



# CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

## Nancy Botting



### Summary

CORA Historical Committee research has identified that there are 5 individuals who have made Significant and Exemplary Contributions to Eastern Canada outrigger canoeing. Sheila Kuyper, 2020 Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Inductee is one of these individuals. Wendy Rae-Perkins, 2021 Canadian Outrigger Hall Of Fame Inductee is another one of these individuals. [01] The other three individuals that have yet to receive long overdue recognition are Janet Davis, Karen Simpson, and Nancy Botting. Discussions with Nancy Botting in early 2023 have pieced together not only the timeline for the evolution of Eastern Canada outrigger canoeing, but also the history of Wai Nui O Kanaka as the Eastern Canada outrigger canoe club that has been instrumental in the growth of many other Eastern Canada outrigger canoe clubs.

### Early Career

Nancy is a former Canadian National Team Kayaker. [02] From 1988 to 1996, Nancy competed in Junior Women 500M Canoe Single Blade Fours (C4), Junior Women 500M Kayak Double Blade Fours (K4), Open Women 500M Kayak Double Blade Solo (K1), Open Women 200M Kayak Double Blade Fours (K4), with and against the likes of Sheila Taylor, Kamini Jain, Nancy Olmstead, Natalie Burke, Caroline Brunet, and Simone Valere. [03] [04] [05] [06]

Nancy would graduate from Queen's University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy and Bachelor of Physical Education. Nancy would spend a year at St Mary's of the Lake Hospital as Staff Physiotherapist in 1992. Nancy would then spend 2 years from 1993-1995 at Canadian Back Institute as Staff Physiotherapist and Clinic Director. Nancy would then spend 2 years from 1995-1997 at Argus Sports Clinic as Clinic Director. [07] Nancy would then startup her own full-service Sport Medicine clinic in Oakville ON as Principal Owner of Physical Edge Physiotherapy, from 1997 for 26 years now. [08] Nancy was at the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics where she witnessed her brother Stephen "Steve" Botting compete in and place C2 500M – Men 5th as well as C2 1000M – Men 7th, also see Hugh Fisher & Alwyn Morris take Gold, and also see Sue Holloway take multiple medals. [09] In the early 1980s while the Toronto Dragon Boat scene was growing, Nancy got to know Barbara Olmsted (1984 Los Angeles Olympics; 1988 Seoul Olympics) and Sue Holloway (1976 Winter Olympics; 1980 Winter Olympics; 1984 Los Angeles Olympics). [13]

### Pioneering Achievements

One of the questions that the CORA Historical Committee has found to open yet another door in the Canadian Outrigger History has been, is there any one individual or some individuals that you would consider having had a major influence on your life journey? Nancy has noted Janet Davis, who partnered in bringing the first OC6 to Toronto, and growing the outrigger canoeing community in Eastern Canada as a major influence. [16] Janet Davis and Nancy Botting were invited to a 2-day OC6 (Saturday) and Small-Boat (Sunday) event at Lake Tahoe in 1995. Nancy did the OC6 event on Saturday and did surfski on Sunday. This event set in motion the origination of outrigger canoeing in Toronto. Nancy & Janet met Donald Michaelson of Connecticut who was involved in East Coast tourism. Don was buying a container of OC6s from Hawaii and Nancy / Janet collaborated to purchase the first OC6 for Ontario - a Force-Five from this container of OC6s. This OC6 arrived in Ontario circa 1997 and was chained to a fence at the Mississauga Canoe Club. At some point Nancy / Janet acquired a trailer to transport the OC6. The OC6 was launched from Port Credit Yacht Club while at Mississauga Canoe Club. [17] Nancy / Janet were able to form crews from Toronto Dragon Boat & flatwater crews and attended Liberty Challenge in 1999.

It was Karen Simpson and Nancy Botting, who work as physiotherapists in Oakville, who founded Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club (MOCC) in 1998. [18] Wai Nui had an exhibition OC6 race with one OC6 from Oakville in 1999. [19] By 2001 there were two OC6s and Wai Nui was recruiting locally. For 5-6 years from 1999 onwards, the Wai Nui Why Not outrigger canoe race at the front of the river heading out onto the lake was the only outrigger canoe racing event in Eastern Canada. Wai Nui and TSCC partnered to put on the Toronto International Outrigger Challenge (TIOC) for the first 3 years. TSCC took over managing the event, although Wai Nui

supports the event with canoes & crews. This event has managed to grow to be the largest international outrigger canoeing event in Eastern Canada.

## **Coach-Builder Achievements**

1997-2003 was a time of growth as Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club grew steadily with more and more paddlers from GTA and fewer from Mississauga. [20] City of Mississauga had a deal with the OC club that 55% of membership had to be from Mississauga to benefit from the city/club financial arrangement. Wendy Rae-Perkins from Burloak came onto the Board Of Directors in 2003 with fund-raising skills. [21] This was the transition from Mississauga to Oakville as the primary base for Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club and the change of club name to Wai Nui. [22] 1997-2007 saw the club fleet at Oakville grow as Wai Nui landed Trillium grants and eventually acquired 1 Outrigger Connection – Mirage, 2 Bradley – Lightning, 2 James Takeo Yamasaki – Malia, 2 Walter Guild - Force 5, and 2 Woo – Kamanu OC6s.

In the early 2000s, the Mississauga / Wai Nui paddlers would travel to Florida for training / racing. Mississauga / Wai Nui had a canoe trailer and John Edwards provided a pay-it-forward canoe – an older Malia. After a few years, this Malia went to Pickering, but sat outside in the weather. After a few years, this Malia went to TSCC Free Spirit. Eventually TSCC acquired a Clipper and that Malia moved onto a new home. Wai Nui gifted a pay-it-forward boat they had picked up in Florida when they were first organizing, to Wiki Wiki Wa'a to get them started in Toronto. Wai Nui sold a Mirage to Haunani to get them started in Montreal. [23] Nancy was Commodore of Mississauga Outrigger Canoe Club & Wai Nui from 1997-2007. [24]

Wendy stepped in as Commodore since 2007 until present and Nancy has had the role of Vice-Commodore since then. [25] Nancy attributes her ability to stay involved with the paddling community, be part of the Olympics medical team, and maintain the physiotherapy practice, to a very understanding husband.

## **Outrigger Canoeing Achievements**

Nancy did her first-ever open ocean water-change race at Molokai Na Wahine in 1998 with the Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club wahines. Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club had a paddler with a knee injury 10 days before the event. Denise Stanick, a friend from Toronto, called Nancy to see if she would be keen to do Molokai Na Wahine with the Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club wahines. [26] The Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club crew placed 17th in the women's outrigger championships in Hawaii in 1998. [27]

Nancy had her 1st child in 1999 and her 2nd child in 2001. Karen and Nancy were recruiting locally to grow the club. Mississauga trained for 2 years for Molokai Na Wahine in 2003 and finished 31st overall and 6th Masters. 2003 Molokai Na Wahine was the first big Hawaii race for Wai Nui after 2 years of training with Nancy & Sheila Kuyper & Wendy Rae-Perkins & Karen Simpson & many other GTA luminaries. This 2003 Molokai Na Wahine crew was a turning point for Mississauga as it brought together Wendy with her fundraising skills as well as Sheila with her athleticism and commitment to women in canoeing. Wai Nui Outrigger Canoe Club has consistently finished high in the East Coast Outrigger Racing Association (ECORA) standings each year and has used assistance from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to develop coaching expertise that benefits new paddlers and those seeking world-class racing opportunities. Wai Nui Outrigger Canoe Club crews and paddlers continue to chalk up victories against local and US clubs in OC6 and small-boat races at local regattas such as Wai Nui Why Not and the Toronto Harbour International Regatta Race.

## **Exemplary Achievements**

Nancy has been part of the Team Canada Summer Olympic Games Physiotherapy Team four times and the Pan Am Games since 1996. [28] After retiring as a National Teal Kayaker, Nancy finished up physiotherapy school. Nancy was with the National Team as a physio for the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics and then again for the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics. [29] Nancy applied for Paralympics Core Medical team and went as Para-Sport Physiotherapist for 2016 Rio Summer Olympics. Nancy was also with the Core Medical team for 2015 Toronto Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. [30] Nancy has been able to attend Olympic & Para-Olympic Training Camps by virtue of the team at Physical Edge Physiotherapy Practice being able to provide support for clients during Nancy's absences. Nancy Botting was Chief Therapist for the Para-Olympic Games while Lois Pohlod was Chief Therapist for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Nancy will be part of the physiotherapy team for the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics. These pursuits allow Nancy to combine her passions for physiotherapy and paddle sports.

## References

Note	Article	Link
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