



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

“The Paddling Post”

May 2023

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



VCKC DragonFlyers at the Fairway Gorge Super Sprints

President's Message

It seems we've just zipped through Spring and are headed full-steam ahead into Summer with this beautiful weather upon us. I heard members paddled a Big Canoe down to the Inner Harbour for ice cream the other night even!

Big thanks go out to all the members that came out to the Spring Clubhouse Clean Up Day while the Dragonboat team was offsite racing at Super Sprints and Running of the Cow had some canoe paddlers playing in moving water. I heard the Social BBQ on Monday was a great success. This weekend was busy at the clubhouse with 2 courses underway for kayak and canoe. Please check the website calendar for more information about all sorts of activities available.

A couple of important upcoming club dates to note –

Safety Day June 4th Will include assessing club PFDs and Huli / Recovery Drills for Outrigger, Marathon Canoe and Small Boats, and possibly SUPs, Kyaks and Canoes! More information still to come.

Canada Day July 1st Dragonboat and Big Canoe rides for the public by donation for charity, hosted at Kosapsom Beach as part of the Gorge Canada Day Picnic. Will be seeking volunteers to work in shifts paddling & steering the big boats giving the rides, and for event set up and tear down.

Please enjoy reading all the great content in this newsletter about all the club activities upcoming and past. And please reach out to any of the program directors to find out more about getting involved.

Paddles up!

~ Jana Savage, President

Marathon and Small Boats

It's been my habit (I am a creature of habits) to lead with a marathon update, followed by small boats. This time I'll do the reverse.

Small Boats update



Hurricane OCI

Outrigger canoes have a long and storied history of exploring territories near and far. At VCKC, in addition to the OC6s we have five OC1s and one OC2 that is on the verge of being water ready.

Of the five OC1s, there are two yellow OC1s which are very stable, easy to assemble, and a great transition from other types of paddling. The Hurricane OC1 (white) is the more stable of the three remaining OC1s. The two Scorpius XSs, (black/ gray and green) are less stable, yet they are still accessible with some required training and skill development.

That said, all the OC1s (and OC2) require a pre-use orientation before the on-line booking system can be accessed. This is a great time of year to try out a new form of paddling if you are not familiar with OC1s. For more information and to arrange an orientation session, email marathon@vckc.ca

OC1 Clinic

Tentative plans are also underway to develop a pilot one-half to one-day OC1 clinic. The purpose of the clinic will be to provide a safe and accessible orientation to the club's OC1s, including boat anatomy, safety drills and requirements, basic paddling techniques, and an on-the-water experience. If you are interested in participating in this pilot clinic if it goes ahead, please email the Marathon and Small Boats Director marathon@vckc.ca

Marathon Update



*Bon and Sue Lee head off on an early morning paddle. Ron Williams prepares for his solo paddle.
(Photo Credit: Mario DeSantis)*

Marathon paddlers at VCKC, like everyone else, are basking in the weather change. The marathon paddlers tend to go out early before it gets too hot, but t-shirts and shorts can now be worn with impunity. The good weather also means that we can turn our attention to hull boat repairs. There is always tension between needing to do fair-weather repairs and spending more time on the water, but we hope to strike a productive balance this year.

There are several marathon races in the forecast and while not all the marathon regulars participate, several do. The upcoming Shuswap River at Enderby get together on June 10 -11 will see several participating. Others prefer staying closer to home and Mario DeSantis, for example, has recently participated in races sponsored by FGPC and Ocean River.



Safety Day – June 4th

The upcoming safety day on June 4th will be an opportunity to see the marathon boats in action as rescue drills will be performed.

Marathon paddlers wash down boats after every paddle.

A lively interest in competing means that some of the marathon paddlers are out on the water about 7am, before others arrive about 8 o'clock for a regular training session. One of the great things about the marathon program is that it has the flexibility to accommodate not only all ages and abilities, but also recreational, training, and competitive aspirations.

See you on the water,
~ Peter Elson, Marathon and Small Boats Director

Big Canoe Update

This update is a bit late but better late than never.

Paddle for the Kids (PFTK) was a great success on April 1st. We had to redo our strategy in part because of the weather on the PFTK fundraising day. It was a success overall with many people contributing to the overall training season and we as a club raised over \$17,000 up until a week afterwards. Recognition to our some businesses that sponsored some of the prizes given out to top fundraisers and contributions to the season. Hoyne Brewery and West Coast Gear provided some door prizes. Community Action Bus was going to be our bus but due to poor weather the bus was canceled. In addition, the Lion's Club in Saanich was going to provide shelter for our paddlers but was canceled as well. Overall it was a team effort and a great success .

Keep an eye out for events happening on the main calendar page for the Big Canoe practices coming on some Mondays. A trip was planned for April but due to weather the trip was cancelled. We hope to have a few day trips over the next couple of months for the Big Canoe and take advantage of this beautiful weather. Please contact bigcanoe@vckc.ca if you are interested in flipping a big canoe on Huli day which is June 4th.

There is some interest about racing the big canoe in the Gorge Waterway. Please email if you have interest in participating or volunteering to be part of such an event sometime in June. Ideas do come into action sometimes if there is serious interest so please email bigcanoe@vckc.ca if this interests you.

See you soon on the water.

~ Anna Childress, Big Canoe Director

Dragonboat Update



‘The racing season has begun! The VCKC DragonFlyers had their first race this month, taking part in the Fairway Gorge Super Sprints event. For many on the team it was a great introduction to the world of Dragonboat racing. We had a great time and are now turning our focus to the longer races in Nanaimo in July.’

~ *Hannah Griffiths, Dragonboat Director*

SUP Update



‘The SUP program is busy with the spring paddling season kicking off. Drop James a line via email for any questions or to set something up. Happy paddling“ sup@vckc.ca

~ *James Roorda, Director*

Canoe Update

Please see website for 2023 Canoe Program details!

~ *Director*

Kayak Update

Courses, clinics and paddle trips are now once again underway! Please see the Club Calendar and the Events page for more information.

~ *Wade Martinson, Director*

Outrigger Update

Please see website for 2023 Outrigger Program details!

~ *Graham Hayes, Director*

Storage Update

Reminder – on-site storage at the clubhouse is available for day-use only while out paddling.

~ *Gord Evans, Director*

Safety, Education and Standards Update

Club-wide “Safety Day” on Sunday, June 4th – please mark your calendars! We plan to hold Huli Practices (reminder – all teams need to do them annually!), assess club safety equipment (such as PFDs) for ongoing use or repair/replacement recommendations etc.

Club Contact Information

Officers

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James Roorda

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Gord Evans

Storage storage@vckc.ca

Gord Evans

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