

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Story (1996-2023)

Much of this history was collected in a series of virtual interviews with Wai Nui O Kanaka members **Wendy Rae-Perkins** and **Nancy Botting** and **Sheila Kuyper**, as well as contributions by Haunani member **Val Simmons** and Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) member **Foruzan Veiji**. Additional details were provided by various Onake Paddling Club and Wai Nui O Kanaka alumni and many other individuals with familiarity of the events of the early years of outrigger canoeing in Canada. Official records on race results for Canada / California / Hawaii / IPCF / IVF events prior to 2000 are becoming increasingly difficult to locate in order to confirm historical events / results.

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) for the purposes of this story is defined as encompassing paddling venues at Mississauga, Oakville, Toronto, and Pickering. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is centred on the city of Toronto, in Ontario's Golden Horseshoe. It is generally considered to extend west to the border with Hamilton, east to the border of Port Hope, and north to the shore of Lake Simcoe. It is by far Canada's most populous urban/suburban area, with 6.7 million inhabitants (2021); nearly half of Ontario's population. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is a commercial, distribution, financial and economic centre, and is the second largest financial centre in North America. [001]



The club legacies that CORA had compiled in past years had been very much about individual clubs (False Creek; Lotus; Jericho; Penticton; Ocean River) with some "cross-over" references to other canoe clubs where there were connections. The "*Greater Toronto Area Legacy*" is quite different. There is much literature that connects Oakville and Mississauga and Toronto under a "Greater Toronto Area" region such that the clubs from this area (Wai Nui; TSCC; Outer Harbour; Pickering; Sunnyside) should be combined into a collective "*Greater Toronto Area Legacy*" document. The connections between these clubs – the paddlers, the canoes (*Malias*; Force Fives; Clipper Advantages), the side stories (ECORA; GMOC' Rio Va'a) and the various venues (Mississauga; Oakville; Toronto) all form threads through these clubs. This chronicle has a "Chapter" each for Wai Nui O Kanaka and Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) various other Greater Toronto Area (GTA) clubs collectively (Mississauga; OHDBC; Pickering Rouge; Sunnyside; TSCC Free Spirit; Wiki Wiki) within this document the "*Greater Toronto Area Legacy*".

Roots / Threads / Chapters

This chronicle is intended to capture unwritten history of outrigger canoeing in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) from 1996-2023, as records from prior to 2000 are becoming more and more scarce. The history of outrigger canoeing in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is linked with the travels of western outrigger canoes eastward, travels of paddlers up & down the Atlantic seaboard, growth of international outrigger canoe competition along the Atlantic seaboard, and several key individuals who have made lifelong contributions to outrigger canoeing. There are at least six paths / threads / chapters that converged to lead to the development of outrigger canoeing in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Please see the timeline below for key Greater Toronto Area (GTA) outrigger canoeing events.



1. **Wai Nui O Kanaka**
2. **Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO)**
3. **Additional Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Clubs**
4. **ECORA / Liberty Challenge**
5. **GMOC**
6. **Ron Zander Williams (Brazil)**

Timeline	Greater Toronto Area (GTA) & Relevant Worldwide Outrigger Canoeing Events
1991	Dennis Campbell of Imua Outrigger Club starts production of his third fiberglass canoe, the Pacific Islander
1994	Ron Zander Williams of FCRCC does Catalina Crossing
1994	Ron Zander Williams of FCRCC in Brazil begins his first contacts to bring outrigger canoeing to Brazil
1995	Janet Davis & Nancy Botting were invited to a 2-day OC6 (Saturday) and Small-Boat (Sunday) event at Lake Tahoe
1996	First OC6 sold by Donald Michaelson (Michielsen?) to Janet Davis & Nancy Botting and arrives in Ontario and chained to a fence at Mississauga Canoe Club
1997	Karen Simpson & Nancy Botting officially founded Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club (MOCC)
1997	East Coast Outrigger Racing Association (ECORA) founded with eight original member clubs
1997	Liberty Challenge inaugural annual event hosted by New York Outrigger
1998	Nancy Botting does her first-ever open ocean water-change race at Molokai Na Wahine with Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club wahines
1998	Wendy Rae-Perkins goes to Portland World Masters Games where she took 4 medals for canoe / kayak / outrigger canoe
1999	Janet Davis & Nancy Botting were able to form crews from Toronto DB & flatwater crews and attended Liberty Challenge (3rd annual)
1999	MOCC hosts an inaugural exhibition OC6 race with the one OC6 at the Mississauga Canoe Club Regatta
1999	Pacific Islander OC6 kit sold by Dennis Campbell to Ron Zander Williams
1999	Outrigger Rio Clube founded in Rio de Janeiro by Ron Zander Williams
2000	First OC6 in South America launched by Ron Zander Williams
2002	Sue Humphries & Adrian Lee & Wendy Rae-Perkins organized and convened a weekend conference which served as the 1st general meeting of what would become DBC
2002	Rio Va'a inaugural annual Va'a event hosted by Ron Zander Williams & Outrigger Rio Clube
2003	Wendy Rae-Perkins from Burloak joins Wai Nui Board Of Directors with fund-raising skills
2003	Mississauga (MOCC) trains for 2 years for Molokai Na Wahine and finished 31st overall and 6th Masters 35+
2003	Rio Va'a second annual event hosted by Ron Zander Williams & Outrigger Rio Clube
2004	MOCC continued to grow and decided to change the name of the club to Wai Nui O Kanaka
2004	Wai Nui places Top 3 at Blackburn Challenge
2004	Wai Nui Why Not inaugural annual event started by Wai Nui & Wendy
2004	Mariano Larghi of Argentina signed a royalties contract for sales of Pacific Islander with Ron Zander Williams
2005	Wendy Rae-Perkins goes to Edmonton World Masters Games where she took 9 medals for canoe / kayak / outrigger canoe, teaming up with fellow Wai Nui paddlers Rama Gilverson, Nancy Botting, Kathy Clarke, Rich Carson, and Sheila Kuyper
2005	Sheila Kuyper is recipient at the 9th annual ATHENA Oakville Awards
2006	Wai Nui expanded from Mississauga to their location in Oakville
2006	Paddle All program introduced at Wai Nui by Rich Carson & Wendy Rae-Perkins, in conjunction with their partners Charterability
2006	Wai Nui Sweeps Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC)
2006	Sheila Kuyper at 2006 New Zealand IVF / IPCF World Sprints
2008	Wendy Rae-Perkins is recipient at the 12th annual ATHENA Oakville Awards
2007	Wai Nui O Kanaka Regatta Strong Showing By Wai Nui
2008	Sheila Kuyper at 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints
2010	Sheila Kuyper at 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints
2012	Wai Nui attends many international events including Cook Islands 2012 Vaka Eiva as well as the follow-up Moto 2 Motu event
2012	Sheila Kuyper at 2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints
2014	GMOC inaugural annual event hosted by Mony Sy & Patricia Gilbert
2015	Ron Zander Williams relocates to Toronto Canada after 15 years in South America
2016	GMOC third annual event hosted by Mony Sy & Patricia Gilbert
2018	GMOC fifth (final) annual event hosted by Mony Sy & Patricia Gilbert
2019	Ron Zander Williams acquires 2-3 outrigger canoes in Ontario Canada
2019	Wai Nui hosts 16th (21st) Anniversary Why Not annual event
2020	Rio Va'a 19th annual event hosted by Outrigger Rio Clube
2020	Mirage OC6 sold by Wai Nui to Haunani Outrigger Club
2021	Ramsey Lake Sudbury Sailing Centre and Mississauga Lakefront Promenade outrigger canoe venues started by Ron Zander Williams
2023	Rio Va'a 22nd annual event hosted by Outrigger Rio Clube

Wai Nui O Kanaka

CORA Historical Committee research has identified that there have been at least five individuals who have made *Significant and Exemplary Contributions* to Eastern Canada outrigger canoeing. Sheila Kuyper, 2021 Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Inductee is one of these individuals. Wendy Rae-Perkins, 2022 Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Inductee is another one of these individuals. Nancy Botting, 2023 Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Inductee is another one of these individuals. Another two individuals that have yet to receive long overdue recognition are Janet Davis and Karen Simpson. Discussions with Nancy Botting in early 2023 have pieced together not only the timeline for the evolution of Eastern Canada outrigger canoeing, but also the history of Wai Nui O Kanaka as the Eastern Canada outrigger canoe club that has been instrumental in the growth of many other Eastern Canada outrigger canoe clubs.



Prior to the mid-1990s, the only OC6s in Eastern Canada were 2 Canadian Malias transported by Alwyn Morris to Onake Paddling Club in Montreal Quebec in the late 1980s. Janet Davis and Nancy Botting were invited to a 2-day OC6 (Saturday) and Small-Boat (Sunday) event at Lake Tahoe in 1995. Nancy Botting did the OC6 event on Saturday and did surfski on Sunday. This event set in motion the origination of outrigger canoeing in Toronto. Janet Davis and Nancy Botting met Donald Michaelson (Michielsen?) of Connecticut who was involved in East Coast tourism. Don was buying a container of OC6s from Hawaii and Janet Davis and Nancy Botting collaborated to purchase the first OC6 for Ontario - a Force Five from this container of OC6s. This OC6 arrived in Ontario in 1996 and was chained to a fence at the Mississauga Sailing Club. At some point, Janet Davis and Nancy Botting acquired a trailer to transport the OC6. It was Nancy Botting and Karen Simpson, who worked as physiotherapists in Oakville, who in 1997 founded Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club (MOCC). 1997-2003 was a time of growth as Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club grew steadily with more and more paddlers from GTA and fewer from Mississauga. City of Mississauga had a deal with the outrigger canoe club that 55% of membership had to be from Mississauga to benefit from the city/club financial arrangement. MOCC continued to grow and decided to change the name of the club to Wai Nui O Kanaka in 2004 when Wendy Rae-Perkins from Burloak came onto the Wai Nui Board Of Directors in 2003 with fund-raising skills to lead the club to new heights. Nancy Botting was Commodore of Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club and Wai Nui from 1997-2007. Wendy Rae-Perkins stepped in as Commodore since 2007 until now and Nancy Botting has had the role of Vice-Commodore since then. [011] [012] [013] [014] [015] [016]

Wai Nui O Kanaka Outrigger Canoe Fleet

Wai Nui O Kanaka has had an interesting evolution in their six-person outrigger canoe fleet. It is known that in the early 2000s, the MOCC / Wai Nui paddlers would travel to Florida for training / racing. MOCC / Wai Nui had a canoe trailer and John Edwards, founder of Florida Competition Paddlers Association (FCPA), provided a "pay-it-forward" boat (an older Malia) to MOCC / Wai Nui. After a few years MOCC / Wai Nui gifted that "pay-it-forward" boat to Pickering Rouge (Jonathan Hollins mention?). After a few years Pickering Rouge gifted that "pay-it-forward" boat to TSCC Free Spirit. After a few years TSCC Free Spirit acquired a Clipper Advantage and gifted that "pay-it-forward" boat to another club. It is known that Wai Nui O Kanaka gifted a "pay-it-forward" boat that they had picked up in Florida when they were first organizing, to Wiki Wiki Wa'a to get them started in Toronto. It is known that Wai Nui O Kanaka sold a Mirage to Haunani to get them started in Montreal. 1997-2007 saw the outrigger canoe fleet at Oakville grow as Wai Nui O Kanaka landed Trillium grants and eventually acquired 1 Outrigger Connection Mirage, 2 Bradley Lightning, 2 James Takeo Yamasaki Malia, 2 Walter Guild Force Five, and 2 Woo Kamanu OC6s.

This collaboration that began in the early 2000s between John Edwards of FCPA and Wai Nui O Kanaka has resulted in access to outrigger canoes by at least 7 clubs in Ontario and Quebec. [017]



Wai Nui O Kanaka Two Black-Deck / White-Hull James Takeo Yamasaki Malias



Wai Nui O Kanaka Red-Deck / White-Hull & White-Deck / White-Hull Walter Guild Force Fives



Wai Nui O Kanaka Purple / White Bradley Lightning



Wai Nui O Kanaka Green / Orange Bradley Lightning



Wai Nui O Kanaka First White Woo Kamanu



Wai Nui O Kanaka Second White Woo Kamanu



Wai Nui O Kanaka To Haunani White-Deck / White-Hull Outrigger Connection Mirage

Wai Nui O Kanaka Events

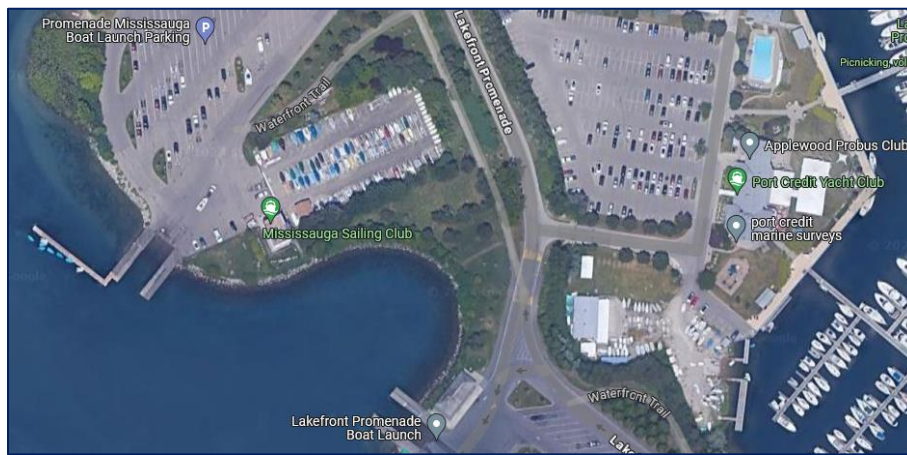
Wai Nui Why Not is the 1st and the longest running outrigger canoe race in Eastern Canada. Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club (MOCC) hosted an exhibition OC6 race with one OC6 at the Mississauga Canoe Club Regatta starting in 1999. By 2001 there were two OC6s and several OC1s and SUPs in the area participating in this race as MOCC was recruiting locally. For 5 years from 1999-2003, the MOCC race at the "Missy" Home regatta at the front of the Credit River heading out onto Lake Ontario was the only outrigger canoe racing event in Eastern Canada. MOCC continued to grow and decided to change the name of the club to Wai Nui O Kanaka in 2004 when Wendy Rae-Perkins joined Nancy Botting to lead the club to new heights. The Wai Nui Why Not (aka "Missy") inaugural annual event was started by Wai Nui O Kanaka, 1st taking place in 2004 from the mouth of 16 Mile Creek just outside Oakville Harbour. 2019 would mark the 16th Anniversary of the Wai Nui Why Not annual event and the 21st Anniversary of the MOCC / Wai Nui annual outrigger canoe racing event. 2020 would mark the 22nd Anniversary of the MOCC / Wai Nui annual outrigger canoe racing event. 2024 would mark the 26th Anniversary of the MOCC / Wai Nui annual outrigger canoe racing event.



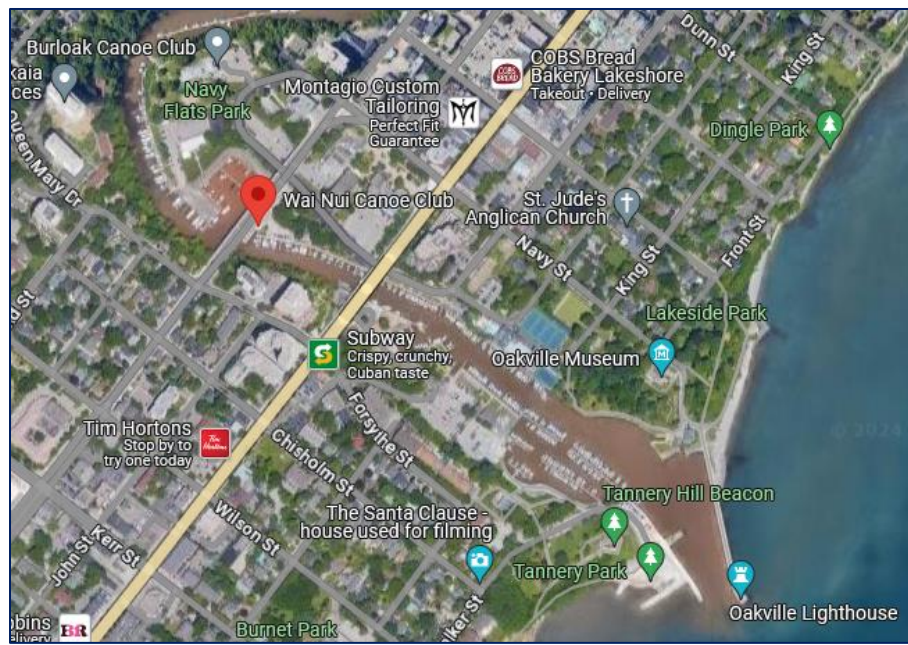
Hosted by the Wai Nui O Kanaka, this is an annual paddling event held in picturesque Oakville at the mouth of 16 Mile Creek just outside Oakville Harbour, with occasionally an event along the sheltered Mississauga shoreline. Consistent with outrigger canoeing culture, this is a Hawaiian-themed event. [021] [022] [023] [024] [025] [026]

Wai Nui O Kanaka Venues

There was uncertainty surrounding the Wai Nui O Kanaka outrigger canoe storage / launching Mississauga original venue. The Mississauga Canoe Club is located on the Credit River, just upstream from the Port Credit Portals. The Mississauga Sailing Club and the Port Credit Yacht Club are located at the Lakefront Promenade Park northeast of the Credit River. It had been mentioned that *"the first Wai Nui OC6 was chained to a fence in 1997 at the Mississauga Canoe Club, and was launched from Port Credit Yacht Club while at Mississauga Canoe Club"*. It has now been confirmed that *"The Mississauga location is at the **Lakefront Promenade Park** compound near the **Mississauga Sailing Club**, while the Oakville base is at the Water Street compound."*



Wendy Rae-Perkins from Burloak Canoe Club Masters program came onto the Wai Nui O Kanaka Board Of Directors in 2003 with amazing fund-raising skills. This was the beginning of the transition from Mississauga to Oakville as the primary base for Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club and the change of club name to Wai Nui O Kanaka. In 2006, Wai Nui O Kanaka expanded from Mississauga to their location in Oakville. Wai Nui O Kanaka is now located in Downtown Oakville, off Water Street directly under the Rebecca Street bridge, East side of Sixteen Mile Creek, across from the Centennial Pool parking lot. [031] [032] [033]



Wai Nui O Kanaka Achievements

The Wai Nui O Kanaka club itself and many of the club members have notable achievements. The following is a chronological table of known achievements:

- 1998 ~ Nancy Botting did her first-ever open ocean water-change race at Molokai Na Wahine in 1998 with the Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club wahines. The Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club crew placed 17th in the women's outrigger championships in Hawaii.
- 1998 ~ Wendy Rae-Perkins went to Portland World Masters Games where she took 4 medals for canoe / kayak / outrigger canoe.
- 1999 ~ Janet Davis & Nancy Botting were able to form crews from Toronto DB & flatwater crews and attended Liberty Challenge (3rd annual).
- 2002 ~ Sue Humphries & Adrian Lee & Wendy Rae-Perkins organized and convened a weekend conference which served as the 1st general meeting of what would become DBC.
- 2003 ~ Mississauga OCC trained for 2 years for Molokai Na Wahine in 2003 and finished 31st overall and 6th Masters 35+. 2003 Molokai Na Wahine was the first big Hawaii race for MOCC after 2 years of training with Nancy Botting & Sheila Kuyper & Wendy Rae-Perkins & Karen Simpson & many other GTA luminaries. This 2003 Molokai Na Wahine crew was a turning point for Mississauga as it brought together Wendy Rae-Perkins with her fundraising skills as well as Sheila Kuyper with her athleticism and commitment to women in canoeing.
- 2004 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka would place Top 3 at the 2004 Blackburn Challenge.
- 2005 ~ Wendy Rae-Perkins went to Edmonton World Masters Games where she took 9 medals for canoe / kayak / outrigger canoe, teaming up with fellow Wai Nui O Kanaka paddlers Rama Gilverson, Nancy Botting, Kathy Clarke, Rich Carson, and Sheila Kuyper.
- 2005 ~ Sheila Kuyper is one of the recipients at the 9th annual ATHENA Oakville Awards.
- 2006 ~ Paddle All program introduced at Wai Nui O Kanaka by Rich Carson & Wendy Rae-Perkins, in conjunction with their partners Charterability.
- 2006 ~ Sheila Kuyper competes with Team Canada at 2006 New Zealand IVF World Sprints.
- 2006 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka sweeps Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) (2nd annual).
- 2007 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka has another very strong showing at Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) (3rd annual).
- 2007 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka Regatta Strong Showing By Wai Nui
- 2008 ~ Wendy Rae-Perkins is one of the recipients at the 12th annual ATHENA Oakville Awards.
- 2008 ~ Sheila Kuyper competes with Team Canada at 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints.

- 2010 ~ Sheila Kuyper competes with Team Canada at 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints.
- 2012 ~ Sheila Kuyper as member of the CORA Sprints Council with Team Canada at 2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints.
- 2012 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka attended many international events including Cook Islands 2012 Vaka Eiva as well as the follow-up Moto 2 Motu event.
- 2014 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka takes Silver in CORA 2014 Distance Championships Masters Women at Howe Sound.
- 2015 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka takes Silver in Liberty Challenge Open Women .
- 2015 ~ Wai Nui Why Not becomes an event on the GMOC / Waterway Series.
- 2017 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka succeeds in voicing opposition to expansion of jet traffic at the Billy Bishop Airport.
- 1999-2023 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka has consistently finished high in the East Coast Outrigger Racing Association (ECORA) standings each year and has used assistance from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to develop coaching expertise that benefits new paddlers and those seeking world-class racing opportunities.
- 1999-2023 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka crews and paddlers continue to chalk up victories against local and US clubs in OC6 and small-boat races at local regattas such as Wai Nui Why Not and the Toronto Harbour International Regatta Race.
- 1999-2023 ~ Wai Nui O Kanaka has trailered OC6s to Eastern US / Canada racing events, not only for their own paddlers, but for other clubs as well. Wai Nui O Kanaka has supported local events in Toronto / Ottawa / Montreal such as GMOC and TIOC and Waterway Series by hosting / promoting these events, by bringing OC6s and paddlers to these events.

[041] [042] [043] [044] [045] [046] [047] [048] [049] [051] [052] [053] [054] [055] [056] [057] [058] [059] [061] [062]
[063] [064] [065] [066] [067] [068] [069] [071] [072] [073] [074] [075] [076] [077] [078] [079] [081] [082]

At the CORA Town Hall (11 November 2023 4PM Pacific): Stellar Seven – CORA Hall Of Fame, Guest Speaker Janet Davis mentioned MOCC / Wai Nui doing a 32-mile Lake Ontario (Crossing) Race in 1996 in a Voyageur Canoe. There are no online records of such a race, but there are several other races over the years that have involved paddling 30-32 miles for 5-8 hours from Port Dalhousie or Niagara to Toronto, including the 2018 Lake Ontario Crossing, 2018 Lake Ontario Stand Up Paddle Crossing, and the 30-mile Great Lake Race. The Lake Ontario Crossing is Canada's first and only open-water distance paddling race. The 32-mile, point-to-point course matches the standard established by the Molokai-to-Oahu crossing in Hawaii and the Catalina Classic in California. The MOCC / Wai Nui womens crew were first overall at the 1996 event. [083] [084] [085] [086]

Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO)

TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) is a group of passionate outrigger canoe paddlers based at Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club. Discussions with Wai Nui O Kanaka members indicate that TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) was founded in the early 2000s and it was not long before TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger began their annual TIOC event. TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) social media has minimal mention of club history in terms of who were the founding members or how they were able to secure an outrigger canoe and a venue. This section may be updated with further research. [091]



Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) Outrigger Canoe Fleet

The TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) social media indicates that TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) now has three OC6s and one OC2. For many years, TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) had just one OC6, a white-deck / white-hull Bradley Stryker named "Hoapili". The TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) Bradley Stryker was refurbished and repainted to have a white-front / green-back after this OC6 was damaged during the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) 2021 event. Western Canada outrigger clubs assisted with sending 3 Clipper Advantages (2 blue-deck / white-hull OC6s from Vernon Racing Canoe Club; 1 yellow-deck / white-hull OC6 from Pacific Reach) to Eastern Canada in 2022. The TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) social media indicates the use of one yellow-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage and one blue-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage. It is believed that Sunnyside Paddling Club acquired a Vernon Racing Canoe Club Clipper Advantage (Okanagan) and that TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) acquired the other Vernon Racing Canoe Club Clipper Advantage (Ogopogo).



TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) White-Deck / White-Hull Bradley Stryker "Hoapili"



TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) White-Front / Green-Back Bradley Stryker "Hoapili"



Pacific Reach Yellow-Deck / White-Hull Clipper Advantage To TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO)



Vernon Racing Canoe Club Blue-Deck / White-Hull Clipper Advantage (Ogopogo) To TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO)

Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) Events

Online articles indicate that 2014 was the 10th Annual TIOC. Discussions with Wai Nui O Kanaka members indicate that the Wai Nui Why Not was established in 1999 and ran for approximately five years until Wai Nui O Kanaka then assisted TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) for three years with establishing / supporting the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge. This timeline and details from online articles would indicate that 2005 would have been the 1st Annual TIOC. The Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) would have been the 2nd canoe race held and the second longest running outrigger canoe race in Eastern Canada, with only Wai Nui Why Not having been running longer.



The Toronto International Outrigger Challenge attracts competitive paddlers of all types (outrigger canoe, stand-up paddling (SUP) and kayak/surfski). The races begin at the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club (TS&CC), circles around the beautiful Toronto Island and harbour, with majestic views of the skyline and CN Tower, and ends back at the TS&CC. Each year of races finishes up with delicious food at a jam-packed luau. [101] [102] [103] [104] [105] [106] [107]

Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) Venue

The Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) venue is located at 1391 Lake Shore Blvd West, Toronto ON at the foot of Dowling Ave. and just west of Exhibition Place/Ontario Place. The venue is located right on Lake Ontario in Toronto's Humber Bay. The location of the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) is excellent for paddle sports. This is an ideal and safe environment for one or two person canoes, kayaks, standup paddleboards (SUPs) and outrigger canoes. The club sits in the middle of 5KM of protected waters, sheltered from the waves of Lake Ontario by a series of break-walls. These waters also give access to the Humber River, its parkland and quiet waters. Toronto Island is within paddling distance for the adventuresome. A trip to the Toronto Islands is about 5KM, to Outer Harbour Marina just over 10KM, and around the Toronto Islands over 20KM. [111] [112]



Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) Achievements

TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) social media has minimal mention of their achievements in terms of participation in Eastern Canada or ECORA or International paddling events. However, the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) website race results indicate that TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) has fielded crews and done well in the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) for many years. This section may be updated with further research. [121]

Additional Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Clubs

There are a number of Greater Toronto Area (GTA) clubs that have owned outrigger canoes for recreational and/or competitive purposes. There are also a number of Greater Toronto Area (GTA) teams that have not owned outrigger canoes (Canadian Senior Dragon Boat Club (CSDC), New Dragons Outrigger Club (NDOC), New Dragons Racing Club (NDRC), Wahnapiatae, NPNP), but do rent canoe time from Greater Toronto Area (GTA) clubs that have owned outrigger canoes. Many of these Greater Toronto Area (GTA) teams have raced Wai Nui Why Not and/or Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) in outrigger canoes borrowed from the host clubs or other participating clubs. This section only covers Greater Toronto Area (GTA) clubs that are known to have owned outrigger canoes.

Mississauga Canoe Club (MCC)

Mississauga Canoe Club (MCC) offers a range of programs including MCC Summer Camp, Youth Racing, High Performance, Masters, Outrigger, Para, Team Blue, Special Olympics, Adult Learn to Kayak, Stand Up Paddle, and Adult Fitness. Outrigger Competitive teams train a minimum of once per week in the OC6 with additional practices in OC6, small boats (OC1 and OC2), and dryland practices under the direction of the womens and mens coaches. The competitive program has an expectation of paddling specific experience and fitness. The coaching staff may need to apply a selection process to determine the crew composition for each race depending on the number of available paddlers. The Outrigger Recreation program is open to those who would like to learn more about the sport. The program trains once per week in the OC6 canoe with a coach. No prior experience is necessary and MCC provides all necessary equipment including paddles and PFDs. If there is significant interest in competing, MCC will explore racing opportunities. [131] [132] [133]



Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Fleet

The Mississauga Canoe Club (MCC) social media indicates that MCC has one OC6, two OC2s and two Va'a single canoes available. However, the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) website photo gallery and the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) Facebook do show photos of 2 six-person outrigger canoes with Mississauga Canoe Club (MCC) crews and these six-person outrigger canoes do not appear to belong to other clubs.



Mississauga Canoe Club (MCC) Red / Grey Puakea Malolo



Mississauga Canoe Club (MCC) Red Puakea Malolo

Mississauga Canoe Club (MCC) Venues

The Mississauga Canoe Club (MCC) social media indicates that they have 1 venue at 31 Front Street North, Mississauga, ON, just west / upstream of Port Credit Memorial Park. [141]



Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC)

Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC) supports community-based paddling crews in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). It has been next to impossible to find out who manages the Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC). There are many clubs that train / race dragon boat and outrigger canoe out of Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC). However, locating someone in an administrative / management capacity for Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC) has been challenging. [151] [152]



Outer Harbour Outrigger Canoe Fleet

Outer Harbour has minimal mention of their outrigger canoe fleet on their social media. However, the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) website photo gallery and the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) Facebook do show photos of 2 six-person outrigger canoes and 1 four-person outrigger canoe. Note that the Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC) black-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage & red-deck / white-hull Clipper North Beach (OC4) assisted in the rescue of the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) Bradley Stryker that was damaged during the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) 2021 event.



Outer Harbour White-Deck / White-Hull Hawaiian Class Racer



Outer Harbour Black-Deck / White-Hull Clipper Advantage & Red-Deck / White-Hull Clipper North Beach (OC4)

Outer Harbour Venues

The Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC) social media indicates that they have 1 venue at 483 Unwin Ave #451, Toronto, ON, just northwest of the Outer Harbour Marina. The Rusty Dragons in 2021 moved their practice site from Ashbridges Bay to the nearby Outer Harbour just west of it to a much bigger and better practice site. True North Paddling Club, a network of teams that compete in the sport of dragon boat racing is also based out of the Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC) venue. New Dragons Racing Club is also based out of the Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club (OHDBC) venue. [161] [162] [163]



Pickering Rouge Canoe Club

The Pickering Rouge Canoe Club began as the West Rouge Canoe Club, founded in 1958 on the Rouge River in Scarborough by former Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club members Peter Connelly, Donald May and Atis Bredovskis. Pickering Rouge Canoe Club is a dynamic and inclusive paddling club offering recreational and competitive programs for all ages and skill levels providing paddling experiences with Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP), recreational canoeing / kayaking, high performance and masters sprint canoeing / kayaking, dragon boating, and outrigger canoeing. [171] [172] [173]



Pickering Rouge Outrigger Canoe Fleet

Pickering Rouge has minimal mention of their outrigger canoe fleet on their social media. However, the Pickering Rouge website photo gallery and the Pickering Rouge Facebook do show photos of 2 six-person outrigger canoes with Pickering Rouge colours. How these OC6s were acquired is unknown. Western Canada outrigger clubs assisted with sending 3 Clipper Advantages (2 blue-deck / white-hull OC6s from Vernon Racing Canoe Club; 1 yellow-deck / white-hull OC6 from Pacific Reach) to Eastern Canada in 2022. The boat number (J2) and TIOC logo on this red-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage is identical to the boat number (J2) and TIOC logo as seen on a red-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage on the TIOC website photo gallery. It may be that this same red-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage has shown up on social media for both Pickering Rouge and TSCC Free Spirit.

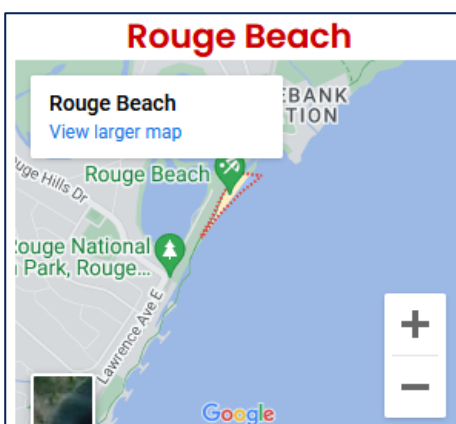
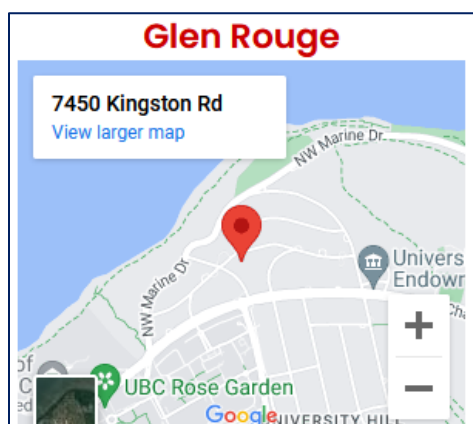


Pickering Rouge Red-Deck / White-Hull (Walter Guild) Force Five



Pickering Rouge Red-Deck / White-Hull Clipper Advantage

Pickering Rouge Venues



Pickering Rouge administration is based out of Scarborough ON. The Pickering Rouge social media indicates that they have 3 venues at Glen Rouge, Rouge Beach, and Frenchman's Bay. The Pickering Rouge website notes that they have relocated to a new venue at the Glen Rouge Campground while construction on Rouge Beach prevents public access to their clubhouse. There is no mention of where OC6s might be located. However, Google Maps Satellite View shows 1 red-deck OC6 and several dragon boats at the 939 Beachpoint Promenade, Pickering, ON (Frenchman's Bay) venue. [181]

Sunnyside Paddling Club

Sunnyside Paddling Club is a Toronto community-based non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and facilitation of paddle sports. Established in 2005 as National Dragonboat Club, the organization quickly evolved to include a variety of other paddle sports (including outrigger canoeing), and being located on Humber Bay Shores at Sunnyside, the new name Sunnyside Paddling Club was made official in 2012. Sunnyside Paddling Club (SPC) is the largest paddling club in Canada, and possibly North America, with over 3,000 active members participating in all types of paddle-sport. [191]

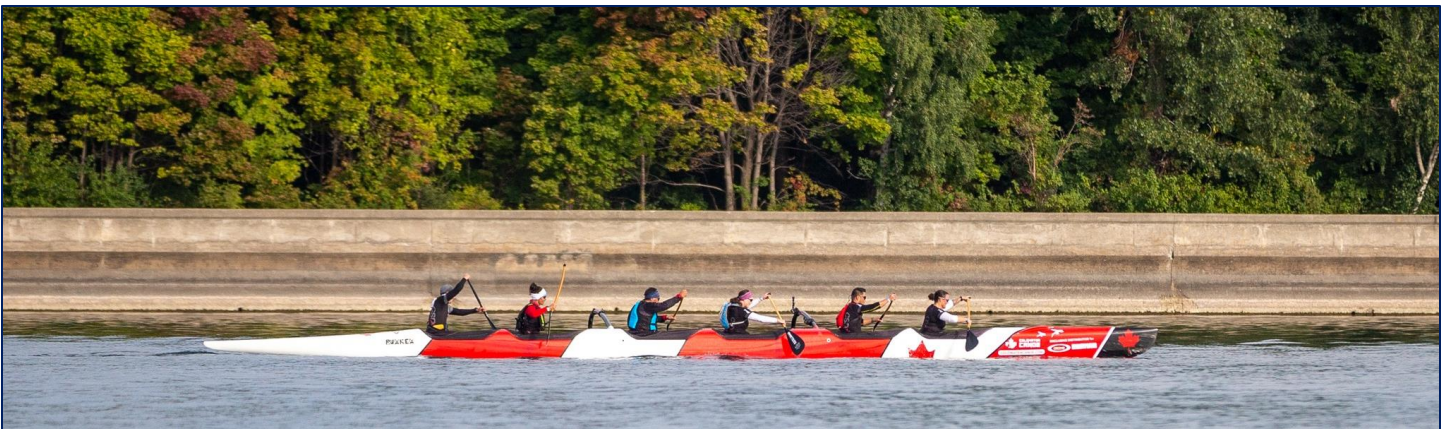


Sunnyside Outrigger Canoe Fleet

The Sunnyside Outrigger Canoe Membership Program allows members access to the outrigger canoe fleet as well as paddleboards, kayaks and canoes. Although there is mention of access to 10 Hody OC1's, 1 Albatross OC2, 1 Performance SUP, 1 Epic V7 Surfski, 1 Epic V5 Surfski, 2 C1, 1 K2, 2 Recreational SUPs and 2 recreational Kayaks – there is no mention of six-person outrigger canoes. However, the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) website photo gallery and the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) Facebook do show photos of 2 six-person outrigger canoes. [192]



Sunnyside Red / White Giblin Vortex



Sunnyside Black / Red / White Puakea Malolo

Sunnyside Venues

The Sunnyside Paddling Club venue is located at the Sunnyside Pavilion at 1755 Lake Shore Blvd W Toronto, ON. Paid parking is available on the east and west side of the Pavilion. All parking lots are accessible via Lake Shore Blvd West. Regularly, Sunnyside Paddling Club teams can paddle from Ontario Place to the Humber River. There will be times when the weather will result in tighter boundaries, which allows Safety Crews to concentrate on a smaller area to ensure the safety of paddlers. Crews are not allowed outside the break-wall or up the Humber River without prior approval from the Safety Crews. [201] [202]



Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Free Spirit

Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) has a variety of outrigger canoe (OC6) paddling opportunities available through Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) and Free Spirit. Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) also has three 20-person dragon boats. The dragon boats are available from the end of April until October to several dragon boat teams practicing at TS&CC and participating in a variety of local, national and international regattas throughout the paddling season. [211]



TSCC Free Spirit Outrigger Canoe Fleet

TSCC Free Spirit has minimal mention of their outrigger canoe fleet on their social media. However, the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) website photo gallery and the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) Facebook do show photos of 1 six-person outrigger canoes with TSCC Free Spirit colours. The boat number (J2) and TIOC logo on this red-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage is identical to the boat number (J2) and TIOC logo as seen on a red-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage on the Pickering Rouge website photo gallery. It may be that this same red-deck / white-hull Clipper Advantage has shown up on social media for both Pickering Rouge and TSCC Free Spirit.



TSCC Free Spirit Red-Deck / White-Hull Clipper Advantage

TSCC Free Spirit Venue

The Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Free Spirit venue is located at 1391 Lake Shore Blvd West, Toronto ON at the foot of Dowling Ave. and just west of Exhibition Place/Ontario Place. The venue is located right on Lake Ontario in Toronto's Humber Bay. The location of the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) is excellent for paddle sports. This is an ideal and safe environment for one or two person canoes, kayaks, standup paddleboards (SUPs) and outrigger canoes. The club sits in the middle of 5KM of protected waters, sheltered from the waves of Lake Ontario by a series of break-walls. These waters also give access to the Humber River, its parkland and quiet waters. Toronto Island is within paddling distance for the adventuresome. A trip to the Toronto Islands is about 5KM, to Outer Harbour Marina just over 10KM, and around the Toronto Islands over 20KM. [221] [222]



Wiki Wiki Wa'a

Wiki Wiki Wa'a was a competitive outrigger canoe team based out of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The very first Wiki Wiki Wa'a social media entry appeared on 2018-Nov-20, and appeared to be a photo from the 2018 Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC). There were continuous social media posts / photos through 2019 and 2020 and 2021, that abruptly ended 2021-Sep-18. Very little is known about how this club originated and what has become of the membership. [231]



Wiki Wiki Outrigger Canoe Fleet

Wiki Wiki has minimal mention of their outrigger canoe fleet on their social media. However, the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) website photo gallery and the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) Facebook do show photos of 3 six-person outrigger canoes with Wiki Wiki Wa'a colours and branding. It is known that Wai Nui O Kanaka gifted a "pay-it-forward" boat that they had picked up in Florida when they were first organizing, to Wiki Wiki Wa'a to get them started in Toronto. It is known that Sunnyside Paddling Club parted ways with a white-deck / white-hull Bradley Lightning that was acquired / repainted by Wiki Wiki Wa'a. It is known that sometime after the 2023 Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC), Wiki Wiki Wa'a founder Ruel Alain, relocated to Quebec and sold off some of the Wiki Wiki outrigger canoe fleet to one or more Greater Toronto Area (GTA) clubs. This is a topic still under research.



Sunnyside White-Deck / White-Hull Bradley Lightning "Iolana"



Wiki Wiki Red-Deck / White-Hull Bradley Lightning "Spirit of Sunita" (Renamed from "Iolana")



Wiki Wiki Red-Deck / White-Hull Hawaiian Class Racer "Scratchy"



Wiki Wiki Red-Deck / White-Hull Force Five (With Huki "Tomahawk" Ama) "Force Dan"

Wiki Wiki Venues

It is speculated that the Wiki Wiki Wa'a venue was located at the Mississauga Sailing Club, at 120 Lakefront Promenade, Mississauga, ON. This is based on many photos from the Wiki Wiki Wa'a social media showing signage and landmarks (buildings; boat launches; break waters; waterfronts; green spaces) that correspond to Google Maps Satellite Views of the Lakefront Promenade area. This photo in particular shows signage for the "Mississauga Sailing Club" and the Mississauga Sailing Club Centre. [241] [242]



East Coast Outrigger Racing Association (ECORA) / Liberty Challenge

The East Coast Outrigger Racing Association (ECORA) is a network of outrigger canoe clubs spanning the Atlantic seaboard of the United States and Canada. Hawaiian outrigger canoe racing carries on globally in the rich culture and traditions of its birthplace. ECORA is a proud part of that history in expanding the aloha spirit inherent in the sport.



ECORA was founded in 1997 with eight member clubs to formally establish Hawaiian outrigger canoe racing on the east coast of mainland United States and Canada. This triggered a chain reaction that ignited the founding of nearly thirty outrigger canoe clubs by 2002. Today ECORA thrives in nearly every coastal state/province from Ontario to Florida, and welcomes interested paddlers to join an existing club or form a new one.

ECORA provides the infrastructure to enable a point-series based schedule of races on the US East Coast that awards trophies for the top finishers in the OC6, OC2, and OC1 race categories, maintenance of a website that promotes outrigger paddling on the East Coast by linking clubs, race schedules, and paddling resources. [251] [252]



The first Liberty Challenge took place in Tribeca in Lower Manhattan in New York City in 1997, the same year that ECORA was founded. The Liberty Challenge, hosted by New York Outrigger (NYO) ran for 20 consecutive years from 1997-2016. Over the years Liberty Challenge had grown in tandem with New York City's revitalized waterfront and was considered one of the premier outrigger canoe events in the world. The event, which began in 1997, had grown to become the largest Pacific Islands festival on the East Coast and one of the most

prestigious outrigger canoe races in the world.

Hawaiian Airlines was a title sponsor for the Liberty Challenge for five years from 2012-2016. Hawaiian Airlines was instrumental in the Liberty Challenge growing from a regional race into an internationally recognized event. New York Outrigger announced that they would be suspending the Liberty Challenge as of 2017, while directors identify a new venue in New York City. The event location at Hudson River Park Pier 26, which accommodated 100 outrigger teams and thousands of New Yorkers in 2016, would be under construction indefinitely. [253] [254] [255] [256]



The availability of outrigger canoe racing events such as Liberty Challenge, Blackburn Challenge, and Milford Championships, hosted by ECORA Member Clubs, have provided opportunities for Eastern Canada clubs to travel relatively short distances for almost 30 years to participate in events with international competition.

Greater Montreal Outrigger Challenge (GMOC) / Waterway Series

The Greater Montreal Outrigger Challenge (GMOC) was a day-long event that showcased outrigger canoeing, surf-ski, stand-up paddleboard (SUP), kayak and canoe races by paddlers of all skill levels, on the waters of the Ottawa River off the shores of the Hudson Yacht Club. The GMOC event ran for at least 5 years from 2014-2018. There was a lightning



storm on the day of the GMOC event in 2019 that led to cancellation of activities, and the COVID Global Pandemic forced cancellation of the GMOC event in 2020. The husband and wife team of Mony Sy and Patricia Gilbert, who live in the Hudson QC area, were founders and organizers of the GMOC. The Hudson QC event grew from 45 entrants in year one (2014), to 85 in year two (2015), and then over 140 participants in year three (2016).

Beginning in 2016, the GMOC event grew into the (Eastern Canada) Waterway Series with the Hudson event being the final of a series of three races where competitors accumulated points at each race. The series opened with the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) hosted by Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club (TSCC) Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO), followed by the Wai Nui O Kanaka Why Not in Mississauga, and the GMOC being the third and deciding race as the athletes in OC1, OC2, OC6, surf-ski, and SUP would be crowned champions when the points were totaled up from the trio of events. By 2018, the Waterway Series had expanded to four venues with an event added in Ottawa (OR150PC) hosted by Ottawa River Canoe Club. [261] [262] [263] [264] [265] [266]

																	
NAME																	
			GMOC						Wai Nui O Kanaka Outrigger Series 2018						TORONTO INTERNATIONAL OUTRIGGER CHALLENGE		
Short	Long	TOTAL POINTS	Short	Long	TOTAL POINTS	Short	Long	TOTAL POINTS	Short	Long	TOTAL POINTS	Short	Long	TOTAL POINTS			

By 2018, the GMOC event in Hudson QC had grown to 200 attendees with participants from Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Hawaii, and even Japan. This Waterway Series had provided an organized series of events for Eastern Canada and US paddlers supported by organizations such as ECORA, CKC, CORA, and OMCKRA (Ontario Marathon Canoe Kayak Racing Association). [267] [268]

Ron Zander Williams / Pacific Islander / Brazil / Rio Va'a

Ron Zander Williams, world-traveller, acknowledged as the father of Outrigger in Brazil, has been residing in Ontario since 2015. This thread is not exclusively about outrigger canoeing in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) or Eastern Canada, but this is an incredible intriguing true tale spanning ~30 years that began in Brazil and moved to Vancouver BC and moved back to Brazil and has now moved to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). [271]



Ronald Zander Williams was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1965. Although Ron grew up there, he frequently visited his relatives in Canada until he finally moved to Vancouver in 1990. Ron started his career with dragon boating as a member of the False Creek Racing Canoe Club and in 1992 had his first encounter with an outrigger canoe, which led to participating in the 1994 Catalina Crossing. Ron was on vacation in Brazil in September 1994 after competing in California when Ron began his first contacts in order to bring Va'a, or Polynesian canoeing to Brazil.

Dennis Campbell is a legendary paddler / coach / canoe designer from Imua Outrigger Club in Southern California. During the 1980s and 1990s he designed / manufactured a line of canoes (Rail; Rhino; Pacific Islander) that were suited to the calmer waters along the Southern California coastline vs. Hawaiian style canoes that performed best under rough water conditions. [281]

Dennis Campbell of Imua Outrigger Club started production of his third fiberglass canoe, the Pacific Islander in 1991. There is a red / white / blue Pacific Islander Class OC6 (with a Huki OC6 ama) at New York Outrigger (Haulani) that was acquired from Haulani Imua Outrigger Canoe Club of Newport Beach CA. There are a few Pacific Islander Class OC6s still in use in Southern California such as the Teiva with Kapolioka'ehuka Outrigger Canoe Club in San Diego CA. "As a side note, the mould for the canoe was sold to Brazil and helped to start outrigger manufacturing in South America." There are presently no Dennis Campbell Pacific Islander OC6s in Canada. The only known Dennis Campbell Pacific Islander in the Pacific NorthWest is presently owned by Hood River Outrigger Canoe Club (HROCC) in Hood River OR. [282] [283] [284] [285]



"Fabio Pavia, 15 times Brazilian champion in paddling and Frederico Dies Peres, partners in adventure and Brazilian 4-time champion, had the idea to introduce the sport to Brazil when they were returning after they had placed 7th in the Camel White Water Challenge competition in South Africa. They knew Ronald Zander Williams, who had lived and competed in outrigger canoeing abroad and who was looking for partners and help to accomplish an old dream of bringing the outrigger to Brazil.

The Opium Fibreglass company (owned by Fabio and Frederico) located in Santos – São Paulo, is responsible for the manufacture of all the outrigger canoes in Brazil. The foundation of the first Outrigger Club happened in January 2001.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1965, Ronald Zander Williams grew up there but frequently visited his relatives in Canada until he finally moved to Vancouver in 1990. Ron started his career with dragon boating as a member of the False Creek Racing Canoe Club and in 1992 had his first encounter with an outrigger canoe. After paddling the 1994 Catalina

Crossing, Ron decided to bring the outrigger paddling sport to Brazil and started making the first contacts in order to bring the first V6 to South America.

In 1999, already back in Brazil, Ron purchased a Pacific Islander 'kit', later named 'Lanakila', from Dennis Campbell. After months of shopping around for an affordable shipping rate and a vessel that would accept 'on deck' cargo, the canoe was finally transported from Newport Beach to Brazil via Houston, where she finally arrived in September 2000.

Lanakila was then finished at a canoe building shop in Santos and displayed at the Adventure Sports Fair in São Paulo in December 2000. After the show, Lanakila was shipped to Rio de Janeiro for her debut in the waters of the South Atlantic Ocean.

For a year the Outrigger Rio Clube which was formed by Ron in 1999 and for which he was the first president made the most of its one V6 and one V1 by paddling in the Barra da Tijuca waters, a district on the western side of Rio de Janeiro. In 2001, the Club moved from 'Barra' to Praia Vermelha near the famous Rio Yacht Club.



The new location at the base of the Sugar Loaf Mountain provided easier access to all beaches in Rio's southern district (Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon) and also to the Cagarrá Islands and the neighbouring city of Niterói about 4 miles across the Guanabara Bay from Rio de Janeiro. The club and its members have always tried to challenge themselves to the maximum by bringing new and diverse experiences to the club.

In somewhat the same spirit which moved the Polynesian cultures and the native Tamoio Indians in Rio, the Outrigger Rio Clube planned the 2001 Rio-Angra 135KM challenge. The distance was covered in 13.5 hours by a crew of 8 men and 2 women.

In 2002, at the 57th Rio de Janeiro Naval School's annual regatta, the outrigger six-man category was honoured with an invitation to participate in this internationally known sailing and paddling race which is the largest race of its kind in South America, with hundreds of sailing boats from all classes taking part.

In July 2002, the Outrigger Rio Clube sent the first team ever to represent Brazil in an international outrigger competition, namely. La Porquerolaise (Toulon, France) which is a fairly new addition to the European outrigger race circuit. Nicolas Bournon, then president of the Outrigger Rio Clube, made the connection between the Brazilian Outrigger 'Ohana' and the French Polynesians currently living in France. Nicolas had also lived in Hawaii for several years and is a strong outrigger enthusiast and very active participant in the development of the sport in Brazil.

December 28, 2002 was a landmark for the city of Rio de Janeiro as it hosted the first international outrigger competition in Latin America (Rio Va'a 2002). The 30KM race circuit covered most of Rio de Janeiro's coast line, starting at the base of Sugar Loaf Mountain going past Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, back to Praia Vermelha and over to Botafogo inlet and back."

Kanu Culture 2003 *The Start Of Outrigger Canoeing In South America* [291]

According to the Outrigger Rio Clube website, Lanakila was the plug for over 200 outrigger canoes including the first Va'a in Argentina and subsequently other countries around South America. If this is true, this would make the Pacific Islander one of the most prolific outrigger canoe models in the world. Mariano Larghi of Manu O Ke Kai in Argentina signed a royalties contract for sales of Pacific Islander with Ron Zander Williams in 2004. [301] [302] [303] [304] [305] [306]

The December 12, 2023 weekend marked the 22nd consecutive edition of the Rio Va'a Race, one of the few Polynesian canoe races that currently take place in the city of Rio de Janeiro, while the majority of the state has taken place in Niterói, thanks to the support given by the city hall. It is the oldest competition in South America that has been held uninterrupted since 2002. Even the COVID Global Pandemic did not lead to cancellation of Rio Va'a 2020, as the event was late enough in that first year of the COVID Global Pandemic to provide event organizers with adequate guidance on event capacity and social distancing. Until 2019, the competition was organized in Praia Vermelha. In the years 2020 and 2021 the event moved to Urca beach. However, with the growth in the number of teams, it has been organized since 2022 at Gloria beach (end of Flamengo beach) due to the ease of access to the site by land and sea and the longer strip of sand and allowing sea routes open and sheltered sea. In total, Rio Va'a 2023 was attended by approximately 300 people, 1/3 of which were women. [311] [312] [313] [314] [315] [316] [317] [318] [319] [320] [321] [322]



Ron moved to Ontario in 2015 after 20 years in Brazil and has lived in Toronto, Sudbury and North Bay. Along with his arrival to Ontario, Ron has brought 2-3 personally owned outrigger canoes to several venues in Ontario. The Outrigger Rio Clube social media indicates that Ron Zander Williams has established outrigger canoe venues at Ramsey Lake Sudbury Sailing Centre and Mississauga Lakefront Promenade. [331]

There was a 15KM (3x5KM Loop) Outrigger Canoe Race in July 2019 presented by the Sudbury Canoe Club. It is believed that Ron Zander Williams had outrigger canoes located at the Ramsey Lake Sudbury Sailing Centre and he had a hand in this event, as there are no known outrigger canoe clubs in the Sudbury area. It is worth noting that OMCKRA members were to receive a \$5 discount and this may have been an innovative approach to deferring insurance costs for the event – worth noting for other organizations considering hosting events in Eastern Canada. [332]



Ron Zander Williams would steer a TIOC 2023 team named "Motley Crew" in a Bradley Lightning Spec OC6 appropriately named 'Pua Ipanema' to an eighth place in the Mens OC6 Division. This is one of the three outrigger canoes owned in Ontario by Ron Zander Williams. [333]





Ron Zander Williams steering TIOOC 2023 Motley Crew in Pua Ipanema Bradley Lightning

Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Luminaries



CORA Historical Committee research has identified that there are 5 individuals who have made Significant and Exemplary Contributions to Eastern Canada outrigger canoeing. Sheila Kuyper, 2020 Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Inductee is one of these individuals. Wendy Rae-Perkins, 2021 Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Inductee is another one of these individuals. The other 3 individuals that had yet to receive long overdue recognition are Janet Davis, Karen Simpson, and Nancy Botting. Discussions with **Nancy Botting** in early 2023 pieced together not only the timeline for the evolution of Eastern Canada outrigger canoeing, but also the history of Wai Nui O Kanaka as the Eastern Canada outrigger canoe club that has been instrumental in the growth of many other Eastern Canada outrigger canoe clubs. See Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Bio for Nancy Botting. [341]



"Auntie" **Wendy Rae-Perkins** is a builder / pioneer / activist who has dedicated a lifetime to the paddling community and countless noble causes. Her 1st time in a canoe was with Burloak Canoe Club in 1992, and has since raced canoe / kayak, dragon boat, swan boat, SUP, surfski, and outrigger canoe world-wide. She has been with the 1st outrigger canoe club in Ontario since its inception and has worked continuously to grow participation in every paddle sport for youths, seniors, and adaptive paddlers. Her contributions to support outrigger canoeing in have been recognized by clubs and paddlers all across Eastern Canada. See Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Bio for Wendy Rae-Perkins. [342]



Sheila Kuyper is a teacher, a mentor, a pioneer, and a legend who has blazed a trail to follow in Canada and around the world. She has influenced the paddling community worldwide by championing womens access to the sport of sprint canoe. Sheila has been a Physical Education Teacher at Appleby College in Burlington ON since 1991. Born, raised and educated in Brantford, she swam for 15 years with the Brantford Aquatic Club, while earning her Bachelor of Physical Education degree at McMaster University. Since 1995, she has been racing, advocating, negotiating, coaching, fundraising and lobbying international powerbrokers to let women do as men do on the water. See Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Bio for Sheila Kuyper. [343]

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