



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Bob Woodman



Summary

Bob Woodman has been a source of continuity at Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC) since the early days of the mid-1990s. Bob was not a founder / co-founder of Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC), but Bob has been with Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC) since its inception. Bob was with Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC) when Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC) and Penticton (PRCC) / (PPSA) collaborated to co-host the Length Of The Lake Ultra-Distance Race in the late 1990s. Bob was with Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC) when Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC) introduced the Freshwater Challenge Race that was the most well attended water-change-out event in Canada for many years. Bob has been with Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC) through the highs / lows of membership that many outrigger canoe clubs have experienced. Bob had 30+ years of notable achievements competing in Pacific Northwest and international outrigger canoeing, marathon canoeing, and surfski competitive events before 2023 when Bob made his first foray into IVF World Distance / Sprints events.

Early Career

There is some information available on the early career of Bob that led to his involvement with outrigger canoeing, and this is the storyline still to be pieced together. Bob was born 1964-Oct-8, arriving in Vernon as a soon-to-be 10-year-old in 1973, and was involved in sports such as football and rugby, before becoming a triathlete. Bob started paddling with his late / longtime friend Scott Siemens at the old Okanagan Landing Regatta, when they jumped in a canoe, paddled across Okanagan Lake, picked up a rock, put it in the canoe, and paddled back. Bob, like many in the Okanagan paddlesports community, has participated in long-distance running races, as evidenced by Bob completing in the 2000 12th Annual Knee Knackering North Shore Trail Run finishing 54th Place Overall out of 173 participants, and completing in the 2002 Summerland Research Station 8KM race finishing 8th Place Overall out of 45 participants. It was while swimming, cycling, and running that Bob and other cream-of-the-crop triathletes caught the eyes of the founder of Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC), Cheryl Skribe, who recruited them to try dragon boat racing. [111] [112] [113] [114] [115]

Arthur Robert "Bob" Laughton Dodds was born in Vancouver and raised in Armstrong. Bob Dobbs worked as a travelling salesman before opening Dodds Auction and Antique Imports, reflecting his passion for antiques. Bob Dobbs passed away in 2026, but his business continues to operate. At some point during his time in Vernon, Bob became an Auctioneer at Dodds Bros Auctions, a family owned and operated business that has been serving the Vernon and Okanagan Region for more than 45 years. At some point during his career, Bob would become Owner/Operator of Dodds Auction and Appraisal Service. [121] [122] [123] [124]

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

Bob has a very long and successful career as a solo / tandem outrigger canoe and surfski competitor going back at least as far as 2000. You will find Bob in the Top 3 in the standings in his boat / gender / age division for CORA small-boat races when you review race results on Webscorer, CORA website, and Jericho website. Bob has organized and raced with Vernon (VRCC) / (VPC) crews for CORA events all around the Province including Salmon Arm (Survive The Triangle), Vernon (Freshwater Challenge; Length Of The Lake), Penticton (Duel In The Desert), Harrison (Echo Island Challenge), Burnaby (Lotus Iron), Vancouver (Jericho Classic), Victoria (Island Iron), and Comox (Island Iron) from 2000 to present. Bob has also organized and raced with Okanagan crews for international events including Queen Lili'uokalani. [131] [132]

Bob has represented Team Canada at International Va'a Federation (IVF) World Sprints / Distance from 2023-2024. At 2023 Samoa IVF World Distance, Bob would place 4th in V1 Masters 60 Men. At 2023 Samoa IVF World Distance, Bob would race with a Team Canada crew (Bob Woodman; Brad Morrison; Rob Varnel; Dennis Silvestrone; Don Irvine; Jim Underwood) that would take Bronze in V6 Masters 60 Men. At 2024 Hilo IVF World Sprints, Bob would race with Team Canada (Coquihalla Crew) that would take Bronze in V6 1000M Men Masters 50+. [151] [152] [153] [154]

Coach-Builder Achievements

Bob joined the CORA Board Of Directors at the 2020-Nov CORA AGM and was with the CORA Board for 1 year when he resigned at the 2021-Nov CORA AGM. However, Bob provided a great service to the CORA Board during that time as a liaison for the Okanagan CORA clubs. Bob was with the CORA Historical Committee and held a virtual interview with Darryl Spencer, one of the founding members of the outrigger canoe club in Kamloops BC. The transcript of that virtual interview provided invaluable insights as Darryl shared unwritten Canadian outrigger canoeing history with Bob that eventually filled in many gaps on CORA Cultural Continuity documents the "[The Burrard](#)", and [The First Outrigger Canoes in BC](#). The transcript of that virtual interview also provided enough history to build-out the "[Thompson / Okanagan / Shuswap Story](#)" CORA Club Legacy document. [161] [162] [163] [164] Bob has been with the Vernon Paddling Centre Board Of Directors as a volunteer for many years before and after he was with the CORA Board Of Directors. [165]

Pioneering Achievements

MI6 was not a novel concept. The "[Paddlers Without Borders](#)" and "[Team Cascadia](#)" CORA Website publications noted how paddlers from across clubs / nations had broken a long-accepted mold of club crews. The difference with MI6 was two key points noted by Bob: 1) These were lifelong rivals from different clubs deciding to combine their talents; 2) These were lifelong friends who were collectively opting for as many local and international races as possible as a pickup crew instead of making a long-term time / money commitment for just 1 or 2 races at some destination event. [171] [172] [173]

There was a story that had been unfolding under the radar since 2023 that had only recently caught fire after a "News Flash" was received by CORA from the Cook Islands in November 2025. This story began decades ago back in 2000. The BC Mens Provincial team delivered a first for Canada in 2000. A crew of paddlers racing as "Team BC" from Jericho, Pemberton, and False Creek including Hugh Fisher, David Ross, Cam Fagrie, Mike Parks, Rick Nu'u, and Don Irvine would finish Spec 1st place Open and 1st place Overall in the 2000 Catalina Channel Crossing US Outrigger Championships – the best ever showing for an all-Canadian crew at Catalina. [181]

And then after a 20+ year hiatus, it was time to the "put the band back together again". It started shortly after the 2023 IVF Samoa World Distance Championships ended in August 2023. A Vernon Morning Star article has noted that a team by the name of Pac Northwest consisting of seven Canadians (Hugh Fisher; Cam Fagrie; David Ross; Laci Bujdos; Bob Woodman; Gary Parsons; Tony Van Buren) and two Americans (Alan Lipp; Brian Kummer) would finish Unlimited Mens Golden Masters (60+) 1st place and 28th place Mens Overall in the 2023 Catalina Channel Crossing US Outrigger Championships in September 2023. [182] [183] Fast forward to Summer 2025 when a team by the name of MI6 (Hugh Fisher; Cam Fagrie; David Ross; Laci Bujdos; Bob Woodman; Ronald (Nanaimo) Williams) would finish Unlimited Mens Golden Masters (60+) 1st place and 6th place Mens Overall at 2025 The Gorge Outrigger Canoe Race in July 2025. [184]

MI6 did not attend every 2025 CORA Cup Series event, but every time that MI6 (Hugh Fisher; Cam Fagrie; David Ross; Laci Bujdos; Bob Woodman; Ronald (Nanaimo) Williams) did attend a 2025 CORA Cup Series event, MI6 would finish Unlimited Mens Golden Masters (60+) 1st place. [185] At the November 2025 CORA AGM, while Hugh Fisher was being recognized as the Hugh Town Memorial Builder Award 2025 Recipient, MI6 was away at the Vaka Eiva 2025 International Outrigger Canoe Festival in the Cook Islands enjoying the South Pacific. The MI6 Canadian contingent did very well in the OC1 / V1 races with Hugh Fisher OC1 Masters 70 Men 1st place, Laci Bujdos OC1 Masters 60 Men 1st place, Ronald (Nanaimo) Williams OC1 Masters 60 Men 2nd place, Cam Fagrie OC1 Masters 60 Men 4th place, Tony Van Buren OC1 Masters 60 Men 6th place, David Ross OC1 Masters 60 Men 7th place, and Bob Woodman V1 Masters 60 Men 2nd place. [186]

The MI6 Canadian contingent raced together as a Mens Iron crew to the podium and teamed up with Fijian / Australian paddlers including world traveler Sandi Mitchell to race as a Mixed Changes crew to bring home Silver. Bob and friends won three gold medals in the Cook Islands. They were first in the Masters 60 Mens OC6 Iron Race (10KM); first in the Masters 60 Men V1 Iron Race; and first in the Masters 60 Mens 9-Man Change Race (36KM), second canoe overall. [187] [188] [189]

Exemplary Achievements

First run in 1973, the Ski to Sea is a 91-mile multi-sport team relay from the Mt. Baker Ski Area to Bellingham Bay. The race is held annually on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend in Whatcom County, Washington. A Ski to Sea team consists of three-eight racers competing in seven different sports: Cross Country Ski, Downhill Ski/Snowboard, Running, Road Bike, Canoe (2 paddlers), Cyclocross Bike and Sea Kayak. The Ski to Sea Birch Team is an incredibly talented group of athletes including a top Cross-country Skier, Downhill Skier, Runner, Road Cyclist, Cyclocross, Kayaker, and a Canoe Team consisting of (stern) Glenn Bond, age 50, Vernon, BC and (bow) Bob Woodman, age 61, Vernon BC, who were the fastest canoe team in 2022 and 2023. [191] The Birch Equipment Team with Glenn Bond and Bob Woodman would finish 1st Place in Competitive Open in 2022 and 2023 and 2024. [191] [192] [193] [194] [195] [196]

References

#	Note	Link
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[115]	2015 Myra Canyon Trestles Run	https://www.webscorer.com/racealldetails?raceid=51503
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