



William "Bill" Sadlo Jr., Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2009



[Personal Website](#)

Videos (please help if you can find any)

William "Bill" Sadlo Jr. set the record in 1957 as the oldest, at age 57, to swim 49 kms across Lake Ontario from Fort Niagara, New York to Toronto, Canada. The male record stood in 2022 and was beaten by a woman in 2014. He competed in at least 31 marathon races between 1927 and 1957. In 1930, he swam 11.6 miles from Coney Island to the Battery in Manhattan, in 3 hours and 39 minutes and finished seventh in the 1948 Lake George, New York 12-mile race at the age of 46.

In 1927, he swam the first of four 45.9 km Manhattan races, winning in 1928 as the only swimmer to finish. Sadlo participated in 20 of the 21 Canadian National Exhibition long distance swims in Toronto between 1927 and 1955, ranging from 8 to 51.5 km with 3rd being his highest finish in 1949, at age 49, when only three swimmers completed the famously difficult race.

At age 52, he swam a 51 km across Lake Erie from Point Pelee Park, Canada to the Cedar Point Resort in Sandusky, Ohio in 15 hours and 30 minutes. Sadlo participated in the inaugural 36 km Atlantic City race in 1954 where he finished a respectable 11th place at age 52 against the best swimmers of that era. He was a founding member in 1927 and vice president of the International Professional Swimmers Association while directing swimming programs in New York City for three decades.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)