

LANGLEY CANOE POLICY

The Langley canoe (named Dolphin Spirit) owned by the Gibsons Paddle Club is for the use of all club members. Stored in Sechelt, on Porpoise Bay, it is meant to be used for training, conditioning, fun and recreation. It may well be used for trips, journeys and excursions away from the Sunshine Coast. It is a unique canoe, completely different from the outrigger canoes or the dragon boat. By its very nature its range may take paddlers to the most remote parts of British Columbia and as such it requires special knowledge, skills and safety provisions.

Two things are unique about this canoe. First; when it does tip, and that should not happen under normal, safe and well managed situations, it does not get flipped back over, bailed out and be on its way in minutes. Its recovery is difficult, particularly if it is on its own. Having said that, the Langley canoe is a very stable and safe vessel, particularly under the direction and guidance of a trained, skilled and cautious steersperson (skipper). That brings up the second unique point about the Langley canoe. Unlike other canoes in our club, in the Langley canoe, by tradition, protocol and by necessity, the helmsman, or steersperson is the person in absolute charge of the canoe and its crew when launching, disembarking the canoe or when the canoe is on the water. The steersperson's word and decisions are final. The skipper may designate another member of the crew as 2nd in charge. This is generally the bow person.

As such, given that the Langley canoe is unique, it requires some unique safety rules, protocols and provisions. They are outlined below.

- 1 The Langley canoe will not be taken on the water without a steersperson sanctioned by the Gibsons Paddle Club. (A list of all sanctioned steerspersons is posted on the Gibsons Paddle Club website). The bow person is an experienced paddler who is familiar with various strokes, especially the draw and pry strokes.
- 2 The provisions of the Gibsons Paddle Club, Langley Canoe Safety Manual must be followed at all times.
- 3 In Porpoise Bay there are two areas to consider, first is the water between Poise Island and the head of the inlet at Sechelt (Sechelt area 1). The second body of water is all waters past Poise Island. If the canoe is in Gibsons (Gibsons area 1) the area includes the waters from the Gap to Plumper's Cove across to Soames point.
- 4 When in either Gibsons or Sechelt area 1, while the canoe must always have a sanctioned steersperson on board, the canoe may be steered by anyone under the guidance of that sanctioned steersperson. Also the bow person may be a

- paddler interested in learning the bow position and does so under the guidance of the experienced bow person.
- 5 Past Poise Island the canoe may only be steered by a Gibsons Paddle Club sanctioned skipper.
 - 6 The Langley canoe must never leave shore without a working VHF radio on board. That includes all above areas.
 - 7 Club safety bags must be in the canoe whenever the canoe is on the water. There must always be two throw ropes/bags one near the bow and near the stern. As well, the special tow line (All sanctioned skippers are versed in the use of this tow line), and the usual bailing buckets must be in the canoe.
 - 8 If the canoe is leaving Gibsons or Sechelt area #1 each paddler must have their own personal safety bag with them. That safety bag must include a change of clothes and all other provisions to allow for survival should your canoe tip while away from immediate help.
 - 9 All journeys leaving Gibsons or Sechelt area 1 **MUST** be entered in the log listing all paddlers, your destination and your expected time of return.
 - 10 All journeys leaving area 1 for a duration in excess of 8 hours **MUST** have a motorized escort vessel along. (This provision may be waived, but only with the specific written permission of the executive of the Gibsons Paddle Club). And, **THE LANGLEY CANOE CAN ONLY BE STEERED BY A SANCTIONED MEMBER OF THE GIBSONS PADDLE CLUB WHEN OUTSIDE OF AREA 1.**
 - 11 The Langley canoe may not be moved from one land location to another without first obtaining permission from the Gibsons Paddle Club. Only persons familiar with trailering or moving such larger canoes will be permitted to conduct these moves.
 - 12 The Langley canoe may participate in organized journeys involving other canoes from time to time. Again, such participation is to be done only with the prior written permission of the Gibsons Paddle Club.
 - 13 Likewise, the Langley canoe may be taken by a group to other ocean waters, lakes or river systems for excursions or camping trips. This may only be done with the prior written permission of the Gibsons Paddle Club.
 - 14 It is the responsibility of the skipper to immediately report any damage to the canoe, accidents or tipping incidents to the Gibsons Paddle Club. This is to be done in writing in the form of a narrative report of the incident.