



Hugh Town Memorial Builder Award Annie Boulding 2023



NOMINATION SUMMARY

Annie Boulding has a 40-year legacy of selfless volunteer effort to paddlesports in general and outrigger canoe racing in particular. She has made contributions to support Canadian paddlers at the international, national, provincial, and club level. She was a member of the Canadian National Whitewater Team and did Molokai Na Wahine several times long before CORA was founded. **Annie** was founder of the Comox Valley Canoe Racing Club (CVCRC) that has hosted the popular Comox Island Iron for many years. **Annie** has not served on the CORA Board or with Team Canada, but has been a member of Team Canada from the very first time that Canada participated as a member nation at the 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints.

HISTORICAL: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS OVER TIME

Strathcona Park Lodge (SPL) Alumni / Instructor: Strathcona Park Lodge was founded in 1959 by Jim / Myrna Boulding and has been committed to improve Canada's outdoor education industry. [01] Jim / Myrna Boulding would have 3 daughters (Elizabeth; **Annie**; Josie) and 2 sons (Jamie; Nicholas). **Annie** had senior instructorship with Strathcona Park Lodge in both kayaking and canoeing, [02] and represented Canada at ICF Canoe Slalom (Whitewater) Championships between 1975-1987. [03] The late 1970s and early 1980s was when **Annie** would train and compete with many Canadian National White-water (Slalom) Team members and future Olympians including Joanne Woods, Sheila Taylor, Joanne (Henderson) Kyle, and Rosemary Henry. These women who were training to become world-class whitewater kayakers would go onto found CORA Clubs, race Molokai Na Wahine, and compete for Team Canada at the Summer Olympics. [04] [05] [06] [07] [08]

Comox Valley Canoe Racing Club (CVCRC) Founder: In 1994, former False Creek paddler **Annie** launched Comox Valley Canoe Racing Club with a small group using an OC6 borrowed from the Canadian Outrigger Racing Association. Sarah McLennan and **Annie** drove to Victoria where they picked up "The Burrard" from the Victoria Canoe Kayak Club (VCKC) location. VCKC had "The Burrard" on a one-year 1994/1995 loan from CORA. They tied the outrigger canoe inverted on the borrowed truck with a big kayak rack from Strathcona Park Lodge (SPL). They drove carefully and slowly back to Comox where Sarah had arranged to have the canoe reside on a private beach near Little River close to the Powell River ferry terminal. Commonwealth Games rowing gold medal winner and sister-in-law Christine (Tina) Clarke with SPL ordered two Calmar Canadian Class Racer canoes for Comox. The Comox club paid for the first Calmar Canadian Class Racer canoe and when Comox could not afford the second Calmar Canadian Class Racer canoe, it was sold to VCKC by SPL. Comox gained members steadily with Sarah McLennan, Carol Millar, Tina Clarke, Jackie Bell, Laurel Archer, and Lyse Fortin. 1994 Western Samoa IVF World Sprints V1 500M Open Gold Medalist Jackie Webber was recruited by **Annie** to give a technique clinic to the Comox club. [09]

Comox Racing Events: The Comox Island Iron inaugural event took place in 1995. [09] **Annie** was collaborated with (then) Ocean River Paddling Club (ORPC) & (now) Latitude 48 Paddling Club to have the two Vancouver Island outrigger canoe clubs host the Island Iron event in alternating years as part of the CORA Cup Series.

Canadian Outrigger Steering Mentor: Ruth Matson, Cheryl Skribe, Grace Morissette, and **Annie** were inducted into the Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame based on many achievements, but one of their most significant achievements was their steering prowess. While a steersperson often earns accolades for their achievements in guiding crews to the podium, recognition is also due for their ability to instill confidence in crews they steer and their ability to mentor / support others. **Annie** has steered OC6 since the late 1980s. **Annie** has steered for Molokai Na Wahine crews before CORA was ever founded and at least 9 times overall. **Annie** has steered Queen Liliuokalani at least 5 times, as well as the Pailolo Challenge and the Catalina Crossing. **Annie** has steered for Team Canada crews at 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints, 2004 Hilo IVF World Sprints, 2018 Tahiti IVF World Sprints, 2019 Australia IVF World Distance, and 2023 Samoa IVF World Distance. [10] [13] [14]

CORA Spokesperson: Since the CORA Historical Committee began research in 2020 on CORA Club history, **Annie** has continued to provide first-hand knowledge of people / places / events / photos from the 1980s through the 2020s that have shaped the history of Canadian outrigger canoeing. **Annie** has graciously agreed to be a Guest Speaker on behalf of many Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Inductees at the 2021 / 2022 / 2023 online Hall Of Fame Induction Town Hall ceremonies. [15]

CURRENT: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS THIS YEAR

Jackie Bell and **Annie** would once again work together as Race Coordinators to bring 37 OC6 crews to the 2023 Comox Island Iron Event. Jackie Bell and **Annie** would also introduce a youth small-boat short-distance race at the 2023 CORA Cup Series Comox Sunday event where one of the participants would become a CORA Junior / Novice OC Paddle Award recipient. [16]

The 2023 CORA Cup Series consisted of four events across the Okanagan, BC Lower Mainland, and Vancouver Island. **Annie** would organize Comox crews and steer for Comox Womens crew that attended three (Jericho; Comox; Lotus) of the four 2023 CORA Cup Series events to support other CORA Cup Series event host clubs.

Team Canada sent a large contingent to 2023 Samoa IVF World Distance where 20+ nations participated. **Annie** provided over 4 decades of World Sprints / Distance steering experience to guide the Team Canada Masters 70+ Womens crew to Gold. [17]

At the Oct-2023 CORA Town Hall Session on the 1985 Molokai Na Wahine all-Canadian womens crew, **Annie** provided personal insights and historical background on every one of the crew members, as well as engaging perspective on the ability of Canadian National Whitewater Team paddlers and Canadian National Marathon Canoe paddlers to form a crew that had remarkable success for paddlers doing their first-ever Kaiwi Channel crossing. [18]

SPECIFIC: SIGNIFICANT / EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADVANCEMENT OF THE SPORT

Three years of research by the CORA Historical Committee has led to the discovery that there were 2 key events in the early days of Canadian outrigger canoeing directly related to **Annie**. The 1st of these key events was the 1985 Molokai Na Wahine crew that placed 5th overall in that race for one of the best ever showings by an all-Canadian womens crew. [19] **Annie** was a member of the Canadian National Whitewater Team at the time and recruited 5 of the top Canadian National Whitewater Team members (including 2 future Canadian Olympians) who had stellar whitewater slalom kayak skills to the crew. **Annie** would continue and steer future Canadian womens crews at Molokai Na Wahine, Hamilton Island, Queen Liliuokalani, Pailolo Challenge, and Na Pali Challenge to many successes. [20] This all-Canadian womens crew would pave the way for women in Canada doing outrigger canoeing. The 1990 Molokai Na Wahine crew with Ruth Matson and **Annie** alternating steering would place 7th overall. These early endeavours led the way to the very successful 1993 & 1994 FCRC all-Canadian womens crews.

The 2nd of these key events was when **Annie** returned to California after the 1985 Molokai Na Wahine event. **Annie** 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's** whitewater instructors (Brian Creer) motor home and **Annie** brought the two halves of the hull of "The Burrard" north to Canada. [25] This 600-lb OC6 that **Annie** brought to Canada would set in motion 8 Canadian outrigger canoe clubs. False Creek (1) paddlers reassembled the two halves of the hull brought to Canada by **Annie** and "The Burrard" launched in early 1987 for the first time. "The Burrard" was with River Spirit Canoe Club (2) in 1988, as a Kamloops crew used the canoe to train for their first Molokai Hoe race that year. "The Burrard" would assist with the start of the Vernon Racing Canoe Club (3) when Cheryl Skribe moved to the Okanagan in 1992. "The Burrard" was with Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club (4) as a CORA loaner starter outrigger canoe from 1992-1993. "The Burrard" was with Pemberton Canoe Association (5) as a starter OC6 from 1993-1994. "The Burrard" was with Victoria Canoe Kayak Club (6) as a starter OC6 from 1994-1995. "The Burrard" was with Comox (7) as a starter OC6 from 1994-1996. Brent Bagnall and Don Mulhall managed to locate "The Burrard" and trailered it to PRCC (8) as their starter OC6 in 1997. [26]

Comox Big-Boat Fleet: CORA has noted how the importance of the ongoing introduction of new canoes to clubs and regions has contributed to the growth of the sport. Comox has always had a small OC6 fleet, yet **Annie** has been able to assist with growing the OC6 fleet from the CORA loaner starter OC6 "The Burrard" to a Calmar OC6 that was eventually sold onwards to Campbell River as a starter OC6 for their canoe club, to 2 Outrigger Connection Mirages acquired from Westbay (Victoria) when that outrigger canoe club disbanded, to 2 Unlimited OC6s (1 Puakea Malolo and 1 Giblin Vortex) purchased from local Ozone distributor Hana Hou Paddlesports. [27] [28]

References

Note	Article	Link
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[02]	Strathcona Park Lodge & Outdoor Education Centre History	https://strathconaparklodge.com/our-story/history/
[03]	1980 Chung Collection	https://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj9pdzlkP3wAhWYrp4KHyrHCYgQFjABegQIAhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fopen.library.ubc.ca%2Fmedia%2Fdownload%2Fpdf%2Fchungtext%2F1.0356670%2F0&usg=AOvVaw1ovSdFXJlpk3TXPnkTf5ZK
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[06]	1984 Whitewater Slalom Competitions	https://reuters.screenocean.com/record/1040239
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[11]	2004 Hilo IVF World Sprints Results	http://www.ocpaddler.com/htm/hws/aug14.html
[12]	2018 Tahiti IVF World Sprints Results	http://www.ivfiv.org/uploads/2/5/3/8/25381158/world_sprints_results_all_days_2018.pdf
[13]	2019 Australia IVF World Distance Results	http://www.ivfiv.org/uploads/2/5/3/8/25381158/world_distance_2019_results_all_days.pdf
[14]	2019 Australia IVF World Distance Crew	https://www.missioncityrecord.com/sports/missions-mohs-earns-rowing-silver/
[15]	Recognition East To West – CORA Hall Of Fame	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/cora-town-hall-5-november-4pm-pacific-recognition-east-to-west-cora-hall-of-fame/
[16]	2023 Comox Island Iron Results	https://www.webscorer.com/register?pid=1&raceid=310539
[17]	2023 Samoa IVF World Distance Results	http://www.ivfiv.org/2023-results.html
[18]	CORA Town Hall October 2023 – The Wahines In The Boat	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/cora-town-hall-october-2023-the-wahines-in-the-boat/
[19]	1985 Molokai Na Wahine Results	https://nawahineokekai.com/archive/
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[21]	2007 Molokai Na Wahine Results	http://nawahineokekai.com/results-history/2007.html
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