



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

June 2016

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

Notices

1. **Annual Spring BBQ:** Tuesday, June 7th at 6pm (Bring something for yourself to cook on the BBQ & something to share for the Potluck - appies, salads, breads, desserts)
2. **1st Annual Outrigger Huli Drill Contest & Potluck Dinner:** June 11th at 10am (OC6s, OC1s and OC2)
3. **Big Brothers/Big Sisters Picnic:** June 11th. VCKC volunteers will be providing voyageur rides at the Big Brothers/Sisters annual picnic from 11am to 2pm. If you would like to help, please contact Tim Marks at voyageur@vckc.ca.
4. **July 1st Canada Day Celebrations on the Gorge:** VCKC will give boat rides from Craigflower beach and the clubhouse will be used by the Community Association for the annual Strawberry Tea. Donations from the rides go to Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Please volunteer.
5. **VCKC Guts 'n Glory Dragon Boat Races:** Saturday, July 23rd.
6. **VCKC Switchblade Relay Race:** September 10th.
7. Social BBQs are planned on the **first Tuesday of July and August** in lieu of general meetings.

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

President's Update

Traffic Safety in Victoria's Upper Harbour.

On May 11th, a meeting was held at the Canadian Coast Guard Base on Huron Street, and chaired by the harbour Master, Mariah McCooey. The intent was to bring together all users of the Upper Harbour, to discuss common safety concerns and in particular the request from the rowing community to be exempt from the 5knot speed limit. The Victoria Harbour is defined as the waterbed from Ogden Point through to the Selkirk Trestle Bridge. The Office of the Harbour Master has jurisdictional responsibility for it under Transport Canada's Canada Marine Act as a federally regulated public harbour.

There was representation from Transport Canada, the Harbour Master's office, Seaspan, Point Hope Group, Harbour Police, the Harbour Ferries,

Fairway Gorge Paddling Club, VI Paddling, Gorge Narrows Rowing, SMUS Rowing Centre, Victoria Youth Paddling Club, and VCKC. It was very good to

hear repeatedly that everyone supported multcraft use of the harbour. This was the first of what the Harbour Master hopes will be regular communication between all users, both commercial and recreational. It was certainly informative, and common concerns expressed. I was pleased to be there as VCKC's representative and I hope it does continue.

Linda Thomson, President

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Canoe Program Update

A thank you once again to Alan for leading a great flat water paddle this month on the Frost Free Weekend. Personally, it was my first time eating the traditional weekend's dessert "grunt". Linda made a batch large enough for everyone to share and it was appreciated. June will have a few events to help get members on the water. **June 4th** at 2PM we will have a skill workshop for club members to either start learning, or to refine their canoeing skills. This session will be focused on running sideslips. A skill learned in lakewater level 3, its both handy to know and fun. On **June 23rd** at

7:30PM there will be a Canoe and Kayak meeting with a presentation on the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve from Parks Canada. I hope you are all having fun planning canoeing adventures and trips for the summer.
 – David Dorosz

2016 VCKC Spring Canoe Course Schedule

(visit vckc.ca to register or
 email canoe@vckc.ca for any questions)

Canoe Course or Activity	Date	Cost
Lakewater 1	May 28th	\$25 [Note 1]
Lakewater 3	June 25	\$25 [Note 1]
Moving Water 2	Will be offered if sufficient interest expressed	\$100 [Note 1]
Basic Poling	Will be offered if sufficient interest expressed	\$35 for flatwater, \$65 for moving water [Note 1]
Lakewater 4	June 26	\$25 [Note 1]

Note 1: Course requires Annual VCKC Membership- can be paid online prior to course.

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Next Flatwater paddle: There will be a Club flatwater trip on **Sunday, June 5th**. There is a very low tide that day, about mid-day, so river estuaries and other shallow spots are out. If wind conditions permit, the trip will paddle from Maple Bay to Genoa Bay. The section of coastline should give us the opportunity to see sea-life on the rocks exposed by the low tide. It is about 8 nautical miles (15 kms), and as there are no crossings involved, this will be a suitable trip for beginners. An e-mail will be sent out to all members in the kayak and canoe sections the week before. A big canoe could be used on this if there is the demand.

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

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March 27th Trip Report

Easter Sunday's paddle turned out great. We paddled from the Goldstream marina and back, stopping for a snack and later a lunch at two different beaches both with waterfalls. We explored many small coves making



our paddle longer. Along the shoreline, we saw lots of sea creatures. We saw hundreds of orange and purple starfish, hundreds of mussels attached to rocks and chains, small schools of tiny fish, giant white plumed anemones, many jellyfish and a cluster of sea cucumbers. The water was surrounded by tree covered



hills including the Malahat. When we weren't looking below the water's surface, we saw many bald eagles and other birds circling the sunny blue sky.

At the beginning of our trip, Edmond set a crab trap. When we came back, he pulled it up to find crabs. He caught a rock crab and four female Dungeness crabs. He kept the former and released the later. When we took the canoes out of the water, we found several small crabs scuttling about the bottom of the canoe.



Our group was composed of Allan, Jim, Pat, Edmond,

Hélène, David and myself in tandem canoes and Linda in a kayak. We had four yellow boats and 7 yellow PFDs.

Julie-Anne Dorosz



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May 7th Trip Report

VCKC’s annual Frost Free camping trip took place on the Mother’s Day weekend, May 7th/8th. The destination was D’Arcy Island, the site of BC’s only leper colony and now part of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. There were 5 canoes carrying 15 adults and 2 pre-schoolers. 3 of the canoes were tandems, one was a voyageur and the fifth was the Club’s big freighter canoe, known as ‘Big Red’ to some. The trip started at Island View Beach, which is a good launch site apart from the need to buy a parking permit to legally leave your vehicle overnight in the park. The trip over was straightforward and we reached the campsite around 12.30pm, disturbing 2 kayakers who were camping there and doubtless were hoping for a quiet time of solitude.

After setting up camp, most of the group crossed the island by the trail to the site of the leper colony and then walked the northern half of the shore back to camp. While we’d had only light winds while paddling, there were whitecaps by mid-afternoon, so we were glad to be off the water. The barbecues were set up and the potatoes set in the colas to bake. The fruit ‘grunt’ was set



on the stove and slowly brought to the boil. The site was a small cove not far from the campsites where there was plenty sun, protection from the wind and nothing to catch fire. Everyone cooked their entrée of choice and then had the grunt for dessert. Sierra and Robson, the two young children had come on the walk with us and were now perfectly happy with the rock and pebble beach and water to explore.

The forecast was for the wind to pick up in the afternoon, so we left about 10.30 and headed back via Sidney and James Islands. With wind against current, there was some chop in the channels, but nothing too serious, and the presence of two big canoes added some safety should one of the tandems have gotten into trouble. Back at the ramp shortly after noon on the Sunday, so we were in plenty time to take our various



mothers out to dinner or to otherwise celebrate. A good trip and possibly a record in that the age gap between the youngest and oldest members taking part (more than 80 years). Talk about a sport for all ages!

Alan Thomson

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FOR SALE: 16-foot wood and canvas canoe, 2 paddles. \$400. 250 479 2932, jenniferverrall@gmail.com

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Dragonboat Program Update

Our women’s team now has a new name! We had many submissions made from the team with our captain Brenda keeping track of the voting. The final result..... The “**Blue Herons**”! New team shirts will soon be on their way. Great team work ladies! Thank you to Sue W. and Kim for organizing this. We have been practicing every Monday and Wednesday. The boat has been bursting with enthusiasm at practices in preparation for our first race, Sunday May 29, at the Fairway Gorge Super Sprints. Everyone is welcome to drop by and cheer us on!



Outrigger Program Update

Annual Outrigger Huli Drill Contest and Potluck Dinner

When: Saturday 11 June 2016, 10:00 to 15:00

Where: VCKC Clubhouse 355 Gorge Rd West

If you are interested in dragon boating please contact us. We have a **Steering clinic** planned for later this summer. As well, we will be holding "Learn to Paddle" sessions at the end of the season. New coaches are always welcomed.

Guts 'n Glory update:



Teams have started to register online!! Wahoo! We have 3 teams from VCKC and would love to see more. We issue a friendly challenge to the outrigger teams and to all other enthusiastic paddlers.... Gather together a team of 10 paddlers and get registered online today. We can even supply the stern and caller!

Choose from two different **race types**:

- Sprints: 200-meter races in 10-paddler boats
- Chase: 2500-meter combined-time race in 10-paddler boats

Race Categories: Mixed Open OR Women.

Race Cost: \$210 per 10-paddler team for (EITHER the 200m sprint or the 2500m chase).

Only \$50 additional to race in both!!!!

It will be a grand day of fun, both on and off the water. There are medals to earn, food to eat, and prizes to win! Let's all get out there and share our gusto for racing and at the end of the day, we'll meet in the beverage garden!

Volunteers and Sponsors: All great events happen with awesome volunteers and generous sponsors. Please contact us if you'd like to spend a few hours that day helping out and/or if you know of a business that would like to show their support for our dragon boat festival and community clubhouse. Thank you.

Paula Gough and Kim Capson

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Many paddlers have to renew their huli drill or do a huli for the first time in an OC1, OC2 and or OC6. Therefore, we are going to make it safe and fun, and combine it with prizes, great food, friends and refreshments!

Bring your camera, as there should be some interesting photo opportunities.

After everyone has finished, everyone can relax in the clubhouse for a yummy potluck.

N.B.: You must complete a successful huli drill in each type of VCKC outrigger you wish to use, a minimum of once every two years. This is a great time to get your huli recertification.

To review the OC6 Huli Recovery Steps, please visit the CORA website:

<http://www.canadianoutrigger.com/safety/huli/>

We will have a brief instruction period in the clubhouse before going on to the water.

Remember to bring a change of clothing, a food contribution (enough for 6 friends) and your favourite refreshments.

Register Online Today! (Registration closes at noon on June 9th). Note: You must be a VCKC member to Register/Participate.

If you have any new items to donate as prizes for the huli contest please contact me or Molly.

Our new (to us) OC2 has arrived and will be ready for use soon. We have a couple of minor repairs to do before putting it into use.

We hope to move one of the OC6s on June 12th or ASAP after the huli contest. If you and/or your team are interested in paddling the OC6 over to Cadboro Bay, please contact me.

Thank you for washing the OC6s after use, especially the rigging.

**A very special thanks go to Richard Krieger, one of our OC6 paddlers, who has generously donated \$1,000.00 towards the purchase of a new OC6.

Shawn Hamilton

June 2016 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	Jun 1	2 6:00 PM Canoe Instructors meeting	3	4 2:00 PM Canoe skill clinic
5	6	7 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting 7:30pm	8	9	10	11 10:00 AM Annual Outrigger Hull Drill Contest and Potluck Dinner 12:00 PM 1st Marigold Girl Guides - Canoe Clinic
12	13	14 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20 7:00 PM G&G Planning	21	22	23 7:30 PM Canoe and Kayak Meeting	24	25 8:00 AM Lakewater 3 - Advanced Tandem 8:00 AM MEC Paddlefest - Canoe Booth
26 8:00 AM Lakewater 4 - Advanced Solo	27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2

Club Contact Information

Officers

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