



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

November 2017

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

Dates to Remember

General Meeting November 7th at 7:30 – Dragon Boat Program Presentation

Fall Clean-up Saturday November 4th at 9:00AM

Nov 11th Remembrance Day Paddle

Dec 5th Christmas Party and Boat Paddle

Check the calendar for dates of upcoming skill sessions and trips vckc.ca

~ NB: See calendar item on website for details; meet at the clubhouse unless noted otherwise

Notice: Our new outrigger, Kaimana, is now afloat and in use at VCKC. See article on page 2.

Vice President's Message

Well many of you have started to put the paddles away for the season and the memory of those fantastic summer days are dimming, don't despair. Sure summer paddling was fun in T-shirts and shorts but with the rains come the Island White Water season!

Check the Canoe program for courses and trips on the local rivers. Our winter river paddling is great and gives you a reason to smile when everyone else is crying their Golf, Soccer, BBQ, whatever, is cancelled.

Our Voyageur program just graduated many Stern Leaders and Advanced Stern Leaders. Watch for a few Big Canoe day trips so the new graduates can hone their new skills. Hopefully we can schedule a few nice days.

My personal, yearly, favorite paddle is Nov 11 paddling on the Cowichan. Canoes, Kayaks, and sometimes Big Canoes. Depending on water levels and interest, most years we have taken 1 or more Big Canoe down the Cow on Nov 11. The paddling group observes 2 min. of silence at the Stoltz pool cenotaph at 11:00 then paddles. If you want to paddle the Cowichan, Nov 11 in a Big Canoe, let me know and I will see if we can make it happen. (vpresident@vckc.ca)

I saved the best for last. Make sure you read through the celebratory trip planned for Haida Gwaii, a big trip in a big canoe, oh yea! Don't miss out. Sign up soon if this interests you.

Tim Marks, Vice President

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS FOR 2018

The AGM is only two Executive Meetings away, so it is time to plan!

All Executive positions are for one year and are eligible for voting at the next AGM in January 2018. The expectation of the Vice-President is that the person will carry on to president, but it is a one year position.

Some of the current Executive would like to continue, but if anyone is interested in a particular position or would like to come onto the Executive as a Director at Large for a year and learn how the Executive functions, please contact Linda Thomson at pastpres@vckc.ca phone: 250-592 4170, or any other member of the Executive.

If you know of anyone whom you think would be interested or you would recommend for a position, again, please let us know. Positions can be shared, as is the case at the moment in the Dragonboat Program, although the position will still have just one vote.

Meanwhile, come to one of the next Executive meetings and observe. All meetings are open to a club member.

Canoe Program Update

November 11 is the annual **Remembrance Day paddle** and ceremony at Stoltz Pool. Water levels were too high last year; this year maybe the flow will be just right. Check the club calendar for event go/no go and times (if canoeing you must have a minimum of Moving Water 1).

The two flatwater paddles in October were well attended. It was good to see a mix of paddle boats. A flatwater paddle will be on Nov 18th, probably Cowichan Bay but we'll determine the week before after checking the wind forecasts. Remember to check the club calendar for updates and changes.

David Dorosz – Canoe Director



At the October meeting Ken, Joe and Jack provided an entertaining and informative recap of the trip to the Broken Islands this summer.

Outrigger Program Update



The blessing of the OC6 **Kaimana** was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. There was heavy rainfall prior to the blessing, but by the time of the blessing, the sun was shining. Rain and rainbows are considered blessing from the gods - a perfect day!

Thank you to those who attended the blessing. Special thanks to Corey Teramura for conducting the ceremony! Corey made a very real and human connection to our community of paddlers and to the boat. His blessing included, honoring, giving thanks, well wishes and positive energy, and community responsibility to take care of the boat; and to dissipate any ill wishes and negative energy with **Kaimana**, and with each other everytime we step into the boat - so

inspiring and heartfelt. It was a privilege for me to take part in the event. Many attendees expressed the same sentiment. The blessing concluded with a potluck to celebrate the addition of **Kaimana** to the outrigger fleet.

The name **Kaimana** is of Hawaiian origin. The meaning of **Kaimana** is "power of the ocean". **Kai** = sea or ocean; **Mana** = power. The name **Kaimana** (submitted by Anne Ardiel) was voted by, and selected from a list of names submitted from our outrigger paddler community. Here are a few pictures of the event. Also, the complete blessing ceremony (about 8 minutes) is [here](#) for your viewing pleasure, courtesy of Bon Lee.



We will have many years of enjoyment paddling **Kaimana**. Paddles Up!

Jennifer Yee, Outrigger Canoe Program Director

FLATWATER TRIP – SOOKE BASIN - OCT 1st 2017

The first Club flatwater trip of the Autumn was popular – in the end 20 members and a guest took part, paddling tandem canoes, kayaks and the Club's Canada Mariner big canoe. The plan had been to put in at Whiffjn Spit and paddle along the south side of the Harbour and then up the river, but the large numbers meant that there might well be a problem parking at the Spit. An alternate launch site was chosen, at Coopers Cove, near where the Galloping Goose crosses the highway, where there is perhaps less parking space, than the spit, but a lot less competition.

We met at the Clubhouse at 8.30 and loaded up the Club canoe trailer with 5 boats and the Canada on top of a van and set out in convoy. The forecast had been changing over the week and the earlier forecast Westerlies of 10-15 knots had transformed to light winds. The only uncertainty was their direction. One forecasting site, which offers 4 choices, had the winds coming from NW, E, S and W all at the same time, depending on which if the 4 you believed!



The route was a clockwise tour of Sooke Basin, dropping in by Roche and Anderson Coves. The latter contained a sunken catamaran, with the bow of one hull and the 2 masts showing above the water. That will be hard to salvage. The Cove also contained a full size Chinese-style junk with high bow and stern and the typical square sails. Few starfish/sea stars to be seen – still feeling the effects of the wasting disease that has swept the coast over the past 5 years or so.



We had lunch at the entrance to Anderson Cove. We were entertained by a kayaker, in a Greenland boat demonstrating different kinds of Eskimo roll - quite impressive. After lunch we headed straight for Billings Spit at the estuary of the Sooke River. The hope was to get up the river in time to catch the high tide at 1.30pm, but we were a bit late for that. Nonetheless, we paddled up past the All Sooke Fairgrounds and RV site to the first riffle, which was largely absent due to the higher water. Some salmon jumping, but not the carpet of fish swimming upstream to spawn that we sometimes see. There were anglers at Billing Spit and up the river, but most were not catching anything, although 3 teenagers claimed to have caught a 15lb fish earlier in the day.

Alan and Linda were surprised to find their two grand-daughters playing on the river side beside their fishing father and his friends - a welcome sight. Then back along the north side of the Basin to the put-in, against the ebb tide but with a little compensating wind assist. The day had been generally sunny, with enough wind to keep the paddlers cool but not enough to cause waves. Load up the boats, and then into the Stickleback restaurant for apps and some fluid to taste. A 5 hour day, covering about 12 nautical miles/25 kms.

Thanks to everyone who helped load and unload the canoes and kept the group generally intact: Ryan and Saidi; Marcia; Barbara and Ron; Sami; Ken, Jayne, Bruce, Carolyn and Sandy; Hélène and David, Molly and Jennifer, Dorothea and Andrea, Phil and Leigh, Linda and Alan.

Article written by Alan Thomson –

Dragon Boat Program Update

A few things to mention from September.....Our race season may have ended in August but the team **Blue Herons** found a few reasons to continue to get together in September. A great turn out to move the “giant beast” from the water to its winter resting place. A BIG thank you to the other club members (and husband and son) for helping us manoeuver the Dragon Boat into the compound.



We had our end of season wind up party! Thanks to captain Brenda and crew who volunteered to organize the event. The Chinese food was delish! Even better, was the acknowledgments given to Bon L. and Mile P. for their dedication to the team. A big thank you to Jennifer Y. in stepping in to coach the new people at the beginning of the season and for taking over when Bon wasn't available. In addition, the team Captain, Brenda S. and treasurer Louise J also received the teams appreciation of a job well done.

Some of our paddlers celebrated their 60th yr this year and there was a special cake for them!

The evening was wrapped up with a video that our co director, Kim C. put together of our team throughout the season. Oh, what fun we have had together! We will be showing this video at the November General Meeting. Hope to see you all there!



Update for October news...the boat is back in the water!



Welcome to the young paddlers from the University of Victoria!! They were determined to do some winter paddling and moved that Dragon Boat back to the water with ease. Many of the team members are new to paddling and to the sport of Dragon Boat racing. Thanks to the organizing and coaching efforts of Samuel Lu. You'll see them out on the water Saturdays at noon. We are looking ahead to next year and recruiting more paddlers, steers and coaches for 2018. Contact us if you'd like to receive future DB updates! Paddles up!

Paula Gough and Kim Capson
Co-Directors VCKC Dragon Boat Program

Marathon Canoe Program Update

The turn out at marathon canoe sessions has been great. Recently we had 15 paddlers participating in one of our Saturday sessions which meant 10 boats on the water! Sessions are being attended by both new and old to the sport. Everyone is learning skills and challenging themselves while paddling with a pack at an energetic pace. While most of us train for competition all of us enjoy these sessions for our pleasure, recreation and fitness. After the workout we socialize over coffee in the clubhouse while reviewing the session and sharing our paddling experiences.

Darrelle Butler – Marathon Canoe Program Director

Kayak Program Update

Two workshops were offered in October: (1) Tie-One-On (how to tie your kayak to your vehicle) combined with *how to pack your kayak* for a day or multi-day paddle, and (2) how to carve your own Greenland Paddle. These workshops were scheduled for October 28th and had not occurred before this newsletter was written. I have no doubt that they were very successful☺

We are working on a few more ideas for workshops so keep your eye on the calendar. If you have ideas for clinics please send them to kayak@vckc.ca. Also, if you have marine or kayak knowledge and skills that you are willing to share with VCKC members, please let us know and we will schedule a clinic and post it on the calendar.

We are considering offering one more Kayak Basic Skills course this year, possibly in November. This is dependent upon finding a date that works for our instructor. Once again, keep your eye on the calendar.

Just a reminder: Club kayaks are available for courses, clinics and club sanctioned paddles (day trips and camping). These kayaks are also available to VCKC members for personal use on the Gorge Waterway - on the club side of the Tillicum Bridge only. Members must have successfully completed the Paddle Canada Kayak Basic Skills course or have equivalent skills. Members using club kayaks must always paddle with one or more paddlers. If you would like to borrow a club kayak contact Linda Hall at kayakbooking@vckc.ca to reserve one. Please note: it is important to use the kayakbooking@vckc.ca email address when requesting a kayak.

Happy paddling!

Linda Hall

MEMBERSHIP 2018

Membership renewal for 2018 is fast approaching. Current memberships will expire December 31st and can be renewed during the month of December. A reminder will be sent if the membership has not been renewed, and will be termed "lapsed" after a short period.

Please login to your profile at www.vckc.ca using your email and password and verify that the information provided is correct and then renew your membership. Those who are designated as Family Administrators, renewal will include yourself and all your family members.

After a membership has lapsed, members can still renew as described above. Family Administrators may renew their membership but the family members will remain lapsed and each will have to be renewed individually.

A number of Family Administrators who renewed their 2016 memberships after they had lapsed, will find that their family members are still lapsed and are no longer counted as members for 2017.

Please don't let this happen to you – renew on time!

A message from your very friendly **Membership Director - Muriel Johnson**

VCKC Christmas Party and Boat Parade / Tuesday, December 5, 2017

VCKC will be celebrating the holidays with a boat parade followed by a potluck dinner. We would like to involve the community this year and we need your help and participation to make this a success!

1. If you are interested in lighting up a boat for the parade please let your program director know.
2. If you are available to help decorate the Clubhouse please let Darrelle know at: marathon@vckc.ca.
3. If you would like to hand out hot chocolate to the Saanich community please contact Darrelle: marathon@vckc.ca. We will ask for a donation for hot chocolate that will go to charity (there will be candy canes to hand out to kids for free).
4. Please help spread the word to the community, the boat light up parade will begin on the Gorge Waterway at VCKC and head toward the Admirals Bridge and then loop back to the Clubhouse.

Schedule:

- 3:30 - 4pm: decorate the boats
- 4pm: open hot chocolate/candy cane station.
- 4:30 to 5:30 : boat parade
- 5:45: pack up hot chocolate/candy cane station.
- 6pm: Potluck dinner for club members in the Clubhouse.

“The” Trip of 2018

Every once in a while, time and opportunity come together in a way that deserves a special event! VCKC has been brewing along for 50 years (in 2018) and a few of our members have started to enjoy Big Canoe tripping in smaller than brigade groups. To further the Big Canoe, small group, tripping experience and celebrate 50 years of VCKC, we are proposing a unique paddling trip in Haida Gwaii National Park! This is a major trip to some remote coastal paddling. Weather and sea conditions could easily be more challenging than what is typically encountered on our more local waters. The challenges of this trip will be more than made up for with stunning scenery, rich wild life, and particularly, unique First Nations cultural sites. Oh yea, did I mention hot springs?

Some of the “challenges” of this trip are: the expense of getting a canoe to the launch site, expense of getting yourself there, gathering supplies for a two-week trip, preparing for potential inclement weather. Our group size is limited to 12 (national park rules) but the plan is to have a trip south from Moresby Camp to Rose Harbour (including a side trip to Ninistints on SGang Gwaay Island) and a trip going from Rose Harbour north to Moresby Camp (including the side trip), about 200km each way. The first group will paddle south and upon completion of their trip, fly back to the starting point on the float plane the second crew came in on. The intended canoes are the *Tillicum* & the *Canada* or *Sta’Qeya* (School District “Pacific Dancer” 35’).

The dates of the trips are early July; to capture the best weather (hopefully). I expect most people will want to paddle only one direction, about a two-week holiday. The first leg (south) starts the end of June. I hope VCKC members will opt for this timeframe. The second leg (north) will be early July and I am hoping to include some schoolteachers.

The expense of this trip is as daunting as Haida Gwaii is remote. Major expenses listed below:

Options:

Flight to Haida Gwaii	\$600/person
Carpool and drive (gas/camping//ferry costs/etc.)	\$ Unknown

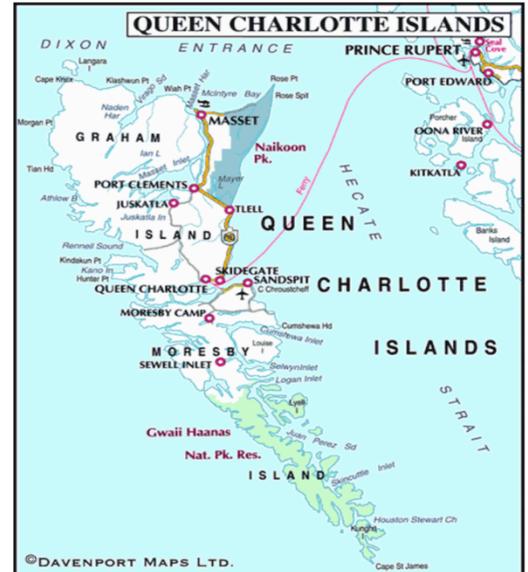
Group Expenses:

Flight to/or from Rose Harbour (depending on numbers)	\$500 – \$700
Shuttle to/or from Moresby Camp	\$200/person
Park fee	\$160/person
Canoe(s) to Haida Gwaii and return to VCKC	\$350/person

This totals to approximately **\$2000.00**.

I really have no idea how many people would be interested in this trip so it is hard to come up with precise cost estimates. Numbers of participants could range from 4 people to 24 people thus involving two tandem canoes or potentially the 35ft. Pacific Dancer. If you are plan to fly, Victoria to Haida Gwaii (\$600.00) and group transportation costs (\$1300.00) and park fees (\$160.00), one can expect to spend \$2000.00, plus food and personal gear expenses. I think actual cost will be less but I would rather have a pleasant surprise than a bad one.

When you put your name on the list of participants I will require a \$100.00 deposit. **February 1st**, things get serious; you will need to provide a further \$400 deposit; to total \$500.00/person. **April 15th**, we will require \$1000.00 more for a total of \$1500.00/person to cover the expected group costs of the trip. If you are driving to Moresby Camp, you will give \$800.00 instead of \$1000.00. Therefore, the total deposit due April 15th will be \$1300.00 for those driving to Haida Gwaii or \$1500.00 for those flying via the flight shuttle to Moresby Camp.



At the end of the trip, any monies remaining will be dispersed evenly; however, *those that participated will be required to cover any short fall incurred evenly.* Money given before the trip is non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled, however, a replacement person with the appropriate qualifications will be welcomed.

Food and Gear:

- Meals organized in small groups (4-6) using a one or two-burner stove.
- Clothing adequate for extended periods of cold and wet weather but also include appropriate warm weather clothes (swimming gear optional – hot springs).
- Tents should be small and waterproof as possible. Consider Siltarps for each tent group, as they are small and very helpful in foul weather.
- Participants should expect to paddle with “Paddle for the Kids” fundraiser to gain experience paddling and meet their fellow adventurers. There will be a trial run, overnight paddle in local waters before the big trip (likely in May 2018).

If I mentioned too much rain, be sure to check out this screen shot of 2017 July weather in Haida Gwaii:

	Sat Jul 22	Sun Jul 23	Mon Jul 24	Tue Jul 25	Wed Jul 26	Thu Jul 27	Fri Jul 28	Sat Jul 29	Sun Jul 30	Mon Jul 31	Tue Aug 1	Wed Aug 2	Thu Aug 3	Fri Aug 4
Day	15°C	15°C	15°C	16°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	16°C	16°C	16°C
Night	12°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	13°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C
POP	40%	20%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	20%	20%	10%	30%	20%
Rain	~1 mm	-	-	~1 mm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Tentative Dates for Haida Gwaii 2018:

- June 23 start paddling Moresby Camp
- July 4 finish at Rose Harbour
- July 5 new crew fly into Rose Harbour and old crew fly north to Skidegate
- July 6 start paddling (to Ninistints)
- July 17 finish at Moresby Camp

Each paddling trip 12 days, 200km

The First meeting of prospective paddlers will be Thursday, January 4, 2018.

Just the Simple Facts (Your To Do List)

1. You get yourself to Haida Gwaii (carpool driving or flight)
2. 2-week, 12 days paddling, about 200km
3. \$100 deposit to get on the list (now, first come, first served).
Tell me the preferred dates: 1) south; 2) north; 3) both ways
4. \$1300 group cost if you are getting yourself to Moresby Camp
\$1500 if taking group charter flight to/from Moresby Camp



For further information, contact Tim Marks: vpresident@vckc.ca 250-642-7498

Do you have a story and or photos from a club or private trip that you would like to share? Send them to newsletter @vckc.ca It is a great way to not only personalize our newsletter but might inspire others to embark on a similar expedition.

November 2017 Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Big Canoe Intermediate Leader course</div> <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">1:00 PM Tie-One-On and How to Pack your Kayak</div> <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">2:30 PM How to make your own Greenland paddle</div>	30	31	Nov 1	2	3 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">📅 5:00 PM Canoe Instructor Course</div>	4 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">9:00 AM Fall Clean-up: Clubhouse & Grounds</div>
5 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">📅 9:00 AM Canoe Instructor Course</div>	6	7 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">VCKC Monthly General Meeting</div>	8	9	10	11 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">8:00 AM Remembrance Day on the Cowichan River</div>
12	13	14 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">📅 7:00 PM Executive Meeting</div>	15 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">📅 7:00 PM GWI Steering Committee Meeting</div>	16	17 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">📅 5:00 PM Canoe Instructor Course</div>	18 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">8:30 AM Flatwater Paddle</div> <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;">📅 9:00 AM Canoe Instructor Course</div>
19 <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">📅 9:00 AM Canoe Instructor Course</div>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2

Club Contact Information

Officers

President president@vckc.ca
 Joe Boyd
Vice-president vpresident@vckc.ca
 Tim Marks
Treasurer treasurer@vckc.ca
 Mark Sondheim
Secretary secretary@vckc.ca
 Hélène Poulin
Past President pastpres@vckc.ca
 Linda Thomson

Program Directors

Canoe Program canoe@vckc.ca
 David Dorosz
Dragonboat Program dragonboat@vckc.ca
 Paula Gough & Kim Capson
Kayak Program kayak@vckc.ca
 Roy Scully
Outrigger Program outrigger@vckc.ca
 Jennifer Yee
Marathon Canoe Program marathon@vckc.ca
 Darrelle Butler
Voyageur Program voyageur@vckc.ca
 James (Phil) McEvoy

Other Executive

Education, Standards & Safety safety@vckc.ca
 Ken Gibbard
Membership membership@vckc.ca
 Muriel Johnson
Clubhouse and Grounds (maintenance) clubhouse@vckc.ca
 Sandy Rattray
Boat & Locker Storage storage@vckc.ca
 Arthur Caldicott
Director at Large (social) director1@vckc.ca
 Jean Chandler
Director at Large (events& volunteers) director2@vckc.ca
 Jennifer Yee
Director at Large (events& volunteers) director3@vckc.ca
 Bill Buckley

Executive Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor newsletter@vckc.ca
 Susan Logan
Webmaster webmaster@vckc.ca
 Arthur Caldicott