



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

May 2011

General Meeting Tuesday, May 3 7:30pm

Our speaker at the general meeting on May 3 will be Mike Rott. Mike will be giving a presentation on his trip down the Tatshenshini River in the 1990s .

The Tatshenshini River flows through the St. Elias Mountains to Dry Bay on the Alaskan coast. The mountains contain the largest non-polar ice caps in the world. This incredible natural area has been designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Don't miss this one!



*Maude Strumm
Victorian Canoe Lady
(1908)*

Clubhouse News

April has been a very busy month with overlapping activities happening almost every weekend.

The month began with moving water canoe courses and our annual Wake Up the Gorge event. Wake Up the Gorge attracted 42 OC6 teams on Saturday and 24 small boats on Sunday. Results are up on our VCKC webpage.

The next weekend the Club hosted a Dragon Boat clinic using the Merlin Excalibur Data Acquisition Paddle. This paddle has positional sensors that allow almost every aspect of a paddler's stroke to be recorded and analyzed. By reviewing this data paddlers can analyze their stroke and see the strengths and areas needing improvement.

The weekend of April 16 was another hectic time with canoe courses at the lake, our annual Gorge/Clubhouse cleanup and the Celebrate our Harbour event downtown.

A big thanks to the volunteers who came out for the cleanup. A very good showing indeed, making up for the poor showing in our previous cleanups. Enough garbage to fill two full bins was pulled from the Gorge waterways. Well done. There was cleaning up done at and around the clubhouse. Here's part of that crew:

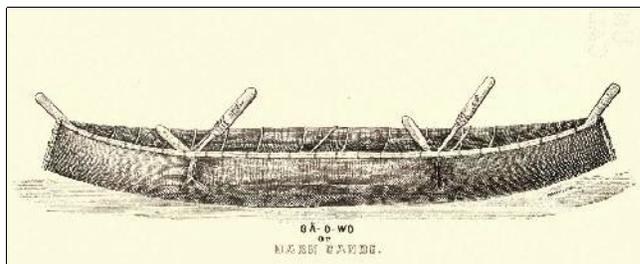


With the cleanup completed by noon, our focus was now getting down to the Celebrate Our Harbour event. Unfortunately the current at Tillicum Bridge was not uncooperative and our departure was delayed for 45 minutes. Our two

voyageur and one outrigger arrived at the tail end of the celebration.

Thanks to Doug Linton and Susan Lee for manning the VCKC table at the celebration. The event only attracted about 150 people probably due to the rainy cold weather. It was well represented by paddlers with races and demonstrations of different kayak rolls.

Bon Lee
President



More on “Celebrate Our Harbour”

The first Celebrate Our Harbour gathering took place at the Songhees waterfront on April 17. The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club (VCKC), the South Island Sea Kayak Association (SISKA), GO Rowing & Paddling Association of Canada (GO) and several commercial operators who share use of the harbour set up displays for the public.

VCKC had a table with brochures and folks to provide information, and two VCKC voyageur canoes and one outrigger made it through the Gorge to show the club flag. The purpose of the gathering was to remind Victoria's citizens that human-powered craft were the first to use the harbour, and still continue to use it daily for a wide range of sporting activities.

There were about 50 small craft present and a number of informal short races were held. These races featured OC6, OC1, surf skis, sea kayaks, and deep-water rowing skiffs.

Despite the rather cool and sometimes damp weather, the general feeling was pretty upbeat, and we hope that the event will be repeated annually.

Doug Linton

Wake Up the Gorge April 2011



All photos: Wendy Clapp



Canoe Program Report

We had a busy meeting of the Canoe and Kayak Program on Monday, April 18. For our presentation, we were dazzled by Melanie Seibert's slides and paddling-based poetry. She had chosen images of some of the many rivers she has guided trips to and travelled on and she read corresponding poems from her recently published volume "Deepwater Vee". If you haven't got a copy of this book, I encourage you to get one—it is absolutely beautiful.

Thanks, too, to everyone who came out to partake and contributed items to the agenda. There are some details and reminders under headings below.

I also keep forgetting to do this at meetings but I want to especially thank all the lovely elves who spring into the kitchen and prepare the tea and coffee and tidy up before and after the break.

Also just a reminder to meeting attendees to contribute something to the little change bowl for your cookie and tea—revenue has dropped a bit lately!

Running of the Cows 10th Annual April 30/May 1

Look for a full report and pictures of this year's shenanigans down the entire length of the Cowichan River, an annual club trip, in next month's newsletter.

Frost Free Weekend Camping Trip May 7-9

Please contact Alan Thomson if you would like to join us on this annual club trip, doing a bit of island hopping off the east side of Vancouver Island. Details in the Courses and Trips section.

BC Marine Trails Saturday, May 14

We heard from Alan Thomson about the opening of the new BC Marine Trails section. This will be celebrated at Ladysmith Paddlefest on Saturday, May 14. Anyone who would like to camp overnight and/or participate and paddle in the flotilla coming across Ladysmith Harbour, please contact Alan at 592-4170 or at 3135thom@islandnet.com. The organizers are

hoping to create a big splash and an unforgettable grand opening of these newly official Marine Trails sites. Please participate if you can! <http://www.bcmarinetrails.org/>

MEC Paddlefest Saturday, June 11, Cadboro Bay

VCKC will have a presence there and this is a great opportunity to try out a paddlecraft or paddlesport you haven't yet. Human powered vessels of all sorts will be on hand to demo and there will be gear for sale and information about all the paddling clubs and venues in the area.

National Canoe Day Sunday, June 26

Mark your calendars. VCKC will be celebrating the CANOE, national icon that it is, in grand style with crazy games and prizes, a BBQ and, of course, cake! Come on out and participate. This event is a blast!

Courses and Day Trips

So far this year, we've run very successful Lakewater Basic Tandem and Solo courses. A small but keen group went through a Lakewater Advanced set and a nice size group took our Moving Water Tandem and Solo courses.

We also graduated three new lakewater instructors and recertified one.



Lakewater Instructor Course led by Ellie James
Left to right: Jean (recertifying), André, Mike and Josh (new)

Thanks to all our dedicated trip leaders and instructors for continuing to provide such fantastic service as volunteers. Please see the Courses and Trips section of the newsletter for

details about all that is upcoming. There's still lots going on, including another set of Lakewater Basic and Advanced.

Evening Stroke Practice Sessions

We are hoping to set up some evening stroke practice sessions in much the same vein as Jean Chandler's awesome Tuesday mornings. Please keep checking the calendar on the website. These sessions will be led by certified instructors and as we are able to add dates we will. They will take place launching from the clubhouse unless otherwise indicated.

Next Canoe/Kayak Meeting Monday, May 16th at 7:30 pm

This meeting will be a bit of a mixed bag with Tom Staebell teaching how to make a canoe pole for an upcoming canoe poling course that will be offered to anyone interested (we may also get a chance to try these out, for the entertainment of all spectators at the June 1 Club BBQ!), some possible other instruction for the river set in particular and something for the kayakers.

See you on the water or at the clubhouse,

Yasmin Rampuri
Canoe Program Director

Canoe Courses

For more information or to register for any of the following courses, please contact Yasmin at canoe@vckc.ca. Your VCKC membership dues for 2011 must be paid in full order to register for any club courses below. You can join online at www.vckc.ca. An Individual membership is \$40; Family \$60.

Lakewater Basic Tandem and Solo

Saturday, May 28 (Basic Tandem)
Sunday, May 29 (Basic Solo)

Lakewater Advanced Tandem and Solo

Saturday, June 4 (Advanced Tandem)
Sunday, June 5 (Advanced Solo)

Eddy Hopper

If you are interested in testing out your skills on

a river or getting a feel for sterning on moving water, this is the opportunity for you. In late May, we are looking at offering a chance for paddlers to go down a section of river with an experienced paddler in bow or stern. Please contact Tom Staebell if you are interested in trying this out at thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca.

Canoe Poling

If there is interest, a course has been proposed for late June, late July or early September on canoe poling. Please email Tom Staebell at thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca if you are interested in this course. At the May Canoe/Kayak Meeting Tom will be demonstrating how to make a simple canoe pole.

Costs:

\$25 for each Lakewater course (or \$50 for the Lakewater Basic Tandem and Solo which we encourage all paddlers to take together). In addition to the course cost, Lakewater Basic students may have to pay \$10 each to cover the costs of pool rental. Moving Water course fees are \$150 per weekend and include the use of a club canoe and transportation costs.

Ocean Canoeing Course

This RCABC course is open to all canoeists who have taken the basic tandem lakewater course. It is intended to teach paddlers about tides and currents, wind and weather, charting and navigation as well as canoe camping.

The course consists of three evenings of classroom sessions plus a three (3) day canoeing trip. The three classroom sessions will be held at the Clubhouse on Tuesday April 26, Thursday April 28 and Monday, May 2.

The Paddling trip will take place on May 7 to May 9 (Saturday-Monday).

If you are interested in taking this course, please contact Alan Thomson before Easter. Cost of the course is \$100, plus the costs of charts etc. 250-592-4170; 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Canoe/Kayak Trips

Flatwater Trips

As May is a very busy month for courses and other events, there is only one Club flatwater trip planned this month. It will be on Saturday, May 14 and will take place in the Ladysmith area.

The paddle will (intentionally) coincide with the Ladysmith Paddlefest and the grand opening of the first BC Marine Trail which is in the Gulf Islands.

The plan is to have as many kayaks and canoes as possible there for the official opening, forming a flotilla that will paddle across Ladysmith Harbour to Transfer Beach. Many other clubs are taking part, so it will be a great chance to meet other paddlers and see the booths and exhibits at the Paddlefest.

This paddle is suitable for all skill levels and all Club members are encouraged to take part.

An e-mail will be sent out the weekend before, but please book the date in your calendar.

If anyone else is able to lead another trip this month, please let Yasmin or Herb know. Notices for the above and any others will be sent out by e-mail beforehand to members on the Kayak or Canoe Program lists. All Club members can participate, provided they have taken a basic canoeing or kayaking course.

Frost-free Weekend Paddling Trip

The Club's annual frost-free weekend trip will take place, as usual on the Mother's Day weekend May 7, 8 & 9. (Note change of dates from those originally put in the March newsletter). This trip is open to all Club paddlers who have taken the basic canoe and kayak courses. It is a camping trip so you will need to be self-sufficient for food, water, shelter, etc.

The destination will be Blackberry Point on Valdes Island. We will leave from Cedar ramp—about two hours from Victoria—and paddle over to the DeCourcy group and thence down to Blackberry Point Island group. The paddle is about 7.5 nautical miles/15 kilometres. Once on Blackberry Point, you can idle away the Sunday,

hike up the ridges, go paddling, as you wish. The Club will provide barbecues for the communal meal on the Sunday evening plus baked potatoes and a fruit grunt. You are responsible for all other food. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Alan Thomson at 250-592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

BC Marine Trails Grand Opening

The BC Marine Trails Network Association expects to formally open the first trails (in the Gulf Islands) on May 14 at the Ladysmith Paddlefest. The plan is to have as many paddlers as possible converge on the Ladysmith (Transfer) Beach between 12:30 and 1:30 pm on the Saturday afternoon. In the days before this, groups of kayakers and canoeists from different paddling clubs will paddle to as many of the Trail campsites as possible. More details on page 9. If you are interested in taking part in this event, contact Alan Thomson at 592-4170 or 3135thom@islandnet.com.

Moving Water Trips

There is a Moving Water day trip scheduled for Saturday, May 7 most likely on the Cowichan. Contact Tom Staebell at: thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca if you are interested in going. The same conditions of participation apply as for Flatwater trips with additional equipment requirements for safe river navigation.

Up-Island Paddling Trip

Tentatively scheduled for June 11-12 on the Sayward Route. More details in the next newsletter.



Flatwater Trip Reports 2011

There were two flatwater trips in April, both quite successful which is good after the previous two did not turn out as planned. Not that we didn't enjoy them too—but it is good to accomplish what is promised!

The first was to Saanich Inlet. We had three kayaks and three canoes. The plan had been to put in at Goldstream Boathouse and to paddle up to Spectacle Creek. But due to construction at the boathouse, I was told that parking would be limited to three vehicles, so when the numbers exceeded this, we went up to Brentwood Bay and put in at the boat ramp in the Tsartlip First Nation reserve. The forecast was for increasing SW winds in the afternoon but nothing above 10-15 knots was expected in the morning and early afternoon.

After a shore-hugging warm-up north to Henderson Point, we headed over to Senanus Island and thence across to the old cement plant at Bamberton. Conditions were good with a little wind coming alternately from the north and south, but nothing threatening—very reassuring to the four relatively new tripping paddlers in the group. We then headed south down the west shore of the inlet, heading for Spectacle Creek, where there is a waterfall, a nice campsite and, at this time of year, a plum tree in full blossom. The wind from the south was gathering force as we headed down and at Sheppard Point, we could see small whitecaps forming in Squally Reach. I had decided to head over to McKenzie Bight before the wind got stronger when I noticed a squall approaching. I called out to the group to turn round and that was when the first capsize occurred.

Wendy had on a wet suit and the right clothing, and didn't panic at all. With Vic on one side and us on the other, she got back into her kayak, pumped it out and

resumed paddling. We headed north, retracing our earlier steps until we came to a nice wee beach north of the cement plant. There was a small fire going at one end, thanks to a power boat fishing of prawning on the area but plenty room for both groups. Wendy changed and we all had lunch. It seemed sensible to head across to the east side of the Inlet before the forecast wind got up, so we headed back towards Senanus, with the intention of curring south from there to Willis Point and so round via the Brentwood Bay Marina.

Half way to the island, the second capsize occurred. There was some swell and waves on the beam, which probably explained the upset—it is hard to concentrate on balancing your boat—and this was Don's first rip involving a crossing. Once again he had the right equipment and got back into his kayak quickly. We stayed together until we were closer to the boat ramp, then he finished the paddle under his own power. It was a good thing we did cut the trip a little short as the wind got up quite suddenly ten minutes after we landed. So thanks, Don.

Thanks to Dwayne, Kathy, Linda, Alan, Maris, Jack, Vic, Wendy and Don who took part in this eventful trip.

The second trip in April was to Discovery and Chatham Islands on Easter Saturday. The weather forecast was quite good—10 knot winds from the north, changing to light in the later afternoon, and the currents were not going to be at full bore. But I was a little nervous about the crossing to Chatham. A four knot current can push you more than a mile out of your course during a 20 minute crossing and I wanted to be sure we wouldn't be saying hello to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, East Entrance.

We set off from Cattle Point and headed north, into the wind to Jemmy Jones Island. The conditions didn't seem bad over towards Channel Pt on the Chatham

Islands. Thanks to Vic's excellent ferry line. we came to shore very close to the dock leading to the microwave towers. In fact, although it was choppy, with some turbulence, the current seemed a lot less than the 3.5 knots that we had calculated from the current tables—not that we were complaining.

After a leg stretch and rest in the little cove below the dock ramp, we headed south to Commodore Pt on Discovery Island and round into Rudlin Bay. The trip down was assisted by current and wind, so very pleasant paddling. Just round the point, we saw our first goslings of the season—six little yellow puffballs being shepherded to safety by their parents. There were three tents in the camping area above Rudlin but lots of space for us to land and have lunch. We had a two hour stop, some of us dozing in the warmth of the sun, out of the wind, others going for walks to the site of Captain Beaumont's house or to the lighthouse. Many of the planted flowers in the old garden were in bloom—daffodils, tulips and grape hyacinths—so there appear to be no deer on the islands.

After the long break, we headed round Sea Bird Point and round towards Griffin Islet. There were plenty seals, but while we could hear sea-lions, we didn't see any. Perhaps they were up on Fulford Reef and their bellowing was being carried to us by the wind?

There was still a northerly wind, but it was no stronger and felt warmer than it had on our crossing. Then through the channel between Discovery and the Chathams and then up between the main Chatham Islands and so back to Baynes Channel. By now it was half past three, and the current was at slack. It was interesting to note that there was flooding current in the passages between the islands, but in Baynes itself, nothing we could detect. With reduced winds and calmer seas, we crossed back to Jemmy Jones and then back to Cattle Point quite a lot faster than

we had managed in the morning.

We were luck to get such good weather at Easter, and to have the time to idle through the rocks and islets in sunshine.

Thanks to Vic, Vernon, Maylene, Bon, Susan, Yasmin, Mike, John and Jill for joining us on this great trip.

Alan Thomson



Maylene and Victor



Photos: Yasmin Rampuri & Mike Rott

B.C. Marine Trails

Help Create a Flotilla of Kayaks and Canoes for the Opening Event

Help create a B.C. Marine Trails Opening Event *SPLASH* that will *NOT* be forgotten.

1. Join the flotilla: May 14th, 2011

Imagine standing on Transfer Beach in Ladysmith enjoying the usual Paddlefest activities, then looking up to see the water in front of the beach suddenly covered with a huge flotilla of kayaks and canoes, all heading directly to the beach.

This event is designed to give the media some great photo opportunities!

Paddlers will launch from various launch/access points around the Ladysmith area or from campsites nearby. They will paddle discreetly over to Dunsmuir Islands across the harbour from Transfer Beach. They will collect behind the islands, out of view of the beach, and on signal, (approx 12.45pm) will paddle en-mass over to the south end of the beach in a great flotilla (we hope!), where they will be helped to carry their boats by volunteers to a grassy area above the beach. Bring noodles if you don't like 'bumper to bumper' parking.

To get more details about this event or to become a part of it and sign into a launch site, please email our Grand Opening Events Coordinator at:

flotillavolunteer@bcmarinetrails.org

2. Go on your first touring trip of the 2011 paddling season:

Join others in our 'Grand Progress' by paddling the Gulf Islands Marine Trails and inaugurating its new official

campsites with yourselves, your tents, and your boats.

- You may launch any day, between Monday May 9 and Friday, May 13. You may choose any launch point within the Gulf Islands Trails Network. Your trip is your design;

- Numbers are not limited. We hope to have lots of large and small groups out;

- The idea is for paddlers to occupy, for the four or five days prior to the Grand Opening, as many of the newly official Marine Trails sites as possible;

- Record your trip and send it in to us with one or two pictures to be published in our next newsletter;

- Be sure you are back on Vancouver Island, or positioned on one of the nearby sites to paddle to Transfer Beach, Paddlefest, in time to participate in the flotilla on Saturday morning.

For more details and to sign in for this event, email our Events Coordinator at

flotillavolunteer@bcmarinetrails.org

Lots of details at the [B.C. Marine Trails website](#).



MEC Club Night
for the VCKC members and family.

Friday May 20, 7:00-9:00pm at
Mountain Equipment Co-op

Victoria Store
1450 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1Z2

10% off on all purchases, boats 5%

VCKC Executive

President		Voyageur Program	
Bon Lee	477-1381	Alan Thomson	592-4170
Vice President		Marathon Canoe Program	
Mavis Pillar.....	778-430-4390	Ron Williams	592-6456
Treasurer		Education, Safety & Standards	
Linda Thomson	592-4170	Doug Linton	727-0216
Secretary		Membership	
Marie Lansdowne.....	email	Maris Ratel	email
Past President		Clubhouse & Grounds	
Linda Thomson.....	592-4170	Sandy Rattray ..	386-9144
Program Directors		Directors-at-Large	
Canoe Program		Michael Fox	391-0160
Yasmin Rampuri	655-4859	Wendy Clapp ..	email
Kayak Program		Diane Nishimura (Soc.) ..	589-3080
Herb Stark	email	Elizabeth Hoffpauir	email
Dragon Boat Program		Ron Crabtree	email
Brian Clark	email	Executive Volunteer Positions	598-9488
Outrigger Program		Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	email
Dave Schweter	email	Doug Magnuson (Boat & Locker Storage)	email

Events Calendar

[Click Here](#)

Kayak for Sale

Contact: Debra Sheets

E-mail: debrasheets@me.com

Ph: (250) 590-6532

Chesapeake Sport Tandem. \$2100 OBO

This tandem is a narrow and very fast double which is perfect for two individuals who want to really cover the miles, whether it's for exercise, super-fast touring, or winning races. Most Sport Tandems are sold to people who watched one disappear over the horizon in front of them during a race. While intended for racing or working out, the Sport Tandem can still carry a good load of gear, making it ideal for multiple-day unsupported races.

Buy this boat if:

You need a racing kayak for two;
You are athletic and like to cover ground;
You are a strong paddler who wants to carry a child or large dog

Length: 21'8"

Hull weight: 65 lbs.

Beam: 22"

Max payload: 475 lbs.

Cockpit size: 31" X 17"

Paddler weight: 250-400 lbs

Knee height: 12"