



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club  
([www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca))

## "The Paddling Post" December 2021 Newsletter

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 Songhees and Esquimalt peoples have existed since time immemorial. The Club is committed to taking meaningful action to build respectful and reciprocal relations with the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples on whose land and waterways club members have the privilege of living, working, and playing.

### President's Message

Hi, my friends.

We thought by this point we would be back to our clubhouse potlucks, barbeques, and get-



togethers. BC had opened up, we had a big party at the clubhouse for Ken's 90th (see separate article), and just as we were deciding on a big Christmas party along came omicron and spoiled our plans. Never mind, we can still paddle and things have to get

better soon. Hmmm, didn't I say that last Christmas?

We will be having our AGM on January 25 2022 and it will be via Zoom again. We have lots to do that night, updates to our bylaws, reviewing our budget, and electing new members for the Executive. We were a little down last AGM, looking at the restrictions we were under at the time, but we ended up with a whole lot more members than we had predicted so that was really good news! Our Directors were incredibly busy organising courses for all those new members and we have a whole lot more friends with us on the water now. Good work, everyone!

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Although COVID kept us from doing some things, it didn't keep us inside. There were a lot of fun



Ken's birthday (photo courtesy of Wendy Clapp)

club trips, we had lots of good paddles around the Gorge and inner harbour, we hosted a couple of great concerts on our dock. Peninsula Paddle for the Kids, which looked like it might not be able to go, was a huge success and raised \$11,692 for Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan! We can really do good things when we put our minds to it. We even had a last-minute race organised by the marathon paddlers "Re-start the Gorge" and a good time was had by all!

Big thanks to everyone who worked extra hard this year behind the scenes to keep the club up and running in these stressful times.

*"And I heard him exclaim as he moved out of sight  
Paddles up, VCKC, and to all a good night."*

Be kind, be calm, be safe.

~ Kim Capson, President

## Treasurer (Year-end) Report

Year-end may mean champagne for some, but for many of those who manage financial



accounts, December 31st has a special meaning. This is the time when there can be a final reckoning of financial accounts for the year. This date marks the time when all the expenses are reconciled, a final tally of revenues is calculated and any adjustments are made.

An organization can choose any date to be their year-end. Many organizations who rely heavily on government funding often choose

March 31 as their year-end to coincide with the government's year-end. But many, many organizations, including VCKC, choose December 31. This year-end date, combined with a current obligation to have an Annual General Meeting (AGM) before the end of January, puts

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on a real squeeze on VCKC to have the books ready for external review and presented to members at least two weeks before the AGM. We're working very hard to make this a reality this year.

Hand-in-hand with the year-end is formulating the proposed VCKC budget for 2022. This too will be presented to members at the AGM for their approval.

We're also proposing to extend the deadline for the AGM to the end of February; but that will only occur if the motion to amend this bylaw carries at the upcoming AGM. This doesn't mean that the AGM won't be held in January, but it would certainly provide additional flexibility and with COVID and all of its variants, flexibility and adaptability is definitely needed.

~ Peter Elson, Acting Treasurer

## Canoe Update — Giving Gratitude in a Difficult Year

It's December again and a great time to look back on the year that was. Yes, Covid restricted our canoe events in the early part of the year, and heavy rains cancelled river events toward the end of the year, but we accomplished more than imaginable!

First off, a big thanks to all the 37+ new members who took a leap of faith that canoeing would



be a fun activity during lockdowns and signed up for canoe lessons. I sincerely hope you learned some great new skills and were able to get out and enjoy the beauty of nature on the water. Stay with us, there is so much more to learn!

As always, I am so grateful to our wonderful instructors who were willing to volunteer

their time to make canoeing accessible to all and for an incredibly low cost – David, Hélène, Joe, Clay, Dan, Alan, Rick, Ellie, Jay. Our canoe program would be nothing without your continued dedication to teach safe paddling skills for the club.

Thanks to our new instructors who took the time to get certified and who now look forward to teaching for the club - Daniel, Elizabeth, and Ward. And for our amazing Master Paddlers / Instructor Trainers Alan and Ellie, what a legacy you have built!

Thanks to our Storage Director Dan, who outfitted the club canoes with the required safety gear. This simplified the borrowing process and helped keep down the number of entries into

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the clubhouse. Thanks too to Dan and Alan for keeping the canoes and the trailer in good condition by repairing them when needed.

Thanks to our volunteer Trip Leaders for organizing fun paddling opportunities for both canoe and kayaks throughout the year – Mike, Craig, Alan, Ryan, Joe, David, Jason, and Vince. These daytrips were always fully subscribed and those members that joined you very much enjoyed and appreciated their day on the water. We all look forward to more trips next year!

And behind the scenes, a big thanks to the VCKC Executive that keep Saanich happy to have VCKC using their heritage house. A special thanks to Kim, our hardworking president, who navigated the paperwork needed to renew our lease; to our fiscally responsible treasurers Mark and then Peter, who ensure our finances stay healthy; to our Secretary and Newsletter Editor Susan who worked tirelessly on these and countless other duties! And to all our dedicated volunteer directors who keep the club running and our members happy.

We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area as Victoria. Belonging to an active club like VCKC helps us appreciate and enjoy more of what the area has to offer. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and for Covid-free happiness in the new year!

~ Louise de Montigny, Canoe Director

## Dragon Boat Update

Dragonboat paddling is now on winter hiatus until March. Please contact us at [dragonboat@vckc.ca](mailto:dragonboat@vckc.ca) to be put on the contact list if you're interested in joining us next year!

~ Jana Savage, Dragonboat Director

## Kayak Update

Happy Holidays!

~ Craig Thomson, Kayak Director

## Marathon Update (Year-end Review)

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."*  
— Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

I likely won't be the only one quoting Charles Dickens this holiday season. This has been in equal measure a year to remember and one we would like to forget. It's been a year in which our personal, community and societal vulnerabilities have been exposed. Yet it's also been a year in which the very real consequences of living with a mantra of self-interest has been overshadowed by a sense of community and the value of knowing that what we do as an individual has consequences for others - family and strangers alike.

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The marathon program is acutely aware that we have been able to paddle on the Gorge while other programs could only dream of being there. It's certainly not something we take for granted.



During the club shut-down, we met in singles only at the Craigflower beach, and kept ourselves socially distant.

When the restrictions on gathering were lifted, the marathon program rallied

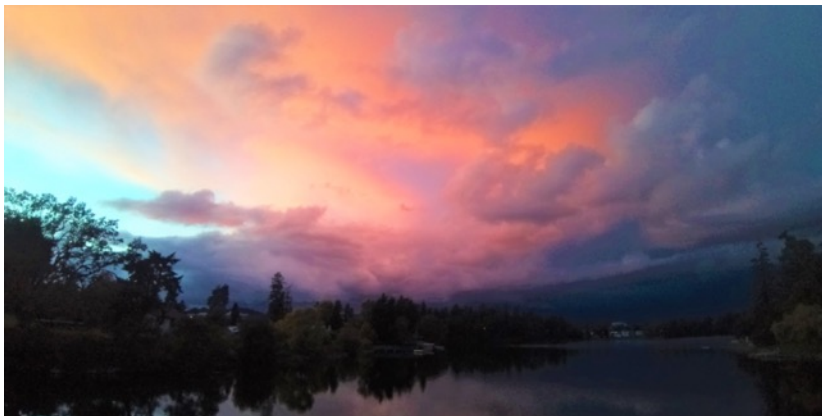
with others to create *Restart the Gorge* which took place on August 15th. It was a great day in the sun and a great time was had by participants and spectators alike.

As the year draws to an end, and the year-end sun sets over the VCKC clubhouse, there is a



looming fear of new [and important] restrictions to keep ourselves, those we care about, and everyone else, safe.

Societies have lived through pandemics before, but now we are getting a real taste of what being in one really feels like – the ups and downs, the frustrations and elations, and the risks and the benefits. The virus has a shape-shifting character that has, and will continue to test us all for some time. The pandemic has also forced us to put, and keep, paddling in all its forms in perspective and see it for the privilege it really is.



Let's be thankful then for the farmers that provide us with food, the clean water we drink, the truck drivers who transport goods, the ferries that transport people and goods to and from our beautiful island, and the

front-line health workers, and emergency and support workers who work so hard to keep us safe and alive.

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See you on the water.

~ Peter Elson, Marathon Director

### **Outrigger Update**

The draw for a fine outrigger paddle is coming along with the AGM on January 25th. The draw is open to new outrigger paddlers so anyone who started paddling in 2020 or later is eligible. Just send a name, yours or a friends, with contact info to [outrigger@vckc.ca](mailto:outrigger@vckc.ca). I have a handful of entries and I want more.

The Club is looking for volunteers willing to serve on the VCKC Board of Directors, what VCKC calls the Executive. If you are willing to take it on, please connect with Linda Thomson or any of the current Directors.

The OC6 continues to see lots of use. If you would like to try it out then look at the Outrigger Practice Schedule, <https://vckc.ca/sys/website/?pageId=18135>, find a time and paddling style that interests you and contact the Team Captain about going for a paddle.

Work on the older OC6s is on hold while we wait for some 10 degree plus weather.

Enjoy the paddling in Canada's banana belt.

~ Michael Wheatley, Outrigger Director

### **Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) Update**

Happy Holidays Fellow Paddlers!

It's almost that time of year when the days start to get longer, and that means summer is somewhere over the horizon. The beauty (or silver lining) is that you don't have to get up too early or stay up too late for sunset/sunrise paddles. We have to pick our spots weather wise, but I hope everyone has a restful and relaxing holidays and can sneak in a paddle. Vitamin Sea is always a good thing!

As always, please reach out to [sup@vckc.ca](mailto:sup@vckc.ca) if you want to get on the water. Hope to see you out there, happy paddling!

~ James Roorda, SUP Director

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### Storage Update

Once again, thanks to everyone for making the past three years so enjoyable. A special thank



you to those who made the new storage racks happen. A lot of work, a lot of good company.

One last reminder, all member boats must be removed from VCKC Clubhouse and compound by July 1, 2022 (not June 1st, as

stated in the last Newsletter). No storage fees will be charged for 2022 but you must maintain your membership.

~ Dan Walker, Storage Director

### Ken Gibbard turned 90 on November 30th!

A small celebration was held for Ken at the Club on November 27th. Thirty-eight members, past



(Photo courtesy of Wendy Clapp)

and present, attended. At Ken's request we did "what VCKC does best" – a potluck. As always the food was tasty and plentiful. After dinner Ken provided a slideshow with photos from his childhood and youth as well as 75 years of paddling.

The Club gave Ken a photo book, curated by Alan Thomson.

Many thanks to the **huge** team who helped with setup,

tear down and dishes. A special thank you to Alan and Linda Thomson who were there the day before moving furniture, taking out the garbage and even cleaning the bathroom! Volunteers are definitely the backbone of our Club.

(more photos on next page)

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(All photos courtesy of Wendy Clapp)

~ Debi LaHaise, Membership Director

### From the Editor

Hello from your new Newsletter Editor. My intention is to strive for continuity as I take over this role but I'm also eager to hear your suggestions for improvement. You can reach me at the Editor e-mail address: [newsletter@vckc.ca](mailto:newsletter@vckc.ca).

Thank you to everyone who provided contributions this month. My apologies in advance for any errors in presenting your material here. A special thank you to Arthur, who graciously helped me get up to speed with the newsletter materials and processes.

Best wishes for the holiday season.

~ David Johnson, Newsletter Editor

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## Club Contact Information

### Officers

President	
Kim Capson	<a href="mailto:president@vckc.ca">president@vckc.ca</a>
Vice-president	
Jana Savage Cain	<a href="mailto:vpresident@vckc.ca">vpresident@vckc.ca</a>
Treasurer	
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Secretary	
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### Program Directors

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Stand Up Paddle Board	
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### Other Executive Positions

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Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance)	
Britt Kohn	<a href="mailto:clubhouse@vckc.ca">clubhouse@vckc.ca</a>
Boat and Locker Storage	
Dan Walker	<a href="mailto:storage@vckc.ca">storage@vckc.ca</a>
Director at Large	
<i>vacant</i>	<a href="mailto:director1@vckc.ca">director1@vckc.ca</a>
Ellie James	<a href="mailto:director2@vckc.ca">director2@vckc.ca</a>

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