



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Jacinta Sheridan



Summary

Jacinta Sheridan had notable canoeing achievements in the pre-digital era of the 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 Jacinta. 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 Jacinta.

What is known is that Jacinta had established herself as an exceptional competitor between 1996-2024 in outrigger canoe sprints / distance, OC2 racing, marathon canoe racing, and ultramarathon long-distance running. Jacinta would race with Team Canada Women who would take multiple Gold and/or Silver and/or Bronze medals at 1996 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, 2002 Tahiti IVF World Sprints, and 2004 Hilo IVF World Sprints. Jacinta would then somehow become connected with many legendary Vancouver Island paddlers (Annie Boulding; Heather Taylor; Helen Currey; Julie Kippen; Laurel Archer; Lisa Robertson; Lyse Fortin; Melanie Conard; Michele Genge; Rani Johns; Shannon Brenner), with whom Jacinta would participate in the 2007 Molokai Na Wahine and the 2011 Hamilton Island Outrigger Cup. Jacinta would travel to Australia / Belize / Hawaii for top place finishes racing OC2 and marathon canoe with Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Famer Laurel Archer.

Early Career

Information on the early career of Jacinta that led to her involvement with outrigger canoeing, has recently been discovered, so that this storyline could be pieced together. Long-distance running event results show that Jacinta was born in 1964 in Dublin Ireland and moved to Prince George in BC Canada in 1967. It is now known for certain that Jacinta spent some time in her youth in Prince George where Jacinta played competitive basketball in high school. There is an online article in The Encyclopedia of Canadian Basketball (From Naismith to Nash) about the 1981-82 BCSS (BC Secondary Schools) Triple-A Girls Basketball Championships. There is a mention that the "*Prince George Polarettes (coached by Washington, assisted by Tom Konopski) also included Robin Fitzgerald, Christine Murdoch, Jacinta Sheridan, Leslie Gilchrist*". This would align with the timeline as Jacinta would have been in secondary school at age 17-18 in 1981-1982. [11] Jacinta would then attend British Columbia Institute of Technology from 1988-1989, which would lead to a career as an Ultrasound Tech at St Paul's Hospital in Vancouver BC. [12] [13] After being hit by a car as a pedestrian while on vacation and having left knee ACL reconstruction during recovering in 1988, someone recommended dragon boat paddling and introduced Jacinta to Andrea Dillon. Jacinta tried dragon boating with the FCRCC womens dragon boat team and made the Canadian Womens team from 1990 onward, raced in Vancouver and Hong Kong Dragon Boat International Festivals and many other dragon boat festivals over the next 15 years. Jacinta started outrigger canoeing with the FCRCC womens team in 1991 and participated in the 1991/1993 Molokai Na Wahine events.

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

The earliest mention of Jacinta with regard to paddlesports is a Laurel Archer website posting about [Outrigger Racing 2005-2006](#) where the Photo Gallery has many mentions and photos of Jacinta with Laurel Archer and Comox outrigger canoe crews. It is known that Jacinta was involved with outrigger canoeing long before these 2005-2006 mentions. [20]

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. Jacinta was with the 1991/1993 FCRCC crews. [21]

Jacinta has represented Team Canada at International Va'a Federation (IVF) World Sprints from 1996-2004. At 1996 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Jacinta 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. At 2002 Tahiti IVF World Sprints, Team Canada Women with Jacinta would take Gold in V6 500M Masters Women, and take Gold in V6 500M Senior Masters Women. At 2004 Hilo IVF World Sprints, Jacinta would advance to Semifinals in V1 500M Masters Women, and race with Team Canada crews in V6 500M Masters Women, V6 1000M Masters Women, and V12 500M Masters Women. [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30]

Jacinta has a very long and successful career as an OC1 and OC2 competitor as far back as 2006. You will find Jacinta in the Top 3 in the standings in her boat / gender / age division for PNWORCA Winter Series races, CORA small-boat races, Round Bowen Challenge, Queen Lili'uokalani, Vaka Eiva, Kauai World Challenge, Hamilton Island Cup, and Gorge races. Jacinta has Top 10 finishes in so many events when you review race results on Webscorer, Paddleguru, Pacific Multisports, CORA Website, and Jericho Website. [41] [42] [43] [44] [45] [46]

La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge made its debut on March 9, 1998. Today, the Belikin La Ruta Maya is considered one of the longest canoe races in Central America that brings together professional and amateur paddlers from all over the world who take on the four-day grueling challenge of paddling 175 miles of the Belize Old River against rapids and winds, running from beautiful San Ignacio, in the foothills of the Maya Mountains, to the bustling port of Belize City. In 2008, Laurel Archer, Marleny Cotrim, and Jacinta racing as Aloha, Eh? would place 1st overall in womens division at the La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge [51] [52] [53] In 2009, Laurel Archer and Jacinta teamed up again to race the Murray River Marathon in Australia, a five-day stage race of epic racing in the hot sun. They placed 2nd in the womens tandem division. [55] At the 2005 Catalina Crossing, Jacinta raced with the Comox Womens crew to place 1st Masters and 10th Overall. At the 2006 Howe Sound Canadian Iron Championships, Jacinta raced with the Comox Womens crew to place 1st Masters. [56]

The Comox-Strathcona Canoe Club would send a crew to the 2007 Molokai Na Wahine event. For many in the crew who had been training for nearly 2 years, this would be the 1st time competing in the event. The crew of 8 Canadian paddlers included Annie Boulding, Heather Taylor, Laurel Archer, Lisa Robertson, Lyse Fortin, Melanie Conard, Rani Johns, and Jacinta, were joined by 2 Hawaiian paddlers (Tracy Capman, Midge Horwood), and were coached by future Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Famer Jackie Webber. The Comox-Strathcona team would place 31st Open non-Koa and 36th Overall. [61] [62] [63] [64]

In the 2008 Catalina Crossing Jacinta raced with the Comox Womens crew to place 3rd in Masters and 8th women overall. At the 2008 International Howe Sound Outrigger Race, Jacinta raced with the Comox Womens crew placing Top 3 in the womens race overall. [70] In the 2010 Pailolo Challenge Jacinta would race with a Comox Crew to place 3rd Masters. [71] At the 2010 Molokai Na Wahine, Jacinta raced with the Comox Womens crew to place 27th overall and 4th in Masters. [72] [73]

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, Helen Currey, Julie Kippen, Laurel Archer, Lyse Fortin, Melanie Conard, Michele Genge, Shannon Brenner, and Jacinta 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. [76] [77] [78]

At the 2013 Molokai Na Wahine, Jacinta would race with a PNW Molokai Na Wahine All-Stars crew including Jackie (Kaya) Nagano (WA), Lori (Hashimoto) Miyasaki (WA), Minnie Fontenelle (WA), Terri Mayeda (OR), Rhonda Bintliff (OR), Nattie Blue (OR), Linda Warren (False Creek), Melanie Conard (Latitude 48), and Laurel Archer (Comox), finishing 32nd overall and 23rd Open Fibreglass. [79] [80] [81] [82]

In 2022 and 2023, Jacinta raced with the Comox Womens crew that achieved two top 10 overall finishes at the Gorge Outrigger Race, 6th and 4th in Open Women respectively. [83]

Coach-BUILDER Achievements

The CORA Town Hall Committee has been fortunate that so many individuals have been willing to step forward as Guest Speakers and showcase their public-speaking skills. Jacinta generously volunteered her time to produce an audio-recording for the CORA Town Hall (10 November 2024 4PM Pacific): *Not All Those Who Wander Are Lost*, as a Guest Speaker on behalf of Laurel Archer. Her personal account of the 2008 La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge shared insights on the character of Laurel Archer that had contributed to her induction into the Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame. [84]

Exemplary Achievements

Many individuals who have excelled at distance / sprints outrigger canoeing, have often cross-trained in other sports such as marathon canoeing, swimming, Nordic skiing, or long-distance cycling. For Jacinta, that other sport would be distance running, ultramarathons, and trail running. Jacinta would compete in the Royal Victoria Marathon in 1995 at the age of 31. Jacinta would do the 30-mile Knee Knacking North Shore Trail Run Race in 1995 for the 1st time. The Knee Knacker All-Time Number Of Finishes shows that Jacinta would do the 30-mile Knee Knacking North Shore Trail Run Race 5 times (1995; 1996; 1998; 2002; 2010). [86] [87] [88] [89] [90]

Raceview Australia shows that "Jacinta Sheridan" of Canada competed in at least 11 long-distance running events between 1995-2015 including the Knee Knacking North Shore Trail Run, White River 50M (1997), Dirty Duo 25KM (2003), Squamish 50KM (2013), Sun Mountain Race 50KM (2015), and Diez Vista 50KM (2014). [91] [92] [93] [94] [95] Jacinta would place 10th in the Womens Division in the annual "Longest Day" 243KM Coast-To-Coast non-standard multisport competition in New Zealand featuring trail running, cycling, and downriver kayaking elements, crossing the South Island in a day from the Tasman Sea to the Pacific Ocean. [96] [97] The Association of Canadian Ultramarathoners (ACU) maintained statistics and annual rankings for ultramarathon runners from 1992-2022. The finishing time for Jacinta in the 2014 Diez Vista 50KM would place her in the ACU 2014 National Final Rankings. [98] Jacinta would place 2nd in the Womens 50-54 Division at the 2017 Ironman 70.3 Canada event. [99]

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