



# Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club  
355 Gorge Road West  
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9  
Phone: 361-4238 (Info only)  
Website: www.vckc.ca

June 2006



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The Victoria Canoe and  
Kayak Club is a member of:

RCABA (bccanoe.com); CRCA  
(crca.ca) and CORA  
(canadianoutrigger.com)

General Meetings

First Tuesday of each month  
(September - June)

September 2006  
Newsletter Deadline:  
September 16, 2006

## VCKC End of season BBQ

Date: Tuesday June 6 th.

Time: 5.30 p.m.

Please bring the following:

Beverage of your choice (tea and coffee will be  
provided)

Something to BBQ

Surnames A-M - Salad or side dish

Surnames N-Z - Dessert

All members welcome to this event  
which is a great opportunity to share  
your paddling experiences with other club members!

See you there,

Irena Jazwinski

Social co-ordinator

### **Message from the President ...**

What glorious weather we've been having for paddling.

If you happened to be down at MEC for the grand opening, you would have noticed VCKC as the only organization invited to have a display table, (manned by board members) and newsletter editor Harold Gillis who works as one of the service representatives.

Changes are also happening at the clubhouse, as the 2nd upstairs bathroom is almost completed, and the downstairs bathroom has been totally renovated. Kathleen is doing a great job of getting things done as the House and Grounds director.

Sunday May 28th is Clean up the Gorge, and VCKC will be front and centre with their efforts.

The Big Brothers Picnic is Sunday June 11th from 12 - 3 and paddlers are invited to the barbecue in return for assisting the kids with the voyageur rides.

Speaking of barbecues, don't forget the VCKC barbecue is Tuesday June 6th at 5:30, in lieu of the general meeting. This will be our sendoff till we see you in September.

Have a safe and fun summer of paddling.

Judi Murakami  
President, VCKC

### **Wanted**

To complement the Club Projector;

1. A pair of computer speakers
2. A DVD player

Does anyone have old ones that they could donate?

If so, please contact Linda Thomson at 592-4170 or [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com)

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### **For Sale**

Cedar strip canoe - suitable for one adult and a dog or child - \$300

Dock (presently floating in the Gorge) 10 by 10 feet - \$35

Spare kayak paddle - \$35

If interested, please call Chrystal at 995-2295 and leave a message on the answering machine as to best time to contact you

### **For Sale**

#### **Green Clipper Tripper Canoe**

The Clipper is a great boat - it's about 10 years old, 17 feet long, green and in very good shape

Paid \$1500 - selling it for \$700.00  
(check it out on the web site [www.clippercanoes.com](http://www.clippercanoes.com))

Standard Features: Bucket seats, sliding bow seat, yoke, footbrace, flotation tanks, bow & stern thwarts

This canoe is very versatile and is great in rivers and on the ocean (we paddle it to Sidney Island) and stable with kids and dog aboard as well!

Contact Sue Staniforth at [sstan@shaw.ca](mailto:sstan@shaw.ca)

## Canoe Program Report

The next Canoe Program Meeting will be on Monday Sept 18th @ 7.30pm.

See Trips and Courses on Page 8 for details of an Ocean Paddling Course taking place the first week of June as well as a September paddle on the Thompson River.

### Trip Report Running of the Cows May 6-7, 2006

For five years now, VCKC canoeists have run the Cowichan River from Cowichan Lake to Cowichan Bay. The trip is now known as the Running of the Cows or ROTC to some. In the past, this has been a long one-day trip, usually ending at the last bridge, missing out the final crossing of the Bay. This year, we decided to make a weekend of it, camping overnight at Stoltz Pool. The idea was to make it a more relaxed affair, with time to talk and play the river if so desired. We also invited members of the Vancouver-based Beavers Canoe Club to join us.

Thanks to Tom Staebell, the Stoltz Pool Group Campsite was booked and the list of paddlers grew as the date came nearer. There were 15 campers on the Friday night, 26 on Saturday, and to this were added at least 5 one-day paddlers on the Saturday. If Dave and Gerry had been able to find us, there would have been another tandem on the river. There were 4 paddlers from the Beavers, welcome additions to the Island contingent from Victoria, Duncan, Qualicum Beach and Campbell River.

The logistics of shuttling delayed the intended starts on both days by about an hour, in spite of our best efforts and the newly refurbished canoe trailer (thanks, Emmerich). However, three groups of paddlers set off from behind the Trail's End pub in Lake Cowichan and headed down the river in succession, each separated from each other by about 10 minutes. The weather was dry, cloudy at times,

and not particularly warm or noticeably cold. The scent of the maples and cottonwoods seemed less this year, especially on the upper river - maybe too early? The river level was just right @ 31-33m<sup>3</sup>/sec - enough to avoid grounding on the shallower riffles, but not so pushy as to cause problems at the log piles.

The trip down to Skutz Falls was unevenful - nobody fell in or otherwise got into trouble, which is as it should be. The Canyon trip was good at this water level, with plenty space to run Horseshoe/S-bend, Bernie's and Double

Whammy on River left. Bernie's got one of the solo paddlers, who was sucked back in until out of his boat and then spat out, but others took the hole in style, going into it flat out and getting a lot of air time for the bow paddler. The highlight for the third group was watching Leonard Thor poling the Canyon solo, using a pole he'd got from the shore. A remarkable display of skill in this little-practised canoeing discipline. Steve and Kim ran Last Drop with panache (or was it éclat?); the rest of us portaged and lined it.

That night at Stoltz campsite, the rain held off, and the paddlers grouped and re-grouped around the stove in the shelter and the outdoor campfire pit for an evening of conversation. The campsites were very clean, with plenty of wild flowers around each site and the RV campers used the parking lot as their sleep spot.

Sunday morning saw some rain and a late take-off at 10.45 am, but the run down the river from there was quick, reaching the take out at Hecate Park at 3.45pm. All the log piles/jams were runnable, except the last one - last year's bete noir. The log jam had disappeared, but the river had changed course, so we had to portage the canoes along the old river bed a couple of hundred yards to reach clear water. The trip across the Bay was the sting in the tail with a strong north west wind to fight.

A good trip for all concerned, and will be repeated next year.

Thanks to Tom Staebell who organised it all.

Participants: Leonard and KariAnn Thor, Dave and Tricia Macleod from the Beavers; Tom Staebell and Bob Starck, John and Brenda Forish; Larry Bell and Kurt, the kayakers; Emmerich Sperrer, Eric Sperrer and Donna Ramsey, Ellie James; Jean and Luke Chandler; Jeff de Vries and Mary Prior; Bernard and Diane ??; Carol and Wayne from Qualicum Beach; Martin Davie and Celine Larose; Sandy Robinson; Kathryn Landry and Craig Jensen; Steve Connolly and Kim Walker; Dan Walker; Linda and Alan Thomson

Submitted by Alan Thomson

### **Outrigger Report**

The second out rigger will be moved for the summer to Caddy bay. It will be available from Monday June 5 until September 2006. We have discussed the practice of doing a hule twice a year. It is felt that once every 2 years for experienced paddlers is enough and once for new paddlers. Last year we had to do extensive repairs to the canoe and several people suffered injuries. We will be running several clinics on the gorge this august. We will be doing training on basic paddling, steering, and rigging. We will announce the dates via the website and through email.

Keith Larusson

### **Who Visits the VCKC Website?**

Lots of people apparently. Webmaster Mike Fox reports that since the beginning of the year the VCKC website has had over 3,000 different visitors with a total of almost 6,500 visits in total. Perhaps you've been one of them. You know that this newsletter is available online at [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca).

### **Not the Portland Island Trip Report May 13-14, 2006**

For over 20 years, the Club has run an overnight camping trip to Portland Island on the Mother's Day weekend. It started when the Club was much smaller and only had canoeist members. The weekend was originally called the Frost-Free trip, as this is the time of year when gardeners can be pretty well certain that their delicate seedlings will not be nipped in the bud. Also, one of the regular members, Kurt Frost attended the camp and the food for the dinner was free - at least in the early days, the cost came out of Club funds. As numbers grew, the Club's contribution was restricted to potatoes for baking and a fruit 'grunt' for dessert.

When I first went on this trip in 1989, it was still legal to have open fires at the campgrounds and we barbequed our steaks and baked potatoes in the ashes. Dick and Mary Kirby brought an old camping pail and cooked large quantities of the grunt from their freezer full of fruit - much of it home grown.

Then fires were banned, and for a few years, we paddled over one of the Club's large half-

barrel barbeques and used that. When the Royal Victoria Yacht Squadron built a large barbeque stand by the main campsite, we used that for about 8 years, to cook our communal meal. Then Portland Island was taken over by the National Parks, and the barbeque was removed as a hazard. So last year, we had to lug over 3 small propane barbeques and the communal aspect of the trip was lost.

So this year, there did not seem to be any obvious advantage to go to Portland Island rather than another destination, so we decided to change the tradition and go to D'Arcy Island. D'Arcy Island, which lies to the south of Sidney Island, is also in the south Gulf Islands national park and has a fire ban, but most members had not camped there before and the history was a draw. This island was the site of one of Canada's two lazarettos (leper colonies) from 1891 to 1924. Chris Yorath's book 'A Measure of Value', published in 2000, gives the shameful history of this colony.

(Continued next page)

We set out from Island View beach on Saturday at 10am - 6 canoes and a kayak, heading up the shore then across to James Island and then over to the Sallas Islets before dropping down to D'Arcy Island. The weather was perfect, the currents slight and the wind minimal. Landing at the camp site, we found 10 camping pads available, none in use: indeed some appear not to have been used much for some time by the appearance of the salal growing up through the gravel.

After pitching the tents, we embarked on a trip round the island, looking for the sites of the old buildings and gardens of the 2 sites of the leper colony that had been built on the island (a third site is on Little D'Arcy island, but that is privately owned). The walking was easy, the views over to the Olympics and down Haro straits wonderful. It is a 1.5 to 2 hour easy walk, during which we did some broom bashing and uprooting - although there is a lot less than we usually find on Portland Island. Supper, with baked potatoes and steaks, etc on portable BBQs while the sun settled in the west, over Saanich Peninsula and the Malahat Hills. Then to the little beach facing east, where we watched the full moon rising over the Anacortes shore. The moon was huge and orange as it rose slowly, silhouetting a passing freighter in a magical moment that could not have been planned for. After that, a good night's sleep, with yelping racoons to lull us through the dark hours. We saw a few racoons on the island - all were small, and one was blind, scavenging along the beach until it bumped into the hull of my beached canoe, and paying no attention to me, standing 3 feet away, until I spoke. Don't think it will last another winter. We saw a deer nearby the camp, but more footprints. Lack of water must be a problem in summer. From the beach we could also see seals and a sea lion that obviously uses the channel between the two D'Arcys as a short cut to the feeding grounds.

Sunday dawned sunny and a little breezy, but a lovely day for a slow breakfast and then an exploration along an inland trail. The trail was marked in places, but windfall made it hard to

follow in places - no maintenance this year, for sure. We set off for the car park about 12:30 as the tide turned and headed round Little D'Arcy and up to Sidney Island before cutting across Sidney Channel, James Spit and Cordova Channel back to our cars. They'd been parked at the RV site for \$5 each as there is no overnight parking at the usual; car park.

All in all, a remarkably fine trip to a new spot for most of the group, in some of the best weather we've had at this time of year. We pointed out to the new members of the group, Susan and Dave, that they could not expect this sort of experience every trip, but we were very pleased they had had such a good introduction.

Thanks to Roy for the use of his propane BBQ

Participants: Eric Sperrer and Donna Ramsey, plus Emerson, Toria and Tomo (and the two dogs Maya and Austin); Jean Chandler and Susan Coward; Jack Louie and Dave Ingram, Roy Scully, John and Brenda Forish and Linda and Alan Thomson.



Mavis and Irena 'man'  
VCKC's information booth  
at Mountain Equipment Coop's  
Grand Opening on May 13

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## ***Kayak Program Report***

Warm weather has arrived and more people are on the water. So we won't have kayak meetings in July or August or a newsletter until September.

For June 21 we will have snacks at 6 PM. Bring some snacks to share and have an interesting conversation with other kayakers then paddle on the Gorge. You can simply paddle with friends or you can participate in Kayak Quest. This contest will be to paddle on the Gorge and find answers to questions. There will be a prize to the winner. The paddle and contest will start at 7 PM and entrants to the contest will need to be back at 9 PM. Send me an email at fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca if you intend to participate in the contest so I know how many questionnaires to print.

Note there is a general club BBQ on June 6. There will be paddlers of all types there to

have fun with.

Beginning June 1 until the Fall we will have Thursday night kayaking practices on Elk Lake at Hamsterly Beach. These are totally up to the participants and there may not be any instructors present. The idea is to help each other. It is great for practicing rescues, rolls etc. The librarian will attend occasionally so you can sign out some items at the same time. If you intend to go and have an item that you want to borrow or need to return call Pam at 480-0880.

When you're paddling this summer make sure you dress properly and know the water and weather situation.

Safe paddling

Fred Trudell

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## **Trips & Courses (Kayaking)**

### ***New Members Paddle - Mill Bay -***

**Date: Saturday, June 17**

The New Members' Paddle will take place on Sat. June 17th. We will leave from Mill Bay and go to Bamberton Park, have lunch and return. We will meet at 9:00 at Mill Bay, and details of the exact meeting place will be decided closer to the actual paddle. Contact Ian and Nancy Doherty at dohertys@telus.net for information. The NMP guidelines will be in effect for this paddle, and remember to be prepared for full immersion - wetsuit etc., change of clothes, a snack and lunch and a hot drink.

**Guidelines - New Members' Paddles (NMP)** allow new members to meet other members; to paddle in a safe environment and to introduce

new members to Victoria area paddling locations. They are tailored to beginner paddlers although experienced paddlers are welcome to attend.

All those who plan to attend NMPs need to wear immersion gear (i.e. drysuit or wetsuit OR insulating clothing such as fleece. ALSO remember to bring a change of clothes in a drybag. The trip leader has the right to deny your participation in the paddle if he/she thinks you are not adequately prepared for the possibility of immersion. If you are unsure about the suitability of your equipment or clothing, please contact the trip leader for advice prior to the paddle date. It is also expected that you will bring adequate food and water for the duration of the paddle.

## Intermediate Members' Paddle

Saturday, June 10

Meet at Cattle Point at 9:00am, plan to be on the water at 9:30 - be there a bit early to get your boat ready if the weather is nice and you would like to look around for wildlife through an observing scope between 9:00 and 9:30. We will plan on slowly paddling much of the shoreline and islets of Oak Bay, looking for interesting flora and critters that make this area their home. At some point in the paddle, we will share Natural History resources, so please bring your intertidal, bird, or other marine ID guides with you in a good drybag.

Binoculars might be useful at this time as well. Dave Giuliani has volunteered to facilitate the Natural History chat (there will be lots of this) and point out some of his favourite nooks and crannies, as he has guided in these waters for a few years.

All the IMP guidelines apply for this paddle, and participants must be comfortable paddling in moderate currents and handling their kayaks close to rocky shorelines (and other kayakers). Please email or call Dave Giuliani ([dmgiulia@yahoo.ca](mailto:dmgiulia@yahoo.ca) or 514-7529) to register for this paddle - the maximum group size will be around 12 for the sake of everyone's ability to share commentary at a reasonable volume. We will be off the water between 12 and 1 depending on the weather and group.

### ***Guidelines - Intermediate Paddles***

These paddles will be tailored to intermediate/advanced members. It is recommended that participants have at least CRCA Level 1 skills or more preferably, Level 2 skills. The purpose of these paddles is to provide a peer-supported safe environment for more experienced paddlers to practice their skills. These paddles may be focused around a theme e.g. rescues, towing, navigation, or they may simply be paddles in more challenging waters. They are not meant for novice paddlers.

There will be no leaders and no instructors... only organizers/facilitators. Participants will be responsible for their own gear, preparation, knowledge/skills and risk assessment. Misrepresenting your level of skill or preparedness can put the entire group at risk. If you are unsure about either, please contact the Kayak Program Director (Fred Trudell at 480-0880) for advice prior to the paddle.

Participants are required to paddle in buddy groups. This means the onus for your immediate safety falls on you and your buddy(ies). Group safety decisions will be the responsibility of the group as a whole, and will be settled by consensus. The organizer simply chooses the time and location for the paddle, and may suggest exercises for the participants to consider.

Recommended safety gear includes a VHF radio, bivouac and first-aid kits, and a quick-release tow system. Participants should leave a float plan with someone reliable.

Only VCKC members may participate in these paddles.



# Trips & Courses (Canoeing)

## Ocean Paddling Course

An RCABC Ocean Paddling Course - level 3 will take place on the week of June 5th. There will be classes at the Clubhouse on the Wednesday, Thursday and possibly Friday nights, with an overnight paddling trip on the weekend of the 10th and 11th. As is usual policy, Club members who have

already taken the course are welcome to audit the classes and join in on the trip.

Cost is \$50 plus the costs of charts - probably another \$30. Contact Alan Thomson @ 592-4170; e-mail [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com). Prerequisites are FW 1&2.

## Trips

There are no flatwater trips planned over the next three months - Alan and Linda are away or committed many of the weekends. If the mood takes us, we'll e-mail the list and see who wants to come out for an ad hoc trip.

### THOMPSON RIVER TRIP

After a gap of two years, a Thompson River trip is planned for this September 16th-17th. This trip is a canoe trip down the Thompson from Savona Bridge to Ashcroft. Tandems and solos are welcome (as are kayakers) but the main group will be in voyageur canoes. There are some patches of white water - Grade 1.5-2 - but the water is warm and the trip is very safe.

We usually share vehicles and travel up from Victoria on the Friday night (15th), to camp at Juniper Beach provincial campsite, half way between Cache Creek and Savona Bridge (Steelhead Provincial Park). There is a full day's run on the Saturday and a half day on the Sunday so people can get back to Victoria that night.

If you are interested, call Alan and Linda Thomson @ 592-4170 or e-mail @ [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com).

Anyone interested in learning or practising canoe poling over the summer, contact Tom Staebell @ 655-7113; or e-mail [thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca](mailto:thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca)

## FOR SALE

Solo Whitewater Canoe: Clipper-built Mohawk  
12' kevlar canoe

16 years old, lightly used; Comes with Perception saddle and two airbags.

\$500 or best offer

Contact Dog Collis @ (250) 743-4963

## For Rent

### Suite in Gorge Area

#### Nice quiet street with great neighbours!

1 bedroom plus den full height basement suite  
Walking distance to VCKC

Private front entrance, bike storage, outside storage for canoe/kayak

eat-in kitchen, fireplace, rear deck in large garden

Washer/dryer, utilities (except cable) included.

700.00 per month available July 1

Call Irena at 388-9757 or e-mail [irenajaz@shaw.ca](mailto:irenajaz@shaw.ca)



## VCKC Executive

<p><b>President</b> Judi Murakami ..... 360-2776</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Mile Petrovic ..... 893-1904</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Paul Post ..... 412-4323</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Lorna Petrovic ..... 733-2013</p> <p><b>Past President</b> Paul de la Bastide ..... 598-9611</p> <p><b>Program Directors:</b></p> <p><b>Canoe Program</b> Linda Thomson ..... 592-4170</p> <p><b>Dragon Boat Program</b> James McBean ..... 813-3456</p> <p><b>Outrigger Program</b> Keith Larusson ..... 598-7193</p> <p><b>Sea Kayak Program</b> Fred Trudell ..... 480-0880</p>	<p><b>Voyageur Program</b> Don Munroe ..... 385-2268</p> <p><b>Marathon Canoe Program</b> Ron Williams ..... 380-7496</p> <p><b>Education, Standards &amp; Safety</b> Doug Linton ..... 727-0216</p> <p><b>Membership</b> Tony Copping ..... 479-1308</p> <p><b>Clubhouse &amp; Grounds</b> Kathleen Gunn ..... 384-6436</p> <p><b>Social Coordinator</b> Irena Jazwinski ..... 388-9757</p> <p><b>Boat Storage</b> Alex Mann &amp; Lynn Sanderson .. 382-7781</p> <p><b>Newsletter</b> Harold Gillis ..... 598-9488</p> <p><b>Directors-at-Large</b> Mavis Pillar ..... 384-4390 John Close ..... 384-8077 Joy Newham ..... 385-5876 Fraser Tweedy ..... 380-6952</p>
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## VCKC Clubhouse Bookings and Club Activities June 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1 7:30pm Dragonboat	2	3 9:00-500pm Flatwater Course
4	5	6 5:30-9:00 VCKC BBQ	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 7:30pm VCKC Executive Meeting Judi 360-2776	14	15	16	17 New Member Paddle - Kayak
18	19	20	21 Kayak Program Meeting 7:00pm	22	23	24
25	26	27 7:30pm Outrigger Mtg.	28	29	30	