



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

"The Paddling Post"

June 2023

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



Safety Day, June 4th

Lots of help to check and wash the PFD's.

President's Message

We had a very successful club Safety Day event on June 4th (see the picture gallery at end of newsletter). Thank you to those who came out to volunteer their time, and for the many paddlers who took the opportunity to practice their rescue skills on the water. Six Outrigger hulis and a few Big Canoe and "small" canoe rescue drills were completed - excellent skill building on the water and learning for those watching on land! Marathon and Small Boat rescue drills will be completed later this summer in August. Other activities that day included review and buoyancy test of all the club's active adult and child sized PFDs. A good number of PFDs were determined no longer suitable (either had visual damage to them or did not meet buoyancy requirements) so will be discarded. Thankfully most of the children's PFDs are just fine - so we're in good shape for Canada Day events. We also still have a good core of adult paddling PFDs, but will be purchasing a few more (looking into any avenues for possible multiple purchase discounts - let me know if you have a connection!?). Big Thank You to the Kitchen Crew who worked very hard feeding us that day and doing our dishes! And to Peter Elson for coordinating the kitchen crew, getting all the meal supplies etc. It was a beautiful day for a very successful event, and I'm hopeful this will become an annual event in years to come.



Music on the Gorge Craigflower-Kosapsom Park

Wednesday, July 19
6:00-7:30pm

A concert for those on the water, so come
canoe, kayak, paddleboard or floaty!
Limited space for those on dry land.

Music by Vinyl Wave

www.saanich.ca/



I'd also like to mention 2 Executive Board position vacancies:-

- Vice President*
- Education, Standards and Safety Director*

Would you be interested in learning more about either of these roles?

We're currently recruiting to fill these positions and would welcome sharing more with you about the roles and being a part of the Executive working group as a whole.

Please contact Kim Capson at pastpres@vckc.ca to learn more and discuss.

In other news, Saanich is putting on a music event next month, specifically geared to the paddling community! The entertainment will be at Craigflower-Kosapsom Park, for attendees in their paddling craft on the water.

As summer approaches (I feel like we just settled into Spring!?), paddling kicks into high gear for many of our members. Please go out, enjoy the beautiful waterways that surround us here on the island, or even further abroad. Please remember to be safe and kind. We are all one community. Our love for the water is what first brought us together, whether we enjoy racing as fast as we can (Good Luck at the dragonboat racing festivals this summer VCKC DragonFlyers!) or the most leisurely relaxing paddle. I wish you all a safe and wonderful summer on the water. There is no newsletter until September, but you can still reach us at our contact emails, but please understand if there's a delay in response, many of us are busy paddling over the summer :) Please also keep an eye on the Club Calendar <https://www.vckc.ca/calendar> for information about club paddling and events!

Paddles up!

~ Jana Savage, President

Dock Replacement Survey Report

More than 99% of respondents support replacing the existing dock as it is a needed asset and will wear out. Key factors included enhanced accessibility, increased functionality, durability, and low maintenance. The report may be accessed [HERE](#):

Dragonboat Update

The dragon boat team had a lot of fun cleaning the underside of our boat. We have been gliding along the water smoothly since!



Before

After

We are getting ready for **The Annual Canada Day Event** together with the Big Canoe programme. The dragon boat will be at Craigflower - Kosapsom Beach offering rides to community members as a fundraiser for Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization.

We are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of roles such as:-

- Set-up/take-down
- Ticket sellers
- Queue organizers (handing out/collecting paddles and PFDs)
- Dock-person for loading/unloading
- Sterns for the Dragon Boat and Big Canoes, without you we won't be getting very far!
- Paddlers for the Dragon Boat and Big Canoes etc.

Please be in touch with Hannah Griffiths dragonboat@vckc.ca and cc Anna Childress bigcanoe@vckc.ca to provide them your availability to volunteer that day (ie, time period you're available to work and preference for duties).

~ Hannah Griffiths, Dragonboat Director

Canoe Update



Basic Lakewater Tandem for Women and Nonbinary Folks ran on June 17, led by H       Poulin, with assistance from Ellie James and Madison Chessa. Eleven participants learned essential skills, manoeuvres and knowledge to safely paddle a tandem canoe, from these exceptional women leaders of VCKC. Neither the fierce current nor the blowing wind dampened the enthusiasm of this fun group. Though age and experience was varied, a willingness to learn together, make new connections and dive into all things canoeing united these club members on a sunny summer Saturday.

Report submitted by Keeley Nixon
photo credit M       Trochu.

Canoe donation - Peter Gorrie was a leading voice for the environment, an active friend of Wildland League, and a longtime journalist for the Toronto Star. There are numerous articles praising Peter online. When he passed away recently his treasured cedar strip canoe was inherited by his friend Craig McInnes who in turn donated it to VCKC. Craig lives on the upper Gorge and enjoys watching the active paddlers as they pass his dock. Thank you, Craig, for your generous gift to the club. It will bring pleasure to many and will stand as a legacy to Peter Gorrie for years to come.



Please see website for 2023 Canoe Program details.

~ *James McBeath, Director*

Marathon and Small Boats

Marathon Program

Boats best on the water

Inspired by the “screening out” process for the PFDs at the Safety Day, the marathon program recently took a hard look at a couple of tandem canoes that haven’t seen the light of day for almost a decade. So when we were contacted by a marathon paddler from Deep Cove inquiring about used boats for sale, we were able to accommodate them and provide them with a couple of boats at a very low cost. Afterall, the best place for any canoe or watercraft is being used on the water.



OCI's preparing to race at WUTG 2023



In case you think you might be too old to take up marathon canoe paddling, here is a selfie of Ron Williams and Mario deSantis, both over 80 years and still on the water several times a week – and still smiling.

Racers get their fix at Enderby

The marathon program appeals to a real mix of skill and purpose. Some are at the recreational end of participation while others are keen to race as often as they can. Those with a racing bent travelled to Enderby on June 10/11 for the Marathon Canoe Race Event at Enderby (Shuswap River) sponsored through CanoeKayakBC.

They participated in several races, including a Saturday morning 2 hour (approx. 20 km) tandem race where paddlers chose their own partners. Saturday and Sunday afternoons featured a relaxed group paddle with opportunities for less experienced paddlers to pair with experienced ones. Sunday morning featured 3-4 short (~10 min) tandem races with good views for spectators. Race organizers chose the teams to level the playing field and to make things interesting, paddlers paddled with a different partner each race. There were prizes for individuals with top cumulative scores across all races.

Small Boats

Pilot OC1 clinic

We now have enough members to conduct a pilot OC1 clinic. We are developing a curriculum and as soon as it is ready and the instructors are in place, we will contact those who have indicated their interest in participating.



This Scorpius is one of three comparable OC1s that VCKC owns.

OC2

VCKC has one OC2 that has been under repair for some time. Fortunately, those repairs have been completed and the boat will soon be available for online booking. As with the OC1's, a screening process and orientation will be required prior to being able to book the OC2.

See you on the water,

~ Peter Elson, Marathon and Small Boats Director

SUP Update

Thursday evening SUP program paddles have been enjoyed by many paddleboarders and some beautiful, warm and sometimes windy evenings have been had. Drop James a line via email for any questions or to set something up.

Happy paddling“ sup@vckc.ca .

~ James Roorda, Director

Long time VCKC member Harold Nishikawara (KAWA) celebrating his 95th year at the Highland Games.



Submitted by Don Munroe.

Kayak Update

Hello club kayak paddlers,

I know my reports have been spotty lately as I have been extremely busy but you can always get hold of me via email kayak@vckc.ca. During the Summer I will be on holidays taking trips and will often not have cell service. Make sure to ask questions before the Summer.

Kayak and equipment cleaning procedures have changed. Washing of gear and the kayaks is the same, please wash all the salt water from everything and sponge out the kayaks for the next member. Remember this only works if we work together. Kayak equipment will now be stored in the new kayak locker. Thanks to Gord the Storage and grounds Director we now have an upgrade to where everything except skirts are stored.

We will not have all the club kayaks bookable since the booking system charges the club per bookable boat. If there is a boat you wish to use outside the booking system then please email me and I will be able to tell you if it is in use or not. The 8 kayaks in the system should be enough for almost all occasions.

Remember, these boats are for trained club members. Please do not take people out who are not trained or not members. Leaders can take out non members twice before they become members. The kayak division of the club is desperately in need of trip leaders and club orientation leaders so if you aspire to lead trips or welcome new members send me an email and we will talk about the policies in place for that to occur and how the club can help with that. if you wish to help with club and kayak orientations over the Summer please reach out so new members have access to kayaks since they can't be entered into the booking system without first being oriented.



Above: Kayak locker on far left.
Left: new Kayak locker with gear.

I personally put on club outings from the club for over a year in both kayak and big canoe every week plus instructional sessions. It is important that we have volunteers to lead or help lead as often people who volunteer burn out and we lose them. You need not commit to volunteering consistently to be helpful.

Right: Kayak skirts opposite kayak locker.
Below: Kayak storage underneath marathon canoes.



All of our courses were successful, including a Radio Operators course put on by Adrienne Lee, and we have many new members who have Basic or Level one kayaking skills. A good way to contact fellow paddlers is VCKC club chat on Facebook and as yet we do not have any other method except word of mouth and club events for people to get to know each other to find partners to paddle with. Basic Paddlers should always paddle with another paddler and for level one paddlers it is also recommended.



P&H Kayak donated by Ian Rye.

Ian Rye, who is not a member, donated a low volume P&H kayak to the club and although it needs some work putting the leg braces back into it, the kayak is good for smaller individuals. This P&H joins the two NDK boats we have. It was really nice of IAN to reach out and donate a quality kayak to the club.

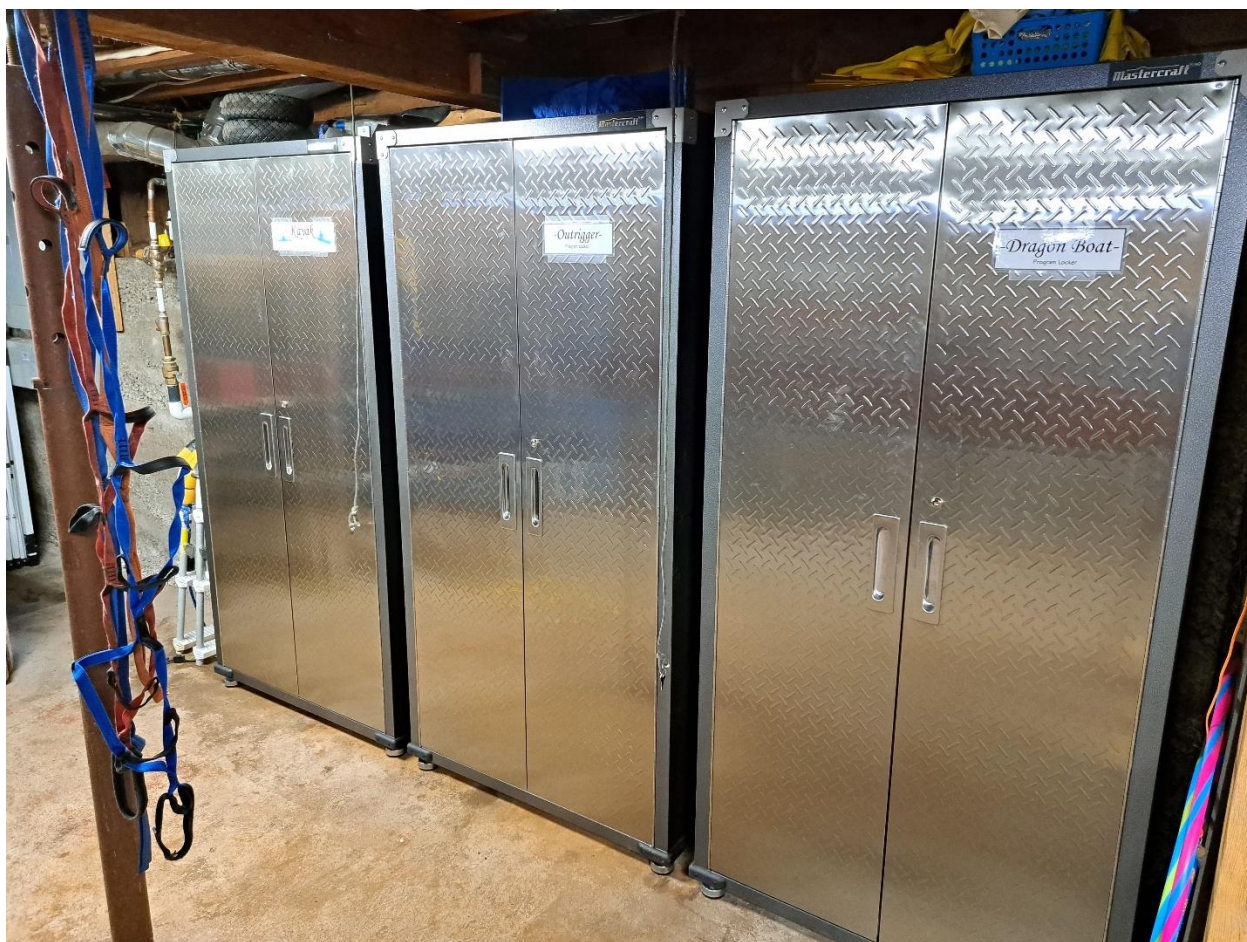
The kayaks are going to be renumbered in the near future and we will be assigning some different boats to the booking system while trying to provide a large enough choice for all body types. Our new 5, NDK kayaks, will hopefully arrive at the end of June or possibly in July. They are coming from the UK so they have taken quite the journey after being purchased from Blue Dog kayaking in Mill Bay. Blue Dog gave the club a substantial discount on the boats, so if you need instruction or wish to go on a guided trip they do both. One of our instructors for the club also works occasionally and guides for Blue Dog as well.

Happy paddling for the summer,

~ Wade Martinson, Director

Storage Update

House and Grounds: A big thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Cleanup on May 7th. It was well attended, and it was nice to see and meet some new members who came out to lend a hand. The clubhouse looks much better, and support of this event is greatly appreciated. My apologies for the later than normal date for this cleanup and for it being on a Sunday. Traditionally this event is held on a Saturday near the end of April but taking on this role part way through the year meant limited date options available due to a rather full calendar of training courses and other events. A lesson learned that setting these events early on in the calendar is important and thus I have set the Fall Cleanup for November 4th.



Storage: The Outrigger and Kayak program lockers have now been installed in their final positions next to the Dragon Boat locker. The old lockers have been removed and recycled with not a moment to spare. They were so rusted out on the bottom that they fell apart when being transported! Next up is the replacement of the Big Canoe locker and a new locker for the SUP program.

~ Gord Evans, Director

Big Canoe Update

Please check club calendar for paddling on some Mondays throughout the summer. Ken Gibbard is offering his place on Piers Island for a summer local trip in the big canoe. An email will be sent out regarding this trip. If you have any interest in joining please email bigcanoe@vckc.ca

Please volunteer to join us for the Canada Day Event – for details see Dragon Boat update.

~ Anna Childress, Big Canoe Director

Outrigger Update

Please see website for 2023 Outrigger Program details!

~ Graham Hayes, Director

Safety Day Picture Gallery



Big Canoe



Peter cooking burgers.

Checking pfd's.



Many VCKC boats out on the water.



Snorkeler.



A family affair.

Club Contact Information

Officers

President president@vckc.ca

Jana Savage

Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca

Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca

Donna Sainsbury

Secretary secretary@vckc.ca

Karen Potts

Program Directors

Big Canoe Program bigcanoe@vckc.ca

Anna Childress

Canoe Program canoe@vckc.ca

James McBeath

Dragonboat Program dragonboat@vckc.ca

Hannah Griffiths

Kayak Program kayak@vckc.ca

Wade Martinson

Outrigger Program outrigger@vckc.ca

Graham Hayes

Marathon Canoe and marathon@vckc.ca

Small Boat Program

Peter Elson

Stand Up Paddle Board sup@vckc.ca

James Roorda

Other Executive Positions

Education, Standards & Safety safety@vckc.ca

Membership membership@vckc.ca

Debi LaHaise

Clubhouse and Grounds clubhouse@vckc.ca

(maintenance)

Gord Evans

Storage storage@vckc.ca

Gord Evans

Director at Large

1 - Ellie James director1@vckc.ca

2 - Lynda Purcell director2@vckc.ca

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor newsletter@vckc.ca

Sarah Bradley

Webmaster webmaster@vckc.ca

Arthur Caldicot

Past President pastpres@vckc.ca

Kim Capson