



# Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club  
355 Gorge Road West  
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1M9  
Phone: 250-590-8193 (Info only)  
Website: [www.vckc.ca](http://www.vckc.ca)

October 2008

## **General Meeting Tuesday, October 7, 2008**

**Guest Speaker: John Kimantas**

### **Top Ten Paddling Destinations in British Columbia**

John Kimantas has paddled almost every major passage on the B.C. Coast. He is currently the owner/publisher of Wild Coast Magazine and Wavelength.



## Clubhouse News

### Painting

By the time this newsletter comes out, the painting of the clubhouse will be completed and the shed beside the clubhouse will soon be painted by club members to match. Thank you to everybody who has been involved in the process.

### Waiver Form

Over the summer, a sub-committee of the Executive, chaired by Lloyd Skaalen, reviewed and revised *The Boating and Property Liability Waiver Form for Members and Guests*. The revised form was accepted by the Executive at the September meeting and will be the one used from now on. All guests must sign a waiver form when going out in a club boat. Please make sure the signed forms are placed in the box provided in the basement. (See page 7)

The club was represented by Doug Linton at an information session put on by the developer of the proposed Mega-Yacht Marina on the Songhee's side of the harbour. Please read his report on page 4 for more details.

The club PFDs will be tested in the near future to make sure they are providing adequate flotation. Unfortunately, they do not last for ever and have to be checked. FYI using a PFD as a seat or a cushion will reduce it's life as a flotation device.

### New Members

In case you don't know, the general meeting for all members is always on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm except for July and August when there are no meetings. Members are welcome at Executive meetings which are on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, except July and August, and anyone can go the different section meetings. I managed to go to the canoe and kayak meetings in September. Both were very well attended and had excellent presentations. Thank you, Doug and Cathy Hull and Tony Copping . Also, the club newsletter usually comes on-line in the last week of the month.

Linda Thomson,  
President, VCKC

### In Memory

Joan Fox passed away early Wednesday morning, September 17, following a long battle with breast cancer. She was a long time paddler and president of the Island Breast Stokers who moved to VCKC with St'Keya. Joan, shown at right getting ready to paddle to Port Angeles, also paddled and drummed for VCKC's St'Keya Dragon Boat Team, helping us to several successful seasons. She and husband Mike participated several times in VCKC's Paddle to Port Angeles and raised a lot of money for the kids of Camp Shawnigan. Joan spent countless hours around the club helping with many club activities and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.



## Canoe Program Trip Report

### Prevost Perimeter Paddle

For the first flatwater canoe paddle of the fall season, I thought that we should take advantage of the still relatively long days and capitalize on the fact that the vacations were over but the routine of working weekends would not yet have started. A paddle from one of the Gulf Islands seemed in order, and we'd never landed on Prevost Island that I could remember, other than on an Ocean Paddling Course a few years ago.

I was a little surprised to find that 16 members/8 boats signed up for the trip, in spite of its length and the possibility of a late arrival back in Victoria - obviously they were either missing the regular paddles or were eager to try something new. The tide changes were relatively simple - not much rising and falling - but the forecast was for strong northerly winds in the South Georgia Strait and in Haro Strait. However, the winds were scheduled to die down in the afternoon so I thought that if we could get out to the Island, we could always hang about until things were calmer. In the event, the strong winds weren't very strong - although they were from the north/northwest, as forecast.

We arrived at the ferry terminal shortly after 8 am to line up for the 9 o'clock sailing to Fulford Harbour. I'd no idea how busy these island ferries would be on a weekend post Labour Day, but thought it best to be sure. It turned out we could have arrived at 8:45 am and got on but it was a fine day to sit outside the terminal café and catch up with everyone. We launched from Long Harbour, by the ferry terminal, but on the Welbury Bay side where there is a ramp and some sand when the tide is less than 8 feet. There is also good parking close at hand which is a bonus. Doug and Cathy Hull had checked this out for us the day before as they were already on Saltspring.

We were on the water before 10:30 am and crossed over Nose Point on Saltspring to Selby Point on Prevost in under half an hour. We stopped in at the park in James Bay (part of the Gulf Islands National Park) to check out the orchard and to show the site to people who were there for the first time. Some of the apples were ripe; some needed another few weeks to reach the picking and eating stage. A few scabby pears and stone-hard plums adorned some of the other trees but any fallen fruit had clearly been scavenged either by campers, deer or raccoons.

With the wind from the north, we made good time down the north side of Prevost, visiting the Hawkins Islands en route. Some very large seals reared out of the water to watch us pass by the reefs by the islands, one of which had a sign forbidding access to what was obviously a good campsite. By 12:45, we were lunching at the head of Richardson Bay in full sun and on a sandy beach - it

was hard to get going again at 1:30 to carry on the paddling.

Round Point Liddel and up by the Aclands, then into Glenthorne Passage. We were very tempted to sneak a portage across in to Annette Inlet but decided that, after all, it was private land, there were 8 boats, and there was no necessity to go that way. So up the passage, across the head of Annette Bay and into Selby Cove, the least indented bay on the west side of the Island. If we had followed the shore line of Prevost, we'd have been at least two hours longer, and the ferry timetable was beckoning. The tide was ebbing through Captain Passage so we paddled up towards Selby Point and ferried across to Nose Point to avoid being pushed down to the Horda Shoals area. The ferry was due to leave Long Harbour at the time we reached Selby Point so we dithered a bit but then, hearing no whistle, we headed over and waited its departure just round the point. These old Queen class ferries generate remarkably little wake, as do the Spirit Class - unless you are on a shoaling beach where the surf can definitely get up.

Back to the put-in by 4:15 pm and off to the ferry terminal. Again, we had no idea how crowded the ferry might be but were pleasantly surprised to find plenty of space in the parking lot and time for a beer in the restaurant across the road. On the less pleasant side was the discovery that Andre's truck appeared to be using more transmission oil than gas. But it limped onto the ferry and into Sidney where two bottles of fluid were bought to see him safely back home.

A 13 Nautical Mile day, about 5 ½ hours of paddling and shore breaks, full sun all day and enough breeze to stop us getting uncomfortably warm. Thanks to the drivers who shared their vehicles so we traveled the ferries more cheaply and used less gas as well.

Alan and Linda; John and Brenda; Doug and Cathy, Carolyn and Sandy, Bon, Joy, Andre, Odette, Jeff, Ben.

Alan Thomson



## **Victoria Harbour Development**

I attended a meeting regarding the proposed large yacht marina in the outer harbour on September 18, along with one rep from SISKA; the owner of Great Pacific Adventures; and Jim Schellenberg from Transport Canada. Considering all of the folks who might be concerned about this, it wasn't much of a showing.

A short presentation was made by Lachlan Maclean of WAM Development. Also present was Bob Evans of Community Marine Concepts (co-developers).

So far, all they have to offer are concept drawings, and some engineering regarding the wave attenuation system (floating wharf). Ecological impact studies are ongoing but so far indications are that by cleaning up 100 years of bark and mill debris and restoring the original hard bottom, there will be a net benefit as has already been indicated by a similar process that was carried out in part of Lime Bay when the original Songhees development was done.

The water lots were designated at the time of the Songhees development. A marine facility was planned at that time and provision in the form of access, parking, sewerage and electrical power was made. The marina will cover about 2.6 Ha and will incorporate about 50 slips for vessels >65 ft <135ft. It will extend from the east side of Lime Bay to about 200 feet beyond Paul Kane Ave. Ramps to the docks will align with the existing streets which end at the walkway. Vessels will use the large vessel corridor into the harbour and will have to turn 180 degrees in the neck to the inner harbour (east of Paul Kane Ave) to enter the marina. There will be no drive-through and they will have to exit via the same route.

Small boat traffic (including such unwieldy things as OC6's) will be able to paddle through the marina and exit/enter via an arched bridge near the West end and via the main entrance at the east end. I suggested that very few of the OC crowd would willingly get involved in maneuvering through the traffic and tight turns required on a regular basis, and that I, for one would much prefer to go around the outside. A corridor will be kept (white buoys) on the seaward side of the breakwater (attenuator) but the width is uncertain. I suggested 30 metres would probably be adequate for OC6 traffic. I don't know how much room this would leave for the aircraft taxiway (which is only used at high tide anyhow). There will also be some sort of control tower on the dock to direct yacht traffic, I suspect mainly to minimize conflict with the aircraft and ferries. They are also putting in a small

boat dock (low) which would allow kayakers and canoeists to access the restaurant and coffee shop and any other commercial areas.

Doug Linton



## **Canoe Program**

Our fall canoeing season is well underway and we have had some wonderful flatwater day paddles with the weather being very cooperative.

The first basic canoe paddling course will have finished by the time you read this and we had such a good response to the course, we have set up another session in October with several people already registered. Some advanced paddling courses will also be offered. (Please see the course section for details.)

Jean Chandler has continued with the Wednesday morning paddles from 9 - 12, and although the groups are small, it provides a good opportunity for practicing some skills that may not regularly be used.

Each month, we plan to offer a day trip that will be suitable for the new paddlers to join. Cathy and Doug Hull offered a wonderful slide show at our September meeting, showing their canoe trip in Wabikimi Park, Ontario and their cycling trip along the Kettle Valley trail in southern BC. Thanks so much Cathy and Doug for an entertaining evening.

Our October meeting on Monday, October 20th, promises to be very interesting too. Please read about our guest speaker in the meeting notice further along.

Joy Newham

## **Kayak Program**

### **Trip Report**

On September 21, seven of us took the ferry to Saltspring Island, drove to the north end, which is mysteriously named "Southey" Point, and paddled to the Secretary Islands. It was a beautiful day. High winds were forecast for sometime in the afternoon but we kept a weather-eye and hurried back when rain clouds and a breeze made an appearance. The "high winds" didn't materialize until we were back in Victoria! A high point of the trip was the below-water sight of bright, vivid green sea lettuce with purple starfish at the north end of Wallace Island. Another was the lunch landing at the sand spit on Kuper Island which is First Nations land. We asked permission to come ashore. It was a very pretty place indeed and the only sandy beach in the area.

Submitted by Marianne West.

### **Program News**

The next Kayak Program Meeting is Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Peter Harris of Pacifica Paddle Sports will be giving a talk on choosing a kayak for fit and performance. Your kayak should fit you like a good shoe fits your foot, being both comfortable and responsive.

The kayak paddler contact list, reached by emailing vckcpaddlinglist@gmail.com, is available only to people on the list. Send your contact info and a comment on what type of paddling you're interested in. Fred Trudell periodically updates the list and re-sends it to the group.

See the Trips and Courses section of the newsletter for information on the October currents workshop, and courses.

VCKC has boats that are available to members for club courses and paddles, at a fee of \$10 per day. All kayaks come with a PFD, paddle, pump, and throw line. For more information or to book a kayak, please contact Colin Ross at cdross@shaw.ca at least a week in advance.

Marianne West, Kayak Program Director is leaving this post December 31 due to other obligations. This is a key position with a focus on communications. The kayak section cannot function properly with this position vacant.

We are looking for a Newsletter copy person for the kayak section who reports to the newsletter volunteer. Marianne will continue in this position until December 31 unless someone else fills it sooner.

Colin Ross, our Kayak Booking person is leaving this position October 31. Colin is a dedicated volunteer with a fulltime career who has made a much appreciated contribution. A new volunteer is needed to enable club boat use.

Level 2 and above kayakers are needed to provide additional paddling opportunities to the kayak membership. If you have the skills and experience, or would like to learn, please email Marianne West at mariannejwest@gmail.com.

For those members who are not aware, the kayak program is in a phase of reconstruction. Practically all of the senior members of the VCKC kayak section departed December 2007 to form a club dedicated only to sea kayaking, the South Island Sea Kayak Association. This left a huge void at VCKC in kayak instruction, paddle leadership and administration. These positions have been partially filled in 2008 by new volunteers who are "learning the ropes" and doing their best to provide a program. There is a need for more volunteers "at the top". If you have been considering applying to fill a position, please email Marianne West at mariannejwest@gmail.com.

### **Who's Who**

**Program Director** - Marianne West - mariannejwest@gmail.com

**Communications (email)** - Fred Trudell - fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca

**Communications (paddlers' list)** - VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com

**Courses & Workshops** - Patti Stevens - pattilou\_333@yahoo.com

**Kayak bookings** - Colin Ross - cdross@shaw.ca

**Library** - Vic Turkington - victurkington@yahoo.com

**Day Paddles and Overnights** - Marianne West - mariannejwest@gmail.com

**Instructors** - Tom Hukari, Patti Stevens, Yves Aquin, Dennis MacMillan, Dorothea Hoffman, Doug Linton, Marianne West.

## ***Trip Report Wallace Island***

After three cool and rainy camping trips earlier this year we decided to give it one more try in September so John Levey, Heike Ramien and Hans Voermann went on an outing from Sidney up Sansum Narrows on the East side of Saltspring Island to Wallace Island, camp there for a couple of nights and then go back to Sidney along the West side of Galiano Island with one more overnight stay at Montague Harbour or Prevost Island before returning home on the fourth day.

We left Sidney at 9:30 am, paddled with the incoming tide past the Swartz Bay Terminal and into Sansum Narrows, with a lunch stop near Musgrove Landing. By the time we finished lunch we had lost the advantage of the incoming tide and it turned out to be a very long slug to get from Octopus Point to Southey Point at the north end of Saltspring Island, with hardly a beach to stop. Just before reaching Southey Point we finally found a landing spot on a tiny island for a late afternoon snack. From there to Chivers Point at the North end of Wallace Island is only a short hop, for a total of 21 nm that day. But, by the time we arrived, it was past 6:00 pm and we had to hurry unloading our kayaks, setting up camp and cooking our dinners before it got dark at about 7:30. After a long and hard paddle we crawled into our sleeping bags at 8:30 pm and all three of us slept for eleven hours until we woke up at 7:30 am the next morning. The shot of single malt scotch we had before turning in must have done it's job!

On our second day we decided to hike the length of Wallace Island which some of us had never done before. Wallace is about four nm in length but seems only about 300 feet wide. We wandered by an ancient abandoned pickup truck, some old buildings and along beautiful Conover Bay where a good number of sailboats were anchored. The weather was as great as on our first day and after checking out the south end of the island we slowly made our way back to our camp site. In the afternoon John and Hans decided to paddle around the Secretary Islands just north of Wallace and we made it back at dinnertime.

The next day, unlike on previous trips to Wallace, we decided to paddle along the towering cliffs of

Galiano Island rather than just going down the middle of Trincomali Channel. We enjoyed watching the cormorants sitting in their nesting caves high up as well as numerous huge very unusual sandstone sculptures before reaching Montague Harbour in time for lunch. The camping area there was much to busy for our liking since it is accessible from the land side as well and after lunch we continued paddling to the camp site in James Bay at the North end of Prevost Island. The big meadow that is available for camping there has a number of apple and plum trees and we picked a few bags to take home with us.

Next morning we found a heavy cover of dew on our tent flies and on our gear and decided to wait for the sun to dry it out before making our way back to Sidney. Paddling along the West side of Prevost through the narrow channel that separates it from Secret Island and then along the shore of Saltspring Island we arrived at Portland Island in time for a late afternoon snack. We had been paddling against an incoming tide but going south along the shore of Saltspring one does not even seem notice it. After having had our snack on Portland we paddled back to Roberts Bay in Sidney for total of almost 50 nm with four warm days and cool nights and not a cloud in the sky.

Submitted by Hans Voermann



## Courses - Kayaking

### Slipstream Basic Wilderness First Aid

If you are planning to take a kayaking holiday in wilderness areas, consider registering for this course. (All club members can participate.)

Dates: Saturday, Nov 1 and Sunday, Nov 2  
Length: 2 days  
Cost: \$200 - \$300 (price dependent on number of people registered)

Contact: Dorothea Hoffman at  
polkadottie44@shaw.ca

### Paddle Canada Flatwater

Dates: October 5 / November 2008 (TBD)  
Length: 1 day  
Cost: \$25

### Paddle Canada Level 1

Minimum Skills: PC Flatwater or equivalent  
Dates: October 18 and 19 / November 2008 (TBD)  
Length: 2 days  
Cost: \$50

For information on Paddle Canada course content, please go to [Paddle Canada's website](#) and review the Sea Kayak Program's overview.

### Wet-Exit + Assisted Rescue Workshop

Date: October 4  
Location: Gorge Waterway  
Time: 1300 to 1600  
Cost: \$5

### Currents # 1 Workshop

Minimum Skills: PC Level 1 or equivalent (be prepared to demonstrate a wet exit and self-rescue).  
Date: October 19  
Location: Tillicum Bridge  
Time: Noon to 4:00 pm  
Cost: \$5

### Currents # 2 Workshop

Minimum Skills: PC Level 1 or equivalent (be prepared to demonstrate a wet exit and self-rescue).  
Volunteers: PC Level 2 paddlers with towing gear are invited to assist.  
Date: Oct 26  
Location: Trial Island  
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Cost: \$5

Immersion gear is required for all of the above Paddle Canada courses and workshops. To register for any of these courses or workshops, please contact Patti Stevens at [pattilou\\_333@yahoo.com](mailto:pattilou_333@yahoo.com).

In addition, if there is a workshop that you would like to see happen, get a group of four to six members together and contact Patti at the above email address.

**Paddle Guidelines:** *Club paddles allow new members to meet other members; to paddle in a safe environment and to introduce new members to Victoria area paddling locations. They are tailored to beginner paddlers although experienced paddlers are welcome to attend. The pace is set by those at the back of the "pack". All those who plan to attend need to wear immersion gear (i.e. drysuit or wetsuit OR insulating clothing such as fleece). ALSO remember to bring a change of clothes in a drybag. If you are unsure about the suitability of your equipment or clothing, please contact the trip leader for advice prior to the paddle date. It is also expected that you will bring adequate food and water for the duration of the trip.*

### Waivers

A box for club waivers has been placed in the basement near the notice boards. There is supply of blank forms. The filled-out forms should be put in slot at the top of the box.

Remember: all non-members are required to fill out a waiver before using club equipment or participating in club activities.

## Trips (Canoeing)

### Flatwater Trips

#### General

1. Please read the Club website for the [tripping guidelines and expectations](#). Listen to the weather forecast on the night before the trip (public forecast will cover the probability of rain; the marine forecast will include wind strengths and directions.) Call 250-363-6717 or look up the [local marine forecast](#) on the Internet;

2. E-mail notices to all Canoe Program members will be sent out the week before the advertised trips;

3. Minimum paddling level required is having taken and passed the Basic Tandem Canoe course;

4. Members of the Club's Sea-kayak program are welcome to join in any canoe program Flat Water paddles;

Apologies for all the Sunday paddles this season - no Saturdays. This has happened because of the two Canoe Courses on Saturdays that would otherwise have been FW paddles.

**Sunday, October 5:** This will be a paddle suitable for canoeists who have taken the Basic Tandem course on September 27. Club members wishing to take part should contact Joy Newham 250-385-5876 or [pjnewham@telus.net](mailto:pjnewham@telus.net) by Thursday, October 2 and let her know that they plan to come on the paddle, and if they need a partner, a boat or other equipment. The trip will start by meeting at the Clubhouse at 9:00 am.

**Sunday October 19:** This trip will also be a suitable one for beginners who take the Basic Tandem course scheduled for October 18. Meet at the Clubhouse at 9:00 am. Let Alan or Linda Thomson know if you intend to take part by Thursday, October 16, and if you need a partner, boat or other equipment. 250-582-4170 or [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com).

**Sunday November 2:** There will be a flatwater trip starting at the Clubhouse at 9:00 am. If the

winds are suitable, I am thinking of a trip along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, probably beyond Sooke. Contact Alan or Linda Thomson by Thursday October 30th if you are planning to take part 250-582-4170 or [3135thom@islandnet.com](mailto:3135thom@islandnet.com).

#### Courses (Canoeing)

**Lakewater Level 1:** This is the basic tandem canoe course, which covers several basic paddling strokes, safety, types of paddles and canoes, suitable clothing, canoeing ethics, etc.

**Thursday, October 16** from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm - registration & classroom session

**Saturday, October 18** - 7:30 am - 4:00 pm - on-the-water instruction & pool session

For more information or to register, please contact Joy Newham by Friday, October 10.

Phone: 250-385-5876

e-mail: [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca)

**Lakewater Level 3:** Advanced tandem canoe course, including advanced strokes, side slips and running side slips, canoe repairs, equipment variations and standards, etc.

For more information or to register, please contact Joy Newham by Friday, October 10.

Phone: 250-385-5876

e-mail: [canoe@vckc.ca](mailto:canoe@vckc.ca)

**Saturday, October 25** - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

#### **Basic Tandem Moving Water Level 1:**

Prerequisite: Basic or advanced tandem paddler certification. The course prepares you to paddle in up to Grade 2 water and includes all strokes in the advanced tandem paddler course, safety, maneuvers such as eddy turns and peel offs, forward and back ferries, surfing, shore and deep water rescues, etc.

For more information or to register, please contact Tom Staebell:

Res. 655-7113 after 5:00 p.m.

Cell: 588-2207 after 6:30 a.m.

## VCKC Executive

<b>President</b>		<b>Voyageur Program</b>	
Linda Thomson .....	592-4170	Don Munroe.....	385-2268
<b>Vice President</b>		<b>Marathon Canoe Program</b>	
Marie-Eve Tessier .....	386-5652	Ron Williams .....	380-7496
<b>Treasurer</b>		<b>Education, Safety &amp; Standards</b>	
Sharron Rivest .....	478-2981	Doug Linton .....	727-0216
<b>Secretary</b>		<b>Membership</b>	
Tony Dalmyn .....	483-5224	Muriel Johnson .....	391-0560
<b>Past President</b>		<b>Clubhouse &amp; Grounds</b>	
Mile Petrovic .....	250-733-2013	Lawrence Irvine .....	920-3622
<b>Program Directors</b>		<b>Directors-at-Large</b>	
<b>Canoe Program</b>		Diane Nishimura .....	383-3080
Joy Newham .....	385-5876	Maris Ratel .....	592-7082
<b>Sea Kayak Program</b>		<b>Executive Volunteer Positions</b>	
Marianne West .....	885-1723	Ray Patts (Soc.Coord.) ....	294-4445
<b>Dragon Boat Program</b>		Harold Gillis (Newsletter)	598-9488
Mike Fox .....	391-0160	Maris Ratel (Boat & Locker Storage) ..	592-7082
<b>Outrigger Program</b>			
Keith Larusson .....	598-7193		

To see the October Calendar of Events

[Click Here](#)

