



# Eddyline

SPENDING MY GRANDSON'S  
INHERITENCE  
ON **GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS**



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Club trips are the **heart** and  
**soul** of the **VKC**

If you did it wrong it was

**Class IV+**

but if you did it correctly  
you could find a

**Class IV line.**

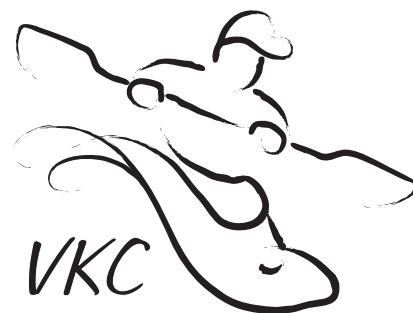


# Eddyline - Journal of the Vancouver Kayak Club

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The Eddyline will be published quarterly, with the occasional edition as a hardcopy. Your stories, ideas, letters to the editor and photos are welcome and needed. Please send your contributions in digital format any time and especially before the deadline for the next issue.

The Vancouver Kayak Club assumes no responsibility towards accuracy, reliability or fitness for any purpose of information in this newsletter. Neither the Vancouver Kayak Club, its directors and volunteers, nor the volunteers who provide information in these pages can be held liable for any decisions based on the information provided in these pages. Using any information is 100% at your own risk.

# Club Announcements

## Message from the President:

Claudia Schwab, President

The new paddling season is about to start and as every year in spring, VKC membership renewal is coming up. This is getting easier every year: renew online, at a meeting, or just mail in your form and payment. So sign up for a new season of river runs, weekend trips, social meetings, access to the latest news on our online forum and much more!

Mark your calendars for the 2009 VKC Whitewater Festival (May 1-3). Last year's festival was a great success with lots of paddling, a cool party with the band Switch and tons of goodies and prizes. Don't miss this year's festival! Come on out, help out, have a good time on the river and at the party. And if you have some time to spare before the festival or are interested in helping out during the weekend, we are still looking for a few keen volunteers (contact anybody on the executive for more info).

If you have surfed the VKC forum lately you may have noticed news about more threats to our rivers. There are plans for run-of-the-river projects for streams in Bute Inlet and Kokish River on Vancouver Island, but also very close to home, for Statlu and Big Silver Creek (check the "River Board" on the VKC Forum for updates). A different kind of threat is the proposal to change the Navigable Waters Protection Act. The changes include a limit to navigation rights, a revised definition of navigability and exemptions for structures that may interfere with navigability (more info here: [www.ispeakforcanadianrivers.ca](http://www.ispeakforcanadianrivers.ca)). Inform yourself, send some emails, write some letters – every single one will help to make our voice as river us-

ers heard.

Despite this gloomy news, here is looking forward to the new paddling season and the snow melting! Or as Ed Abbey said: "It is not enough to fight for the land, it is even more important to enjoy it!"

## VKC Membership Renewal

We invite you to sign-up or renew your membership in the Vancouver Kayak Club for the 2009/2010 season. Sign up online at [www.vankayak.org](http://www.vankayak.org) or fill out the new membership form (attached). We would appreciate your registration as soon as possible, but at the latest by March 31st. Thank you!

## 2009 VKC Whitewater Festival

In 2008, we celebrated the 50th birthday of the VKC with our first whitewater festival on the Chilliwack River. This festival turned out to be a great success, which motivated us to organize another one this year! The 2009 VKC Whitewater Festival will take place May 1-3. Planning is well under way, but there are still lots of opportunities to help out – please contact any of the VKC executive if you are interested!

## AGM Report - Membership

Farzana Vogl,  
2008 Membership Director

Thank you to all the current members of the VKC for making the 2008 paddling season such a huge success. Our club has seen continued growth in memberships over

the last 2 years, and we are hoping that with all of your support, we will stay on this positive trend. Note that 9% of our total members joined the club at the VKC Whitewater Festival last May. Great job by all of the volunteers in making this happen. We look forward to seeing all our members at this year's VKC Festival on the first weekend in May (May 1-3), and we are also hoping to get some new members then. See Graph 1 for our positive growth trends.

Membership in the VKC has numer-



ous benefits, including full access to the very user friendly and active VKC Forum, training for all levels of paddlers, a full year of whitewater trips and special events, discounts at local stores and much much more.

Please fill out the form enclosed with this newsletter and renew your memberships promptly, or you can register online at [www.vankayak.org](http://www.vankayak.org). Have a great and safe paddling season in 2009!



## AGM Report - 2008 Trip Schedule

Dave Morriss, 2008 Trip Director

There were 31 trips on the 2008 VKC Trip Schedule and here is a summary of how they went:

19 went successfully  
8 were cancelled due to no trip leader volunteers  
3 were cancelled due to water levels  
1 was cancelled due to no response from members

Some of the bigger trips of the year were Wenatchee at 35 paddlers, Clearwater with 21 paddlers, and Squamish/Elaho at 21.

## 2009 VKC Trip Schedule

Laani Uunila, 2009 Trip Director

Club trips are the heart and soul of the VKC. Club trips provide paddlers of all abilities the opportunity to meet with others and explore some of the most beautiful and exciting rivers in Southwest BC and beyond.

This year, we're trying something new. For some trips you'll notice that we've posted a general region 'Squamish/Whistler' or 'Fraser Valley' instead of a specific river. We're hoping to give people signing-up an idea of a region, but the trip leader the flexibility to change the river according to water conditions as the trip date approaches. The rivers included in each region and each grade are accessible on the on-line schedule.

Also of note in this year's schedule we're planning a "Washington Weekend" over the May long weekend. The Stillaguamish is likely going to be the hub for this weekend, since it offers several different levels of paddling.

If you're an ardent Wenatchee Social paddler, you'll notice that we've moved that social into June to coincide with the Wenatchee Festival, this in part due to high water levels in May when we've traditionally held the trip and the lack of available group campground.

If you want to volunteer to be a trip leader for one of the trips posted, or you want to suggest a trip for the schedule, please contact Laani (778.227.0093). Interested in being a trip leader, but not sure what's involved or what skills you need? Please ask!

For the most current version of the trip list, check out [www.vankayak.org](http://www.vankayak.org)

April 11/12	Fraser Valley	III+	June 20-21	Smilkameen Social	II
April 18/19	Fraser Valley	III+	June 27-28*	Mamquam Festival	
May 2 - 3	VKC Festival		July 11-12	Birkenhead	III
May 9/10	Squamish	II	July 18-19	Sauk/Sky	III(IV)
May 9/10	Fraser Valley	III	July 25-26	Nahatlatch	III(IV)
May 16-18 +	Washington Weekend	III/III+	Aug 1-3	Clearwater	III
May 23-24	Nicola	II	Aug 8-9	Squamish/Whistler	III
June 6/7	Local/Squamish	II	Aug 22-23	Lillooet	III+
June 6/7 *	Puntledge Festival		Sept 5-7	Thompson	III
June 13-14	Wenatchee Festival	III	Sept 12-13	Skook (11.12/12.08)	III+

\*non-VKC event + VKC social

# Spending My Grandson's Inheritance on Gross National Happiness - Bhutan 2008

Keith Witney

I was looking for a special trip, preferably involving a new continent like India, and Mary and Phil DeReimer were looking for customers for their first commercial Bhutanese trip. A little bit of asking around indicated that people liked the kayaking there (John Robb went with an outfitter from Nepal in 2001 and Mike Savory went with Slime (Peter Knowles), an Englishman who organizes not for profit trips). DeReimer's was the only trip that I knew was going for sure and I had paddled with them in Ecuador. (It turned out that both Slime and the Nepalese outfitter were in Bhutan this year). DeReimer's were offering both a Class III and a Class IV/IV+ trip but I was advised by my friends to go for the Class IV/IV+ trip which was the correct decision. As is typical with these outfitted trips, there is some slop in the ratings to allow for the possibility of high water or people over their head. If you did it wrong it was Class IV+ but if you did it correctly you could find a Class IV line. Most of the runs were Class III.

So the decision was made and the problem became getting to Bhutan. You have to fly in on Druk Air, you have to use a Bhutanese cultural guide and you pay the Bhutanese government \$US200/day for every night in the country (this is now \$US250). The \$250 is supposed to cover your cultural guide, your food, your

accommodation and your transportation in country. Druk Air is in addition, is expensive and has a 20Kg weight limit in economy, but has a cheap (\$US50 about 10% of the flight cost) business class upgrade which is recommended as you get a more reasonable weight allowance and is cheaper than overweight charges never mind a better view in and out of Paro. You can assume that these costs will double to cover the American guides, local kayak guides and boats. The good news is there is the possibility of the Bhutanese having their own guides in a year or two which will dramatically reduce the cost. We had one Bhutanese trainee guide and another Nepalese guide in addition to Phil and Mary for 11 paying guests. I was not initially comfortable with the idea of a Cultural guide as I thought that we would be in a "Chillip" (The Bhutanese term for foreigners which we happily adopted) bubble. However, to quote the Vancouver Sun, "you feel more like a guest than a tourist" and this is because the Cultural Guide facilitates your entry into areas and interactions that would otherwise not be possible. You have the option of flying in from India (Delhi, Calcutta, Bodgha), Bangladesh (Dahka), Nepal (Katmandu) and Thailand (Bangkok). I wanted to use Delhi so that I could see a bit of India. I was also intrigued that apparently Slime starts in Delhi and does

some Indian paddling en route. Delhi proved to be too expensive and after one close call with Oasis airlines going bankrupt, I was able to find a suitable flight on Philippine Airlines via Manila. This also meant that Nancy could join me for some shopping in Bangkok which turned into another adventure related to the airport seizure (I finally have my Bhutan paddling bag back after 2 months thanks to a special effort by PAL and now am a fan of trip insurance which paid for the trip delay costs not covered by the Thai government).

The adventure starts bush flying in an Airbus A318 into Paro Airport. Just like a Twin Otter winding through the valley. I wish I had video of a plane on approach! You then walk to a stunning Bhutanese terminal building, which is unfortunately like every other small airport inside! After the usual introductions and lunch, it was straight into the tourist thing with a trip to the local Dzong. Dzongs are a fortress but also likely a tem-





ple, monastery and government headquarters. After 11 days we were pretty much Dzonged out. Note you need shoes/socks, pants and sleeves to be Dzong-worthy so if you insist on shorts and sandals the zip off legs of guide pants is a good idea as are decent socks as you will be putting shoes on and off.

Typically we would paddle the local river in the morning, Dzong in the afternoon then eat, drink and sit around the fire if camping, which was only when we were in an area with no hotel. Even I liked the camping; 2 people in an 8 person tent with proper twin mattresses and comforters plus cook and camp crew for setup and chores. Otherwise, bar and pool table in the evening.

We had what I would have called medium to low water levels. It had come down considerably from the Class III trip before us. The runs varied. The early ones tended to be Chilliwack like (Slesse down), then we had some Capilano/Lynn like runs and the big difference for our Class IV/IV+ trip was the Ema Datzi

gorge run which was Upper Fraser like. With a guided trip you can relax a bit as you will have a guide running in front so you can see the line as well as a guide to bail you out if you mess up. We did three "exploratories"; Runs which we knew had been run but no one in our group had kayaked them recently (within 2 years). One of these was a new run for everyone and another was pre-run by the guides early in the morning before our run. On the other hand, I would have liked to have done these runs as

a team effort. They were not so difficult that a competent group could not find their way down and I never felt that I could not have led. Whether anyone would have wanted to follow is another question! All in all we had 10 runs in 11 days with two travel days.

We had excellent weather, sunny and warm, which certainly helped. One thing that is hard to get used to is that although the roads are in reasonable shape, average speeds, including stops, are very slow (say 10-15 km/hr) so although on the map it is not far, it can take a long time. A transit of greater than 60 km basically turns it into a travel day. We were lucky as, after our trip was booked, it turned out that the auspicious time for the coronation of the new King coincided with our arrival. This meant that half the country was in Thimpu for the festivities! We also camped on a school soccer pitch and were guests at the school opening ceremonies the next morning. Another cul-



tural highlight was a dance that the monks staying at the first Kings winter palace, where we were camping in the grounds, put on for us (and the local village). The village girls were also part of the festivities and did not want to stop the party. We had brought 6 young men into the village with our camp crew and guides! These monks were also hired to take our kayaks into and out of the Ema Datzi gorge. Another highlight was camping on a school soccer pitch and being asked to be guests at the school opening ceremonies the next morning.



So save up your money and blow it on a very special trip. DeReimer's have announced that they will be going again next year ([www.adventurekayaking.com](http://www.adventurekayaking.com)) and I am sure that Slime is thinking about it as are the Nepalese outfitters. I look forward to when our investment in left gear turns into Bhutanese guides that can run their own trips. The Bhutanese outfitter (Xplore Bhutan) brought in new boats (Riot Magnums mainly) last year so they are now only slightly used. I also hope that the Bhutanese can maintain their "Gross National Happiness" despite the pressures that they are under. They and their country are very special.





- River Runs & Shuttles
- Fun Contests, Prizes and Clinics
- Free Camping and Saturday Dinner
- Live-Band & Non-Paddling Activities

# vk c

## whitewater festival

Chilliwack BC

May 1 - 3



register at [vankayak.org/festival](http://vankayak.org/festival)

sponsors



[www.vankayak.org](http://www.vankayak.org)

[membership@vankayak.org](mailto:membership@vankayak.org)

P.O. Box 19513, Vancouver, BC V5T 4E7

March 2009

Dear Paddler,

We invite you to renew your membership in the Vancouver Kayak Club for the 2009/2010 season. Sign up online at [www.vankayk.org](http://www.vankayk.org) or use the new membership form on the back of this letter. Please note that membership renewals are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Let's get ready for a new and exciting paddling season!

Check out our 2009 trip schedule online. Join us for another year with lots of trips to all-time favorites like the Wenatchee, Similkameen, Clearwater and Thompson or to some new destinations, but always with plenty of company and lots of fun. Beside the set dates for all-time favorites, we're trying something new this year. For some trips, we've posted a general region 'Squamish/Whistler' or 'Fraser Valley' instead of a specific river. We're hoping that will not only give people signing-up an idea of a region, but the trip leader the flexibility to change the river according to water conditions as the trip date approaches. VKC trips are organized by VKC members, which means that we rely on volunteers to step forward and offer to organize and support club trips and events. The satisfaction of helping others get on the river is well worth the effort! We welcome suggestions for club trips and are always on the lookout for new organizers and support boaters. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact the VKC Trip Coordinator, Laani Uunila. The club will also provide various training opportunities from beginner courses to safety and rescue or first aid courses, depending on demand, so let us know by contacting our Training Coordinator, Philip Morley. But it's not all paddling – meetings, socials, the BBQ and the Christmas party will provide opportunities to socialize, exchange river stories, watch slide and video shows, or chat about the latest news. Our Social Coordinator Jason Wong is open to any ideas.

In 2008, we celebrated the 50th birthday of the VKC with our first whitewater festival on the Chilliwack River. This festival turned out to be a great success, which has motivated us to organize another one this year! The 2009 VKC Whitewater Festival will take place May 1st to 3rd. Planning is well under way, but there are still lots of opportunities to help out – please contact any of the VKC executive if you are interested!

The online VKC Forum has turned out to be one of our major information, planning and communication tools. If you haven't signed up for it, make sure you do. Please check it regularly for news and to keep in touch with us and your fellow paddlers! For questions and comments, contact our webmaster, Philip Morley. The Eddyline, our club newsletter, is another important form of communication with our members. We send out one hard copy per year and the other issues will be available in digital format. Our editor Megan Leslie is doing a great job - don't forget to send her your trip reports and pictures.

Our club is only as good as we, its members, make it! Give us some feedback! Let us know which events and trips you liked, which you didn't, and how we can improve on last year's festival. We're always open to new ideas! If you've got some extra time to help with the club, considering taking on a task as a club volunteer; either by organizing trips, taking on a special project or joining the executive!

We're all looking forward to another great season of paddling!  
Your VKC Executive



**P.O. Box 19513, Vancouver, BC V5T 4E7**

E-mail [membership@vankayak.org](mailto:membership@vankayak.org)  
Phone 604-430-5657

## Membership Form 2009 - 2010

This form is for the membership year of  
April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

You can also sign up online at  
[www.vankayak.org](http://www.vankayak.org)

Member Information - Please print clearly			
First name	Last name	Are you 19 or older?	
<b>Member 1</b>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Member 2</b>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Member 3</b>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Member 4</b>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Contact Information - Please print clearly	
Address	
City	Province
Postal Code	Country
Home Phone	Date of Birth
Cell Phone <b>M1)</b>	<b>M2)</b>
E-mail <b>M1)</b>	<b>M2)</b>

Please note: Neither the VKC, nor the CKBC, sell or in any way release member information.

Type of Membership - Please check off your member type	
Adult (individual)	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family (2 adults, unlimited children under 19)	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student (19 or older, in school)	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Junior (under 19 - Parent/Guardian must sign!)	\$15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Rapid Magazine (spring 2009 - spring 2010 issues)	ADD \$14 <input type="checkbox"/>

Make cheque out to "VKC". We only accept Canadian Dollars.

Waiver of Liability - Read carefully!			
<p>I, on behalf of myself, members of my family, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns or anyone else who may claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue and hereby release, waive, discharge and hold harmless the VKC and CKBC and anyone acting for, or on their behalf, for any and all claims, or liability for injury, death, loss or damage to my person or property, however caused whether arising by the negligence of the VKC and CKBC and its employees, volunteers, members, representatives, or agents otherwise. I hereby acknowledge that I am aware of all the inherent risks associated with participating in whitewater kayaking and related activities and the injury and damages which may occur to my property and person as a result of such participation.</p>			
<b>By signing below you give up the right to sue!</b>			
Signature	Date	Signature	Date
<b>M1)</b>		<b>M3)</b>	
<b>M2)</b>		<b>M4)</b>	

Please note that we cannot process memberships until the "Waiver of Liability" is signed/dated by all adult members and by the parents/guardians of all children included in this membership.

Please return this form with your payment to the above address.

**Thank you for your support!**



- River Runs & Shuttles
- Fun Contests, Prizes and Clinics
- Free Camping and Saturday Dinner
- Live-Band & Non-Paddling Activities

# vkC

## whitewater festival

Chilliwack BC

May 1 - 3



register at [vankayak.org/festival](http://vankayak.org/festival)

sponsors



P.O. Box 19513, Vancouver, BC V5T 4E7  
[www.vankayak.org/festival](http://www.vankayak.org/festival)

## VKC Whitewater Festival 2009

Everyone is invited - Whitewater  
 Enthusiasts, Members or Non!  
 Join us **May 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>** on the  
**Chiliwack River**, BC, Canada.

### Register now...

...for: 2 Nights secure camping (Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> & Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>), Guided runs, Shuttle service, Saturday eve meal, Entertainment, On & off river contests, Prizes, Free festival T-Shirt (for early bird paddlers only), Non-paddling activities (sign up online) and Lots of fun!

### Type of Registration (Please check off your registration type)

Early Bird (received by April 19 <sup>th</sup> )		Registration after April 19 <sup>th</sup>	
VKC Member (incl. free T-Shirt)	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	VKC Member	\$45 <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-VKC Member (incl. free T-Shirt)	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-VKC Member	\$55 <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Paddler (no free T-Shirt)	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Paddler	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>

Notes: **We only accept Canadian Dollars.** Make cheque out to "VKC".

The extra \$ 10 fee for non-members is for Insurance. T-Shirts available for \$20 at the Festival.

Name		
Address		City
Province	Postal Code	Country
Phone Number		
Email Address		
Are you 19 yrs. or older? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (parent or guardian must sign waiver below!)		
T-Shirt * (circle one) Ladies': XS / S / M / L / XL Men's: S / M / L / XL / XXL		
Meal Type Meat <input type="checkbox"/> Veggie <input type="checkbox"/>		

VKC will not sell or in any way release participant information.

\*For sizing see [www.vankayak.org/festival](http://www.vankayak.org/festival)

### Waiver of Liability (Read carefully!)

I, on behalf of myself, members of my family, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns or anyone else who may claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue and hereby release, waive, discharge and hold harmless the VKC and CKBC and anyone acting for, or on their behalf, for any and all claims, or liability for injury, death, loss or damage to my person or property, however caused whether arising by the negligence of the VKC and CKBC and its employees, volunteers, member, representatives, or agents otherwise. I hereby acknowledge that I am aware of all the inherent risks associated with participating in whitewater kayaking and related activities and the injury and damages which may occur to my property and person as a result of such participation.

Furthermore by agreeing to participate in this event, I am agreeing to abide by the laws of Canada and the Province of BC and the rules of the Vancouver Kayak Club.

Please note that kayakers using the shuttles are responsible of loading, securing and unloading their boats and gear. Due to the nature of the event proposed, safety, weather, river levels or other concerns deemed appropriate by the VKC may dictate changes. The VKC reserves the right to change the scope of this event or cancel if necessary.

**By signing below you give up the right to sue!**

Signature:

Date:

Please return this form with your payment to the above address.  
 For the latest festival updates check out [www.vankayak.org/festival](http://www.vankayak.org/festival)