



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Linda Daigle



Summary

Linda Daigle had notable canoeing achievements in the pre-digital era of the 1980s-1990s. Online references during this time are sparse, making it a challenge to compile a Hall Of Fame Profile that fully represents the accomplishments of Linda. Personal accounts collected via in-person and virtual interviews during 2020-2025 from individuals such as Andrea Dillon, Drew Mitchell, Annie Boulding, Hugh Fisher, Heather Taylor, Bob Stewart, and Ruth Matson, who were part of the Canadian paddling community for many decades, which have been captured in Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Bios, Hugh Town Memorial Bios, and Canadian Outrigger Canoe Club Legacies, have provided much of the Canadian outrigger canoe history from the 1980s-1990s, including background on Linda.

What is known is that Linda was one of the founding members of the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association. Linda would race with Team Canada Women who would take multiple Gold and/or Silver and/or Bronze medals at 1992 Sacramento IPCF/IVF World Sprints, 1994 Western Samoa IVF World Sprints, 1996 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, and 1998 Fiji IVF World Sprints, while serving as IVF Member Representative and Area Coordinator for Canada.

Early Career

There is some information available on the early career of Linda that led to her involvement with outrigger canoeing. It is known that Linda, as with many in the BC paddling community who moved to outrigger canoeing, was involved with dragon boating in the 1980s-1990s. There are photos of Linda with a dragon boat crew at the 1987 Vancouver International Dragon Boat Festival. Linda had an extensive career with Air Canada as Customer Service Manager (1975-1999), Team Leader / Manager (2000-2013), and Manager Hub Development (2014-present). It was this time with Air Canada in the 1990s-2000s that was pivotal in how Linda provided support to the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association (CORA). [01]

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

The earliest mention of Linda with regard to paddlesports is a personal account by Grace Morissette where they were with a womens crew at 1991 Queen Lili'uokalani Canoe Races.

The early 1990s saw an FCRCC initiative to deliver a womens outrigger canoe program that would be competitive at the international level. FCRCC had recruited 40+ women in 1993 to fill 2 Molokai Na Wahine crews with a Catalina Channel Crossing race as a precursor. The FCRCC womens outrigger canoe program coached by Drew Mitchell and Don Irvine would send crews to Molokai Na Wahine in 1991/1993/1994. Linda was likely with the 1991/1993/1994 FCRCC crews. [21]

Team Canada would send their 1st ever contingent to the 1992 Sacramento IPCF/IVF World Sprints event. [25] Linda has represented Team Canada at International Va'a Federation (IVF) World Sprints from 1992-1998. At 1992 Sacramento IPCF/IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Linda would advance to Semifinals in V6 500M Open Women, V6 3000M Open Women, and V12 500M Open Women. [27] [28] At 1994 Western Samoa IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Linda would take Bronze in V6 500M Masters Women, take Gold in V6 1000M Masters Women, and take Gold in V12 500M Masters Women. [30] [31] At 1996 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Linda would take Bronze and place 4th in V6 500M Masters Women, take Silver and place 4th in V6 1000M Masters Women, and take Silver in V12 500M Masters Women. [33] [34] At 1998 Fiji IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Linda would take Bronze and place 5th in V6 500M Masters Women, take Bronze in V12 500M Open Women, take Gold in V6 500M Senior Masters Women, and take Silver in V6 1000M Senior Masters Women. [36] [37] [38] [39]

Coach-Builder Achievements

International Va'a Federation (IVF) member nations have a representative who attends meetings, exercises their vote, and ensures the nation's smooth functioning within the IVF. An International Va'a Federation (IVF) Member Nation Area Coordinator acts as a liaison between the IVF and their specific area, handling matters related to championship racing, including paddler registration, entries, protests, and crew support. They essentially represent their area within the IVF's governance structure. [41] When CORA became an IVF member nation in 1992, Linda as a CORA Director fulfilled the roles of IVF Member Representative and Area Coordinator for Canada. As Linda worked for Air Canada, she could fly to IVF meetings for no-cost, as CORA at that time had very little money. Linda would attend the 1992 Sacramento, 1994 Western Samoa, 1996 New Caledonia, and 1998 Fiji World Sprints as the IVF Member Representative, and IVF Area Coordinator, and Team Canada competitor. Linda remained the IVF Member Representative for Canada from 1992 through to the Fall of 2000, when Alan Carlsson assumed the IVF roles.

Many years after stepping down as IVF Member Representative and IVF Area Coordinator for Team Canada, Linda continued to volunteer her time with paddlesports organizations such as the Jericho Sailing Centre Association by working the Jericho Sailing Centre booth at the 2007 Vancouver Boat Show along with other Jericho Sailing Centre members such as Michael Parks and Teresa Conklin. [42]

Pioneering Achievements

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". Garry Mancell, David Boulding, and Hugh Fisher filed the CORA Incorporation documents in April 1992. The Articles of Incorporation that specified the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association mandate was submitted to the Government of Canada by those individuals who were on the original Board of Directors including Maria Bolman. Garry Mancell, Mike Flescher, Keith Hammond, Heather Johnson, Mike Billy, Jeff Burns and Linda. 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. [51]

References

Note	Article	Link
[01]	Linda Daigle About	https://www.linkedin.com/in/linda-daigle-b440a4b6/details/experience/
[21]	The False Creek Legacy	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-FCRCC-Legacy-Latest.pdf
[25]	Team Canada IVF Legacy	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/team-canada-ivf-legacy/
[27]	1992 Sacramento IPCF/IVF World Sprints	https://www.ivfiv.org/1992-california.html
[28]	1992 Sacramento IPCF/IVF World Sprints Results	http://www.ivfiv.org/uploads/2/5/3/8/25381158/1992_worlds_sacramento.pdf
[30]	1994 Western Samoa IVF World Sprints Footage	https://www.ivfiv.org/1994-samoa.html
[31]	1994 Western Samoa IVF World Sprints Results	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/IVF-Race-Results-1994-Western-Samoa-Official.jpg
[33]	1996 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints	https://www.ivfiv.org/1996-new-caledonia.html
[34]	1996 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints Results	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IVF-Race-Results-1996-NewCaledonia.pdf
[36]	1998 Fiji IVF Outrigger World Sprints	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/IVF-Race-Results-1998-Fiji-Pix.pdf
[37]	1998 IPCF VIII World Sprints Suva, Fiji	https://cdn.knightlab.com/libs/timeline3/latest/embed/index.html?source=166XXqrywGnBqfyoYzwQRBaQQO_aPEJwUbeT6jWS6_-M&font=Bevan-PontanoSans&lang=en&in
[38]	Front cover image for IPCF 8th Va'a World Sprints, Fiji, 1998	https://www.worldcat.org/title/ipcf-8th-vaa-world-sprints-fiji-1998/oclc/663395793
[39]	IPCF 8th Va'a World Sprints, Fiji, 1998 [videorecording]	https://natlib.govt.nz/records/20966579?search%5Bi%5D%5Bsubject_text%5D=IPCF+Va%27a+World+Sprints+%288th+%3A+1998+Fiji%29&search%5Bpath%5D=items
[41]	International Va'a Federation By-Laws	http://www.ivfiv.org/ivf-bylaws.html
[42]	2007 JSCA Vancouver Boat Show	https://www.jsca.bc.ca/inthewind/itw_07_02_15.html
[51]	1992 CORA Letters Patent	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/cora-letters-patent.pdf