



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Rosemary Henry



Summary

The history of outrigger canoeing at ORPC is linked with the growth of various recreational and competitive paddlesports on Vancouver Island. Most Canadian outrigger canoe clubs are founded through the efforts of a single or small group of individuals with a vision. Rosemary (Baird) Henry would be that individual who would start ORPC with the assistance of Brian Henry. The ORPC boathouse construction, the Bridges mid-distance outrigger canoe race, the Inny-Outty small-boat race, and the Island Iron were all established through the efforts of ORPC members, led by Rosemary.

Early Career

Strathcona Park Lodge (SPL) was founded in 1959 by Jim / Myrna Boulding and has been committed to improve Canada's outdoor education industry. [01] Jim / Myrna Boulding would have 3 daughters (Elizabeth; Annie; Josie) and 2 sons (Jamie; Nicholas). [02] Strathcona Park Lodge (SPL) has been home for many individuals who have made significant contributions to Canadian outrigger canoeing including: Sheila Taylor - Flatwater Olympian and CKBC legend, [03] Annie Boulding - Comox Valley Canoe Racing Club (CVCRC) founder, [04] Christine (Tina) Clarke - 1986 Commonwealth Games rowing gold medal winner, [05] Laurel Archer - 20+ years Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training (COLT) program canoe guide and instructor, [06] and David Boulding co-founder of False Creek Racing Canoe Club (FCRCC) as well as CORA. [07]

Rosemary came to the West Coast from Halifax, Nova Scotia to teach outdoor education at Strathcona Park Lodge in 1981. While on Vancouver Island, Rosemary competed in the Marathon Canoe leg of the 1994 Snow to Surf Race in Courtenay. [08] A Victoria Times Colonist article from June 1994 discusses Garry Mancell, co-founder of CORA and coach of the Lotus Eaters Outrigger Canoe Club, holding an outrigger clinic with Victoria Canoe Kayak Club (VCKC). [09] Arrangements had been made to add an outrigger canoe to the VCKC fleet by way of a one-year loan of "The Burrard", a 44-foot six-person outrigger canoe, that CORA was making available to new outrigger canoe clubs as a starter outrigger canoe. "The Burrard" was with VCKC as a starter outrigger canoe from 1994-1995. Soon after "The Burrard" moved onwards to its next home, VCKC acquired the 1st of their 2 Calmar Canadian Class Racer canoes. Rosemary knew nothing about outrigger canoe paddling at the time, but she was invited to attend the VCKC outrigger canoe program in 1994 when a VCKC member saw her paddle the Marathon Canoe leg of the 1994 Snow to Surf Race in Courtenay that year.

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

Rosemary has represented Team Canada at International Va'a Federation (IVF) World Sprints from 2002-2012. Rosemary competed with Team Canada at the 2002 Tahiti IVF World Sprints. [10] Rosemary raced with Andrea Dillon, Daphne Brockington, Diane Shephard, Joanne Vance, Kendall (Kim) Macmillan, and Marina McCready as Team Canada to Silver in V6 500M Sr Masters Women. Rosemary would also take Bronze in V1 500M Sr Masters Women. [11] Rosemary has lots of fond memories about the time in Tahiti including the tremendous support from Andrea Dillon who believed in her and invited her to join their Vancouver crew. Rosemary recognizes Andrea Dillon as a wonderful coach and mentor. Rosemary competed with Team Canada at the 2004 Hilo IVF World Sprints where she would advance to semi-finals in V1 500M Sr Masters Women. [12] Rosemary would also advance to semi-finals in V12 500M Sr Masters Women, V12 500M Masters Women, V6 1000M Sr Masters Women, V6 1000M Masters Women, V6 500M Sr Masters Women, and V6 500M Masters Women with several Team Canada crews. [13] Rosemary competed with Team Canada at the 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints. [14] [15] Rosemary would advance to semi-finals in V12 500M Golden Masters Women, V12 500M Sr Masters Women, V6 1000M Golden Masters Women, V6 1000M Sr Masters Women, V6 500M Golden Masters Women, and V6 500M Sr Masters Women with several Team Canada crews. [16] Rosemary did not compete with Team Canada at 2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints, [17] but was a member of the Sprint Council as team co-ordinator with the goal of building the strongest possible Team Canada 2012. [18]

Rosemary went to the 2005 Edmonton World Masters Games where she took Gold and Silver in 2 OC1 events, finishing just ahead or just behind Neda Joss. [19] [20]

Coach-Builder Achievements

There maybe several ORPC paddlers who have contributed to outrigger canoeing endeavours, but one individual who stands out is Rosemary Henry. Rosemary is recognized as the founder of ORPC and served as CORA Representative for ORPC through 2004 until Cindy Wright became the CORA Representative for ORPC for many years. [21]

The unplanned effort to collect CORA outrigger canoeing history was a spin-off from the CORA Canoe Registry initiative. [22] Rosemary agreed to sit for an interview in 2021 that resulted in a vast set of material on ORPC that became the "*The ORPC Legacy*" (1995-2021). [23] She then took it upon herself to conduct research to confirm events / dates / places / individuals and diligently proof-read several drafts until the content was factually / politically correct. Rosemary provided a wealth of photos / names / dates that have become part of the ongoing CORA Team Canada IVF Legacy perpetual page. [24]

Pioneering Achievements

Rosemary formed ORPC in order to encourage competitive paddling. VCKC at the time was not supportive of competitive crews paddling out of their club. Brian Henry offered up his business' dock location (Ocean River Sports) for ORPC to start a 2nd paddling club in Victoria in 1995. Once ORPC had their 1st Clipper Advantage OC6, the paddlers came. ORPC started with only 6 members and within 3 years ORPC was up to almost 100 members. Rick Nu'u and Jackie Webber came over once to do a clinic with ORPC when they were still pretty new to the sport. Rosemary developed a Learn to Outrigger canoe program which was advertised around Victoria.

Brian Henry, founder of Ocean River Sports [25] and Current Designs [26] and beloved husband of Rosemary since 1990, parlayed his connections with Western Canoeing & Kayaking to acquire a Clipper Advantage as the 1st OC6 for ORPC in 1996. ORPC would acquire a 2nd Clipper Advantage a year later. Karel Tresnak of Outrigger Connection began to successfully manufacture OC1s in 1993. [27] The 1st prototype of the Outrigger Connection Mirage OC6 was introduced in 1997. Outrigger Connection opened its 1st franchise in 2002 with Current Designs in Victoria BC and then its 2nd franchise in 2003 with Outrigger Connection Australia. [28] ORPC acquired its 1st Outrigger Connection Mirage in 1998. It was Karel Tresnak's original boat (the plug) that was shipped to Current Designs so that a North American plant could be established. ORPC acquired its 2nd Outrigger Connection Mirage in 2000. Only a half dozen were built on Vancouver Island before the Outrigger Connection Mirage plug was sent to Western Canoeing & Kayaking who were better set up to build big boats.

A significant part of the growth of ORPC was due to hosting races. Rosemary saw a need for friendly competition on Vancouver Island so she founded the Bridges Race (6KM) in 1996 in the protected waters of the Gorge Waterway. The ORPC Bridges mid-distance OC6 race has been one of the longest continuous running OC6 races in Canada, 2nd only to the Lotus IceBreaker. [29] The ORPC Bridges small-boat race (Inny / Outty) was added by Rosemary the following year in 1997. The ORPC Island Iron off Cadboro Bay was founded for open water racing by Rosemary in 1999. [30] The ORPC Island Iron was the 1st and the longest running outrigger canoe race on Vancouver Island. ORPC and Comox Valley Canoe Racing Club (CVCRC) have alternated hosting the Island Iron for many years. Rosemary had been race director for the 17KM Island Iron Race and the shorter 6KM Bridges Race for many years before hanging up her paddle in 2005. [31]

Exemplary Achievements

Sometimes the greatest legacy we leave is our children. Rosemary and Brian Henry instilled a passion for the sea in their sons Russell and Graham Henry. In January 2014, the 2 brothers from Victoria, BC, completed an ambitious 4000 miles sea kayak expedition from Belem Brazil, passing through more than 20 countries and island-hopping across the Caribbean Sea to finish at Juno Beach Florida. [33] The brothers applied the experience of years spent paddling and guiding on Canada's wet and chilly coastline to their journey in the subtropics. The Henry brothers became the 1st to paddle across the Caribbean since a team led by sea kayaking legend John Dowd made the notoriously arduous journey in 1979. [34] Russell Graham would claim the fastest solo circumnavigation of Vancouver Island in 2014 taking 2.5 days off the previous record. [35] Russell and Graham Henry would paddle to 7th place overall with Team Soggy Beavers in the inaugural (2015) Race to Alaska (R2AK) in a double-ama Clipper Advantage OC-6 with 2 sail rigs. [36] Graham Henry would take 1st in K1 at 2017 Yukon Quest. [37]

References

Note	Article	Link
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[03]	1985 Sheila Taylor CKBC Legend	https://www.canoekayakbc.ca/about/ckbc-legends?c=sheila-taylor
[04]	1987 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships	https://www.canoeslalom.net/doku.php/de_international/result/wm87
[05]	1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games (Coxed Fours – Jane Tregunno; Jenny Walinga; Leslie Thompson; Tina Clarke; Tricia Smith)	https://books.google.com/books?id=BbM7DwAAQBAJ&pg=PA445&lpg=PA445&dq=Commonwealth+Games+rowing+gold+medal+winner+Christine+(Tina)+Clarke&source=bl&ots=9II-M4Utm-&sig=ACfU3U3CgR4ogOtP_F8rh-HTxQ7Jo49XUg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjlv6qmqH1AhUxIjQIHQGD9sQ6AF6BAgOEAM#v=onepage&q=Commonwealth%20Games%20rowing%20gold%20medal%20winner%20Christine%20(Tina)%20Clarke&f=false
[06]	About Laurel Archer	http://www.laurelarcher.com/
[07]	About David Boulding - Fetal Alcohol Consultant	http://www.davidboulding.com/about-david.html
[08]	1982 Royal LePage Snow to Surf	https://www.snowtosurf.com/about/
[09]	1994 CORA VCKC Clinic	https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/508327871/
[10]	2002 Tahiti IVF World Sprints	http://www.ivfiv.org/2002-tahiti.html
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[15]	2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints Blog	http://teamcanadasacramento.blogspot.com/2008/08/day-5-finals.html
[16]	2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints CORA	https://canadianoutrigger.ca/2008-california/
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[19]	2005 Edmonton World Masters Games	https://imga.ch/about-the-masters-games/all-masters-games/world-masters-games/edmonton-2005/
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[21]	2004 CORA Meeting Minutes	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2004.pdf
[22]	2020 CORA Cultural Continuity	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/community-2/cultural-continuity/
[23]	2022 Ocean River Legacy	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/The-ORPC-Legacy-Latest.pdf
[24]	2022 CORA Team Canada IVF Legacy	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/team-canada-ivf-legacy/
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[36]	2015 Race to Alaska (R2AK) Results	https://r2ak.com/2015-full-race-results/
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