



CORA HISTORICAL COMMITTEE REPORT (AGM) 2020

OVERVIEW

CORA Board did not have a Historical Committee in the past and does not have an official Historical Committee at present. The closest that CORA Board has come to collecting Canadian outrigger canoeing historical records has been the CORA website Meeting Minutes, Race Results, and a document ("*The Malia in B.C.*") by Doug Mancell (Lotus Sports Club).

<https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/malia-history-in-canada.pdf>

MOTIVATION

Two factors led to the accumulation of a wealth of Canadian outrigger canoeing historical records during 2020. The first factor was an initiative by CORA Board to reconcile a series of out-dated 10-year old Canoe Registry documents (PDF / Word / Excel) into an updated Canoe Registry on the CORA Google Drive. The second factor was the pandemic of 2020 lockdowns in Spring / Summer that provided an opportunity to connect online with a spectrum of CORA and PNWORCA and SCORA members who had "tribal knowledge" related to most of the big boats (OC4s / OC6s) throughout Canada, yet that history had never been captured in written records for posterity.

OUTCOMES

Fact-checking, grammar-checking, umpteen email exchanges, and endless online searches resulted in a very definitive Canoe Registry of the vast majority of big boats (OC4s / OC6s) throughout Canada as well as a timeline of the travels of those canoes.

The end result of this ongoing research has been six reference documents:

- Detailed history of outrigger canoes from the original Hawaiian Malia (1938) to the various Unlimited OC6s (CORA website page)
- Detailed background on history / distributors / owners of all of the various Unlimited OC6s across Canada (CORA website page)
- Detailed history of the first outrigger canoes in Canada - a revisit of the Doug Mancell article (PDF)
- *The Lotus Story* – Extensive history covering 1986-2019 of one of the original Canadian outrigger canoe clubs (PDF)
- *The False Creek Story* – Extensive history covering 1982-2000 of one of the original Canadian outrigger canoe clubs (PDF)
- *The Jericho Story* – Extensive history covering 1993-2020 of one of the original Canadian outrigger canoe clubs (PDF)

The Lotus Story, *The False Creek Story*, and *The Jericho Story* will be available online following final reviews by CORA Board members.

PRESERVATION

CORA Board recognizes that these historical documents are a legacy to the founders and builders of Canadian outrigger canoeing and should be preserved for posterity. These historical documents are to be found on the CORA Google Drive in the Resources folder and will be published on the CORA website.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All of the research on the Canoe Registry had grown into a document more than fifty pages in length of copied / pasted email content from countless individuals. The one person who contributed some of the most important pieces of this puzzle was none other than 2019 Hugh Town Memorial Award Recipient Grace Morissette (Lotus Sports Club). At various times during the data collection process, Grace mentioned that somebody should save all of this history for posterity. This led to an unofficial CORA Historical Committee being formed.

Grace and numerous other former / current CORA members going back to the 1980's contributed such a vast set of material on Lotus that we decided to capture "*The Lotus Story*".

Jan Chavarie (Jericho Paddling Club) had already provided a wealth of background on BC Lower Mainland outrigger canoeing in the early 1990's. Jan agreed to sit for an interview with two major outcomes. The first was such a vast set of material on Jericho that we decided to capture "*The Jericho Story*". The second was a recommendation to contact Drew Mitchell (False Creek alumni) to reconcile the Lotus / False Creek / Jericho missing pieces.

Drew agreed to sit for a virtual interview with two major outcomes. The first was the resolution of many unanswered questions pertaining to the origins of Canadian outrigger canoeing in the early 1980's. The second was such a vast set of material on False Creek that we decided to capture "*The False Creek Story*".

First and foremost, a huge debt of gratitude is due to Grace and Jan and Drew for not only taking the time to sit for informal and formal interviews, answering countless questions, taking it upon themselves to do research to confirm events / times / places / individuals that are the threads of the history, and for diligently proof-reading / spell-checking / grammar-checking several drafts until the content was factually correct and politically correct, as some things are best left unwritten.

There are so many other individuals who have contributed to one or more of the six stories and they deserve recognition for their part in capturing and preserving this history.

- Andrea Dillon (False Creek) volunteered her time to proof-read "*The False Creek Story*"
- Hugh Fisher (Pemberton) recounted how False Creek MacGyvered a faux outrigger canoe to train for the Catalina and Molokai races
- Bud Hohl (SCORA Historian) recounted the years that Canadian crews did Catalina in the 1980's

- David Boulding recounted how the California Malia mold crossed over from Sumas WA to Maple Ridge BC and how the "Disbrow" Hawaiian Class Racer (HCR) came from Hawaii to Canada and how the Calmar Canadian Class Racer (CCR) came to be
- Jim / Garry / Doug Mancell recounted how / where / when the first Canadian Malias were manufactured and officially weighed by SCORA at a Catalina Channel Crossing race
- Boy Chun Fook (Kikaha O Ke Kai – PNWORCA) and Don Mulhall (Penticton Racing Canoe Club) recounted how the Penticton Hawaiian Class Racer (HCR) came from California to Canada
- Dan O'Donovan (Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club) recounted how the Calgary Canoe Club flat-water paddlers relocated to Vancouver to join up with False Creek and Jericho
- Jude Turczynski (Huki Outriggers & Surf Skis) recounted how the Huki OC6 ama seen on several Canadian OC6s came to provide financial leverage for his start-up OC1 / OC2 Surfski business
- Scott Borle (Fraser Valley Paddling Club) recounted how a FCRC Calmar and a Harrison Paddlesports Advantage and a Fraser Valley Dragonboat Club Bradley Lighting came to FVPC
- Donna Harrison (Gibsons Paddle Club) recounted how Gibsons acquired the only two Fijian Vakalomas in North America by way of SOAR (now defunct) after Fiji 1998 IVF World Sprints
- Val Simmons (Haunani) recounted how a Florida club generously gifted a Force Five to Wai Nui in Toronto and then it was gifted onto another Toronto club
- Andrea de Bruijn (Sproat Lake) recounted how one of only two Dennis Campbell Rhinos in Canada came to Sproat Lake and then onto Yellow Knife
- Joan / Brent Patriquin (Prince Rupert) recounted how the Dennis Campbell Rhino went to Yellow Knife and then to Prince Rupert
- Wolfgang Presslauer (Nanaimo Ocean Paddling Club) recounted how NOPC came to acquire all of the NCKC OC6s / OC4s
- Sue Milligan (Powell River) recounted how three Canadian Malias came to Powell River from False Creek via Gibsons to Powell River and how a Bradley Lightning came from Barry Kosturos
- Barry Kosturos (Jericho / Powell River) recounted how he came to acquire two Bradley Lightnings with one Bradley Lightning going to Powell River and the other Bradley Lightning going to Oregon
- Ross Creasy (Open Ocean Outrigger) recounted the timeline of the 120+ first-generation and second-generation C-Lion OC1s manufactured by Western Canoeing & Kayaking
- Corey Teramura (Pearson College) recounted how a Canadian Malia came from Powell River to Victoria
- Lynda Roberts (Calgary) recounted how two of fourteen Bradley Lightnings destined for New Caledonia 2010 IVF World Sprints ended up at VOS and Fort Langley
- Kenneth Ang (False Creek) recounted how the first ARE Matahina came to Canada from Newport Outrigger
- Bob Disbrow (Lotus Sports Club alumni) was not interviewed, but has left so many footprints in the course of his legendary career that appear on online search results to shed a light on his significant and understated role in expanding outrigger canoeing in Canada
- Don Irvine and Hugh Fisher (False Creek alumni) did not sit for interviews, but much like Bob Disbrow, both of them left a trail of notations in the online literature and have been mentioned by so many of the individuals actually interviewed, as two of the most influential and important figures in terms of the history of the Canadian Malia and the Canadian outrigger canoeing

EPILOGUE

CORA Board continues to collect historical records on Canadian outrigger canoeing. Stories for Vancouver Island and the Okanagan / Interior have been started, but material is lacking. Input is welcome from anyone who may wish to contribute material to add to the legacy of Canadian outrigger canoeing.