



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Joey Hertz



Summary

Joey Hertz has a 25-year legacy of selfless volunteer effort to paddlesports in general and outrigger canoe racing in particular. Joey has made contributions to support Canadian paddlers at the international, national, provincial, and club level. Joey has been part of the Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association that has hosted the popular Kelowna (KPC) Waterman Challenge. Joey has been with the Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association Executive for many years. Joey has made significant contributions to the growth of Kelowna (KPC) through advocacy with the City of Kelowna and fundraising with charitable organizations.

Early Career

There is little information available on the early career of Joey that led to his involvement with outrigger canoeing, and this is the storyline still to be pieced together. Joey was born sometime in the mid-1950s, as he raced Masters 60 Men at 2015 Queen Lili'uokalani and Unlimited Masters 60 Men at 2019 Jericho Classic Iron. Joey may very well have spent most of his life in the Kelowna area. What is known is that Joey, like many in the Okanagan paddlesports community, has participated in the Gran Fondo series of long-distance road cycling races, as evidenced by Joey completing the 100-mile distance at the 2012 Penticton Gran Fondo. [101] [102]

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

Joey has a very long and successful career as a solo / tandem outrigger canoe competitor going back at least as far as 2009. You will find Joey 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. Joey has organized and raced with Kelowna (KPC) OC6 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 2009 to present. Joey has also organized and raced with Okanagan crews for international events including Queen Lili'uokalani. [111] [112] [113] [114] [115] [116] [117] [118] [119] [120] [121] [122] [123]

Pioneering Achievements

Joey is recognized as a co-founder of Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association as of 2000. Joey served as President for the Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association in the early-2010s when Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association acquired their new venue on Abbott Street along the Pandosy Waterfront. Joey would be part of the organizing committee for the Kelowna (KPC) Waterman Challenge inaugural outrigger canoeing event in 2016. [141] [142] [143]

Coach-Builder Achievements

Joey has contributed to the ongoing success of the Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association as a member of the Kelowna (KPC) Executive and various committees since 2000. Joey has been active in fundraising and as an advocate / spokesperson on behalf of the club and the community.

Kelowna Club Venue: It is uncertain where the Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association was based prior to 2012. However, Joey in 2014 as President of Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association spearheaded an initiative that would have a substantial impact on the future not only of the Kelowna Paddle Centre, but also the Pandosy Waterfront Park. The City of Kelowna Regular Council Meeting Minutes from 2013-July-30 were a pivotal moment in the evolution of Kelowna (KPC). There was an Agenda item with regards to Temporary Use Permit Application No. TUP13-0004 3050 Abbott Street, City of Kelowna. The details documented with regards to this Agenda item highlight the individuals who played a part in this pivotal moment for Kelowna (KPC). Joey Hertz of the Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Association, as the Applicant, had put forward a compelling case for this Temporary Use Permit. There were a number of other Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Association members who communicated their support for this Temporary Use

Permit including Sandra Mowat, Eric Prehoffer, Leanne Stanley, Melanie Durban, and Jeff Fink. What was impressive was the extensive list of Letters of Support from Don Mulhall (Penticton Racing Canoe Club), Lynda Roberts (Calgary Canoe Club), Steve Frisch (Go Rowing and Paddling), Mary Jane Abbott (Canoe Kayak BC), John Edwards (Canoe Kayak Canada), Cindy Wright (Canadian Outrigger), and Peter Schultz (Rotary Club of Kelowna). The Motion for Temporary Use Permit No. TUP13-0004 to allow a paddle centre located at 3050 Abbott Street, Kelowna BC, for a 3-year period commencing from the date of Council consideration was Carried. A Motion for a 3-year Licence of Occupation as of 2013-July-24, with the Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Association for operation of a paddling centre at 3050 Abbott Street was Carried. [151] [152] [153] A major achievement in 2024 / 2025 was the approval for a project that Joey spearheaded in 2014 as President of Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association (a non-profit society also known as the Kelowna Paddle Centre). The City of Kelowna began review in 2024 on a Development Permit Application for a Paddle Centre touting benefits such as sustainability, community health, economic boost, social connectivity and complementary land use, just north of the new Pandosy Waterfront Park. That Development Permit Application was authorized Summer 2025 and now allows Kelowna (KPC) to fulfill the initiative started by Joey to transform their aging facility into a modern, accessible campus that will include two new buildings and extensive renovations of the current house. The new facility will allow Kelowna (KPC) to better provide public programs to over 2,500 paddlers a year. [161] As of Spring 2021, the initial lease agreement from 2014 was solidified by a five (5) year Non-Market Lease Agreement with the Kelowna Outrigger Racing Canoe Club Association to fundraise / design / construct a new facility to provide safe, accessible paddling sports for families and individuals. [162] Having the Pandosy Waterfront as a base has enabled Kelowna (KPC) to fully embark on the long-time goal of bringing paddling to as many people as possible by building public involvement through affordable memberships; outreach programs; and lessons for children / youth / adults. Collaboration with the City of Kelowna, general public and members of the paddling community has resulted in Kelowna (KPC) being a central component of the future of the Pandosy Waterfront Project. [163]

Kelowna Big-Boat Fleet: Joey has made contributions to support the ever-growing Kelowna (KPC) membership through his efforts to continuously expand and upgrade the Kelowna (KPC) six-person outrigger canoe fleet. Kelowna (KPC) steadily acquired a fleet of traditional OC6s starting with a new Clipper Advantage OC6, a new Outrigger Connection Mirage OC6, a used Canadian Class Racer OC6 from PRCC, and then a used Canadian Class Racer OC6 from FCRCC. Kelowna (KPC) then quickly acquired a fleet of ultralight OC6s consisting of 2 Giblin Vortex Ultralight OC6 and 1 Puakea Malolo Ultralight OC6. [164]

Kelowna Racing Events: Kelowna (KPC) had not hosted any CORA Sanctioned Racing Events for many years until 2016. Joey participated in organizing the Kelowna (KPC) Waterman Challenge inaugural outrigger canoeing event in 2016 as a one-day OC6 short-course / long-course event. The Kelowna (KPC) Waterman Challenge was held from 2017-2019 as a two-day OC6 short-course / long-course and small boat event. The Kelowna (KPC) Waterman Challenge was cancelled several times between 2020-2023 due to COVID or wildfires. The event was renamed as the Kelowna (KPC) Waterman Paddlefest in 2022, and was held as a one-day small boat event. The 2025 Kelowna (KPC) Waterman Paddlefest was held as a one-day small boat event in collaboration with Vernon Paddle Centre Freshwater Challenge OC6 beach-changes on the same weekend. [171] [172] [173] [174] [175] [176] [177] [178]

Exemplary Achievements

Fundraising: Tamlyn Bohm (Manager) and Joey had been active in pursuing fundraising opportunities to support Kelowna (KPC) programs. The Rotary Club of Kelowna (RCK) Sunrise made a donation of \$3500 in April 2016 which enabled Kelowna (KPC) to expand their youth camps from four to seven weeks and from 100 to 170 youth. The Rotary Club of Kelowna made another donation of \$2000 in 2017 as part of its commitment to support the Youth Program offered by Kelowna (KPC), to enable the organization to continue to expand its youth programs by purchasing additional equipment to accommodate intermediate youths. These fundraising efforts have continued with Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) hiring grants to subsidize salaries for summer jobs created for youths, as well as partnering with the BC Amateur Sport Fund to raise funds to support Kelowna (KPC) operations. [181] [182] [183] [184]

Advocacy / Spokesperson: Joey has engaged with municipal authorities and the community for over a decade to advocate for the presence and support of a publicly-accessible paddle centre on the Pandosy Waterfront. It was the Temporary Use Application submitted / shepherded by Joey through the City Of Kelowna development process that provided direction for the 12 municipally owned waterfront lots in the South Pandosy neighbourhood and provided impetus for the Pandosy Waterfront Park. Joey would meet with staff from the Daily Courier to discuss how Kelowna (KPC) membership had grown from 25 to 300+ in the first few years at the Abbott Street venue by virtue of having a very nice clubhouse, a great beach, outdoor patios, changing rooms, and storage facilities for canoes and kayaks. This article noted how the club is growing the sport by being involved with school programs, kids camps, and various other programs to get young people into the sport. [192] When Joey is not promoting Kelowna (KPC), he is known to recognize members of the local community such as Hans Birker of Bohemian Café & Catering Co for the In Focus Spotlight, that helps show recognition for the people, businesses and organizations that help make the city of Kelowna great. [191] [192] [193]

References

#	Note	Link
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[102]	2012 Penticton Gran Fondo	https://www.webscorer.com/racedetails?raceid=1452&did=1314&cid=7070
[111]	2007 Vernon Freshwater Challenge Small Boat Results	https://www.jerichoutrigger.com/races2007/VernonSmallboats.html
[112]	2009 Vernon Freshwater Challenge Small Boat Results	https://www.jerichoutrigger.com/races2009/VernonSmallboats.html
[113]	2011 Survive The Triangle Race Results	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2011-Triangle-Race-Results1.pdf
[114]	2012 Survive The Triangle Race Results	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2011-Triangle-Race-Results1.pdf
[115]	2015 Kelowna Paddle Centre (KPC) Team Take Silver In Queen Lili'uokalani OC6 Iron Masters 40+	https://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/sports/article_21e3c8ac-67cd-11e5-b09c-6f61891fb665.html
[116]	2015 Take the Bridge	https://www.webscorer.com/race?raceid=47231
[117]	2016 Kelowna Paddle Centre (KPC) Team Wins Channel Parkway Penticton Racing Canoe Club Outrigger Canoeing Event	https://www.pentictonherald.ca/sports/article_e7a34762-88f0-11e6-aae9-0badb5200a21.html
[118]	2017 Kelowna Paddle Centre (KPC) Waterman	https://www.jerichoutrigger.com/races2017/waterman.html
[119]	2019 Kelowna Paddle Centre (KPC) Paddlers Excel At Board The Fjord And Penticton Racing Canoe Club Duel In The Desert	https://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/sports/article_c77a1820-7601-11e9-aed0-2bf6fabfe66e.html
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[122]	2019 Kelowna Paddle Centre (KPC) Waterman	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/KPC-Waterman-Small-Boats-2019-1.pdf
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[141]	Kelowna Paddle Centre (KPC) History	https://kelownapaddlecentre.ca/about-us-2/
[142]	2014 Paddlers Win As Waterfront Park Squabble Ends	https://www.pressreader.com/canada/the-daily-courier/20140625/281552288945459?srltid=AfmBOoplfnNp5Y0wKio4GGiBjW4F4Gjgl-fSITGwFxxREO3UgSc4lB14
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[162]	2021 City of Kelowna Regular Council Meeting Minutes	https://kelownapublishing.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=32458
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[178]	2025 Kelowna Paddle Centre (KPC) Waterman Paddlefest Results	https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025-Kelowna-Waterman-Small-Boat.pdf
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[192]	2015 Daily Courier Swift Boats And Fast Women	https://www.pressreader.com/canada/the-daily-courier/20150626/281822872447397?srltid=AfmBOooOrFK1UobqkSqxglLCvZX_PoQSgWFLc_zGg3IHlHV-jveoo2g4
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