



# 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)

November 2008

## General Meeting Tuesday, November 4, 2008



### VCKC'S TEAM SHAWNIGAN COMPLETES THE JOURNEY

66 Days, 3600km, Four Provinces,  
Three Drainages,  
and Two Centuries of History

Paddling into the 19th Century to Commemorate David Thompson



## Clubhouse News

It is now the end of October. The summer competitive racing of the dragonboaters, marathon canoers and outrigger paddlers is over. The club has entered its winter mode. The kayak and canoe sections are very busy teaching and the whitewater keeners are happily watching the water in the rivers rise. There are many talks and workshops to go to and it is an opportunity to find out what the different sections are doing.

It is also the time when a lot of the planning for 2009 is done. In particular, the budget, and the nominations for the **2009 Executive**. If you are interested in being on the Executive and wanting to be more involved in the running of the club, or if you know of anyone who you think might be a good person to have on the Executive, please contact Marie-Eve Tessier. Marie-Eve is heading up the Nominations Committee. The members of the 2009 Executive will be voted in at the first General Meeting in January. Nominations, with a proposer and seconder, can be submitted at that meeting but it is very helpful to have nominations in beforehand. Marie-Eve can be reached at 250-386-5652 or e-mail: [blueazurbutterfly@hotmail.com](mailto:blueazurbutterfly@hotmail.com)

Linda Thomson  
President, VCKC



## B.C. Marine Trails Association

Those of you who attended the general meeting in October will have heard John Kimantas' 'sermon' about the B.C. Marine Trails project. In summary, the purpose is to formalize a series of sites throughout the coast of British Columbia such that paddlers, kayakers or canoeists, can follow a 'trail' along the coastline knowing that there are publicly protected and accessible campsites at suitable intervals. In some ways, this will match the system of safe anchorages and harbours that have been developed and protected for yachters and other boaters.

A previous incarnation of the BC Marine Trails Association began this work over a decade ago. In fact some of you may remember when its office was situated in our Clubhouse for a year or so. That effort faded out but has started up again, with support from some staff in the Recreation Sites and Trails Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. Similar developments have taken place in other parts of North America and it is about time that B.C., with probably the best paddling coastline on the continent, set up such trails.

Many sites used by paddlers are already protected as part of provincial or federal marine parks. Others are on public land but are not designated or protected. There are many well known camping sites on private land and some on reserves. One aspect of the project is to protect the access to these sites. Kayak clubs on Vancouver Island and the mainland are each taking on the task of listing known sites and putting these forward to the government. The South Island Sea Kayaking Association and the Kayak Program of VCKC have (been) volunteered to document sites from Tofino to Discovery Island and a starter list has been put together by Michael Jackson. Tony Copping has been representing both Clubs at the B.C. Marine Trails Association and made a presentation to the kayak program meeting in October. I have offered to help him with this at least as far as the Strait of Juan de Fuca coastline is concerned. If anyone wants to get involved in the project or has some sites that they think should be protected, please contact me or Tony Copping.

Alan Thomson

## Membership renewals

It's almost that time again folks, time to renew memberships for 2009. The reduced rate (half the yearly rate) for New Members will be in effect until November 30 and those memberships will expire on December 31, 2008. After that time you are encouraged to renew for the 2009 year.

**Please note:** Club policy requires that members who have boat storage must be active paddlers. Members who have not been using their boats will be asked to remove them.

After February 28, 2009, memberships that have not been renewed will become inactive and will require contacting the Membership Director for assistance.

Muriel Johnson & Maris Ratel



### *Drama on the High Seas*

Well, a little drama on Portage Inlet is more like it. It happened on Tuesday afternoon, October 7, when the outrigger team, *Let It Riders*, was paddling back to the clubhouse. The team was tired after battling the effects of a stubborn, sassy wind and had just reached a nice smooth patch past Craigflower Bridge when they heard a big splash close to the wall by the Gorge walkway. A frantic looking mother running down the slope on the walkway with a baby in her arms gave a clue as to what had fallen in.

The *Let It Riders* team knew what to do. "We're on our way!", they shouted to the young mother. With deft handling of the boat by stern (Kim) and speedy paddling by team mates (Joy, Odette and Maureen and spares, Cathy B and Marjorie), the outrigger reached the site in record time. They hoisted the baby stroller on board (not an easy task) and whisked it away around the corner where the boat could get close enough to the shore to

unload (also not an easy task). Once the stroller was back in the hands of the mother, the *Let It Riders* team returned to the clubhouse where they celebrated their first salvage with a sumptuous picnic.



### *Canoe Program*

October has been a very busy month, and again we were blessed with great weather for our various events. Our two basic paddling courses went very well and we have 22 paddlers with their Lakewater Level 1 certification. Congratulations to all of you! Several people from this group have been preparing to take the advanced paddling course and have been out practicing their skills after work. It is very gratifying to the instructors to see their enthusiasm. Tom, Alan and Dan, our moving water instructors, will be taking a group of people out at the beginning of November and teaching them the skills for Moving Water Level 1. This will end the courses for this year. Another full set of canoe courses will be offered in the spring with the schedule coming out in February. Thank you to all of the instructors who have helped provide this series of courses: Tom Staebell, Jean Chandler, Dan Walker, Alan Thomson, Linda Thomson, Tod Irvine and yours truly.

Alan and Linda Thomson led a group of novice paddlers around Thetis Lake giving them a chance to practice their new skills and another novice paddle on October 26 will provide a similar opportunity. The day trip from French Beach to Sooke had a great turnout of paddlers. What an exciting stretch of water! Please check out the "trips" section for information about day trips in November and early December.

There has been a change to the equipment usage policy regarding use of club canoes. Their main use is for club events such as courses or day trips. However, use for non-club events is restricted to those people who have recently completed a canoe course and wish to practice their new skills. The canoes are only to be used on Portage Inlet and the Gorge, west of the Tillicum Bridge.

(continued next page)

At the October meeting, Alex Schiebel wowed us with a slide show about her canoe trip from the headwaters of the Hood River in North West Territories to Bathurst Inlet, Nunavut in July 2008. There was stunning photography of the landscape and especially of the whitewater stretches they encountered, some of which they were able to paddle. Numerous types of wildlife provided great photo ops—wolves, foxes, a grizzly bear and a very close encounter with some caribou. Thank you Alex, for your entertaining presentation.

There will be no Canoe Program meeting in November and December; they will resume in January 2009. There are several very interesting presentations lined up for the new year. Stay tuned.

Joy Newham

### *Kayak Training*

The beautiful weather at the beginning of September started me thinking of my dream of paddling the Broken Group Islands. It's at the top of my "bucket list" to do this trip and I was tempted to load up my kayak and head up to Toquart Bay and camp until there were blue skies and flat water and then go for it—armed only with unlimited time and unlimited ignorance.

Fortunately though, my more sensible side kicked in and I decided to get a little training first. On checking the VCKC website I saw that the flatwater and level one courses were being offered on two consecutive weekends. I inquired about the flatwater and subsequently joined the club and participated in that excellent training provided by Yves Aquin and Patti Stevens. I was so impressed by the quality of instruction they provided. Their good natured and easy going way of teaching and demonstrating the techniques was excellent for me, helping me to begin to resolve a few bad habits and replace them with new skills.

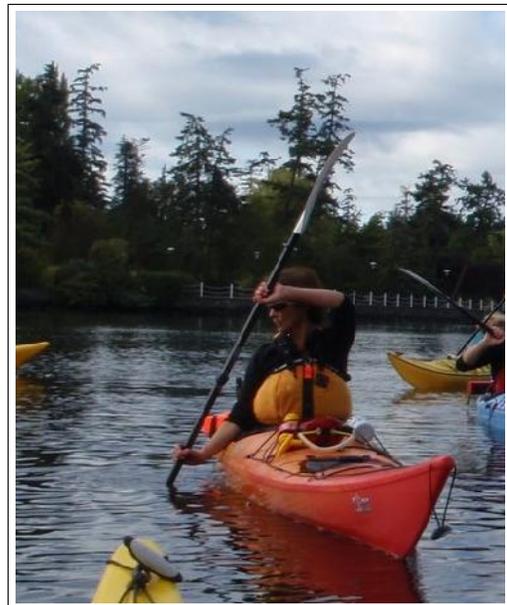
Thanks to Patti's successful lobbying on my behalf I was also admitted to the level one course the following weekend. This course was capably led by Dorothea Hoffman and Michel Guerard. Michel's wife Janet also added her helpful observations and acted as photographer. Dorothea and Mike turned out to be another dynamic teaching team. They are tremendously skilled at breaking a skill down to its elemental steps and making it do-able. They also incorporated a lot of fun activities like the Do Si Do, kayak sit-ups, and kayak leap frog which helped us to further develop and utilize the skills learned.

Dorothea also liked to occasionally reward our accomplishments by tossing a pack of "sharkies" our way.

I know there were breakthroughs for some of the class. Dave, for example, achieved his goal which was to master the Eskimo roll. From now on, if you see someone under the Tillicum bridge wrong side up, it's most likely him. Muriel had a breakthrough in edging and bracing and sculling. What a thrill to suddenly "Get it." As for me, I think my main thing was that I improved my strokes a great deal. I also got a lot more confidence through learning and practicing the various rescue and self-rescue techniques. I can't say I've mastered them—it may not be too graceful—but I learned to do them. Also, now I know a bunch of things to practice doing to improve my skills. And I've got a craving to get ROLLING!

I'd like to say a big "Thank You" to Dorothea and Michael and Janet and to Yves and Patti. You all did an excellent job and I feel privileged to have been a participant in these training events. As for the Broken Group—well maybe next summer. I'm hoping to put many happy knots of paddling between me and the "bucket"!

Shirley Sloan



## **Kayak Program**

The next Kayak Program Meeting is Tuesday, November 18 beginning at 7:00pm.

Local paddler, James Vasilyev will share his enthusiasm for local paddling in a presentation he calls: *Welcome to Paradise* or 'why Victoria is the greatest urban kayaking city in the world'. He'll discuss where to go, why and what to watch out for. (The Gorge will NOT be part of this presentation!)

The kayak paddler contact list, reached by emailing [vckcpaddlinglist@gmail.com](mailto: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 November paddles, workshops and courses.

VCKC has kayaks that are available to members for club courses and paddles at no charge. All kayaks come with a PFD, paddle, pump and throw line. When not scheduled for club event use, these boats are also available to members for personal use on the Gorge Waterway but only on the club side of the Tillicum Bridge. Members must have Flatwater or equivalent skills and paddle with a buddy. We need a volunteer to organize, by phone or email, the bookings of these boats for personal use. Those who make repeat use of the club boats for personal use might wish to consider volunteering their time in some way at VCKC.

### **Who's Who:**

Program Director - Marianne West - [mariannejwest@gmail.com](mailto:mariannejwest@gmail.com) (until December 31/08)

Communications (email) - Fred Trudell - [fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca](mailto:fredinvictoria@yahoo.ca)

Communications (paddlers' list) - [VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com](mailto:VCKCpaddlinglist@gmail.com)

Courses & Workshops - Patti Stevens - [pattilou\\_333@yahoo.com](mailto:pattilou_333@yahoo.com)

Kayak Bookings - Vacant

Library - Vic Turkington - [victurkington@yahoo.com](mailto:victurkington@yahoo.com)

Day Paddles and Expeditions - Marianne West - [mariannejwest@gmail.com](mailto:mariannejwest@gmail.com)

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



### **Trip Report**

The New Members' Paddle of September 28, led by Dorothea and Mike, was a great success.

It was a beautiful, sunny day with 22 colourful paddlers meandering down the Gorge to the Inner Harbour. We had lunch on the lawn by the totem pole and then ventured down to West Bay.

Roy talked about the harbour's traffic patterns and told us how to stay out of the way of the seaplanes. We paddled through the area that would be affected by the Mega Yacht project and imagined what those changes might be like.

On the way back, we encountered a bit of a headwind which added some paddling effort to an otherwise easy day. The wind eased as we came around the corner past Selkirk. There was mild current flooding under the Tillicum Bridge providing a little added excitement and a push home.

Marianne West

Men may dam it and say that they have made a lake, but it will still be a river. It will keep its nature and bide its time, like a caged animal alert for the slightest opening. In time, it will have its way; the dam, like the ancient cliffs, will be carried away piecemeal in the currents.

Wendell Berry

## Trip Report

### French Beach to Sooke Sunday, October 19th 2008

One of my long-term paddling ambitions—well, ‘ambition’ is perhaps too strong a word; perhaps intentions would be better—is to paddle all of the coastline of the Island from Port Renfrew to Nanaimo. Not as one trip, I hasten to add, but through a series of Club Flatwater Canoe day trips. As it is, we’ve paddled more than half of the coastline, with trips covering almost all the shoreline from Sooke to Bamberton, and from Chemainus to Duncan. The biggest unpaddled sections are, naturally, at either end, it taking longer to drive to and from these locations, and so requires greater commitment and a good measure of fine weather.

Of the two ‘ends’, the section along the Strait of Juan de Fuca is the more challenging. Although a strait, it is effectively open ocean with frequent surf and winds and few shelters. The Club paddled the section from Becher Bay to Whiffin Spit, along the shore of East Sooke Park in January 2007 in cold but clear and fairly windless conditions.

I had explored the coastline northwest of Sooke by road as far as Jordan River, and hiked the Juan de Fuca Trail many years ago but now needed to get the details sorted out. Linda and I planned to paddle the route on the Friday before the Club trip but were deterred by the forecast of gale-force winds. So we went by car and found no wind, but it rained enough to make us glad we’d cried off paddling. What we found was that French Beach Provincial park does not offer any good launch spot unless the sea is very calm. The pebble beach is about 100m from the car park and is steep and usually has breakers.

However, by cutting down Woodhaven Road into the community of French Beach (about 100m beyond the Eagle Light convenience store and left on Seaview), we came to a short, steep access to Flea Beach which is more protected and has space to take vehicle down almost to the beach. So come the day of the trip, we knew we had a good access point. And Whiffin Spit is a known quantity. There were 21 people signed up for the trip, including some fairly new paddlers, so we decide to take the Club freighter canoe both as a way of handling the odd number and as a safety boat. The long shuttle with many people involved was a little complicated, but by use of the Club’s canoe trailer, we arranged to leave two cars at Whiffin Spit and have a third one carry the drivers up to French Beach. The organisation and travel took some time but we were all on the water by 10:30am, about two hours after meeting time at the Club.

It was a sunny day with little wind when we started out heading along the largely rock and pebble beach coast heading Southeast. The first point of interest is Sheringham Point lighthouse. The land around the lighthouse is all being developed with roads and water already in place. In fact, if it wasn’t for a gate and concrete barrier, you could drive on paved road from French Beach along the coast, coming out at Shirley on Sheringham Point Road. After the lighthouse we entered the long sweep or Orveas Bay. The first major creek is Kirby Creek. It looked as if a canoe could get into the creek behind the pebble berm and some distance inland. A place for future exploration. Muir Creek, about 3 nautical miles from French Beach, is wide enough to allow easy entry for paddlers (unless the surf is up) and there is a good put-in/take-out into the creek close to the road. It also looks as if you could camp further down the old road, although it wouldn’t be a very private spot.

We paddled round to the start of Gordon Beach and stopped for lunch a little after Skookum Gulch’ and before the row of cottages

and houses. The current was supposed to be flooding until about noon, then turn to ebb, but in fact we’d be paddling against the current in the shoreline back eddies most of the way—not strong, but not helpful. During lunch, Ken Gibbard dug into his youthful memories and showed us how to fight with kelp using 1” slice of kelp stalk on a smooth stick and slinging the pieces with considerable force and accuracy. You always learn something new on these trips!

By the time we took off after lunch, the wind was a little stronger, and going round Otter Point, there was considerable chop where the current met the wind. It was with considerable admiration (and relief) we watched the newer paddlers cope with the conditions and pull round to the start of Sooke Bay. Even a group of three sea-lions was impressed and came up to watch the convoy pass as we rounded the point. The shoreline after Otter Point is largely developed with at least two larger trailer parks on either side of King Creek. After the recent announcement of the displacement of trailer home owners in Pedder Bay, we wondered how long these prime sites would be left undeveloped.

The old log sorting lagoon beyond Kemp Creek looks as if it is being developed as a marina with a large breakwater visible from the sea. The shoreline at Muir Point is a surprise, consisting of a tall sand cliff in place of the rock and pebble elsewhere. It is eroding, slowly, but from the amount of growth on the sand cliffs, it isn’t nearly as actively disappearing as its exposed position would lead you to expect. You have to watch out for boulders just under the water along this stretch, thanks to the erosion.

We reached Whiffin Spit 4 ¼ hours after we started, a trip of about 10 nautical miles (18km). The landing was complicated by a lot of washed up kelp and a high water level, but the lack of any significant surf meant we did not have to paddle round the spit and into Sooke Harbour. (A point of interest for this trip was that the current in Juan de Fuca changed to ebb at 11:40am but the tide at Sooke didn’t reach high until 5 hours later.

A good trip, enjoyed by everyone (I think), and one that encourages me to look at the next ‘unexplored’ section, out to Jordan River. A start from Muir Creek would give about an 8 nautical mile trip and allow time to explore creeks, etc. The next section, River Jordan to Sombrio Beach is longer, with no road access point between the put-in and take-out. The final section is from Sombrio to Port Renfrew, about 9 n. miles.

Congratulations to those who took part: Odette and Karen; Ben and Arthur; Susan and Bon; Andre and Pauline; Dave and Laurie, Herb and Nareena; Jean and Doug - who lead the paddling, Sandy and Carolyn, Ken, Maris, Ella and Linda. Thanks to Andre, Sandy and Jean for doing the shuttle.

Alan Thomson



## ***Trips - Kayaking***

**What: New Member's Paddle**  
**Where: VCKC to Craigflower Creek**  
**When: Sunday, November 15, 2008**

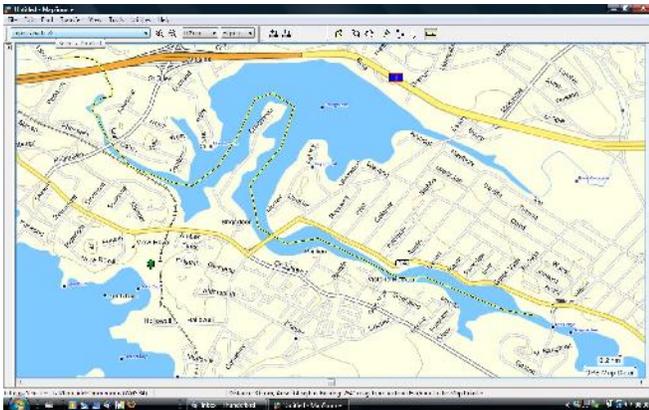
Meet at the clubhouse beach at 9:30 am for beach talk.  
On the water (OTW) by 10:00 am.

We will paddle from the clubhouse up through Portage Inlet to the furthest extent of Craigflower Creek. Please sign a VCKC waiver (available on VCKC website) if you are not a VCKC club member. This is an opportunity for new paddlers to come out and practice. Experienced paddlers, please join us and share your knowledge with the group.

Parking is limited at VCKC. You may park at Esquimalt Gorge Kinsman Park across Tillicum Bridge from the clubhouse and paddle across to the VCKC beach. Kayak wheels are useful if you have them.

Expected time of return 2:30PM. Immersion gear is required. Paddlers wishing to join this paddle must be able to do a controlled wet exit (have you taken a kayaking course?)

Please contact Dorothea Hoffman at  
dmhoffman@shaw.ca to register.



**What: Paddle to James Island**  
**(Level 1 or equivalent)**  
**When: Sunday, November 23, 2008**

Participants should be comfortable paddling in mild waves and wind. Meet at Island View Beach, main parking lot at 9:30 am to be OTW by 10:00 am. We will circumnavigate the island, stopping for lunch near the north end and should be back at Island View by 3:00 pm. Contact Marianne at mariannejwest@gmail.com to register. Please include phone number in case of cancellation due to weather.

**What: New Member's Paddle**  
**Where: Brentwood Bay**  
**When: Sunday, November 30, 2008**

This paddle is suitable for anyone who has done Flatwater, or has equivalent skills. Meet at Coles Bay Park at 9:30 am to be OTW by 10:00. To get to Coles Bay Park, go north on West Saanich Road past McTavish, turn left at Ardmore and left again at Inverness. We will put in at the end of McTavish where the stairs are and then park our cars in the Park lot. Depending on weather, we may cross the Inlet to have lunch at Bamberton Park. Contact Marianne at mariannejwest@gmail.com to register.

**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.*



## ***Courses - Kayaking***

**What: White Water Kayaking Course**  
**When: November 8 & 9, 2008**

White Water Kayaking on the Cowichan or Chemainus River, with Kindred Spirit Kayaks. This is a commercial beginner course organized for VCKC by Tom Hukari. Class is full but if you're interested contact Tom in case there's been a cancellation: hukari@telus.net. We are carpooling, and some will be staying Saturday night at a B&B. VCKC kayak paddles require participants to have taken a Flatwater course or a commercial equivalent that includes how to do a wet exit and assisted rescues. Therefore, the following activities have been scheduled on Saturday November 8 to help you meet these requirements. Please register by Wednesday, November 5 as space is limited.

### "Show Me" Demos:

If you have not taken a course but have acquired wet exit and assisted rescue skills in a less formal manner, you may show Dorothea your stuff and therefore qualify to participate on paddles.

**When: November 8, 2008 Noon to 2:00pm**

Where: VCKC Clubhouse

Cost: Free

Also (if you prefer warmer water):

**When: November 8, 2008 (6:30pm - 8:30pm)**

Where: Crystal Pool (2275 Quadra Street)

Cost: \$12.50 per person (payable to Ocean River)

Register by Wednesday, November 5 with Dorothea at polkadottie44@shaw.ca

### Wet Exit + Assisted Rescues Workshop

This is to teach you just those skills you must have to participate on club paddles.

**When: Saturday, November 8, 2008**

**(3:30pm - 6:00pm)**

Where: Crystal Pool (2275 Quadra Street)

Cost: \$20 per person

Register by Wednesday, November 5 with Patti at pattilou\_333@yahoo.com.

Note: If you need to book a club kayak, you must arrange your own transportation of the kayak from VCKC to Crystal Pool.

### Rolling Workshop

T.B.D. January 2009. Please contact Patti at pattilou\_333@yahoo.com to be added to the wait list.

### Flatwater and Level 1 Courses

T.B.D.: January/February 2009.

We are considering offering Flatwater and Level 1 over the winter with the immersion parts done at a local swimming pool. This ups the cost a little but ups the comfort level considerably. Please contact Patti at pattilou\_333@yahoo.com if you are interested.

### Crystal Pool Practice Sessions

If you would like to practice your skills during the winter, you can play at Crystal Pool on most weekends. Pre-registration and payment is required by Friday morning to either Ocean River or Pacifica Paddle Sports.

Saturdays from 6:30 - 9:30

with Ocean River: 250-381-4233

Cost: \$12.50 pool only, \$32.50 pool + kayak

Sundays from 6:00 - 8:00

with Pacifica Paddle Sports: 250-361-9365

Cost: \$16.00 pool only, \$33.60 pool + kayak

## Trips & Courses (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;
5. Please call or e-mail the trip leader by the Thursday before the trip date to let them know you plan to come along and if you require a partner and/or don't have a canoe;
6. Always bring food and fluids and a change of clothes. Also, check on the weather forecast for the day.

### Sunday, November 2:

Trip will be lead by Linda Thomson. Call or e-mail by October 30th to let her know if you plan to attend 250-592-4170;

### Saturday, November 15:

Trip will be lead by Alan and Linda. Call or e-mail by Thursday 13th if you plan to attend - 250-582-4170;

### Sunday, November 30:

Trip will be lead by Joy Newham or designate. Let her know by Thursday 29th at 250-385-5876.

Flatwater Canoe trips are not usually scheduled for December as people are busy, the days are short and the

weather cold and often wet. If any are planned, they will be in the December Newsletter.

## Moving Water Trips

### General

VCKC river trips are open to current members or invited guests (waiver required) who have received RCABC or equivalent instruction and who agree to abide by VCKC safety rules as outlined in the member guide.

Unless otherwise announced, we meet at 8:30am at the Millstream Park'n'Ride (exit 14/Sooke off the Island Highway) and carpool to the appropriate river section. Please contribute to driver's fuel and vehicle expense. (\$10 is appropriate these days.) Trips are subject to last minute cancellation due to water level or road closures so please advise by Thursday evening if you plan to attend and phone my cell (after 6:30 a.m., please) if your plans change. The three club river boats are available for a modest fee on a "first call" basis.

The next four paddles are intended to introduce new paddlers to easier runs.

Tuesday, November 11 (Remembrance Day)

Saturday, November 22

Friday, December 5

Saturday, December 20

The Remembrance Day trip will run from Stoltz to Vimy, beginning with a short stroll and reflection at the Burma memorial near Stoltz Pool. We will raft up in an eddy and pause for a moment of silence at 11:00.

Tom Staebell  
thestaebellfamily@shaw.ca  
Res: 250-655-7113  
Cell: 250-588-2207

\*\*\*\*\*

### VCKC Dragon Boats 2008

The Dragon Boat program started with two work parties in March. First, a number of volunteers worked with Mike Fox and Doug Linton to sand and paint the boats and to repair scratches and damage. On Sunday March 30, a large work party carried the boats from the compound and launched them.

The program started with Komodo Dragons, Ageless Warriors, Gung Ho and St'Keya returning to the practice schedule. Victorious Secret was formed early in April from paddlers who had paddled with Vasuki Dragons and Loco Motion in 2007. Mike Fox coached the TD Green

Machine, a new team formed from the employees of TD Canada Trust. In June, Raymond Patts introduced the First Class Dragons, formed mainly of employees of Canada Post.

The first couple months of practice presented the annual issues of working in shallow water at low tides. As the season progressed, some teams had some adventures as their steerspersons and coaches learned some lessons about handling the boats in wind and current. The First Class Dragons had the misfortune to discover a dead body floating in the Gorge—a reminder that the home waters of the Gorge are not as safe as they appear on a warm summer evening.

Many evenings were spent in practice and pub nights. Here and there, romance broke out.

Most, but not all teams, competed at the May sprints at the Go Center and the Nanaimo Festival in July.

All teams competed at the Vancouver Island Championships at the Go Center in August and most teams competed at the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival in August. The Club formed VCKC United Teams for races in Portland in June and September and a distance event at the Go Centre in September. The Club sent an enthusiastic delegation to cheer the Orchestra at Symphony Splash.

Mike Fox coordinated the program ably and with grace, and coached a new team while experiencing a great personal loss. Stephen Lee coached Victorious Secret and Komodo Dragons, paddled with St'Keya, coached most of the Saturday practices, and organized the Portland excursions. Lloyd Skaalen administered the Saturday open practices, introduced new paddlers to the sport, steered when required and found all the willing paddlers places on Club teams. Doug Linton was, as always, on hand to help with necessary repairs.

Further reports and pictures from each team may be published over the winter.

As we head into winter, below is a picture taken in the warm days of summer.



## 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 view VCKC Calendar

[Click Here](#)

