



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Lynda Roberts



Summary

Lynda Roberts is Manager of the Calgary Canoe Club. [01] Lynda is highly knowledgeable of event-day planning and operations for competitive events, sprint canoe / kayak, dragon boat and outrigger canoe. As a masters athlete, outrigger canoe coach and Manager of the Calgary Canoe Club, Lynda shares her passion for paddling sports, and the breathtaking facility that overlooks Calgary's beloved Glenmore reservoir. [02] Calgary Canoe Club members have noted how they are consistently impressed by the methods Lynda uses to promote outrigger canoe paddling. [03] Lynda continues to operate Calgary Canoe Club spring training camps on Maui (to stretch out the on-water season), and work with her close mentor, Kimokeo Kapahulehua, to share experiences of both ocean paddling and of the Hawaiian culture with our paddling members.

Early Career

Lynda started competitive paddling in 1984 as a member of the Calgary Canoe Club's Sprint Canoe/Kayak program. With fellow teammates such as Kamini Jain and Jackie Webber, the CCC ladies war canoe program was a formidable force and went on to medal at several National Championships in the late 1980s. Lynda preferred sprint canoe over the kayak and was part of the growing trend of women (led by Sheila Kuyper) and competed in C4, C2 and finally C1 at the 1998 National Championships in Whistler, BC.

As Lynda completed her Physical Education Degree in Calgary, she worked seasonally at the Calgary Canoe Club first as a recreational instructor gaining knowledge in river canoe and kayaking. This progressed to coaching sprint canoe/kayak and completing her NCCP Level 3 (Competitive Development) certification. Lynda coached at the Club and Provincial level and attended various Western Canada and Canada Summer Games as coach and/or Team Manager. Lynda was hired as the Club Manager in 1995.

Coach-Builder Achievements

John Roberts (no relation) started the outrigger canoe program in Calgary in 1998, when he donated 2 OC6s to the Calgary Canoe Club. In addition to her role as Manager, Lynda started competing in outrigger canoe races and gradually began coaching as new paddlers joined the outrigger canoe discipline. Lynda's first trip to Maui in 2005 and paddling on the ocean with Kimokeo was a turning point to developing her passion for outrigger canoe. This was followed by joining Kamini and Jackie for a few Waters Edge training camps in Maui and Arizona, developing these skills as a coach.

Lynda has helped grow the outrigger canoe program at Calgary Canoe Club. CORA has noted how the ongoing introduction of canoes to clubs and regions has contributed to the growth of the sport. Lynda has overseen the growth of the CCC fleet to 2 Clipper Advantage OC6s, 4 Bradley Lightnings (legacy of 2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints), and 2 Giblin Vortex Unlimited OC6s as well as a full fleet of both OC1 and rudderless V1 so that Team Canada Sprint Trials may be held on the Glenmore Reservoir using a fleet of similar boats. CCC sold 2 Outrigger Connection Mirage OC6s to Fairway Gorge Paddling Club to help FGPC grow their fleet.

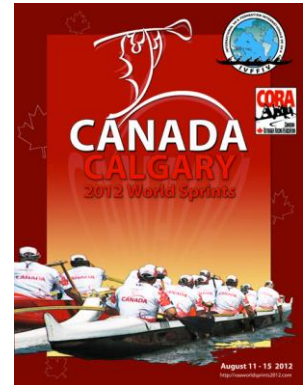
Lynda volunteers as member of the Calgary Dragon Boat Society on the Steering Committee & Advisors. In addition to coaching the Club's outrigger canoe paddlers Lynda has partnered with Calgary's Sistership Dragon Boat cancer survivor team to develop their outrigger canoe paddling skills and get them involved in Paddle for Life, a cancer survivor voyage event in Maui. Many of the Sistership ladies are now full-time members of the CCC outrigger canoe program and continue to participate in both CORA and cancer survivor voyage events in Maui and Montana.

Lynda is a past member of the CORA IVF Committee and was on the IVF Board from 2015-2020, providing continuity and a voice at the IVF table as Team Canada has become a major player at IVF World Sprints / Distance events. As of 2021, Lynda has been on the IVF Technical Committee offering assistance to the IVF World Championships hosts in running the event as well as offering expertise in the area of race officials and hosting the event. With support from Leanne Stanley as the Team Canada Area Coordinator for the 2022 London IVF World Sprints, Team Canada once again led the way by providing volunteers and race officials to assist London in

hosting a successful IVF World Sprints event. All the Team Canada paddlers that volunteered are to be congratulated for making that event a success.

Pioneering Achievements

The CORA IVF Committee bid for Calgary Canada to host the 2012 IVF World Sprints had been accepted by the IVF Committee long before Team Canada would depart for the 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints. In 2008, John Roberts approached CORA and proposed that Kamini Jain and Lynda Roberts take the lead as Coach and Area Coordinator (Manager), respectively, for Team Canada for the 2012 IVF World Sprints. Lynda then continued her involvement with IVF outrigger canoe paddling and attended the 2010 IVF World Sprints as both Area Coordinator and competitor. Just 2 weeks prior to this event, Calgary Canoe Club had agreed to take over as host of the 2012 IVF World Sprints, and hence a hectic 2-year phase began to learn, prepare, train race officials, and raise funds to host this event. Lynda's proudest achievement is being a part of the team to host this successful event and 'raise the bar' in regards to technical proficiency and officiating for the IVF World Sprints. Lynda was asked to be the Race Director at the following 2014 Rio IVF World Sprints.



Donna Harrison as IVF Representative and Lynda Roberts as Team Canada Area Coordinator supported Canada at 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, where Team Canada would take home a total of 7 medals and place 4th overall in the medal standings. In 2012, Calgary Canoe Club would host the IVF World Sprints. [12] Athletes from around the world including Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Europe, Hawaii and mainland USA, Rapa Nui, Brazil, Argentina participated in this event, including members of the CCC as part of Team Canada. [13] Lynda as Race Director, on behalf of the Calgary organizing committee, prepared and distributed an extensive newsletter to all Area Coordinators months ahead of the 2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints. This communique covered Race Information (order of events; medal presentations; race course map), Practice Time Slots, Venue Information (team tents; food market; viewing bleachers), Transportation Information (shuttle service; parking; public transportation), Volunteer Information (coordinators; volunteers), Cultural Events (Opening Ceremonies; Cultural Night). [14] The event was a huge success and testament to the event planning prowess of Lynda and Calgary Canoe Club. Team Canada would send a small contingent to 2014 Rio IVF World Sprints, yet Team Canada would bring home multiple medals with Lynda there as Race Director. [15] 2016 Australia IVF World Sprints was a bellwether event for the Team Canada CORA IVF Committee. A record number of paddlers from Eastern and Western Canada had expressed a Commitment of Interest. The CORA IVF Committee recognized the need to establish a formal selection process and training camps. [16] Time Trials were held in both Eastern and Western Canada. The concept of Club & Elite Crews was introduced for the first time in the history of IVF World Sprints, complicating the selection process even further. The Sprints Council (Lynda Roberts; John Roberts; Leanne Stanley) had completed the Team Selection document in time for the October 2015 trials. Donna Harrison accepted the role of Area Coordinator for Australia. Training camps for those individuals invited to compete with Team Canada were held in Spring 2016. Lynda would drive through snow and sleet to supply the V1s and run the March 2016 training camp at Fort Langley Canoe Club. [17] The 2016 Australia IVF World Sprints were very well attended with Lynda there as Race Director, where Team Canada would bring home 5 medals and the CORA IVF Committee would gain a better understanding of the format of Club and Elite Crews going forward. [18] 2017 was the inaugural year for the IVF World Distance with entries limited to one crew per gender per age category for each IVF Member Nation. The 2016 CORA Distance was decided upon as the venue to select the one crew per Age Division to represent Team Canada. Geronimo Canoe Club would qualify as the 2016 CORA Distance Open Men crew with a very solid Open Women crew from across many clubs (Leanne Stanley; Mel Conrad; Jill Kelly; Kamini Jain; Tara Hastings; Laurel Archer). [19] Lynda was there as Area Coordinator and CORA IVF Representative with the event serving as a learning experience for distance crew selection going forward. [20] The selection process for crews for 2018 Tahiti IVF World Sprints resulted in a great showing for Team Canada. [21] The selection process for crews for 2019 Australia IVF World Distance resulted in another great showing for Team Canada. The selection process for crews for 2022 London IVF World Sprints resulted in what may have very well been the best-ever showing for Team Canada. Through-out this 12-year continuous evolution and refinement of the Team Canada selection process and crew development, Lynda has been there in a variety of roles as IVF Representative, Area Coordinator, Race Director, and competitor.

Exemplary Achievements

Lynda 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 waterfront access and Calgary Riverfront Access Strategy. [29] [30]

References

Note	Article	Link
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[02]	Calgary Dragon Boat Society Board	https://calgarydragonboatsociety.com/about/calgary-dragon-boat-society-board-of-directors/
[03]	Post-COVID Glenmore Reservoir	https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/mobile/we-re-up-and-running-heritage-park-s-s-s-movie-back-after-engine-issues-1.5984838?cache=sbklaajmado?clipId=89680
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[06]	Calgary Canoe Club Staff	https://en.everybodywiki.com/Calgary_Canoe_Club
[07]	CORA IVF Committee	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/cora-ivf-committee/
[08]	2015 CORA AGM	https://docplayer.net/233497596-Cora-annual-general-meeting-minutes-1-00-pm-sunday-november-15-2015-northwest-room-jericho-sailing-centre-1300-discovery-st.html
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[10]	2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints Blog	http://teamcanadanewcaledonia.blogspot.com/2010/
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[12]	2012 Calgary IVF Sprints Blog	http://checkyourboat.blogspot.com/2012/08/things-are-really-happening.html
[13]	2012 Calgary IVF Sprints Attendees	https://web.archive.org/web/20120128011644/http://www.vaaworldsprints2012.com/
[14]	2012 Calgary IVF Sprints Newsletter	https://aocra.com.au/uploads/2012%20May%20newsletter_Vaa%20Worlds.pdf
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[16]	2016 Australia IVF World Sprints Team Canada Camp	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/team-canada-sprint-camp/
[17]	2016 Australia IVF World Sprints Wrap	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/2016-ivf-outrigger-sprints-cora-report/
[18]	2016 Australia IVF World Sprints Outcomes	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/page/50/?wordfence_lh=1&hid=7CFC9FDA13A834068D9883B650B4ED31
[19]	2018 Tahiti IVF World Sprints Selection	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/selection-process-and-registration-forms-for-2018-ivf-world-sprints-are-now-available/
[20]	2017 Tahiti IVF World Distance Kialoa Blog	https://kialoa.com/blogs/talkstory/thoughts-from-the-first-ever-ivf-world-distance-Championships-tahiti-june-2017
[21]	2017 Tahiti IVF World Distance Wrap	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/category/team-canada-news/page/5/
[29]	Skaha Lake Waterfront Access Strategy	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
[30]	Calgary Riverfront Access Strategy	https://pub-calgary.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=7552