dragon Boat Update



Dragonboat paddling is now on winter hiatus until March. Please contact us at [dragonboat@vckc.ca](mailto:dragonboat@vckc.ca) to be put on the contact list if you're interested in joining us next year!

~ Jana Savage, Director

## Kayak Update

### An End of Season Kayaker's Haiku

*Dry the PFD.*

*Wax the hull and fix the skeg.*

*Time for one last trip?*



It is the end of the VCKC 2021 kayak program season. Paddle Canada skills courses (Basic and Level 1) wrapped up on October 16 & 17 with no other course offerings planned for the duration of the year – the Gorge just gets too cold, and the weather gets too unpredictable. Our volunteer instructors have done an admirable job of working through members' demand for training courses and each person who has earned a new Paddle Canada certification this year is to be congratulated for their accomplishment!

Club trips are similarly closing down for the season for the same reasons – although some of the trip leaders *might* feel the urge to coordinate a trip or two between now and the end of December (we would send out notification emails and put any trip offerings on the club calendar). Thanks to all the club members who joined in on day trips this year ... whether circumnavigating Beaver & Elk Lakes, exploring the Inner & Outer Harbour, paddling to the Gulf Islands, venturing through Brentwood Bay, or having a relaxed trip around Portage Inlet we thank you for participating and making the social aspect of kayaking fun for everyone.

A HUGE shout out of appreciation to the club's sea kayak program volunteers who helped keep the paddles in the water and the hull side down (so to speak) through what was a challenging year with the revolving door of on-again, off-again Covid rules. I won't list them all here, but the volunteers who manage kayak reservations & bookings, lead and organize club trips, maintain the club kayak fleet & the safety equipment, organize training courses, and deliver Paddle Canada's sea kayaking skills courses all deserve our thanks. Without the volunteers working behind the scenes there would be no VCKC sea kayak program.

Some final housekeeping things to note:

- Please remember that use of a club kayak is a privilege and not an entitlement. Treat the equipment and the volunteers who keep the program running with the respect and kindness they deserve.
- If you're borrowing a club kayak, please make sure you wash it inside and out and put it away in its storage rack cleaner than you found it. Rinse off any equipment that got wet (PFDs, paddles, pumps, paddle-floats) and put them back in the appropriate place to dry. Build enough time into your paddling plan to clean the gear. There should be no excuse for finding dirty kayaks in the storage racks.
- If you're using a club kayak and notice that it needs repair or maintenance, please notify Rosy Mann – our new Kayak Booking Coordinator ([kayakbooking@vckc.ca](mailto:kayakbooking@vckc.ca)) as soon as possible so that the issue can be taken care of promptly.
- Club kayaks have assigned spots in the storage racks. Please return club kayaks to the spot you take them from. Of particular note, the North Shore Atlantic LV (kayak #7) lives outside in the compound in space D5 ...it has found its way into other spots recently.
- If you open either of the compound gates or the basement door, please ensure that you close the gate(s) &/or door securely and lock up before you leave the clubhouse property.

We've had some kayak gear donated to the club ... unfortunately we can't use it in the sea kayak program and the donor has asked that we pass it along to any member who needs it & can put it to use. Available: (1) size small Pro Tec helmet, (2) PFD knife, (3) Aqua Sphera water goggles, (4) bungee cord, (5) heavy wooden Grey Owl paddle (2-piece, about 240cm long), (6) Seal Line 35L tapered dry bag, and (7) two pair of paddle pogies. This "free to a good home" gear has been placed in the basement of the clubhouse lined up on a wooden bench to the left of the door -- here's a link to pictures of what's there for the taking ... <https://photos.app.goo.gl/jDqZGH6ESNvMi8wB9>. If you go to look for something and it's not there, it's already found a home.

I'm still working with a supplier to get an 8<sup>th</sup> and final kayak for the VCKC sea kayak program. We're looking to add an NDK Sportive (plastic kayak with skeg) which would be very suitable for smaller sized paddlers. If supply chain issues and transportation challenges in Europe get sorted out, we can expect to have kayak #8 in place before the end of 2021. Combined with the North Shore Atlantic LV that will be 2 kayaks suitable for smaller sized paddlers added in 2021, which was the plan when budget money was set aside for new kayaks this year.

See you on the water.

*Craig Thomson, Director*

## **Marathon Update**

The marathon program continues year-round, so this is the time of year that some keen and adventurous outriggers and kayakers test the water in the marathon program. We also get the odd out-of-towner who is escaping frozen ponds in other parts of the country and choose to call Victoria their home for the winter months. Saturday mornings at 8:00 am is the best time to start if you are new to marathon canoeing. Any club member is welcome, but if you are interested, first, please email the marathon director at [marathon@vckc.ca](mailto:marathon@vckc.ca).

We have a number of two-person marathon boats available and now have three club solo canoes, thanks to generous donations by Don Munroe and Steve Taylor. While not top-of-the line, we have a small number of marathon paddles available for temporary use. There is a regular mix and match process at the beginning of each session to align preferences, skills and experience. Speaking of experience, Mouse White kindly shared this photo of the Gorge when he was out for an early evening paddle. He says the picture doesn't do justice to the magnificent and vibrant colours, but you get the idea.



Thanks-for-giving to the sea, sky, land, fauna and flora by Mouse White.

~ Peter Elson, Director

### **Club Contact Information**

#### **Officers**

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 Vice-president [vpresident@vckc.ca](mailto:vpresident@vckc.ca)  
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 Peter Elson

#### **Stand Up Paddle Board**

James Roorda [sup@vckc.ca](mailto:sup@vckc.ca)

#### **Other Executive Positions**

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#### **Executive Appointed Positions**

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