



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Cheryl Skribe



Summary

Cheryl Skribe raced with two World Dragon Boat champion crews before attaining a high level of excellence as an outrigger canoeing paddler, steersperson, coach, and sports writer over the course of 30 years. Cheryl started with the paddling community at False Creek Racing Canoe Club. Her worldwide travels would see her racing with crews from FCRC, Vernon, Kamloops, Penticton, Mooloolaba in Australia, Hui Lanakila in Hawaii, Team Canada (Sacramento; New Caledonia; Australia), and Comox. Among her many achievements would be 4 IVF World Sprints Golds, 4 IVF World Sprints Silvers, an IVF World Distance Bronze, a Molokai Na Wahine Gold, a Molokai Na Wahine Silver, and a "Dad" Center Memorial Canoe Race Gold. Cheryl has made further contributions to the sport as outrigger steering coach and as sports writer covering Canadian outrigger canoeing events for Pacific Paddler magazine.

Early Career

The majority of background on Cheryl in the early 1990s before she began her worldwide travels had been shared by FCRC Alumni Drew Mitchell in a 2020 interview. There is minimal documented history on Cheryl prior to the formation of the FCRC womens outrigger canoe program in the early 1990s. The FCRC website notes that Cheryl is a former 2-time World Dragon Boat champion. [01] There are records that show the FCRC Womens Team would win the Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival from 1986-1993. They would continue onto win the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival International Races in 1989, 1990, 1992 and 1993. This is the most likely time when Cheryl would race with World Dragon Boat championship crews. [02]

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

The early 1990s saw an initiative to deliver a womens outrigger canoe program that would be competitive at the international level. FCRC had recruited 40+ women in 1993 to fill two Molokai Na Wahine crews with a Catalina Channel Crossing race as a precursor. The 1993 womens outrigger canoe program brought in paddlers including Cheryl Skribe, Andrea Dillon, Allie Johnstone, Kamini Jain, Heather Taylor, Jacinta Sheridan, Jackie Webber, and many more. [03] The two FCRC Womens 1993 Molokai Na Wahine crews (12 paddlers per team) would finish 10 minutes apart in 10th and 13th place Open Fibreglass. [04] The 1994 womens outrigger canoe program focused on a single crew (12 paddlers per team). That FCRC Womens 1994 Molokai Na Wahine crew, with Cheryl and Andrea Dillon switching steering, would finish in 6th place Open Fibreglass, for the best ever Molokai Na Wahine showing for a Canadian womens crew, until the Jericho Women would have a 6th place finish overall (4th place Open - best ever for a Canadian team in either the Womens or Mens race) in 2003. [05]

Cheryl relocated to Mooloolaba Australia sometime between 2001-2003 and paddled with Team Australia coached by Lisa Curry-Kenny. Mooloolaba had previously won Molokai Na Wahine in 1997, 1998, and 2003. [06] In the 2004 Molokai Na Wahine race, Mooloolaba with Cheryl would take Gold and break the old record time by more than two minutes to repeat as champion. [07] In the 2007 Molokai Na Wahine race, Team Australia with Cheryl would finish 2 minutes behind Team Bradley and take Silver. [08]

From 2005-2007, Cheryl teamed up with fellow Australian paddlers for multiple 1st and 2nd place finishes in Hawaiian distance small-boat races. In May 2005, Mooloolaba Outrigger Club duo Cheryl and Nancy Esse would take 1st place in the Molokai Relay OC1 Masters division. [09] One week later in May 2005, Cheryl and Nancy Esse would take 2nd place OC1 Masters in the 60K Kauai World Challenge Relay. [10] In April 2007, Mooloolaba paddlers Sarah VanDeVanter / Jessie Eames / Cheryl Skribe/ Lisa Curry-Kenny would take 1st place OC2 in the 27-mile Maui To Molokai (M2M) Race. [11] In May 2007, Sarah VanDeVanter / Jessie Eames / Cheryl Skribe/ Lisa Curry-Kenny would take 1st place OC2 in the 40.2-mile Kaiwi Channel Relay paddling race from Molokai to Oahu. [12]

The George "Dad" Center Memorial Canoe Race was the first womens distance outrigger canoe race in the world. [13] It has been sponsored by the Outrigger Canoe Club since 1974. The race is usually held on the fourth Sunday of August each year as part of the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Distance season. Team Bradley was the three-time defending champion of the Molokai Na Wahine world championship race going into the 2008 season. [14] Cheryl and steersperson Denise Darval-Chang transferred to Hui Lanakila Canoe Club in 2008 with a goal of ending the Team Bradley reign. [15] In the August 2008 35th Annual Dad Centre Race, Hui Lanakila Canoe Club with Cheryl would take 1st place in the 25-mile course from Kailua Beach to the Outrigger Canoe Club less than 1 minute ahead of Team Bradley in 2nd place. [16] In the September 2008 E Lau Hoe race, Hui Lanakila Canoe Club with Cheryl would take 1st place in the 32-mile course from Maunalua Bay to Nanakuli Beach 4 minutes ahead of Team Bradley in 2nd place. [17] In the September 2008 Molokai Na Wahine 3 weeks later, Team Bradley would win a 4th consecutive time on their way to six consecutive wins. [18] Hui Lanakila Canoe Club with Cheryl would finish 5 minutes behind and take Silver. [19]

Cheryl has represented Team Canada at International Va'a Federation (IVF) World Sprints from 2008-2010. At 2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints, Cheryl would steer for a Canadian team that would take Gold while setting a new world record in V6 1000 Master Women, [20] as well as take Silver in V6 500M Masters Women, Silver in V12 500M Open Women, Silver in V6 1500M Open Women, and Silver in V6 500M Open Women. [21] At 2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints, [22] Cheryl would steer for a Canadian team that would take Gold in V6 500M Masters Women, [23] Gold in V6 1000M Masters Women, and Gold in V6 1500M Open Women. [24]

Cheryl would steer a Penticton Racing Canoe Club Mixed crew to 1st place in the 2014 Canadian Outrigger Distance Championships at Gibsons, [25] and then race at 2019 Australia IVF World Distance in Mooloolaba with a Team Canada Senior Masters crew that would take Bronze [26] after relocating from Whistler to Comox.

Coach-Builder Achievements

Cheryl relocated to the Okanagan sometime between 1992-1993, but travelled regularly between Vernon and Vancouver for many years to train / race with the FCRCC Womens team. Cheryl recruited many high-performance athletes in early 1993 to join the recently formed Vernon Racing Canoe Club that would become the dominant outrigger canoe club in the Okanagan for several years. Cheryl organized a 10K run as a forum for women runners and was a perennial top finisher in the Beat The Train Multi-Sport Race in Salmon Arm, [27] before relocating to Kamloops from 1999-2001 where she paddled with Wailua Outrigger (Kamloops Outrigger). [28]

Cheryl has made substantial contributions to support local charitable organizations as well as the paddling community through her skills in outreach services and journalism. Cheryl relocated to Whistler Vernon sometime between 2010-2012 and worked for the fine art gallery in Whistler's Re-Use-It Centre. [29] Cheryl moved on to become executive director from 2014-2018 for Whistler Community Services Society (WCSS), one of the most successful community-supported charities in the province. [30] Cheryl was nominated as a 2017 Whistler Excellence Awards finalist as Business Person of the Year for having a major impact on the landscape of the local business community. [31] During this time in Whistler, Cheryl travelled to Vancouver to provide coaching for Vancouver Ocean Sports crews going to the Queen Liliuokalani race, and to conduct multiple Outrigger Steering Clinics hosted by FCRCC. [32]

The BC Sports Hall of Fame has a Media category and Dragon Boat Canada Hall of Fame has a Builder-Media category for individuals who have made a significant contribution to the enjoyment or knowledge of the sport by producing material promoting the sport or contributing to the technical development of the sport. Canadian outrigger canoeing receives minimal television or radio coverage, so the majority of reporting is in the form of sports journalism. Cheryl contributed numerous articles to Pacific Paddler magazine between August 2010 and June 2012 on Canadian outrigger canoeing highlighting New Caledonia IVF Sprints, Gibson's Howe Sound, [33] VOS Chasedown, Round Bowen Island, [34] Vancouver Oceanman, [35] FGPC Kan-U-Hakit, [36] and FCRCC March Madness. [37]

References

Note	Article	Link
[01]	FCRCC Website Cheryl Skribe	https://fcrcc.com/news/fcrcc-fall-symposiums-featuring-world-class-instruction-back-to-our-roots/
[02]	FCRCC Dragon Boat Titles	https://www.gogophotocontest.com/paddlersoffcrcc/pages/3487
[03]	1993 Vancouver Sun FCRCC	https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/495128358/
[04]	1993 Molokai Na Wahine Results	http://nawahineokekai.com/results-history/1993.html
[05]	1994 Molokai Na Wahine Results	http://nawahineokekai.com/results-history/1994.html
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[07]	2007 Mooloolaba Molokai	http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Sep/21/sp/hawaii709210378.html
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[17]	2008 E Lau Hoe Results	http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2008/Sep/08/sp/hawaii809080368.html
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[20]	2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints Results	www.ivfiv.org/uploads/2/5/3/8/25381158/race_results_2008.pdf
[21]	2008 Sacramento IVF World Sprints CORA	https://canadianoutrigger.ca/2008-california/
[22]	2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints Results	http://www.ivfiv.org/2010-new-caledonia.html
[23]	2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints CORA	https://canadianoutrigger.ca/2010-new-caledonia/
[24]	2010 New Caledonia IVF World Sprints Blog	http://teamcanadanewcaledonia.blogspot.com/2010/
[25]	2014 CORA Distance Championships	https://www.pentictonherald.ca/sports/local_sports/article_3461b232-266f-11e4-b78c-001a4bcf6878.html
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[33]	Pacific Paddler New Caledonia, Gibsons Pg-12	https://doczz.net/doc/1073898/free---pacific-paddler-magazine
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[35]	Pacific Paddler Oceanman Pg-24	https://www.nxtbook.com/trade/pp/1011/index.php?startid=3#/p/24
[36]	Pacific Paddler Kan-U-Hakit Pg-36	https://www.nxtbook.com/trade/pp/0612/index.php?startid=36#/p/36
[37]	Pacific Paddler March Madness Pg-2	https://www.nxtbook.com/trade/pp/0412/index.php?startid=3#/p/2