



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



[Personal Website](#)

William "Bill" Sadlo Jr. competed in at least 31 marathon swims between 1927 and 1957 and was a founding member (1927) and Vice President of the International Professional Swimmers Association while directing swimming programs in New York City for three decades. He participated in the 3-mile President's Cup Races across the Potomac River between 1922 and 1925 and the 3.5 mile NYC Metropolitan AAU Senior Long Distance Championship at Camp Ruddy. 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.

Prior to his successful swim from Battery Park to Liberty Island in New York City in 1930, Sadlo had attempted the same swim in 1925, only to be carried out by a swift ebb tide. In 1927, he swam the first of four 28.5-mile races around Manhattan Island, winning in 1928 as the only swimmer to finish. Sadlo participated in twenty of the twenty-one Canadian National Exhibition long distance swims in Toronto between 1927 and 1955, ranging from 5 to 32 miles with third being his highest finish in 1949 when only three swimmers completed the famously difficult race. Given the nickname 'The Swimming Grandfather' in Canada, he remained competitive with younger swimmers into his 50s. Sadlo made two successful Great Lakes crossings in the 1950s. At age 52, he competed in a 31.7-mile race across Lake Erie from Point Pelee Park, Canada to the Cedar Point Resort in Sandusky, Ohio in 15 hours and 30 minutes.

In 1957, he became the oldest person to successfully swim 32 miles across Lake Ontario from Fort Niagara, New York to Toronto, Canada. Sadlo also participated in the inaugural 22.5-mile swim around Abescon Island in Atlantic City in 1954 where he finished a respectable 11th place at age 52 against the best swimmers of that era.

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

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