Marilyn Bell, at age 16, was the first person to swim 51.4 km (32 miles) across Lake Ontario in 1954. This 20 hours and 59 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 for a period of eight years. She swam from Cap Gris Nez, France to East Wear Bay, England in July 1955 in 14 hours and 36 minutes. Marilyn completed two other major epic marathons: 37 km Atlantic City Around the Island race in 1954 in 10 hours 7 minutes and 16.8 km Strait of Juan de Fuca in 1956 in 10 hours and 38 minutes.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)