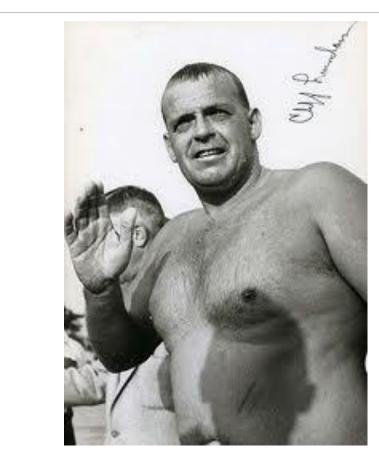


Cliff Lumsdon, CM, Honor Swimmer, Canada, 1969





Videos: Show 1 at 4:08 and 7:23 Swim 1 ISHOF 1

Cliff Lumsdon, CM won 7 Majors: 1949, 1950, 1952, 1953 and 1955 Canadian National Exhibition; and 1956 and 1959 Around Atlantic City.

He was known for his ability to swim in cold water, once going 51.5 km in 18-plus hours in water temperatures ranging between $8.8^{\circ}-11.1^{\circ}\text{C}$. Cliff's most famous swim was the 51.5 km Canadian National Exhibition swim in 1955. The 35 starters dropped out with Cliff the only one left in the water; however, after 26 miles, he had also started to tire. The remaining 9.6 km saw lots of media involvement – leading local businesspeople adding numerous extra items to the \$15,000 first prize. Offers included: \$1 for every stroke used on the last 8 km; another \$15,000 to the finishing prize; a hunting lodge; and a house. The result was that Cliff was the only finisher, with prizes/gifts and consumer endorsements that totaled US\$84,000. His cold-water abilities were reflected in his 1956 11 hours and 35 minutes crossing of the Strait of Juan de Fuca between the state of Washington and Vancouver Island in 8.8°C water.

He finished 2nd In the 35 km Around Atlantic City in 1954, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1962 and 3rd in 1961 and 4th in 1963 and 1964 – to go with his 2 wins. He finished 3rd in 7 hours and 22 minutes in the 37 km Saguenay in 1965 and tied for 3rd in 6 hours and 39 minutes in 1966. His 5 wins in the Canadian

National Exhibition came with strong finishes over many years: 2nd in 1962; 3rd in 1951; 4th in 1961; 5th in 1948 and 6th in 1947 and 1963. He completed the Lac St.-Jean race 5 times.

In 1972, Lumsdon was elected president of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation. He is an inductee in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (2013).

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)