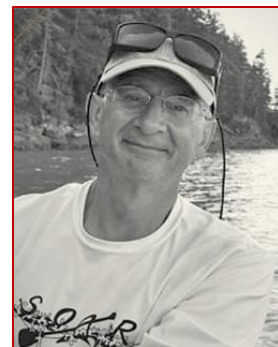




Hugh Town Memorial Builder Award Marc Lavertu 2024



NOMINATION SUMMARY

Marc Lavertu has a 25-year legacy of selfless volunteer effort to paddlesports in general and outrigger canoe racing in particular. **Marc** has made contributions to support Canadian paddlers at the international, national, provincial, regional, and club level. **Marc** was a founding member of the Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) & Club Bon Accueil (CBA). As a former Family Justice Counsellor (2013 Retired) and fluent French speaker, **Marc** was able to bring a wealth of expertise and legal contacts to his role as Secretary for both PROCS & CBA. [01] **Marc** has not served on the CORA Board, but has served as CORA Club Rep for Powell River many years, and has represented Team Canada at 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints and at 2019 Australia IVF World Distance.

HISTORICAL: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS OVER TIME

Powell River Racing Events: Suncoast Paddling Club has never hosted any CORA Sanctioned Racing Events, although Suncoast Paddling Club has hosted CORA Coaching Clinics. [11] The City of Powell River in 2014 collaborated with the Sea Fair Society Board of Directors and Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) to introduce the Sea Fair Corporate Challenge Outrigger Canoe Race as a community challenge. This event was a success and there were 3 key outcomes: 1) The Sea Fair Corporate Challenge Outrigger Canoe Race returned in 2015; 2) The Club Bon Accueil crew with **Marc** won the 2014 event; 3) Club Bon Accueil was awarded a Provincial grant for seniors.

CORA Clubs / Canoes Expansion: Club Bon Accueil members paddled with Powell River through 2014. After the 2014 Sea Fair Corporate Challenge Outrigger Canoe Race, Club Bon Accueil received a New Horizons for Seniors Program grant, awarded to community projects led or inspired by seniors. According to **Marc**, as someone who had worked on the grant application, winning the Powell River Sea Fair Race inspired the Club Bon Accueil to include outrigger canoeing as one of its activities. With money in hand, Club Bon Accueil got together with Powell River Outrigger Club Society (PROCS) and, with its expertise in outrigger canoes, shopped around for a canoe. The club found a six-person ultra-light Giblin Vortex OC6 for \$25,000. There were 4 significant outcomes from this event: 1) Club Bon Accueil became a CORA Member Club; 2) The first ultra-light OC6 was introduced to Western Canada; 3) Club Bon Accueil began offering an activity program in partnership with Powell River consisting of outings twice a week open to the whole community; 4) The New Horizons for Seniors Program grant success led to Mark Matthews and Powell River and **Marc** collaborating on grant applications which led to funding for 2 ARE Matahinas for the Suncoast Paddling Club. [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30]

International / National Competition: Five members of Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) travelled to the 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints. Canada fielded 130 competitors from Juniors to Golden Masters and won medals in 15 events, the best showing ever for Canada at this biennial event. **Marc**, competing in the Senior Masters category, advanced to finals in three events - an accomplishment in a fiercely competitive category. Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) paddlers including **Marc** would compete at the 2014 CORA Outrigger Canoe Sprints Championships in Victoria BC and return with many Gold / Silver / Bronze Placings. Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) paddlers including **Marc** would compete at the 2019 Australia IVF World Distance with impressive results. [41] [42] [43] [44]

Noteworthy Achievements: On Page 44 of the *Golden Book For The 75th Anniversary (1945-2020) of the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique (FFCB)*, **Marc** has a full page dedicated to his lifetime contributions to the

community of 330,000 Francophones and Francophiles in British Columbia. Since **Marc** retired as a Family Justice Counsellor in 2013, he has spent winters guiding hiking excursions with the Coachella Valley Hiking Club of Palm Springs California. [51] [52] [53] [54] [55]

CURRENT: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS THIS YEAR

CORA Cultural Continuity: The unplanned effort that began in 2020 to collect CORA outrigger canoeing history was a spin-off from the CORA Canoe Registry initiative. **Marc** agreed to sit for interviews in 2023/2024 that resulted in a vast set of material on Gibsons Paddle Club (GPC) & Spirit Of Aloha Racing (SOAR) & Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) & Club Bon Accueil (CBA). **Marc** has continued to provide first-hand knowledge of people / places / events from the 1990s through the 2020s that have shaped the history of Canadian outrigger canoeing. **Marc** provided a wealth of photos / names / dates that has become the "*The Sunshine Coast Legacy*" (1992-2023). [61] **Marc** then took it upon himself to conduct research to confirm events / dates / places / individuals and diligently proof-read several drafts until the content was factually / politically correct.

CORA Club Leadership: As a former Family Justice Counsellor and as Secretary for both Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) & Club Bon Accueil (CBA), **Marc** was able to facilitate the complicated process of an Organization Name Change (Deciding the new name; Confirming the name is available and permitted to be used; Consulting the organization's bylaws; Notifying governing authorities; Reporting the name change to the taxation authorities; Informing the public) for Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) to Suncoast Paddling Club (SPC) in 2023, and for Club Bon Accueil (CBA) to Association Francophone De Qathet (AFQA) in 2024. [71]

CORA Club Contributions: **Marc** continues to maintain membership with both Suncoast Paddling Club (SPC) and Association Francophone De Qathet (AFQA), and to act as Secretary for both clubs. **Marc** is also responsible for organizing ultra-light outrigger canoe outings in and around Salter Bay, Lund and on Powell Lake for Association Francophone De Qathet (AFQA), every year from May to September. [81] [82]

SPECIFIC: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADVANCEMENT OF THE SPORT

Powell River Big-Boat Fleet & Paddling Community Support: CORA has noted how the importance of the ongoing introduction of new canoes to clubs & regions has contributed to the growth of the sport. Powell River has always had a modest OC6 fleet, yet **Marc** has been able to assist with growing the Powell River big-boat fleet to five canoes while supporting outrigger canoe growth elsewhere on Vancouver Island. **Marc** has provided a timeline on how he was involved in the acquisition of the original Powell River outrigger canoes. The Powell River paddlers were members of the Gibsons Paddle Club (GPC) as of 1999 for a couple of years. GPC loaned Powell River a red Malia until Powell River Outrigger Canoe Society (PROCS) was formed in 2001, and then the red Malia was gifted to Powell River. February 2005 saw the launch in Powell River of a youth outdoor wilderness program named the Centre for Leadership and Adventure in Nature (CLAN). When the GPC were in the process of replacing the yellow & green Malia, Powell River was contacted. GPC wanted to sell them to Powell River at a bargain. **Marc** approached the CLAN about these canoes and the director (a Powell River paddler) was very interested in obtaining them. The Malias were then sold to CLAN. An agreement was reached with the CLAN and Powell River for the latter to use the Malias in exchange for maintaining them. Powell River did a major repair / repaint of the canoes prior to the CLAN's use of them. CLAN dissolved in 2011 after 6 years of operation and subsequently, the two Malias were gifted to Powell River. Powell River would acquire 1 Clipper Advantage in 2009. In 2015, **Marc** would then collaborate with Barry Kosturos about Powell River acquiring 1 of the 2 Bradley Lightnings that Barry had brought to Powell River, bringing the Powell River big-boat fleet to five canoes. [91] [92]

A friendship had developed between Powell River coach Michael Matthews & Pearson College teacher Garth Irwin. Pearson College students began coming to Powell River yearly to camp, hike, do community work service and paddle outrigger canoe. Michael & Garth & **Marc** collaborated on an agreement whereby the yellow Malia canoe was gifted / trailered to Pearson College as a starter canoe in 2018, and then the Red & Green Malia canoes were gifted / trailered to Pearson College in 2022. [93] [94] [95]

References

#	Note	Link
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[22]	2014 Sea Fair Outrigger Canoe Races	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=615921821860769&set=pb.100067410794212.-2207520000
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[25]	Club Bon Accueil (CBA) History	https://www.clubbonaccueil.com/en/who-we-are/
[26]	Club Bon Accueil 2016 Canoe Grant	https://www.prpeak.com/in-the-community/club-bon-accueil-receives-grant-for-seniors-canoeing-3398766
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[29]	2886 Club Bon Accueil \$43,123	https://database.statefunding.ca/home/unique-recipients/
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[51]	Golden Book For The 75th Anniversary (1945-2020) of the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique (FFCB)	https://issuu.com/ffcb/docs/ffcb_livre_dor_print_01
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[53]	Coachella Valley Hiking Club	https://cvhikingclub.net/
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[55]	Coachella Valley Hiking Club Excursions	https://cvhikingclub.net/events/potrero-trail-214/
[61]	CORA Cultural Continuity The Sunshine Coast Legacy	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/The-Sunshine-Coast-Legacy-Latest.pdf
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