



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 (as well as Brent Bagnall) is recognized as a Founding Member of Penticton Racing Canoe Club as of 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 the 1st time in 1999 and every year through 2019. The 21st Annual event in 2019 would make the Penticton Duel In The Desert Iron the 3rd 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 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.

CURRENT: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS THIS YEAR

The COVID pandemic of 2020/2021 prompted cancellation of sports activities worldwide. In-person outrigger canoe racing did not resume until July 2021, yet **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.

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 through his efforts to continuously expand and upgrade the Penticton canoe fleet

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 Penticton 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)

Penticton Club Venue

The Penticton canoes were on the beach at Skaha Lake until **Don** approached the City of Penticton 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. Penticton 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 Penticton 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).

Coaching

Don has coached Penticton 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.

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]

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.

Dragon Boat

Don Mulhall, coach of the Penticton Dragon Boat Club, has been part of dragon boat training / racing in Penticton since the beginning. **Don** started with 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.

Spokesperson

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, 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/>

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/
14	2011 Rattlesnake Island	https://pentictonoutrigger.com/blog/rattlesnake-island-small-boat-race-2011/
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
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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/