



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

February 2017

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. **Feb. 8th: Lock combinations change.** The new combo will be revealed after member website login.
2. **Feb 5th: Flatwater Paddle** destination Somenos Lake, if conditions permit.
3. **February 13th: Family Day Paddle & Party (5pm to 9pm)**
4. **April 1st: Paddle for the Kids 2017.** Kick-off paddle and brunch is **Feb 19th.**
5. **April 8th & 9th: Wake Up the Gorge (WUTG)**

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

Family Day Party & Paddle:

It's a party for people who LOVE paddling.

We will have a short fun/game paddle followed by fellowship and food in the clubhouse.

When: Monday February 13: Paddle Game 5:00 – 6:30; Dinner and social 6:45 – 9:00.

What to Bring:

Paddle, boat, pfd, and appropriate safety gear.

Food to share, potluck style, enough for you and one more person

BYOB and other drinks

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### President's Report

The transition from the 2016 to the 2017 Executive is almost complete. I would like to thank the entire 2016 Executive - we did a lot of great things last year. In particular, I would like to thank **Linda Thomson** for returning to the Executive to serve another term as president. **Bon Lee** also re-joined us as Treasurer. Linda will stay on as past president, and I am looking forward to working with while I continue to learn the ropes. **Tim Marks** has left the Voyageur Director position to serve as vice president.. Also a big thank you to **Shawn and Molly Hamilton** who are stepping down as Outrigger Directors.

Staying on for 2017 are:

- Helene Poulin (Secretary),



**High tide: Notice the angle of the ramp!!**

- David Dorosz (Canoe),
- Kim Capson and Paula Gough (Dragon Boat),
- Roy Scully (Kayak),
- Darrelle Butler (Marathon),

- Sandy Rattray (House and Grounds),
- Arthur Caldicott (Storage),
- Muriel Johnson (Membership),
- Jean Chandler (Social Director),
- Jennifer Yee and Bill Buckley (Directors at Large).

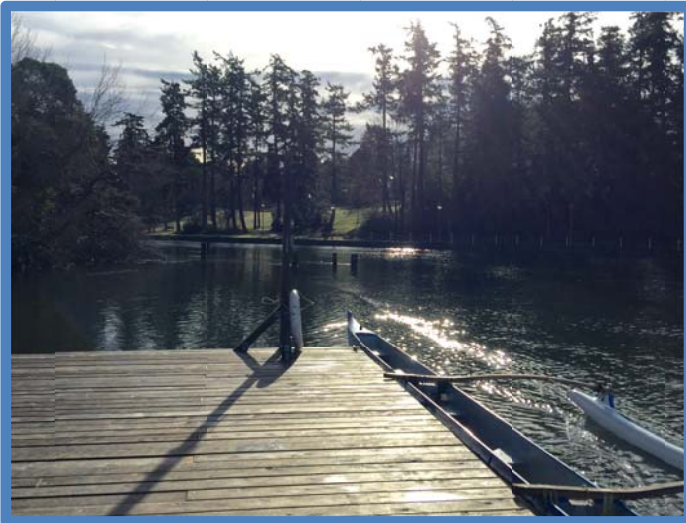
It is great to see this much continuity in the Executive from one year to the next.

Welcome to our new Executive members:

- Mark Sondheim as Treasurer ,
- Phil McEvoy will lead Voyageur programs,
- Ralph Rossman as Outrigger Director,
- Ken Gibbard for Standards and Safety, and
- Anna Childress joins as Director at Large.

Be sure to give them a pat on the back when you see them. These are valuable volunteer positions. And remember, VCKC is a great club because so many step up to support them throughout the year.

Joe Boyd



High Water: Only top of Posts Showing

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Canoe Program Update

As the weather starts slowly getting warmer as the days get longer it makes us want to start planning trips and events. To further this along we will have a meeting on **Thursday February 23** at 7:30PM. The meeting will be focused on tripping with discussions about gear and routes. If you would like to share about your favourite gear or route that would be great. Also it would be a good time to ask about routes that you have not done, as someone else might have helpful suggestions.

David Dorosz

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### Dragon Boat Program Update

We are excited and enthusiastic about this new 2017 season and look forward to the return of last year’s women’s team the “Blue Herons”! In the plans for this year is the hope to have enough interest to add a new “mixed” team and a senior’s team to participate in the Senior Games. Coaches and steers are needed to make this possible. We would love to hear from you.

Here are some dates to add to your calendar:

**Wed March 1<sup>st</sup> – 7pm Kick-Off meeting** – open to all new and returning paddlers. This will be a chance to meet our coaches and discuss the plans for the race season.

**Sat March 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> - 12-1:30 “Learn to Paddle”**- - this is an opportunity to introduce new paddlers to the sport and learn basic techniques and an opportunity to paddle **\*\*If these dates have to change- we will update the website calendar\*\***

**Tues April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6:45pm Move Dragon boat to the water:** - All team members needed!!

**April-** the start of regular team practices- twice a week. Days and times still to be determined.

Please contact us if you have any question.

Kim Capson & Paula Gough

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Outrigger Program Update

Wake Up the Gorge, being a main club fundraiser, is officially set for **April 8 and 9, 2017**. Typically this event is held in the first two weeks of April, which coincides with the start of the Outrigger racing season. Mark it down in your calendar!

The OC2 is still not repaired. Unfortunately the cold weather and personal schedules have sidelined the repair. Once the weather warms up, we should be able to finish repairing it and have it ready for use. Going forward, we will likely have to set a **paddler weight limit for the OC2** to prevent damage.

The application to the Federal Government for the funding of a new OC6 was unfortunately turned down. We will re-apply and hopefully...

VCKC has funded a **new Mirage OC6**. This should be ready soon and then shipped from Europe. I don’t have a delivery/arrival time as of yet.

Winter paddling is still here and with it brings more safety concerns. Please dress warmly and carry extra clothing with you, preferably in a dry bag. We must also **beware of ice** on the water as this can damage the hull of the boats and you must not try to paddle through it. When paddling in the evenings when it is dark, please

pay extra attention to the water, as it is very difficult to see the ice.

Shawn Hamilton

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## Voyageur Program Update

Attention all Voyageur canoeists and those interested in the program. **2017 Paddle for the Kids** kicks off in February, with practices leading up to the paddle on **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**.

We have another series of awesome practice locations allowing you to experience lots of local waters in the big canoes.

**February 12<sup>th</sup> is Open Day:** We will paddle the gorge for a few hours. All are welcome. If you know of people interested, we will introduce them to the big boats. Start is at 9:30 am.

All subsequent practices have an 8:30 am start at the clubhouse.

On **February 19<sup>th</sup>:** we will paddle the harbour and demonstrate a few rescues. A brunch will follow, put on by our members at the clubhouse. I am actively seeking volunteers to assist in preparing the food and clubhouse for this event. Contact me at [voyageur@vckc.ca](mailto:voyageur@vckc.ca)

On **February 26<sup>th</sup>:** our Sooke Harbour paddle is planned.

I am praying for good weather this year and am looking forward to a fun and successful PFTK.

Remember to prepare appropriately for the weather.

Phil McEvoy

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Canoe Flatwater Trip Report

Cowichan Bay Delta

For some years now, we have led a paddle on Somenos Lake, just north of Duncan. With the high winter water levels, it is possible not only to paddle the lake itself, but also up Richards Creek to beyond Herd Road and out onto the flooded fields. How far we get depends on the water level and whether there are hunters in the area. Paddling under fire is not recommended. We used to paddle down Somenos Creek to the Cowichan River and back, but the spread of the *Elodea Canadensis* water weed up the creek from the sewage plant area. Now the creek is impassable to paddlers due to the thick weed.

So we planned the usual paddle for mid-January. The cold spell we had over the Christmas period gave me pause – perhaps the Creek or the fields would be frozen over? - so I drove up on the Friday to check things out. Somenos Lake was almost completely frozen over, with the ice round the bird-viewing dock and the boat ramp

easily thick enough to walk on for quite a long way out. So, no paddling to be had there.



As a back-up, I decided to paddle on Cowichan Bay, leaving from Hecate Ramp. The tide level was not especially high, but high enough to allow access to the various river arms that form the delta. With no winds over 5 knots in the forecast, the bay itself was also open to paddling. We started out up the south arm of the Koksilah river, although it is unclear that the ‘arm’ actually joins the Koksilah proper. Essentially you keep as far south as you can, following the Cowichan Bay road up towards Duncan. The exact route depends on water levels. We managed to follow the creek up beyond the second bridge, after which a bank-to-bank sweeper made further progress impractical. Plenty eagles, dead salmon and some swans, as well as the commoner mallards and buffleheads.

Back down the creek (twice for Ron and Ken, who left a camera up at the highest point we reached) and then across to the main channel of the Koksilah. The cut-through under the embankment required a short portage, but there was just enough water in the snye on the north side to get into the river channel. We lunched on the river bank below Affinity Guest House – quite warm thanks to the sun and no wind – then up the river under the bridge and into the old main branch of the Cowichan River. We couldn’t get far up due to logs, and an exploration up the Koksilah was aborted after the water level got so low that we were essentially poling, not paddling.

So back down the river, round by the timber-loading jetty and back to the ramp. We found 4 ½ hours of paddling; beautiful conditions and plenty wildlife. Thanks to Ken and Ron, David and Hélène, Carolyn and Sandy, Bon and Susan, Pat and Jim for accompanying us on the trip.

Alan Thomson

February 2017 Events Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------|--|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | Feb 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 8:30 AM Voyageur Program Annual Open Day | 13 | 14 7:30 PM Executive Meeting | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 8:00 AM Paddle For The Kids: Kick Off | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 7:30 PM Canoe and Kayak Meeting | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | Mar 1 7:30 PM Dragon Boat 2016 Kick-off Meeting | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 7:30 PM VCKC General Meeting | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 12:00 PM Dragon Boat Learn to Paddle |

Club Contact Information

Officers

President president@vckc.ca
 Joe Boyd
Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca
 Tim Marks
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Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca
 Mark Sondheim
Secretary secretary@vckc.ca
 Hélène Poulin
Past President pastpres@vckc.ca
 Linda Thomson

Program Directors

Canoe Program canoe@vckc.ca
 David Dorosz
Dragonboat Program dragonboat@vckc.ca
 Paula Gough
 & Kim Capson
Kayak Program kayak@vckc.ca
 Roy Scully
Outrigger Program outrigger@vckc.ca
 Ralph Rossman
Marathon Canoe Program marathon@vckc.ca
 Darrelle Butler
Voyageur Program voyageur@vckc.ca
 James (Phil) McEvoy

Other Executive

Education, Standards & Safety safety@vckc.ca
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 Sandy Rattray
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Boat & Locker Storage storage@vckc.ca
 Arthur Caldicott
Director at Large (social) director1@vckc.ca
 Jean Chandler
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Director at Large
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 Bill Buckley

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor newsletter@vckc.ca
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 Victoria Mann