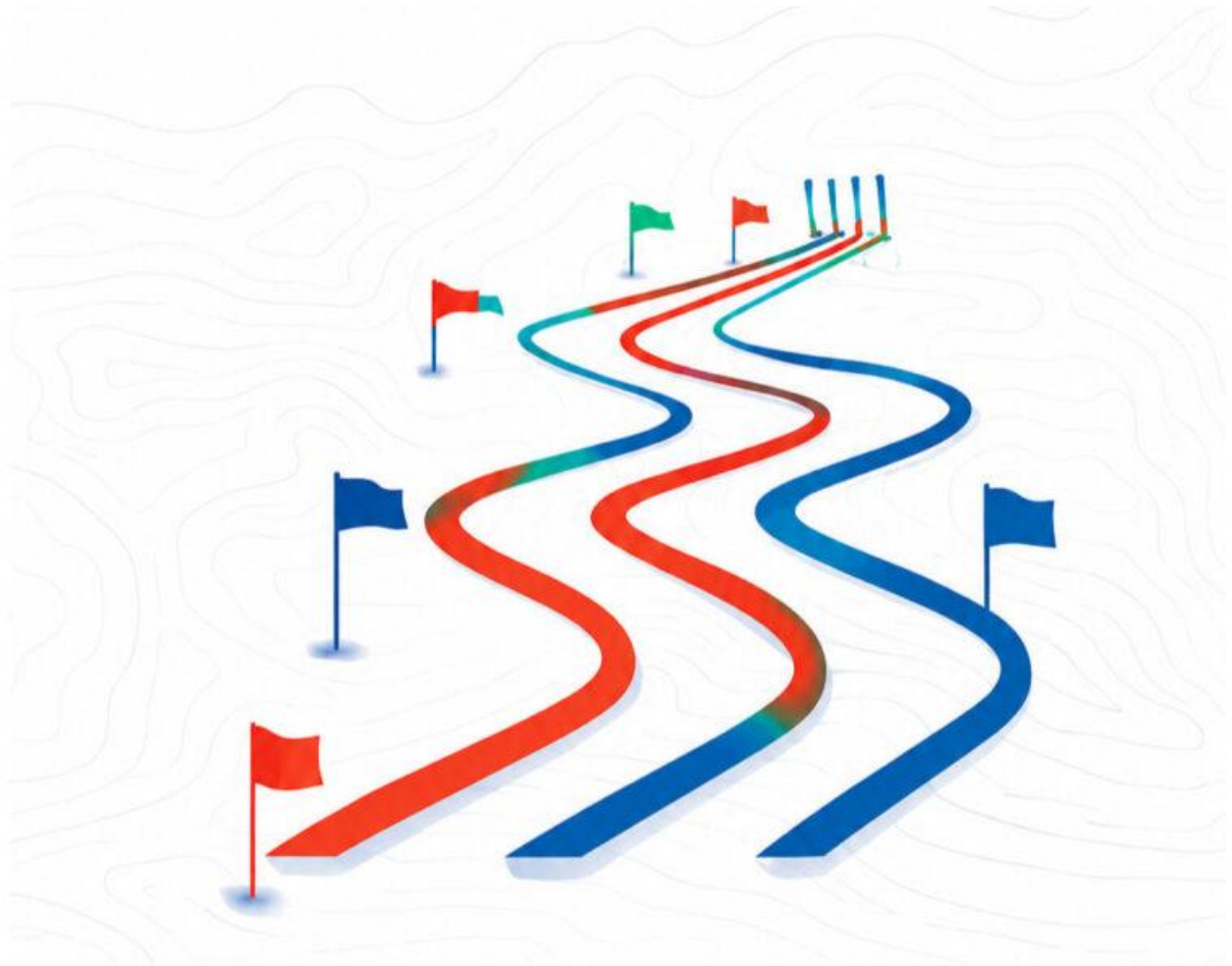




GORGEFEST

DRAGONBOAT REGATTA

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Different starts. Same finish.
Arrive best.



FGPC GorgeFest

Saturday 26 September 2026

Race and Site Information

Welcome to FGPC's inaugural **Gorge Fest Dragon Boat Pursuit Slalom**.

Race Date and Location:

Saturday 26 September 2026

Fairway Gorge Paddling Club

DOCKSIDE / 115-2940 Jutland Road, Victoria BC

Tel. 778-432-3472

Email: info@fgpaddle.com

Website: www.fgpaddle.com

Team check-in begins at **8am at the Waterfront Outfitters** store (on site at the club). Please bring any last minute roster changes and proof of waiver completion.

The sterns' meeting will be held at 8:30am on the dock.

Race Course & Competition Notes for Teams

This is deliberately not a conventional straight-line 500 m race. The course combines a staggered pursuit start, technical slalom racing and a final 100 m sprint. Teams will need **power, boat control, communication and tactical discipline** throughout the entire course.

Please review the accompanying race schematic carefully. The following notes explain how the course will operate.

THE 500M COURSE

The race is divided into three sections:

0–100 m — START

100–400 m — SLALOM

400–500 m — FINISH

Each boat has an assigned lane—**Lane 1 Yellow, Lane 2 Red and Lane 3 Green**—and must remain within and correctly complete its designated course.

1. START — 0–100M

All three boats will assemble with their **bows at the straight start gate**, as shown on the schematic.

The start itself is staggered:

Lane 2 starts first → Lane 3 starts 5 seconds later → Lane 1 starts 5 seconds after Lane 3.

These staggered starts are intentional. They create separation before boats enter the technical portion of the course, improving safety while also creating the excitement of a **pursuit race** as the boats progress through the slalom.

The official timing system will automatically adjust for each boat's delayed start. **Teams do not need to compensate for the stagger themselves—the adjusted elapsed time determines the result.**

Boats race straight for approximately 100 m and must pass correctly through their colour-coded lane at the **100M ENTRY SLALOM GATE** shown on the schematic.

2. SLALOM — 100–400M

Once through the entry gate, the technical racing begins.

Each lane contains **three slalom sequences**, spaced approximately **75 m apart** through the 300 m section.

Each sequence consists of a colour-coded turning arc defined by smaller Scotsman buoys and a large inflatable buoy. Boats must **carve around the outside of each marked arc**, following the path shown on the race schematic.

The lanes are:

Lane 1 — YELLOW

Lane 2 — RED

Lane 3 — GREEN

This is where the event becomes fundamentally different from conventional dragon boat racing. Maintaining speed alone will not be enough. Crews will need to accelerate out of turns, manage boat momentum, respond quickly to steering calls and hold their prescribed racing line while other boats are navigating the course alongside them.

3. FINISH — 400–500M

After completing the third slalom sequence, boats enter the **100M FINISH LANE GATE** shown on the schematic.

From there, it is a straight 100 m sprint to the finish.

Boats must remain in their assigned lane and **cross the finish line correctly to record a finish.**

FOUR RACES FOR EVERY TEAM

Every team will race four 500 m heats during the day:

1. Seeded Heat → 2. Qualifying Heat → 3. Semi-Final → 4. Final

The format is designed so that crews have the opportunity to learn and improve their handling of the course as the regatta progresses. The slalom should become faster—and racing tighter—as teams gain experience through the day.

All boats must successfully finish each heat in order to advance.

BOAT CONTROL, LANE DISCIPLINE & PENALTIES

This is a technical race course, and **safe, controlled navigation is part of the competition.**

Teams are responsible for completing their designated slalom course, remaining within their assigned racing lane and avoiding interference with other boats.

Race Management may issue **time penalties or credits** for course infractions or circumstances affecting fair competition. These may include incorrectly navigating a buoy or gate, leaving the prescribed course, or disrupting another boat.

The objective is simple: **race the course aggressively—but race it correctly and safely.**

THE OPTIONAL 100M STEERLESS CHALLENGE

After the 500 m competition, the **four fastest teams** will qualify for an optional final challenge.

And this one is different again.

Qualifying boats will proceed to the designated **100 m start gate** and race straight through the finish line **without the active assistance of their steersperson.**

The steersperson remains aboard the boat for safety, but **their steering oar must not touch the water during the race.** Doing so will result in disqualification.

For these 100 metres, navigation belongs to the crew.

The drummer will call the race, while paddlers must use timing, power and coordinated adjustments to keep the boat on course and safely within its lane.

For safety, these are individual timed runs: **each boat must finish—or completely clear the race course—before the next boat starts.**

The fastest elapsed time wins.

There will be one **Mixed 100 m Steerless Champion** and one **Women's 100 m Steerless Champion**.

MEDALS

The 500 m Pursuit Slalom concludes with **Grand Final, A Division, B Division and C Division finals**, with **Gold, Silver and Bronze medals** awarded in each division.

The optional 100 m Steerless Challenge awards **Gold** to the fastest Mixed team and **Gold** to the fastest Women's team.

Tents

All teams will be provided with a tent. Teams who have already paid for a tent will be issued a credit.

Food and Beverages

Waterfront Fitness' "**Smokehouse BBQ Stand**" will be serving up Chef Black's famous southern-smoked Brisket, Pulled Pork, and Texas Two-Step (combination brisket and pulled pork) Sandwiches in combination with drinks, chips and sweet takeaway desserts. Sandwiches from the Smokehouse BBQ Stand must be [pre-ordered](#). The deadline for orders is **Monday 21 July**.

Retail Vendors

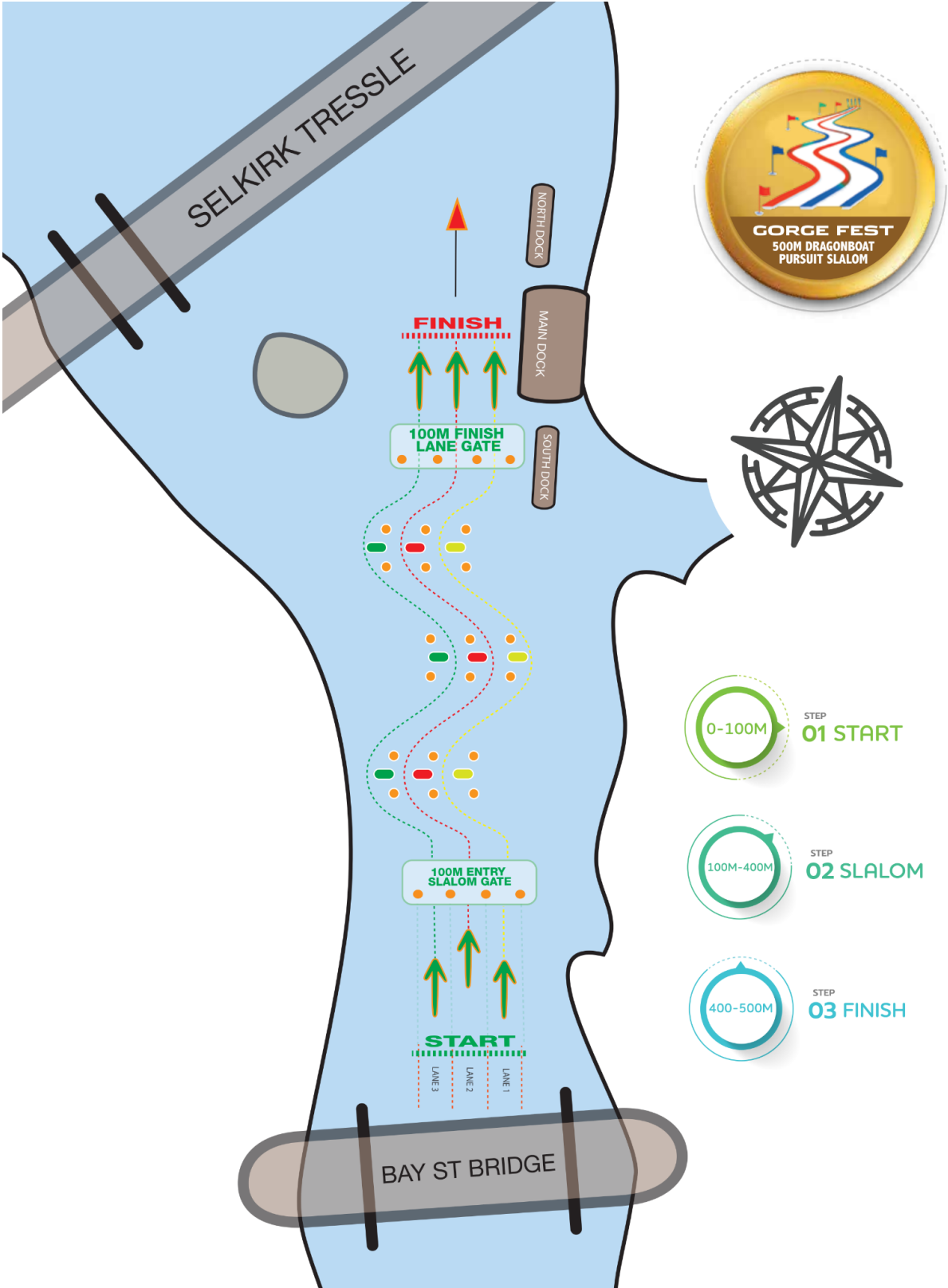
Be sure to visit **Waterfront Outfitters**, located at the club in the breezeway between Selkirk Waterfront Fitness and GLO restaurant. Waterfront Outfitters is Victoria's dedicated store for all things paddling-related.

Paddlers' Village

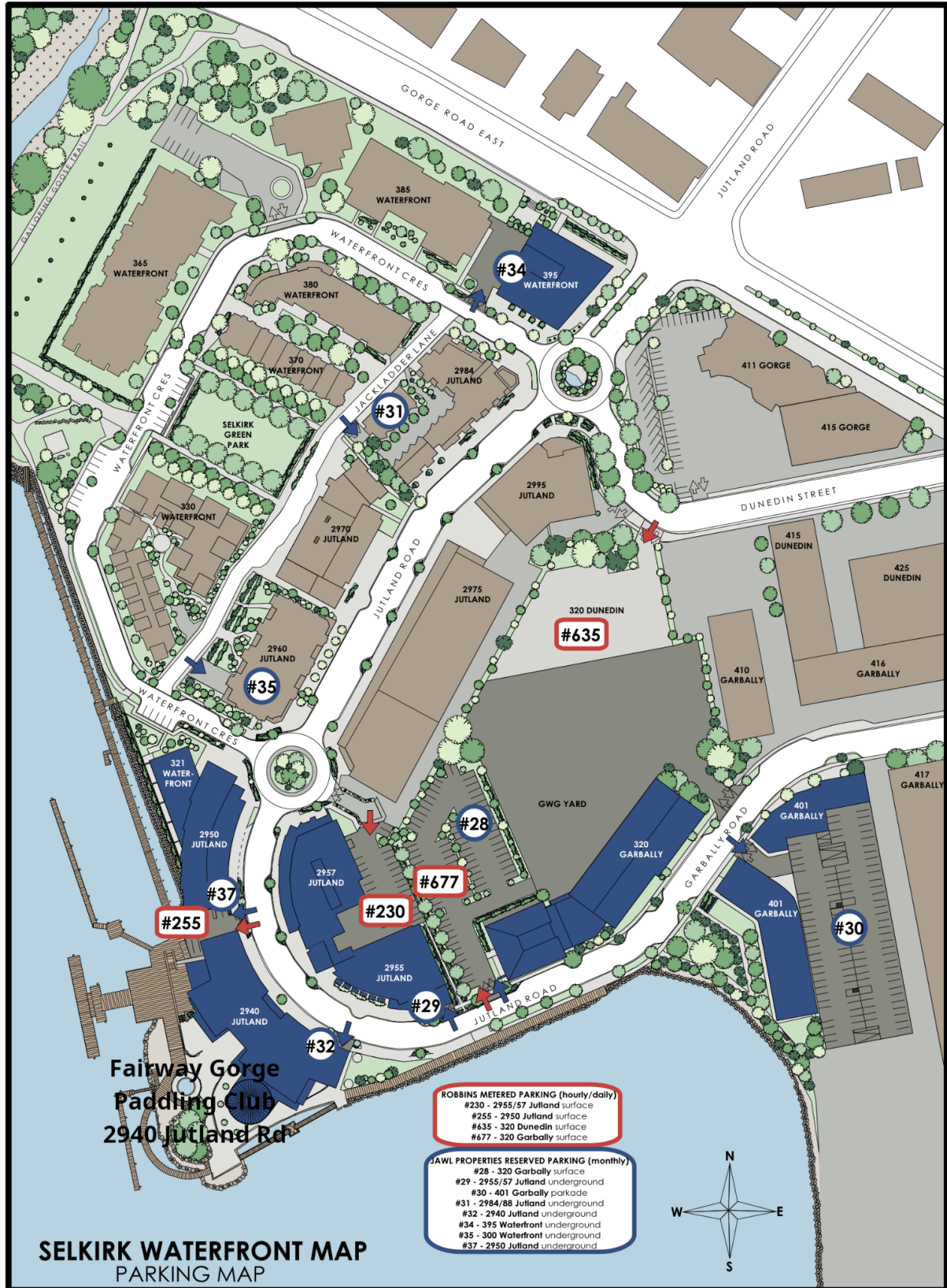
FGPC is providing a paddlers' village consisting of pre-assigned spaces for a single 10X10 tent for each team in the surface parking lot adjacent to the race site (between 2940 and 2950 Jutland Road). Paddlers Village tent spaces are pre-assigned and tent numbers and locations are provided to teams at check-in. Emergency vehicles and local residents must be able to transit from the private parking (underground) that transects the "village" location.

Parking will be free in the surface lots marked "635" (320 Dunedin) and "677" (320 Garbally) for this event, as shown in the parking map below (see the red arrows indicating the entrance to the lots). Do not park in any spot marked "reserved". Some street parking will be available but please follow all parking signage.

Race Map



Parking Map



About the Fairway Gorge Paddling Club Society (FGPC)

Fairway Gorge Paddling Club is a non-profit society dedicated to sharing the benefits of paddle sports and fitness with people of all ages and abilities. FGPC strives to encourage participation, personal challenge and the pursuit of excellence. FGPC broadens access to recreational sport by offering a range of coached training programs and dynamic community events.