



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

September 2012

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club Potluck & BBQ & General Meeting

Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Members with surnames:

A-K please bring salads or appetizers; and

L-Z brings deserts to share.

Everyone can bring something to BBQ for themselves and beverage is BYO.

NOTICES

A Message from VCKC's Membership Person

For the 2012 year, 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

New Marathon Canoe

VCKC purchased a new Marathon Canoe for the club. It is a great racing boat and was purchased for \$1,400. \$2000 was approved for Marathon Equipment in the current year budget at the AGM in December 2011.

Clubhouse News September 2012

Our members & volunteers were busy this summer. We've also spent some wonderful time enjoying the sunset from the VCKC deck on the Gorge.

VCKC volunteered dragon boat and voyageur rides in June for three events - the Big Brothers/Big Sisters annual picnic, the Boys and Girls Clubs Wild about Whales Derby, and Esquimalt Community Ocean Day. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get out on the water. For many, this is the first time they have been in a dragon boat or a voyageur and they enjoyed the experience.

Canada Day: As part of the Canada Day celebrations, the Gorge Tillicum Community Association held their Strawberry Tea event at our clubhouse. A unique event this Canada Day was Queen Elizabeth travelling by voyageur canoe along the Gorge - a re-enactment to celebrate her anniversary. She even took the opportunity to paddle. The Club put on its usual voyageur and dragon-boat rides working from the beach by the Craigflower School. There were two dragon boats and one voyageur canoe in service, and they were kept steadily busy all day from about 10 am through to 3.30pm. At \$2 per ride, the Club raised \$912, which will go to the Lion's Easter Seal Camp Shawnigan. Thanks to the many Club members, particularly from the dragon boat program. Another successful fundraiser by our members.



Canada Day 2012 Voyageur Ride

Camp Blanshard: VCKC hosted the Camp Blanshard kids from the Blanshard Community Centre in July and August. This is the third year VCKC has provided a dragon boat paddling experience for the centre. Most of these kids have never seen let alone paddled in a dragon boat. Without volunteers from the club, we would not be able to provide some of these services back to our community. Thank you all.



Camp Blanshard Paddle July 2012

Craigflower School Canoe Project: Executive approved in principle initiating a paddling program with Craigflower Elementary School grade 4/5 students. The goals of the project are:

- Reconnect Craigflower Elementary students to nature and culture through experiencing the Gorge waterway as an outdoor classroom;
- Increase student physical activity through weekly water paddling activity;
- Increase self-esteem and team work skills through training/group practice to achieve student mastery of paddling skills;
- Inclusive of students who come from lower socio economic backgrounds and diverse cultures;
- VCKC encourage youth paddling activities; and train students in safe and skillful paddling

A subcommittee feasibility report and risk management plan will guide an executive decision on final approval of this new project. Initially students will use our dragon boats to learn paddling safety and skills, progressing to the voyageur canoes as they gain expertise. Project Manager, James Skwarok, is a VCKC member incorporating this project in his master's thesis at Royal Roads University. VCKC will be submitting a MEC Community Support grant request in September to fund weather appropriate paddling attire for the students. We plan for students to be on the water in mid September. More info will come as they progress.

Gorge Swim Fest: The 1st annual swim in the Gorge event August 12 was a success. Extra docks set up along the Gorge to facilitate swimming were popular and a variety of information booths interested people. The initial estimate is about 500 people swam. The 4 community associations encouraged swimming with public information like the following: Nervous about swimming the Gorge? We can give you some reassuring facts. The Gorge is warm. August temperatures have been recorded as high as 24 degrees Celsius, which compares favourably to your favourite local lake. The Gorge is clean. While local lakes occasionally have closures, there has not been a beach closure on the Gorge this century and frequent water sampling indicates contaminant levels are well below allowable levels.



Gorge Swim Fest August 2012 Curtis Point

VCKC BBQ: The club's fall BBQ and General Meeting September 4 is a great chance for newer members to meet others from different programs. Hope to see everyone there.

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 for September 2012 describing their program plan and the anticipated resources needed. 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.

Wanted Tandem Kayak:

Used tandem kayak, in good shape for ocean day tripping. Must have sealed bulkheads, rudder & storage. Already have spray skirts and paddles but extra ones can be useful.

Contact Ron (ron.crabtree@gmail.com)

VCKC - Newsletter - September 2012

Clubhouse News, Cont'd.

Monthly General Club Meetings:

We have awesome programs and we want everyone to celebrate our love of paddling. The upcoming meeting schedule is:

September 4, 2012	Club BBQ & General Meeting
October 2, 2012	Marathon Canoe program
November 6, 2012	Voyageur Canoe Program
December 4, 2012	Club Christmas Party
January 8, 2013	Annual General Meeting

Upcoming Events of Interest

Potluck & BBQ Tuesday, Sept 4 6-9 pm - Members with surnames A-K please bring salad/appetizer and L-Z bring dessert to share. Everyone can bring something to BBQ for themselves. Beverage BYO.

Esquimalt 100 Celebration Sept 8 11-9:30 pm - Esquimalt Gorge Park - live music on stage, historical tour, kid's zone, and voyageur canoe rides by VCKC. Thank you to the volunteers for providing rides.

Voyageur Thompson River Trip September 15/16 - Trip Leader Alan Thomson 3135thom@islandnet.com

See you all at the September meeting.

Pam

President, VCKC

VCKC History - Emily Carr

With regards to Graham Lloyd's note about Emily Carr, I have a 1940 phone book that lists Rodd Bros. Boats at 355 Gorge W. In Dennis Minaker's book "The Gorge of Summers Gone", he mentions the history of 355 Gorge Road West. It was built for Mr. Hamilton and designed by Samuel Maclure in 1923. He sold it to the Rodds where they had their boatyard and supplemented their income by renting out two small cottages adjacent to the boatyard. According to Gwynn and Dorothy Rodd (interviewed by author Minaker in 1993) one cabin was leased briefly to Emily Carr. Gwyn's youngest brother John was given the task of mowing her small patch of lawn. The Rodd family remained until the Second World War. Hugh, the older brother developed the Canoe Cove Marina near Swartz Bay. His own house there is now known as the Stonehouse Pub.

Most of this info from Dennis Minaker's book. I contacted him for permission to use and edit it. He gave us permission to use it in our newsletter.

Marilyn Tomlinson

Does any one else have a VCKC History titbit?

Dragon Boat Program

It's all over but the shouting (and parties) for the 2012 dragon boating season - except for those lucky paddlers going to Portland, Burnaby, Alberni or Las Vegas in the Fall. Next month's newsletter will contain the wrap-up report on Victoria's Dragon Boat Festival. Looking back over the summer, the Program has a lot to celebrate.

1 The Season So Far

The season kicked off with the Gorge Sprints on May 26 - Rum Runners took Gold in the Red division and VCKC United won Bronze in the White division. VCKC teams didn't medal at the Nanaimo Festival, July 7th and 8th, but a fantastic time was had by VCKC United and by Rum Runners, who got into the "A" round of the Diamond Division. VCKC United didn't make the medal round at The Gorgefest on Aug. 11, but they did beat arch-rivals Amazing Greys in the final race AND clocked a "personal best" of 2:03 (we suspect the course was shorter than usual). The big story of the summer was VCKC's own event, Guts n' Glory.

2 Guts n' Glory Festival

If it takes a village to raise a child, it can truly be said that it takes a Club to put on a festival. People from every Program (and from the Victoria dragon boat community at large) came together to make our third annual Guts n' Glory Festival a memorable success. July 14th ushered in a splendid day following a run of gloomy, cool weather, and did we ever make good use of it! The event attracted 23 teams, some from as far away as Nanaimo.

Interestingly, only one team entered the 2500m long boat race, so that event was scrapped. The fact that we had several new teams entered for the 200m sprints in the Champion boats makes us think there will be a brilliant future for short boat races on the Island; and VCKC appears to be in the vanguard.

The really good news is that we exceeded last year's fundraising, with proceeds of over \$3000 for the Club. VCKC teams cleaned up in the medal haul, too, despite some stiff competition. Rum Runners' "afterthought" team signed up 3 guys from GRPC's Blazing Balls team, rebranded itself as "Rumballs", and won Gold in the Mixed Division, while Rum Runners' women's team took Silver in the Women's Division, just one second behind Gorging Dragons Women over two heats. VCKC's Team Rush took Bronze in the hotly-contested Open Division.

This year's festival featured a paddlers' village, a stand-up paddle board race, a shady beer garden with décor inspired by our "buccaneers" theme, medals you might actually want to hang on the wall

or wear to the supermarket, exciting prizes, great music, and fascinating spectator sport for our neighbours.

The list of thanks to you and you and you goes on forever, but here are some highlights:

- Brittany Kohn for her amazing time/effort in putting together the festival as Event Director
- Mary Kirchner, Director of the DB Program, for spearheading, coordinating - and troubleshooting
- Our friends from the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival (Glenys, Neil, Lorraine), Go Row and Paddle (Jude, Corey, James, Erik) and VCKC dragon boat paddlers and members who volunteered their time to help us run the race. Special thanks to the Marathon Canoe Program and to Risa, Darrelle, Gord and Helen, who stepped in at the last minute to help with race officiating. Thanks as well to Maris Ratel and Alan and Linda Thomson of the Canoe Program for making the garden look lovely, and Sandy Rattray for making repairs to the house! Rockin' Robin provided the musical soundtrack with his usual flair.
- A special thank you to Vancouver Island Paddling for the use of their two Champion boats
- Bon for doing the race grid, Doug for making the sandwich boards, Barbara for the welcome letters, Susan for acting as event Treasurer, Renee/Mary for registration, Wendy for photos (check out the website for these!), Rum Runners for set up, cleanup and delivering notices to neighbours (go, Posties!), Ageless Warriors for loading on/off the dock, Ronnie and her team (Louise, Liz, Susan) for breakfast service, Renee/June for the 50/50 draw, Heidi/Renee for beer garden decorating, Bob/Bon for race course setup, Marie, Heidi, Dale, Carole, Ronnie, Susan, Bob, and Pam for extra help on the day.

All this would have been impossible without the aid of our wonderful sponsors and our friends at Saanich Parks and Recreation.

The Dragon Boat Program Committee met on August 7 to debrief on the Guts n' Glory festival and plan for a big wrap-up party. The Committee received some excellent suggestions for making next year's festival even more efficient.

The Program extends its thanks to the hard-working members of the Committee over the past season: Mary Kirchner, Renee Bagwell, Heidi Schwartz, Brittany Kohn, Wendy Clapp, Ron Crabtree, Barbara Abercrombie, Penny Brady, Mile Petrovic and Karen Armstrong. Finally, a special shout-out to Marie Lansdowne, Bob Elphick, and Dale Swan for dragon boat maintenance, and to Mile Petrovic for maintaining/fixing the DB paddles.

3 Dragon Boating Gives Back

It's not all races and beer for VCKC dragon boaters. The Program took part in the following activities over the summer, sometimes in cooperation with other VCKC programs, sometimes on its own:

- On three separate days in June we and the voyageurs gave kids rides at the following community events: Oceans Day, Boys and Girls Club, Wild About Whales;



Ocean's Day with Hon. David Anderson as a Paddler

- Gorge Canada Day Picnic, where VCKC volunteers raised \$912 for Camp Shawnigan by taking kids and their families out in voyageur canoes and dragon boats;
- Hosted Blanshard Court kids for a day of dragon boat rides in both July and August;
- Made our dragon boat facilities available to the Komodo Dragons team;
- Participated in planning for the Craigflower Canoe Project;
- Wendy Clapp organized the VCKC bottle drive for the BC Cancer Foundation; and
- Ron Crabtree organized DB paddlers for marshalling at the Victoria Marathon and TC 10K runs, earning honoraria for the Club.

We also did a number of things to encourage folks in our community to experience safe paddling and to learn more about VCKC:

- Held a series of open Saturday paddles from March to May, led by Brittany;
- At MEC's Paddlefest Brittany, Dale, Pam and Mary supported Kym Thrift of the Canoe Program in letting the public know about VCKC. They took the Champion to Willows Beach and talked up VCKC, while Kym gave a number of folks canoe paddling opportunities;
- Brittany and Mary supervised trial sessions in the Champion for two teams from up-Island; and
- Through Karen Armstrong, we encouraged a number of her work colleagues to try out dragon boating over two Saturdays - Stephen Lee kindly provided instruction, while Ron Armstrong sterned.

Finally, members of the Program are excited about the opportunity to help launch the Craigflower Canoe Project in September.

Dragon Boat Canada Community Coaching Course

Good news! Vancouver Island Paddling has secured former paddling Olympian Kamini Jain to come and teach Dragon Boat Canada's Coaching Community Dragon Boat Course this coming November 18 at Vic West Community Centre for the very reasonable price of \$195. This is a great opportunity, and one that comes around rarely - the course is usually offered in Vancouver, entailing travel and hotel costs for Vancouver Island participants. According to VCKC policy, persons taking and passing a coaching course can be reimbursed for half the cost after coaching for one season at VCKC within the 12 months after

the course. If you've ever thought you'd like to help out the DB community by coaching and introducing new paddlers to the sport, this is the ideal opportunity for you. The course will provide you with a valuable tool-kit to help you design practices and programs and deal with the ethical challenges you may encounter coaching athletes at any age. Once you complete the course, you become a Level 1 certified coach with Dragon Boat Canada. Full details and registration are available at www.gorgingdragons.ca. The course may fill up quickly, so act fast!

VCKC Executive

Executive

President president@vckc.ca

Pam Carroll 250-479-8878

Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca

Marie Lansdowne 250-382-3247

Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca

Anne Ardiel 250.658.2442

Secretary secretary@vckc.ca

Barbara Abercrombie 250-598-7931

Past President pastpres@vckc.ca

Bon Lee 250 477-1381

Program Directors

Canoe Program canoe@vckc.ca

Yasmin Rampuri

Dragonboat Program dragonboat@vckc.ca

Mary Kirchner

Kayak Program kayak@vckc.ca

Doug Linton 250 727-0216

Outrigger Program outrigger@vckc.ca

Dave Schweter 250 213-9944

Marathon Canoe Program marathon@vckc.ca

Darrelle Butler

& Risa Greenwood

Voyageur Program voyageur@vckc.ca

Joe Boyd 250-386-6004

Other Executive

Education, Standards & Safety safety@vckc.ca

Doug Linton 250 727-0216

Membership membership@vckc.ca

Muriel Johnson

Clubhouse and Grounds clubhouse@vckc.ca

Sandy Rattray 250 386-9144

Boat & Locker Storage storage@vckc.ca

Doug Magnuson

Director at Large director1@vckc.ca

Wendy Clapp 250 220-5787

Director at Large director2@vckc.ca

Kym Thrift

Director at Large director3@vckc.ca

Mile Petrovic

Director at Large director4@vckc.ca

June Parker

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor newsletter@vckc.ca

Jean Chandler 250-727-6923

Webmaster webmaster@vckc.ca

Ron Crabtree 778 430-4545

Note: the Deadline for submission of content for the next newsletter is September 18.

September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	01-Sep
14:00 Guts n' Glory Sponsors BBQ						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		18:00 VCKC BBQ & General Meeting				Portland DBF Esquimalt Centennial Celebration
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Portland DBF		19:00 Executive Meeting				Voyageur trip
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Voyageur trip		Newsletter Deadline				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	01-Oct	2	3	4	5	6
		VCKC General Meeting				