



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

September 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)

October 2006
 Newsletter Deadline:
 September 16, 2006

VCKC was proudly represented at the Victoria Dragonboat Festival with Komodo Dragons (above) and Gung Ho winning Gold, and Ageless Warriors and Vasuki winning Bronze. St'Keya won a huge trophy for their Grandmaster's 1st Place Finish. The blue and yellow flag was waving each and every time and it was an excellent weekend.

The festivities were highlighted by Vasuki Dragons hosting a luau, pig supplied by Mile, and the Portland Stumptown and Blind Ambition teams were thrilled to be treated to such a feast. Kudos to the paddlers for doing so well, to the coaches for their hard work and dedication, and especially to the Dragon Boat Program Director, James McBean, for his tireless efforts in keeping things together, everyone paddling together and working as teams.

Great job!

Message from the President ...

Welcome back paddlers. Hope you all had a great summer on the water. The volunteers at VCKC have been busy, with Kathleen, Alex & Lynn busy organizing the basement. There have been some major changes and it looks great. There is a second bathroom upstairs and the bathroom downstairs has been renovated.

We have a mystery to solve, and need your help. Someone has been sleeping in the bathroom on the main floor, and we need to let them know this is not acceptable. Please make sure you check the clubhouse before locking up, and if you do suspect someone is there who shouldn't be there, call the police and let them deal with it. We have had gates left open, and

Kayak Program Report

Hi Everyone: Hope the summer has been going well. Our club practices on Thursday nights will continue through September if the weather holds out and there is interest. Our next meeting is Sept 20 and our speaker is Fred Pishalski from Courtney. He will give us a trip presentation.

Don't forget that the library will be at the meeting so bring back any materials you have signed out and any member can sign out more. Pam Renney is not our librarian anymore because she has moved up island. Thank you, Pam, for your great service to the club. I will keep the library for awhile with assistance at the meetings.

Don't forget that I have a paddler's list for members if anyone is looking for paddling partners. Just give me your contact info and I will add it to the list and it ONLY gets mailed to everyone on the list. Also, the free club double and single boats are still available for all members on local paddles. Just send an email to vckckayakbooking@gmail.com.

Safe paddling,

Fred Trudell
Kayak Program Director

canoes go missing, so please report anything (anyone) that looks suspicious.

The five dragonboat teams representing VCKC have been doing us proud with their medals and times. This is one of the busiest seasons, with festivals in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Victoria and Portland. Wined up the Gorge is on August 26-27, and is sure to be a lot of fun.

Remember the September Barbecue on September 5 at 5:30 and we can celebrate our summer successes. See you then.

Judi Murakami
President, VCKC

Canoe Program Report

The next Canoe Program meeting will be held at the Clubhouse @ 7.30 pm on Monday 18th September. Program to be announced at the general meeting on the 5th and by e-mail.

See the Trips and Courses section of this newsletter for September flatwater trip details as well as plans for a trip on the Thompson River September 9 and 10.

(Catherine) Mary Graham

Mary Graham, 80, a member of the VCKC Ageless Warriors dragon boat team, passed away suddenly on June 23, 2006. Mary provided priceless inspiration to her dragon boat teammates, particularly in her determination to do well no matter how much she hurt or how tired. She always had a positive attitude and a big smile. Nearly the entire team and many past paddling teammates attended services celebrating her life. Mary had one of her many magical moments at the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival last year when her Ageless Warriors captured the gold in a thrilling photo finish. She was thrilled to have the gold medal draped around her neck at center stage. We will miss her hugely.

Gay Stone, her good friend and paddling buddy, gave up her personalized paddle to Mary so that Mary can continue dragon boat racing in the waters beyond the Gray Havens. Happy paddling, Mary.

Submitted by Jack Louie

Trip Report - Cabbage Island

Two old guys, one in his late sixties and one slightly older (Hans Voermann and John Levey) left Roberts Bay in Sidney on Thursday, July 27 for a three day outing against an outgoing tide heading for Dock Island and the east side of Moresby Island. The plan was to go between the two Pender Islands and through Boat Passage to Cabbage Island. Trying to get by Dock Island proved a little discouraging as we were hardly making any headway against a fast moving ebb. We did, however, eventually make it, passing Fairfax Point at Moresby Island and reaching Bedwell Harbour after three hours in time for lunch.

After a well deserved break of about an hour we paddled towards the gap between Samuel Island and Saturna Island and shot through Boat Passage. Paddling through the passage with a fast moving tide was quite exhilarating but trying to miss the huge whirlpools on the far side was at least as exciting. We reached Cabbage Island after three more hours of paddling, a total distance of about 20 nm. Arriving on a Thursday afternoon we were surprised to find all the camping spots available and we picked a shady one facing Tumbo Island. By nightfall we still had the island to ourselves except for a good number of raccoons making their way up and down the beach not being disturbed in the least by our presence. During the first night John woke up face to face with a raccoon, who apparently was looking for something edible in his tent.

For Friday we had planned to check out Tumbo Island as well as Boiling Reef and to have a leisurely afternoon at our campsite. As we paddled towards Boiling Reef on an outgoing tide, having paddled by Tumbo Island on the Strait of Georgia side, we all of a sudden realized that we were drifting very quickly towards the standing waves at the reef rather than getting to the tip of Saturna Island. We now had to paddle all out for about fifteen minutes crossing the channel between Boiling Reef and Saturna. After having reached a nice beach on the tip of Saturna we

decided to check out the light house and some old buildings situated on a windswept grassy slope. We discovered a plaque stating that in 1791 Jose Maria Narvaez named this spot 'Punta de Santa Saturnina' after his vessel 'Santa Saturnina'.

After lunch we paddled back to our camp site on Cabbage Island, spending the rest of the afternoon investigating our little island. Saturday morning, after two sunny, hot days we took off for Roberts Bay under cloudy skies. We had been debating going back on the outside of Saturna, South Pender and Moresby, but with strong winds predicted for the afternoon we decided to play it safe and return on the same route we had taken two days before. We had the tide push us through Boat Passage and made Bedwell Harbour in three hours for lunch in the same spot we stopped at two days before. Leaving Bedwell Harbour for Fairfax Point on Moresby Island we found the wind had freshened up quite a bit blowing from the south east at about 25 knots against an outgoing tide. There were lots of whitecaps and very confused seas but we decided to go for it. After a very short time we realized that this crossing would be a lot tougher than we had anticipated and we had to paddle extremely hard, concentrating on our strokes and the confused seas. We reached Moresby about one and a half hours later, totally worn out. Both of us thought that this was the toughest paddle and in roughest conditions we had ever encountered. We stopped at a protected beach, had some snacks and water and decided to wait it out. By this time the sun had come out and Hans decided to have a nap on the beach. After a couple of hours the winds had settled down a bit, it was now slack tide, and we paddled back to Roberts Bay in about one and a half hours with a good swell coming for the south east.

We had had a great time, an excellent workout, and some new experiences on the water teaching us to expect the unexpected at any time.

Hans Voermann

FOR SALE

Nigel Dennis Explorer Sea Kayak in excellent condition. Includes spray skirt and cockpit cover. The NDK Explorer is one of the best-known touring and expedition kayaks in the world. Asking \$2,500 or best offer.

Tony Copping at 250-479-1308 or acopping@shaw.ca

VCKC BBQ - September 5, 2006

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

Gorge Clean-up

Gorge Appreciation Days Clean up of the Gorge Waterway took place on Sunday, May 28th. It was the best ever with 49 VCKC volunteers contributing towards making it a great community event. The clean up started from the Tillicum Bridge along the Gorge around the Portage Inlet taking in the Colquitz, Craigflower Creek estuaries. At the end of five hours we had managed to fill two large dumpsters with garbage. Our club was supported by the CRD (dumpage fees, gloves and bags), Timmy's on Gorge Road (muffins and coffee), Gorge Villages Pizza, (cheap pizza) and Ron Disposals RDI 2 Dumpsters and Hauling.

A lot thanks should go out to all the VCKC volunteers who showed up!

Don Munroe



Big Brothers & Big Sisters Picnic

On Sunday, June 11 about 12 paddlers and 2 voyageur canoes showed up at Kinsmen Park to help make it a very special day for the Big Brothers and Sisters Picnic by giving rides.

A BIG THANKS to Marilyn and Ken Tomlinson, Jack Louie, Maris Ratel, Harold Nishikawara, Mavis Pillar, Diana Gordon, Lloyd & Francois, Chark Nipp, Tony Edwards, Della Logan, Heather Krawchuk and a guest appearance by the Dragon Boat Team Gung Ho.

Don Munroe



Spirit Dancer

Some months ago, Chris Cooper talked at the Club general meeting about his trips along the BC coast in his 42' Montreal canoe 'Spirit Dancer'. He is now planning a series of trips round Britain in the same boat in 2008 and 2009, and wants to let canoeists in the province know about these plans.

There is a website www.spiritdancercanoejourneys.ca where details of the plans to date can be found.

The focus of this journey is to sponsor two youth in each crew of ten for this huge journey of 4000km

and two seasons to complete. 200 days in all.

There will be an opportunity for 24 youth to be involved 12 from Canada and 12 from the British Isles, each youth will travel for two weeks in the Canoe and will rotate through until the journey is completed. The Canoe journey starts and finishes on the River Thames London, England.

The journey will encompass visits to over 150 communities around the British Isles and will focus on many areas such as: Marine Biology, History, Environmental Education and most of all the First Canadian Canoe circumnavigation of the British Isles.

Speeding in the Gorge

On July 22nd, a speeding power boat was in the vicinity of Christie Point in Portage Inlet and observed to have been chasing the hundreds of water fowl in this sanctuary. On the same date one of "our" young cygnets, still unable to fly, apparently was lost to "our" family of swans. There are now only three cygnets remaining in the original flock of five.

Though it is not often that we see power boats west of Tillicum bridge, all VCKC members are asked to be observant and to report those who do operate powered boats in excess of five knots. At present there are just two signs which announce that speed limit; though not brightly painted nor centrally placed, they are on each side of the Admirals Road bridge. Still, that speed is known to all who travel anywhere inside of the Victoria harbour's breakwater. What does 5 knots look like? A good gauge for most might be the appearance of a bow wave

and following wake any larger than we observe being made by our harbour ferries.

When such an infraction occurs please take careful note of the time, place and appearance of the boat and occupants and report the incident to:

- 911 or the non-emergency Police # for Western Communities 474-2264
- either of the Portage Inlet Associations which are dedicated to preservation of this area:
 - Portage Inlet Protection Society (PIPS) 388-0398 Terry Eckstein
 - Portage Inlet Protection of the Sanctuary of Colquitz Estuary (PISCES) 479-1877 Vicki or George Blogg

submitted by Lloyd Skaalen

THE VCKC TRIPLE CROWN FINISH !!!

Three First Place Finishes in the last race of the day at the Nanaimo Dragonboat Festival held July 8 and 9, 2006.

St'Keya

Diamond Final A - first place finish for GOLD with a time of 2.18.34.

Four first place finishes for a Royal Flush, their fastest time of the weekend was 2.15.05

Gung Ho

Silver Final B - first place ribbon with a time of 2.51.58.

One first place, 2 seconds and one third, their fastest time of the weekend was 2.30.06

Vasuki Warriors (VCKC Crew Team, combined Vasuki Dragons And Ageless Warriors)

Pearl Final A - A first place finish for GOLD with a time of 2.48.02.

Two first place and 2 third place races, their fastest time of the weekend was 2.37.70

WELL DONE TEAMS!!! Great teamwork all around - pat yourselves on the back!!

A great accomplishment for the whole club, VCKC was well represented with 78 paddlers!

James McBean
Program Director/Coach

New (sort of) Club Kayak

The club now has a single kayak available free to all members for local day use. In February some of our members in the outrigger program found a boat floating on the Gorge. They retrieved it and we have kept it since then while we try to find the owner. We have advertised in the newspaper and reported it to authorities and since we now have waited the required amount of time with no one claiming it, we now have approval to use it. Thank you to the outrigger program and Dave Guiliani for doing the administrative work to get approval.

The boat is a plastic Current Design Breeze with a rudder. It is short and wide so it is stable and can fit most people. It has a rear storage compartment and a flotation bag in the footwell. The conditions for use are that you must have taken a basic kayak course and you must be going out with another boat. It is for day use in the local area only. When you sign out the boat you can also sign out PFD, skirt, rope, pump, and paddles. It can be used for a personal paddle or a club practice or paddle. Club practice and paddles will get priority. Any booking for personal use on a day of practice

(every Thursday for the summer) or a club paddle will be tentative until the working day before the club use. Anyone using the boat will have to agree to rinse and remove excess water from the boat and all equipment and put them away properly.

Also don't forget that we still have the double plastic boat available free to all members.

To book a boat, send an email at least 24 hrs before you need it to vckckayakbooking@gmail.com. Give the date you want a boat and which boats, your phone number and your full name. You will receive a return email with the code for the boat lock and the equipment locker. I hope we can keep this free to everyone but, if the boat and equipment are not cared for well, the expense and trouble to maintain them will mean that in future there may be a charge.

Fred Trudell

VCKC Kayak Program Director



Portage Inlet Swans

Lloyd Skaalen has been keeping a close eye on the swans and cygnets living in the gorge waterway near the VCKC clubhouse. The story of this year's cygnets and their proud parents can be found via a link on the VCKC website.

The direct link is:

<http://members.shaw.ca/vckcevents/our-swans.html>

Vargas Island Camping Trip April 28 - May 1, 2006

This trip was made up of a few members from VCKC and many members from the Pacific Fleet Kayak Club. As usual, when we are setting off on a kayak camping trip, the weather was overcast and the forecast for Tofino was dismal for the entire weekend. But we remained undaunted because we had heard such wonderful things about the Vargas Island Inn and Vargas and Meares Islands. There were some people on the trip who had been there the previous year and their enthusiasm was catching!

The drive up to Tofino was accomplished by every man for himself, meeting at the dock at 1400 hours. We were a bit early and wandered around Tofino a bit and encountered everyone else wandering around Tofino. There was a bit of initial confusion over where to leave our "stuff" which would be taken over on the skiff by Neil Buckle from the Vargas Island Inn, and exactly where to park our cars and which launch site was the right one. But all was eventually sorted out and we were ready for our next adventure.

Several of our members left from the rental shop and paddled around to meet us at the launch site, and we got to see what the current looked like while watching them try to sit in one spot. Yikes!

Within only a minute of setting off, a giant sea lion leapt out of the waves only feet in front of our fearless leader. What a great start! We meandered around the tip of Felice Island, and up the side of Stubbs Island. As we rounded the point of Felice, the current and wind both slacked off significantly. The light rain didn't bother us as we were all dressed appropriately. All went well for most of the hour-long paddle to Vargas. The scenery was fantastic!

We crossed Father Charles Channel over to Vargas with loosely varied ferry angles. As we came near Vargas....Whales!!! They were really close. We couldn't tell what type they were, but they were sounding no further than 40 or 50 feet away. It was very exciting, but unfortunately also very distracting. The current had carried us off our course and the water conditions by this time were such that we had fairly large waves powered by current rolling in from behind us, and breaking out of sight straight in front of us. For me at least, this required concentration. That was sadly lacking with the excitement of the whales. Before I knew it, I was heading straight into "The Zipper". Neil Buckle later told us about this. It is a famous local phenomenon. Many unwary sailors have run aground on this long reef. It is created by current reflecting and forming waves against the current so that the whitecaps get immediately absorbed. I was

fortunate in having the large waves carrying me along, with a few "kisses" between my kayak and the reef along the passage. Whew! Another of our members, suffering from the same distraction had a close encounter with a small whirlpool with a resident rock.

Then, without further ado, there was our destination. It was such a welcome sight, with a few buildings visible from the beach and Marilyn Buckle and her faithful canine companion waiting for us. There was an abundant choice of accommodation. There is the Inn itself with many rooms and many beds. It is Tudor Style and although somewhat rustic, very warm and welcoming with a lovely big kitchen and a wonderful fireplace to socialize in front of. In addition, there is the "Manor" which has about 4 rooms with its own kitchen. It could be used by a separate group if necessary. It has an outdoor cooking area as well, with a shower attached. We all cooked together in the big kitchen. There are also 3 small cabins. The whole place probably sleeps at least 30, but we had it all to ourselves.

We were very happy to arrive and it wasn't very long at all until everyone had a drink of some sort and something sizzling away on the BBQ. Dan's pies were very much appreciated for dessert. The rain still wasn't putting us off at all. Everyone was laughing and having fun. We gathered in the living room in a huge circle in front of the fire and conducted an introduction session which became quite hilarious. What a fun group!

The next morning was slightly rainy, but very windy, and the water conditions were too rough for kayaking. We took this opportunity to hike across the island. The trail is lush, green, very muddy and very scenic. It reminded me a bit of the trail to Cape Scott. A couple of the slower hikers stayed in the rear, but the rest of the group hiked all the way across the island to Ahous Bay. It was a beautiful big sandy beach reminiscent of Long Beach with a fantastic mountain view across the water and some campers who had stayed a night longer than planned due to weather conditions. Add into the mix the many wolf tracks, and it was a very interesting hike.

We took a detour off the main trail on the way back to visit the store. The sign indicated that it is open 24 hours a day. How charming and indicative of the trusting way of life on this island! It is a tiny cabin, complete with a couch and chair for resting. There are shelves and drawers stocked with various good which might be needed by visitors or residents. Canned goods, potato chips, toilet paper...you name it. There is a large tin with money for you to pay and make your own change.

(continued next page)

Then back to the inn to bask in the sun on the large deck. It is equipped with many Adirondack chairs made by Marilyn, and has a beautiful view of the ocean. It was a long sunny afternoon with a cold drink and snacks. Very relaxing.

Then inside for a delicious turkey and ham dinner. We had delivered our stuffed, oven-ready turkey to Marilyn that morning and she had cooked it for us. We used our own oven for the ham. There were home-made biscuits, cranberry sauce, many salads and vegetables. It was a meal fit for a king, followed by what else...Pie! The clean-up and dishes were very entertaining. The sink is tiny and the hot water is scarce. But with 16 willing sets of hands, it was accomplished in no time and we could settle down for the evening activities of our choice. There were basically two groups. One sat around the table and played card games. The other sat around the fire and chatted.

The next morning, our last full day on Vargas, dawned sunny and clear. The conditions looked slightly ruffled, but acceptable for a day of kayaking. We set off after breakfast, and within 10 minutes of leaving the beach, one of our members pulled so hard on her stuck rudder rope that she flipped herself right over. This necessitated rescue technique practice. I'm happy to say that our group is on the ball, and very efficient. The dunked member was out of the water and back in her boat within minutes and her helpers pumped her boat out and plunked a warm hat on her head before she knew what hit her. Fortunately, it was quite calm and warm, so we continued on to Meares Island.

We stopped for lunch when we got there, enjoying the break and the excellent leftovers from last night's dinner. When we left to go for our walk, it was easy to know which trail to take; we just followed the boardwalk. It was more lovely scenery and we passed some very large and impressive trees. But they all paled in comparison to the Hanging Garden Tree. It is Huge! We all posed in front of it for a photo - 15 of us, and had plenty of tree left over on both sides. One of our members wiggled his way into the hollow centre and posed for pictures with his head sticking out. It was well worth the short walk to see it. We continued on till we saw a sign telling us we were at the end of the boardwalk. Just beyond that is the beach; really a huge mudflat. We cavorted out there for awhile before making our way back

to our boats.

Most of the group headed back to Vargas then because of the weather forecast, but a few of us decided to explore a bit more. Four of us carried on further down Lemmens Inlet, exploring as we went. We timed our return to the slackest tide. As we were hovering in the shelter of a little cove before setting off on the main crossing, we heard a wolf howl, from close behind a fish shed near us. It was followed by many more wolves howling, until the whole pack was howling over and over again. It was absolutely mystical and sent shivers down my spine. It was a lovely send-off for us.

The wind had come up straight in our faces so we found the channel crossing long and arduous. It didn't seem particularly dangerous, but we had to work pretty hard. I was glad to shelter in the lee of a little island for a few minutes before the last push back to the Inn.

Our last meal in this wonderful place was a salmon BBQ. I must compliment Keith and Elaine for their most excellent BBQ skills. Then Elaine passed out her favorite Vachon treats to make sure we had enough calories to replace the ones we used up paddling. It was another memorable meal. After supper was a repeat of the night before. It was a pattern which worked well for us.

The next morning, a few of us hitched a ride back to Tofino on the skiff with Neil and the rest paddled over on a wet, sunny beautiful day. High winds were forecast, but by making an early start, we managed to avoid them.

We made good time back to Tofino and arrived feeling like we'd had a very rare and special treat in visiting this unusual and charming place.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ron and Dira for arranging this trip. We wouldn't have ever known about this place or these people otherwise. We had a group of 16 people who spent 4 days together just having fun. We've made new friends and continue to appreciate PFKC and the fact that they welcomed our friends from VCKC.

Pam Renney with input from Fred Trudell

VCKC Executive

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

VCKC Clubhouse Bookings and Club Activities September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 5:30-9:00 General Meeting	6	7 Dragonboat Meeting 7:30pm	8	0
10	11	12 7:30pm VCKC Executive Meeting Judi 360-2776	13	14	15	16
17	18 Canoe Program Meeting 7:30pm	19	20 Kayak Program Meeting 7:00pm	21	22	23 9:00-500pm Flatwater Course
24 9:00-500pm Flatwater Course	25	26 7:30pm Outrigger Mtg.	27	28	29	30