



Hugh Town Memorial Builder Award Don Mulhall 2021



NOMINATION SUMMARY

Don Mulhall has a 25-year legacy of selfless volunteer effort to paddlesports in general and outrigger canoe racing in particular.

He has made contributions to support Canadian paddlers at the international, national, provincial, and club level.

He has been part of the Penticton Racing Canoe Club (PRCC) that has hosted the popular Penticton Duel In The Desert, Length Of The Lake Ultra-Distance, Okanagan Small-Boat Racing Series, Skaha Downwind event, Channel Parkway small-boat event and Penticton Dragon Boat Festival.

He has served both on the Penticton Racing Canoe Club Executive continuously from 1999-2021 and on the CORA Board from 2017-2019.

HISTORICAL: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS OVER TIME

Don is recognized as a Founding Member of Penticton Racing Canoe Club. CORA records indicate that Brent Bagnall and Drew Mitchell brought the first OC6 to the Okanagan when Brent trailered "The Burrard" from False Creek to Penticton in 1989. **Don** had relocated from Vancouver to the Okanagan in the mid-1990s. Penticton Racing Canoe Club was co-founded by Brent Bagnall and **Don** by 1999.

The Penticton Duel In The Desert inaugural event took place in 1999. **Don** served as Race Director for the Penticton Duel In The Desert event for the first time in 1999 and every year through 2019. The 21st Annual event in 2019 would make the Penticton Duel In The Desert Iron the third longest continuously running outrigger canoe racing Iron event in Canada. [01]

Don has contributed to the ongoing success of the Penticton Racing Canoe Club as a member of the Penticton Executive since circa 1999. He and Tina Hoeben have composed and published countless articles on the Penticton Racing Canoe Club website highlighting events hosted by Penticton Racing Canoe Club and worldwide events attended by Penticton Racing Canoe Club members.

Don has contributed to the ongoing success of the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA) by serving on the CORA Board in several roles from 2017-2019. The effort to coordinate the CORA Cup Series Points Results has become increasingly simplified courtesy of **Don**. His diligence in composing and publishing the CORA Cup Series Rules provided clarity for CORA teams participating in the CORA Cup Series.

Don has been active in the local community as a liaison with the municipal government and has delivered communiques in support of the engagement processes for the future of Skaha Lake (PRCC) and Okanagan Lake (KPC) waterfront access. [02] [03]

CURRENT: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS THIS YEAR

The COVID pandemic of 2020/2021 prompted cancellation of sports activities worldwide. Although in-person outrigger canoe racing did not resume until July 2021, **Don** as outrigger director for Penticton collaborated with the CORA Board to include Penticton as a CORA Sanctioned Event host club for the CORA 2021 Spring Virtual Races. **Don** was the **ONLY** one of 12 CORA Sanctioned Event host clubs who communicated to the CORA Board the appreciation of his club for the volunteer efforts by CORA.

Dragon boating began in Penticton in 2000 and **Don** has been part of dragon boat training and racing in Penticton since the beginning. Although Penticton Dragon Boat Festival was cancelled for 2020 and 2021, **Don** and the Penticton Dragon Boat Festival organizers put on a "give Dragon Boating a try" free session in early August 2021. A record number of interested people showed up that Saturday morning at Skaha Lake. The Penticton Dragon Boat Festival team hosted Introduction to Dragonboat lessons every Tuesday and Thursday night from Aug-10 to Sep-2.

On what would have been the weekend of the 21st Annual Penticton Dragon Boat Festival, local paddlers came out and had a socially distanced, double-vaxed mini festival organized by **Don** on a beautiful Saturday morning, all the while raising funds for Penticton's new Boathouse.

The unplanned effort to collect CORA outrigger canoeing history was a spin-off from the CORA Canoe Registry initiative. **Don** agreed to sit for an interview in 2021 that resulted in a vast set of material on Penticton that will eventually become the "*The Penticton Story*". **Don** provided recollections of events / times / places / individuals related to Okanagan canoeing history spanning the late 1990s through present day.

SPECIFIC: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADVANCEMENT OF THE SPORT

Penticton Big-Boat & Small-Boat Fleet

CORA has noted how the importance of the ongoing introduction of new canoes to clubs and regions has contributed to the growth of the sport. **Don** has served as an intermediary in expanding access to canoes to other CORA member clubs though his efforts to continuously expand and upgrade the Penticton canoe fleet

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CORA is aware that Penticton Racing Canoe Club acquired a Hawaiian Class Racer (HCR) in 2000. Apparently, someone at the Penticton Racing Canoe Club made a deal with a California club (possibly at a Catalina Channel Crossing race) to have a HCR delivered to the Columbia River Outrigger Canoe Club's Race Around The Island (RATI) in 2000. Kikaha O Ke Kai of Tacoma, WA did not have an OC6 at that time and had their eyes on that HCR but someone named Dave Olds, towed that OC6 from Portland, OR to Seattle, WA. **Don Mulhall**, of the Penticton Racing Canoe Club, drove to Seattle during rush hour and picked up the boat with a trailer borrowed from Vernon Racing Canoe Club (VRCC). **Don** towed the HCR to Canada where it became the first club OC6 in Penticton.

Vernon Racing Canoe Club had acquired two Dennis Campbell Rhinos during this same time. We believe that those two Dennis Campbell Rhinos came to Canada from California via the same route as the Penticton HCR. When Vernon upgraded their OC6 fleet with the addition of Clipper Advantages and an Outrigger Connection Mirage in the early 2000s, **Don** arranged to have the two Dennis Campbell Rhinos sold to Penticton to expand their fleet to three OC6s.

Don then arranged for Penticton to acquire a Calmar Canadian Class Racer (CCR) in the early 2000s. One of the Dennis Campbell Rhinos was then sold to a Victoria club to expand the fleet of OC6s on Vancouver Island. This first Dennis Campbell Rhino would then move onwards to Sproat Lake and then to Yellowknife and then to Prince Rupert. The other Dennis Campbell Rhino was then sold to Pacific Reach in 2006 to expand their fleet of OC6s. This second Dennis Campbell Rhino would then move onwards through the Inside Passage to a new home.

Prior to 2002, Jericho had a variety of Surfrigger and Kaiwi Challenger OC1s for small-boat training. Open Ocean Outrigger (Ross Creasy and Melanie Whittall) had contracted Western Canoe and Kayaking to manufacture a line of one-person outrigger canoes. Jericho acquired three of the first generation sit-on-top C-Lion OC1s from Open Ocean Outrigger in 2002. Jericho would sell all three of these first-generation C-Lion OC1s to Pentiction Racing Canoe Club in 2005 to finance the acquisition of three of the second-generation open cockpit sit-inside C-Lion ST OC1s from Open Ocean Outrigger in 2006.

Don then arranged for Pentiction to acquire an Outrigger Connection Mirage sometime between 2007-2009, bringing the Pentiction fleet to three OC6s.

Between 2016-2017, **Don** orchestrated a deal to sell the Pentiction CCR to Kelowna Paddle Club (KPC) to provide KPC with a second CCR to rig a double-hull (V12) for winter paddling. **Don** utilized the proceeds from the sale of the CCR to finance the acquisition of two Bradley Lightnings and upgrade the Pentiction fleet to four modern OC6s.

The Bradley Hawaiian Hawk ama was included with each of the 80+ Bradley Lightnings manufactured by Pogue Sports between 2007-2012. When Canadian production of the Bradley Lightning came to an end in 2012/2013, the Bradley Hawaiian Hawk ama mould was delivered to Ron Kaschula of Calmar Fibreglass. **Don** was one of many Canadian club directors to order Bradley Hawaiian Hawk amas to supplement their ageing OC6 amas.

Cultural Tradition

Although it is common practice among Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Polynesia outrigger clubs to name their canoes and provide a page on their websites dedicated to the history of their canoes, this is a tradition followed by very few Canadian clubs. Many outrigger clubs give their canoes names associated with the land and waters surrounding their location or names of departed club members. There is also a tradition of a blessing ceremony by the paddling community to instill goodwill upon the canoe. **Don** has played a part in ensuring this cultural tradition is ingrained at Pentiction with every OC6 given a meaningful name. Hence the names for the current and former club OC6s (Ahonui - Canadian Class Racer, Keahou - Dennis Campbell Rhino, Ehukai - Dennis Campbell Rhino, Lokahi - Hawaiian Class Racer, Kia Pa'a - Mirage, Ka Makani O Skaha - Bradley Lightning, Holomakani - Bradley Lightning)

Pentiction Club Venue

The Pentiction canoes were on the beach at Skaha Lake until **Don** approached the City of Pentiction Parks and Recreation in the early 2000s about converting a shed constructed in the 1960s at Skaha Lake Park East into storage for dragon boats and outrigger canoes. Pentiction outrigger canoe and dragon boat paddlers have worked with **Don** to convert this shed and adjacent fenced area into a compound for 3 outrigger canoes and 7 dragon boats and all manner of small-boats (30+). Since acquiring this boathouse for Pentiction Racing Canoe Club, **Don** has invested extensive volunteer time for many years to provide the club with an OC6 trailer, outrigger canoe and dragon boat carts, racks for small-boats, and secured donations of life-saving equipment Automated External Defibrillators (AED).

Don has been collaborating with the City of Pentiction from 2019-2021 on the Skaha Lake Park East Plan with stakeholders including Pentiction City Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Pentiction Indian Band Council and staff, Skaha Marina, Protect Pentiction Parks Society, Pentiction Racing Canoe Club, and the Dragon Boat Festival Society to assist with improvements to the park that will hopefully provide Pentiction Racing Canoe Club and the Dragon Boat Festival Society with a new and expanded boathouse near the existing footprint. [04]

Coaching

Don has coached Pentiction competitive, recreational, and Junior crews to success at CORA Cup Series races, PNWORCA events, and Hawaii races. Some of those successes have received press coverage:

- The Pentiction Racing Canoe Club mixed crew battled windy conditions and big water to finish first at the 2011 Freshwater Challenge 44-km change race in Vernon. [05]
- The Pentiction Racing Canoe Club mixed crew finished first at the 2013 National Iron Championship race in Vernon placing them as the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA) National Champions. [06]

- Penticton Racing Canoe Club crews topped the podium at the 2014 Canadian National Outrigger Races in Gibsons as crews battled strong winds and some of the year's strongest tide changes in a race that went out of Gibsons harbour northwest along the coast and turned back to go around Keats Island and returned to Gibsons. [07]
- Competing in the 2015 Maui-To-Molokai open ocean race in waves more than 17 feet high and winds of 35 knots and finishing OC2 Mens 3rd. [08]
- Penticton Juniors took 2015 Canadian Outrigger Race Association (CORA) Cup Junior Trophy National honours while Penticton Mixed crew earned the Canadian Outrigger Race Association (CORA) Cup Trophy for the third year in a row for top mixed crew at races held at Jericho Sailing Centre on English Bay around Passage Island and back. [09]
- Penticton crews came away with four medals from the 2017 Canadian National Championship in Harrison Hot Springs in OC6 and small-boat.
- Penticton crew took 1st place Mixed Sr Masters and 2nd overall Mixed at the 2017 Bellingham Classic OC6 Iron race where winds made for some exciting conditions on the water. [10]

Outrigger Camps

Aside from being outrigger coach for Penticton outrigger canoe and dragon boat crews, **Don** has also coordinated one-week outrigger canoe camps in 2016 and 2017 on Maui in the Winter. His promotional material provides extensive information on flights, accommodation, ground transportation, training, and sightseeing. [11]

Reunification

A very identifiable orange buoy named "Jack" had been moored off a set of houses on Eastside Road and served as a reference point for at least eight years for club dragon boat and outrigger canoe 5.33K time trials, as well as a marker known around the province by competitors for some of the longer outrigger canoe race courses. When Jack was found just off Skaha Lake beach in early 2018 following the winter ice break up, **Don** went to great lengths to help get Jack back home to his owner. [12] [13]

Okanagan Racing Events

Don has a long history of volunteer effort as Race Director and registrar and timer not only for various Penticton OC6, novel small-boat, and dragon boat events, but also for events hosted by other clubs:

- Penticton Racing Canoe Club has hosted a Rattlesnake Island Small Boat Race from Antlers Beach around Rattlesnake Island as part of the Okanagan Small-Boat Race Series. [14]
- Penticton Racing Canoe Club has hosted a Skaha Downwind event between Penticton and Okanagan Falls for one-person and two-person boats as well as six-person outrigger canoes with direction determined by the winds to create the much sought-after waves and rough conditions that help propel the craft along the route. [15]
- Penticton Racing Canoe Club has hosted a Channel Parkway 10K small-boat event between Skaha Lake and Okanagan Lake designed to take advantage of the winds that the South Okanagan traditionally gets in the fall months where the race direction is determined by which way the wind is blowing. [16]
- Penticton Racing Canoe Club and Vernon Racing Canoe Club have jointly hosted the Length of the Lake Ultra-Distance Race that was held for the 19th time in 2019. This event is a 100-kilometre paddle from Kin Beach in Vernon to the Peach at Okanagan Lake in Penticton for one-person, or two-person, or six-person canoes. There are references that this event was officially established in 2000, but it is believed that Drew Mitchell and Brent Bagnall and **Don Mulhall** started this event informally in the late 1990s. [17] [18] [19] [20]
- Penticton Racing Canoe Club hosted the 21st annual Duel In The Desert Outrigger Canoe race at Skaha Lake in May 2019 making this the third longest continuously running outrigger canoe race in Canada. This event has generally been the first race of the CORA Cup Race Series. The COVID pandemic of 2020/2021 caused a 2-year hiatus for this successful event. The Duel In The Desert OC6 and small-boat event was started in 1999 by **Don** and co-founder Brent Bagnall. **Don** was Race Director all 21 times that this event had been held. This event has had a reputation for having some of the most attractive awards and prizes courtesy of a diverse set of sponsors including Lake Breeze Winery, Cannery Brewing, Summerland Sweets, and Tree Brewing. [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29]

Dragon Boat

Don Mulhall, coach of the Penticton Dragon Boat Club, has been part of dragon boat training and racing in Penticton since the beginning. **Don** started working for GO Rowing & Paddling Association as head coach and manager of the

Penticton Paddle Centre. **Don** was responsible for having GO Rowing & Paddling deliver a dragon boat, paddles, and PFDs to Penticton in Spring 2000.

Don has provided race management for the Penticton Dragon Boat Festival (PDBF) for 20 years from 2000-2019. He has acted as Race Director not only in Penticton, but also for some of BC's bigger dragon boat and outrigger canoeing events including Nanaimo, Kelowna, BC Senior's Games, and Vernon. In 2014 GO Rowing & Paddling turned all of its operations over to the respective local groups to manage.

Originally held on Okanagan Lake, the PDBF has now found its home at beautiful Skaha Lake Park. The PDBF has grown to be one of Penticton's largest sporting events and festivals as many teams make the PDBF the big season-ending event their teams train for all year. The PDBF has attracted over 2,000 competitors from 80+ teams and generates more than \$2.3 million in direct and indirect economic impact. [30] [31]

Spokesperson

Don has always been committed to spreading the legacy of outrigger canoeing experiences to other paddlers. **Don** as outrigger coach and director has organized Penticton paddlers for local and faraway events. **Don** and Tina Hoeben have been able to generate interest within the outrigger canoeing and dragon boat paddling community by having articles regarding the experience of Penticton paddlers published by local media sites including Penticton Herald, Today In BC, Penticton Western News, Castanet, Kelowna Daily Courier, Summerland Review, Keremeos Review, and Kialoa Blogs.

HUGH TOWN MEMORIAL BUILDER AWARD



The purpose of the **Hugh Town Memorial Builder Award** is to recognize volunteers who have made significant and exemplary contributions to the Outrigger Canoe Racing Discipline of Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA) within Canada in the Builder Category.

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/community-2/the-hugh-a-town-memorial-builder-award/>

Prior to the 2019 CORA AGM there was no formal policy / process for administering and bestowing this award upon an individual. An outcome of the 2019 CORA AGM was approval of a policy / process to administer and potentially bestow this award upon a member each year.

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Hugh-Town-Memorial-BUILDER-Award-Policy.pdf>

The CORA Board reviewed nominations received for the 2021 season and recognized **Don Mulhall**, of Penticton Racing Canoe Club, as the 2021 recipient of the **Hugh Town Memorial Builder Award**.

REFERENCES

#	Note	Link
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02	2021 Skaha Lake Park East Plan Letter	https://www.penticton.ca/sites/default/files/docs/city-hall/council-committees/parks-and-recreation-advisory/Late%20Item%20-%20Letter%20DB.pdf
03	2013 City of Kelowna Regular Council Meeting Minutes	http://apps.kelowna.ca/CityPage/Docs/PDFs/Council/Meetings/Council%20Meetings%202013/2013-07-30/Regular%20Tuesday/Minutes%20-%20Regular%20Tuesday%20Council%20Meeting_Jul30_2013.pdf
04	2021 Skaha Lake Park East Plan	https://www.penticton.ca/sites/default/files/docs/parks-and-recreation/2021-03-16-PDF-Skaha%20Lake%20Park%20East%20Plan%20Final%20Document.pdf
05	2011 Freshwater Challenge	https://www.todayinbc.com/sports/paddlers-take-freshwater-plunge/
06	2013 Canadian National Championships	https://www.pentictonherald.ca/sports/local_sports/article_353e6b36-16f2-51bb-b5ce-50530a5798bb.html
07	2014 Canadian National Championships	https://www.todayinbc.com/sports/penticton-canoe-crew-paddle-way-to-national-podium/
08	2015 Maui to Molokai	https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/sports/paddling-hawaii-waters-prove-tough/
09	2015 Canadian National Championships	https://www.pentictonherald.ca/sports/local_sports/article_900b6f74-2c22-11e5-b790-6bb7cdda69dc.html
10	2017 Canadian National Championships	https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/sports/canoe-teams-win-four-medals-at-nationals/
11	2016 / 2017 Hawaiian Outrigger Camps	http://www.kelownapaddlecentre.ca/december-hawaiian-outrigger-camp/
12	2018 Jack Lost	https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/news/just-a-buoy-looking-to-find-his-way-home/
13	2018 Jack Lost	https://www.summerlandreview.com/news/just-a-buoy-looking-to-find-his-way-home/
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15	2014 Skaha Downwind	https://www.todayinbc.com/sports/record-setting-race-for-skaha-downwind-event/
16	2016 Channel Parkway	https://www.pentictonherald.ca/sports/article_e7a34762-88f0-11e6-aae9-0badb5200a21.html
17	2019 Length of the Lake Ultra-Distance	https://pentictonoutrigger.com/races/length-lake-ultra-paddle-race/
18	2019 Length of the Lake Ultra-Distance	https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/264920/Race-spans-length-of-lake
19	2019 Length of the Lake Ultra-Distance	https://www.localgymsandfitness.com/CA/Penticton/931853346853664/Length-of-the-Lake-100-km-Ultra-Paddling-Race
20	2016 Length of the Lake Ultra-Distance	https://kialoa.com/blogs/talkstory/length-of-the-lake
21	2000 Duel In The Desert	http://www.jerichooutrigger.com/races2000.html
22	2001 Duel In The Desert	http://www.jerichooutrigger.com/races2001.html
23	2002 Duel In The Desert	http://www.jerichooutrigger.com/races2002.html
24	2010 Duel In The Desert	https://pentictonoutrigger.com/blog/duel-desert-2010-summary/
25	2016 Duel In The Desert (17th)	https://www.pressreader.com/canada/penticton-herald/20160714/281792808366562
26	2017 Duel In The Desert (19th)	https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/sports/duel-in-the-desert-hits-skaha-lake-2/
27	2018 Duel In The Desert (20th)	https://www.pentictonherald.ca/sports/local_sports/article_73818902-54a5-11e8-a246-e3a9dbd3bd70.html
28	2019 Duel In The Desert (21st)	https://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/news/article_1582fdc2-7399-11e9-bf2d-0b20072298e9.html
29	2019 Duel In The Desert (21st)	https://pentictonoutrigger.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/newsletter-PRCC-April-2019.pdf?x92439
30	2021 Penticton Dragon Boat Festival	https://pentictondragonboat.com/
31	2021 Penticton Dragon Boat Festival	https://www.keremeosreview.com/community/mini-penticton-dragon-boat-festival-stays-covid-19-safe-on-skaha-lake/