



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Bob (Robert) Disbrow



Summary

Bob Disbrow has a place in Canadian outrigger canoeing history rarely noted in online articles. Bob is known mostly for his accolades as an investment legend with First Marathon Securities and Haywood Securities, [01] a cross-country skiing patron, [02] a philanthropist, [03] and a film producer. [04] Bob is among a group of individuals responsible for introducing the first two generations of six-person outrigger canoes to Canada. The Canadian *Malia*, the Lotus Hawaiian Class Racer (HCR), and the Calmar Canadian Class Racer (CCR) are part of Canadian outrigger canoeing history due to significant contributions by Bob.

Early Career

Background on Bob as an athlete was discovered during 2020 research as to the origin of the Lotus Hawaiian Class Racer. The Toronto Globe & Mail article "*Live FAST and PROSPER*" noted that Bob was known as much for his sporting stamina as his trading prowess as he had kept pace with Lance Armstrong in a charity ride. [05] Bob was a regular podium finisher at long-distance cross-country skiing events such as the Chateau Whistler Cup Loppet. [06] Bob trained and raced with the "Lotus Eaters" dragon boat team during the 1980s / 1990s, with logos representing sponsorship from both First Marathon Securities and MK Wong on Lotus team jerseys.

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

Bob was part of a contingent of cross-country ski racers, kayakers, canoeists, triathletes, and high-level national athletes in the 1980s known as the "Lotus Eaters", training at the Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club for dragon boat and outrigger canoe races. There were several False Creek and Lotus paddlers such as Bob and the Mancell brothers and David Boulding and Hugh Fisher who formed or joined crews to participate in the Catalina Channel Crossing and Molokai Hoe races in the 1970s and 1980s. Official records on race results for Canada / California / Hawaii events prior to 2000 are difficult to locate in order to confirm historical events / results, but it has been confirmed by Bud Hohl (SCORA Historian) that Lotus crews with Bob would finish in the Top 3 in their Division at several Catalina Channel Crossing races in the 1980s/1990s.

Pioneering Achievements

Based on an article by Doug Mancell of Lotus Sports Club, we know that David Boulding raced the Catalina Channel Crossing after Expo '86 and, while in California, learned about the *Malia* mould that had been stored in some fellow's backyard for quite a while. David arranged to have Bud Hohl load the California *Malia* mould onto Mike Neckar's trailer to be towed to Canada from California, but the trailer was left on the Washington state side of the border. [07] David invited Grace Morissette to join him for a drive across the border in Autumn 1986 to pick up some paddling gear and met with Canada 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 finishing work was completed by Jim Mancell, Garry Mancell, Steve Schleicher, David Boulding, 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 Fibreglass and made available to paddlers from False Creek Racing Canoe Club to build additional Canadian *Malias*.

Outrigger Canoe Club (OCC) commissioned Joe Quigg in 1981 to provide sketches for a new six-person canoe that could compete with the Tahitian canoes that had dominated the Molokai Hoe in the late 1970s and incorporate the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (HCRA) rules for canoe design. [08] In 1983, the Fibreglass Shop began production of a new fibreglass Quigg canoe design. The production model was called the Hawaiian Class Racer. [09] The Hawaiian Class Racer soon prevailed as the number one fibreglass canoe for distance races.

After racing their two Canadian *Malias* at the 1988 Catalina Channel Crossing and placing 2nd to a team in a Hawaiian Class Racer, the Lotus Sports Club men decided that, in order to be competitive, they had to have a Hawaiian Class Racer. Bob of First Marathon

Securities, one of the paddlers on the Lotus Catalina team, was convinced by Jim Mancell to buy a Hawaiian Class Racer. David organized a container to hold the Hawaiian Class Racer, which was then put onto a freighter in Honolulu and shipped to the Seattle docks. David coordinated people and a trailer to drive to the Seattle docks to pick up the Hawaiian Class Racer in time to have the "Disbrow" Hawaiian Class Racer plus two Canadian *Malias* at the Lotus Sports Club by July 1989 for the first Lotus Iron outrigger canoe race. This privately-owned canoe would be the only Hawaiian Class Racer in Canada until Penticton Racing Canoe Club (PRCC) acquired a Hawaiian Class Racer in 2000. The "Disbrow" Hawaiian Class Racer had been paired with a Lotus Canadian *Malia* or Calmar Canadian Class Racer at every Lotus Ice Breaker double-hull (V12) event since the inaugural "*Clearly Canadian Ice Breaker*" in 1993. [10]

The Lotus Hawaiian Class Racer would serve as the inspiration for the second generation of six-person outrigger canoes in Canada. In the early 1990s, CORA and PNWORCA clubs struggled to acquire OC6s to support the growing number of outrigger canoe clubs. 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 Lotus Hawaiian Class Racer exhibited many qualities that showed it was of far superior design than the Canadian *Malia*. Sometime around 1992, a Canadian Class Racer OC6 started appearing at BC clubs – referred to as a "Calmar". The Canadian Class Racer 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. How the Canadian Class Racer came to be so similar to the Hawaiian Class Racer in style, yet suited so well to Pacific Northwest conditions, remains a mystery. Since 1994, at least seventeen CORA clubs, two non-CORA Canadian clubs and ten PNWORCA clubs have at one time or another had at least one Canadian Class Racer OC6 in their fleet. There are presently at least sixty Canadian Class Racer OC6s in the Pacific Northwest.

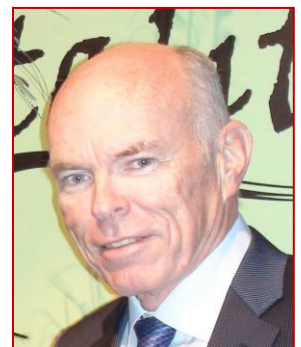
Exemplary Achievements

Bob Disbrow and Kim Kawaguchi have made a lifelong commitment to the support of sports, arts, and healthcare through philanthropy. Bob Disbrow and Kim Kawaguchi have been patrons of winter sports through various organizations for many years since participating with the Lotus Sports Club cross-country skiing contingent in the 1980s. Bob and Kim were so impressed with the Canadian athletes' performances at the 2006 Olympics in Torino, Italy that they contributed to the Black Jack Race Team youth cross-country skiing program in Rossland BC. [11] The Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club Athlete Development Program in Smithers received a substantial donation from Bob of Haywood Securities for a paid coach in 2008/09. [12] The National Cross Country Ski Development Association (NCCSDA) was established in 2008 through the foresight and donation of Bob and Kim to assist cross-country ski clubs with proven ability to develop competitive skiers and coaches in Canada based on long-term high performance development planning. [13] As part-time Sun Valley Idaho residents, Bob and Kim made considerable donations to the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation (SVSEF) in support of year-round ski and snowboard training and competitive opportunities for local youth and international athletes. [14] Bob Disbrow and Kim Kawaguchi were both inducted into the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame in 2024 for their support of Canadian cross-country skiing for over 30 years. [15]

Bob Disbrow and Kim Kawaguchi have continually displayed their philanthropy through donations to many charitable organizations such as Wood River Community YMCA, [16] Vancouver Heritage Foundation, [17] Alzheimer Society of BC, [18] BC Children's Hospital Foundation (BCCHF), [19] VGH and UBC Hospital, [20] Vancouver StreetToHome Foundation, [21] and Argyros Performing Arts Center in Sun Valley Idaho. [22]

Bob has made recent contributions to motion pictures as well. The Canadian film "Indian Horse" released in 2018, would be 7-time Nominee and 2-time Winner at the 2018 Leo Awards, [23] with several Executive Producers including, Bob, Marna Disbrow, and Clint Eastwood. [24]

Coincidentally, Bob has a brother Bill Disbrow who bears a resemblance to Bob, and has Significant And Exemplary Achievements in Canadian Basketball. Bill Disbrow was inducted into the Basketball BC Hall of Fame in 2009 as a Coach for winning a record 5 BC AAA Provincial Championships and coaching players to University, NCAA, and Canada National Men's teams. [25] Bill Disbrow is also recognized on the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame as a Legendary Richmond Colt basketball coach for 35 years who coached 5 Provincial championships, 5 provincial MVP's and 25 provincial All Stars. [26] [27]



References

Note	Article	Link
[01]	First Marathon Securities & Haywood Investment legend	https://relationshipsscience.com/person/robert-disbrow-3668622/
[02]	Sun Valley Idaho Skiing Benefactor	https://magicvalley.com/outdoors/norwegian-ski-team-trains-for-olympics-in-sun-valley/article_6d5d4a66-1133-11df-99cf-001cc4c03286.html
[03]	Family Services of Greater Vancouver Philanthropist	https://fsgv.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FSGV_2010_Brochure_AR_FINAL.pdf
[04]	Indian Horse Executive Producer	https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5672286/fullcredits
[05]	Globe & Mail "Live FAST and PROSPER"	https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-magazine/live-fast-and-prosper/article18163844/
[06]	Chateau Whistler Cup Loppet Standings	https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-sports/whistler-cup-draws-olympic-hopeful-huge-turnout-2459088/
[07]	Malia History in Canada CORA	https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Malia-history-in-canada.pdf
[08]	Winged "O" Joseph Quigg and HCR	https://www.outriggercanoecлубsports.com/winged-o/joseph-quigg/
[09]	Watercraft Designer Extraordinaire Joe Quigg HCR	https://cdn.outriggercanoecлубsports.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/28160217/2011-03-New-Life-Member-Joseph-Quigg.pdf
[10]	The First Outrigger Canoes in BC	https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-First-Outrigger-Canoes-In-BC-Latest.pdf
[11]	2006 Torino Olympics & Bob / Kim	https://rosslandtelegraph.com/news/queen-elizabeth%E2%80%99s-diamond-jubilee-nominee-al-fisher-23321#.XssuRsBIC00
[12]	Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club AGM & Bob / Kim	https://bvnordic.ca/images/content/BVCCSC_AGM_Meeting_Summary_April_21_2009.pdf
[13]	National Cross Country Ski Development Association & Bob / Kim	http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs016/1102191087944/archive/1103976147676.html
[14]	Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation & Bob / Kim	https://svsef.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2016-17-SVSEF-Annual-Report.pdf
[15]	Bob Disbrow / Kim Kawaguchi Canadian Ski Hall of Fame Induction	https://skimuseum.ca/honoured-members/disbrow-kawaguchi/
[16]	Wood River Community YMCA & Bob / Kim	https://www.woodriverymca.org/app/uploads/2019/06/Annual-Report-2018-Eversion.pdf
[17]	Vancouver Heritage Foundation & Bob / Kim	https://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Annual-Report-2013-FINAL.pdf
[18]	Alzheimer Society of BC & Bob / Kim	https://alzheimer.ca/sites/default/files/files/bc/general/2017-01-16-annual_report_2014-15.pdf
[19]	BC Children's Hospital Foundation & Bob / Kim	https://www.bcchf.ca/sites/default/files/BCCHF-Annual-Report-2014-15_0.pdf
[20]	VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation & Bob / Kim	https://vghfoundation.ca/about/our-donors/
[21]	StreetToHome Foundation & Bob / Kim	https://www.streetohome.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/STHAR2016RS.pdf
[22]	Argyros Performing Arts Center & Bob / Kim	https://theargyros.org/founding-donors/
[23]	2018 LEO AWARDS	http://www.leoawards.com/2019/nominees_and_winners_2018/nominees_and_winners_by_name_2018.php
[24]	2018 Indian Horse	https://www.northernstars.ca/indian-horse/
[25]	Bill Disbrow Basketball BC Hall of Fame Induction	https://basketball.bc.ca/about/basketball-bc-hall-of-fame/hall-of-fame-inductees/
[26]	Bill Disbrow On Richmond Sports Wall of Fame	https://sportswall.richmond.ca/inductee/bill-disbrow/
[27]	Bill Disbrow Ultra-Successful Colts, Irish, Saints Hoops Coach	https://theprovince.com/sports/high-school/bill-disbrow-former-players-paint-the-portrait-of-ultra-successful-colts-irish-saints-hoops-coach