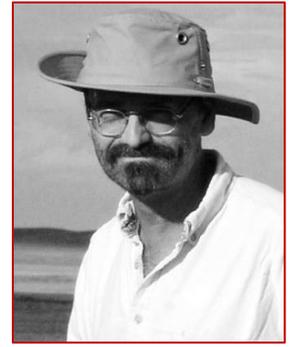




# CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

## James Langdon Van Nostrand (Posthumous)



### Summary

Considered Canada's premier canoe designer and builder, James Van Nostrand had been honing his skills since the age of 15. James Van Nostrand loved to work with his hands and loved to be on the water. James Van Nostrand grew up in Ontario, but loved Canada east to west and made BC his home with his family. [01] A fixture at Abbotsford's Western Canoeing & Kayaking for nearly 20 years, he owned two canoe-related businesses, Northbeach Design Corporation, and Magnetic North. James Van Nostrand also worked at University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford as a part-time sculpture technician in the Visual Arts department. James Van Nostrand worked for many years with Clipper Canoes, designing the majority of their recreational canoe fleet, outrigger canoes, traditional First Nations traveling canoes, and rescue sleds. Two of the canoes (*Voyageur*; *Northern Dancer*) designed by James Van Nostrand carried the 2010 Olympic torch on its journey across Canada. His 65' traditional First Nations traveling canoe is the largest produced in Canada. [02] James Van Nostrand designed the Northbeach OC4, co-developed the Clipper Advantage OC6 with Greg Barton, and helped Open Ocean Outrigger with the expansion of the C-Lion OC1 in the Pacific Northwest and Canada. His expertise crossed all paddling disciplines as he was also instrumental in reworking the Gemini Dragon Boats still used in Vancouver's False Creek today. [03]

### Early Career

Western Canoeing & Kayaking started out in the mid 1970s as an importer of canoe paddles, distributing them into the Vancouver market. [04] In the late 1970s, the company started a manufacturing facility in Abbotsford to begin building Clipper Canoes. [05] The earliest mention of James Van Nostrand and Clipper Canoes is with regard the *Clipper Sea 1*, [06] a specialized solo lightweight Kevlar canoe designed by James Van Nostrand in 1986, as the canoe paddled by Joe O'Blenis from the coast of BC to the St. Lawrence River. [07]

Throughout the 1980s-1990s, James Van Nostrand would be responsible for the design of a range of Clipper Canoes including smaller sport canoes (Tripping / Family Canoes; Sportsman Canoes; Solo Canoes; Racing Canoes; Specialty Boats; Day Boats), the Voyageur-style big canoes (*Mariner*; *Voyageur*; *Langley*), and the Dancer Series (*Spirit Dancer*; *Clan Dancer*; *Pacific Dancer*; *Northern Dancer*) of big canoes reflective of a strong West Coast heritage. [08] The Spirit Dancer is on display at the Canadian Canoe Museum. [09]

The Northern Dancer may be the most aesthetically pleasing of all the Clipper Big Canoes - a floating work of art based on centuries of tradition. The Northern Dancer was developed at the urgings of noted Canadian artist Roy Henry Vickers. It is a canoe true to First Nations design, but has been built with modern materials. The hull was produced by noted Canadian canoe designer James Van Nostrand. [10]

### Pioneering Achievements

James Van Nostrand designed the Northbeach OC4 in the early 1990s with an innovative concept for outrigger canoes of a retractable blade (skeg) that drops out of a slot in the hull of the canoe near the stern to improve canoe handling in windy conditions. [11] There are presently nine Clipper Northbeach OC4s at five CORA clubs (Gibson's; Nanaimo Ocean Paddling; False Creek; Prince Rupert; Sproat Lake) and there maybe others in use belonging to private owners. [12]

Olympic Gold Medal Winner and Epic Kayaks Designer Greg Barton collaborated with James Van Nostrand of Western Canoeing & Kayaking on the production of a six-person Hawaiian racing outrigger canoe in 1996. The Clipper Advantage OC6 was designed to meet Hawaiian Outrigger Specifications using either the Hawaiian or California test methods. The Clipper Advantage at 44' 8" is one of the longest canoes in competition, yet was designed with canoe spreaders on standard 10'7"

centres to accommodate the *Malia*, Channel Master, Puffy, Calmar, Advantage, Bixler, and Bradley amas used on OC6s across Canada. In April 1998 a production canoe was certified race legal by KOA (Kalifornia Outrigger Association) standards. Greg Barton raced the Clipper Advantage OC6 to a first place in the Men's Masters division at Catalina 1998 with Team Hawaii Masters steered by "Nappy" Napoleon. [13] There are presently 30 Clipper Advantage OC6s at 17 CORA clubs making this the second most prevalent OC6 in Canada. With the Calmar Canadian Class Racer (CCR) and the Bradley Lightning no longer being manufactured in Canada, it may be just a matter of time before the Clipper Advantage becomes the most prevalent OC6 in Canada.

Ross Creasy and Melanie Whittall of Open Ocean Outriggers approached James Van Nostrand of Clipper Canoes and Western Canoeing & Kayaking in 2002 to manufacture a line of one-person outrigger canoes. [14] The first-generation sit-on-top C-Lion OC1s began distribution by Open Ocean Outrigger in 2002. The second-generation open cockpit sit-inside C-Lion ST OC1s ideal for colder water began distribution by Open Ocean Outrigger in 2006. The C-Lion was the OC1 chosen for the 2005 Edmonton World Masters Games and by CORA for the 2009 National Sprints Championships, the 2014 Rio IVF World Sprints Time Trials, and the 2016 Australia IVF World Sprints Time Trials. Western Canoeing & Kayaking was the only manufacturing source during the entire 120+ canoe run. [15]

Gibson's Paddle Club was formed in 1999 by former RCMP Staff Sargent Ed Hill two years after participating in the historical canoe journey known as VisionQuest that was travelled in composite canoes designed in the West Coast First Nations style and made at Clipper Canoes. [16] Ed Hill contacted Lynne Smith at Clipper Canoes for assistance on hosting a canoe race. Clipper Canoes graciously loaned Gibson's Paddle Club a Clipper Advantage OC6s that had resulted from the collaboration of Greg Barton and James Van Nostrand of Western Canoeing & Kayaking. Gibson's Paddle Club would host the first Howe Sound Outrigger Canoe Race in 1999 and James Van Nostrand would be a familiar face at the Howe Sound Outrigger Canoe Race for many years. [17]

## **Exemplary Achievements**

James was responsible for exceptional innovations that showcased his talents as a designer and builder. Edge Rescue is a ski patrol company based out of Portland OR that services over 100 resorts throughout the US, Canada, and Iceland. They had been searching for lightweight, maneuverable rescue sleds suitable for the Pacific Northwest maritime climate in the early 2000's when they heard about a great new toboggan being developed by Clipper Canoes. Edge Rescue made a few suggestions to make it more patrol-friendly and then replaced all their toboggans with the Clipper EDGE, originally designed and produced by master canoe and kayak designer, James Van Nostrand. [18]

Most canoes measure 15-18' long. Fraser Valley resident James Van Nostrand completed one in 2010 that is 65' (19 metres) long. Metlakatla Development Corporation set out in 2009 to develop a new canoe and rainforest cultural and ecotourism project to capitalize on seasonal tourism along the north coast that involved the design, engineering, and manufacturing of the largest north coastal First Nations canoe ever constructed. [19] James Van Nostrand received a call in 2010 from Seashore Charters near Prince Rupert, offering him a commission to design and build North America's longest canoe that would replicate the traditional Tsimshian style. His research took him to the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, where he saw a 57' Haida canoe that was built in 1908. The team at Rayburn Yachts in Mission constructed the canoe between December 2009 and January 2010, referencing a set of quarter-scale hand-drawn plans that James Van Nostrand had produced on a massive drafting board. It was then painted by Metlakatla First Nations artist Mike Epp featuring the insignias of the four coastal clans of the Tsimshian people: the raven, wolf, orca and eagle. Christened Ha'nda'wit'waada - the canoe that brings people together - James Van Nostrand's canoe does just that. His 65' traditional First Nations traveling canoe is the largest produced in Canada. [20]

## References

Note	Article	Link
[01]	James Van Nostrand 1962-2013	<a href="https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/chilliwack-bc/james-van-nostrand-5502177/">https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/chilliwack-bc/james-van-nostrand-5502177/</a>
[02]	2010 Olympics Relay Canoes	<a href="http://www.rivermiles.com/forum/YaBB.pl?num=1267274444">http://www.rivermiles.com/forum/YaBB.pl?num=1267274444</a>
[03]	Canadian Outrigger Loses Another Legend	<a href="http://www.ocpaddler.com/forum/2013/canadian_outrigger_loses_another_legend/">http://www.ocpaddler.com/forum/2013/canadian_outrigger_loses_another_legend/</a>
[04]	Western Canoeing & Kayaking About Us	<a href="https://westerncanoekayak.com/about-us/">https://westerncanoekayak.com/about-us/</a>
[05]	Clipper Canoes About Us	<a href="http://www.clippercanoes.com/about-us/">http://www.clippercanoes.com/about-us/</a>
[06]	James Van Nostrand 1986 Canoe	<a href="http://www.clippercanoes.com/sea-1/">http://www.clippercanoes.com/sea-1/</a>
[07]	Kitimat to Montreal Canoe Expedition	<a href="http://www.clippercanoes.com/cross-canada-solo-canoe-expedition/">http://www.clippercanoes.com/cross-canada-solo-canoe-expedition/</a>
[08]	Clipper Canoes Big Canoes	<a href="http://www.clippercanoes.com/big-canoes/">http://www.clippercanoes.com/big-canoes/</a>
[09]	Spirit Dancer	<a href="https://canoemuseum.ca/2015-10-21-spirit-dancer-arrives-at-the-museum/">https://canoemuseum.ca/2015-10-21-spirit-dancer-arrives-at-the-museum/</a>
[10]	Northern Dancer	<a href="https://supzero.com/buyers-guide/boats-boards/clipper-canoes-northern-dancer-fibreglass/">https://supzero.com/buyers-guide/boats-boards/clipper-canoes-northern-dancer-fibreglass/</a>
[11]	Northbeach OC4 Skeg	<a href="https://huliganhuligan.wordpress.com/2017/07/10/2017-07-10-short-but-sweet/">https://huliganhuligan.wordpress.com/2017/07/10/2017-07-10-short-but-sweet/</a>
[12]	Northbeach OC4	<a href="https://canadianoutrigger.ca/races/racing-resources/treatise-outrigger-canoe-history/">https://canadianoutrigger.ca/races/racing-resources/treatise-outrigger-canoe-history/</a>
[13]	Clipper Advantage OC6	<a href="https://playak.com/buyers-guide/boats-boards/clipper-canoes-advantage-OC6/">https://playak.com/buyers-guide/boats-boards/clipper-canoes-advantage-OC6/</a>
[14]	Open Ocean Outrigger C-Lion	<a href="http://www.companylisting.ca/Open_Ocean_Outriggers/default.aspx">http://www.companylisting.ca/Open_Ocean_Outriggers/default.aspx</a>
[15]	C-Lion and C-Lion ST	<a href="https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Jericho-Legacy-Latest.pdf">https://canadianoutrigger.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Jericho-Legacy-Latest.pdf</a>
[16]	Howe Sound Outrigger Race	<a href="https://www.gibsonspaddleclub.ca/about-our-club/">https://www.gibsonspaddleclub.ca/about-our-club/</a>
[17]	Howe Sound Outrigger Race Kanu Kulture Pages 18-21+	<a href="https://issuu.com/stevewest/docs/kanu_culture__volume_6__s._west">https://issuu.com/stevewest/docs/kanu_culture__volume_6__s._west</a>
[18]	Clipper Edge Toboggan	<a href="http://www.edgerescue.com/about-us-mobile-test/">http://www.edgerescue.com/about-us-mobile-test/</a>
[19]	65' First Nations Canoe	<a href="https://paddlingmag.com/boats/monsters-inc/">https://paddlingmag.com/boats/monsters-inc/</a>
[20]	65' First Nations Canoe	<a href="https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/explore-our-region/success-stories/metlakatla-embarks-on-a-canoe-quest/">https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/explore-our-region/success-stories/metlakatla-embarks-on-a-canoe-quest/</a>