



## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

([www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca))

# "The Paddling Post"

## June 2022 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

We just might be seeing some better weather, more sun, less rain? Summer is on its way finally! The Executive, and many of the rest of the club members are on summer break. There are no Executive meetings in July and August but we plan to resume our summer barbeques that have been on hold since COVID hit. We'll send email announcements out when dates have been set so watch your inbox!

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Next, a reminder that there is to be no use of flammables, paints, or aerosols in the clubhouse. The smell from these permeate up to our tenant's suite and makes it unbearable for them. Please be kind and remember that this clubhouse is not an empty building, it is also someone's home.

We were finally able to hold the celebration for the 40th Anniversary of Paddle for the Kids! It was a great evening and we spent some time reminiscing about the fun we've had over the years. Don Munroe did a fabulous job on his video with pictures, video, and news stories of the past 40 years. If you haven't seen it you can find it here: [40 Years of Paddling "For the Kids"](#). It was great to see some friends who were no longer paddling, but had come to join the fun. Notable members present, Harold Nishikawara and John Close. Don also prepared considerable memories of fun things that had happened over the years. Shannon Bernays from Easter Seals presented us with a 40th Anniversary commemorative plaque that had some beautiful artwork done by campers at Camp Shawnigan. Shannon mentioned that this is one of the longest-running fundraisers around. Many start big and then lose steam and quietly fade away. We, on the other hand, keep getting stronger. Even through COVID we found a way to keep helping campers get to their happy place. Top fundraisers were Laurie Page, Irena Jazvinski, and tie for

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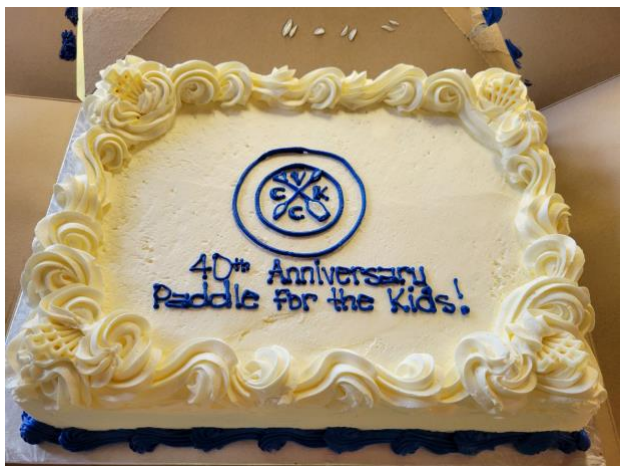
third place with Louise Johnston and Mavis Pillar. Our grand total this year was \$13,685 and that brought us to \$395,000 since we started Paddle for the Kid 41 years ago. Well done, VCKC!

This is an event that is open to all club members and you don't need any previous experience to jump in the big canoe. I've included a couple of pictures Don Munroe sent from the first Paddle for the Kids in 1982, and one from 1983 with the paddlers and some of the kids who attended Camp Shawnigan.

I'm sending everyone wishes for a fabulous summer and I hope to see you at the summer barbeques! Stay well, my friends!

~ Kim Capson, [President](#)

### 40th Anniversary of Paddle for the Kids!





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PFTK 1982



PFTK 1983

## Big Canoe Update

Over the last two months Alan Thomson (Big Canoe Instructor Trainer) and Big Canoe Instructors Helen Poulin and Joe Boyd have worked hard to deliver education and training to eleven new Big Canoe sterns!

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In early June, Alan Thomson lead a wonderful day trip in Brentwood Bay, and coached new



Despite the rain, Ellie James and Ken Gibbard took turns at the stern during Restart the Gorge.

sterners Elizabeth Martinson, Wade Martinson and Mike DesRoches. Mike and Wade successfully sterned the "dreaded" Kawa, while Alan challenged Elizabeth to steer Tillicum under every bridge and gangway from Brentwood Bay to McKenzie Bight.

As always, Big Canoe is open to all paddlers and of course we are always looking for sterns and paddlers. Especially for the upcoming Canada Day Dragonboat and Big Canoe rides event. If you are

interested in assisting as a paddler or stern, please contact [BigCanoe@vckc.ca](mailto:BigCanoe@vckc.ca).

Throughout the summer we will try to offer Big Canoe during Wednesday paddles, but we do require sterns to help lead this event. If you are a stern and have capacity to assist on Wednesday nights, please reach out to Elizabeth Martinson at [BigCanoe@vckc.ca](mailto:BigCanoe@vckc.ca). Additionally, we will try to offer single day Big Canoe trips, as well as another overnight trip mid to late July. Stay tuned for VCKC emails from Big Canoe for these upcoming trips!

In late August/early September, Joe Boyd and David Dorosz plan to lead the epic Thompson River Trip. During this trip Big Canoe paddlers run the Thompson River between the bridge at Savona (Steelhead Provincial Park) and Ashcroft. No river paddling skills but it is helpful; and all paddlers are required to have paddled Big Canoe at least one time prior to the trip. Those wishing to acquire this experience should attend a Wednesday night Big Canoe paddling session.



Restart the Gorge - VCKC paddlers of all ages tour the Gorge in VCKC's 29' Langley - Shawnigan



Elizabeth was thankful to have Linda Thomson at the bow and Sandy, Carolyn, and Anna providing muscle.

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,



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but are not a requirement. There is some history to the area – the Wallachin settlement pre



Meanwhile, Barb and Jennifer were all smiles in Kawa, just before Wade paddled them into the afternoon wind and waves on Brentwood Bay.

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/)

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 for Thompson River Trip:

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 likely paddle in the morning and leave in time to catch the 7, 8 or 9 pm ferry back to Victoria.

While we are still pinning down dates for the Thompson River Trip, be assured that all VCKC members will receive a standard VCKC email invitation to register for this trip as soon as it is posted.

Summer 2022 is expected to be a busy one for Big Canoe and we'll be sure to share photos from all of our upcoming adventures including the Big Canoe/Kayaking Weekend Trip, and the Peace River Brigade in the September Newsletter!

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 for the Thompson River Trip:

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.

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All those interested in participating in our Big Canoe program are encouraged to contact me directly at [bigcanoe@vckc.ca](mailto:bigcanoe@vckc.ca).

Have a wonderful summer everyone, and I hope to see you on the water!

~ Elizabeth Martinson, [Big Canoe Director](#)

### Canoe Update

Summer is here at last and paddling adventures await! Since March, the canoe program has



held a record 11 canoe courses. Sixty-eight paddlers took advantage to learn or refresh their skills and are ready to get out there to enjoy the beauty of our province. Congratulations to all those 68 paddlers and a huge thank you to all our volunteer instructors who made this happen – we would not have a canoe program without you! I look forward to seeing the Facebook VCKC Club Chat postings of all the summer fun ahead.

Ocean Canoeing is happening the week of July 11th: two evenings of theory to learn how to predict tides, currents and winds followed by a weekend canoe trip that puts all your new knowledge to the test. If you have passed Lakewater 2 Basic Solo, you have the prerequisites. We offer this course just once a year, so take advantage to paddle in the waters surrounding Victoria and the Gulf Islands. See the Canoe Courses web page for registration and more information.

For those who want to borrow canoes for use in the Gorge, please email [canoebooking@vckc.ca](mailto:canoebooking@vckc.ca) with your planned date, start and end time, and preferred canoe. If you plan to book frequently over the coming months, you can take advantage of our new Canoeing Booking on-line system. You can find more information about this on the Canoe Booking webpage <https://www.vckc.ca/Canoe-Booking>.

From all our Canoe Program volunteers and instructors, we wish you a happy and safe summer of paddling! See you in September.

~ Louise de Montigny, [Canoe Director](#)

### Dragon Boat Update

Race season is well underway as both Dragonboat teams are preparing for Nanaimo Dragonboat Festival coming up July 9/10.

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We're also excited to be offering Dragonboat rides to the public on Canada Day again down at Craigflower Beach. Don't forget to volunteer to come help out at this great club event fundraising for Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

As usual be in touch with any questions about participating in Dragonboat.

~ Jana Savage, [Dragonboat Director](#)

### Kayak Update

Hello fellow VCKC kayakers.

Currently we are winding down our instruction until September when all of the instructors will



be back from Summer holidays. As well, Wednesday paddles will also be curtailed at the end of June and started again in September. Make sure to check the VCKC club chat on Facebook where people can get together and meet up to go paddling. I will most likely put out invites to a paddle or two during the Summer but will be gone the majority of it doing holiday trips.

The club is opening up our new booking system to allow for kayaks to be booked during the Summer, and into the future, without having to coordinate with a Director or booking person. Please see the separate article in this issue of the newsletter (p. 9) for details about how to use the booking system for a kayak.

When booking a kayak please put your name and kayak number first so others can see it on the booking page. Which kayaks that are booked and how often will tell us the demand for each boat. If you change your mind and decide not to take a booked boat out please remove your booking. We recently went out to paddle and boats that were booked weren't taken out which resulted in a mismatch of boats to people.

Please remember when asking the club to put you on the list that all of the members serving in Executive and other VCKC positions are volunteers, and have lives, and so sometimes things might move slower than you would like.

Please have patience with us.

~ Wade Martinson, [Kayak Director](#)

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### Marathon Update

Marathon paddlers love to push themselves in training and race whenever and wherever they can. For example, Ron Williams competed in the Island Iron Competition in Victoria in the C-2 category on June 5th. Norm MacDonell will soon be heading off to compete in the Columbia River Gorge Outrigger Race in the U.S.



Ron and Jan give a couple of out-of-towners a run for their money (Restart the Gorge 2022)

Whether marathoners are on the water to recreate or race, there's always time to enjoy coffee, tea and stories with good friends.



Sunny days – 2021 (here's hoping for some in 2022!)  
Clockwise: Bon, Sue, Ron, Peter, Mike, Darrelle. (Note: Mike is off to compete in the Yukon River Quest)

Have a safe and sunny summer

See you on the water.

~ Peter Elson, [Marathon Director](#)

### Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP) Update

Fellow paddlers, I hope you've been able to get out on the water during this *La Niña* spring. It's been cold and it's been wet but it's what we got. Hopefully the summer brings a bit more sun.



With the longest day of the year upon us we should have ever expanding options to get out on a SUP. On Wednesday evenings it's almost a guarantee you can join us for a tour of the Gorge (typically wind dependent). If you haven't been on a SUP before and want some coaching please reach out to [SUP@VCKC.ca](mailto:SUP@VCKC.ca) and we can arrange a time. Are you interested in touring some of the waters around the peninsula?

Awesome! Let's set it up. We are so fortunate to live in probably the best place in the world for paddling. Let's get out and explore!

Hope to see you soon on the water. Happy paddling!

~ James Roorda, [SUP Director](#)



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### Messing About in VCKC's Boats - Introducing VCKC's New Booking System

VCKC currently has 14 canoes and eight kayaks . . . and a new booking system that allows you, as a member, to reserve the Club boats for your own use. Book your favourite boat, or try them all until you discover a favourite. You can plan ahead, or book a canoe or kayak that's not already reserved, on a whim.

It's quick and easy to get started. If you have not reserved a boat before this, email [booking@vckc.ca](mailto:booking@vckc.ca) and we will get you going. After that we can set you up for self-booking, in which case you log in to the booking system directly and make your own reservations.

The booking system is at [vckcbooking.skedda.com](http://vckcbooking.skedda.com). Until you are registered, there isn't much to see (but check it out anyway). Once registered, it will look like this:

Wed, Jun 8 | 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. [Book] [Cancel] KAYAKS ▾

	1. P & H Scorpio II MV ⓘ	2. P & H Scorpio II LV ⓘ	3. Current Design Sirocco ⓘ	4. Boreal Design Inukshuk ⓘ	5. Necky Nyook ⓘ	6. Necky Narpa ⓘ	7. Atlantic LV ⓘ	8. Sportive ⓘ
6:00 P.M.						⌵ 5:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.		⌵ 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
7:00 P.M.	⊕	⬆	⊕	⊕	⊕		⊕	
8:00 P.M.								

This is your new booking. When you're ready, double-click on it or click 'Book' to confirm.

VCKC BOOKING SITE | USER MODE (LIMITED VISIBILITY) | Powered by Skedda | Contact | Terms | Privacy

There are some simple protocols, which we have adopted for safety and for manageability:

- Borrowers must have appropriate paddling credentials, in most cases the basic paddling course for canoe or kayak is sufficient. Make sure your credentials are correctly recorded in your member profile on the Club website.
- Paddle only on the Upper Gorge Waterway, west/north of the Gorge (Tillicum) Bridge. Do NOT paddle into the Gorge Narrows. These restrictions may be waived for Club-sponsored events or with the permission of the specific program director.
- Club bookings for courses, trips and other club events will always override a member's personal reservation.
- Put the boat back in its space, clean and ready for the next member. Report any damage or required repairs to the booking coordinator.

We will be adding SUPs and OC1s soon. In the meantime, you can see the canoes at [vckc.ca/bookablecanoes](http://vckc.ca/bookablecanoes) and the kayaks at [vckc.ca/bookablekayaks](http://vckc.ca/bookablekayaks).

It's that simple. Ready? Email [booking@vckc.ca](mailto:booking@vckc.ca).

A day without paddling probably won't kill you. But why risk it?

~ Arthur Caldicott, [Webmaster](#)

# The Paddling Post

## From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who provided contributions for this issue; any errors in presentation are mine. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for improvement — like "What's Inside," added this month — or something new you'd like to see in the newsletter.

As is the annual tradition, the newsletter will be on "summer vacation" in July and August, returning in September following the next Executive meeting. Please watch your e-mail inbox and check-out the [VCKC website](#) for updates about Club activities throughout the summer.

~ David Johnson, [Newsletter Editor](#)

## Club Contact Information

### Officers

President	
Kim Capson	<a href="mailto:president@vckc.ca">president@vckc.ca</a>
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Gord Evans	<a href="mailto:storage@vckc.ca">storage@vckc.ca</a>
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