

# Dogwood Canoe and Kayak Club Newsletter

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## Presidents Report October 2008

Well it is almost Thanksgiving. For those of you who were not at the September meeting, I hope you had a great summer with lots of paddling. There are a couple of things to look out for in the next couple of months. Dez is leading the Thanksgiving paddle down the North Thompson. There is a winter solstice paddle planned, Len Miller is the trip leader. So break out the battery packs and lights and have a nice night on the water amongst the Christmas carol ships. Christmas carol ships are a nice segway into the Christmas party. Keep an eye out for the time, you all know the place.

On a more important note, attendance has been down at the club meetings. I would hope to see everyone out for October's. It is on the 22nd not the 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be a discussion on the proposed site C dam along the Peace River. There is a motion tabled that the club should put together a presentation against the development of the dam. Please come express your opinion and sign a petition that we will take along with the presentation.

The AGM will be in January. I know this is a while yet but trust me, it is just around the corner. The club will need people to step up and fill the executive.

See you all soon and good paddling  
Shayne

## **Dogwood Canoe and Kayak Club General meeting, September 24, 2008.**

Present: 23 members  
Guests: one, Jeniffer

President's Shayne Langdon reports:

1. The finished flags with new club's name flags are finished and left at home. Shayne will deliver them to Jean tomorrow for the club's display at the River's Week celebration on Sunday.
2. The several successful trips were: Kootney River, Columbia River, Similkameen River and De Courcy Island.
3. President read the treasurer's report:
  - a) Presently there is \$ 4,311 on the account
    - \$ 6,000 came in
    - \$ 1,600.00 outstanding bill as \$ 600.00 to be paid to Sandy Wade for the web site; also the pool session hasn't been paid for yet
  - b) 2 new memberships
  - c) At present there are 80 family memberships, about 120 people

Trip Coordinator Geoff Wade's report:

Not much to say as he was most of the summer away

There were no activities to be coordinated as he reported lack of interest in May, only three calls for trip info before he left Vancouver.

Frank Ward will be a leader for this Sunday 28.9.08 (a trip to Buntzen Lake).

The same day starts the River Week Festival in Coquitlam, where Jean Allan will represent the club.

Tony will lead Saturday's Fraser River paddle to Ladner, meet at 8.30 AM for 30 min. paddle.

The early October Squamish River paddle might be still on, Geoff will contact Harald Riffel.

The famous Thanksgiving Thompson River will be lead by Des Winterbottom who will be the contact person. Phone at 1-604-826-8228, no E mail.

Social Coordinator Len Miller:

December 22<sup>nd</sup> Monday Solstice paddle in the Burrard Inlet with our decorated canoes; put in by the Planetarium by Coast guard at English Bay.

Len Miller has a full schedule prepared with wonderful presentations for the next meetings.

Frank Ward looked after the summer picnic in August 15th which was attended by only 10 people.

His report started a discussion about our newsletter and these points were made:

Although the newsletter looks great it takes long time to process it especially with many pictures. Several members would prefer less photos, more info on time. Low attendance of picnic was the result of late information about it with a combination of summer holidays.

President Shayne asked for more variety and participation in making out newsletter; for example he asked for a bannock recipe which will be sent in by Alena Torn.

Shayne also asked for more help from members as he feels he carries the club's responsibility most of the time alone.

Send your articles to the address [dckceditor@hotmail.com](mailto:dckceditor@hotmail.com).

Shayne also encouraged members to be patient with the editor and leave up to her the choice of pictures and sometimes a necessary shortening of reports. Don't stop sending reports in even if they don't get printed right away!

Dave Huntley sent three articles in, yet none got printed.

Next lively discussion was on printing phone # and E mails in the news letter. Many executive members receive bad E mails; therefore there will be no publicized personal information in the news letter or the website.

## General Meeting continued

New business:

1. Less Miller suggested a small reward for people who do presentation to our club. The motion was tabled to be discussed at next executive meeting.
2. Dave Huntley brought to our attention that the problem of damming Peace River is back. In 1982 the idea was successfully stopped; Dave participated with his protest and wants to do it again. The date of public meeting will be November 4<sup>th</sup>. Dave will present his speech at next general meeting where it will be voted on and if agreed signatures will be collected. The signing will be done at our next general meeting, please come and support Dave.
3. Andy Gore asked an important question about how to wear a PDF, should it be under or over a jacket? Jim Hartwick answered the question this way: there is really no wrong or right way. Preferably put jacket on first then PDF over it because in case of rescue the color will be better seen; wind may blow a jacket over person's head restrict person's visibility, covering the color; or in the water it may come up also over the head. If you don't have a time or it would be dangerous to take PDF off and then put a jacket over it. All what one wears should be tight on your body.
4. A question was given about our albums; are we continuing with putting new photos in? The President answered, yes, photos should be given to Frank Ward. The club also collects digital data; if you have a disc bring it in.
5. Des Winterbottom gave a quick report about Heritage wooden canoe meeting where 30-45 members were present.

After a coffee break Carmen and Dave shared their summer memories from their sailing trip to Benzee Island. They covered in three hours what would take two days to paddle. The meeting adjourned at 9:55PM.

## Trip Reports

### **PIRATES COVE PROVINCIAL MARINE PARK, DE COURCY ISLAND – SEPT. 8 - 12, 2008**

Participants: Mike Bender – Kayak; Jean Allan & Frank Ward, Majka Janousek & Alena Torn, Lynn Wilkinson & Robin Liley, Margaret & Peter Waddington (Organizer and Reporter) – Canoes

Five days of sunshine, a daytime gale, animals both charming and wicked. Spectacular sandstone formations on De Courcy, Link and Valdes Islands engaged the photographers among us. Kayakers abounded and even rowers showed up.

Monday, Sept. 8 – The put-in on El Verano (via Gabriola's South Road) provided a convenient lunch site while kayakers launched and others commuted via boat to their home islands. The current in False Narrows was gentle and in our favour as was the tail wind we picked up on the way to Pirates Cove Provincial Marine Park. The wind was strong and the water was quite lumpy by the time we passed the peninsula southeast of the anchorage and paddled into calm waters in the bay on the south end of De Courcy where we landed. To our surprise most of the familiar tent sites no longer existed. Only six remained and were, luckily, vacant. These we quickly occupied.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 – The forecast N.W. gale sounded overhead in the trees when we woke up. Sailboats remained tied up in our sheltered bay and we took the opportunity to explore the trails and beaches around us. By suppertime the wind abated and we had just enough time before sunset to paddle up the SE sides of De Courcy and Link. We did not reach Lynn's remembered "Table Rock" and planned to look for it another day.

Wednesday, Sept. 10 – Calm seas and a gentle wind. Our scheduled 10 AM departure was delayed because P. W. fell in six inches of water while trying to get into his canoe. Solicitous comrades insisted that he put on dry clothes. (He is still waiting to see documentary pics. of this event.)

After this entertainment, a pleasant journey to Tree Island ended with lunch #1 on a sandy mini-spit between it and a rocky up-crop. This spit is washed clean at high tide, but provided us with just enough room for boats and people.

## Trip Report continued

Three kayaks appeared, assessed the situation and passed by. Soon after we left heading for Blackberry Point, Valdes

Island, less than an hour's paddle away. This location offers numerous opportunities for tenting and has a proper biffy. Lunch #2 was enjoyed on the beach and then Alena, Lynn and Majka went in for a "refreshing" (brrr!) swim. A nearby fire pit was used to burn the garbage we had brought with us. (No fires were allowed on De Courcy.) An hour's paddling NNW along the shore of Valdes brought us to the beginning of its elaborately activities. The rest of the party helped them load and launch and then accompanied them part way on their journey to the take out. We tracked along the SW sides of De Courcy and Link, looking for, but not finding, Lynn's "Table Rock." (Lynn decided that it was probably only visible at low tide.) The Link-Mudge passage was still out of the water when we arrived, so we settled down to stretch our legs and have lunch. A small rowboat arrived with a disproportionately large white dog sitting on the bow, looking like a fuzzy polar bear. It went ashore, with excited yelps and squeaks and, after chasing a ball for awhile, was ready to go back from whence it came. Finally the tide was high enough that Lynn and Robin carried some of their heavier items over the spit and we all tugged their canoe over a wooden "ways" to the water on the other side. We, the day-trippers, also carried our boats across and, while Lynn and Robin headed for the take out, we paddled along the Gabriola shore to Degnen Bay, with the intention of walking over the road to the pub at Silva Bay for supper. However, by the time we arrived at our destination it was decided that (a) it was too late in the day (4 PM) and (b) we were too tired, so we left for "home" via the Valdes shore for a final look at the cliff formations.

Friday, Sept. 12 – The strong NW wind was back and we had to work hard, using the most protected channels available and with suitable rest stops in sheltered coves, to the False Narrows put-in. We all made the 7 PM sailing from Nanaimo, arriving home in the early dark.

eroded sandstone cliffs with their variety of patterns: giant honeycombs, undulating overhangs, runic symbols, and planetoid hemispheres, like illustrations in a beginner's astronomy textbook. Canoes manoeuvred this way and that to get the best views and the best lighting from the afternoon sun which was now shining directly on the cliffs. A photographer's happy hunting ground! An hour of this and we came to a sheltered cove with flat open ground which provided the desired amenities. Then a few more minutes of paddling revealed a pair of grotesque gargoyles. By this time we had had enough and took the direct route back to camp.

Thursday, Sept. 11 – Another sunny calm day. Lynn and Robin decided to leave a day early in order to get Lynn home in time for her weekend



## FLORA AND FAUNA

Honeysuckle vines- many of them dead - climbed the trees. River otters gambolled in the cove while "Lion's Manes" / aka "Sea Blubbers," *Cyanea capillata*, were found stranded at low tide, and swimming at sea. Black-tailed deer were spotted while paddling. A raven with a lovely bell-like song serenaded us on the beach and a great blue heron had a nest in a nearby tree. We also saw kingfishers and Steller's jays, turkey vultures and oyster catchers. Raccoons abounded, in fact our campsite bay was soon christened "Raccoon Cove." On our final morning Majka counted 5 kits and 15 adults searching the beach for shellfish. Each night at dusk, raccoons would appear, plotting ways to relieve unsuspecting campers of their foodstuffs. On the first night Robin heard racoons making a racket on his picnic table and found that they had opened a vinyl cooler and were in the process of eating a fruit pie. They were most upset and hissed when he took it away from them. The next night they slit open Jean's cooler. Later Alena found that they had (a) opened and removed the contents of a zippered fanny pack, and (b) unscrewed the top of a loosely closed food pail, eating most of her carbohydrates. On the last night Peter found that a raccoon had tried to drag away an empty beer can. Only Frank escaped their depredations, leaving a small light on his table.

## Bowron Lakes Trip 2008 (James Wade and family)



Our new editor demonstrating his moves on the Bowron lakes



Idyllic summer scenery on the Bowron lakes



Barbara and Katie Wade paddling the "Chute"



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### **James' joke of the Month:**

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.

Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a canoe and drink beer all day.

## Club Entertainment

OCTOBER 22  
Decorcy Island Trip

NOVEMBER 26  
Geoff Wade  
Geordon Wade  
Exploring Baffin Island

There is a short business meeting at 7:30pm followed by the scheduled entertainment.  
Westburn Community Centre,  
4781 Parkwood Cr.  
Burnaby BC.

***VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!***

Club Meetings

Westburn Community Centre,  
4781 Parkwood Cr. Burnaby.

Fourth Wednesday Each Month  
(Except July/Aug/Dec),  
7:30pm



### **REMEMBER:**

Library books borrowed are on loan  
For 1 month. They must be returned  
or renewed each month. Please bring  
any borrowed books to the next meeting.

Please bring your own mugs for coffee or tea  
when you attend a meeting.

