



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Helen Currey



Summary

Helen Currey had notable canoeing achievements in the 2000s-2010s. However, online references for Helen during this time are sparse, making it a challenge to compile a Hall Of Fame Profile that fully represents the accomplishments of Helen. 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 2000s-2010s, including background on Helen.

What is known is that Helen was a solo outrigger canoe and marathon canoe paddler with West Bay Paddling Club & VCKC in the early 2000s. Helen would then somehow become connected with many legendary Vancouver Island paddlers (Annie Boulding; Heather Taylor; Jacinta Sheridan; Julie Kippen; Laurel Archer; Lisa Robertson; Lyse Fortin; Melanie Conard; Michele Genge; Rani Johns; Shannon Brenner), with whom Helen would participate in the 2011 Hamilton Island Outrigger Cup. At 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints and 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Helen would take multiple Gold and/or Silver medals in V12 500M Masters Women, V12 500M Open Women, V6 1000M Masters Women, V6 1500M Open Women, V6 500M Masters Women, and V6 500M Open Women. Between 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints and 2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints, Helen would race with all-Canadian womens crews to impressive showings at the Queen Lili'uokalani and Molokai Na Wahine long-distance races.

Early Career

Information on the early career of Helen that led to her involvement with outrigger canoeing, has recently been discovered, so that this storyline could be pieced together. Helen played competitive field hockey in New Zealand from the early age of 5 years old before relocating to Canada at the end of 1997. Helen joined a field hockey club in Victoria shortly after arriving in Canada, meeting like-minded people and making new friendships in Canada. Helen went onto join other sports teams / clubs through friends made while in fast pitch softball and slow pitch softball and wallyball. Helen got talked into trying dragon boating in the early-2000s, which led to outrigger canoeing with West Bay Paddling Club, and then marathon canoeing. Helen continued with all 3 of these paddlesports, which led to entering outrigger canoe races. Helen continued outrigger canoe racing for several years after the 2011 Molokai Na Wahine event until shoulder injuries led to a retirement from paddlesports. Victoria has been home ever since the late 1990s, and this is supported by several recent Vancouver Island Ladies Field Hockey Association (VILFHA) articles which note that Helen had been involved with the Oak Bay Demons team for several years. Helen would be recognized by VILFHA as Level 3 All-Star for the 2019/2020 season, the 2022/2023 season, and the 2024/2025 season. [11] [12] [13]

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

The earliest mention of Helen with regard to paddlesports is a Jericho Website race results posting from 2005 for the Island Iron Trial By Water Small Boats. Helen "Curry" of West Bay Paddling Club (Victoria BC) would race a Huki V12 to place 2nd OC1 Women. It is worth noting that there are several outrigger canoeing online references to Helen "Curry" and Helen "Currey" of Victoria BC. It is believed this is a spelling error as it is quite common for paddler names to be incorrectly recorded in race results. There is a Jericho Website race results posting from 2007 for the Howe Sound Small Boats, where Helen "Currey" of West Bay Paddling Club (Victoria BC) would race a Huki V12 to place 2nd OC1 Masters Women. There is a Jericho Website race results posting from 2007 for the GRPC Brothie Reach Small Boats, where Barry Leslie of West Bay Paddling Club (Victoria BC) would race OC1. There is a Jericho Website race results posting from 2007 for the Bridges

Inny/Outty Small Boats where Barry Leslie and Helen "Curry" of West Bay Paddling Club (Victoria BC) would race Mixed Tandem Marathon Canoe. It is known that Helen "Currey" has a long history of marathon canoe. These concurrences indicate that online references to Helen "Curry" and Helen "Currey" are the same person. These online references also indicate that Helen had established herself as a strong outrigger canoe and marathon canoe paddler in the mid-2000s. [21] [22] [23] [24] [25]

Helen has represented Team Canada at International Va'a Federation (IVF) World Sprints from 2008-2012. At 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints, Helen would advance to Finals and place 4th in V1 500M Masters Women. It is known that Cheryl Skribe, Kamini Jain, Kim Crumpton, Maleka Young, and Sheila Kuyper were 5 of the 6 Team Canada 2008 Masters Women team. It is now believed that Helen Currey was the 6th member of that Team Canada 2008 Masters Women team based on her V1 500M Masters Women showing. At 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Helen would take Silver in V12 500M Open Women, place 6th in V12 500M Masters Women, take Silver in V6 1500M Open Women, take Gold while setting a new IVF World Record in V6 1000M Masters Women, take Silver in V6 500M Masters Women, and take Silver in V6 500M Open Women. At 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, Helen would advance to Semifinals in V1 500M Masters Women and in V1 500M Open Women. At 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Helen would take Gold in V6 500M Open Women, take Gold in V6 1500M Open Women, and take Gold in V6 1000M Masters Women. [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34]

Canadian women had an exceptional performance at 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, but the Canadian women were considered "sprinters" by the paddling community. John Roberts and the CORA Sprints Council offered assistance to the Canadian women to do the 2010 Queen Lili'uokalani Race (after New Caledonia) to advertise the upcoming 2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints. The Canadian women (Kamini Jain; Leanne Stanley; Cheryl Skribe; Leanne Zrum; Chelsey Brooks Tidmarsh; Helen Currey) raced as Calgary CC #1 #406 and placed 1st Iron Open Non-Koa (NK). [40] John Roberts and the CORA Sprints Council challenged the Canadian women to do it again at 2010 Molokai Na Wahine, but the Canadian women did not have the cash flow or the time off. The Canadian women carried the Sprints Banner as Canada Sprint Team to 2011 Molokai Na Wahine. This 2011 Molokai Na Wahine crew consisted of 8 women from the 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints (Chelsey Brooks Tidmarsh; Cheryl Skribe; Helen Currey; Kamini Jain; Leanne Stanley; Leanne Zrum; Sheila Kuyper; Sue Porter), as well as Shannon Bell (Jericho) and Zoe Norcross Nu'u. [41] [42] [43] [44] [45] [46] This 2011 Molokai Na Wahine crew would finish 4th Place overall for the best ever showing by an all-Canadian Womens crew (to present day).

The Hamilton Island Outrigger Cup in Australia has evolved to become a 4-day multi-disciplined outrigger paddling regatta and Australia's premier outrigger canoeing event with every combination of OC paddling and distances including OC1, OC2, OC6, Stand-up paddle, 8KM, 16KM and 42KM marathon change race. Canadian paddlers racing as Comox Canucks including Annie Boulding, Heather Taylor, Jacinta Sheridan, Julie Kippen, Laurel Archer, Lyse Fortin, Melanie Conard, Michele Genge, Shannon Brenner, and Helen would compete at the 2011 Hamilton Island Outrigger Cup and do very well in the 16KM Iron, 42KM Changes, and 250M-1000M Sprints events. The Comox Canucks crew placed 2nd in the Masters Women 16 km Iron, and placed 1st Masters and 2nd overall in the Womens Change Race. [47] [48] [49]

Helen has excelled at outrigger canoeing distance, outrigger canoeing sprints, and marathon canoeing. The Yukon River Quest is an annual marathon paddling race. Paddlers come from around the world to test their endurance, racing day and night to the Klondike on one of North America's great rivers. It is open to solo and tandem canoes and kayaks, solo stand-up paddle boards (SUP), and bigger C4 and Voyageur canoes. [51] Barry Leslie and Helen would race as Kiwi Eh in Mixed Tandem Canoe at the 2008 Yukon River Quest event. [52] Derek Crook and Helen would race as Kiwi Express in Mixed Tandem Canoe at the 2012 Yukon River Quest event. [53] [54] [55] Ski-To-Sea is the original multisport relay race, from Mt. Baker to Bellingham Bay. [61] Kim Mackenzie and Helen would place 1st or 2nd in Competitive Women Tandem Canoe (C2) at Ski-To-Sea in 2009 / 2012 / 2013. [62] [63] [64] [65]

References

Note	Article	Link
[11]	2020 Vancouver Island Ladies Field Hockey Association 2019-20 Season All-Stars	https://vilfha.teampages.com/leagues/1279/announcements/2359800-VILFHA-Award-winners-announced
[12]	2023 Vancouver Island Ladies Field Hockey Association 2022-23 Season All-Stars	https://vilfha.teampages.com/leagues/1279/announcements/2340637-Katie-Bennett-named-league-s-Most-Outstanding-Player-as-VILFHA-celebrates-return-of-annual-awards
[13]	2025 Vancouver Island Ladies Field Hockey Association 2024-25 Season All-Stars	https://vilfha.teampages.com/leagues/1279/announcements/2359800-VILFHA-Award-winners-announced
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[22]	2007 Howe Sound Small Boats	https://www.jerichoutrigger.com/races2007/HoweSoundSmallboats.html
[23]	2007 GRPC Brotchie Reach Small Boats	https://www.jerichoutrigger.com/races2007/BrotchieReach.html
[24]	2007 Bridges Inny/Outty Small Boats	https://www.jerichoutrigger.com/races2007/innyoutty.html
[25]	2011 Wake Up the Gorge Small Boats	https://www.vckc.ca/resources/Outrigger/RaceResults/2011%20WUTG%20Small%20Boats%20Results.pdf
[27]	2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints	http://www.ivfiv.org/2008-california.html
[28]	2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints Results	http://www.ivfiv.org/uploads/2/5/3/8/25381158/race_results_2008.pdf
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[33]	2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints Team Canada	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/2010-new-caledonia/
[34]	2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints Blog	https://teamcanadanewcaledonia.blogspot.com/2010/
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[37]	2012 Calgary IVF World Sprints Results	http://www.ivfiv.org/uploads/2/5/3/8/25381158/raceresults2012.pdf
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[41]	2011 Molokai Na Wahine Results	https://www.pseresults.com/post/na-wahine-o-ke-kai-2011
[42]	Chelsey Brooks Tidmarsh Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/chelsey.tidmarsh/
[43]	Chelsey Brooks Tidmarsh Sistership Dragon Boat Association	https://www.sistershipcalgary.com/coaches-trainers/
[44]	2005 Helen Currey VCKC	https://cdn.wildapricot.com/179729/resources/Newsletters/2005/2005-10-News.pdf?version=1505699762000&Policy=eyJTdGF0ZW1lbnQiOiBbeyJSZXNvdXJjZSI6Imh0dHBzOi8vY2RuLndpbGRhcHJpY290LmNvbS8xNzk3MjkvcmluZ3VzL2VzL05ld3NsZXROXzJzLzlwMDUvMjAwNS0xMC1OZXdzLnBkZj92ZXJzaW9uPTE1MDU2OTk3NjJwMDAiLCJDb25kaXRpb24iOnsiRGF0ZUxlc3NUaGFuGfUlp7IkFXUzpFcG9jaFRpbWUiOiJlMTkzNzg0NzI9LCJlJmFkZHI3MiMiOnsiQVdTOlNvdXJlZlwiOiM4C4wLjAuMC8wLn19fV19&Signature=KT9RtpoWe5EKMkYXUnHz-oZmiHDpwXBuVABm8vycwGQSOHlDd4HW6vk7voa3LzipXm8uqX~51cuFFSFDe1TQWIP8j3SUP~WBRf-BB-obfYCKHUPZf4iv6o7NjpB5l~qHXJAF0voKThkWln8RGyYvHQXVC1CaVBuaeMNU6-lVGqlwu2KILGKI6O8DjUd1-ZTccZl7Irog6jnZ-RREZ1bzaYf8S47PTvy2F4eQWDaLNyIasdw6ud2vDUAmkSmMIVYnF6KiejfMQ~A

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[63]	2012 Ski-To-Sea Canoe Results	https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/6727289/ski-to-sea-race-results
[64]	2013 Ski-To-Sea Canoe Results	https://skitosea.pacificmultisports.com/events/105/results/leg/33
[65]	2013 Ski-To-Sea Canoe Results	https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/30180769/pdf-version-of-teams-racers-ski-to-sea