

## London Silver Dolphins & UWO Aquatic Masters Annual St Marys Swimming Championships

**Numbers 1, 2 & 3: 1982-1983-1984**

St Marys Quarry, Ontario

There are no formal recordings remaining of the first three Masters 5 km swimming championships in the St Marys quarry that took part in the years 1982-1984; however, the following details provide an indication of the early evolution of the swims and the course.

<b>Course:</b>	<p>The course was always intended to be 5 km; however, it is a challenge to fit-in a 250 m length at the St Marys quarry, so the early swims experimented with "circuits" with various distances for each loop . . . As shown in the table below:</p> <p>On a triangular course, an error of 3 metres in the placement of each buoy can lead to an error of 9 metres per circuit.</p> <p>With 20 circuits, the error becomes significant.</p> <p>Any "drift" or movement of the Turning Buoys, after their initial positioning, adds further to these variations.</p> <p>In a given race all swimmers are swimming the same course; however, when comparing times from one year to another, such measurement errors can lead to meaningless comparisons and/or records.</p> <p>With the introduction of an 11-circuit race, these errors were minimized, and the addition of fixed points around the quarry provided sighting-points for the repeatable positioning of the turning buoys. <a href="http://soloswims.com/SM-Setup.pdf">http://soloswims.com/SM-Setup.pdf</a></p> <p>The introduction of relatively cheap laser-measurement systems, now provide for much greater accuracy in the placement of marker buoys for events that employ such small circuits.</p>
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1982	12-Sep	20 circuits. Approx 250 m each.	The First St Marys event was won by John Gray of Montreal in a time of 1:37:10
1983	11-Sep	17 circuits. Approx 300 m each.	
1984	09-Sep	10 circuits. Approx 500 m each.	
1985		10 circuits. Approx 500 m each.	
1986 2008		11 circuits. 455 m each.	