



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

December 2007

**General Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2007
Annual Christmas Party
beginning at 6pm**

**Names from A-L
please bring main courses, appetizers and salads.**

**Names from M-Z Desserts
BYOB and a gift under \$5.00
if you want to participate in the gift exchange**

And money for raffle tickets

**And if you can help Sunday December 2 at 1pm we need people
to decorate the clubhouse for the party.**

Please come and help if you can.



President's Message

Greetings!

It is with sadness and perhaps some relief that I am letting you know that I will be stepping down as president of the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club and making that position available to someone else for next year. My intention, however, is not to leave the Executive as I will remain as Past President and I look forward in the future to running as president again. And if you again chose me as your president, after having known me, then that will be a true test of how you see me and how effective a job I have done and will do in the future.

Without naming our accomplishments, with which you are probably familiar, I want you to know that my biggest challenge was relationships with some of our membership. Although I had few difficult situations, I reaped more rewards from them than tears.

Being a president for one year gave me the opportunity to learn some things about me and gave me awareness of things that I would do differently the next time. I do not shy away from challenges; and that is something that I like about myself. I don't want to assume to be my own judge or yours, for that matter. However, I believe that when you put a number of individuals in one room that in itself will require patience, acceptance, understanding and, most of all, goodwill and kindness. Sometimes there is a fine line between chairing a meeting to ensure everyone is heard as opposed to making sure that my opinion is more important.

With Christmas coming up, instead of a general meeting in December, we are having a Christmas Party, pot luck and gift exchange (bring a gift, you get a gift). (Details are on the front page of this newsletter.) Very important, however, is that there will be "silent auction" items and a raffle to kick-start the 2008 Voyageur Crossing to Port Angeles to raise money for the kids at Shawnigan Lake Camp. So along with your food and your spirits, please bring money to buy tickets.

As the first Tuesday in January is New Year's Day, the general meeting will move to the second Tuesday of the month, January 8. This is our Annual General Meeting and elections will be held for various vacancies on our Executive. However, you must be a paid up member for 2008 before you can be nominated or vote at the meeting. December is, therefore, also a good month to pay your membership dues for 2008.

This being my last letter for 2007, Lorna and I would

like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Hristos se Rodi and Srecna Nova Godina!)

Mile Petrovic
President, VCKC

Canoe Program Report

New Year's Day Paddle

The tradition of the VCKC New Year's Day paddle will continue in 2008. Meet at the Clubhouse at 10.30 am on Tuesday January 1st and get the Hogmanay cobwebs out of your hair for a great start to the year. The paddle will be on the Gorge and last about two hours. Bring your Christmas leftovers for a pot-luck lunch afterwards - Alan and Linda will bring their excellent mulled wine, in case it is wet and windy, which Heaven forbid. The paddle is open to all members and all types of paddle craft - although I doubt that the dragonboats will be launched for the occasion. The voyageur canoes will be available for those who would like to paddle in a more social setting.

Any questions call Don Munroe 385-2268 or Alan Thomson 592-4170.

Flatwater Paddles

The Canoe Program Flatwater paddles will start up on Saturday, January 5 with the second one on Sunday, January 20. Reminder notices will be sent out by e-mail to all Canoe Program members ahead of time. Kayakers are welcome to join us. I'd say we paddle slower than most kayaking trips and have smaller numbers. If we are going to go up creeks or rivers that might be difficult for a double-bladed craft, we'll let you know. But most trips would be suitable for canoes and kayaks.

Canoeing Courses

The Canoe Program Instructors have had a very busy and successful Fall season of courses with over 40 students taking the basic tandem lakewater course, 13 the basic solo canoe course and about 8-9 paddlers taking the advanced lakewater levels as well. On top of this, seven canoeists successfully took the moving water tandem course with six more tackling the more difficult solo river paddling course. Congratulations to all the successful participants and thanks to the instructors who took on the courses - Jean Chandler, Todd Irvine, Ellie James, Joy Newham, Tom Staebell, Alan and Linda Thomson and Dan Walker. Special thanks to Tom who organised all the names and students.

New System for Membership Registration and Payment

Starting in January, you will be able to do registration and payment of your VCKC membership fees using VCKC's website. This will make for a significant reduction in the time **delay** for members in getting their names into the current program activity lists and result in a major saving in the effort involved for processing memberships and payments.

VCKC has grown to over 500 active members. The effort to keep membership data up to date, and to provide current membership lists to program directors, has become unmanageable using the current paper-driven processing system. The solution is to adopt an approach used by many clubs, which is to go to an on-line registration system with on-line payment using PayPal. (PayPal is an established online payment processing solution.) Members who pay online will have the satisfaction of maintaining their own data and knowing that it is up-to-date and accurate. As well, their names will be entered into the program activity lists as soon as they have paid.

Of course, there is still the option to download the membership form (or pick one up at the clubhouse) and to pay by cheque if you would rather not use the on-line system.

The on-line system conforms to Provincial and Federal privacy and security standards, as stated in the membership form. The PayPal system is a widely-used and secure approach for online payment that ensures protection for credit card payments.

The online project is being conducted by a team consisting of Tony Copping (Project Manager and Membership Director), Mike Fox (Dragon Boat Director and Webmaster), Mike Jackson (Member at Large and advisor), and Sean Burnett (Programming Contractor). Sean has previously implemented a similar solution for the Vancouver Beaver Canoe Club and is providing the technology at a significant discount to VCKC as a result.

If you have any questions please direct them to Tony Copping up to December 31 and to Mike Fox after January 1st.

We anticipate that the new system will be in production in January. Please wait for the official notice of availability before attempting to make an online payment. We will be converting the membership data that we have for you but you will want to check and update some areas. For example, the new system will record each member of a family, and collect each person's email.

Tony Copping
Membership Director



Canoe Lessons on the Gorge earlier this Fall
(Photo: Joy Newham)

**Kayak Trip Report
Energizer Paddle
October 27, 2007**

Mike Jackson led the Energizer Paddle on the weekend of October 27. We launched at Agate Park which is off Agate Lane just north of McMorans Restaurant on Cordova Bay Road. The tide was with us but there was a good breeze to make us work as we followed Cordova Bay towards Ten Mile Point. Once across Cordova Bay, we rested in the lee of Cormorant Point while our group of 18 paddlers (we only lost one!) got organized.

As expected, there was more wind on the other side of Cormorant Point. The wind and waves continued to build as we rounded Gordon Point. Our original plan was to paddle to Arbutus Cove or Telegraph Cove, but we elected to break for lunch just beyond Gordon Point out of the wind in a nice protected cove.

After a leisurely lunch, we set off, once again with the current for the return trip. With the wind at our backs this time, we made good progress around Cormorant Point and directly across Cordova Bay to our put-in. The stiff breeze at our backs set up a following sea. My boat was nosing into the waves whenever a larger wave overtook me. (Note to self, check the trim more carefully on my boat for next time).

Mike got his sail up on the way back. I'm sure he had a good ride.

Arriving at the beach there was a gentle surf to negotiate. I wish I had a plastic boat as this looks like a fine place to practice with the wind coming onshore.

Another fine (but windy!) paddling day.

submitted by Gary Jaseck



Voyageurs returning from Port Angeles, WA earlier this year
(Photo: H.Gillis)

Kayak Program Report

This month James Clowater once again shared his enthusiasm and knowledge about local waterfowl making us all more aware of these amazing creatures with which we share the water!

Remember, in December there will be no formal meeting for the kayak program, as Christmas seems to take over our lives. Instead, please join all club members at the annual VCKC Christmas Party on December 4th at 6pm at the clubhouse. Decorations are put up, Santa makes an appearance, and if you wish, gifts under \$5 are exchanged (just bring the gift with you and someone will be there to add it to the others). It's a pot luck supper, so those with surnames from A to M bring savouries, N to Z bring sweets. There will be a raffle sale to raise funds for Lions Camp Shawnigan (bring items to donate that are suitable to raise money). And bring dry good contributions for the Mustard Seed. Join us for a fun evening and enjoy mingling with paddlers from all programs.

We continue to have monthly paddles. The last few have taken us to Sooke River, Agate Beach, and Colquitz Creek. See the Trips and Courses section in this Newsletter for the date of the December paddle. It will be our annual Christmas paddle up Mill Creek, stopping at the Six Mile Pub to enjoy a hot lunch, hot or cold drink and the season spirit. This paddle is not to be missed. But if you can't join us on the water, consider joining us at the pub for lunch and a glass of "Christmas Cheer"!

As a reminder, we (Glynis and Susan) are stepping down as program directors in 2008 and we haven't yet had anyone step forward to take our place. We would be happy to talk with anyone interested and give some idea of what is involved.

Merry Christmas everyone, and best wishes for a New Year full of safe and happy paddling!

See you on the water!
Susan and Glynis

Trip Report Get Together Paddle October 21, 2007

Under Duncan Pennington's guidance, seventeen paddlers put in at 10am at Coopers Cove in Sooke Basin near the newly named Fuse restaurant. It was high tide so not much beach was available to us. We had light intermittent rain but the forecast wind didn't appear.

Several paddlers were new to VCKC and five or six were new to the Sooke River. Fred Trudell went ahead to do a safety check on the river for floating trees. The river was high and fast at the first tree well past the campground and nobody got past this point. Lots of dead fish (some alive) evident from spawning. The occasional seal. Difficult takeout for lunch at the campground under shelter because we had to skirt fly fishers and there was no beach to speak of.

On way back, yet another fisher off Billings Spit to avoid. Hot chocolate and company at the Fuse Restaurant were welcome at the end of a pleasant though wet Get Together Paddle.

submitted by Simon Williams



Trips & Courses (Kayaking)

Get Together Paddle:

When: Saturday, December 15, 2007

Where: Esquimalt Harbour/Mill Creek

The fifth annual Christmas Get Together Paddle will be held on Saturday, December 15th this year. As in the past, we will paddle across Esquimalt Harbour and up Mill Creek (hopefully to the falls). On the way back, we will 'beach' at the Six Mile Pub to have a glass of "Christmas Cheer" and lunch before heading back to our launching site.

Please contact Glynis (gnewmandvm@shaw.ca) or 655-1272 for information on time and where to meet. I will need a headcount for reservations at the pub.

Also, please be familiar with the Guidelines for Get-Together Paddles if you plan to attend. All paddlers welcome.

Guidelines: "Get-Together Paddles" allow new members to meet other members; to paddle in a safe environment and introduce new members to

Victoria area paddling locations. They are tailored to beginner paddlers although experienced paddlers are welcome to attend. The pace in GTPs is set by those at the back of the "pack". All those who plan to attend GTPs 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.



Race Rocks Paddle - March 2007

Trips (Canoeing)

Flatwater Paddles

Saturday, December 1, 2007

Saturday, January 5, 2008

Sunday, January 20, 2008

No trip routes are fixed as yet, but paddles on the ocean are the objective before the winter gales force us onto fresh water. The lakes and creeks will probably also be too low for extensive trips until early 2008. There are no very high tides among these dates, although there is a high tide around mid-day for most of them, so some delta paddles may be worthwhile. If you have a favourite route, let Alan or Linda know and we'll see if we can fit it in.

See Canoe Program report for details for our annual New Year's Day paddle.

General Notes on trips:

- 1) All trips leave from the parking lot by the Clubhouse at 9am unless participants are otherwise notified. The trips generally last all day – aim is to be back in town before 5pm;
- 2) Call Alan or Linda @ 592-4170 or e-mail us at 3135thom@islandnet.com by the Thursday evening before a scheduled trip so that we can arrange for canoes and partners if needed;
- 3) Take lunch and a change of clothing with you; and wear clothing appropriate to the forecast weather;
- 4) Pre-requisite skills are Lakewater/Flatwater Level I or equivalent – as assessed by trip leader;
- 5) Kayakers are welcome;
- 6) Trips with fewer than three boats signed up may proceed, but will not be official VCKC trips;
- 7) Check the weather forecasts – public and marine – for wind and rain predictions. The weather line is 363-6717 or 363-6880 in Victoria; or you can check on the web at [http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/bc-](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/bc-85_metric_e.html)

[85_metric_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/marine/marine_e.html?c-has) for Public weather or http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/marine/marine_e.html?c-has for Marine weather.

Checking tides and currents for at least Victoria and Fulford Harbour is good practice, too. These can be found in the Times Colonist, various Angling Club publications, Islands Tides; Volume 5 of the Canadian Tide and Current Tables for this year and on the Web. (I don't use the web much for this purpose, but one site that gives currents in detail is http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/sites_uswest.html . Anyone who has better sources, please let me know and I'll pass the address on next month).

Moving Water Trips

Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007

contact Tom Staebell
res. 655-7113 after 5:00 p.m.
cel. 588-2207 after 6:30 a.m.
off. 652-1121 7-4, Mon-Fri
or thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca
to get on an email list for updates.

General Notes for Moving Water Trips

VCKC river trips are open to current members or invited guests (waiver required) who have received RCABC or equivalent instruction and who agree to abide by VCKC safety rules as outlined in the member guide.

Unless otherwise announced, we meet at 8:30 am at the Millstream Park'n'Ride (exit 14/Sooke off the Island Highway) and carpool to the appropriate river section. Please contribute to driver's fuel and vehicle expenses (\$10 is appropriate these days).

Trips are USUALLY scheduled for the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of the calendar month but are subject to last minute cancellation due to water level or road closures so please advise by Thursday evening if you plan to attend and phone my cell (after 6:30 am, please) if your plans change. The two club river boats are available for a modest fee on a "first call" basis.

VCKC Executive

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

VCKC Clubhouse Bookings and Club Activities December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Christmas Party 6:00pm	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 VCKC Executive Meeting 7:00pm Mile 250-733-2013	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club is a member of:

RCABC (bccanoe.com);
 Paddle Canada (paddlingcanada.com);
 CORA (canadianoutrigger.com)

General Meetings

First Tuesday of each month (September to June)
 December Newsletter deadline: Dec 12, 2007