



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Janet Davis



Summary

CORA Historical Committee research has identified that there are at least 5 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. The other two individuals who have yet to receive long overdue recognition are Janet Davis and Karen Simpson. Discussions with Janet Davis in late 2023 and early 2024 have provided further background on the evolution of Eastern Canada outrigger canoeing, as well as 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. Please see the "Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Legacy" document in the CORA website Cultural Continuity section for further details. [01]

Early Career

Janet Davis graduated in 1986 from the University of Toronto with a Bachelors in Physiotherapy. Janet began her career as a Sports Physiotherapist and Manual Therapist and has continued to travel internationally to competitions as the Physiotherapist for National Level Rhythmic Gymnasts. As a member of the Canadian National Rhythmic Gymnastics team in the 1980s, having a strong background in Rhythmic Gymnastics and dance injuries, Janet has developed a special interest in athletes with dance, acrobatic, and gymnastic injuries. Janet was one of the owners and operators of the sports physiotherapy clinic, Club Physio Plus for 25 years. Janet has her sports certificate from the Sports Physiotherapy Division and treats athletes at the provincial, national, and international level in various sports. [11] [12] Janet met Nancy Botting at the 1992 Toronto Dragon Boat Festival. After racing with Nancy at the 1994 Toronto Dragon Boat Festival, they collaborated on 2 courses and manuals for the Sports Physiotherapy Division (Sports Taping and Return to Sport Therapy). Online references note that Janet has participated in numerous triathlons and paddlesports races. Janet has family living in Hawaii since the 1970s, whom she visited frequently in the 1980s and 1990s, and those visits inspired Janet to write her American Physiotherapy Boards [13] and move to Kailua Oahu in 1991. Janet was involved in triathlons until a hip injury led to surfski paddling and then one year outrigger canoeing with Kailua Canoe Club. [14] This time doing outrigger canoeing in Hawaii would lead to Nancy Botting and Janet accepting an invitation to a 1995 Lake Tahoe outrigger canoeing event. Between her time in Hawaii and acquisition of the 1st MOCC outrigger canoe, Janet had many competitive paddlesports achievements including 1993 World Dragon Boat Championships in The Hague (Women 4th), 1993 Macau Dragon Boat Invitational (1st Place), 1996 Provincial Marathon Champion mixed tandem, 1992-1998 Women's Toronto Dragon Boat Festival (1st Place), and 1998 Burloak Team Canadian Flatwater Championships (Masters 1st Place).

Pioneering Achievements

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 Michelson 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 1st OC6 for Ontario - a Force Five from this container of OC6s - as well as the 1st OC6 trailer in Eastern Canada. This OC6 arrived in Ontario in 1996 and was chained to a fence at Mississauga Sailing Club. 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.

Wai Nui Why Not is the 1st and the longest running outrigger canoe race in Eastern Canada. Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club (MOCC) with Janet 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. The Wai Nui Why Not (aka "Missy") inaugural annual event was started by Wai Nui, 1st taking place in 2004 from the mouth of 16 Mile Creek just outside Oakville Harbour. 2024 would mark the 26th Anniversary of the MOCC / Wai Nui annual outrigger canoe racing event. [21] [22] [23] [24] Discussions with Wai Nui members indicate that after Wai Nui Why Not had run for 5 years, Wai Nui then assisted TSCC Maka Koa Outrigger (MKO) for 3 years with establishing / supporting the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge. [25]

Coach-Builder Achievements

As MOCC / Wai Nui was acquiring their fleet, growing membership, and establishing races, Janet was able to achieve a balance between starting a family and supporting the club. Janet sourced canoe paddles, secured permits for club venues, coached club members on water changes and stroke timing in big-water, instilled Hawaiian traditions within the club, and did cultural engagement with the local Hawaiian community. These contributions by Janet would provide a foundation for MOCC / Wai Nui to achieve successes at 2003 Molokai Na Wahine, 2004 Blackburn Challenge, 2006 Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC), 2007 Wai Nui Why Not Regatta, 2010 Queen Liliuokalani, and 2012 Cook Islands Vaka Eiva. [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35]

The Florida Competition Paddlers Association (FCPA) was formed in 1976 to coordinate and promote paddlesports racing in Florida. The FCPA hosts approximately 14 free recreational events across the state of Florida each year. John Edwards has been the driving force behind the FCPA and chairman of the canoe and kayak events in the Sunshine State Games. [41] [42] [43] [44] 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 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. 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 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 sold a Mirage to Haunani to get them started in Montreal. This collaboration that began in the early 2000s between John Edwards of FCPA and Wai Nui has resulted in access to outrigger canoes by at least 7 clubs in Ontario and Quebec.

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

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 before MOCC acquired their 1st outrigger 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 Rochester NY or Port Dalhousie ON or Niagara ON to Toronto, including 2018 Lake Ontario Crossing, 2018 Lake Ontario Stand Up Paddle Crossing, and 30-mile Great Lake Race. The Lake Ontario Crossing is Canada's 1st 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. MOCC / Wai Nui was the 1st ever womens crew and were 1st overall at the 1996 event. [51] [52] [53] [54]

Janet acquired a wealth of outrigger canoeing experience in Hawaii and California in the early 1990s that would contribute to the success of the MOCC / Wai Nui outrigger canoeing program. Janet would race with a Newport Beach crew to a Malia Division 3rd place at 1995 Catalina Crossing. Janet would race with Pupu O' Hawaii Santa Cruz in Womens Division at 1995 Lake Tahoe Challenge and in Mixed Division at 1996 Lake Tahoe Challenge. Janet spent much of 1997 training with a Hawaiian coach at Pupu O' Hawaii Santa Cruz where she mastered water changes and stroke timing in ocean waves. Janet would race with Pupu O' Hawaii Santa Cruz in 1997 at Queen Liliuokalani, Lake Tahoe Challenge (1st place Masters), Catalina Crossing (1st place Masters), and Molokai Na Wahine (3rd place Masters). [55]

In 1998, Nancy Botting and Janet Davis were able to form crews from Toronto DB & flatwater crews for Liberty Challenge (2nd annual), where the MOCC / Wai Nui OC6 overturned. Janet reached out to the Director of Hawaiian Dancing at the Carassauga Festival of Cultures Hawaiian Pavilion in Mississauga [56] to provide a Hawaiian blessing prior to the 1999 Liberty Challenge for the Wai Nui canoes. 1999 Liberty Challenge Results indicate that a Toronto Womens crew placed Novice 3rd. Liberty Challenge Results for 2007-2016 show continual participation and impressive results by Wai Nui with coaching by Janet. For the 10 years from 2007-2016, Liberty Challenge Results show 2007 Wai Nui Mixed Open placed 9th, 2008 Wai Nui Women Masters placed 2nd, 2009 Wai Nui Mixed Open placed 8th, 2010 Wai Nui Women Masters placed 1st, 2011 Wai Nui Women Open placed 4th, 2013 Wai Nui Women Masters placed 1st, 2014 Wai Nui Women Masters placed 4th, 2015 Wai Nui Women Unlimited placed 1st, and 2016 Wai Nui Women Masters placed 6th. [58] [59] [60] [61] [62] [63] [64] [65] [66] [67] [68]

Exemplary Achievements

Janet has made significant contributions over the course of 38 years working in the sports medicine field. Janet has had vast experience in various sports being medical director of the Ontario Rugby Union, Physiotherapy director of the Ontario Tennis Association, and Physiotherapist for several international running & cycling events. Janet has been a STOTT certified Pilates instructor, a Pilates certification specialist for CPTN, a CALA certified Aquafitness & Aquatic Post Rehabilitation instructor & Trainer, an international course conductor in Aquatherapy & certified acupuncturist for 20+ years. Janet has been a clinical lecturer at University of Toronto & lecturing for various affiliations. [71] [72] [73] Sometimes the greatest legacy we leave is our children. Janet spent time away from outrigger canoeing as mother of 2 daughters instilling in them her passion for Rhythmic Gymnastics. Malia and Bobbi-Kai were Canadian Group Champions in Rhythmic Gymnastics and competed for Canada in the Junior World and Aesthetic Group Gymnastics (AGG) World Championships. Her 2 daughters are now dabbling in paddling after their retirement from gymnastics and may gravitate to paddlesports with their love for the ocean. [74]

References

Note	Article	Link
[01]	CORA Cultural Continuity	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/community-2/cultural-continuity/
[11]	Club Physio Plus Janet Davis Bio	https://clubphysioplus.com/janet-davis/
[12]	Club Physio Plus Janet Davis Booking	https://cpp.janeapp.com/locations/oakville/book
[13]	American Physiotherapy Boards	https://specialization.apta.org/
[14]	Kailua Canoe Club About	https://kailuacanoecub.com/
[21]	2015 Wai Nui Why Not (17th)	https://w.paddleguru.com/races/WaiNuiWhyNot2015
[22]	2018 Wai Nui Why Not (20th)	https://raceroster.com/events/2018/19192/wai-nui-why-not-2018
[23]	2018 Wai Nui Why Not (20th)	https://canoekayak.ca/event/wai-nui-why-not-race-2018/
[24]	2019 Wai Nui Why Not (21st)	https://raceroster.com/events/2019/23003/wai-nui-why-not-2019
[25]	2014 Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (10th)	https://peppergrinders.livejournal.com/35119.html
[30]	2003 Molokai Na Wahine Results	https://www.jerichooutrigger.com/races2003/wahine2003.html
[31]	2004 Blackburn Challenge	https://www.capeannrowingclub.com/s/BlackburnChallenge2004Publish.txt
[32]	2006 Wai Nui O Kanaka Sweeps Toronto Regatta	https://www.insidehalton.com/life/wai-nui-sweeps-at-toronto-regatta/article_3d9b00cb-03d2-5853-8d17-c28e5f729ba8.html
[33]	2007 Wai Nui O Kanaka Regatta Strong Showing	https://www.insidehalton.com/life/strong-showing-for-wai-nui-paddlers-at-home-regatta/article_bee6f1fc-01b3-550f-be80-587d57ed8512.html
[34]	2007 Wai Nui Why Not	https://www.insidehalton.com/community-story/2957532-strong-showing-for-wai-nui-paddlers-at-home-regatta/
[35]	2010 Queen Liliuokalani Results	https://hawaii247.com/2010/09/05/queen-liliuokalani-canoe-race-results/
[41]	2000 John Edwards Grows Florida Outrigger Canoeing	https://www.tampabay.com/archive/2000/06/23/when-something-old-becomes-something-new/
[42]	John Edwards (Admin of Hui kai Waa OCC since April 2010) Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/152264505987/user/658020298
[43]	2023 FCPA Silver River Race	https://paddleguru.com/races/FCPASilverRiverRace2023
[44]	2004 John Edwards Outrigger Canoe Competition	https://issuu.com/garethstevens/docs/cn.nationals_issue_2004_final_simple
[51]	CORA Town Hall (11 November 2023 4PM Pacific): Stellar Seven – CORA Hall Of Fame	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/cora-town-hall-11-november-4pm-pacific-stellar-seven-cora-hall-of-fame/
[52]	2018 Lake Ontario Crossing	https://canoekayak.ca/event/lake-ontario-crossing/
[53]	2018 Lake Ontario Crossing Paddleboard Race	https://infinitysup.ca/lake-ontario-crossing/
[54]	Great Lake Marathon Canoe Race	https://www.centre55.com/about-us/awards/
[55]	Carassauga Festival Hawaii Pavilion	https://www.carassauga.com/pavilion/hawaii/
[56]	1997 Molokai Na Wahine Results	http://holoholo.org/wahine/97wahine/97nwrs1t.html
[58]	1999 Liberty Challenge Results	http://holoholo.org/canunews/paddle99/libch199.html
[59]	2007 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/liberty-2007-race-results/
[60]	2008 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/liberty-2008-race-results/
[61]	2009 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/liberty-2009-race-results-2/
[62]	2010 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/liberty-2010-race-results/
[63]	2011 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/liberty-2011-race-results/
[64]	2012 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/liberty-2012-race-results/
[65]	2013 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/2013-race-results/
[66]	2014 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/2014-race-results/
[67]	2015 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/2015-race-results/
[68]	2016 Liberty Challenge Results	https://libertychallenge.org/2016-race-results/
[71]	Canadian Aquafitness Leaders Alliance (CALA) Team of Trainers	http://www.calainc.org/CALA/cala_trainers.htm
[72]	2011 CALA Aquatic Post Rehabilitation & Reactivation Conference	http://www.calainc.org/Conferences/conf_miss_rehab_2011.htm
[73]	Certified Professional Trainers Network (CPTN)	https://www.cptn.com/Certifications/CPTN-CPT/cptn_certified_personal_trainer.htm
[74]	Aesthetic Group Gymnastics (AGG)	https://www.ifagg.com/v1/page.php?n=4