



# Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club  
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Website: [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca)

June 2009

## **Annual VCKC BBQ**

**June 2, 2009**

**6:00pm at the Clubhouse**

It's the usual potluck with surnames from A-M bringing salads or side dishes and surnames from N-Z bringing desserts.

Everyone brings something to BBQ for themselves.  
Beverages are B.Y.O.



## Clubhouse News

I'm pleased to let everyone know that we have a new treasurer. Sam Ludmer has kindly volunteered to be treasurer for the rest of the year. His phone number is 250-298-7004 and e-mail [samludmer@hotmail.com](mailto:samludmer@hotmail.com). Many thanks Sam!

Joy Newham has been working away reviewing the policies and guidelines of the club on and off for the last three years. Now under a committee headed up by Bon Lee we are within sight of finishing the task this year. At the last executive meeting there were motions passed which applied to the racing teams and will be policy for that group. Namely, team names must be prefaced with VCKC. As well, team t-shirts must have VCKC or the club logo printed on them.

**SWANS!** A reminder everyone that although it is very tempting to feed them or any other wild animal we see along the Gorge, it is against the law (and not all that good for their health)!

Check the next copies of Senior Living Magazine carefully, you might see an outrigger and people you recognize. On May 15, the Friday 9:30 am team was photographed and interviewed for an article which should appear one day soon.

**ADVANCE WARNING** of changes in dates for September meetings. The September General Meeting will be on Tuesday September 8 because of the holiday and the executive meeting will therefore be on Tuesday September 15. I'd like to remind you that any club member is welcome to come to the Executive meetings.

See you all at the June BBQ.

Linda Thomson  
President, VCKC



## Canoe Program Report

What a great month this has been with lots of paddling for yours truly, and you too, I hope! April ended with a lovely paddle from Mill Bay up to Cowichan Bay. Then we started May off by "Running of the Cows" with a great group of people, including several paddlers from other areas. Thanks Tom S. and Alan T. for all the organizing. And thanks too, to Ken G., for being brave enough to be my partner when I haven't paddled Marie Canyon for over a decade—and we made it without a capsize! The "Frost Free Weekend" was a huge success with spectacular weather, a long white shell beach and great company.

The canoe program meeting on May 11 had an outstanding guest speaker—Phil Lambert—who provided a fascinating slide show of marine invertebrates of the intertidal zone. Considering the Canucks were playing what ended up being their final play-off game, we had a good sized crowd who showed their interest by peppering Phil with many questions. If you want to learn even more about this topic, consider joining the Victoria Natural History Society. Their monthly meetings are very interesting and there are regular field trips too.

Our spring courses are done with quite a number of people completing Lakewater Levels 1 & 2. Eight people just finished the Ocean Paddling course and the last two weekends of May had a good number of people completing Moving Water Levels 1 & 2. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work! I hope you have many (safe) paddling adventures this summer. And a big "Thank You" to the instructors for all the time spent volunteering to run these courses. You all help VCKC fulfil its mandate of providing training in safe and skillful paddling. Instructors include: Alan Thomson, Linda Thomson, Tom Staebell, Jean Chandler, Dan Walker and Todd Irvine.

I hope to see you at the club BBQ on June 2! If not, have a wonderful summer.

Joy Newham  
Program Director

## Trip Reports

### Bay to Bay April 26, 2009

A sunny day sure brings out the paddlers. Sixteen of us showed up to paddle from Mill Bay to Cowichan Bay on a glorious Sunday morning. We put in along Mill Bay Road and were disappointed to find we wouldn't be able to paddle right into the bay as Brentwood College was holding a big regatta. To our delight Dave and Lois, from Cobble Hill, joined us as we started out and we struck off heading directly towards Whiskey Point and marvelled at the homes and acreages spread out along the cliffs.

We stopped for lunch at a beautiful stretch of beach with a partially submerged rusting old barge at the shoreline. I had never paddled this stretch of water before and was amazed at the miles of beautiful beach. The water had been very calm during the morning's paddle but as we headed out towards Cowichan Bay the wind had picked up a bit and waves coming in through Satellite Channel were coming at us broadside. We "tacked" back and forth to keep a better, safer angle on the boats. What a grunt! Nearing Cowichan Bay, there were many people out on the sand collecting clams or just enjoying the sunshine. Now we had a following sea and surfed our way into the bay...aahh...much better.

Some of us finished off the day by basking in the sunshine on the deck of a restaurant— wetting our whistles and fuelling up on munchies for the drive home.

Thanks Alan, for planning another wonderful day. Enjoying the paddle were: Alan & Linda, Bon & Susan, Arthur & Pat, John & Brenda, Vernon & Katrina, Maris & Odette, Ken & Ella, Dave & Lois, Pauline & Joy.

Joy Newham

### Frost Free Weekend

The Club's annual spring camping trip took place over the Mother's Day weekend as usual. Like last year, this was a three day trip, with two nights camping. We had twelve paddlers in three

tandem canoes, the Club freighter canoe and a kayak.

The paddlers met at the Clubhouse on Friday morning and after organizing people to minimize vehicle use, we set off for Cedar Ramp near Nanaimo. As we unloaded our boats, there were ten kayaks on the beach, with another two flotillas approaching beyond Round Island. They were part of a school trip that had been out in the Valdes area for the past week, They'd had some quite strong winds so hadn't ventured far, and we were glad to find that they were taking out, not starting their trip.

The paddle over to DeCourcy was taken direct as there was little wind and the conditions were very good. Lunch at Pirate's Cove was marred by the terrible smell on the beach at low tide. There were dead starfish and clams. No evidence of pollution but it was new to me from past visits. Over to Blackberry Point where we were the only campers, so we got the best sites in the meadow and the lovely little kitchen area under a willow tight on the beach. Sun and sand. What more could Joy want?

The night started out calm, but there was a lot of wind later on and when we got up there were some whitecaps in the channel. But after breakfast, half the group decided to paddle in the Club canoe round to Porlier Pass and Dionisio Park. The other six opted to stay on land and hike the island towards Porlier.

What with an ebbing tide and a tail wind, we made the four nautical miles to Porlier in an hour which meant we were about an hour before slack. We paddled up the west side of the pass and outwards Georgia Strait. At the north entrance we started to ferry over towards Dionisio but the further over we went the stronger the current became and the more we were exposed to the wind-pushed waves from the Strait. It became apparent that we were not likely to be able to get over far enough up the pass to reach Dionisio so we slipped back into the small cove below Race Point and rested there. It had been a challenging five minutes as we fought to get out of the current and across the standing waves that separated us from the eddy. I don't think we'd have made it in a

tandem unless with a spraydeck and a voyageur would have shipped a lot more water than the freighter did.

Half an hour later, we could paddle up round the point and towards Dionisio but the waves from the Strait made it slow going and we'd have had to and on the far side of the tombola, so at 11:10 am, when slack was due, we cut back to the Valdes side. I didn't fancy fighting the flood tide when the wind was against the current. The paddle back was peaceful, following the shore and allowing us to see racoons, many eagles, a loon, and a mink. Lunch was taken on the beach at Shingle Point, facing south and gloriously sunny. A sailing regatta from Ladysmith or Nanaimo gave us lots of coloured spinnakers to watch as we ate and dozed.

Back at the campsite, where no other paddlers had arrived, the hikers had been gathering oysters for supper. Another exhausting afternoon lazing on the beach before we started up the BBQ for the steaks and Doug lit a fire for the baked potatoes. A long, slow and delightful evening of eating, watching the sun set in the west, getting stuffed with grunt, and no one else to share the space—one of the best Frost Free weekends I can remember.

Sunday dawned sunny (again), but with a heavy dew on the tents, presaging a possible change in the weather. We packed up and paddled up the side of Valdes to Hole in The Wall, a spot on the Indian reserve part of the island that I'd not landed at before. It is certainly suitable for camping, with plenty space and a creek, but

permission from the First Nation would have to be obtained. From there, we paddled over to Pirates Cove, the marina portion and then up the northern sides of DeCourcy and Link islands. The idea was to portage over the isthmus between Mudge and Link Islands but, with a low tide of 1.3 ft, it was a daunting carry. So we carried the smaller boats halfway and then had lunch to gather strength for the freighter canoe afterwards.

The hope was that the tide would come in far enough to cut the distance substantially, but after an hour, the distance must have dropped by maybe 13 metres - not a lot. With the aid of ten roller logs, we rolled the freighter canoe, fully laden, up the beach, over the ridge and down the other side, where we were rewarded by finding a living moon snail with its huge mantle encasing the bottom half of its shell. On the down side, one of the logs had roiled with the canoe and the stub of a branch had caught the canvas hull. We didn't use that roller again, but the damage was done, and will require some cosmetic and possibly patching work done. (Memo to self. Next time, either unload the boat before moving it or choose only smooth logs.)

Back to the ramp by about 3:30 pm, loaded up the vehicles and back to the Clubhouse to put away the freighter until its next adventure.

Thanks to the lucky twelve who took part and made it a particularly pleasant trip: Joy and Jack, Carolyn, Pauline, Debbie and Maris, Doug and Jean; Bon and Susan, and, of course, Linda.

Alan Thomson



## Kayak Courses

### Paddle Canada

#### Introduction to Kayaking (formerly called Flatwater)

Dates: Sunday, June 28

Location: VCKC Clubhouse/Gorge

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Cost: \$25

Register by: Wednesday, June 3

### Paddle Canada Level 1

Minimum Skills: PC Introduction to Kayaking or equivalent

Dates: June 13 - 14  
June 20 - 21

Length: 2 days

Location & Time: TBD by Instructor

Cost: \$50

Register by: Wednesday, June 3

**NOTE:** You will be practising rescue techniques in the water for both courses. This means you will get wet! Therefore, a wetsuit is required. If you don't have a wetsuit please borrow or rent one. Otherwise, you may get too cold and be unable to complete the course.

Wetsuits are available to rent from [Sports Rent](#).  
Phone: 250-385-7368.

For information on Paddle Canada course content, please go to Paddle Canada's website and review the [Sea Kayak Program overview](#).

Please register for these courses or workshops with Dorothea Hoffman at [kayacourses@vckc.ca](mailto:kayacourses@vckc.ca). Space is limited to six members per session so don't delay.

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.

If there is a workshop that you would like to see

happen, get a group of four to six members together and contact Dorothea at the above email address.

### Kayak Program Who's Who:

The following is a list of our volunteers:

Program Director - Vacant

Email & other enquiries: Doug Linton  
[dlinton@shaw.ca](mailto:dlinton@shaw.ca)

Communications (email) - Fred Trudell -  
[fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca](mailto:fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca)

Communications (paddlers' list) -  
[VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com](mailto:VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com)

Courses & Workshops -  
Dorothea Hoffman  
[kayacourses@vckc.ca](mailto:kayacourses@vckc.ca)

Kayak Bookings - Susan Zedel - [szedel@shaw.ca](mailto:szedel@shaw.ca)

Library - Vic Turkington -  
[victurkington@yahoo.com](mailto:victurkington@yahoo.com)

Day Paddles and Expeditions - Marianne West -  
[mariannejwest@gmail.com](mailto:mariannejwest@gmail.com)

Instructors - Michel Guerard, Dorothea Hoffman, Tom Hukari, Doug Linton, Brian Mallory, Dennis McMillan, Marianne West.



## **27th Paddle for the Kids**

The 'on' and then 'off' 27th Paddle for the Kids goes into the books as the most challenging year ever.

First it was the navy refusing to provide an escort boat for the crossing to Port Angeles, so the paddle was off.

Then, after seeing our plea for an escort in the Times-Colonist, three fishing boats from the Royal Victoria Yacht Club volunteered their services, so the paddle was back on.

Two weeks before the paddle, I was informed by the U.S. Coast Guard that they would refuse our permit request to enter U.S. waters because they thought it would be too dangerous to allow our canoes to pass through their shipping lanes. As a result the paddle was off again. Three days later, after much consultation, they changed their minds and the paddle was back on.

On March 23, five days before the paddle, I was informed by the Victoria Marine Rescue Society that their new zodiac—that was going to be used for crew transfers from the fishing boats to the voyageur canoes—had not received its testing certification so the paddle was off. Two days before the paddle they managed to come up with another zodiac from somewhere and the paddle was back on.

On the morning of the Paddle there was a hostile weather forecast so the paddle was called off again. But(!) after consulting with Marine Rescue, they seemed to know that the forecast strong afternoon winds weren't going to arrive until the evening. Soooo, I phoned back to the fishing boats and the Lion's transport bus to inform them that the paddle was back on.

The first crews started off paddling from VCKC at 6:30 am while the second crews were bused to the Yacht Club to get on the fish boats. About half way to Trial Island I received a phone call from the Marine Rescue saying that they had received information that the winds were now forecast to arrive earlier in the afternoon so the paddle to Port Angeles was called off for the last time.

The fish boats returned to the Yacht Club where

the Lion's bus took the crews back to the club just in time to take over paddling from the first crews. The crews continued to paddle up and down the Gorge and around the Esquimalt waterfront until 5:30 pm.

At 6:00 pm, after our special ambassadors (Koren and Justlyn) for the Kids for Disabilities arrived, a feast and celebration ensued and at the end of the evening a drum roll was heard and the amazing amount of over \$15,000 was announced as the money raised to help send these special kids to Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan.

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club should be once again be proud that they have contributed to such a worthy cause in our community and the members that participated in this years paddle should also be recognized for their special contribution:

Pauline Campbell, Herb Stark, Della Logan, Irena Jazwinski, Roy and Annette, Ella Lapidus, Janne and Glyn Williams, Victoria Pang, Sam Ludmer, Jen Smith, Mavis Pillar, Nancy Pearson, Mile Petrovic, Harold Nishikawara, Brian Masini, Diane Nishimura, Christine Barker, Barb Guido, Barb and Phil McEvoy, Al Lubkowski, John Schmuck, Joanna Cooper, Shelley Forrest, Chris Nogeire, Jeff van den Driesen, Chark Nipp, Gary and Maureen Brown, Gale Zimmerman, Ron Neal, Don Munroe.

El Capitano  
Don Munroe



# Trip Report

## RUNNING OF THE COWS - VIII

The May 2nd/3rd weekend saw the Club's 8th annual Running of the Cows – the descent of the entire Cowichan River from Lake to Bay. Originally done as a one day trip, it is now usually spread over a weekend to allow us to sleep in later and to make it worthwhile for Vancouver paddlers to come over to join us.

This year we had 20 paddlers in 8 tandems and one voyageur. We were deprived of a couple of Vancouver boats due to pet illness; but they promise to come back in 2010 and join in. The paddlers were from Campbell River (Marcy and Jeff), Vancouver (Dan), Duncan (Dwight) and Victoria. As usual, we had booked the Group campsite at Stoltz Pool for the weekend and had the site to ourselves.

The presence of the voyageur canoe was a last-minute development. Tim said he wanted to come but didn't have a tandem canoe any more – what about taking a voyageur, he said? And it turned out that Ellie hadn't arranged to paddle with anyone, so with those two, Cara Marks and the Thomsons, we had five paddlers for a big boat.

We met up at the put in below the weir and, after the usual long shuttles, complicated this time by the need to have the voyageur trailer at Skutz Falls, we set off down the river about 11 o'clock. Too late, really, but no one was in a hurry – we didn't have to do the river in one day. The upper section of the river was straightforward. The water was a lot lower than it had been two weeks before, but apart from a few riffles where the keel kissed the rocks on the river bed, the voyageur negotiated the bends and the log jams without difficulty, thanks to the presence of the bow sterner, the fifth seat sterner and the real sterner! None of the tandems tipped which reduced the laughter level but not the enjoyment of the run through the spring-opening trees.

At Skutz, we took out and portaged and trailered the boats over to the put in below the Falls and set to the more difficult part of the river, one we'd never done in a voyageur before. The order of paddling was tandems first; voyageur last, just in case. The run down to the bridge was an exciting introduction; no eddy turns until the flat water below, but no rocks at all, which was a relief at this water level – discharge volume of 35m<sup>3</sup>/sec. We also had an audience of 20+ on the bridge, campers from the Horseshoe Bend Group site. Horseshoe bend saw everyone get down in good style, nearly everyone catching the eddy on river left successfully. The voyageur was taken down a

little right of centre – a less obvious route but one that meant a more direct run out after the initial drop.



Bernie's went by in a welter of breaking waves, but with no touching the rocks (see picture). Double Whammy was the sting in the tail, but the big boat went straight through with no problem eddying out river left with great relief—the rock on river right that the current directs you towards is not something I'd like to see a voyageur hit. A careful lining down river left to Last Drop and the help of the tandem crews took us into the last stretch down to Stoltz camp site. We left the boat on the river bank, reasoning that no one was likely to try setting a 300lb boat adrift.

It had been damp but not really wet during the day but at night it poured and made us grateful for the stove in the group shelter and the absence of any need to move out or drive. At this point, I need to thank the other campers who came to our assistance. On this, our shakedown camping trip of the year, I'd managed to leave at home the bucket that had all our pots, pans, cutlery, plates and mugs, plus breakfasts; as well as our chairs. So shared pans, borrowed yoghurt containers were much appreciated.



Sunday dawned brighter, and with the Canyon behind us, no need for the drysuit anymore. Dwight joined us in the voyageur, with Ellie and Linda taking a tandem. The trip down to the Bay was uneventful – unless you count Dwight doing a headstand in the voyageur as we surfed Vimy hole or Joy and Ken going over the same hole backwards – or was it sideways. Which ever way, they stayed upright, and so did Dwight.

Leonard and Kari-Ann left us at the White (or silver) Bridge, and the rest of the group paddled on to the sea, with only one very short lining past some awkward logs near the last bridge. By the time we'd headed out onto the bay and then back up the Koksilah to Affinity Guesthouse, it was close to 4pm – a longish day – how did we ever do it in one run?

Thanks to Dwight we took out in the 'privacy' of their B&B, not the car park at Hecate Park – a great improvement, thanks.

A good run this year. Thanks to Tom for organizing and leading; to Kari-Anne, Leonard and Dan for making the trip from Vancouver; to Jeff and Marcy for coming down to join us again; and to the local paddlers, Jean and Sue (first time moving water trip!), Dwight, Tim and Cara, Ellie, Jack, to Paul, Ken and Joy – veteran Club paddlers, but their first Lake to Bay – Mike and Yasmin, and to Linda who stayed dry the whole way, as she promised her ophthalmologist.

Alan Thomson

The poster for National Canoe Day '09 features a collage of images: a large photo of a group in a canoe, a person with a 'GREAT WHITE NORTH' sign, a group of people in a race, and smaller photos of individuals. The text reads: 'National Canoe Day' with a logo, 'NATIONAL CANOE DAY '09', 'Celebrate a Wonder of Canada in your own way on June 26th', and logos for 'NOVA CRAFT CANOE', 'ORCKA', and 'The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM / Le MUSÉE CANADIEN DE CANOT'.

The canoe was named a wonder of Canada in the spring of 2007 based on nominations by CBC listeners. To celebrate the occasion the past two years, the [Canadian Canoe Museum](#) has hosted a party. When news of this filtered out, various others across the country got into their canoes on that day to join in on the celebration.

In 2008 National Canoe Day parties were held in London, Windsor, Toronto and Yellowknife to just name a few. There was also participation internationally including the United States and the United Kingdom.

This year, we're hoping to keep that canoe-as-wonder momentum going by having another party in Peterborough and encouraging paddlers from coast to coast to coast to join in with canoe-related activities in waters of their own choosing. The idea is to create a citizen-driven annual celebration called National Canoe Day. Hope you'll help spread the word.

More info at:

[www.canadiancanoeday.net](http://www.canadiancanoeday.net)



## VCKC Executive

<b>President</b>		<b>Voyageur Program</b>	
Linda Thomson .....	592-4170	Don Munroe.....	385-2268
<b>Vice President</b>		<b>Marathon Canoe Program</b>	
Bon Lee .....	477-1381	Ron Williams .....	592-6456
<b>Treasurer</b>		<b>Education, Safety &amp; Standards</b>	
Sam Ludmer .....	298-7004	Doug Linton .....	727-0216
<b>Secretary</b>		<b>Membership</b>	
Diane Nishimura .....	383-3080	Carolyn Rattray .....	386-9144
<b>Past President</b>		<b>Clubhouse &amp; Grounds</b>	
Mile Petrovic .....	733-2013	Sandy Rattray ..	386-9144
<b>Program Directors</b>		<b>Directors-at-Large</b>	
<b>Canoe Program</b>		Jack Louie .....	598-1569
Joy Newham .....	385-5876	Maris Ratel .....	592-7082
<b>Sea Kayak Program</b>		Muriel Johnson .....	391-0560
Still Vacant .....		Mavis Pilar .....	857-9564
<b>Dragon Boat Program</b>		<b>Executive Volunteer Positions</b>	
Mike Fox .....	391-0160	Mavis Pillar (Soc.Coord.)	857-9564
<b>Outrigger Program</b>		Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	598-9488
Keith Larusson .....	478-2981	Dave Whitehead (Boat & Locker Storage)	507-0271

Calendar? - [Click Here](#)



### Attention VCKC Members

The new voyageur canoe generously donated by Harold Nishikawara will be launched at the clubhouse on Wednesday, July 1 at 10 am.

Come on down to the club and help Harold christen the latest in voyageur canoes (Kevlar, keel-less, self bailed) and sample some fine champagne.

If you're lucky, Harold might even let you go for a ride in it.

Don Munroe