

# The Pemberton Story (1996-2024)

Much of this history was collected in a series of virtual interviews with Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) members **Hugh Fisher** and **Karen Tomlinson**. Additional details were provided by various False Creek Racing Canoe Club (FCRCC) and Lotus Sports Club and Nanaimo Ocean Paddling Club (NOPC) and Comox Valley Canoe Racing Club (CVCRC) alumni (**Heather Taylor; Grace Morissette; Ruth Matson; Annie Boulding**), and excerpts from the 2008 Pique Newsmagazine article by **Michel Beaudry**, and excerpts from the 2010 Pique Newsmagazine article by **Lisa Richardson**, 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 / ICF / IVF events prior to 2000 are becoming increasingly difficult to locate in order to confirm historical events / results.

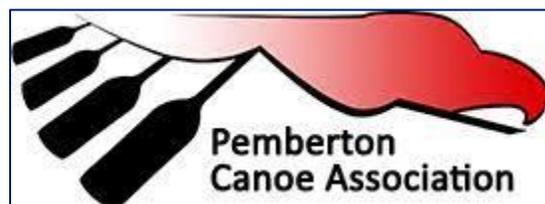
The **Sea-to-Sky Corridor**, for the purposes of this story is defined as encompassing paddling venues in a region of British Columbia that stretches from the North Shore of Vancouver up the east side of Howe Sound to Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton and beyond, and is one of the most accessible of BC's magnificent alpine regions. Pemberton is a village municipality in the Squamish-Lillooet region of southwestern British Columbia. This Pemberton Valley community is on the southwest shore of the Lillooet River and northeast shore of Pemberton Creek. On BC Highway 99, the locality is by road about 153 kilometres (95 mi) north of Vancouver, 33 kilometres (21 mi) northeast of Whistler, and 100 kilometres (62 mi) southwest of Lillooet.

There have been a small number of individuals living in the Sea-To-Sky Corridor who have been successful in past Olympic Games. Alas, the list is quite short. Whistler resident Shannon Smith won Bronze medal in swimming at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal and Steve Podborski followed with another Bronze in Lake Placid four years later. In 1992, current Squamish resident Hillary Lindh won the Silver medal in downhill as a member of the USA Ski Team. But beyond these three, the pickings get mighty slim, until we delve into the remarkable history of Pemberton resident Dr. Hugh Fisher. [001] [002] [003]



## Roots / Threads / Chapters

This chronicle is intended to capture unwritten history of outrigger canoeing for Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) from 1996-2024, as records from prior to 2000 are becoming more and more scarce. The history of outrigger canoeing at Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) is linked with Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC), the early travels of "The Burrard", the first outrigger canoes in Canada, and the founding of CORA. There are at least five paths / threads / chapters that converged to lead to the development of outrigger canoeing in the **Sea-to-Sky Corridor**.



1. **Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC)**
2. **"The Burrard"**
3. **First Outrigger Canoes In Canada**
4. **24 Hours In Pemberton September 1991**
5. **Founding Of CORA**

## Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC)



In 1971, New Westminster and Burnaby were selected to host Canada's 2nd Canada Summer Games occurring in 1973. A rowing venue was created on Burnaby Lake in the early 1970s for the 1973 Canada Summer Games. The 1973 Canada Summer Games were a great success for New Westminster and Burnaby. One of the legacies was a FISA standard Rowing Course in the GVRD area. Burnaby Lake quickly became a hub for the local and National rowing, canoeing and kayaking programs. For the next two decades, the lake was host to a number of major rowing and sprint kayaking competitions and was recognized as one of the best venues on the North American Pacific Coast and the only international standard course. Many regattas, including the Canadian National men's and women's training camps were held at the lake during the 1970s and 1980s. The BC High School Championships were frequently held at Burnaby during the 1980s. UBC's men's and women's rowing programs were located at Burnaby Lake during the late 1970s and 1980s. In 1976, UBC successfully hosted the Western Intercollegiate Sprint Championships at the lake. They were usually held at Newport Beach in California and all the major rowing universities in the western USA and Canada attended. [006]

The Burnaby Aquatic Club was founded in 1974 on Burnaby Lake. Burnaby Aquatic Club, having attracted elite athletes and quality coaches, went on to become the dominant canoeing force in British Columbia. Eventually, the club name changed to Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC). Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC) had many Canada Games Medalists including Rebecca Alley, Kate Ballem, Cameron Brine, Robert Eckley, Kevin Ellis, Dave Jack, Lara Lindal, Paul Metzack, Drew Mitchell, Colin Shaw, Merryn Sturgess, and, Kyle Zacharuk. Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC) had many National Team Alumni Olympians including Hugh Fisher, Colin Shaw, Donald Irvine, and Sheila Taylor. Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC) also had many National Team Alumni including Peter Liljedahl, Greg Redman, Peter Heaver, Eric Fast, Preston Fisk, Drew Mitchell, and Samantha Loutet. It is unfortunate that the CKBC Legends website pages have been lost, as each of these CKBC Legends website pages provided incredible history and accolades on so many Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC) luminaries. [007]

Born in New Zealand in 1955, Hugh moved to Canada in 1965 at the age of 10 and settled in Burnaby, where he began canoeing and kayaking in 1970 at the Burnaby Canoe Club on Deer Lake. At 18, Hugh Fisher was introduced to one of the fastest kayakers in Canada at the time, Lou Tollas, formerly of Hungary. Hugh Fisher began to train seriously for competition in 1974 at the world class flatwater racing and training venue on Burnaby Lake, only a mile from his home. Hugh would train there for the next decade with many world-class rowers and kayakers such as Colin Shaw, Don Irvine, Drew Mitchell, Peter Liljedahl, Renn Crichlow, Sheila Taylor, Tricia Smith, and future Olympic partner Alwyn Morris. Hungarian immigrants exiled by the Soviet invasion arrived in BC and built a critical mass of paddling talent as the foundation for Canada's paddling success. Local paddlers got a chance to train in world-class facilities, surrounded by elite level athletes and coaches. Hugh Fisher, having started racing at the Burnaby Lake Canoe Club in 1970 at the age of 15, learned enough from the exiled champions to earn himself a spot on the Canadian Olympic squad in 1976. Hugh made his Olympic debut on home soil at Montreal 1976 and was part of the Canadian K4 1000M team finishing tenth. [008]

### Early Travels Of "*The Burrard*"

The 20-year tale of "*The Burrard*" has been documented in the CORA publication "*The Burrard*" - First OC6 In Canada. [011]



Annie Boulding would be one of the first Canadian women to participate in the Molokai Na Wahine race. The Womens crew trained in Southern California with Newport Aquatic Center Coach Billy Whitford for the 1985 Molokai Na Wahine race. When the Womens crew returned to California after the race, Annie Boulding explained to Billy Whitford that Canadian paddlers had to train for the Catalina Channel Crossing and Molokai races in Voyageur canoes. Billy Whitford had a 600-lb hull cut in half at the midsection and loaded onto the roof of Annie Boulding's whitewater instructors (Brian Creer) motor home and Annie Boulding

brought the two halves of the hull of "*The Burrard*" north to Canada. [012]



Several False Creek paddlers (most likely Hugh Fisher, Heather Taylor, Don Irvine, David Boulding, and Patrick Couling) reassembled the two halves of the hull brought to Canada by Annie Boulding and "*The Burrard*" launched in early 1987 for the first time from the rocky shore under the wooden bridge walkway next to the Alder Bay Dock.

This appearance of "*The Burrard*" in early 1987 after being imported from California in 1985/1986, explains how an OC6 was seen on Canadian waters before the first Canadian *Malias* were finished at Lotus Sports Club in 1988 as per the timeline provided by David Boulding and Grace Morissette. [013]

Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA) was incorporated in 1992 through the efforts of Garry Mancell (Lotus), David Boulding (False Creek), and Hugh Fisher (Pemberton) representing the first three outrigger canoe clubs in Canada, to solidify a place for Canadian outrigger canoeing by filing the requisite documents with the federal ministry. When CORA was founded in 1992, a program was put into place whereby "*The Burrard*" would be a one-year loaner outrigger canoe for start-up clubs.



"*The Burrard*" was with Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club (JOCC) as a starter outrigger canoe from 1992-1993. When the Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club (JOCC) loan was over, "*The Burrard*" moved onwards to its next home which was Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA). When the Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) loan was over, "*The Burrard*" moved onwards to its next home which was Victoria Canoe Kayak Club (VCKC). [014]

### First Outrigger Canoes In Canada

In 1987, the year after the first dragon boat racing event at Expo 86, when Grace Morissette started paddling with the "Lotus Eaters" team, there were no dragon boats or outrigger canoes available in BC for training.

Several paddlers, such as David Boulding and Hugh Fisher (Pemberton Canoe Association), had competed in outrigger races in California and Hawaii in the 1970s and 1980s. Hugh Fisher spent time in Newport Beach, CA training for the Olympics and was recruited to several outrigger teams for races. Hugh Fisher competed on the Blazing Paddles team that won the 1978 Molokai race with a paddler named Billy Whitford who was steering that team. Billy Whitford and Uncle Bud Hohl had a side business of building *Malia* canoes. They were looking to spread outrigger racing to other parts of North America (and no doubt finding other people to buy their boats) and perceived Hugh Fisher, with his Olympian status, to be a good person to represent outrigger canoe racing in Canada. It was understood that Hugh was given a choice of buying the "longer and narrower boat designed for taller paddlers" or the *Malia*. Hugh chose the *Malia* because clubs in California were moving to the newer boat designs and he was offered the California *Malia* mould which was just sitting in someone's backyard; having the mould would make *Malias* more affordable and be more conducive to building a fleet of boats to race. [021]

The article written by Doug Mancell describes how David Boulding arranged to have Bud Hohl load the California *Malia* mould onto the Necky Kayaks trailer, and then Grace Morissette accompanied David Boulding when he drove across the

border and met with US Customs to import the California *Malia* mould into Canada. In 1988, after fabrication of the first two Canadian *Malias* had begun at Steve Schleicher's shop, Lotus Sports Club acquired their boathouse at Barnet Marine Park and the two Canadian *Malias*. were moved to the boathouse where the finishing work was completed by Jim Mancell, Garry Mancell, David Boulding, Steve Schleicher (with all of the boat building expertise), Bob Disbrow, and several other paddlers. When Lotus Sports Club finished using the mould for its Canadian *Malias*, the California *Malia* mould was delivered to Ron Kaschula of Calmar Fiberglass and made available to paddlers from False Creek Racing Canoe Club to build some additional Canadian *Malias*. [022]

In the early 1990's, CORA and PNWORCA clubs struggled to acquire OC6s to support the growing number of outrigger canoe clubs. Ron Kaschula of Calmar Fiberglass had shops in North Vancouver, East Vancouver and New Westminster and was manufacturing / repairing just about anything fiberglass since before 1990. Sometime around 1992, a Canadian Class Racer (CCR) OC6 started appearing at BC clubs – referred to as a "Calmar". It was discovered that when the Canadian *Malias* overturned, they rode low in the water; David Boulding, Hugh Fisher, Don Irvine, and several others had input into designing a canoe that would increase paddlers' safety in colder BC water. The Canadian Class Racer (CCR) was designed with more flotation, a bumpy front nose to hold the covers, and more strength in the seats which resulted in a stiffer boat with more flotation in the rear.

### 24 Hours In Pemberton September 1991

Hugh Fisher competed in the 1988 Seoul Olympics shortly before graduating from UBC medical school, and then returned to his birthplace New Zealand to complete his medical residency training. While Hugh Fisher was doing his internship in New Zealand, he put together a dragon boat team that went on to win the 1990 New Zealand Championships. [031]



A 2008 Pique News article written by Michel Beaudry chronicled how Hugh Fisher returned to Canada in 1991 and decided to take two years to travel through BC to find the right place to setup a medical practice. His first stop was in Pemberton BC in September 1991. The local doctor desperately needed a break and Hugh Fisher was persuaded to sign on for one year. On his first night in Pemberton, a call for help came over the radio. The Lillooet River was flooding and they needed volunteers to help fill sandbags. So that is what Hugh Fisher did for most of his first night there. Exhausted from the work, Hugh Fisher dragged himself to his B&B the next morning only to be awakened a few minutes later by the unmistakable sound of gunshots outside his window. The local police had been forced to shoot a bear because everybody else was busy fighting the flood. The next week, Hugh Fisher brought his wife, Hillary Downing from a small BC town, who had a stated intention at the time to not live in a small BC town again, to Pemberton. So, Hugh Fisher began his professional career as a medical doctor in Pemberton in 1991 with a practice that would grow to be one of the largest in the province. Pemberton residents now think it's totally normal for the local doctor to walk into the hardware store in board shorts and flip flops. [032]

### Founding Of CORA



Hugh Fisher had returned from New Zealand late 1991 and started Pemberton Canoe Association. FCRCC and Lotus and Pemberton were the only 3 "outrigger canoe" clubs in Canada at that time. IPCF had happened in 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990. Canada had not participated in IPCF World Sprints as paddlers needed to be with a "member nation". Hugh Fisher and Andrea Dillon had a discussion on a park bench outside False Creek Community Centre about the logistics of having Canada become an IPCF "member nation". Garry Mancell, David Boulding, and Hugh Fisher filed the CORA Incorporation documents in April 1992. [041]

At 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Andrea Dillon would take Bronze in V6 1000M Masters Women. In his sole appearance at International Va'a Federation World Sprints, Don Irvine would take Silver in V1 500M Open Men at 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints – best ever finish in V1 500M Open Men division by a Canadian to this day. Hugh Fisher would take Bronze in V1 500M Open Men at 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints. Jeanette Callahan

would take Bronze in V1 500M Master Women at 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints. This first-ever participation by Team Canada in an IPCF / IVF World Sprints Championship event would set the stage for Team Canada to eventually become a major player at IVF World Sprints / Distance Championship events. [042]

## Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) History

This chronicle is intended to capture unwritten history of outrigger canoeing at Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) from 1996-2024. The history of outrigger canoeing at Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) is linked with the growth of outrigger canoeing at other BC Mainland clubs. Most Canadian outrigger canoe clubs are founded through the efforts of a single or small group of individuals with a vision. Hugh Fisher would be the individual who would start Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA). Now retired from active sprint kayaking competition, Hugh rose to prominence in his sport of sprint kayaking at the 1976 Olympics and went on to win numerous national and international competitions. Hugh capped his career by teaming up with Alwyn Morris to win Gold in the 1000-metre kayak pairs and Bronze in the 500-metre kayak pairs at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. After retiring from sprint kayaking competition, Hugh became actively involved in the sport as the provincial coach in charge of sport development. This chronicle on outrigger canoeing at Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) begins with the participation by Hugh in the 1978 Molokai Hoe race. As well as competing in sprint kayaking, Hugh travelled to Hawaii several times to compete in outrigger canoe races. Hugh would race with North American Mainland crews coached by Billy Whitford to four Molokai Hoe Outrigger Canoe World Championships between 1978-1983. [050] [051] [052] [053]



Hugh competed in the 1988 Seoul Olympics shortly before graduating from UBC medical school, and then returned to his birthplace New Zealand to complete his medical residency training. Hugh arrived in Pemberton BC in September 1991 at the beginning of what was intended to be two years of travel to find the right place to open a practice and decided to call Pemberton home. The launch of his coaching career in the village came at him sideways. The parents of some of the youths at the local high school thought Hugh was a rower, so they asked Hugh if he would start a local rowing club. Hugh told them he didn't know much about rowing, but if they were interested in paddling, he might be able to do something for them. [054]

Hugh competed in the 1988 Seoul Olympics shortly before graduating from UBC medical school, and then returned to his birthplace New Zealand to complete his medical residency training. Hugh arrived in Pemberton BC in September 1991 at the beginning of what was intended to be two years of travel to find the right place to open a practice and decided to call Pemberton home. The launch of his coaching career in the village came at him sideways. The parents of some of the youths at the local high school thought Hugh was a rower, so they asked Hugh if he would start a local rowing club. Hugh told them he didn't know much about rowing, but if they were interested in paddling, he might be able to do something for them. [054]

The Whistler Canoe Club was founded on Alta Lake in 1991 and local Pemberton paddlers started out being part of that club. Head Coach Hugh has helped to develop the Pemberton training program from its inception. Hugh was able to borrow two Voyageur canoes from paddling aficionado and friend Tim Malone at Whistler's Outdoor Experience. Hugh then spent a few years coaching local Pemberton paddlers that he had invited to come out and try out for the new team as part of the Whistler Canoe Club. The first Junior dragon boat crew from the Pemberton area was formed in 1996 and Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) was founded at One Mile Lake outside Pemberton in 1997 by Hugh. The Laoyam Eagles Junior dragon boat team from Pemberton Canoe Association made their first appearance at the 1997 Vancouver International Dragon Boat Festival. In their third appearance, the Laoyam Eagles dragon boat team won the Junior category championship in the 1999 Vancouver International Dragon Boat Festival and then for 15 more consecutive years through 2014. Members of this small community, practicing on tiny One Mile Lake, have consistently won Junior national and international dragon boat races for 15 straight years. By the time they graduate from Pemberton Secondary School, some local students have five years of paddling under their belts, enough expertise to pick up lucrative coaching jobs in Vancouver that nicely supplement university life. [055] [056] [057] [058]

From 1996-2014, Hugh had sourced a couple of Voyageur canoes, had founded a local canoe club, had spearheaded the construction of a boathouse on Pemberton's diminutive One Mile Lake, and had coached the high school Laoyam Eagles dragon boat Junior team to 16 consecutive victories at the Vancouver International Dragon Boat Festival (VIDBF).



The Laoyam Eagles Junior dragon boat team has represented Canada, as a crew, at IDBF World Championships in Philadelphia, USA in 2001 and Poznan, Poland in 2003, and at IDBF Club Crew World Championships in Toronto, Canada in 2006. Individual members of this dragon boat team have also raced with Team Canada at IDBF World Nations Championship events in Tampa, USA in 2011, Szeged Hungary in 2013, Welland, Canada in 2015, and Divonne-Les-Bains, France in 2017. This team has also travelled to competitions in San Francisco, Long Beach, and Hong Kong.

The club's outrigger canoeing program has qualified athletes to represent Team Canada at 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints, 2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints, and 2016 Australia IVF World Sprints. In 2012, Alea Dahiden, a Pemberton paddler, was the first Canadian Junior woman to win a medal at one of these international events.

The sprint canoeing and kayaking (flatwater) program has seen athletes competing at both provincial and national levels. Paddlers from this program have competed at BC Summer Games, Western Canada Summer Games, Canada Summer Games, and Nationals. [059]

## Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) Outrigger Canoe Fleet

Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) has had an interesting evolution in their six-person outrigger canoe fleet. When CORA was founded in 1992, and a program was put into place whereby "*The Burrard*" would be a one-year loaner outrigger canoe for start-up clubs. "*The Burrard*" was with Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club (JOCC) as a starter outrigger canoe from 1992-1993. When the Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club (JOCC) loan was over, "*The Burrard*" moved onwards to its next home which was Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA). When the Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) loan was over, "*The Burrard*" moved onwards to its next home which was Victoria Canoe Kayak Club (VCKC). Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) would acquire a Canadian *Malia* OC6 manufactured by Ron Kaschula of Calmar Fiberglass as one of this first generation of Canadian six-person outrigger canoes. Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) would then acquire a Clipper Advantage OC6 which Olympic Gold Medal Winner and Epic Kayaks Designer Greg Barton collaborated with Western Canoeing and Kayaking on the production of this third generation of Canadian six-person outrigger canoes. Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) would then acquire a Bradley Lightning OC6 which was one of the lighter Bradley Lightnings built by Ryan Pogue of Pogue Sports for Pacific NorthWest and California clubs, to bring their six-person outrigger canoe fleet to three boats.



*FCRCC to Kamloops to Vernon to Jericho to Pemberton Dennis Campbell Rhino "The Burrard"*



*Pemberton Yellow-Deck / White-Hull Clipper Advantage*



*Pemberton Yellow-Deck / White-Hull Canadian Malia*



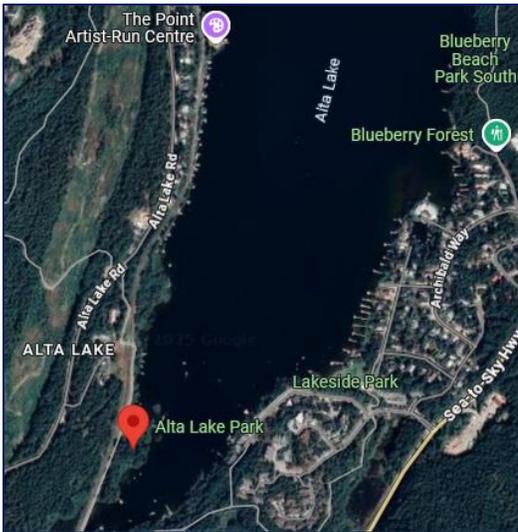
*Pemberton White-Deck / White-Hull Bradley Lightning*

## **Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) Outrigger Canoe Events**

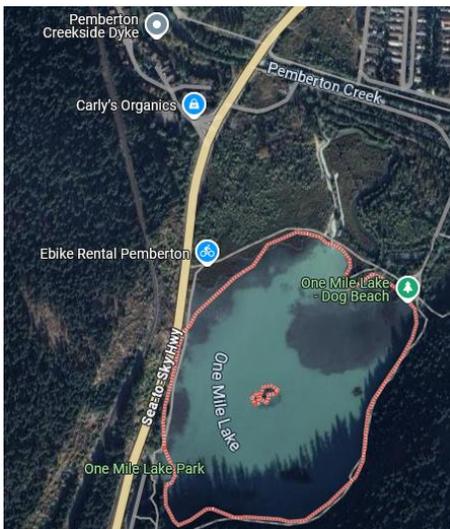
Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) has not hosted any CORA Sanctioned Racing Events in recent years, but there was mention in the "*VCKC – 50 Years of Paddling*" publication (pp. 123) written by Alan Thomson, of Green Lake races in Whistler during Fall 1994, where canoes were provided by the Whistler Canoe Club and Lotus Sports Club in Vancouver. This would have been during the time that "*The Burrard*" was with Victoria Canoe Kayak Club (VCKC) as a starter outrigger canoe from 1994-1995. [061]

## Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) Outrigger Canoe Venues

Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) has had at 2 venues over the course of the history of the club.



The Whistler Canoe Club was founded on Alta Lake in 1991, presumably based out of Alta Lake Park on the western shoreline. Hugh Fisher was able to borrow two Voyageur canoes from Tim Malone at Whistler's Outdoor Experience and spent a few years coaching local Pemberton paddlers who started out being part of Whistler Canoe Club.



Pemberton Canoe Association was founded on Pemberton's diminutive One Mile Lake in 1997, presumably based out of One Mile Lake Park on the western shoreline.

## Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) Outrigger Canoe Achievements

Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) social media has some mention of their achievements in terms of participation in Western Canada or International paddling events. However, the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA) website race results indicate that Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) has fielded crews and done well in the CORA Cup Series events over the course of many years. It is known that Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) has sent individuals to IVF World Sprints / Distance events over the course of many years. This section may be updated with further research.

The Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) club itself and many of the club members have notable achievements. The following is a chronological set of known achievements:

- 1997 ~ Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) founded at One Mile Lake
- 1999 ~ Laoyam Eagles 1st VIDBF Junior Championship (Begins 16 Years Consecutive 1st Place)
- 2004 ~ Laoyam Eagles 6th VIDBF Junior Championship
- 2006 ~ Laoyam Eagles 8th VIDBF Junior Championship
- 2009 ~ Laoyam Eagles 11th VIDBF Junior Championship
- 2010 ~ Laoyam Eagles 12th VIDBF Junior Championship
- 2012 ~ Calgary IVF World Sprints - Aleea Dahinden Earns Bronze In Under 19 Girls V1
- 2012 ~ Karen Tomlinson recognized by Pemberton Chamber of Commerce as 12th Citizen of the Year
- 2013 ~ Laoyam Eagles 15th VIDBF Junior Championship
- 2015 ~ Laoyam Eagles VIDBF Junior Championship 16-Year Streak Ends
- 2018 ~ Laoyam Eagles VIDBF Junior Championship (After 3 Years Away From Podium)
- 2018 ~ Laoyam Eagles VIDBF Junior Championship
- 2019 ~ Laoyam Eagles VIDBF Junior Championship
- 2021 ~ Hugh Fisher inducted into Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame

[071] [072] [073] [074] [075] [076] [077] [078] [079] [080] [081]

## Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA) Luminaries



Hugh Fisher has remarkable athletic credentials and has made significant contributions as coach, builder, and pioneer through his career. Hugh's distinguished paddling career includes being a Canadian Champion 22 times in various K1 / K2 / K4 / C4 events. Hugh was selected to the Canadian team for the 1976 Montreal, 1980 Moscow, 1984 Los Angeles, and 1988 Seoul Olympics. Hugh and Alwyn Morris took Silver in K2 1000M at the 1982 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships and Bronze in K2 500M at the 1983 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships. Hugh and Alwyn took Bronze in K2 500M and Gold in K2 1000M at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Hugh took 10 Gold and four Silver medals at the 2005 World Masters Games. Hugh

would race with North American Mainland crews coached by Billy Whitford to four Molokai Hoe Outrigger Canoe World Championships. Hugh raced with the original False Creek Racing Canoe Club Mens dragon boat crew at the 1986 Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival that would take Silver and be the first of only two non-Asian club-based crews to ever medal in this World Championship event. Hugh took Bronze, Silver, and Gold at IVF World Sprints. Hugh was one of the original founders of False Creek Racing Canoe Club in 1985. Hugh founded Pemberton Canoe Association as Head Coach in 1997. Hugh began his professional career as a medical doctor in Pemberton in 1991 with a practice that grew to be one of the largest in the province. Hugh was named a Member of the Order of Canada and has been inducted into the British Columbia Hall of Fame, Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame, Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, as well as Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame. See Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Bio for Hugh Fisher. [101]



Karen Tomlinson relocated to Pemberton in 1998 after teaching for 3 years in Ft. St. James, to move further south and be closer to home (Revelstoke), to take a teaching job at Pemberton Secondary School. The Pemberton Laoyam Eagles dragon boat program had been running since 1996, when Karen and Anna Sinclair began working with the dragon boat team in 2000, as they were looking for new teacher sponsors. Since 2000, Karen has had many roles with the Pemberton Canoe Association including Secretary and Commodore. Karen organizes all the registration for membership to the Pemberton Canoe Association (PCA), CanoeKayak BC, Dragon Boat Canada, and Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA), as well as registering teams for events, communicating information between everyone, and many other jobs. Karen brought social media (Facebook; Twitter; blogs) to the Pemberton Canoe Association to help makes people in the community, and also the paddling community, aware of what Pemberton Canoe Association is doing with the paddling program in Pemberton. Karen (described by colleagues as a "fly under the radar" type person) was recognised in 2010 in the first Winds of Change Wellness Recognition Awards for Promoting Healthy Lifestyle Choices in Pemberton, after being nominated by a student for the time she makes herself available to students at lunch and afterschool for help. Karen was recognized in 2012 by the Pemberton Chamber of Commerce as the 12th Citizen of the Year award recipient. In conferring this recognition, the community recognized all that Karen does including the time and effort she has put into the Laoyam Eagles Dragon Boat team. When asked who she considers an inspiration, Karen specifically noted Hugh Fisher who has put in countless hours on the water with the kids – his great interaction with the kids, the way he teaches them paddling techniques, the way he talks to them and motivates them. Karen has also been active with the Rotary Club Of Pemberton for very many years with roles as President, Public Relations, and Youth Programs. [111] [112] [113] [114] [115]

## References

Note	Article	Link
[001]	Sea-To-Sky Region	<a href="https://vancouverbestplaces.com/sea-to-sky-region/">https://vancouverbestplaces.com/sea-to-sky-region/</a>
[002]	Sea-To-Sky Highway Route	<a href="https://www.hellobc.com/road-trips/sea-to-sky-highway-route/">https://www.hellobc.com/road-trips/sea-to-sky-highway-route/</a>
[003]	12 Unique Experiences Along The Sea-To-Sky Corridor	<a href="https://www.hellobc.com/stories/12-unique-experiences-along-the-sea-to-sky-corridor/">https://www.hellobc.com/stories/12-unique-experiences-along-the-sea-to-sky-corridor/</a>
[006]	Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC) History	<a href="https://www.burnabylake.com/content/club-history">https://www.burnabylake.com/content/club-history</a>
[007]	Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club (BCKC) Alumni	<a href="https://cfly.ca/canoe/Burnaby.htm">https://cfly.ca/canoe/Burnaby.htm</a>
[008]	Lou Tollas Olympedia Biographical Info	<a href="https://www.olympedia.org/athletes/9329">https://www.olympedia.org/athletes/9329</a>
[011]	"The Burrard" - First OC6 In Canada	<a href="https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/The-Burrard-Legacy-2021-07-Jul.pdf">https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/The-Burrard-Legacy-2021-07-Jul.pdf</a>
[012]	50 Years, 50 People: Brian Creer	<a href="https://paddlecanada.com/50-years-50-people-brian-creer/">https://paddlecanada.com/50-years-50-people-brian-creer/</a>
[013]	FCRCC History	<a href="https://www.gogophotocontest.com/paddlersoffcrcc/pages/3487/">https://www.gogophotocontest.com/paddlersoffcrcc/pages/3487/</a>
[014]	VCKC – 50 Years of Paddling	<a href="https://www.vckc.ca/event-2940125/">https://www.vckc.ca/event-2940125/</a>
[021]	Outrigger Canoe History in California	<a href="https://lanakila.com/history-1/">https://lanakila.com/history-1/</a>
[022]	Malia History in Canada CORA	<a href="https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Malia-history-in-canada.pdf">https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Malia-history-in-canada.pdf</a>
[031]	1990 New Zealand Dragon Boat Championships	<a href="https://books.google.ca/books?id=L2OVAgAAQBAJ&amp;pg=PA112&amp;lpg=PA112&amp;dq=hugh+fisher+canoe&amp;source=bl&amp;ots=dKjsFXwTT1&amp;sig=ACfU3U132VbS BjpK7DFjHG9 XoRXTx rFA&amp;hl=en&amp;sa=X&amp;ved=2ahUKEwi455uw1M vAhUgFzQIHYZ7CNg4MhDoATAGegQICxAD#v=onepage&amp;q=hugh%20fisher%20cano e&amp;f=false">https://books.google.ca/books?id=L2OVAgAAQBAJ&amp;pg=PA112&amp;lpg=PA112&amp;dq=hugh+fisher+canoe&amp;source=bl&amp;ots=dKjsFXwTT1&amp;sig=ACfU3U132VbS BjpK7DFjHG9 XoRXTx rFA&amp;hl=en&amp;sa=X&amp;ved=2ahUKEwi455uw1M vAhUgFzQIHYZ7CNg4MhDoATAGegQICxAD#v=onepage&amp;q=hugh%20fisher%20cano e&amp;f=false</a>
[032]	Winning As A Way Of Life - Michel Beaudry	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/opinion/hugh-fisher-winning-as-a-way-of-life-2479766">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/opinion/hugh-fisher-winning-as-a-way-of-life-2479766</a>
[041]	CORA Incorporation Documents	<a href="https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/cora-letters-patent.pdf">https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/cora-letters-patent.pdf</a>
[042]	1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints Results	<a href="http://www.ivfiv.org/uploads/2/5/3/8/25381158/1992_worlds_sacrament_o.pdf">http://www.ivfiv.org/uploads/2/5/3/8/25381158/1992_worlds_sacrament_o.pdf</a>
[050]	Pemberton Canoe Association About	<a href="https://www.pembertoncanoe.com/">https://www.pembertoncanoe.com/</a>
[051]	1984 Los Angeles Olympics	<a href="https://www.gg.ca/en/honours/recipients/146-14426">https://www.gg.ca/en/honours/recipients/146-14426</a>
[052]	BC Sport Development	<a href="https://bcsportshall.com/honoured_member/hugh-fisher/">https://bcsportshall.com/honoured_member/hugh-fisher/</a>
[053]	BC Sports Hall Of Fame Molokai Hoe	<a href="https://bshofbc.com/fame-members-listing/hugh-fisher/">https://bshofbc.com/fame-members-listing/hugh-fisher/</a>
[054]	Pemberton As Home - Michel Beaudry	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/opinion/hugh-fisher-winning-as-a-way-of-life-2479766">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/opinion/hugh-fisher-winning-as-a-way-of-life-2479766</a>
[055]	Tim Malone Whistler Outdoor Experience Company	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/whistler-news/news-briefs-2459549">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/whistler-news/news-briefs-2459549</a>
[056]	Whistler Canoe Club Alta Lake	<a href="https://whistlermuseum.org/2020/07/07/canoeing-through-whistlers-past/">https://whistlermuseum.org/2020/07/07/canoeing-through-whistlers-past/</a>
[057]	1984 Los Angeles Olympics Retrospective - Lisa Richardson	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/cover-stories/passing-the-torch-2484656/">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/cover-stories/passing-the-torch-2484656/</a>
[058]	1997 Pemberton Canoe Association Founded	<a href="http://cfly.ca/canoe/Pemberton.htm">http://cfly.ca/canoe/Pemberton.htm</a>
[059]	Pemberton Canoe Association History	<a href="https://www.pembertoncanoe.com/about/history">https://www.pembertoncanoe.com/about/history</a>
[061]	Green Lake Sprints	<a href="https://www.vckc.ca/event-2940125/">https://www.vckc.ca/event-2940125/</a>
[071]	2004 Laoyam Eagles 6th VIDBF Junior Championship	<a href="https://www.dragonboatwest.net/index.php?topic=1641.0">https://www.dragonboatwest.net/index.php?topic=1641.0</a>
[072]	2006 Laoyam Eagles 8th VIDBF Junior Championship	<a href="https://concorddragonboatfestival.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/03/VDBF2006-Results.pdf">https://concorddragonboatfestival.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/03/VDBF2006-Results.pdf</a>
[073]	2009 Laoyam Eagles 11th VIDBF Junior Championship – Lisa Richardson	<a href="https://choosepemberton.com/2010/06/17/olympic-gold-medallist-prepares-his-crew-for-rio-tinto-alcan-dragonboat-festival/">https://choosepemberton.com/2010/06/17/olympic-gold-medallist-prepares-his-crew-for-rio-tinto-alcan-dragonboat-festival/</a>
[074]	2010 Laoyam Eagles 12th VIDBF Junior Championship	<a href="https://choosepemberton.com/2010/06/20/breaking-news-laoyam-eagles-win-again/">https://choosepemberton.com/2010/06/20/breaking-news-laoyam-eagles-win-again/</a>
[075]	2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints - Aleea Dahinden Earns Bronze In Under 19 Girls V1	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/pemberton-paddlers-finding-international-success-2491725">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/pemberton-paddlers-finding-international-success-2491725</a>
[076]	2012 Karen Tomlinson recognized by Pemberton Chamber of Commerce as 12th Citizen of the Year	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/sea-to-sky/karen-tomlinson-named-pemberton-citizen-of-the-year-2492968">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/sea-to-sky/karen-tomlinson-named-pemberton-citizen-of-the-year-2492968</a>

[077]	2013 Laoyam Eagles 15th VIDBF Junior Championship	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/laoyam-eagles-win-again-in-vancouver-2493973">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/laoyam-eagles-win-again-in-vancouver-2493973</a>
[078]	2015 Laoyam Eagles VIDBF Junior Championship 16-Year Streak Ends	<a href="https://asianpacificpost.com/article/7005-eternal-dragon-team-ends-rival-team%E2%80%99s-16-year-winning-streak.html">https://asianpacificpost.com/article/7005-eternal-dragon-team-ends-rival-team%E2%80%99s-16-year-winning-streak.html</a>
[079]	2018 Laoyam Eagles VIDBF Junior Championship (After 3 Years Away From Podium)	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/laoyam-eagles-back-on-top-2504621">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/laoyam-eagles-back-on-top-2504621</a>
[080]	2018 Laoyam Eagles VIDBF Junior Championship	<a href="https://thewellnessalmanac.com/2018/06/28/congratulations-to-the-laoyam-eagles-champions/">https://thewellnessalmanac.com/2018/06/28/congratulations-to-the-laoyam-eagles-champions/</a>
[081]	2019 Laoyam Eagles VIDBF Junior Championship	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/laoyam-eagles-victorious-in-vancouver-2507447">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/laoyam-eagles-victorious-in-vancouver-2507447</a>
[101]	Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Bio for Hugh Fisher	<a href="https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HOF-CORA-Hugh-Fisher.pdf">https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HOF-CORA-Hugh-Fisher.pdf</a>
[111]	Meet 2012s Citizen Of The Year	<a href="https://choosepemberton.com/2013/02/20/meet-2012s-citizen-of-the-year-karen-tomlinson/">https://choosepemberton.com/2013/02/20/meet-2012s-citizen-of-the-year-karen-tomlinson/</a>
[112]	Pemberton Community Awards Handed Out	<a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/sea-to-sky/pemberton-community-awards-handed-out-2492973">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/sea-to-sky/pemberton-community-awards-handed-out-2492973</a>
[113]	PCA Head Coach Job Description 2019	<a href="https://canoekayak.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Head-Coach-Job-Description-2019.pdf">https://canoekayak.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Head-Coach-Job-Description-2019.pdf</a>
[114]	Pemberton Secondary School	<a href="https://www.sd48pemberton.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1095320&amp;type=d&amp;pREC_ID=1369943">https://www.sd48pemberton.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1095320&amp;type=d&amp;pREC_ID=1369943</a>
[115]	Pemberton Rotary Club	<a href="https://www.rotarypemberton.ca/">https://www.rotarypemberton.ca/</a>