



## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

# Newsletter

March 2016

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club 355 Gorge Road West Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9  
Phone: 250-590-8193 (Info only) Website: [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca)

### Notices

- **Next General Meeting:** Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm (Presentation on Slalom Canoe – *see below*)
- Canoe Course Schedule now available – *see below*
- 2016 **Paddle for the Kids:** Weekly Practices underway – March 19<sup>th</sup> is the main event.
- 2016 **Wake Up the Gorge:** Registration now open – April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> for OC6 & Small Craft, respectively.
- 2016 **Guts 'n Glory Dragon Boat Event:** Scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- April General Meeting: Victoria Harbour Master to present challenges facing paddlers in the Inner Harbour.

NB: see calendar item on website for details; meet at the Clubhouse unless noted otherwise.

### **Next General Meeting Presentation**

Come to the VCKC March General Meeting to hear a presentation on the exciting sport of **Slalom Canoe** by **Ryan Mader**.

Ryan was on the Canadian National Development Team in 1996-1997 and was on the Canadian National Team in 1998. For many years in the 1990's Ryan was the Ontario Champion. He raced on the world cup circuit in 1997 and 1998 in competitions that took him all across Europe and North America.

In 1998, Ryan won gold at the Canadian National Championship race in Kananaskis, Alberta. He also competed at the World Championships in La Seu d'Urgell, Spain. His best world cup placing was in 1998 when he came 23<sup>rd</sup> at Warsaw, WI, USA. In 2000, Ryan qualified once again for the Canadian National Team but he declined the spot.

If you have paddled on the river I'm sure you will appreciate the skills involved in Slalom Canoe. Don't miss this presentation on an exciting sport!

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### **President's Report**

News from the February Executive meeting:

The club's **Wildlife and Habitat Policy** has been amended to read as follows:

1. Every effort should be made at all times to avoid disturbing wildlife during club trips or when using club boats, especially in the upper Gorge waterways from November to December (the salmon spawning season) and from April to June when herons are nesting in

Cuthbert Holmes Park. Avoid entering the waterways during these times.

2. Do not feed the wildlife.
3. Habitat should be left as found. Enter the rivers and creeks of the Gorge only when water is deep enough for paddlers to prevent boats and Paddles from hitting the bottom. Do not turn big boats around in the mudflats of Colquitz Creek: big boats are required to back out.

We welcome **Strong Point Therapeutic Learning Program** as our newest **Associate Group**. Andrew

Farrell, the Director of the program, is a club member and the club representative for the Associate Group. He is a flatwater canoeing instructor, and qualified voyageur paddler and stern. Strong Point is an alternative learning program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. We hope the children will enjoy themselves and wish them every success.

Linda Thomson, President

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## **HAZMAT Workshop**

by Jean Chandler

On Saturday February 13, Edmond Duggan and I attended the Hazmat cleanup workshop held in the VCKC meeting room. It was led by Dave Rogers of BC Hazmat Ltd and sponsored by Joachim Carolsfled (Yogi) of the World Fisheries Trust. Presenters were a number of extremely knowledgeable people working to keep our environment on the island free of dangerous spills. Participant input was excellent. I've attempted to filter out information that may be of interest to paddlers both on the water and in their homes and community.

Only trained personnel can work on major oil spills in Canada.

- a. Five companies in the Victoria area are trained and authorized to do this clean up. They do train interested people and keep them on their spare list so they can call for help when additional trained people are needed. Of these 5 companies, Western Canada Marine Response specializes in hazardous spills on the water. These are private companies who must have a commitment that they will be paid for the cleanup before they proceed.
- b. Industries are encouraged to have a HAZMAT spill kit so they can clean small spills and arrest larger spills until the trained personnel arrive. Victoria has a working harbour so spills will continue to occur.
- c. Volunteers can work on site to protect the trained staff with jobs such as traffic control, providing food, etc.
- d. Volunteers can work on cleaning oil soaked birds with minimal training at a spill site. Three day training sessions for Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques (SCAT) are available locally.

Chemicals and Petroleum products are the two primary sources of HAZMAT incidents. They are a problem in our sewer and rainwater drainage systems as well as in our trash systems and on the ground.

- a. Chemicals include:
  - i. Unused medications (which can be taken back to any pharmacy in their container with only the patient's name removed). In fact, Most street drug production materials are hazardous.
  - ii. Batteries (lithium is used in crystal meth production and can burn very hot in a fire that cannot be put out).
  - iii. Paint and paint cans
  - iv. Household cleaners and many other products available at many consumer stores (check your products for foam and micro petroleum products used for easier spreading). Safe disposal helps with the ongoing minor increase of hazardous materials in our environment.
- b. Petroleum Spills include
  - i. Highway, rail and shipping accidents
  - ii. Home heating oil tank leaks (Check your homeowner insurance for hydrocarbon spills: most homes in Victoria are not covered.) Tanks can expire as early as after 5 years and become at risk at 10 years. Previous owners who met HAZMAT standards when retiring a tank in 1972 have been sued for leaks, based on the 2016 standards.
  - iii. Inappropriate disposal of vehicle fuels and oils.

What can a paddler do?

- a. Report any signs of smell or sheen on the water, particularly coming from the city sewers. Water from the street sewers is routed to our lake, river and ocean waters without and treatment.
  - i. Call 911 to report any spillage of materials hazardous to humans; this includes petroleum and chemical spills in the waterway.
  - ii. Call Emergency Management BC at 1.800.663.3456 (answered 24 hours a day). Follow-up to the call may only be during office hours.
  - iii. Contact your municipality. If you are not sure who to report to, call the CRD (250.360.3078) Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
- b. Identify all your hazardous products.

c. Take all you hazardous products to the Hartland recycle place where you will not be charged and all materials will be safely recycled or disposed.

Where to find more information

a. <https://www.crd.bc.ca/education/our-environment/concerns>

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## 2016 VCKC Spring Canoe Course Schedule

(visit [vckc.ca](http://vckc.ca) to register or email [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca) for any questions)

Canoe Course or Activity	Date	Cost
Lakewater 1	April 9th	\$25 + membership (single \$50, family \$70)
Lakewater 1	May 28th	\$25 + membership
Lakewater 2	April 24	\$25 + membership
Moving Water 1	April 2,3	\$100 + membership
Lakewater 3	June 25 (if enough interest)	\$25 + membership
Running of the Cowichan River	April 30/May 1	free
Frost Free Weekend	May 7/8	free
Ocean Canoeing Course	May 14/15 (12 hours Classroom dates TBD)	\$100 + chart and compass if needed
Moving Water 2	Will be offered if sufficient interest expressed	\$100 + membership
Basic Poling	Will be offered if sufficient interest expressed	\$35 for flatwater, \$65 for moving water + membership
Lakewater 4	June 26 (if enough interest)	\$25 + membership

## Canoe Program Update

A thank you once again to Alan for leading a great flat water paddle this month.

Dan will soon have completed canoe training for Maria Montessori Academy, which was an ambitious undertaking. Good work on spreading the love of canoeing!

Since the cherry trees are blossoming in parts of the city it was time to unveil the spring canoe course calendar. The courses can be registered online at [vckc.ca](http://vckc.ca) from either the calendar or from the Canoe Course page. Our hopes are this will make things easier, although there will surely be some learning along the way. Once the first lakewater course has been completed, there will be shorter beginner level flat water paddles to help members get canoeing.

David Dorosz

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## Dragonboat Program Update

We are excited and enthusiastic about this new 2016 season! We have been busy behind the scenes in preparing for this new racing season. By the time this newsletter is published, we would have had our Kick Off meeting, welcoming both new and returning paddlers. Our goal is to have at least 2 teams committed to a fun and exciting racing season that will include, but not limited to, participating in Victoria Festival (Aug13/14) and our own club's Guts'N Glory Race (July23).

"Learn to Paddle" dates- to introduce new paddlers to the sport, will be scheduled in March with regular team practice starting in April. We are working on solidifying the dates as quickly as possible. In the meantime, keep checking the webpage for updates and if you'd like to be informed of set dates by email, just let us know.

We are always welcoming new and experienced paddlers!! Please contact us if you would like to join us.

Kim Capson & Paula Gough

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## Outrigger Program Update

The big news going forward is of course the upcoming "**Wake Up the Gorge**" event. This will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 2nd and 3rd. All of the details, including registration, are now on our great new [web site](#).....thank you Victoria Mann!!

I would encourage any paddlers to put a team together for this fun event. Whether you are a

recreational or very competitive paddler, you will have a good time. If for some reason you don't or can't paddle, then helping out as a volunteer would be greatly appreciated. Contact me at: [outrigger@vckc.ca](mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca)

Our ongoing OC2 purchase has been approved and as soon as we can formalize out some storage and booking ideas, it should be available for paddling soon.

*Upcoming Course:*

**How to Steer an Outrigger Canoe – OC6**

Cost \$25.00

Saturday, March 26th, 9:00am – 2:00PM

VCKC Clubhouse

Maybe you have been paddling outrigger canoes for years but have never had the opportunity to steer. Doubtless you've wondered what needs to be done to keep the boat pointed in the right direction. Just how should you poke and exactly when? How should you change your style to accommodate high winds and big swell? There is a good deal more to steering a canoe than you realize. Until you know how to steer that boat you pull around three hours a day, you haven't really enjoyed the whole of outrigger canoeing.

This is a great opportunity to increase your paddling skills and gain an appreciation for a sterns job and skills. If you are interested please email me at: [outrigger@vckc.ca](mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca)

Shawn Hamilton

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## 2016 Paddle for the Kids Kick-off



## Ama's Beyond Cosmetic Surgery

By Shawn Hamilton

One of our OC6s had a minor repair to attend to, resulting in two small areas to patch. The damaged part (the ama) was put in the VCKC Hospital and the wounds were fixed. I have included some photos of the operation that O.R. nurse Molly Hamilton so graciously took. Doctors B. Lee and S. Hamilton

### OC6 Ama Repaired in Clubhouse



completed the surgery under the ever watchful eye of Chief Surgeon R. Williams. You'll notice tremendous skill, intense focus and technique exhibited by the talented young doctors. There was also a very observant and helpful crew (wannabe doctors) in attendance to make sure the techniques and procedures were 100%. The ama should have a complete recovery, with very little scarring!!

VCKC medical insurance covered the cost thankfully, albeit only a \$15.00 bill. Phew!!!!

### Latest Buzz

from a Reliable Source

MS Warriors have joined VCKC. You might see them practicing in OC6 or dragon boats.

### Removing gelcoat from ama



### Applying resin to fibreglass



## March 2016 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	Mar 1 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting 7:30pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 3:00 PM GWI Steering Committee Meeting	17	18	19 8:00 AM Paddle For The Kids: Finale
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 10:00 AM How to Steer an Outrigger Canoe (OC6)
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2 Wake Up the Gorge Moving Water 1 - Tandem

## Club Contact Information

### Officers

**President** [president@vckc.ca](mailto:president@vckc.ca)  
 Linda Thomson  
**Vice-president** [vpresident@vckc.ca](mailto:vpresident@vckc.ca)  
 Joe Boyd 250 386-6004  
**Treasurer** [treasurer@vckc.ca](mailto:treasurer@vckc.ca)  
 Bon Lee  
**Secretary** [secretary@vckc.ca](mailto:secretary@vckc.ca)  
 Hélène Poulin  
**Past President** [pastpres@vckc.ca](mailto:pastpres@vckc.ca)  
 Jean Chandler 250 727-6923

### Program Directors

**Canoe Program** [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca)  
 David Dorosz  
**Dragonboat Program** [dragonboat@vckc.ca](mailto:dragonboat@vckc.ca)  
 Paula Gough  
 & Kim Capson  
**Kayak Program** [kayak@vckc.ca](mailto:kayak@vckc.ca)  
 Roy Scully  
**Outrigger Program** [outrigger@vckc.ca](mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca)  
 Shawn Hamilton 250 900-0540  
**Marathon Canoe Program** [marathon@vckc.ca](mailto:marathon@vckc.ca)  
 Darrelle Butler  
**Voyageur Program** [voyageur@vckc.ca](mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca)  
 Tim Marks

### Other Executive

**Education, Standards & Safety** [safety@vckc.ca](mailto:safety@vckc.ca)  
 Ellie James 250 885-8030  
**Membership** [membership@vckc.ca](mailto:membership@vckc.ca)  
 Muriel Johnson  
**Clubhouse and Grounds**  
 (maintenance) [clubhouse@vckc.ca](mailto:clubhouse@vckc.ca)  
 Sandy Rattray 250 386-9144  
**Boat & Locker Storage** [storage@vckc.ca](mailto:storage@vckc.ca)  
 Arthur Caldicott  
**Director at Large (social)** [director1@vckc.ca](mailto:director1@vckc.ca)

**Director at Large**  
 (events& volunteers) [director2@vckc.ca](mailto:director2@vckc.ca)  
 Jennifer Yee  
**Director at Large**  
 (events& volunteers) [director3@vckc.ca](mailto:director3@vckc.ca)  
 Bill Buckley

### Executive Appointed Positions

**Newsletter Editor** [newsletter@vckc.ca](mailto:newsletter@vckc.ca)  
 Ron Crabtree  
**Webmaster** [webmaster@vckc.ca](mailto:webmaster@vckc.ca)  
 Victoria Mann