



## Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

# “The Paddling Post”

February 2024

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 W̱SÁNEĆ 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 W̱SÁNEĆ peoples on whose land and waterways club members have the privilege of living.

### President’s Message

It’s been a busy few weeks starting off 2024. We held a successful AGM, completed in record time (less than an hour!), and held our first ever Executive Retreat the following Saturday. The Retreat Day was valuable for connecting, introducing new Board Members to many of the processes and systems we utilized for the work we do, and starting plans for 2024 (which is already in full swing!).

Paddle for the Kids Fundraiser is well underway, canoe courses are available for registration, Dragonboat team practices are resuming, social events and general information meetings are resuming. Please check out our calendar on the website for all the exciting opportunities available here - <https://vckc.ca/calendar>

Also new this year - we are developing committees/working groups to make it easier to get involved here at your club, and to keep up on all the behind the scenes (and in front!) work that needs doing. First step will be to put a call out to all members to gather information about your volunteering areas of interest. Watch for that email soon with more information.

Remember, VCKC is YOUR club - we’re all volunteers here, and each member is asked to contribute a minimum of 10hrs volunteering annually.

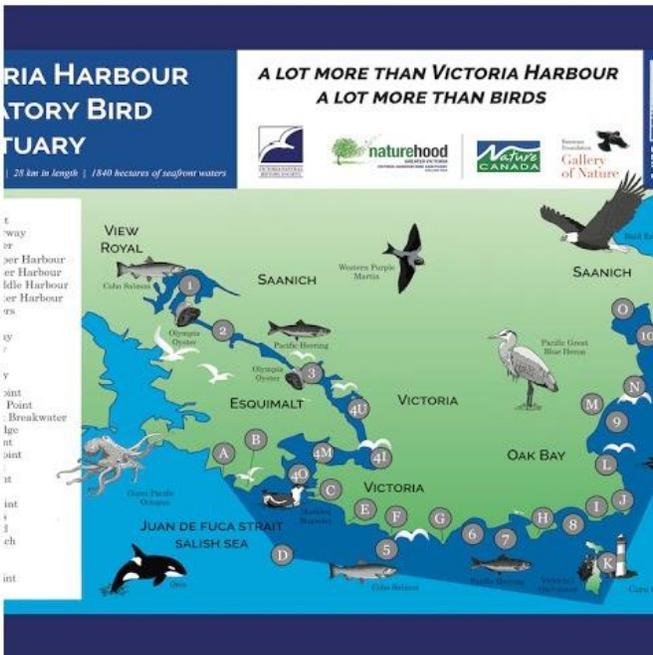
Paddles Up!

~ *Jana Savage, President*

### Event Updates

#### Monthly General Meeting / Social Event

The return of the monthly general meeting socials was held and we heard from some great speakers! Jacques Sirois spoke on the 100th anniversary of the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. He had some amazing stories of how things have changed over the years.



*Photo credit: Kim Capson*

The "No hunting" and "No shooting" signs are from the 70s because even though the bird sanctuary was established in 1923 people continued to hunt in it for many, many years. The Brant goose decoy was one of 30 found in a garage in Oak Bay. The decoys were used well into the 70s, possibly the early 80s, to hunt the geese on Chatham Island. Brant geese were a favourite Christmas dinner. Jacques showed an incredible photo that was taken in one of the newly restored pools along the Colquitz estuary which Jacques described as "one of six and among the best small estuaries in historic Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary". It shows a Pacific Great Blue Heron (species of Special Concern (COSEWIC)), eating a Cutthroat Trout (blue-listed in BC. 2 species at risk). Such conflicting emotions!

Although Jim Shortreed was unable to make it to the talk, his YouTube video "Ancient and Modern Herring Transplants" about the local herring was played and another local expert, Yogi Carolsfeld, was on hand to answer questions. Lots of great information was discussed! Unfortunately, we had to cancel the planned "Hunt for Herring" paddle due to a combination of factors.

Finally, club member Ken Gibbard showed some slides of past club trips. Based on those slides our members sure know how to have fun on the water! It was great to reminisce and think about what trips we might plan for this year.

Be sure to join us for the next social event at the clubhouse, Tuesday March 5th when club member Alan Thomson will be talking about tides and currents. The meeting starts at 7pm but new members are welcome to come early starting at 6:30 for a tour of the clubhouse and to have any questions answered. Plan to stay after and socialize!

*Kim Capson, Past President*

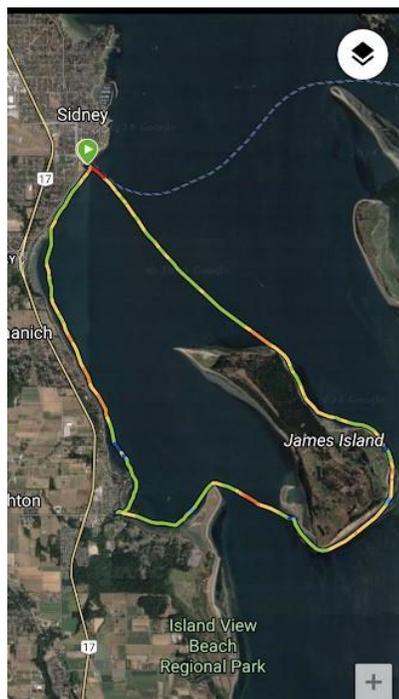
### Surfrider's Blue Water Task Force Update

A number of samples have been collected from the upper gorge since the turn of the calendar. Some of these have come back with high bacteria counts, so be cautious when paddling (wash your hands if they got wet after paddling, or just don't drink the water haha). Keep an eye out for recent precipitation events as this typically corresponds with higher bacteria counts. Using this link you can always check the recent stats for the upper gorge and a number of other spots around Southern Vancouver Island and beyond:

<https://bwtf.surfrider.org/explore/41/473>

*James Roorda, SUP Director*

### Big Canoe Update



#### Paddle for the Kids

Paddle for the Kids 2024 is off to a great start. We kicked off the season on February 4<sup>th</sup> with a short introductory paddle to Portage Inlet. After returning to the clubhouse we did a Big Canoe recovery demonstration, followed by a light brunch and social gathering.

Our first off-site practice trip of the year was held on Saturday February 10. 21 paddlers took part. We left Tulista Park boat ramp and paddled just short of 20 km, around James Island. The trip included about three hours of paddling.

The 2024 Paddle for the Kids will be held on **Saturday March 23, 2024**. This is VCKC's annual charity fundraiser for Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan.



*Big Canoes out for a paddle early February 2024*

*Photo credit: Hugh Allan, community member*

### Big Canoe Leadership Training

The Paddle Canada Big Canoe Intermediate Sterner course will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are an experienced canoeist, and have an interest in expanding your skills in Big Canoe, this course will be of interest to you. Details can be found [here](#).

### New Langley

Our new 29-foot Langley canoe will soon be in production at Western Canoe and Kayak in Abbotsford. This will be identical to our much-loved 'Tillicum' Big Canoe. We can expect delivery sometime in late spring or early summer – in time for summer brigades.

*~ Joe Boyd, Big Canoe Program*

### **SUP Update**

Hello fellow paddlers, I hope 2024 has been good so far. I've been very busy lately and not paddling as much as I would like to be. It's been a situation where when it's been good conditions I've been busy, and when I've had time the wind and weather haven't wanted to cooperate. Oh well, there is still lots of time to make up for it, so I hope to see you out there. The regular weekly paddles (Thursday evenings) will be resuming/continuing, weather permitting. Get in touch via email, and we can set something up!



*We're not sure if Neptune was presenting this SUP'er with a new paddle or ...*

*Photo credit: James Roorda and his GoPro*

Happy paddling!

*~ James Roorda, SUP Director*

## Dragonboat Update



*VCKC Dragonflyers paddling on the Gorge – Hannah Griffiths*

VCKC Newsletter February 2024

The Dragon boat program is getting ready to kick start the 2024 season. If you've ever been interested in trying out dragon boat now is a great time to try.

We will be hosting a 'Learn to paddle' event soon (likely March, date tbd) if your interested reach out anytime to Hannah at [Dragonboat@vckc.ca](mailto:Dragonboat@vckc.ca)

Happy Paddling!

*~ Hannah Griffiths,  
Dragonboat Director*



*VCKC Dragonflyers competing at the Victoria dragon boat festival.*

*Photo credit: Hannah Griffiths*

## **Canoe Update**

Many of the courses are now on the calendar and the registrations are pouring in. The instructors, leaders and myself are looking forward to another successful year of courses and events for 2024. Eddie Hoppers will resume shortly and preparations for the popular annual 'Running Of The Cow' are ramping up. Also in the planning stages are flatwater day trips and a club trip on the Sayward Forest Canoe Circuit. We are always looking for ideas, especially for the day trips and for individuals willing to help out and lead. Drivers who can carry canoes and haul trailers are often needed. The Somenos Lake paddle was a wonderful day paddle to start off the year. For more information or to step forward, contact the canoe director (James McBeath [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca)). Just a note that the club is so large now it is not practical to review the memberships to see who may have offered their services but we are looking forward to hearing from you.

The canoe director is looking for the donation of a roof rack for a gutterless vehicle from a kind philanthropist from our ranks or further abroad. Do you know someone with a set that is no longer in use?

Running Of The Cow or ROTC is a two day paddle, campout and social event. It is a fairly large, fun event and if you would like to become more involved you can contact Big Canoe Director Joe Boyd or the canoe director.

See you out there

~ James McBeath, Canoe Program Director

## **Outrigger Update**

Attention VCKC members, the club's major fundraiser "WAKE UP the Gorge" (April 6 & 7) is fast approaching. In the next week or so we will be sending out an email asking for volunteers. Except for the cancelled COVID years, this year marks our 25<sup>th</sup> year, running since 1999. Without the support of our volunteers (members) this event would not be possible. Let's continue this tradition and put on the best event possible.

We will need key members to lead committees in the following areas:

Kitchen

Food

Dock Crews

Timers

Donations

Safety boat operators

First Aid attendants

Parking lot attendants

Registration

And others

Registration is now open – see **WUTG 2024** tab on the website. We hope to see many supporters at our WUTG event and as many VCKC crews as possible to register.

For members who have completed their introductory OC1 course, now is the time to book your OC1 for the Sunday's small boat race. Sunday's small boat race has 2 components, a morning race out to Westbay Marine and back, and an afternoon flat-water component from VCKC – Portage Inlet. The afternoon VCKC – Portage Inlet race would be perfect as your first race. Hope to see some of you at this event.

~ Bon Lee & Marianne Pilon, Co-Directors

## **Storage and House & Grounds Update**

### House and Grounds

A quiet month for H&G but some planning for projects for 2024 is taking place. These include looking at some new flooring for the clubhouse, gutter replacement and sourcing a more modern projector. A reminder that the clubhouse locks were changed on Feb 1st and you can find this new code on the VCKC website by logging in and navigating to the Members page. The Spring Clean-up date has been set for April 27th. It is on the VCKC calendar now and a reminder will be sent out closer to the event. Please consider volunteering some of your time to help keep our clubhouse looking great.

## Storage



It has been a quiet month but ongoing planning for storage related projects continues.

The SUP program now has a new locker (they actually never had one) which has been assembled and installed next to the Big Canoe program locker.

Cheers,

*Gord Evans, Clubhouse and Grounds Maintenance Director & Storage Director*

### **Marathon and Small Boats Update**

For more information see club calendar.

*~ Rob Sainsbury, Marathon and Small Boats Director*

### **Kayak Update**

*~ The Kayak Program is seeking a Program Director, please contact the club President if you are interested in learning more about this position.*

**Deadline for submission to March Newsletter:- end of day Saturday February March 16<sup>th</sup> .**

Please identify as “newsletter submission” in the subject line and send to [newsletter@vckc.ca](mailto:newsletter@vckc.ca) .

If photographs are part of your submission include photographer credit information.

## Club Contact Information

### **Officers**

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### **Program Directors**

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Stand Up Paddle Board [sup@vckc.ca](mailto:sup@vckc.ca)  
James Roorda

### **Other Executive Positions**

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Gord Evans  
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Gord Evans  
Director at Large  
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2 - Fiona Coyle [director2@vckc.ca](mailto:director2@vckc.ca)

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