



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

"The Paddling Post"

September 2021

The Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club respectfully acknowledges that its activities take place on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples, and that the land and waterways' historical relationship with the Songheesand and Esquimalt peoples have existed sine time immemorial. The Club is committed to taking meaningful action to build respectful and reciprocal relations with the Songheesand and Esquimalt peoples on whose land and waterways club members have the privilege of living, working, and playing.

President's Message

What an exciting summer this has been! We had many more paddlers on the water including our OC6s, our big canoes, and even our dragon boat. It's been fun to see so many smiling faces enjoying the clubhouse and getting caught up on each other's lives after this very lengthy time apart.

We hosted a few events from our dock, starting with the launch of the Camosun Spirit Dancer canoe on National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. It was a very emotional ceremony to watch as the canoe was paddled for the very first time. Artwork on the canoe was by Dylan Thomas- (Qwul'thylum) is a Coast Salish artist and member of the Lyackson First Nation of Valdes Island.





In July we hosted two concerts from the dock for the RAVEN Trust group, a very last-minute request from Saanich. RAVEN Trust raises legal defence funds for Indigenous Peoples in Canada to defend their rights and the integrity of lands and cultures. Both evenings were beautiful warm summer nights and very well-attended by paddlers on the water. They tell me that they raised \$30,642.51 for West Moberly First Nation's legal challenge to Site C, in part with matching donations from their supporters who were unable to make it to the concerts.

Heading into the fall we are looking forward to squeezing in a few more club trips. Keep watching your email, and the club calendar, for upcoming fun.

We had a nicely productive site visit from Saanich in preparation for renewing our lease. They are very happy with our relationship with them, so it looks like smooth sailing (paddling?) for our upcoming five-year lease. A big thanks to everyone for all of your hard work in making this club such a success!

Stay safe and stay healthy.

~ Kim Capson, President

A Note from our Acting Treasurer



I happened to be around the club when Don Irvine from Hanna Hou Paddlesports recently delivered the newest OC1 to the club. As Don was assembling the OC1 and making the various adjustments that needed to be made, he commented on one of the reasons boats fall into disrepair. The main reason? Failure to report initial breaks or faults in the equipment. "The first reaction of many people is embarrassment" he said. "The result is that they try to hide breaks or don't report them, and what could be a minor quick-fix, grows into something much more substantive and costly to repair". As acting treasurer it's the cost side of this scenario (both time and money) that caught my attention.

We have a lot of boats at the club and everyone using one should take time before and after using one to look carefully for any faults with either the boat or any supplementary gear such as paddles, floatation devices etc. Breaks and wear and tear will occur with the use of any boat – however, the cost of making repairs will often depend on how quickly a needed repair is identified. Let's all do our part to identify any wear or tear and report it to your program director.

~ Peter Elson, Acting Treasurer

Canoe Update



The Canoe Program has had a busy summer with Lakewater 1 courses - 45 new VCKC members joined the club to learn to canoe! A big welcome to our new canoe members, I hope you all take advantage of the many opportunities to learn advanced canoeing skills that the club has to offer, not just lakewater but moving water and ocean canoeing too. As well, we have 13 new Lakewater 2 graduates, congratulations to each of you and I hope to see you in our Lakewater 3 course, scheduled for October 2nd. Thank you to all our dedicated VCKC instructors for your continued enthusiasm and for teaching safe canoeing skills this summer – David Dorosz, Hélène Poulin, Dan Walker, Alan Thomson, Linda Thomson, Clay Webb and John Pearce. A huge thank you to Arthur Caldicott for taking on the canoe booking role! For those of you who have at least Lakewater 1

certification and have not yet borrowed a club canoe the process is simple: email canoebooking@vckc.ca with the date and time you would like to borrow a boat, and for how long. If you know which boat you would like, that would be helpful too. Remember that canoes can only be used in the Gorge, and you must not go beyond the Tillicum Bridge. If you need more information about what safety equipment is needed or how to clean the equipment, just ask!

For those canoe instructors looking for recertification, Ellie James has offered to hold a course in mid-October. For more information, see the Canoe Courses webpage or contact Ellie directly (diretor2@vckc.ca). Thanks Ellie!

Happy paddling everyone!

~ Louise de Montigny, Canoe Director

Dragon Boat Update

After a 2020 Season "at rest" we've dusted off our dragonboat paddles and are back on the water! With a mix of newbies and previous team members, we're well on our way to get into racing form for the upcoming 2022 Race Season! This year we've held a shortened 2 month season for August and September only, where we've been practicing once a week to work on technique and having fun. It's been soooo nice to hear the mock "Starter has the Race!" while practicing our race starts, Oh how we've missed racing!



Work party to launch the Dragon Boat, after sitting dry for almost 2 years!



Dragon Boat team gathered on the dock for pre-practice instruction.



Next Spring we aim to start up as usual for a full Season in late March! If you're interested in joining us there are still a few seats available - please contact me at dragonboat@vckc.ca to be put on our contact list. A full season runs March/April to September, practicing twice weekly. We aim to compete in 3-4 local weekend race festivals throughout the season. Be in touch for more details!

Special Thanks for this season go out to Volunteers - Britt Kohn and Brenda Sutton (Coaching) and Ken Gibbard, Mavis Pillar and Nicole Milkowski (Steering). Photo credits to Dorothea Haeussler

Ready to go, the Team is eager to get paddling!

~ Jana Savage

Kayak Update

Only a couple of newsletter worthy goings on in the Kayak Program right now.

First, we've expanded the club kayak fleet to 7 boats! We added a North Shore Atlantic LV kayak over the summer. It is a low-volume (LV) kayak which should be quite well suited to smaller paddlers. Mike Teachman has outfitted the kayak with sprayskirt, pump, and all other safety gear so it is ready to be used! The Atlantic is Kayak #7 and is stored in outdoors in the compound. I'm anticipating adding an 8th and final kayak to the club fleet this fall ... more details to come once the deal is done.

Second, we've continued to run trips through the summer as best we could. Despite best laid plans we've had one trip plan "modified" because what the tide & current tables predicted for the Tillicum bridge didn't line up with actual conditions and another trip relocated from the Victoria waterfront to Gordon Head because of potential wind. In other words, we evaluated what we had to work with and adapted to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all paddlers. Thanks to everyone who has paddled with the club over the summer, it's always fun planning a trip knowing a group of members will come together and make the day a memorable one.

Third, Paddle Canada courses continue to be in demand. Many thanks to our volunteer instructors for keeping the "training wheels" on the kayak program during the summer. We've got some interest in Basic Skills and Level 1 Skills courses right now, and we'll do our best to try and accommodate everyone before the winter weather sets in and it gets too cold to spend time in the Gorge doing wet-exits and rescues.

Lastly, an impassioned cry for help. We are in need of volunteers to take on the roles of Kayak Program Trip Lead/Coordinator and Kayak Program Boat Maintenance Lead/Coordinator in the coming year. The Boat Maintenance person should have some degree of do-it-yourself capability with access to space and tools needed to perform minor upkeep, repair, and maintenance as required. The Trip Lead Coordinator needs to shepherd the group of Trip Leaders by arranging trips, managing the trip registration website, and ensuring Trip Leaders are adequately trained and prepared to take club members out on day paddles. I don't like to be dreary, but if we don't get volunteers stepping up to take on key roles in the Kayak Program there won't be a Kayak Program in 2022. We'd like to recruit people into these roles sooner than later to allow for some overlap and knowledge transfer before the new year. If you are interested in volunteering your time and ability, please contact me (Craig Thomson, Kayak Program Director) directly by email: kayak@vckc.ca

Craig Thomson
VCKC Sea Kayak Program Director

Restart The Gorge



Restart the Gorge! held on August 15th took place under clear skies, and warm weather, a flood tide, and bundles of good energy. Registrations were received right up to the August 14th deadline. While most participants were from Victoria area, including Latitude49 and FairwayGorge, we did have a pair of paddlers from the False Creek Racing Canoe Club who made their presence known by winning in two categories!

We hosted a wide variety of watercraft. When the dust settled, we had 39 registrants, collectively paddling two canoes, two kayaks, one marathon single, four marathon doubles, thirteen OC1s, one OC2, and seven SUPs. Age classifications from 20-39 (12); 40-59 (14) and 60+ (11) so all age categories were fairly evenly represented.

Overall, **Restart the Gorge!** attracted just what we were hoping for – a wide variety of crafts and paddlers from serious competitors to recreational paddlers. It speaks well for next year's Wake Up the Gorge.

Because participants were divided into classifications by age, sex, and craft type nearly every competitor went home with a gold, silver or bronze medal or one of eight draw prizes for both competitors and recreational paddlers.



The race categories and times have been posted at: <https://www.vckc.ca/Restart>

Just wanted to say a big thank you to you and all the volunteers for putting on the race yesterday. We had so much fun !!!

Really appreciate it. 😊

*Warmly
Claire and Dave*

While it was a scramble to get all the pieces and paperwork in place, everything went without a hitch. The buoys were placed on the course, registrations confirmed, spotting boats/kayaks were in place, safety people were on hand, the timers were ready, and the paddlers showed up.

VCKC member Dennis Shouldice volunteered to take pictures and the sponsors each came through with their prizes – thanks to **Bakeology**, **Ocean River Sports**, **Fairway Market** and **VCKC canoe instructors** Alan Thomson and Rick Bryan.



Thanks all the incredible and passionate volunteers who helped to pull this event off in a relatively short time; especially after eighteen months where our event organizing skills got rusty. A big paddle splash goes out to: Elizabeth D'Eramo, Mike Wheatley, Alan and Linda Thomson, James Roorda, Craig Thomson, Sue Lee, Bon Lee, Jennifer Yee, Arthur Caldicott, Susan Logan, Ron Williams, Linda Burtch, Janine Gliener, Ryan Ovens, and Blaine Holden. My apologies to anyone I might have missed.

A special shout out to Dennis Shouldice, VCKC member and photographer who took great pictures and a super [video](#) of the day. On the week of September 1, there were 2300 visits to the photos and over 475 views of the video!





Best of all, as a result of everyone's participation, on and off the water, VCKC will be donating \$700 to the **Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC)**. VNFC has been in existence for over 45 years. VNFC provides services to an estimated 20,000 Indigenous people living off reserve in the greater Victoria area; the 5,000 residents from the First Nations communities in the southern Vancouver Island region, and Indigenous people living here from across Canada.

See you on the water

~ Peter Elson, Marathon director

SUP Update



I hope all my fellow paddlers were able to get out this summer and enjoy some time on the water. It's that time of year now when the days are unmistakably getting shorter and there is just a slight chill in the breeze. Oh yeah, and the long-forgotten rain! But there is no sense in complaining as the whitewater and surf seasons are just getting started.

The SUP program at VCKC will continue to chug along and we are always happy to get more people involved! While the season's shifting may mean that we need to keep an even closer eye on the weather and sea conditions it isn't an excuse to pack it in and hibernate through the winter. The shorter days mean that the golden hours during sunrise and sunset are becoming more accessible so

let's take advantage (when conditions permit). We will continue to meet for a regular weeknight paddle (with lights) as the conditions permit and as long as we have a crew. The plan will also include planning more paddling sessions on the weekends. Please reach out to SUP@vckc.ca if you have any questions or if you want

~ James Roorda, SUP Director

Storage Update

Many of you may have seen the newspaper article on the theft of Don Munroe's canoe. Don was able to reclaim his boat but not after it was badly defaced with spray paint. In another case, someone tried to pull a Club kayak off an upper rack and over the back fence of the VCKC compound. Fortunately this attempted theft also failed. These incidents serve to remind us that we need to keep Club and private boats secure with either locks, or inside storage or otherwise safe storage spots.

Storage projects, including raising the back fence of the compound, continued decluttering of the basement and building new program lockers will be worked on as time permits and Covid allows.

~ Dan Walker

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