



# 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

February 2007



Kayakers off Quadra Island - July 2006

## **WANTED!!**

Used Bookcase for  
the VCKC Clubhouse  
for displaying photos,  
books, albums,  
plaques, etc.

If you have something that might fit  
the bill, please contact:

Don Munroe - 385-2268

## **Don't Forgetto Lock the Clubhouse Doors!!**

If you're the last one to leave the clubhouse make sure the doors are all locked. On more than one occasion doors have been left unlocked or propped open long after the last paddler has left the building. Don't be the one responsible for theft or vandalism at our clubhouse.

**LOCK THE DOORS!!!**



Canoeing Main Lakes Provincial Park  
July 2006

## **Message from the President**

Greetings to you all and best wishes in 2007!

The New Year's paddle gave us a good way to begin the year with over 20 enthusiastic paddlers filling two voyageurs and the newly refurbished club canoe, which made its maiden voyage, being sent off the VCKC dock with a bottle of spirits broken over its bow. Following our paddle up the Gorge and Colquitz Creek and our return to the Clubhouse, we once again had the pleasure of Alan Thomson's hot mulled wine and a pot luck with good food and good company.

With this brand new year, we have the opportunity to do things differently, better perhaps, but even if things turn out the same as last year, that will be OK with me too.

This year's elections brought me a new responsibility and the opportunity to exercise some "brand new" and wonderful ideas. But before I amaze you with all of that, I would first like to acknowledge the following people:

Thank you to Judi Murakami for leading us in the right direction for the last two years. It is also good to know that she will be in our corner in the capacity of Past President.

Thank you to Paul de la Bastide, who finally got his break and got off the Executive. I appreciate that before he left he offered to be of help, should I need it.

Thank you once again to Alex Mann and Lynn Sanderson for leaving Boat and Locker Storage in ship-shape condition and giving Maris Ratel a good start in her new position.

Thank you also to Paul Post, outgoing Treasurer and to John Close, outgoing Director at Large.

I would like to welcome Linda Thomson as our new Vice-President, my lovely wife, Lorna Petrovic, as returning Secretary and Susan Duhamel and Glynis Newman as new Kayak Directors, a job they have inherited from Fred Trudell, who has the bargain of being our new Treasurer.

Welcome also to Mike Fox, our new Dragonboat Director. Mike is also our Webmaster working with Bruce Irving as his solid and reliable backup.

I have high hopes for our two new Directors at Large, Diane Nishimura and Michael Jackson, who have already become involved in projects, as well as Mavis Pillar and Fraser Tweedy, our returning Directors at Large. Also returning is Irena Jazwinski, our eminent Social Coordinator.

I especially want to acknowledge the work done by Kathleen Gunn, Clubhouse and Grounds, for the excellent job she has done over the past year. The Clubhouse has never looked so good; and amazingly enough, she has agreed to stay for another year.

Although Tony Copping has been our Membership Chair for only one year, it feels as if he has been doing it for years and judging by the number of ideas he has, he may stay for the next ten.

Thank you also to Doug Linton; because of you our standards are high and we feel safe, like at home.

Thank you to Harold Gillis, returning Newsletter editor, whom we don't see very often, but we do see his efforts and the good results in our monthly newsletter.

Thanks also to Keith Larusson who returns as Outrigger Program Director and also to Ron Williams, returning Marathon Canoe Program Director.

This year is the 25th Anniversary of our Paddle to Port Angeles and Don Munroe and his helpers want to make this a very special year. Ron Williams is already working on painting one of the voyageur canoes silver (this being the Silver Anniversary) and giving the others a new paint job. If any one of you would like to help with this year's crossing by paddling, raising money or volunteering, please let Don know. Thank you, Don, for 25 years of dedication to the Voyageur Program, the Paddle to Port Angeles and to VCKC.

I am not sure if you elected me or if I elected you; however, I am going to do my best (most of the time) by communicating with you all and representing the Club with honesty and integrity.

Thank you,

Mile Petrovic  
President, VCKC



### **More Thanks**

The elections went very smoothly this year as all spots had "volunteers" who readily accepted their nominations.

One board member who will not be with us this year is Paul de la Bastide. Paul has served on the board for a variety of functions and was able to step down from his position of "Past President" when I inherited that role. Paul has been an anchor of strength for the board with his historical knowledge and quiet diplomacy. He has put in countless hours assisting in different capacities and is familiar with all aspects of the board and clubhouse. Although no longer an official board member, he will continue his paddling and looks forward to attending program meetings. We appreciated his time and dedication.

With thanks,

Judi Murakami  
Past President - VCKC

# Program Reports

## Sea Kayaking

Welcome everyone to a new year of paddling!

As we jump into the position of Program Director, we want to thank Fred Trudell for doing such an awesome job in 2006. Fred has offered to continue looking after our club kayaks and he has also taken on the position of VCKC Treasurer for 2007. Thanks Fred!

Glynis and I hope to fuel the energy level of the kayak membership and to encourage everyone to become involved. On the water and classroom clinics are a popular function already and our hope is to hear from you with ideas and interests on more of these. We already have a great navigation series starting and there are gear clinics, a "Tie One On" clinic, and maybe another kayak fitting clinic to come. Perhaps its time to do another drybag workshop? There are many of us who have skills related to paddling that can be shared with the members whether we are new paddlers or old hands. It seems there's always more to learn as we explore all the facets of paddling. So let us know what you want to learn more about.

We also want to hear suggestions from you about presentations for our monthly meetings. Please don't feel shy about offering to do a presentation on a trip, a skill or something that the rest of us would enjoy.

We are both available by phone (Glynis at 655-1272 and Susan at 361-4738), email (Glynis at [gnewmandvm@shaw.ca](mailto:gnewmandvm@shaw.ca) and Susan at [seduhamel@yahoo.ca](mailto:seduhamel@yahoo.ca)) and at the monthly meetings held the third Wednesday of each month at 1900 (7pm) sharp.

The Kayak Program also offers courses through Paddle Canada beginning in the spring. Gary Allen will continue to organise these courses and will present a list once dates are set. These are hugely popular and go a long way to enable safe and efficient paddling. Thanks Gary!

Our library contains books and visual items and is well used. Vic Turkington has agreed to be our librarian this year so thank you Vic! Let Vic know if you have any suggestions for additions or donations to the library. Thanks to Kirby

Stevens for donating a surfing tape at the last meeting!

The club paddles have been off to a cold start this year but the plan is to have two members' paddles each month ... the Get-Together Paddle for those wanting a slower more social paddle and the Energizer Paddle for those wanting to cover a little more distance at a bit faster pace. There are two planned for February. See the Trips and Courses section of the newsletter for full details.

The February Kayak Program meeting will be at 7pm on February 21. Our speaker will be Brian Henry – owner and operator of Ocean River Sports and founder of Current Designs Kayaks. Brian has designed over a dozen different sea kayaks that many of you paddle such as the Pisces, Solstice, Storm and Libra. He has also collaborated with other designers to help create other popular modern sea kayaks. Brian is still active in boat design and will share his ideas of why a boat feels and handles as it does. This talk will also help anyone interested in how to choose a kayak for themselves. Brian has done talks for VCKC in the past and they are always enlightening and interesting.

We hope to see all of you participating this year, whether it be on the water or at the clubhouse. Here's to another great year of safe paddling! Always remember to wear appropriate paddling clothes, know your limitations, respect the Elements and file a Float Plan.

Glynis Newman and Susan Duhamel



# Program Reports (Continued)

## Canoeing

### Entertainment:

On Monday, January 15, Steve Connolly and Kim Walker provided great entertainment presenting their slide show of their canoe trip on the Missinaibi River in Ontario, paddling all the way to Hudson Bay. Well, they didn't quite paddle ALL the way ... they had to portage about 20 times!! The scenery was fantastic, the bugs miserable and the weather, on the dampish side with about 23 days of rain. Who wants to sign up for next year? Thanks Steve and Kim.

### Stroke clinics:

The canoe program will be holding some paddling clinics in April and May (dates to be announced). In the 3 hour clinic, we will teach about 4 – 6 basic strokes. This is an excellent opportunity for those people who have already got their Flatwater certificates to brush up on their skills, and dragonboaters and outriggers paddlers to learn a few new strokes (helpful in manoeuvring those big boats). We hope that it wets your thirst to learn more so that you will want to sign up for a Flatwater course and get your certification.

Watch for dates in the next newsletter!

### Camp food dehydration:

In April (date to be announced) we will have several people experienced with dehydrating food for camping trips demonstrate some of their favourite recipes and offer some samples of their recipes. Come on out and get some ideas for preparing meals for your summer paddling or hiking vacation! If you have some recipes that are always big hits on your trips, please consider participating as a demonstrator and sharing your ideas. Please contact Joy: [pjnewham@telus.net](mailto:pjnewham@telus.net) if you can help with the food demonstration.



## Dragonboaters

The dragons are stirring in their lairs, shaking the snowflakes and tree limbs off their winter ravaged bodies and looking forward to the first "Paddles Up!" of the 2007 season.

Things look very positive for the coming season. Input from the teams indicates we will have a very good return rate from last year. We also have had a number of enquiries from potential new members.

We have had a boat builder assess the condition of our boat and make recommendations for maintenance.

A program committee has been set up with representation from all teams and our coaches. The committee has met twice and will again as items arise which require close attention. To date, discussions have centred around the consideration of purchasing a new boat and getting ourselves ready for the coming season.

We are also been working on an agenda for a general meeting of the Dragonboat Program Members for Jan 24th which we will report on in the next letter.

Paddles Up!



## Financial Statements – 2006

Unfortunately, VCKC's financial statements for 2006 were not available at the recent Annual General Meeting. The 2006 financial statements **WILL** be available at the General Meeting coming up Tuesday, February 6.

## Trip Report - East Sooke Park by Sea

The weather had not been balmy since the last FW paddle in December and the river trip planned for January 13th had been cancelled due to cold temperatures. (We thought paddlers would need a lot of rescuing as it would be warmer in the water than in their boat.) But the flatwater trip planned for the 14th was along the waterfront of East Sooke Regional Park, a stretch of water that requires good conditions to undertake safely and with pleasure. The omens were good - an ebbing tide, but not too fast, and a light to moderate north-easterly/easterly wind - so we decided to carry on, snow or no snow.

Fourteen paddlers turned up on the day, a good turn out for what was likely to be a cold paddle and one without Plan B options. We met up at Whiffin Spit (or Whiffen - take your pick) and got all the boats and paddlers into four vehicles. Back to Becher Bay Marina (pronounce it Becher as spelled or Beecher, as the local Band is spelled) to launch. The time from the Clubhouse to launch via Whiffin and back to Becher was 2 hours, what with reloading, etc. Launch fee was \$4 per boat, but as canoes, we got a break, which was a nice start.

The plan had been to follow the shoreline but the lead boats were determined to get to Aldridge Point quickly. So we cut across Becher Bay and caught the start of the ebb as we rounded the point. This took us into the path of some fishing boats, but happily no damage occurred to either party, and it was a reminder that we share the water (as well as when to pry and when to draw - remember ??). There were hikers and sight-seers at Aldridge Point and Beechey Head, and occasionally along the Coast Trail but with the cool temperatures and blown-down trees across parts of the path after the recent storms, it was relatively quiet.

The section from Beechey Head to the lunch spot - a small cove behind an island about 1 nautical mile west of Beechey Head - has no good landing spots. The coastline is steep and rocky, with no good trails up through the salal and no creeks have cut gullies. There are a few areas where a crash-landing might be possible in desperate straits, but getting to the trail might be a problem. We stopped in the cove, one of the few spots (only spot ?) where the Coast Trail comes down to the water between Aldridge and Iron Mine Bay, and had a sheltered, if not a sun-drenched lunch. The western channel between the island and the main coast was wide enough for a canoe, but being subject to surges of 2-3' waves as the water funnelled into the narrow gap, we all elected to paddle back out the way we came. Probably the cold water and colder air were a deterrent - maybe in July ?

The section from that island cove to Iron Mine Bay has a number of landing spots; the cliffs ease back and there are some creeks that have left pebbly deltas. The coast line has a number of caves and little indents that were fun to look at from a distance: although quite calm, there were surges from time to time, possibly the result of passing ships on the far side of the Strait - enough to make us cautious. Iron Mine Bay is a possible take-out spot - a climb of about 100 metres takes you up to the main trail (there is a path up) and to a Parks outhouse (presently framed by blown down trees, but untouched. From there to the Iron Mine path up to the Pike Road Parking Lot would be about a mile, but a trailer would work well - at least once the blown-down trees are cleared away - it is an old logging road and quite smooth and wide.

Round the corner from Iron Mine Bay, we began to see the results of the preparations for the Silver Spray development - boulder embankments, cleared timber, etc. By this time, the tide was ebbing quite fast, so the choice was to follow the shore into Sooke Inlet, and cut across the short crossing to Whiffen Spit where the current from Sooke Basin would be quite strong, or to cut across further out - a longer crossing but with less current. Most of us chose the latter approach and it worked quite well, but the current close to Whiffen Spit by the car park was quite a bit stronger than expected and we had to fight against it to get into the landing spot. But there were no breakers, as is often the case on that shore, and we came in to land about 3 ½ hours after setting out. Then we waited for the shuttle, using the remaining car to keep people warm - although some went up to the Sooke Harbour House where I'm sure they fitted in really well.

Wild life - otter, herons, oyster-catchers, eagles, seals, kingfishers, but no orcas. The Basin had some ice along the shores, but not as much as there was the week before. A local told me that the surface had been frozen right over the Basin - about 2 miles - strong enough that gulls were walking about on the ice and snow surface.

A good paddle, thanks to all who turned out. Pauline Campbell and Maris Ratel, Andre Cossette, Doug and Cathy Hull, Donna Ramsey and Eric Sperrer, Linda and Alan Thomson, Diane Nishimura and Dave Whitehead, Doug Magnuson and Karen Brown. It was a first Club trip for Doug and Karen, and a major triumph of will for Doug and Cathy who prefer to paddle where the temperature is in Centigrade what it was in Fahrenheit on this trip! )

Submitted by Alan Thomson



## **Trips & Courses (Canoeing)**

### **Flatwater Paddles**

The "Paddle to Port Angeles" practices begin on January 28 and continue to March 24. We don't know how many Flatwater Paddlers will be taking part in this but hope that most of you are. It's a great experience and the Club needs plenty paddlers for six voyageur boats. Seventy-two (72) for the twelve (12) teams. For those who are not, or are up for paddling both days on a weekend, we are scheduling two Saturday paddles in February. Unless enough paddlers for three boats have indicated that they want to take part, we will cancel. The dates are:

Saturday, February 10  
Saturday, February 24

Meet at the clubhouse at 9am, as usual, with spare clothes and food for lunch. If the forecast is for rain and/or snow, etc., bring plenty of rain gear. You can check the weather forecast by phone at 363-6717 (Public forecast for probability of precipitation or Marine forecast for winds). On the web, check for the Victoria five-day forecast at: [weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca](http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca).

Let us know at 592-4170 or [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com) by the Thursday evening if you plan to come and if you need a paddle/partner/boat.

### **Moving Water Trips**

Moving water trips have been last minute affairs because of the unpredictable--usually too high--water levels. River trips will be scheduled "tentatively" starting in January (second Saturday and fourth Sunday).

All those interested who are not currently on an email list should contact me in advance to sort out prior experience, cold water protection, canoes, transport, etc. issues.

Tom Staebell  
res. 655-7113 after 5:00 pm (best bet)  
cel. 588-2207 after 6:30 am  
off. 652-1121 7-4, Mon-Fri

### **Safety Guidelines:**

Trips are usually 4 – 6 hours plus paddle time, so bring food/hot drinks etc. Newcomers are welcome. It is preferred that paddlers have taken a Lakewater 1 course. Meet up at the clubhouse at 9am unless informed otherwise by the leader of the trip.

Bring along a waterproof bag with a change of clothes, rain gear, lunch, water bottle and snacks. When carpooling, riders can offer the car driver an appropriate amount to cover gas costs.

### **Courses**

Now is the time to make preparations for your summer vacation by learning to paddle a canoe or upgrading your existing skills. We are offering a full range of canoe courses during the spring months, so please register as soon as possible as space is limited.

#### **Lakewater Level 1 (tandem):**

April 12 – 6:30 – 8:30  
registration and introduction  
April 14 - 8:30 – 4:30  
on the water

#### **Lakewater Level 2 (solo):**

April 21 & 22 – 9:00 – 1:00 each day

#### **Lakewater Level 3 (tandem):**

June 2 - 8:30 – 4:30

#### **Lakewater Level 4 (solo):**

June 3 - 8:30 – 4:30

#### **Moving water (tentative):**

March 31 & April 1  
(depending on water levels)

#### **Ocean Paddling:**

(late May or early June  
– date to be announced)

To register, please contact: Tom Staebell  
Res. 655-7113 after 5:00 pm  
(best bet)  
Cell. 588-2207 after 6:30 am  
Off. 652-1121 7 – 4, Mon – Fri

## VCKC Executive

<p><b>President</b>  <b>Mile Petrovic</b> ..... 250-733-2013  <b>Vice President</b>  Linda Thomson..... 592-4170  <b>Treasurer</b>  Fred Trudel ..... 480-0880  <b>Secretary</b>  Lorna Petrovic ..... 250-733-2013</p> <p><b>Past President</b>  Judi Mirikami ..... 360-2776</p> <p><b>Program Directors:</b></p> <p><b>Canoe Program</b>  Joy Newham ..... 385-5876  <b>Dragon Boat Program</b>  Mike Fox ..... 391-0160  <b>Outrigger Program</b>  Keith Larusson ..... 598-7193  <b>Sea Kayak Program</b>  Susan Duhamell ..... 361-4738  Glynis Newman ..... 655-1272</p>	<p><b>Voyageur Program</b>  Don Munroe ..... 385-2268  <b>Marathon Canoe Program</b>  Ron Williams ..... 380-7496  <b>Education, Standards &amp; Safety</b>  Doug Linton ..... 727-0216  <b>Membership</b>  Tony Copping ..... 479-1308  <b>Clubhouse &amp; Grounds</b>  Kathleen Gunn ..... 384-6436</p> <p><b>Directors-at-Large</b>  Mavis Pillar ..... 384-4390  Diane Nishimura ..... 383-3080  Michael Jackson ..... 385-5727  Fraser Tweedy ..... 380-6952</p> <p><b>Executive Volunteer Positions</b>  Irena Jazwinski (Social Coordinator) 388-9757  Harold Gillis (Newsletter Editor) ... 598-9488  Maris Ratel (Boat &amp; Locker Storage .. 592-7082</p>
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## VCKC Clubhouse Bookings and Club Activities February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 General Meeting 7:30pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 VCKC Executive Meeting 7:30pm Mile 250-733-2013	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Kayak Program Meeting 7:00pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club is a member of:

RCABA (bccanoe.com);  
CRCA (paddlingcanada.ca);  
CORA (canadianoutrigger.com)

**General Meetings**

First Tuesday of each month (September to June)  
March Newsletter deadline: February 16, 2007

## Trips & Courses (Kayaking)

### Sea Kayak Program

#### Energizer Paddle Saturday, February 17, 2007

Meet at Amherst Street in Sidney at 9:30 am to be on the water by 10. We'll talk before hand about some of the options on this paddle, as we'll head north to Coal Island, circumnavigate it clockwise and after lunch on Goudge, paddle back. There is some current that day, perhaps 2.5 knots ebbing on our way over, and not a huge amount of tidal action early on.

This will be the second of the club's new (NMP Plus) paddles. These paddles are designed to add a little more distance and pace to our traditional outings, but it is still a NMP with all the attendant safety issues addressed.

The distance travelled will be roughly 7 NM, perhaps more if we wander around smaller islands and we'll maintain a pace of 3.5 knots.

Please email Susan Duhamel to confirm your attendance at seduhamel@yahoo.ca or call her at 361-4738

#### Get-Together Paddle Saturday, February 10, 2007

**When:** Saturday, February 10th. To be On The Water at 1030 hours (10:30 am).

**The Plan:** After a "Beach Talk" we'll put in and paddle North from Brentwood Bay along the coast line towards Coles Bay. Depending on weather, we may go past Coles Bay to Patricia Bay, returning to have lunch in Coles Bay. After lunch we'll head back to Brentwood Bay for a 1400 to 1500 hours (2 - 3 pm) landing.

**Put in location:** We'll meet at the bottom of Verdier in Brentwood Bay by the ferry dock. The "Beach Talk" will be held on the grass next to the ferry dock.

**Who:** All are welcome, old or new. Paddlers who are not club members are required to sign a waiver.

**Contact person:** Please contact Neil at ngs@islandnet.com or 727-1753 to confirm your attendance.

#### Guidelines:

Energizer and Get Together Paddles allow 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.

*Also coming up ...*

#### Navigation Lecture:

**TOPIC :** Local Weather Effects – Wind and Waves

**WHEN :** Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 PM

**WHERE :** VCKC Clubhouse

This is the second in the series of monthly navigation lectures for club members.

Doug Alderson will be hosting this one.

#### Navigation Lecture:

**TOPIC :** Charts and Compass

**WHEN :** Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 PM

**WHERE :** VCKC Clubhouse.

This is the third in the series of monthly navigation lectures for club members.

Dave Giuliani will be hosting this one. Email at dmgilulia@yahoo.ca to register for this one.

It would be helpful to bring with you a hikers compass, pencil and a length of string ( for measuring distances).

