



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
355 Gorge Road West
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9
Phone: 361-4238 (Info only)
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March 2008



VCKC General Meeting Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Special guest, Grant Keddie, Curator of Archaeology at the Royal B.C. Museum will present a talk on the changing landscape and human history of Greater Victoria since the last ice age.

Grant Keddie is the author of "Songhees Pictorial - A History of Local First Nations".

Clubhouse News

On Sunday, February 17, the clubhouse was open to the public and VCKC helped host a very successful, standing room only start to the BC Heritage Week celebrations put on by Saanich Planning Department. Mayor Frank Leonard and Councillor Vic Derman, opened the afternoon and Dennis Minaker gave a slide show presentation of the History of the Gorge. Jane Evans, of the Planning Department then led a walking tour along the Gorge to Craigflower School giving us all details of the heritage properties along the way. (There are some brochures marking these properties in the clubhouse for those interested.)

The event was well attended by club members and I'd particularly like to thank Maris Ratel, Mavis Pillar and Alan Thomson for their help in setting up and assisting throughout the afternoon.

Canoe Program Meeting
March 17, 2008 at 7:30
Guest speaker: Andy Denholm

Andy Denholm is a resident of Lake Cowichan and has paddled the different parts of the Cowichan River more than probably anyone else in recent years. He has worked in the forest industry and on contract for Parks, setting up campsites such as those at Stoltz Pool. Andy joined in the VCKC moving water paddling group with enthusiasm some 10 years ago - maybe more - and became very proficient, teaching himself to roll his solo boat and to tackle almost anything that the rivers of the South Island had to offer. (In this he was, perhaps, stimulated by the upcoming competition from his son, Kenny, who shares his 'devil-take-the-hindmost' attitude towards paddling.) A river trip with Andy is always fun, whether being provoked into manoeuvres one would normally be sensible to avoid, or watching Andy's amazing ability to escape, unscathed, the consequences of his own driving paddling style.

On a less happy note, the club has received notification from the Senior By-Law Enforcement Officer of Saanich that a formal complaint was filed on January 24 by a pedestrian who said that the public pathway in front and to the side of the clubhouse was blocked by a large group of people, presumably club members, doing warm-up exercises. We don't know when the incident occurred but it is a good reminder for us that it is a public walkway, and care MUST be taken during ALL club activities, to avoid blocking it. Some activities, such as washing boats etc would be difficult to do elsewhere, but warm-up exercises, for instance, could be done on the slipway or in the park, where other groups do gather for exercise programs.

Linda Thomson

In recent years, Andy has become a mature student, studying to become a Child Social worker (I think) at Malaspina College. When he started this career change, Andy decided to also start exploring the Canadian waterways seriously. Since that time, he has solo paddled across Canada by a number of routes, re-tracing voyageur routes and tackling Arctic river trips that extend for three months or more each summer. To do this, he builds his canoes, usually leaving them at trip end to be sold if and when a buyer comes along. On these trips, Andy takes photographs that are a tribute to his patience and skill as a photographer, but also a hallmark of the advantages of paddling solo - no talking or noise to frighten the wildlife; no timetable that has to be set for the group. Come and see his photos NOW: Andy plans to work in Alberta after he graduates this Spring, so this may be your one and only chance to see these great pictures.

Joy Newham

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

This special Voyageur Canoe Event is our Club's big fundraiser 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

- 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.

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.

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.

Training began Sunday, January 27. The rest of the Sunday training sessions start at 9am from VCKC and a carpool is set up for the training site.

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).

The David Thompson Brigade
Four Provinces
Three Drainages
Two Centuries of History
All for One Big Event

On May 8, our club hopes to send a representative team of voyageurs to participate in the Bicentennial of the David Thompson Brigade from Rocky Mountain House in Alberta to Thunder Bay, Ontario -- a total distance of 3600km. The route includes paddling downstream, upstream, across open water, and approximately 35 portages. It will end in Thunder Bay on July 12.

If anyone would like to take part in this memorable historical trip, our team (Shawnigan) has an opening for either a full or part distance paddler. If you're interested, contact Don Munroe at 385-2268.



Outrigger Program

Wake Up The Gorge (WUTG) is our annual CORA (Canadian Outrigger Racing Association) race series. They run as follows:

April 12 – OC 6 races
(1000 meters with one turn)

April 13 – Small Boat Races

Wake Up The Gorge is a very festive two days in our Gorgeous Park, if you will pardon the play on words. Last year there were 29 teams competing for medals in four divisions.

These are very exciting races for both competitors and spectators. Mark your calendars and come out and enjoy the races and refreshments.

The small boats (depending on winds and tides) go out to K-21 off of McCauley point and back. In case of adverse tides and winds Ron Williams will make up a race course Sunday morning.

See you there
Keith Larusson



Looking for a place to live????

Furnished Floathome for Rent
Westbay Marine Village

May, June, & July (while we're on the David Thompson Brigade)

\$1,100/month, includes all utilities, phone, internet, parking, and a float to launch and store your kayak or canoe.

Doug & Cathy Hull
389-1645
CanoeHull@gmail.com

Attention Paddlers

&
& How would you like to live on the Gorge in a
& beautiful, low maintenance home with
& private deck, tons of storage (will hold lots
& of kayaks and the 20' high garage gives you
& extra space for those wide canoes), 3 bed-
& rooms, 3 bathrooms, new carpeting, 6 app-
& liances, brand new water heater, new roof in
& 2004, built in Beam vacuum, and a fabulous
& fig tree in the back. For more information,
& contact Judi Murakami at:
judimm@telus.net

Kayak Program Update

At VCKC's Annual General Meeting held at the beginning of January, new directors were elected for all programs except the Kayak Program. The result is that the Kayak Program has gone dormant. Kayakers have probably noticed an absence of scheduled kayak trips during January and February. On Thursday evening, February 21, Doug Linton chaired a meeting with concerned VCKC members to address this situation.

The outcome of the meeting is that the Kayak Program is still without a Director to lead the program but that several VCKC members have stepped forward to take some steps towards getting Kayak Program and its activities up and running again.

Doug Linton and VCKC President, Linda Thomson provided some background.

Last year there were approximately 200 VCKC members who indicated that kayaking was their main interest. Trips were very well attended with a typical turnout of 20 - 30 boats. As well, the Thursday night summer training sessions were a huge success with good turnouts every evening.

However, as of the beginning of the year, some of the Kayak Program's most active volunteers decided to look into establishing a new club with kayaking as its main focus. Their absence from the club has created a vacuum and remaining club members will have to step forward to ensure that the Kayak Program continues. Unfortunately, the success of the Kayak Program in past years (and the perceived workload) appears to have made members cautious about stepping up to lead the program. Doug Linton begged, cajoled and used subtle threats but no one among the 20 or so members attending was willing to take on the task.

Doug and Linda took some time to outline the various responsibilities and activities within the Kayak

Program. (Linda also pointed out that kayakers wanting to paddle are welcome to join in on the Canoe Program's monthly paddles.) After much discussion, several people volunteered to at least take on some of those duties and responsibilities in order to help revitalize the program.

Everyone agreed that getting trips scheduled again was a top priority. Steve White, a new VCKC member, agreed to help get paddlers active again by coordinating a trip in March (TBA). And Patti Stevens will be available to accept ideas and requests for future training courses and workshops. Marianne West agreed to be a contact for new club members interested in kayaking. Their contact information is as follows:

Steve White (Trip Coordinator)
Ph: 882-5439
Email: whitefreeman@hotmail.com

Patti Stevens (Courses and Workshops)
Email: pattilou_333@yahoo.com

Marianne West
Ph: 885-1723
Email: mjrose@hotmail.com

Now that people have stepped forward to coordinate specific activities within the Kayak Program, perhaps someone will step forward to be Director and work at coordinating the work of these individuals.

Another meeting of the Kayak Program will be held on Wednesday evening, March 19 beginning at 7:00pm. Please make an effort to come out, provide your input and assist our new volunteers in revitalizing VCKC's Kayak Program.

Harold Gillis
Newsletter Editor (and Reporter)



Trips & Courses (Canoeing)

Spring Canoe Courses

Moving Water Level 1:

March 29 & March 30 - full days

Contact: Tom Staebell

(H) 655-7113 after 5:00 p.m.

(W) 652-1121 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(Cell) 588-2207 after 6:30 a.m.

e-mail: thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca

Lakewater Level 1 (tandem):

Thursday, April 3 6:00 - 9:00

registration and classroom session

Sunday, April 6 8:30 - 5:00

Lakewater Level 2 (solo):

Sunday, April 13 8:30- 5:00

Lakewater Level 3 (tandem):

Saturday, May 31 8:30 - 5:00

Lakewater Level 4 (solo):

Sunday, June 1

Contact for Lakewater courses: Tom Staebell (see above)

Ocean Paddling Course:

Saturday, April 26 & Sunday, April 27 (Classroom sessions)

Saturday, May 17 to Monday, May 19

(Practical session, paddling, camping weekend)

Contact: Alan Thomson

(H) 592-4170 or

e-mail: 3135thom@islandnet.com

Spring Paddle Calendar

'Spring' may be a bit of a stretch but let's go with it for now. As usual, let me know by Thursday evening if you intend to paddle. Print this off and keep handy for reference.

Meet at the Millstream Park'n'Ride to leave at 8:30 am; Serious Coffee by the Silver Bridge in Duncan at 9:15 am.

Tom Staebell

res. 655-7113 after 5:00 pm

cel. 588-2207 after 6:30 am

off. 652-1121 7-4:30, Mon-Fri

March 1 (Saturday)

March 9 (Sunday)

March 22 (Saturday)

March 30 (Sunday)

April 12 (Saturday)

April 20 (Sunday)

May 3-4 Running of the Cows (Lake to Bay VII)

May 11 (Mother's Day)

May 24 (Saturday)

Flatwater Trips

March Flatwater trips are scheduled for:

Saturday, March 1

Sunday, March 16

Saturday, March 29

These trips are open to all Club members who have taken a Basic tandem canoe course or have equivalent experience, or have taken a basic kayaking course.

These day trips are often on the ocean, but the exact site depends on tides, currents and winds, as well as the skill levels of those taking part.

A reminder notice for each paddle is sent to members in the Canoe and Kayak sections the week before the trip, specifying the leader and tentative trip location.

Meet at the Clubhouse at 9am to double up on transport and make sure everyone has the necessary equipment. We plan to be back in town by 5pm at the latest.

Let the trip leader know by the Thursday evening beforehand if you plan to attend, specifying if you need a canoe, partner or other assistance.



The rivers flow not past, but through us, thrilling, tingling, vibrating every fiber and cell of the substance of our bodies, making them glide and sing. -- John Muir

VCKC Executive

President Linda Thomson..... 592-4170	Voyageur Program Don Munroe 385-2268
Vice President Marie-Eve Tessier 386-5652	Marathon Canoe Program Ron Williams 380-7496
Treasurer Sharron Rivest 478-2981	Education, Standards & Safety Doug Linton 727-0216
Secretary Tony Dalmy 483-5224	Membership Muriel Johnson..... 391-0560
Past President Mile Petrovic 250-733-2013	Clubhouse & Grounds Lawrence Irvine 920-3622
Program Directors:	Directors-at-Large
Canoe Program Joy Newham 385-5876	Diane Nishimura 383-3080
Dragon Boat Program Mike Fox 391-0160	Maris Ratel 592-7082
Outrigger Program Keith Larusson 598-7193	Executive Volunteer Positions
Sea Kayak Program Vacant	Ray Patts (Social Coordinator) 294-4445
	Harold Gillis (Newsletter Editor) 598-9488
	Maris Ratel (Boat & Locker Storage).. 592-7082

March Calendar

Sheet: March

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						Fluvial Canoe Trip Moving Water Canoe Trip
		7:30 PM General Meeting	8:00 PM Lake Nelson Team Meeting			
Moving Water Canoe Trip		7:00 PM Executive Meeting				
Fluvial Canoe Trip	5:30 PM Canoe Program meeting		7:00 PM Kayak Program Meeting			Moving Water Canoe Trip
		7:30 PM Outrigger Gen Mtg				Fluvial Canoe Trip Paddle for the Kids Pier Anglin and Back
Moving Water Canoe Trip		7:30 PM General Meeting		6:00 PM Laboratory Lunch / Registration		6:00pm Dining Hall Mtg/Social

Leaf 1

3/24/2008 5:05 PM

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)
 April Newsletter deadline: March 17, 2008