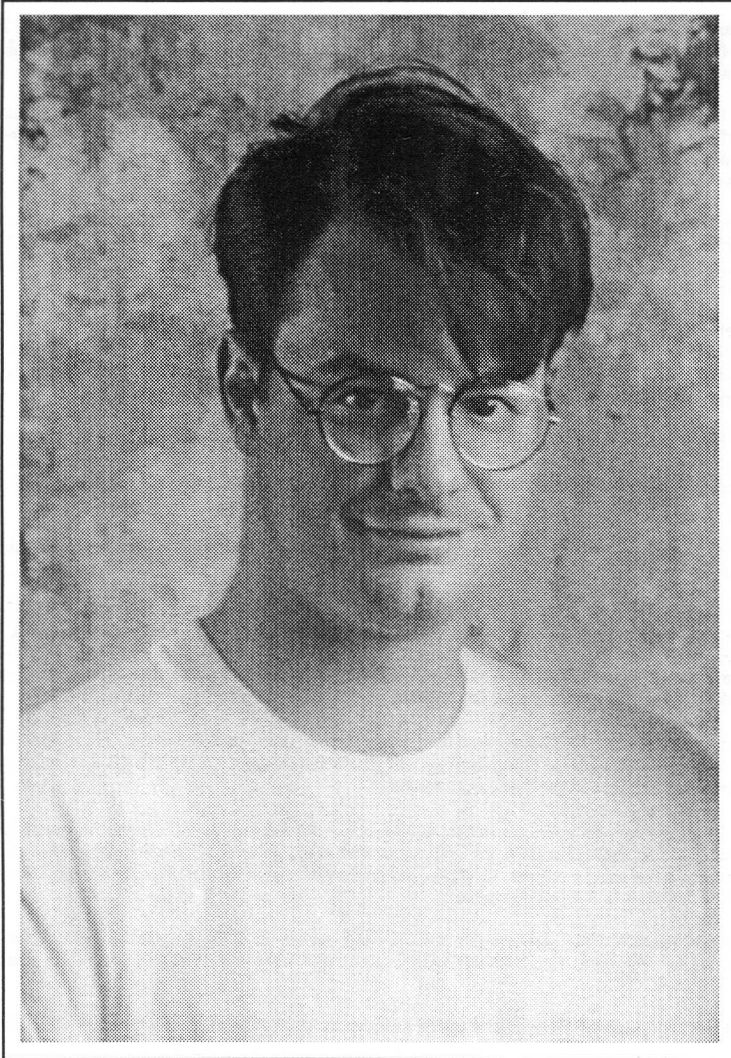

Carlos Costa



Ontario Aquatic Hall of Fame

Inducted as Swimmer in 2003

CARLOS COSTA

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Carlos Costa was born in Downsview, Ontario. Growing up with his brother, Oscar, in the home of his parents, Giuseppe and Maria, Carlos attended Regina Mundi Catholic School. While taking swimming lessons, Carlos first discovered the freedom that the water provided and as a result, his passion for swimming.

During his secondary school years, Carlos joined Variety Village, a sports and training center for persons with disabilities. At age 2, Carlos had had both legs amputated above the knee to facilitate the fitting of prosthetic limbs in order to correct a congenital bone deficiency. At Variety Village, Carlos played wheelchair basketball and joined the swim team. His swim coach, legendary marathon swimmer, Vicki Keith, has remarked that "Carlos has accomplished more with his physical challenge than most able-bodied people."

On August 10, 1992, severe thunderstorms ended Carlos's first attempt of swimming Lake Ontario after 38 km, while extremely cold waters aborted his September 6th swim after 26 km. On July 23, 1993, Carlos successfully conquered the Lake. Battling strong head winds, he persevered for 32 hours and 43 minutes to complete the crossing. At age 20, he was the youngest male and first swimmer with a disability to do so.

Later in the same year, on November 7, Carlos became the fourth Canadian and first swimmer with a disability to swim across the Catalina Channel from the island to the California mainland, completing the journey in 15 hours and 3 minutes. The following August, Carlos won the hearts of the Italian nation with an extended double crossing of the Strait of Messina, covering a distance of some 70 kilometres.

Carlos also enjoyed success in the competition pool. He medalled at the Canadian National Disabled Swimming Championships in both 1992 and 1996. He was also a medallist at the Ontario Provincial Championships and the Ontario Winter Games. Carlos regularly competed in University Swim Meets as well.

His swimming prowess has earned Carlos several additional awards. In 1993, Carlos was named Ontario's Disabled Athlete of the Year. The following year, he received the Ed Mirvish Award for Young People, and in 1999, Carlos was the recipient of the Youth Achievement Award from the Italian National Congress.

Carlos is currently employed as a Business Analyst, specializing in Information Technology Purchasing. He is continuing to study for a Purchasing Management Association of Canada designation to add to his Ryerson Bachelor of Commerce Degree and Humber College Business Administration Diploma.

Carlos is engaged to marry fiancée, Linda Evangelista, in November, and looks forward to pursuing his boating, computer, personal finance and swimming hobbies from his new home in Bradford.

The Ontario Aquatic Hall of Fame is proud to induct swimmer, Carlos Costa.