



# Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

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

January 2010

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 5**

**7:30pm**

**Election of new  
executive for the club  
plus financial and  
program reports.**

**Don't forget to renew  
your membership for  
2010 so you'll be able  
to vote.**

## Clubhouse News

The year has almost come to a close with a very successful Christmas Party. There was standing room only at one point in the evening. Santa managed to make it and dispensed presents. Thanks Santa for your faithful service! Thanks also to Mavis for arranging the evening and to all those who donated items for the raffle and the Mustard Seed. The raffle raised \$341 which was donated to the camp at Shawnigan Lake for Disabled Children.

Thanks to those who put up the decorations in the clubhouse and a reminder that they will be taken down immediately after the New Year's Day Paddle and lunch.

The 2009 Executive has almost completed its term. Don Munroe is stepping down after an amazing run on the Executive having started in 1493 (or thereabouts). He's definitely put in several decades.

Muriel Johnson, Carolyn Rattray and Maris Ratel are also leaving the Executive and taking well deserved rests – though perhaps not quite so well deserved as Don's. I will be stepping down after two years as President. I'd like to thank all members of the 2008 and 2009 Executives for all their hard work. I will automatically be back on for 2010 as Past President but all others have to be elected, even those who have indicated that they are happy to continue in their present positions. Many nominations have already been received but nominations are accepted for all elected positions on the night of the annual general meeting as long as the nomination is proposed and seconded.

Which brings me to that AGM coming up on Tuesday, January 5 at 7:30pm. Only MEMBERS can vote. So either renew your membership beforehand or come early to do so on that night. A reminder too, that to take part in club paddling even at the beginning of 2010 one must be a paid-up member or at the

least have signed a waiver. Otherwise one will not be included.

Before the elections there will still be some business to complete. The 2009 financial statement and a budget proposal for 2010 will be presented, as well as reports from the Directors and myself. The present Executive recommends that the Paddle to Port Angeles not continue without its trusted leader and has some other suggestions. Feedback from the membership will be very helpful for those on the Executive for next year.

It is always awkward to mention particular people when so many do so much to keep a club like ours functioning well. But there are a few I'd like to mention:

Doug Linton and Robbie Taylor wrote letters on our behalf and kept us up to date on the Mega Yacht Marina Proposal;

Tony Copping and Alan Thomson represented us on the BC Marine Trail Network Association;

Joy Newham has steadily kept the Procedures and Guideline Review going through THREE Executives and continues to work on it from Courteney. The review is very nearly completed and the Committee will soon present the completed version to the 2010 Executive for approval;

Most of the work has been done through members of the Executives over the years, but we are grateful to Stephen Lee for all his recent work on behalf of the Dragon boat section;

And finally thanks to Marianne West who has volunteered to help the Treasurer by doing all of the club's bookkeeping.

Linda Thomson,  
Retiring President, VCKC

## Canoe Program Report

### Canoe Program Meeting

The next Canoe Program meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, January 18 at 7:30pm. The main presentation will be on a paddling trip to Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands) by Jean Chandler. All Club members are welcome to attend.

The meeting will be preceded by a meeting of canoeing instructors to schedule the season's courses. The Program has a 'new to the Club' canoe, a Yukon by Clipper Canoes. This boat replaces one of the old Club canoes that had not been used for years. The new canoe will be available for courses and, if needed, for Club canoe trips. As far as is known, this is the first flatwater canoe purchase the Club has ever made – to date we have relied on boats made at schools or donated to the Club.

### Flatwater Paddles

Saturday, January 9

Sunday, January 24

Saturday, February 6

All paddles start by getting together at the Clubhouse at 9:00am. The usual trip involves 3-4 hours of paddling and we aim to be back at the Clubhouse by around 4:00pm.

To take part, call or e-mail the trip leader by the Thursday evening before the trip. If you need a partner or a boat, let the trip leader know. A reminder for all trips is circulated to Program members about a week before, giving possible routes and the contact information for the Trip Leader.

The Club website gives details of what is required to take part in these flatwater paddles. See <http://www.vckc.ca/canoe/index.htm> for details. Basically, paddlers are required to have taken and passed the basic tandem canoe course.

### Moving Water Paddles

Saturday, January 2

Sunday, January 17

Sunday, January 31

Saturday, February 13

Sunday, February 21

Trips will depend on water levels and what the group is into. The above are proposed dates although feel free to initiate a paddle any time.

All the details continue unchanged: 8:30am meeting at Millstream etc. A brief email reply is helpful to ensure we will wait if you might be a minute or two late or to call you in the event of a cancellation and save an unnecessary trip to the meeting place. If you are no longer interested in participating drop me a reply to that effect and the harassment will stop. Otherwise it's "game on". Club boats are available for rental use by moving water course graduates but give me a call to make sure one is available. Sometimes a tandem seat will open up if you need a partner. See you on the river!

### Voyageur Program

With the loss of Don Munroe's leadership, (aka Mr. Voyageur) over so many years, the Voyageur Program needs to find some way to continue to use the Club's Big Canoes in a regular way. While the Paddle To Port Angeles will not take place in 2010, the Club's executive committee has decided that we should continue to raise money for Camp Shawnigan and are considering other ways in which this can be done. Whatever is decided, it is likely that the voyageur canoes will continue to play a key role.

An e-mail will be sent to all VCKC members on the Voyageur Program list asking interested members to meet and consider what a new Voyageur Program should look like and how it should operate.

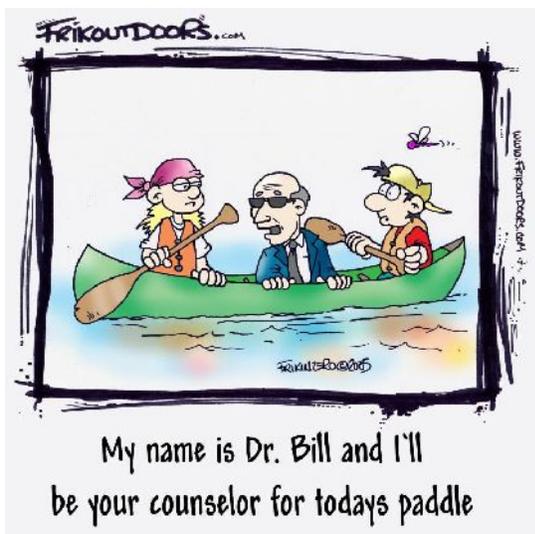
## News from the Voyageur Brigade Society

After the epic David Thompson Brigade trip in 2009, the Brigade Society is running a second leg in 2010 from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Montreal, Quebec. The dates are July 8 to August 10, 2010. The event registrar can be contacted at 2010registrar@gmail.com.

In 2011, the Voyageur Brigade Society is organizing a third brigade, this time following the Columbia River. This trip, about 1800 kilometres long, will take place from May 21 to July 15, 2011. As this is a route relatively close to Victoria, there may be some interest in entering a Club team for this event. Details are not finalized but the intent is for this brigade to travel five, not six days per week, so the pace will not be as hard as the 2009 Thompson Brigade. Also, none of the paddling will be upstream, although many stretches will be on the lakes behind dams, so some early starts can be expected to get the distance covered before the winds get up. If anyone is interested in leading or joining a Club team to take part in this proposed Brigade, please let Alan Thomson know.

If you want to read the Newsletter from which these items are taken, go to [www.voyageurbrigade.org](http://www.voyageurbrigade.org) and click on [Newsletters](#).

Alan Thomson



## Membership Renewals

Membership fees for 2010 are now due and can be paid via the [VCKC website](#) or by cheque. If paying by cheque, please include a signed waiver form for each club member. Waiver forms are available in the clubhouse or you can print off a form from the members page of the club website.

Note: Club members must have paid their 2010 fees to vote at the Annual General Meeting on January 5, 2010.



## Calling all Kayakers

The kayak section at VCKC desperately needs someone to take over the reins. Enough sitting on the fence folks.

We need a chairperson. That person doesn't need to know everything or everyone; she/he just has to be able to provide an anchor for the many able folks who will do most of the work. The pay is great, the benefits enormous, so let Maris Ratel know if you are interested (or to point the finger at some likely nominees).

## Outrigger News

The Friday Flyers have invited Jean Chandler to show her slides from her hiking trip along the "Camino de Santiago (Way of St James)".

As club members know, Jean is the type of canoeist that legends are made of. We are all very excited about the prospect of watching her slides. Club members are all invited of course. A little research reveals:

"Today, about 2.5 million people a year visit Santiago de Compostela, mostly by car, bus, plane and train, as well as by more challenging "pilgrimatic" methods.

The camino begins in France, is 900 km long and takes about 30 days of walking. One popular alternative starting point is Gothic cathedral in León, Spain. From León, it takes four to six hours of walking per day for seven straight days to reach Santiago.

The walking paths are always open, free (humble) accommodation is available along the route, and the way to Santiago passes through spectacular scenery and interesting pilgrimage towns.

To obtain an official certificate of pilgrimage, you must walk at least 100 kilometres or bike at least 200 kilometres of the route. The network of shelters along the way will stamp your passport as evidence"

Look forward to seeing all of you for Jean's talk.

Christine M Barker



### Free Spray Cover

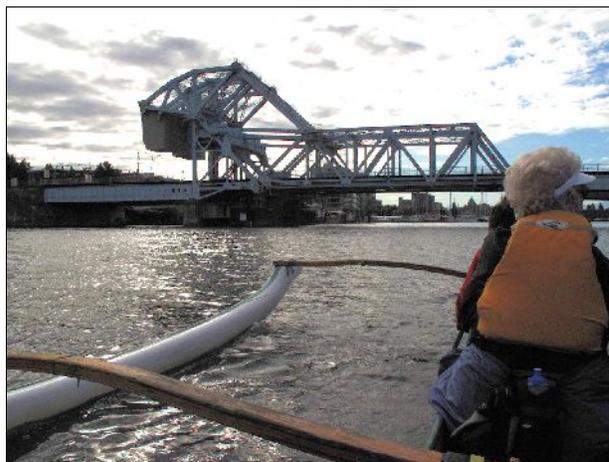
with openings for bow and stern paddlers. Fits a canoe 16' 8" long with a 3' beam, such as some of the local McCooeys.

Elastic cord all around; you'll need hooks outside the gunwales to take the cord or you could probably do something clever with Velcro.

Because of the attachment method you'd probably use this on open water, not a river. Ideal for paddling in the rain.

If you think this cover might fit your canoe call:

Tim Hicks 250-598-6244



Friday Flyers approach the Johnston Street Bridge  
(photo: Wendy Clapp)

## Koksilah River Run

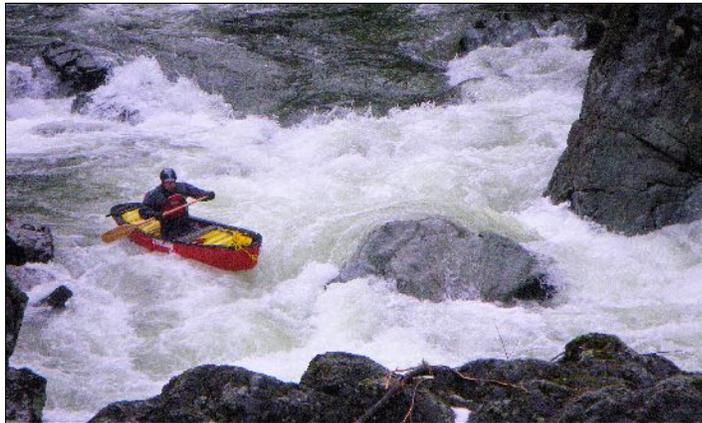
Twas the week before Christmas and the waters were fast;  
To paddle the Kok seemed to promise a blast.  
For weeks I'd been nagging poor Tom when we met  
"if Chemainus is good then the Kok's a good bet.

The solstice was nigh when our change came along  
There was Dan, Dave and Corey, Mike, Alan and Tom  
There was snow at the put-in, but the water was right  
So we dressed in our dry-suits and pulled the straps tight.

It was years since we'd run the Koksilah on sight;  
The waters too high or too low - never right  
But this day it was perfect; the boulders in view  
But plenty of water - we could see the route through.

We put in up high where the campground is placed  
Tom went for an eddy and fell in on his face.  
As most of the crew were still standing on land  
He'd to rescue himself; he had no helping hand.

Then down through the Staircase where Dan looped the loop  
And on down to the Sluice where we boofed through the hoop  
Then on down to Burnt Bridge, the challenge du jour  
Where 3 opted and out and 3 made the tour.



**Mike Rott  
at  
Burnt Bridge**

As always has happened when he paddles this rapid  
Alan fell near the top and swam down feeling wabbit  
But Corey came through with a great right hand brace  
And Mike followed on - not a hair out of place.

Then Alan Bailed out - he'd to sing the Messiah  
And the 5 carried on - they are not in a choir  
The day was quite cool when they came to the take-out  
All agreed twas a good run and the day had been great out.

So another run river and the Gods were appeased  
No-one was hurt and the paddlers were pleased  
From now on the days will start getting lighter  
And the water's still high - could it be any righter ?

Alan Thomson

## 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;</b>	
Sam Ludmer .....	298-7004	<b>Standards</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>		Doug Linton .....	727-0216
Diane Nishimura .....	383-3080	<b>Membership</b>	
		Carolyn Rattray .....	386-9144
<b>Past President</b>		<b>Clubhouse &amp; Grounds</b>	
Mile Petrovic .....	733-2013	Sandy Rattray ..	386-9144
		<b>Directors-at-Large</b>	
<b>Program Directors</b>		Jack Louie .....	598-1569
<b>Canoe Program</b>		Maris Ratel .....	592-7082
Alan Thomson (Acting) ...	592-4170	Muriel Johnson .....	391-0560
<b>Sea Kayak Program</b>		Mavis Pilar .....	857-9564
Still Vacant .....		<b>Executive Volunteer</b>	
<b>Dragon Boat Program</b>		<b>Positions</b>	
Mike Fox .....	391-0160	Mavis Pillar (Soc.Coord.)	857-9564
<b>Outrigger Program</b>		Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	598-9488
Max Nock (Acting) .....	544-0051	Dave Whitehead (Boat &	<a href="#">email</a>
		Locker Storage)	

## January Calendar

[\(Click here\)](#)



Photo: Harold Gillis