



Ralph Willard, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 1981



Videos (please help if you can find any)

Ralph Willard completed the Atlantic City race in 1954; lac Simon in 1965; the 37 km Saguenay in 8 hours and 40 minutes in 1963, in 13 hours and 10 minutes in 1964, in 8 hours and 25 minutes in 1966, and 8 hours and 24 minutes in 1967. IMSHOF Honoree Conrad Wennerberg's book *Wind, Waves, and Sunburn: A Brief History of Marathon Swimming* devotes an entire chapter to Ralph. In the days when the annual professional marathon swim was the big event in the countryside of Quebec, Ralph was something of a mythical superstar. Conrad describes a swimmer, 30 years older than many of his professional competitors., who would somehow walk to the event, find the most unusual swimming "line" and then vanish by foot with his tie on. Ralph was "never" going to win - which made him even more popular.

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

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