



Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Newsletter

September 2018

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

- 🚣 Club BBQ, Tuesday September 4 at 5:30 om: Bring something to grill, something to drink, and something to share,
- 🚣 VCKC 50th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday September 15 - 2:30 to 4:30
- 🚣 50th Anniversary paddle parade - Saturday Sept 15 - be at the clubhouse about 1 pm
- 🚣 VCKC member party - Saturday September 15th, 5 pm onward
- 🚣 Lakewater I Basic Tandem- September 22, 8:30

Please check website for details of events

President's Report

The club has been busy this summer as we celebrate our 50th year as a club. All programs were busy with festivals, trips and all sorts of adventures. Details are in this newsletter. These stories say a lot about what can be accomplished through a community club.

Our main 50th Celebration is on September 15th. It will include a grand entry of all our boats, teams and partners, arriving at about 3 pm. Get involved. Contact your program leads, [Tim Marks](#), or myself ([Joe](#)) to get involved and join the paddle parade. Our goal is to demonstrate to the community the sum total of all we have become at age 50, all we do for the community, and how much fun and inclusive our programs are. The public event at the clubhouse will be from 2:30 to 4:30, with the grand entry and presentations at 3 pm. Invite your friends and family.

Then, also on September 15th, after the public event is done, please join us for the VCKC member party. Guests will have departed, and barbeques will be on, and we can just gather to chat, eat, and reflect on what a great club we are. Bring something to share if you like, but this party is VCKC's treat to its members.

~ Joe Boyd, President



Be sure to pre-order your copy of the book that highlights the first 50 years of the club history. It includes a narrative and pictorial account of the accomplishments and fun that have occurred over the years.

To reserve your copy, go to VCKC website. Click on the 50th Anniversary Header and then scroll to the section on the book. Use the register key to make your purchase. Or Click [Here](#)

The Paddlefest and the unveiling of the kiosk will be followed by a private party for Club Members. We will need a volunteer force to switch gears from public melee to Club BBQ - set up tables and BBQs, set out food and dishes, etc. To volunteer contact [Debi](#)
YES! You can participate in the paddle portion of the day AND help out in the kitchen too!

There will be burgers for the BBQ. There will be some beer. Feel free to bring something of your choosing to put on the bar-b and/or a dish to share.

We have set up an event registration for Saturday September 15th . It would greatly assist the event organizers to know how many people plan to attend. You can also use this portal to indicate your desire to participate in the paddle parade.

To register click here
[event](#)



We are compiling a pictorial history of the club and are looking for photos from 1990 onward. If you have any or know of others who may please have them contact director1@vckc.ca.



VCKC has given boat rides at **Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Picnic** from what was Kinsmen Park and is now Esquimalt Gorge Park opposite the clubhouse for the last 16yrs that I can trace back, and possibly even longer. Following this tradition, two voyageurs were kept busy on Saturday, June 2nd. Thanks to all those who paddled, helped put on and take off dozens of PFDs, and assisted wherever needed: Kim, Susan, Bon, Jennifer, Jean, Chark, Karen, Jack, Jacqueline, and Alan. VCKC received a Thank You Card from Big Brothers Big Sisters on the day.

~Submitted by Linda Thomson

Voyageur Update

The big canoes have been busy this summer. Paddlers turned out on July 1st for twoonie rides in the Gorge in the big canoes and the Dragon boat. Everyone was busy all day with many volunteers out for this popular event. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this event so successful.

Canada & Tillicum saw lots of awesome action in Haida Gwaii with twelve paddlers leaving Moresby Camp to paddle south to Rose Harbour and ten paddlers travelling north from Rose Harbour to Moresby Camp. Nearly two weeks for each leg, paddlers had the opportunity to see many First Nations heritage sites within Gwaii Haanas, including hot springs, SGang Gwaay via a fast boat, flights over the park for the shuttle, fantastic weather and beautiful islands with extraordinary scenery. To celebrate VCKC's 50th anniversary, it was a truly epic trip!



Canada joined the Murtle Lake trip after the return from Haida Gwaii. Then the summer finale to the Thompson River weekend, *Canada* was joined by *Tillicum*, *Munroe* & *Shawnigan* where all big canoes held 20 very keen paddlers, including many folks who joined this excursion for the first time. All these keen river runners experienced an unusual weekend of smoky, rainy and cold weather on the Thompson River. Even though the conditions were less than ideal, we expect returning paddlers next year to experience the thrill of being in big canoes on the big water of the Thompson!

Coming up soon is an opportunity to join VCKC members on September 15th for our 50th anniversary party celebration. The big canoes, along with other club vessels will be making a grand entrance from Kosapsum Beach to VCKC for a grand entrance to the party festivities. If this interests you, please contact Mary at voyageur@vckc.ca.

~ Mary Marks, Voyageur Director

Haida Gwaii Adventure

Prequel to the HG trip.

Driving to the ferry at Prince Rupert with some butterflies churning up emotions of what might await us in Haida Gwaii: Whales? Eagles, of course. The mystical presence of traveling through the land of totems?

This photo brings a dose of reality.
~ Tim



South Bound Group

The first Haida Gwaii crew left Sandspit on June 23 and were airlifted from Rose Harbour (roughly 200 km to the south) on July 5th. The second group arrived at Rose Harbour on July 5th and finished up at Sandspit July 17.



North Bound Group

We are happy to report there were no injuries, illnesses, or equipment failures. Everything went exactly as expected, largely due to the excellent planning and leadership by Tim Marks, the trip organizer. The first leg of the trip was estimated to take 9 days. We had 12 days to do it to allow for bad weather. We reached Rose Harbour in 8 days to enjoy a few extra days of vacation in what felt like the edge of the world.

The VCKC Haida Gwaii trip of 2018 is organized as part of our recognition of the club's 50 years. It celebrates all we are and can accomplish as a club: togetherness, teamwork, adventure, good times, and skill on the water and in tripping. This is not something a small group could organize in small boats - you need the benefit of a club. The full VCKC Haida Gwaii Adventure is four weeks long: two weeks paddling south in Big Canoes, then swapping in a fresh crew to paddle for two weeks paddling north. If the trip had to be described in one word...Luxury!

You will hear many stories. That is also what we do - make a good story. There were the whales, the abandoned Haida Canoe, hot springs, dolphins, fishing. We had all sort of weather - good and bad. And with so few people in the area, it is surprising how many interesting characters to meet. You can expect to hear more from the Haida Gwaii group in the weeks and months ahead. Check the club general meetings in the fall for more.

~ Joe Boyd with Photos by Mark Sondheim and Tim Marks



SGang Gwaay - World Heritage Site

Murtle Lake, Canoe Paradise?



On August 12, twelve club paddlers hit the 2.5Km portage to Murtle Lake. It had rained the night before, so the day was not hot, but some of the paddlers had camped in tents in the thunderstorm and had had wet gear to start the trip. It was then a good thing for them there was no more rain on the trip, but not so much for the forests of BC. There is a ten-person group limit on the lake so the paddlers were in a group of eight in four tandems, and group of four in “Canada” the club mariner.

We arrived at the put in before 1pm, canoe chaos! It seems the rental canoes need to be back by 11AM, and the new rentals leave at that time. Add in several other canoes that were also arriving and our group of twelve made for a very full beach. However, I enjoyed seeing a canoe traffic jam, it's much more pleasing to the senses than an automobile traffic jam.



Both groups proceeded to paddle the 8km up to the Strait Creek group site. The next day the tandem group: Helene, Julie-Anne, Jim, Pat, Phil, Leigh, and two David's, paddled the 16km to the northern most end of the lake arriving at the Murtle Beach campsite. This day was nice and sunny and gave great views of the rugged mountains and mixed forest. The Murtle river was shallow yet cold as it flowed over the sand bars into the lake. The trout fishing was good right at the drop off into the lake. Jim had a 22-inch trout within five minutes of starting to fish. The Canada group made up of Joe, Ken, Dorothea and Jack

stayed at the group site for the second night allowing them to complete the 5km hike to Strait Lake.

The next day as the tandem group paddled south we met up briefly with the Canada team at a campsite on the west side of the lake as both teams paddled to the southern arm of the lake

Since the day was overcast with high smoke and no waves on the large lake we put were able to make the 27km paddle (Jim will have the exact distances at a club presentation this winter) and camp at Birch Beach. It had a nice sandy spit to sit at, a tree full of hanging carved small paddles, and our first view of leeches. Oh well they make for lots of trout. The south arm is much shallower than the northern arm, mostly sandy with water in August that was good for a swim. Just the large shallows had leeches and the numerous osprey were probably the reason the trout stayed away from the shallows.



We continued to the end of the southern arm to File Creek and camped there for two nights. The Canada crew were a very short paddle away at the Kostal site. Most of both groups hiked the 5km trail the next day to view McDougall Falls on the Murtle River. The weather was warm, and the trail was surrounded by various berries (lots of blue berries) the entire way. A great hike. The next day was the paddle back to the group campsite besides the take out. Even though the afternoon was overcast, a wind picked up that made for great swimming at the drop off at the beach. The drop off from knee deep water standing in sand to 30 feet of water happens in a short span and made for great diving into the waves. A last dinner and socializing and then next morning was the short paddle to the take out and the portage to the parking lot.

~ David Dorosz, Canoe Director

Kayak Program Update

This has been a quiet summer for the kayak section, however, we have been busy improving the club "kayak fleet". Our three-year plan is complete. We now have a full complement of six club kayaks, all in good shape and ready for fun on the water! Two new kayaks and one second-hand kayak have been added and two ailing kayaks have been retired from the fleet. This puts us in a better position to offer courses to people who are interested in kayaking but not yet ready to commit and buy their own.

A number of our members participated in courses in the spring. Three Sea Kayak Basic Skills courses and one Sea Kayak Level 1 course were offered. We had a lot of fun in these courses and the end result is that there are a number of paddlers on the water who are better equipped for safe paddling.

The club kayak instructors are examining their schedules and deciding if there will be fall courses. By the time this update goes to press there could be courses on the calendar. Please check it out if you are hoping to take a sea kayak course this fall.

Several people took part in the Tuesday night paddles or borrowed kayaks for evening and weekend paddles. But the last few weeks of poor air quality, due to the forest fire smoke, discouraged many.

Just a reminder: The club kayaks are for VCKC members use when taking courses or clinics, or when participating in club sanctioned paddles (Tuesday Night 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 "buddies". If you would like to borrow a club kayak contact Linda Hall at kayakbooking@vckc.ca to reserve one.

Happy fall paddling everyone!

~ Linda Hall, VCKC Kayak Program

Outrigger at Cadboro Bay



Seals on the Chatham's on a calm day – Courtesy Linda Nimshom

Well the summer season of paddling at Cadboro Bay is coming to a close with the shorter evenings, and eventually cooler weather. Six teams paddled on the bay this year, and by all accounts it was a great season. The bay is a hub of local activity with three sailing clubs, a marina and a favorite spot for Stand up paddle boards . It can be a beautiful place, with Oak Bay and Willow beach an easy paddle away on a calm day.

Vancouver's ship, much of which is a provincial Marine park, and the Chatham Islands, which are the property of the Songees First nation, and home for the local marine wolf. This can be a beautiful place and make for a lovely long evening paddle with lots of birds and seals to view. If you are lucky there are sometimes whales and a view of the wolf

To get there one needs to cross Bayne Channel which can move in excess of 5 knots and create standing waves, and sometimes unpleasant conditions. There were no hulis this year, but certainly some interesting rides when the winds and tides changed.



Courtesy France Gagnon

On a personal note, this is one of my favorite club activities. My regular team (Delia's Team) loves this crossing on a nice night, and periodically we will grab a beer to celebrate our success. This year I had the pleasure of joining Sue MacGregor's crew on a trip to the far end of Discovery Island for a great picnic at the Marine Park. This was followed by a more adventurous ride back than anticipated, but thanks to a capable stern and some good paddlers all went well. Just a little reminder from the Pacific that things can change quickly. I, and I am sure the other crews, are looking forward to next summer already.

A big thank you to the team captains for organizing their teams this summer and paying attention to their safety, as well to the sterns for their diligence. A special thanks to Malcolm Waddington and friends for organizing the annual boat migration to and from Caddy Bay

~ Tony Hopkin, Outrigger Director



Ken Gibbard organized a club paddle to **Victoria Symphony Splash**. There were not enough paddlers for two voyageurs, so the logical solution was to take the dragonboat. Club members Dorothea Hoffman and Jack & Susan Logan were part of the volunteer kayak group assisting to collect donations.



Photo by Jean Chandler

FYI - A boot brush has been installed by the basement door to help keep the clubhouse clean. Please be sure to wipe your feet when you come from the boat ramp.

JUNE BBQ



September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1
2	3	4 5:30 AM Fall BBQ	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 7:00 PM Executive Meeting	12	13	14	15 6:00 AM VCKC 50th Anniversary Celebration 2:00 PM VCKC 50th Anniversary Celebration
16	17	18	19 7:00 PM GWI Steering Committee Meeting	20	21	22 8:30 AM Lakewater 1 - Basic Tandem
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 5:00 PM VCKC Tillicum Racers End of Season Party!
30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5	6

Club Contact Information

Officers

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Secretary secretary@vckc.ca
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