



# Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club  
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Phone: 361-4238 (Info only)  
Website: [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca)

January 2008

**Don't Forget  
Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club  
Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday, January 8, 2008  
7:30pm**

## VCKC Christmas Party



Photos: Wendy Clapp

## President's Message

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I would like to greet you one more time before my term is over. It has been a great year for me. I feel successful as president and with myself. It has been said that "stormy seas make a good sailor". I don't believe that I had enough storms to *become* a good sailor; however, I have a pretty good idea what it takes to *be* a good sailor.

I had the privilege to work with a great bunch of people on the executive level and I am looking forward to working with them next year as past president. We accomplished a lot this year. If I were running for president again and wanted to persuade you to vote for me, I would name them all for that purpose. In this case, I have the luxury to leave it up to you; not to figure it out, but to know what those things are.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Kathleen Gunn for her efforts in making our clubhouse more comfortable and presentable. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Harold Gillis, whom we did not see very often, but through his reliable work on the newsletters, we knew that he was there.

I hope to see you at the paddle on January 1, 2008.

Have a safe and a happy holidays!

Thank you for everything, and as our famous immigrant would say, "I'll be back".

Mile Petrovic  
President, VCKC

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## Canoe Program Report

Happy New Year canoeing friends. I hope you have enjoyed a great year of paddling and are looking forward to many more good trips in 2008. And remember that you can start the year off with a short paddle on New Year's Day at the Club followed by a potluck lunch. Then we can use your help in taking down the Christmas decorations.

I have enjoyed being your representative on the Executive this past year. Thank you for your support. I have offered to stand again in 2008 as Canoe Program Director but certainly encourage any of you who would like to have an opportunity to work more closely with the club to put your name forward.

This has been a busy year for me with activities outside the Club and I would like to offer a huge "Thank You" to Alan Thomson for all of his help. Throughout the year, Alan has organized and led the majority of flatwater paddles; he has provided many trip write-ups for the newsletter and he has presented ideas for the entertainment portion of our Canoe Program meetings, then organized them.

As well, Alan has instructed a number of canoe courses and has just received his moving water instructor certification. Congratulations Alan! And then, in his spare time, he has built new canoe racks, repaired broken ones, repaired club canoes and built storage areas for the garbage cans and storage for the tenants. Alan, what would we do without you?

### New Moving Water Instructors

Congratulations to Alan Thomson, Tom Staebell and Dan Walker, who recently became certified moving water instructors, under the excellent tutelage of Master Instructor Ellie James. Their qualifications will be a great advantage to the Club as there has been a good deal of interest shown by a number people wanting moving water instruction. Thank you all for your efforts!

### More "Thanks"

Throughout the year the Canoe Program has offered a variety of canoe courses, both to Club members and also to groups outside the club, such as Scouts and Guides. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the instructors who have played such a big role in helping our canoe program teach new paddlers basic skills and teach experienced paddlers the more advanced courses. People who have volunteered many hours of instruction this past year are: Alan Thomson, Dan Walker, Ellie James, Jean Chandler, Linda Thomson, Tom Staebell (and yours truly).

### Next Meeting

The first Canoe Program meeting of the new year will take place on Monday, January 21 beginning at 7:30pm. Peter Harris, owner of Pacifica Paddle Sports, will do a presentation on different aspects of canoeing history. Peter has been in the paddling business as a trip leader, canoe seller, transporter, repairer and almost any other aspect of the sport you care to name. Please come out and enjoy this opportunity to learn more about our favourite sport!

Joy Newham  
Canoe Program Director

## Trip Report Score

### WIND GODS 3 - VCKC CANOE PROGRAM - O

Twice before this season we have planned trips in the delta areas of the Cowichan or Chemainus Rivers, taking advantage of high tides near mid-day. On both occasions the weather forecast was for SE strong winds to come up during the day so we chose other destinations - Sooke Harbour/River the first time; Somenos Lake and Creek the next. On both days, the wind stayed down and we probably could have safely paddled in the deltas. But Cowichan Bay in a SE gale is an uncomfortable place to paddle - shallow so the waves are choppy - and the return from Genoa Bay means that the wind is always on the beam. Definitely unpleasant.

A very high tide was predicted before mid-day for the December 2, so the plan was to try for the Cowichan delta yet again. If we paddled up the Koksilah, portaged over to the Cowichan River and hence down to the Bay we should have a fairly sheltered route, wind or not. Should have known better as the saying goes - if at first you don't succeed, change your expectations.

Saturday December 1 was the day of the big snowstorm up-island: I was paddling on the Cowichan that morning, and on the way back that afternoon, it took us 2 hours to get from Duncan to Millstream, usually a 30 minute trip. So mentally, I was prepared for a change of route, and checked the forecasts and the Malahat webcams regularly.

On Sunday morning, the Malahat cameras showed that traffic was moving but there was still snow on the road and I wondered about the chances of getting down to and out of Cowichan Bay and the put-in at Hecate Park without mishap. The Petrovics e-mailed from Cobble Hill that they had a foot of snow and Andre from Fork Lake in the Highlands called to say that he didn't fancy his chances on the hill from his property. Finally, the forecast was for - guess what? - strong SE winds. So the 7 canoes on the roster were down to 5 when we met at the

Clubhouse at 8.30am on a wet and cold day. The consensus was to put-in at Esquimalt Lagoon with the plan to paddle the Lagoon and then head out into Esquimalt Harbour. The current was running strongly under the bridge when we launched, carrying us into the sheltered and shallow waters. We paddled round the Lagoon in pretty continuous rain that was probably sleet 200 feet above, noting deer, swans, eagles herons and many ducks before returning to the bridge.

The wind was not very strong at this point, but the waves were breaking on the spit and in towards the small cliff to the north of the lagoon entrance. There looked to be a clear route close in to the cliffs that would take us out and so let us get to Esquimalt Harbour entrance and then to Millstream. But the current was still flooding strongly, so the calm water was moving against our direction of travel, requiring strong paddling from the bow person and steering by the sternsman. Emmerich was the first to say that he'd rather not and started to empty his canoe. Then Ken and Jean took a look and Jean reckoned her shoulder might not be up to it, so two down. Dave and Lori were happy to go or to stay, Linda and Maris were equivocal and Rob and I weren't going to go alone. And so we retreated, wet and very cold, to the comforts of the 6- Mile Pub, where soup, hot rum toddies and hot chocolates accompanied our justifications for bailing out. I think being in the pub before 11am is some kind of a record for Club trips - but I'd be happy to be corrected on this.

By the time we reached home on Willows Beach, after mid-day, the wind was certainly strong and from the SE, with windsurfers out on Oak Bay. We'd likely have got round to Esquimalt Harbour, but would have had to walk out to pick up the vehicles, so it was a good call by my fellow stoics (or fanatics?) - Emmerich Sperrer and Pauline Campbell; Linda Thomson and Maris Ratel, Dave Whitehead and Lori Flahr, Ken Gibbard and Jean Chandler; Rob Thompson and Alan Thomson.

Submitted by Alan Thomson



## Kayak Program Report

Well, it's that time of the year when we tend to reflect on the past, and look forward to the future.

The Kayak Program had an amazing year in 2007!

Our volunteer instructors put on four Paddle Canada Flatwater Certification Courses and four Level One Certification Courses. The monthly Navigation Clinics/Lectures (5 of them) were a huge success again this past year. And there was the Forward Stroke Clinic, the Manoeuvring in Wind Clinic, the Towing Clinic, the ever popular and productive Thursday night practice Sessions at Elk Lake, six Kayak Program Meetings with informative speakers and the two new "Social" Get-Togethers with lots to eat, drink and tales to share.

And let's not forget the twelve Get Together Paddles and eight Energizer Paddles that drew as many as 34 paddlers together on the water at one time!! And there was the "Paddler's Gear Swap" where lots of great gear got recycled and reused!

And last but not least, 2007 really surpassed itself when so many kayak members worked together to stage the first ever "Paddlers Wear Prada" Fashion Show where we managed to raise almost \$4000 for Camp Shawnigan kids! What a year! Without a doubt, the Kayak Program showed itself to be an incredible "force" within VCKC with over 250 members this year - an amazing group of people with a passion for their chosen paddlesport! We (Susan and Glynis) have been inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of so many of you. We thank you and we are proud to have represented the Kayak Program over the past 12 months.

Glynis and Susan



Canoe/Kayak Art

### We get questions ...

Corinne Dulberg is wondering if any VCKC members could recommend any lodge-based sea kayaking outfitters or sites. You can contact Corinne at:

dulberg@nwlinc.com

or drop a line to the newsletter and I'll include the information in next month's issue.

### More Christmas Party Photos



And we have a winner



Judie Guignon receives door prize

(Photos: Wendy Clapp)

### Correction

Last month's newsletter included a photo of a canoe course taking place on the Gorge near the Clubhouse. The photo was incorrectly credited to Joy Newham (who I'm sure is a fine photographer). The photo was actually taken by Mike Fox.

## Kayak Trip Report

As we awoke to the pounding rain and wind early Saturday morning, I thought I should check my email to see if the annual Christmas paddle to the Six Mile Pub from the Canadian Forces Sailing Association (CFSA) was to be cancelled. No email from the organizer Glynis. As Nancy and I sipped our coffee and ate breakfast we checked the weather on the internet. To quote an expression, the weather "looked worse than five miles of bad road". After loading our boats on the car we checked one more time, looks like its still on.

As we drove down Maple Bay Rd to the CFSA we saw a car with a kayak on top going past us the other way. I then assumed there wasn't going to be much of a turn out. I pictured the Six Mile Pub parking lot full of vehicles with Kayaks on top around noon. However as I pulled into the CFSA I could see I couldn't have been more wrong. The lot was almost full of cars and kayaks. There was also a large group of kayakers huddling under a tree trying unsuccessfully to stay dry from the pouring rain.

As Glynis gave the safety talk on the shore it was apparent that we had a pretty hardy group of 29 paddlers who would have no problem paddling the reasonably protected waters of Esquimalt Harbour. We launched our boats as it continued to rain and a fairly stiff wind blew. We hugged the shoreline down towards the Six Mile bridge. As we got to Coal Island

it was with sadness that we all realized that Duncan was not there to give his colourful commentary on the history of the Island and the installation the water main under the six mile bridge. We carried on the paddle past the Six Mile up to the falls. We had just barely enough water to get up with only a few minor grounding incidents.

As we arrived back at the Six Mile for lunch, some volunteers had set up a line for everyone to tie off to and help everyone get ashore quickly and in a very orderly fashion. Amazing what can be done when there is beer waiting for you at the pub with your name on it. While the trail up to the pub was wet and slippery the bushes had been cut back as usual by Glynis and Gary. It would have been impossible to get up the hill without all the hard work done in preparing the path. Although the pub staff was overwhelmed by 29 soaking wet kayak nuts we all had a great lunch.

Upon getting back on the water for the return trip we all grouped together like a finely oiled machine for the second annual 'pin-wheel' photo shoot. Okay it was more like hit to pass night at Western Speedway but we got into position as Doug Linton snapped pictures and yelled: "PEOPLE, PEOPLE WORK WITH ME!" Just kidding we couldn't hear a thing he was saying as he took the pictures from atop the Six Mile bridge. The weather improved considerably for the return paddle as we meandered back along the shore to the CFSA.



Photo: Doug Linton

**26th YEAR  
VCKC PADDLE FOR THE KIDS  
LIVES ON !!!**

This special Voyageur Canoe Event is our Club's big fund raiser on behalf of the Lions Society of B.C. The event raises money to assist in the funding of programs for Kids with Disabilities. Its special focus is to support Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan where the children can safely experience the fun of camping and waterspouts.

In the last 25 years, the membership of VCKC have raised over \$180,000.00 which has contributed hugely to our clubs very high standing in our community. This year's paddle to Port Angeles and back will be on Saturday, March 29, 2008 (weather permitting). We'll begin from our clubhouse at 6:30 am and finishing around 5pm in Victoria's Inner Harbour. It's a fun day and you do not have to paddle the whole day as we paddle in shifts of approximately 1½ hours.

A Navel Escort carries the spare crews in the relative

comfort of an 85 ft training ship and the crew changes are made by an 18 person Zodiac, provided by the Victoria Marine Rescue Society. Refreshments are provided by the Port Angeles Lions Society and a Pot luck Feast will be waiting at the Clubhouse to celebrate the return. This is a wonderful cause and the club needs your support to encourage family and friends to make a pledge on the behalf of VCKC and the BC Lions Society for Kids with Disabilities. Donations over \$25.00 are tax deductible.

Training begins Sunday, Jan 27th at 8:30AM from VCKC with a welcome and a briefing followed by a "Getting to Know You Paddle" to and around the outer harbour to get rid of some toxins before stopping at Spinnakers for lunch and refreshments.

The rest of the Sunday training sessions start at 9am from VCKC and a carpool is set up for the training site.

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- Feb 3 Pat Bay to Sidney with a stop at the Stonehouse Pub for lunch  
Feb 10 Sooke Basin (Bring lunch)  
Feb 17 Island View Beach to Oak Bay (Bring lunch)  
Feb 24 Maple Bay to Cowichan Bay via Cowichan River (Bring lunch)  
Mar 2 Portland Is. to Rum Island and back to Sidney (Bring lunch)  
Mar 9 Thetis and Kuper Island from Chemainus with lunch and refreshments stop at Pub  
Mar 16 Sidney, James Island (Bring lunch)  
Mar 23 VCKC to Oak Bay (Bring lunch)
- Mar 29 (Saturday) Port Angeles and back. Meet at VCKC at 6 AM.  
Bring snacks and refreshments for the round trip.
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You don't have to make every practice but you should try to make at least two depending on your experience and physical condition.

For further info. Contact Don Munroe at 385-2268 or Alan Thomson at 592-4170.

**LET'S MAKE THIS YEAR'S PADDLE SPECIAL!**

Gear Required: paddle, lifejacket (pfd), rubber boots, rain gear, water, snacks and a change of clothes in a watertight container (e.g. dry bag)



## Trips (Canoeing)

### Flatwater Paddles

**Tuesday, January 1, 2008**

**Saturday, January 5, 2008**

**Sunday, January 20, 2008**

**Saturday February 2, 2008**

The New Year's Day paddle is open to all club paddlers, and canoeists are encouraged to join in – see December's Newsletter Canoe Program Report. We'll start at 10.30 am at the Clubhouse, two hours of paddling and then back to the Clubhouse for a pot-luck of leftovers and mulled wine.

No destinations have been planned for the January paddles. Based on our experiences in the Fall, we'd have to change them anyway as the wind allows. I'd like to try to add to the routes we've done on Juan de Fuca Strait (e.g. from Pedder Bay via William and Albert Heads to Esquimalt Lagoon). There may also be options further out towards Jordan River. But these will require good weather so can't be guaranteed. Beyond that, we are still hoping to paddle in the river deltas, if the weather cooperates.

### 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 return before 5pm;
- 2) Call Alan or Linda @ 592-4170 or by e-mail 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/Lakewater Level I (tandem) 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-85\\_metric\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/bc-85_metric_e.html) for Public weather or [http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/marine/marine\\_e.html?c-has](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](http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/sites_uswest.html))

## Have you recently paddled Johnstone Strait?



### Protect the experience for future paddlers.

The School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University is looking for kayakers who have paddled Johnstone Strait **sometime in the past five years**. By participating in this research, your experience and your opinions will be considered in the ongoing, community based, Johnstone Strait Recreation project, which focuses on improving the management of sea kayaking and camping in Johnstone Strait.

Both the research and the management project are sponsored by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts and the Integrated Land Management Bureau.

Please visit:

[www.kayaking.rem.sfu.ca](http://www.kayaking.rem.sfu.ca)

SFU SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

School of Resource and  
Environmental Management

## VCKC Executive

<p><b>President</b>  <b>Mile Petrovic</b> ..... 250-733-2013</p> <p><b>Vice President</b>            Linda Thomson..... 592-4170</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b>            Fred Trudel ..... 480-0880</p> <p><b>Secretary</b>            Lorna Petrovic ..... 250-733-2013</p> <p><b>Past President</b>            Judi Murakami ..... 360-2776</p> <p><b>Program Directors:</b></p> <p><b>Canoe Program</b>            Joy Newham ..... 385-5876</p> <p><b>Dragon Boat Program</b>            Mike Fox ..... 391-0160</p> <p><b>Outrigger Program</b>            Keith Larusson ..... 598-7193</p> <p><b>Sea Kayak Program</b>            Susan Duhamell ..... 361-4738            Glynis Newman ..... 655-1272</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>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 January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Annual General Meeting 7:00pm	9	10	11	12
13	14 Ageless Warriors Team Mtg 7:30pm	15 VCKC Executive Meeting 7:30pm Mile 250-733-2013	16	17	18	19
20	21 Canoe Program Meeting 7:30pm	22 Outrigger General Meeting 7:30pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**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: Jan 15, 2008