



Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club
355 Gorge Road West
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9
Phone: 250-590-8193 (Info only)
Website: www.vckc.ca

March 2009

General Meeting Tuesday March 3, 2009 7:30 pm

Ice, Ocean ... and Elephants!

Kayaking Antarctica and Vietnam with Dag Goering
and Maria Coffey

Expedition kayakers and adventure tour operators Dag Goering and Maria Coffey are returning to VCKC with a stunning presentation about their recent kayaking trips in Antarctica and Vietnam. As well as fabulous images and stories from the bottom of the world and the far reaches of Halong Bay, they will also give a sneak preview of their upcoming not-for-profit Elephant Earth Initiative.

Please check their website: www.hiddenplaces.net



Clubhouse News

NEW TREASURER REQUIRED!

Unfortunately, one month into the year, Sharron Larusson has had to retire as treasurer so we are starting the search for a replacement. I'm holding the fort temporarily, at least paying bills and depositing money, and Peter Kabel, a past treasurer has kindly offered to help. But neither of us are in a position to take on the full position for the rest of the year!! So, if you are interested in finding out what is involved, please contact me. Or if you know someone you think might be interested, please talk to them about it.

There was a public meeting on February 17 at Victoria City Hall concerning the mega-yacht marina proposed along the Songhees shoreline in the harbour. The meeting was arranged by the Vic West Community Association and MP Denise Savoie. Lachlan McLean, General Manager of International Marina, spoke on behalf of the developer. The meeting was very well attended with standing room only in the room and corridor outside. Many members of VCKC were present. The concerns about safety for the paddling community if the marina goes ahead in its present format were strongly and ably expressed by Doug Linton VCKC's Safety Director, Gary Allen of SSKA and individual club members. Thanks to everybody who attended. We hope this show of concern has some effect. International Marina, the developer, will be hosting an information/discussion session for the public on March 7 at Delta Ocean Point at 2pm. It would be a good opportunity to express your concerns again, and see if they are being addressed. So mark your calendar if you are free to go.

The good news is the weather is warming up, so happy paddling !

Linda Thomson
President, VCKC



(Photo: H. Gillis)

"The first thing you must learn about canoeing is that the canoe is not a lifeless, inanimate object: it feels very much alive, alive with the life of the river. Life is transmitted to the canoe by currents of air and the water upon which it rides. The behaviour and temperament of a canoe is dependent upon the elements: from the slightest breeze to a raging storm, from the smallest ripple to a towering wave, or from a meandering stream to a thundering rapid. Anyone can handle a canoe in a quiet millpond, but in a rapids a canoe is like a wild stallion. It must be kept on a tight rein. The canoeist must take the canoe where he or she wants it to go, not where it wants to go. Given the chance, the canoe will dump you overboard and continue on down the river by itself."

-- Bill Mason

Canoe Program Report

At our February meeting, Vanessa Elton gave a presentation on [Gumboot Adventures](#) voyageur trips in the Gulf Islands. With Vanessa's knowledge of the natural habitat, we were treated to great photos of marine and plant life. And pictures of the fabulous food she and Dwight prepare for their camping guests was an inspiration for us paddler/campers! No more beans and wieners! Thanks so much Vanessa and Dwight for your great slide show.

Following the program meeting I had a request for the recipe for "Hotrods" a chocolatey drop cookie I made. It is an easy recipe from my mom who used to make it for our school lunches – so I guess you could call it an antique recipe!!

Hotrods

½ cup butter or marg, melted
2 cups white sugar
½ cup cocoa (Fry's)
½ cup milk

Cook together for not more than 5 minutes. Add 3 cups rolled oats and ½ cup coconut. Mix thoroughly and drop by spoonful on ungreased sheet. I usually pop them in the fridge for a while to make them set quickly. We can pretend this is fairly healthy food, right?

Canoe Program Meeting:
Monday, March 16 @7:30 p.m.

Guest presenter: Ken Gibbard will show us slides of a Nahanni River trip from a few years ago. This area is of particular interest as there is proposed legislation to increase the size of the park to encompass more of the Nahanni watershed. Currently only about 20 percent of the watershed is protected as park. Ken always has wonderful photography so I am sure it will be a very interesting evening.

Joy Newham
Program Director



Speaking of cleanups ...

The VCKC Clubhouse and Gorge Cleanup is coming up on Saturday, April 18 between 9am and 1pm.

Please come on out and help to clean up the clubhouse and grounds and the Gorge Waterway. If you want to participate with the paddling group in the voyageurs, wear clothes and footwear that you don't mind getting muddy – it's a messy job but it's an adventure. We are so fortunate to have such a lovely location for our club. Please try to spare a couple of hours to help keep it looking spic and span. Gloves, garbage bags and dumpage are provided by the CRD, dumpsters by RDI, refreshments and treats by Tim Hortons.

Don Munroe

Wanted

Kelly Quinn is looking for a used touring kayak. And for the kayak she currently owns she searching for two small white water flotation bags; a pump; paddle float; cockpit cover (approximately 41 inches long X 2 inches wide) and outdoor storage space.

Kelly can be reached at 3 5035 or kellyqui4@yahoo.ca.

In Memory

Doug Collis 1921-2009

Many long-time members of the Club were saddened to learn of the death of Doug Collis. Doug had been a Club member for 32 years, serving on the Executive for 23 of them and as president on two occasions. He was one of the first two Life Members of the Club, an honour awarded to him and to Dick Kirby in 2001.

Canoeing was a large part of Doug's life. He was a paddler in his youth, kayaks, rowboats, whatever came his way. He joined the Club in 1976, one of a group of teachers who wanted to be certified so that they could take their pupils on canoe trips. But his interests expanded to include the Club's activities and he took part in many aspects of the Club's programs. These included canoe building, trip leading and instructing – activities he also undertook at school.

His classes in Industrial Arts made a series of canoes on a number of occasions. Most were bought and taken by the students who had made them; those that were not were used by the school for tripping. The Club still has two of these boats in use, a tribute to their construction. Pictures of the making of the Club's first marathon canoe are on the wall of the Clubhouse. At home he built other craft – kayaks for his grandchildren and yet more canoes.

Doug was always willing to undertake tasks for the Club – setting up and manning a booth, running Open Houses to show what the Club was doing; repairing and replacing the woodwork on the voyageur canoes; making small canoe models to collect money for the Timmy Telethon paddles to Port Angeles – the list goes on and on. He led flatwater canoe trips; he took part in river trips; he came out on the traditional Club weekends – Heather Camp in October; the Frost-Free weekend trips to Portland Island in May. He and Shirley used to host a Club weekend campout at their property on Shawnigan Lake. He took part in the first Paddle to Port Angeles and continued to do so into his late 70s.

He arranged for a team from BC to enter the Voyageur Cup races in Ottawa in the 1980s, the only time, to my knowledge, that this has been done. His long involvement in arranging and running the canoe races at the BC

Summer Games from 1978 to 1991 meant that he knew the people to call to get this venture moving. He also took part in the RCABC-organised voyageur canoe brigade for the 1993 Alexander Mackenzie Bicentennial when the three Montreal boats from Lakehead University reached BC.

Beyond the Club, Doug was a member of the Recreational Canoeing Association of BC's executive from 1986 to 1992 serving in a number of different positions. He was President from 1989-91. In 2004 he was the recipient of the Association's Brian Creer Award.

With his wife, Shirley, he paddled the Thames River in England in the 1980s, an uncommon feat in many ways. Along with five other Club members, Doug paddled the Yukon River in 1998, the Centennial year of the great Gold Rush. His last overnight camping canoe trip was to the Broken Islands. Along with Tony Shaw, he led a group of Boy Scout Rangers there in 2002. The teenage boys couldn't understand why they could not keep up with a canoe paddled by two men with a combined age of over 140 years!

Perhaps better known than his canoes, because there are more of them, are Doug's paddles. Light, tough and lovely to look at, Doug made these paddles individually to order. They have been very popular with Club members. There is a picture taken on a voyageur canoe paddle of Doug with ten members standing on each side of him, every one of them using a Collis paddle. At his memorial service, more than 25 present and past members of the Club attended, most with one of Doug's paddles.

I spent a lot of time with Doug over the last five years of his life and had the pleasure of spending most Fridays with him, listening to his stories from his long life. And I watched and helped as he worked on his last canoe. He was a very peaceable man to be with. If anyone ever writes a book called "The Zen of Canoe Building and Maintenance" it should be dedicated to Doug. I will miss him a lot, and remember him often.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Shirley, and to his 5 surviving children, Alvin, Dallas, David, Stephen and Nancy.

Alan Thomson



Kayak Courses

Paddle Canada Flatwater (Introduction to Kayaking)

Dates: Mar 21 + 22 / Apr 18 + 19

Location + Time: Crystal Pool - Sat 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm; VCKC Clubhouse + Gorge - Sun 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Cost: \$45

Register by: Wed Mar 11 / Wed Apr 8

For information on Paddle Canada course content, please go to Paddle Canada 's website and review the Sea Kayak Program overview at <http://paddlingcanada.com/programs/seakayaking/index.php>.

Workshop - You decide the topic!

Date: Saturday, April 4

Location + Time: Crystal Pool - 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

Cost: \$25

Register by: Wed Mar 25

Please register for these courses or workshops with Patti Stevens at pattilou_333@yahoo.com. Space is limited to 6 members, so don't delay!

Crystal Pool is located at 2275 Quadra Street . Entrance is from the East side by Central Park (Queens Ave).

VCKC has a few kayaks that are available for members on these club courses and workshops. When you register for a course, please indicate if you would like to book a club kayak. When you use a club kayak, all the safety equipment is provided. However, it is your responsibility to transport the kayak to and from Crystal Pool. Therefore, if you register for any of the above sessions at Crystal Pool, you will have to arrange your own transportation including roof racks and tie downs.

If there is a workshop that you would like to see happen, get a group of four to six members together and contact Patti at the above email address.

VCKC Membership

Your VCKC membership dues for 2009 must be paid in order to attend any club courses or

workshops. You can join online at www.vckc.ca.

The following is a list of volunteers for the Kayak Program:

Who's Who:

Program Director - Vacant

Meetings: Bon Lee - bonlee@shaw.ca

Email & other enquiries: Doug Linton
dlinton@shaw.ca

Communications (email) - Fred Trudell
fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca

Communications (paddlers' list) -
VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com

Courses & Workshops - Patti Stevens -
pattilou_333@yahoo.com

Kayak Bookings - Susan Zedel - szedel@shaw.ca

Library - Vic Turkington - victurkington@yahoo.com

Day Paddles and Expeditions - Marianne West -
mariannejwest@gmail.com and
Dorothea Hoffmann - polkadottie44@shaw.ca

Instructors - Tom Hukari, Patti Stevens, Yves Aquin, Dennis MacMillan, Dorothea Hoffman, Doug Linton, Marianne West, Michel Guerard.



Kayakers attending recent session at Crystal Pool.
(Photo: Michel Guerard)
More photos [here](#)

Trip Report
Multi-Million Dollar Home Tour

How things change! Alan Thomson had planned for a flat water paddle on Saturday, February 7 but, because of the birth of a new grandchild, asked me to take over. I have wanted to do another Becher Bay trip so Alan put out an email for that. By Friday morning we had only two canoes so I suggested we go to Thetis Lake instead. Heavy frost Saturday morning made me wonder if Thetis would be frozen and viewing the ice on Portage Inlet on the way to the club confirmed that, so we went to Cattle Point as an alternative.

It was a wonderful calm, semi-sunny day. Almost immediately our tour of grand homes began. We, Sam and Christine, Odette and myself paddled into every nook and cranny of the Cadboro Bay shoreline and behind every rock that was at least three feet offshore. Lunch was had sitting on a log in sunshine

on Flower Island.

After the super homes of the Uplands shoreline the more modest but still million dollar plus homes across the bay were not as spectacular but still interesting to get a good look at. We ended our tour in Smuggler's Cove at Ten Mile Point with formerly UVic's Glass House on our left and on our right a large new home. It is still in the making after five years of work on a large site from which three smaller homes have been demolished.

Then, with the wind and tide behind us, we crossed to Oak Bay Marina, toured Willows Beach and so back to Cattle Point where a Fisheries Officer checked for our non-existent catch. The day ended with eats at a café on Estevan Avenue with the sun streaming in onto to our table.

Ken Gibbard



Ken & Marilyn Tomlinson at the Moka House after their Friday Outrigger paddle. They're all smiles after the Friday Flyers team presented them with leis to take on their trip to Maui on February 20.



**27th 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 aim is to support Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan where the children can safely experience the fun of camping and water sports.

In the last 26 years, the membership of VCKC have raised over \$200,000 which has contributed hugely to our clubs very high standing in our community.

In past years, club members have paddled voyageur canoes to Port Angeles, Washington and back. Unless an escort boat or boats can be found to take us safely to Port Angeles, this year's paddle will go from Victoria to Sidney and back on Saturday, March 28 (weather permitting). We'll set off at 6:30 am and finish around 5:00 pm back at our club house.

It's a fun day and you do not have to paddle the whole distance as we paddle in shifts of approximately 1.5 hours. The Victoria Marine and Rescue Society are still willing to support us with an 18 person Zodiac for safety and crew changes. The Lions Society will provide a bus to pick up and drop off crews. The Sidney Lion's may provide refreshments in Sidney and a Pot Luck Feast will be a waiting at the clubhouse to celebrate the return.

This is a wonderful cause and the club needs everyone's support to encourage family and friends to make a pledge on the behalf of VCKC to the Lion's Society of B.C. for Kids with Disabilities. If you haven't made a pledge yet you can do so by pledging me at 355 Gorge Rd (W) V9A 1M9 or at the next membership meeting. Donations over \$25.00

are tax deductible.

Training began at the beginning of February. By the time you get this newsletter there will be on 4 practices left. So if you haven't got your two paddles in yet, please try to make them. Also there's still a chance we'll be going to Port Angeles, so stay tuned.

For the remainder of the Sunday training practices meet at 9:00 am at VCKC and car pooling will be organized.

This is the schedule of training paddles:

- March 1 Pat Bay to Sidney (Bring Lunch)
- March 8 Nanaimo - Nanaimo River - Pipers Lagoon (Bring Lunch)
- March 15 Sidney - Portland Island - Rum Island (Bring Lunch)
- March 22 Thetis - Kuper Islands (Lunch at Thetis Island Pub)
- March 28 Victoria to Sidney Return

Note:

* You don't have to make every practice but you should try and make at least two, depending on your experience and physical condition.

* Don't forget to bring: rubber or water friendly boots, paddle, life jacket, rain gear, water and a change of clothes in a water tight container (dry bag).

* Clothes consisting of different weights of fleecy or wool covered by a Gore Tex Jacket is a good combination. NO COTTON PLEASE!!

For further information or to sign up contact, Don Munroe voyageurguy@shaw.ca or 250-385-2268



Canoeing Flatwater Trips

Flatwater Paddles in March are planned for the following dates: Notices will be sent out ahead of time by e-mail, but if you don't get these; call Alan for details @250-592-4170.

Saturday March 7
Sunday March 22

E-mail notices will be sent out to all canoe program paddlers roughly a week prior to the trip as a reminder. Sign-up is expected by the Thursday before the paddling day.

Participants should have taken and passed the [RCABC Lakewater Level I tandem course](#). Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the trip leader but will depend on the strength of the group and on the location of the planned trip.

Unless otherwise specified, all trips start by meeting at the Clubhouse parking lot at 9 am. The aim is always to have all participants back at the parking lot by 5 pm at the latest. At this time of year, return time is likely to be earlier.

Participants should be dressed appropriately for the forecast weather (call 250-363-6717 or look up the [Environment Canada forecast](#) on the web) and, if the trip is to be on the ocean, check the time of the tides and currents. It is helpful to bring your own charts or maps so that you can be self-sufficient if necessary.

Frost Free Weekend Camping Trip

This annual camping weekend is scheduled for May 9 and 10 (Mother's Day weekend). It is intended as a season-start canoe (or kayak) camping trip which is suitable for beginners. It has traditionally been a Saturday/Sunday trip with one night's camping. Last year, we added a day so that the effort of packing up for a single night in a tent could be spread over two nights, and we went to Cabbage Island, off Tumbo and Saturna.

Destinations for a two day/one night trip include Portland Island, D'Arcy Island, Wallace Island and Prevost Island. The latter two require a ferry to Saltspring Island.

Destinations for a 3 day/2 night trip include Cabbage Island; Wakes Cove (northwest end of Valdes Island),

Blackberry Point (middle of Valdes) and Dionisio Point on Galiano. OR we could go to Prevost and stay there two nights, taking in Montague Harbour and perhaps Active Pass on the middle day.

Any members - canoeists or kayakers - who are interested in being a part of this trip should let me know soon - before the end of March - so that I can see what the interest is in doing a 3 day/2 night trip or the 'normal' Saturday/Sunday format is more popular. Contact Alan Thomson 250-592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Running of the Cows #8

This is advance notice that the 8th annual "Running Of The Cows" - paddling the Cowichan River from Lake to Bay - will take place on May 2 and 3. The group campsite at Stoltz Pool has been booked for the nights of the 1st and 2nd (Friday/Saturday) and invitations have been issued to the Beaver and Dogwood Clubs in Vancouver to join us. Prerequisites to take part in the trip are Moving Water Level 1 and appropriate equipment. Any questions, speak to Tom Staebell 250-655-7113; thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca or Alan Thomson 250-592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Moving Water Trips

Saturday, March 14
Sunday, March 22
Saturday, April 11
Friday, April 24
Sat. & Sun. May 2 & 3

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 expense. (\$10 is appropriate these days.) Trips 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 three club river boats are available for a modest fee on a "first call" basis.

May 2 & 3 Lake to Bay VIII (Our annual Cowichan River run with Friday and Saturday evening camping at the

Stoltz group site. See previous page for further detail.)

Tom Staebell
res 655-7113 after 5:00 pm
cell 588-2207 after 6:30 am
thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca

Courses - Canoeing

Lakewater Level 1:

Thursday evening, March 19,
Saturday, March 21 and
Sunday morning, March 22

Thursday evening, April 23,
Saturday, April 25 and
Sunday morning, April 26

Lakewater Level 2:

Sunday, March 22
Sunday, April 26

Lakewater Level 3:

Saturday, April 4

Lakewater Level 4:

Sunday, April 5

Moving Water Level 1:

Saturday, May 23 and
Sunday May 24

Moving Water Level 2:

Saturday, May 30 and
Sunday, May 31

Ocean Canoeing Course

This is advance notice of the RCABC Ocean Canoeing course which will take place in May. The course consists of 2 days of classroom sessions on charting, tides and currents, weather and navigation and 3 days/2 nights of canoe tripping on the ocean. The Paddling portion is planned for the Victoria Day weekend (May 16th/17th/18th). The classroom sessions will likely consist of 4 evening sessions in later April/early May. The dates will depend on the convenience of the students and instructor. The cost of the course is \$100 per student. In addition, there will be the costs of relevant charts, ruler, dividers,

Tide and Current Tables Volume 5 - say up to \$50. Students are limited to 8 due to limitations on the student to instructor ratio. First come, first served.

Past students are welcome to sit in on the classroom sessions and to take part in the trip, but not as students.

Please let me know by the end of March if you want to take this course so that I can plan the classroom dates.

Alan Thomson
250-812-3799
3135thom@islandnet.com

INTERNATIONAL PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL COMING TO VICTORIA

Ocean River Sports is presenting the 4th annual Reel Paddling Film Festival at their Victoria store on March 11th and 12th at 7:00 pm.

The Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour is an international event which presents the world's best whitewater, sea kayaking and canoeing action and lifestyle films of the year on screens in 75 cities across Canada, the United States and Europe.

Audiences can expect to see these great films: **Digging Water**, 300 paddlers set out on a 66-day voyage from Rocky Mountain House to Thunder Bay by north canoe to commemorate one of the world's greatest geographers and explorers, David Thompson. In **Eastern Horizons** you'll go sea kayaking in mangrove swamps of the Carolinas to the icebergs of Newfoundland, from the tidal flows around the Bay of Fundy to the urban landscapes of New York City. **Game On** follows renowned big-game kayak angler Jim Sammons around North America on a kayak fishing adventure of a lifetime. **This is the Sea 4** is a gritty edge-of-your-seat portrayal of a couple's battle against the elements while sea kayaking 2400 kilometres around the South Island of New Zealand. **Pulse** follows world-class whitewater kayaker Tao Berman around Chile, Lake Superior, Mexico and Washington.

The [Reel Paddling Film Festival](#) World Tour is produced by Rapid Media and presented in Victoria by Ocean River Sports on March 11th and 12th at 7:00 pm.

For tickets and information call Ocean River Sports at 250-381-4233.

Advance tickets \$12

Tickets at the door \$15

VCKC Executive

President		Voyageur Program	
Linda Thomson	592-4170	Don Munroe.....	385-2268
Vice President		Marathon Canoe Program	
Bon Lee	477-1381	Ron Williams	380-7496
Treasurer		Education, Safety & Standards	
Sharron Larusson	478-2981	Doug Linton	727-0216
Secretary		Membership	
Diane Nishimura	383-3080	Carolyn Rattray	386-9144
Past President		Clubhouse & Grounds	
Mile Petrovic	733-2013	Sandy Rattray ..	386-9144
Program Directors		Directors-at-Large	
Canoe Program		Jack Louie	598-1569
Joy Newham	385-5876	Maris Ratel	592-7082
Sea Kayak Program		Muriel Johnson	391-0560
Vacant		Mavis Pilar	857-9564
Dragon Boat Program		Executive Volunteer Positions	
Mike Fox	391-0160	Mavis Pilar (Soc.Coord.)	857-9564
Outrigger Program		Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	598-9488
Keith Larusson	478-2981	Dave Whitehead (Boat & Locker Storage)	507-0271

March Calendar

[Click Here](#)



A little kayak humour

(Photo: H. Gillis)