



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

June 2012

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Pot Luck Dinner and Barbeque

Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Members with surnames A-K please bring dessert and L-Z bring salad/appetizer to share.

Everyone can bring something to BBQ for themselves.

Beverage: BYO.

NOTICES

A Message from VCKC's Membership Person

For the past 5 months paper copies of your newsletter have been mailed to you. It was hoped this would generate more interest and participation in the monthly members' meetings.

If you find that you enjoy receiving the paper copies, we will continue. But if you prefer to read the newsletter online and wish to discontinue the paper copies, please email membership@vckc.ca and put "email" in the subject line.

Thank you!
Muriel Johnson

MEC Paddlefest - A Celebration of Paddle Sports.

Date: Saturday, June 30 2012

What: Paddling Clubs, Paddling Retailers, Paddling Demonstrations, Gear Swap. A good opportunity to try out a few different boats, learn some skills, see what other clubs and retailers are up to.

Where: Willows Beach

More info: <http://blog.mec.ca/events/mec-paddlefest/mec-paddlefest-victoria/>

Clubhouse News

May has been a busy month with training sessions for paddling kayaks, canoes, and dragon boats. We respect the skill and knowledge of our VCKC instructors and coaches and appreciate how fortunate we are to have you share your expertise and provide education and guidance. Thank you!

The Club's annual Frost Free Weekend paddle and camping trip took place as well as the Running of the Cows trip on the Cowichan River. Gorge Super Sprints kicked off VCKC dragon boat team races May 26.

The first annual SwitchBlade paddle relay attracted six teams to VCKC on May 20. The skill and sportsmanship on display was impressive. A fun time was had by all participants and we really appreciated those who came out to help. Congratulations to Risa Greenwood and Darrelle Butler and the organizing group for a great event.

June will be equally busy. The annual June VCKC potluck and BBQ will be on Tuesday, June 5 from 6 to 9 pm. This is an annual BBQ for members to meet paddlers from other programs.

The dragon boat and voyageur programs will be providing rides for hundreds of participants on Saturday June 2 at the Big Brothers and Sister Picnic and Sunday June 3 at the Esquimalt Municipality Ocean's Day, both at Gorge Park. Both community groups enjoy the opportunity to get on the water and we get to support our community. We need several more helpers to load the canoes at the club, unload at Gorge Park, and to organize and help the riders, etc. If you can help please contact Don Munroe at voyageurguy@shaw.ca or Joe Boyd at voyageur@vckc.ca or Ron Crabtree at ron.crabtree@gmail.com

On Saturday, June 9, our dock will be the finish line for Boys and Girls Club's "Wild About Whales" derby. The event will run from 11:00 to 3:00 pm. The whales will race at 1 pm. Adopt a whale and then watch it race along the Gorge Waterway to the finish line for a chance to win some fantastic prizes. Event includes Voyageur canoe & Dragon Boat rides by VCKC.

Executive is exploring a new opportunity to develop a paddling program with Craigflower Elementary School - a subcommittee is just starting to consider the feasibility with James Skwarok, a Royal Roads University student, and Lynne Moorhouse of Craigflower school. More info will come as they progress.

Have a great summer and get out for a paddle (or more). Our next general meeting will be Tuesday, September 4.

Club Program/Financial Planning

Executive continues work on a method for long-term program planning and funding that is fair and grounded in principles by clarifying the following areas:

- (a) Club Purpose, Principles and Policies (complete)
- (b) Program/Financial Planning and Revenue Allocation (in progress)
- (c) Capital Asset Maintenance and Replacement 3-10 year plan (in progress)
- (d) Revenue Generation. (In progress)

Each VCKC program is developing 3-year plans describing their program plan and the anticipated resources needed, to be submitted September 4, 2012. Executive will review them in the fall within the context of the Club's most pressing needs, using a decision process that is seen as both fair and grounded in principles.

Monthly General Club Meetings

We have awesome programs and we want everyone to celebrate our love of paddling. An enthusiastic group of more than 60 was on hand for the Dragon Boat Program BBQ and activities at the May meeting. We enjoyed the burgers, loved the decor, were intrigued by the quiz, enjoyed the photos, and appreciate the program's effort in hosting a party.

The upcoming meeting schedule is:

- June 5, 2012 Club BBQ
- September 4, 2012 Club BBQ
- October 2, 2012 Program
- November 6, 2012 Program
- December 4, 2012 Club Christmas Party

Upcoming Events of Interest

Potluck & BBQ Tuesday, June 5 6-9 pm - Members with surnames A-K please bring dessert and L-Z bring salad/appetizer to share. Everyone can bring something to BBQ for themselves. Beverage BYO.

Celebrate our Harbour June 17 11-4 pm- activities on Songhees, Ship's Point and inner harbour.

National Canoe Day June 26 The annual National Canoe Day celebration will be held Sunday June 24th from 2:00 - 6:00 pm at the clubhouse.

MEC Paddle Fest June 30 at Willows Beach. On-Water clinics, a small "paddleswap" to sell your used gear and retailers selling new gear, boats for people to demo, and exhibitors from non-profit organizations (including the VCKC booth), draw prizes and great fun.

Canada Day Celebration Gorge Park July 1

VCKC is giving voyageur and dragon boat rides 9-4 pm.

Guts and Glory VCKC Dragon boat festival July 14 9-6 pm. Join in as a paddler, volunteer, cheering our teams, or enjoying burgers and beer.

See you all at the June meeting.
Pam Carroll
President, VCKC



Above:

VCKC Annual cleanup crew with Tim Horton's shirts. They provided food & supplies for us. Don Munroe arranged it all.

Photo by Wendy Clapp.



Above:

VCKC volunteers at the Times Colonist 10 K race.
Photo by Wendy Clapp

Emily Carr Tidbit

A trip up the Gorge was mentioned in Emily Carr's book *The Heart of a Peacock*.

Emily Carr, Victoria's most famous artist and writer, painted on the Gorge Waterway in the late 1920s. Emily rented a cabin from the Rodd Brothers' boat shed, and made a sketching trip in a houseboat along the Gorge, accompanied by her monkey Woo, and four dogs.

The address of the Rodd Brothers's boat shed is uncertain but 355 Gorge Road West; the current home of VCKC has been mentioned.

Is there a history buff at VCKC who can clarify this for the next newsletter?

Graham Lloyd

Dragon Boat Program Report

The 2012 Season Has Launched!

With both large dragon boats in the water, a full schedule of evening practices, and weeks of very successful Open Paddles and recruiting under our belt, the Dragon Boat Program is operating at capacity - in fact, we have had to turn away two teams who wish to join the Club because we don't have enough coaches and sterns to accommodate any more teams. By the time the Newsletter reaches readers, we will have sent teams to the first race of the season, the Gorge Sprints on May 26. There are now 4 teams up and running: St'Keya II, Ageless Warriors (over-50s), Rum Runners, "Britt's Team" (still to be named); and our fifth team, Komodo Dragons, will return to the Club later in the season.

Third Annual Guts n' Glory Festival, Sat. July 14

The Dragon Boat Program's New and Improved annual Guts n' Glory Festival will be held at the Clubhouse on Saturday, July 14. Registration is under way on the VCKC website, and closes on July 4. The main event will be a 2500 metre combined-time race in the large boats: in the morning, each team will race a 1250 metre course with a buoy turn (out and back). In the afternoon, each team will race the same course in a different dragon boat. The two times will be combined to see who gets the glory and medals. Also offered are 200 metre sprints in 10-seat Champion boats for Open, Mixed and Women's teams. Some key features of the day:

- Participants and guests will have an opportunity to try out Epic stand-up paddle boards, by donation.
- There will be a beer garden, BBQ, raffles, music, and other exciting extras, brought to you by Montana's and other sponsors.
- We will have a semi-pro race director, starter and race crews.
- We hope to have bleachers and Porta Potties to encourage spectators from the community, and a Paddlers Village and massage services for weary paddlers. St. John's Ambulance will be present.
- There WILL be perfect weather!

If you know dragon boaters at other clubs around town, please promote our event to them! Also, anyone from VCKC who wishes to form a team for the sprint event (marathoners? outriggers?) is welcome to do so - you need 10 paddlers, a knowledgeable stern, and a caller. Just go on the website to register. If you contact Mary Kirchner (see below), she will be pleased to arrange practice times for you.

Note: There are still some jobs to go around. If you like fun in the sun, please volunteer! You don't need to be a member of the Dragon Boat program to apply. For more details, contact the Event Director, Brittany Kohn or the Dragon Boat Director, Mary Kirchner, at VCKC.coach.britt@gmail.com or dragonboat@vckc.ca respectively.

Community Outreach

Dragon boaters will be participating as volunteers/participants at the following events, along with other members of the Club:

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Annual Picnic, June 2, Esquimalt Gorge Park - Ageless Warriors and the Voyageur program are providing boat rides.
- Wild About Whales Derby, June 9, Esquimalt Gorge Park - Rum Runners are providing boat rides to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Victoria.
- Currents permitting, the Program hopes to send at least one boat to the Celebrate our Harbour event, June 17. (See article on page 7.)
- MEC Paddlefest, June 30, 10:00 - 4:00, Willows Beach. Various VCKC boats - including the 9 metre dragon boat - will be on hand to give demos, and volunteers from a number of programs will staff a VCKC information booth.
- The Dragon Boat Program, along with the Voyageur program, spearheads the Club's volunteer fundraising activity at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic on July 1st. (See article on page 5.) All proceeds go to Camp Shawnigan.



Introductory Lakewater I Tandem Canoe course participants practise turning around the buoys.

Photo by Graham Lloyd.

VCKC Celebrates Canada Day at the Gorge Picnic

Every year the Dragon Boat Program and the Voyageur Program (with help from VCKC volunteers from the whole Club) provide boat rides for kids and their families as part of the Gorge Canada Day Picnic. For a buck or two the passengers get to "paddle" a big boat from Kosapsum Park near the Craigflower Bridge, and the Club donates the proceeds to Camp Shawnigan.

If you've never volunteered before, you owe it to yourself. It's fun (really!), a great way to work on your tan, a good workout, a neighbourly gesture on the part of the Club, AND when you're off-shift you get to stroll the booths, listen to live music, eat scrumptious food, and soak up the atmosphere of one of Victoria's least-known and best-loved Canada Day celebrations.

A sign-up sheet will be posted by the basement door of the Clubhouse by early June. We need lots of volunteers, and you can pick your three-hour shift and duties. Here are the various jobs we need to fill: early morning transportation and set-up of a temporary dock, tent, chairs, paddles and PFDs; cashiers; people to outfit passengers with PFDs and paddles; people to line them up; people to load and unload boats; paddlers to provide the muscle power for each ride; a stern and a caller (tour guide) for each boat; and transportation of the boats and all the gear back to the Clubhouse at about 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please direct them to Mary Kirchner at dragonboat@vckc.ca

Items for Sale

Miscellaneous For Sale

Call Amber at 250-652-7706

Ocean Kayak \$995

- Capella (polurythene with foam core)
- 16 feet 8 inches
- Mounted compass.
- Built-in Bilge pump
- All accessories \$1,200)

Two dusty pick fabric rocking chairs (were \$400 each when new) \$95 each. Both for \$160

China cabinet antique mahogany

- real wood, glass doors
- approx 5 feet 5 inches tall;
- cabinet doors on bottom \$350

Metal detector \$40

Christmas Music Globe (snow) classy \$25

Padi Open Water divers manual/log/planner/cd / \$25 (\$100 new)

Rabbit scene (family on tree) \$40 for baby room.

Hello Fellow Paddlers

I have a fibreglass Necky Tofino double kayak for sale.

- It is in very good condition and when not on trips is kept in my dry boat shed.

- I would be happy to let it go for what I think is a very fair price of \$ 1,800.

Please contact George at 250 468 7281



VCKC THOMPSON RIVER TRIP 2012

This trip requires some planning and logistical arrangements to be made, so if, having read the description below, you want to take part, please let me know by Friday Sept 10th at the latest.

Saturday/Sunday, Sept 15th and 16th

General Description

This trip runs the Thompson River between the bridge at Savona (Steelhead Provincial Park) and Ashcroft. We will use voyageurs: tandem and solo boats can come if they have airbags. While the big canoes will be provided, bring your own PFD and paddle. No river paddling skills are required if you plan to paddle in a voyageur, but it is helpful to have paddled in one of them before. Tandem and solo paddlers require to have taken the Moving Water canoe course.

The river is large, generally flat, but with a good current. There are some good waves, but nearly all can be avoided if needed. The biggest set of waves comes early on, after the first bridge. Thereafter, they are generally smaller, less severe, and/or more avoidable. The weather is likely to be warm and the river not too cold, although there may be a head wind in the later afternoon. Wet suits are not needed. There is some history to the area - the Wallachin settlement pre WW1 - and the scenery is lovely.

Accommodation

We camp at Juniper Beach Provincial Park, which is half way between Cache Creek and Savona on the TCH from Cache Lytton to Kamloops. The Park is on the banks of the Thompson River. There is tent camping on the lawn there, although most users are trailer campers. There are toilets and water sources. Sites cannot be booked, but we have not had any difficulties in past years. For details, see the website http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/juniper_bch/ Cost is \$21 per party per night for tent camping, \$25 if hooked up to electricity. The phone # is 250.457.6794

The site is by a railway and there is another track across the river. If you don't like being woken up at night, take ear-plugs to dull the sound of the trains and their whistles. Also note that there are prickly pear cactuses in the scrub/bush beyond the campsite, so don't go beyond the park without thick-soled footwear.

For those who like motels, there are some in Cache Creek, Ashcroft and probably in Savona.

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Transport

Up to individuals, but if people commit, probably sharing can be arranged. People who are working can catch the 5pm ferry and drive up to Juniper Beach arriving between 11pm and midnight. If you are driving up the Fraser Canyon, Jericho Beach is about 18kms east of Cache Creek - the sign is easily seen. If you go up the Coquihalla, head back towards Cache Creek and the park is < 10 kms west of the Savona Bridge. On the Sunday, we will leave in time to catch the 7, 8 or 9 o'clock ferry back to Victoria

Program Saturday - Drive boats and people up to Savona Bridge, east of Juniper Beach - about 20 minute drive. Unload boats, then shuttle vehicles to Ashcroft. Drivers return in one vehicle to put-in - about a 1 hr shuttle. Paddle down river to Juniper Beach campsite where we have lunch - no need to pack one. Then paddle down to Ashcroft in the afternoon. The take-out is conveniently close to a pub; back to the campsite for dinner.

Program Sunday - Drive boats to the put-in again, and paddle to Juniper Beach - half day run. We aim to be packed and on the road to Tsawassen by about 2pm.

In past years, some members of the Thompson River and Interior Paddling Society (TRIPS) have joined us, which adds to the fun.

Costs

Transportation - ferry, gas - obviously reduced if shared. It is about 400km each way, so work out the costs based on your cars mileage.

Camping - see above

Food - depends on what you eat and where. We usually have a beer or two in Ashcroft, and some people eat there, too.

Boats - we have traditionally asked everyone to donate money either to donate to TRIPS for the use of their voyageurs or to pay for the cost of transporting VCKC voyageurs or the cost of renting some in Maple Ridge. The first option costs \$100 or so. The costs of rental and/or transport, should the TRIPS boats not be available, would be considerably higher. Rental would be in the order of \$150 per boat for the weekend + a share of the gas costs.

Transporting the Club boats would be similar due to the length of the trailer. With 6 people per boats, that would work out to at least \$25 per head + a share of the towing costs.

Alan Thomson 250-592-4170
3135thom@islandnet.com

Victoria Harbour Celebration 2011

On Sunday June 17th from 11am to 4pm the Society will present the 2nd Annual Celebrate Our Harbour Day to encourage Victoria residents and visitors to experience the unique character, history, industry and beauty of the Harbour. It will be a free fun-filled afternoon of family activities on Songhees and Ship's Point, traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, and on the waters of Victoria's picturesque Inner Harbour.

The Day will be designed to celebrate the Harbour's diversity and uniqueness showcasing paddle boat races, historical tours, working harbor activities, Maritime entertainment performances, sand sculptures, kayaking and rowing activities, a pirate

school and much more. There's sure to be something inspirational for everyone to celebrate!"

VCKC would like its members to come out for this event.

Some programs may wish to take the big boats out; but many small craft may be more impressive, and show that the paddling community needs a say in the harbour's future. (The current through Tillicum passage looks favourable: ebbing until noon then flooding.)

More details at <http://celebratevictoriaharbour.ca> and get VCKC specific plans from your program director.

Attention Paddlers! MEC Club Night is June 19

Marathon, Kayak, Canoe, Outrigger, Dragon Boat and beyond - whatever your sport, this sale is for you. Mountain Equipment Co-op at 1450 Government St. is hosting a Club Night on Tuesday, June 19 for VCKC and Power to Be members between the hours of 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. Just mention at the till that you're a VCKC member. A 10% discount will be applied to ALL items in the store excluding yellow-tagged OMD (open markdown items) and items already on clearance. This includes footwear, hiking, biking and climbing gear and all kinds of outdoor sports wear. You can go online now and start building your shopping list.

This is your ideal opportunity to pick up your very own paddle and PFD at a lower-than-reasonable price. If you've been paddling for more than a year and are still using Club equipment, shame on you! The paddles and PFD's in the Clubhouse are intended for the use of newcomers to the sport only, to help them make up their minds whether they'll become regulars. Do yourself a favour and flee from chewed-up, wrong-sized paddles and wet smelly PFDs! With care, your investment will last for several years.

P.S. MEC is a Co-op. If you're not yet a member, you can join for a lifetime fee of \$5.00 on the night of the sale. You'll easily save this amount in just one year of shopping.

A Thanksmas Party for Maureen - June 2

Several years ago Maureen Young, Club member extraordinaire, coined the term "Thanksmas" for a party that mashed together two or more reasons for celebration and involved (a) coming in costume, (b) bringing great food and drinks, (c) laughing a lot, and (d) playing the occasional party game.

Readers of the Newsletter will know that Maureen passed away on April 16th. She did not wish to be the subject of a memorial service or Celebration of Life, but a good party would have been right up her alley. Accordingly, her friends are cordially invited to attend a Thanksmas Party for Maureen on Saturday, June 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Fancy dress optional, but please feel

free to look as silly or elegant or mysterious as you wish. Bring your memories, some food, and your favourite drink. Remember NOT to park behind the commercial establishments on the NW corner of Gorge and Tillicum.

There will be music, pictures, and great conversation among friends. We can't make promises about the party games, but we will laugh a lot and celebrate Maureen's continued presence in our lives. Look forward to seeing you there. Questions? Contact Judy Leonard Judith2222@aol.com or Barbara Abercrombie b_abcrombie@telus.net.

VCKC Executive

Executive

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Note: the Deadline for submission of content for the next newsletter is August 15

June 2012

Sun	Mon	▼ Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	01-Jun	2
						Lakewater Tandem Canoe Course 12:00 Big Bro/Sis Picnic 18:00 Thanksm as for Maureen
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12:00 Ocean's Day (Esquimalt)		19:00 VCKC BBQ & General Meeting				11:00 Wild About Whales Derby
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		19:00 Executive Meeting				Lakewater Basic Solo Canoe Course
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11:00 CELEBRATE OUR HARBOUR		19:00 MEC Club Night	19:00 GWI meeting			(09:00) Sea Kayaking Level 1 Course
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sea Kayaking Level 1 Course 14:00 National Canoe Day						MEC Paddlefest