



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club
www.vckc.ca
"The Paddling Post"
November 2022 Newsletter

The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club respectfully acknowledges that its activities take place on the traditional territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples, and that the land and waterways' historical relationships 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.

President's Message

Hi everyone.

The rains have finally arrived and our waterways are filling up fast. It's nice to see the salmon making their way up to their spawning grounds.

We had a wonderful time at our September Social. So many showed up that we ran out of veggie burgers, lesson learned for the next one. It was so much fun to see everyone back in the clubhouse, and especially great to see so many new members finding out how we love to get together off the water as well as on.

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(Photo courtesy of Kim Capson)

The annual Christmas lighted boat parade and potluck is back on after being sidelined for a couple of years due to COVID! It will be on Dec. 10th from 3pm - 9:30pm, at the clubhouse. For anyone who wasn't there, check out these photos from 2019. There was a LOT of creativity that went into decorating our canoes, kayaks and SUPs. There were glowsticks and solar lights and whatever we could think of to put on a show for our neighbours along the Gorge. Put

your thinking caps on and get ready to celebrate!

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(Photo courtesy of Kim Capson)

Looking ahead to 2023 we have a number of positions on the Executive that are being vacated: Secretary, Big Canoe, Canoe, Dragon Boat, Outrigger, House and Grounds, Membership, Newsletter, and possibly others who haven't yet decided. If you think you might like to join us in keeping the Club running smoothly in 2023 please get in touch with one of us. There is always lots of help from the others on the Executive so you won't be expected to handle everything on your own.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas paddle and potluck on December 10th!

~ Kim Capson, [President](#)

Clubhouse Update

The house and grounds cleanup had the highest attendance ever in spite of dubious weather predictions and the jobs were finished well before noon. Thanks to all the club members who came out and worked to keep the place looking good. See you all in the spring!!

Also note: please check the lost and found bin in the basement for any property which you may have left behind.

~ Sandy Rattray, [Clubhouse Director](#)

Big Canoe Update



Despite the cooler weather and early evenings, Big Canoe paddlers continue to show up for our weekly Thursday evening paddles, led by Wade Martinson

During evening paddles, we enjoy crisp clear nights and howl at the full moon rising as we slip under the Craigflower bridge. Yes, the Big Canoe



program has been infiltrated by werewolves and

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witches too. More terrifying, on Hallow's eve, a clown hopped into the back of the boat and screamed commands at us.

Luckily a local resident came to the rescue and gave us candy, which placated the clown until we headed up Craigflower creek in pitch blackness, and the "clown" suddenly blasted the theme music from Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho from a speaker on her lap.

This was too much! Dodging low-hanging branches, barking dogs, seals, and geese, we paddled back to the clubhouse, all the while howling at locals (who howled back) along the way. Back at the clubhouse, we were rescued by witches and a dinosaur who gobbled up the clown in one bite!

Are you afraid of the dark? Or clowns? If not, why not join us on Thursday night paddles?



Upcoming Big Canoe Events:

Voyageur Thursday (weekly paddle) – November 17 @5:45 pm

Voyageur Thursday (weekly paddle) – November 24 @5:45 pm

Voyageur Day Trip to Piers Island (Sidney area) – Saturday, November 26 @ 8:30 am (meet at VCKC clubhouse)

Voyageur Thursday (weekly paddle) – December 1 @5:45 pm

Voyageur Thursday (weekly Paddle) – December 8 @5:45 pm

Big Canoe Volunteer Opportunities:

While our annual Paddle for the Kids Fundraiser (PPFTK 2023) is still months away, preparations start now! To ensure the event is fully supported and goes off without a hitch, I am looking for individuals to fill the following roles:

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Communications Officer

Duties

- Works with Easter Seals to set up Website and manage/ track online donations.
- Works directly with Easter Seals to prepare media packages.
- Manages social media updates for PPFTK
- Responsible to ensure volunteers are aware that group photographs may be used for publicity.
- Connect directly with participants if portraits are to be used on social media or other.

Participant Support Officer

Duties

- Manages all email communication with PPFTK participants via PPFTK@VCKC.CA account. (generic gmail account set up for PPFTK. Liz to consult with Arthur re: feasibility)
- Prints and manages attendance lists for weekly paddles.
- Tracks attendance to confirm paddlers qualify to participate on final day.

Hospitality Officer

Duties

- Responsible to manage food services team and clean up crew
- Responsible to coordinate food for Kick Off
- Responsible to coordinate food and clean up for Big Day breakfast, lunch and potluck celebration.

Those interested in supporting Paddle for the Kids 2023 can find out more by contacting me (Elizabeth Martinson) at bigcanoe@VCKC.ca.

Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to design and decorate our Big Canoes for the VCKC Christmas Paddle and Potluck! Again, just pop me an email at bigcanoe@VCKC.ca.

Finally, I will not be running for the role of Big Canoe Director in 2023. However, I am fully committed to supporting the program in the role of trip leader, and Big Canoe Sterner, so long as the new Big Canoe Director will have me! I am also committed to supporting the next Big Canoe Program Director as they transition into the role, which starts with a bang, as we jump into Paddle for the Kids 2023. I strongly encourage members to consider taking on the role of Big Canoe Director, as it is an incredible program that provides a large range of paddlers of all ages (and skill levels) the opportunity to paddle on the ocean, flat-water, and rivers. Not to mention Brigades on the Trent Severn Waterway and Athabasca River scheduled for summer 2023! Very exciting stuff.

Those interested in learning more about the Big Canoe Program Director Role can reach out to me directly at bigcanoe@vckc.ca. I would be more than happy to meet for coffee and tell you more about this amazing opportunity. 😊

Sincerely,

~ Elizabeth Martinson, [Big Canoe Director](#)

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Canoe Update



At 11:00 am, November 11th twenty-five paddlers from our three South Island whitewater clubs including VCKC, South Island Whitewater Club and UVic, a few local firefighters and a handful of others, met at the Burma Memorial Cairn at Stolz Pool on the Cowichan River. It is an odd place to find a war memorial, nestled within a stand of bigleaf maples not far from the shores of the river. But this was the favourite fishing hole of Charles Hoey, who grew up in the Duncan area. In 1944, during the Burma Campaign of World War 2, Major Hoey earned a Victoria Cross, the highest award for military valour, for his heroic leadership in the clearing of an enemy strong point. Despite serious wounds, he continued with the attack and single-handedly eliminated a Japanese machine-gun position which was preventing his troops from advancing. Sadly, Hoey died during this effort. The Burma Star Memorial Cairn was

erected in his memory and that of the roughly 6,500 Canadians that served in the dirty, distant Burma Campaign for which little is known. Remembrance Day at this site was once crowded with busloads of veterans who came to remember their fallen friends – today, there are none. VCKC maintains this annual event in their honour. After a brief ceremony where Ellie welcomed us with a brief introduction and history of this Forgotten War, H  l  ne gave a sombre reading of 'On Flanders Fields,' and then we bowed our heads for two minutes of silence.



And then it was time to paddle. The river was running at 22 m³/sec, and although overcast and about 5^o C, the conditions were perfect. Spawning salmon could be seen at the bottom of deep pools and a myriad of birds congregated to feast on the spent carcasses in the shallows – an impressive sight. Alan Thomson led our groups of six tandem canoes and one solo; the solo was paddled by an exceptionally talented 12-year-old! Joining us were two SUP paddlers including our SUP director James Roorda who continuously amazed us as he successfully navigated the

rapids, sharp bends, wave trains and surfing behind large rocks. As always, Alan kept us safe

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through tricky sections that were probably easy but had dire consequences if a mistake was made. After a brief lunch stop at Sandy Pool, we continued to the Vimy Road takeout to finish shortly after 2 pm. It was a relatively quick paddle but with no capsizes and lots of smiles, it was a fun day. We celebrated the joy of paddling with good friends on a fine day of remembrance by raising a glass at the Oak Taphouse in Duncan.

~ Louise de Montigny, [Canoe Director](#)

Marathon and Small Boat Update

Marathon



Jordan gets ready for an early morning paddle.

The Marathon canoe program continues unabated – rain, shine, or snow – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday. Email the program director [marathon@vckc.ca] if you want to try out marathon canoeing. There are several new faces in the program, so we are pleased to welcome Chum McLeod and our regular seasonal transplant from Arnprior Ontario, Mike De Abreu, to VCKC. Newcomers are paired with seasoned

paddlers and there is plenty of advice to go around as we explore the nooks and crannies of the Gorge Waterway and Portage Islet.

Small Boats

The small boat program is poised to purchase two used Scopus XS OC1s. When they arrive from Vancouver, this will bring our total number of fiberglass OC1s to three. To accommodate new OC1 paddlers, we will also be on the lookout



A Scopus XS OC1

for used OC1s, similar to the two yellow ones which are now stored in the compound. The OC2 is still under repair, but we plan to purchase another used one next year.

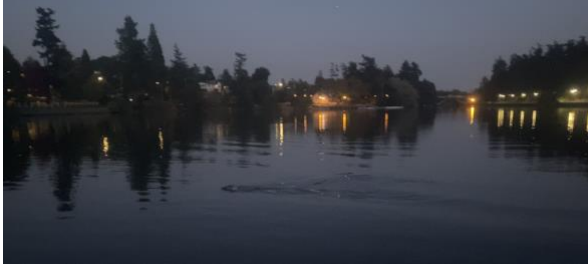
Remember, if you want to book any of the OC1s you must register with the online booking program and to do that, just click [here](#). To book the Hurricane OC1 you must also complete a use and care orientation program.

See you on the water.

~ Peter Elson, [Marathon and Small Boat Director](#)

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Stand Up Paddle (SUP) Board Update



Fellow paddlers,

The fall season is here and so far it's been great for getting out on the water. The days feel like summer but they are getting noticeably shorter. And we may even see rain again someday! (careful what you wish for).

The SUP program will continue with a weekly evening paddle. Please check in with the program director for timings and forecasts.

It's no reason to stop paddling because it's colder or dark. I have to admit that I do become a bit more of a discerning paddler this time of year. A wise old person once told me something about cold weather and character building. At this point in my life I'm not worried about amassing or maintaining character, I've collected (endured?) enough. Fun on the water can be



found in almost any kind of conditions but the equipment needs to be appropriate. Sometimes; because of the weather and location, this means the same type of clothing that you would use for a bike ride and other times it means a full dry suit. Come paddling with the SUP program and we can discuss this!



I welcome anyone and all to join me out on the water. It's always great to cover basic skills and get back to the fundamentals, or really dive into some technical refinement. Reach out and we can set something up. I hope to see you out on the water. Happy paddling!

~ James Roorda, [SUP Director](#)

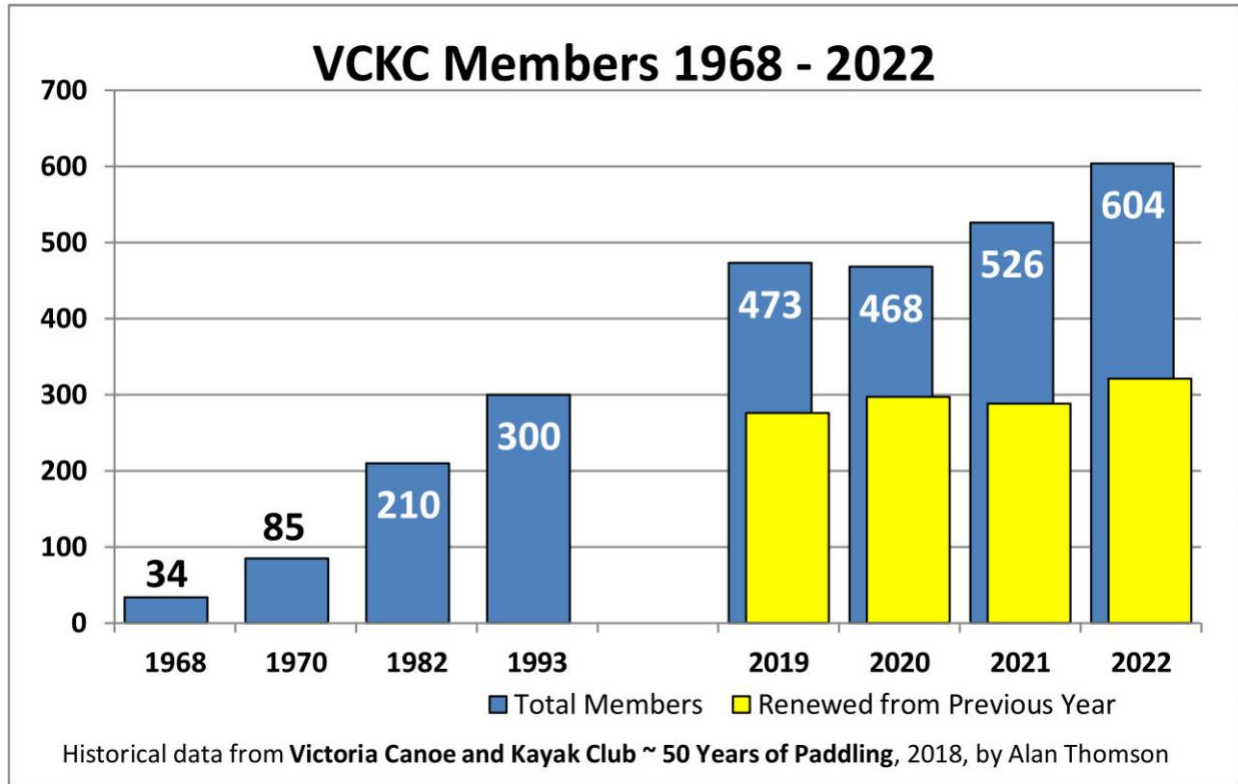
Membership Update

VCKC is approaching the end of 2022 with more active members than ever in your Club's long history.

It won't stop here. Canoes — small ones, big ones, fast ones, outriggers — and Kayaks and SUPs and Dragon Boats are attracting more paddlers every year.

VCKC is not just meeting that demand for access to boats, equipment, courses, and outings, but we are doing it all by the voluntary effort of you, our members.

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Consider that: all the instructors, trip leaders, program directors, other directors looking after membership, safety, clubhouse and grounds, newsletter, website, as well as the inexhaustible officers. They are all volunteer members of the Club.

You have joined the Club. Now come help us keep it working so well.

Do not be shy. It is your volunteer effort that keeps this Club paddling along, getting bigger and better.

And get this: VCKC and paddling emit NO CARBON EMISSIONS, we are completely GHG FREE!

2023 Membership Renewals kick off on December 1st. Get ready to agree to the waiver, accept the privacy statement, pay your very modest annual membership dues, and keep paddling for another awesome year.

~ Debi LaHaise, [Membership Director](#)

From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who provided contributions for this issue; any errors in presentation are mine. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for improvement or something new you'd like to see in the newsletter.

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Please note that I will be moving on from my Newsletter Editor role after the December 2022 issue. Please contact Kim (president@vckc.ca) if you are interested — or know someone who might be interested — in taking over the Newsletter beginning with the January 2023 issue.

If you're interested in learning more about the Newsletter Editor role please reach out to me directly at newsletter@vckc.ca. I would be more than happy to meet for coffee — or by video chat — to talk about the role.

~ David Johnson, [Newsletter Editor](#)

Club Contact Information

Officers

President	
Kim Capson	president@vckc.ca
Vice-president	
Jana Savage	vpresident@vckc.ca
Treasurer	
Donna Sainsbury	treasurer@vckc.ca
Secretary	
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Past President	
<i>vacant</i>	pastpres@vckc.ca

Program Directors

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Canoe Program	
Louise de Montigny	canoe@vckc.ca
Dragonboat Program	
Jana Savage	dragonboat@vckc.ca
Kayak Program	
Wade Martinson	kayak@vckc.ca
Outrigger Program	
Tony Hopkin	outrigger@vckc.ca
Marathon Canoe Program	
Peter Elson	marathon@vckc.ca
Stand Up Paddle (SUP) Board	
James Roorda	sup@vckc.ca

Other Executive Positions

Education, Standards and Safety	
Britt Kohn	safety@vckc.ca
Membership	
Debi LaHaise	membership@vckc.ca
Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance)	
Sandy Rattray	clubhouse@vckc.ca
Boat and Locker Storage	
Gord Evans	storage@vckc.ca
Director at Large	
Ellie James	director1@vckc.ca
Lynda Purcell	director2@vckc.ca

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	
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Webmaster	
Arthur Caldicott	webmaster@vckc.ca