



Marilyn Bell, Honor Swimmer, Canada, 1967



With IMSHOF Honoree Gus Ryder

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Marilyn Bell won 1 Major: 1954 Around Atlantic City.

At age 16, she was the first to swim 51.5 km across Lake Ontario in 1954. This 20 hours and 55 minutes swim dominated Canadian news, she collected a \$10,000 prize, a park was named in her honor, and she was named Canadian Newsmaker of the year.

As a 17-year-old, she became the youngest English Channel swimmer when she swam from Cap Gris Nez, France to East Wear Bay, England in July 1955 in 14 hours and 36 minutes. Her record held until 1969 male and 1972 female.

Marilyn completed the 29.4 km Strait of Juan de Fuca in 1956 in 10 hours and 38 minutes.

She is an inductee in the International Swimming Hall of Fame (2022).

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

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