



# CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

## Annie Boulding



### Summary

Annie Boulding has a paddling career that began as a kayaking instructor in the 1970s at Strathcona Park Lodge, travelled the world competing in whitewater kayaking, was with Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club in the 1980s, was with FCRC when it was founded, brought the first six-person outrigger canoe to Canada in 1986 to become the starter canoe for outrigger canoe clubs, would be one of few outrigger canoe club women founders with Comox in 1994, taught at Lake Trail Community School in Comox since 1993, and travelled to Distance / Sprints events in Hawaii, Australia, and the US West Coast over 35 years.

### Early Career

Strathcona Park Lodge (SPL) 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). [02] Annie was a COLT instructor for years at SPL and then at National Cadet Camp in Banff in 1990-1991. When Jim Boulding passed away, David Boulding authored a tribute to his uncle Jim Boulding & Ron Wood in a Flash Back Fridays blog post providing a history of SPL, and mentioning Annie on guitar accompanying Rob Wood bellowing his favourite song. [03]

Annie was a world-class competitive slalom kayaker. A 1980 Chung Collection article on SPL highlights the Boulding family and mentions Annie placing 3rd in Canada in 1979 in slalom kayaking. [04] A 1981 Macleans article on the Boulding family and SPL history, also notes that Annie broke her shoulder kayaking for Canada in an international meet in Yugoslavia. [05] Annie would take 1st place at the 1983 and 1985 Canadian National Whitewater Slalom Championships, then 8th place in the 1986 North America Whitewater Slalom Series. A May 1982 Chilliwack Progress article covers the BC Provincial Down River Championships with Annie placing 2nd to advance to compete at the National Championships. [06] At the 1983 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships in Merano Italy, Annie would place 25th in the world. [07] Footage of the 1984 Whitewater Slalom Competitions in Yugoslavia, shows Annie in 2nd place down the course. [08] An April 1986 Times Colonist article covers the Cowichan Whitewater Championships with Annie placing 2nd. [09] At the 1987 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships in Bourg St. Maurice France, Annie would place 29th in the world, behind Joanne Woods in 27th place, [10] who had joined Annie on the White Raven Canoe & Kayak Club crew for the 1985 Molokai Na Wahine race. Annie was a Hong Kong DB International Festival gold medalist 3 times and silver medalist once between 1988-1993 with the FCRC Womens DB team.

In the early 1980s, Annie was cross training at Burnaby Lake when Burnaby Canoe & Kayak was becoming well-known with Tony Hall and Drew Mitchell building a flatwater program that included Hugh Fisher, Alwyn Morris, Don Irvine, Renn Crichlow, Colin Shaw, and Sheila Taylor. [11] When Annie returned to Vancouver Island in 1993, she became an instructor in Humanities, [12] French, Social Studies, and Phys Ed at Lake Trail Community School in Comox. [14]

### Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

Annie would be one of the first Canadian women to participate in the Molokai Na Wahine race. Annie and fellow National whitewater team members Joanne Woods and Shelia Taylor had joined the White Raven Canoe & Kayak Club crew consisting of marathon paddlers and legendary steersperson Ruth Matson. [15] The womens crew trained on Oahu for the 1985 Molokai Na Wahine race. They were coached by Hawaiian surfing legend [16] and International Surfing Hall of Fame member "Rabbit" Kekai [17] to a 5th place finish. Annie explained to Billy Whitford at the Honolulu finish that Canadian paddlers had to train for California / Hawaii outrigger canoe races in Voyageur canoes. This would be for Annie the first of 9 Molokai Na Wahine races.

Jackie Webber would return to Comox in 2007 to coach Laurel Archer, Jacinta Sheridan, Lisa Robertson, Heather Taylor, Lyse Fortin, Melanie Conard, Rani Johns, Annie and two Hawaiian paddlers for the 2007 Molokai Na Wahine race. [18] The Comox

team placed 31st in the Open division and 36th overall. [19] While at Comox, Annie steered for a FCRC / Comox crew that would take many 1st / 2nd / 3rd places at 2011 Hamilton Island Outrigger Cup events. [20]

Annie has represented Team Canada at International Va'a Federation (IVF) World Sprints over three decades. At 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints, Annie raced V1 500M Open Women and steered for a Lotus club crew. [23] At 2004 Hilo IVF World Sprints, Annie would advance to semi-finals in V1 500M Masters Women and steered for several Team Canada V6 / V12 crews. [24] At 2018 Tahiti IVF World Sprints, Annie would steer for several Team Canada V6 / V12 crews. [25] At 2019 Australia IVF World Distance in Mooloolaba, Annie would steer for a Canadian team with Ann Mohs, Barb McColl, Frances DeGrace, Jaye Kerzner, and Pam Watts Cornall, [26] that would take Silver in V6 Masters 60 Women. [27]

## **Coach-Builder Achievements**

Flatwater Olympian and CKBC legend Sheila Taylor was a national level canoe instructor and spent her summers teaching canoeing from 1976-1980. While at University of Alberta, at the age of 21, SPL owner and family patriarch Jim Boulding, hired Sheila over the phone to teach canoe at SPL. While teaching at SPL, Jamie and Annie Boulding took Sheila on forays of the Gold and Campbell rivers where she acquired the skills by 1985 to become a world-class whitewater down river kayaker. [28] Sheila would join Annie on the White Raven Canoe & Kayak Club crew from Nanaimo for the 1985 Molokai Na Wahine race.

Annie was involved with False Creek Racing Canoe Club from the outset when it was formed in 1985 by Sprint Kayak Olympic Gold Medalist Hugh Fisher, Heather Taylor, Don Irvine, and Patrick Couling, with help from False Creek Community Centre Director Carol Sogawa. [29] Annie was paddling for the national whitewater team at the time and was at the original meeting of FCRC, representing whitewater paddlers to see if they could store their down river kayaks in the new club house.

In a Pacific Paddler magazine article from April 2015, there is mention of Annie winning an OC1 at 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints. [30] This Jerry Montgomery OC1 and two others would provide FCRC with a small-boat fleet that Jackie Webber, [31] Heather Taylor, and Andrea Dillon would use to train for the 1994 / 1996 / 1998 IVF World Sprints [32].

## **Pioneering Achievements**

Annie was in Southern California with a crew from White Raven Canoe & Kayak Club for the 1985 Molokai Na Wahine race. When the crew returned to California after the race, Billy Whitford had a 600-lb hull cut in half at the midsection and loaded onto the roof of Annie's whitewater instructors [33] motorhome and the two halves of the hull of "The Burrard" were brought north. FCRC paddlers reassembled the hull and "The Burrard" launched in early 1987 for the first time. "The Burrard" was with FCRC until late 1989 by which time they had acquired several Canadian Malias. "The Burrard" then went to Penticton, Vernon, Kamloops, Jericho, Pemberton, Victoria Canoe & Kayak Club, and Comox as a starter canoe until it was deemed unseaworthy in 2006. This hull that Annie brought to Canada would set in motion at least 8 Canadian outrigger canoe clubs.

In 1993, Annie returned to Courtenay and launched the Comox club. [34] Commonwealth Games rowing gold medal winner and sister-in-law Christine (Tina) Clarke with SPL ordered two Calmar canoes for Comox. VCKC had "The Burrard" on a one-year loan from CORA 1994-1995. When the VCKC loan was over, Annie borrowed the SPL truck with rook racks and drove to Victoria to bring "The Burrard" to Comox where it was stored on the beach near the Powell River Ferry Terminal. The Comox club paid for the first Calmar canoe and when Comox could not afford the second Calmar 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. IVF World Sprints V1 500M Gold Medalist Jackie Webber was recruited by Annie to give a technique clinic to the Comox club. [35]

## **Exemplary Achievements**

Ski-to-Sea is a multi-sport team relay from the Mt. Baker Ski Area to Bellingham Bay running since 1973. A BC team consisting of Annie / Jamie Boulding, Dan Robinson, Paul Newitt, Phillip Willis, Rae Anne Kurucz, Tony Leyland, and Winston Byblow would take Mixed Division 1st in the 1994 event. [36] Annie would race with Team Canada at 2009 Dragon Boat World Championships in Prague to take 1st in the Senior Mixed 2000M and 200M events. [37] Laurel Archer has been a canoe guide and instructor for 20 years with the Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training program at SPL. Laurel published volume one of the Northern BC Canoe Trips guidebook series in 2011. Laurel specifically acknowledges Annie Boulding, Jackie Bell, and many of the Comox-Strathcona crew for their many years of support. [38]

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Note	Article	Link
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*Annie Boulding steering the outrigger canoe in Comox in 1998*