



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Jackie (Jacqueline) Webber (Posthumous)



Summary

Jackie (Jacqueline) Webber had a paddling career that spanned 35+ years. Jackie was a K1 / K2 / K4 national medalist many times between 1984-1989 before relocating to Vancouver from Calgary. Jackie would be Canada's first IVF V1 500M Open Womens Gold medalist and compete with FCRCO outrigger canoeing teams at the international level for many years. Jackie would co-found Waters Edge dragon boat service company and provided championship caliber outrigger and dragon boat coaching until her passing.

Early Career

The majority of background on Jackie Webber before she relocated to Vancouver from Calgary in 1992 had been shared by VPD Officer Dan O'Donovan (formerly with Calgary Canoe Club, Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club, and VPD Marine Unit) in a 2020 interview. The growth of False Creek Racing Canoe Club and Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club in the early 1990's has origins going back to a core group from the Calgary Canoe Club in the late 1980s including Jackie Webber, Paul Dever, Kamini Jain, and team captain Dan O'Donovan. Calgary Canoe Club had the top War Canoe or C-15 crew in Western Canada during the late 1980s. Calgary Canoe Club would take second place in War Canoe at the Canadian Canoe Championships in 1986 (Toronto), 1987 (Calgary), 1989 (Montreal). Jackie and Kamini Jain would medal in K1 / K2 / K4 year-after-year with Calgary Canoe Club between 1984-1989. [01] Jackie was the last of this group from the Calgary Canoe Club to arrive in Vancouver in 1992, after Paul Dever in 1987, Kamini Jain in 1990, and Dan O'Donovan in 1991.

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

Jackie arrived in Vancouver and joined FCRCO at an opportune time. FCRCO paddlers Don Irvine and Hugh Fisher had medaled at the 1992 Sacramento IVF World Sprints in Open Mens V1 500M. Don, Hugh, and Drew Mitchell were leading training for the FCRCO Womens outrigger canoe program with a goal to deliver a Womens outrigger canoe program that would be competitive at the international level. FCRCO had recruited 40+ women (including Jackie) in 1993 to fill two Molokai Na Wahine crews with a Catalina Channel Crossing race as a precursor. [02]

Jackie and Kamini Jain were roommates during this time while Jackie attended to every mental, physical and tactical detail for her training that resulted in a Gold Medal at the 1994 Western Samoa IVF World Sprints in V1 500M Open Women. [03] 1994 Team Canada Women with Jackie would take Bronze in V6 500M and V6 1500M Open Women.

Comox Valley Canoe Racing Club (CVCRC) was founded in 1993 by former FCRCO paddlers. Jackie was recruited by Annie Boulding to give a technique clinic to the Comox club. [04] The huge success of this clinic helped build interest and sometimes there were enough Comox ladies paddling for two crews in the first couple seasons. Jackie would return to Comox in 2007 to coach Laurel Archer, Jacinta Sheridan, Lisa Robertson, Heather Taylor, Lyse Fortin, Melanie Conard, Rani Johns, Annie Boulding and two Hawaiian paddlers for the Molokai Na Wahine race. [05] The Comox team placed 31st in the Open division and 36th overall. [06]

Coach-Builder Achievements

Jackie and Andrea Dillon co-founded Waters Edge, BC's first dragon boat service company running from approximately 2000-2012. Waters Edge took dragon boat racing to the remote areas of BC and grew it in the BC Lower Mainland through new and unique regattas and team-building events. It promoted coach and athlete education through the DBC Coaching Community Dragon Boat Course as well as other creative courses, workshops, conferences, and camps. [07]

Jackie had many notable coaching achievements during this era. Jackie joined the Port Moody "Nothin' Dragon Masters" team as coach in 2001 for two years. [08] Jackie would organize and host out-of-town events such as the Waters Edge "Paddle the Desert" paddling camp for the Arizona Dragon Boat Festival in Tempe, Arizona in March 2007 with guest clinic coaches such as Andrea Dillon, Kamini Jain, and Lynda Roberts. [09] Jackie was also the first Canadian to offer outrigger camps in Hawaii sometime between 2005-2008. Jackie and Andrea Dillon of Waters Edge were working closely with supporting Alan Carlsson's Western Region Dragon Boat Coaching Certification program for recognition by Dragon Boat Canada (DBC) to move one step closer to integration for NCCP recognition. [10] Jackie would coach the FCRC Mens / Womens Poikilotherms crews organized by Mimosa Brant for the 2014 Queen Liliuokalani Race. [11]

Exemplary Achievements

Jackie has made noteworthy contributions to the paddling community that go far beyond her many roles as program director, coach and mentor. Jackie and fellow FCRC member Lorri Stewart collaborated on a detailed guide to water changes that has been published on the CORA website. [12] Jackie as a SportMedBC member collaborated with Alan Carlsson and Dr. Don McKenzie, founder of the Abreast in a Boat team, on SportMedBC's Athletic Injuries, Prevention & Management articles including "*Dragonboating: Injury Prevention*". [13] Jackie rebuilt an old OC1 and turned it into a V1 and named it Scootz for her long-time companion before Chilli. As a legacy after her passing, the V1 was kindly donated to FCRC. [14]

Kamini Jain did an interview with Fairway Gorge Paddling Club discussing Jackie and how the two had been friends and training partners from the age of 14. Most significant is that Jackie was an innovator - a person of firsts: First Canadian woman to win IVF V1 500M Open; First Western Canada DB/paddlesport service company; First warm-weather DB camp in the west of the continent; First Hawaiian OC camps. [15]



1994 Western Samoa IVF World Sprints Team Canada Ladies: Brenda Flan (Davidson), Judy Shandler, Lauren Boyle, Robin Macnair, Lisa Jerrett, Linda Daigle, Jeannie Goodlet, Diane Shepherd, Jackie Webber, Heather Taylor, Jo Thomas, Kendall (Kim) Macmillan, Marina McCready

References

Note	Article	Link
[01]	1985 CSCC Book of Champions	http://cfly.ca/canoe/BOC/BOCMidWK4500.htm
[02]	1993 Vancouver Sun FCRC Molokai Womens Crew - Page 55	https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/495128358/
[03]	1994 IVF KANUculture Vol.10 2004 - Page 74	https://issuu.com/stevewest/docs/kanuculturevol102004
[04]	1994 Comox Valley Canoe Racing Club History	http://www.cvcanoeracing.ca/history.html
[05]	2007 Times Colonist Comox Molokai Womens Crew	https://www.pressreader.com/canada/times-colonist/20070924/281569466353170
[06]	2007 Molokai Na Wahine Results	http://nawahineokekai.com/results-history/2007.html
[07]	2012 Andrea Dillon FCRC Hall of Fame - Waters Edge	https://fcrc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Andrea-Dillon-Hall-of-Fame-2.pdf
[08]	2001 Nothin' Dragon Masters Coach	https://www.inletspringregatta.com/latest-news/2018/3/17/nothin-dragon-masters-celebrate-20-years-as-a-team/
[09]	2007 Waters Edge "Paddle the Desert" paddling camp	http://paddledesert.blogspot.com/2007/03/day-1-of-paddle-desert-camp.html
[10]	2008 NCCP Recognition	https://www.dragonboatwest.net/index.php?topic=2473.35;wap2
[11]	2014 Queen Liliuokalani Race	https://vancouver.sun.com/sports/queen-lili-one-of-the-worlds-greatest-outrigger-races/
[12]	2016 Water Changes By Lori Stewart and Jackie Webber	https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/water-changes.pdf
[13]	2017 SportsMedBC Dragonboating Injury Prevention	https://sportmedbc.com/article/dragonboating-injury-prevention/
[14]	2020 Inaugural Paddle Of Scootz	https://fcrc.com/news/memory-jackie-webber-inaugural-paddle-scootz-sept-6th-6-pm/
[15]	2021 Fairway Gorge PC Kamini Jain Interview	https://fgpaddle.com/paddlers/paddlers-stories/kamini-jain/