



## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

# Newsletter

September 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

1. **Annual Fall BBQ:** Tuesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (Bring something for yourself to cook on the BBQ & something to share for the Potluck - appies, salads, breads, desserts)
2. **Switchblade Paddle Sport Relay Race:** September 10<sup>th</sup>...

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

### Switchblade Race 2016

This year's Switchblade Race will be held on Saturday, September 10th.

Get your teams together or volunteer for this fun event hosted by VCKC!

Each team has six paddlers: one kayak, one SUP, two in a tandem canoe, one OC1 and one surf ski paddler. The final leg is an OC6 leg where all of the team members paddle to complete the sixth and final leg of the race. After the race the paddlers and volunteers enjoy a dinner together in the Clubhouse.

In the event that there are not enough teams entered to hold the race (we need five) then we will have a day of fun races where paddlers will compete on their own vessel and then will race a short course on the other paddle craft. The short course will start and finish at the VCKC dock. All will enjoy dinner at the Clubhouse after racing.

Hope to see you at this exciting and fun event!  
Darelle Butler

### President's Update

#### **Pot-Luck and General Meeting**

Tuesday September 6th at 6pm

Bring your BBQ item and something to share.

Members with surnames A-K please bring salads or appetizers and L-Z bring desserts.

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

#### **Summer News**

As usual, the summer appeared to stretch ahead endlessly, and suddenly we are coming up to the end of August. The club has been busy this summer. The dragon boats and outriggers were in use continuously, canoe and kayak practice workshops were held every Tuesday evening and marathon practices continued. GUTS & GLORY was very successful, as was the 6 day GULF ISLAND VOYAGEUR camping trip. VCKC volunteers provided voyageur rides for the BIG BROTHERS and BIG SISTERS annual picnic. The rides from Craigflower beach on CANADA DAY were as successful as ever, with families saying they look forward to them each year. THANK YOU to the many club members who organized and took part in these events.

Thank you too, to Darrelle Butler and Kim Capson and Paula Gough for arranging the BBQS on the first Tuesdays of July and August.

Linda Thomson, President

## Canoe Program Update

I hope many of you have had an opportunity to go on a canoe trip this summer. It does feel different to paddle when both the weather and the water are warm. The Canoe day paddles have been growing in size and can certainly be said to be a success. We will have to consider a replacement for when the days get shorter... September and October will have canoe courses again, watch the calendar for dates when they are finalized.  
David Dorosz

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## Outrigger Program Update

We had some very successful huli sessions, which included some first timers. Despite the cloudy weather, cooler temperatures, the water was warm...hooray!

All went well and we now have many more people qualified for paddling in the OC1, OC2 and OC6s.

For those people that didn't receive their certificates, they will be in the Outrigger mail slot at the clubhouse. Please pick them up at your earliest convenience.



We had sessions on June 11th, June 17th, and August 8th, with had a good number of successful "recoveries".

- 18 people passed on the OC1
- 17 people passed on the OC2
- 37 people passed on the OC6

This was very satisfying to see, as it is so important that people are comfortable capsizing and able to get back in the outriggers. Well done everyone!

A reminder to those who have trouble getting in the boat or have some physical disability. Please let your stern/team leader and crew know before going out for a paddle. The same thing applies if you have some kind of a medical issue.

The teams that have been paddling out at Cadboro Bay have had some wonderful paddles, with the weather being very cooperative for the most part. It really is nice to go there for a complete change of scene. Thanks go to the crews that paddle out there for keeping the OC6, trolley and equipment secure and locked. Also for washing the boat off after each use!

We also have put together a selection committee for the purchase of new OC6s. I hope to announce in the very near future what model of OC6 we intend to purchase.

Shawn and Molly (the eager assistant)

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## Voyageur Program Update

### A Magical Trip on a Magical Boat

(with a group of magical paddlers)

With the brigade having limited space this year paddling in the Broughton's, there appeared to be some interest in a club trip of our own. What a great idea it turned out to be!

The goals were to keep things simple, minimum effort to organize, and maximum enjoyment. Always good goals. Goal #1: each person to approach the trip more like hiking. Ok, yes, we need chairs, probably a little libation too. Goal #2: can we see something new, be not too far from a shower, fit in a pub or restaurant, just to break things up?

Dreams do come true. Ken Gibbard, Laurie Page, Pat Ekland, Jack Louie, Mark Sondheim, Dina Buccione, Sandy and Carolyn Rattray, Joe Boyd and Tim Marks can all verify that. Departure was delayed until Sunday, July 24 to allow those participating in Guts & Glory to make the trip. With the small group of paddlers we had some choices in which boats we were going to use. After some discussion it was decided, if Tim could sneak the 35' Coast Salish style canoe away from SD61 we would give it its first real trip (the sneak was not too hard, as it is stored in Tim's yard). Thanks Tim. Also, special

thanks to Ken for providing access to the Piers Island community boat launch.

The trip started with paddling from Swartz Bay eastward to Narvaez Bay on south Saturna Island.

The next day we looped around East Point (Saturna Island) spent some time to explore Cabbage Island, through Boat Pass (cool), checked out the reef that sank the sailing ship, Robertson II, and then made ourselves snug under the lights of Port Browning (pub and swimming pool).

Heading north to Montague Provincial Park was the order for Tuesday. Oh, the beauty of such a place is only surpassed by the "the pub bus". Wow! I am still a bit dizzy from the time travel. If you are longing for a flashback, or maybe you need clarification on some of your Grandfather's stories from the 60's and 70's, take "the bus".

With company from Dina's classic Alden sailing yawl, we had a leisurely start the next day as favourable current to Portland Island was in the afternoon. Here, the site of our last supper, we began to realize this really was great. We saw baby seal pups up close, and survived fearless Gulf Island raccoons. Well mostly, not sure of Joe's take on that. You'll have to ask him.

Last day, yes the trip just got better, every day a little surprise. Ken gave us a tour of some of what he has done to keep himself so spry. Thanks again for the tour and tea of your Piers Island home away from home.

Keep informed, maybe next time your dream will come true (in a big canoe). For a little more analysis of the trip, Mark has a little arithmetic. If you start to feel queasy, I understand gravel helps, maybe dark rum also.

Tim Marks

### **Special Alert!**

### **Voyageurs on the Thompson River, September 16, 17, 18.**

Email Joe Boyd or Tim Marks, Voyageur Director

This is a terrific two-day Voyageur event. The 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 9th** at the latest. There is space for 10 paddlers. First come, first served. Paddlers taking their own canoes must have taken and passed the moving water tandem course.

Paddlers in Voyageur canoes do not need formal moving water experience.

- Plan to catch the Friday September 16th, 5 pm ferry at the latest
- The drive is about 5 hours from the Tsawassen ferry terminal
- Expect to be on a 7 pm ferry on Sunday September 18th, unless you have other travel/vacation arrangements
- Travel costs are the responsibility of each paddler – we typically ride share
- We will cost-share shipping of big canoes
- A Voyageur group from Kamloops is likely to join us

### ***Trip 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.

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 afternoon. Wet suits can be worn, but are not a requirement. There is some history to the area – the Wallachin settlement pre WW1 – and the scenery is lovely. On past experience, the day time temperatures should be quite warm, but the early mornings and evenings can be chilly.

### ***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; most users are trailer campers. There are toilets, showers and drinkable water. 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/](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 bracketed by two railway tracks, one next door to the campsite, the other 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 don't camp, there are motels in Cache Creek and Ashcroft.

There are no restaurants or fast food places near the Juniper Beach campsite – you need to be self-sufficient for food or willing to drive >15 minutes each way to the nearest diner.

### ***Transport***

Up to individuals, but if people commit, sharing of vehicles 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, Juniper 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

### ***Schedule***

#### **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.

#### **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. [\$21 per party per night]

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

Boats – paddlers in the voyageur canoes will have to contribute to TRIPS for the use of their voyageur or to pay for the cost of renting and transporting the other voyageur canoes from Maple Ridge. The estimated cost is \$30 per paddler, based on the rental charge for three canoes plus a share of the gas money. [Taking the Club voyageurs would cost the same, due to the ferry fares and require towing the boats further.]

## September 2016 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30 6:30 PM Tuesday Canoe/Kayak practice paddle evenings	31	Sep 1	2	3
4	5	6 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting	7	8	9	10 Level 1 Sea Kayak - 2 day course 8:00 AM Switchblade Paddlesport Relay Races
11 Level 1 Sea Kayak - 2 day course 10:00 AM Dragon Boat Pig Roast	12 7:00 PM OC6 Outrigger Selection Committee Meeting	13 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	14	15	16	17 8:00 AM Kayak Basic Skills Course
18 10:30 AM Jump in a Dragon Boat!	19	20	21 7:00 PM GWI Steering Committee Meeting	22	23	24 10:30 AM Jump in a Dragon Boat!
25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1
2	3	4 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting	5	6	7	8

## Club Contact Information

### Officers

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