

BIOGRAPHIES

early morning till late evening. But with Kirsten at his side supporting him, he certainly succeeded. Hans had as his greatest ally and business advisor Paul Henderson, another great Canadian Olympic sailor, whom he had met through sailing internationally. But the hard work paid off. Over the years, the business grew, sales escalated and more and more employees were added. At one point, Hans Fogh had the biggest sail manufacturing loft in North America with 63 employees.

The Laser

One of the first challenges in his new life - and in his own words, the highlight of his sail-making career - was designing the sail for a brand new boat, the Laser. The Laser is a small, one-person dinghy type boat.

The first Laser was built in 1970 and Hans was involved in testing it and he designed the sail. It became a tremendous success around the world; in one year, Hans produced 8,000 sails for the boat. In 1996, the Laser was chosen as an Olympic class boat. Both boat and sail are still being produced as it was in 1970.



The young Morten Fogh

In 1981, Hans decided that the Standard Laser was too big for his young son Morten to handle, and he designed a smaller rig with a radial sail. It was also a handier boat for the weaker sex, and in 2004, it became the chosen boat for the Women's Olympic Boat - and it still is.

1976 Olympics

Hans Fogh became Canadian Citizens in 1975, which meant that Hans could now compete under the Canadian Flag. When he was asked to represent Denmark in the 1976 Olympic Games, he could not and did not want to accept. He felt that his future lay in Canada and that it would be wrong to represent Denmark. The Danish Sailing Association was disappointed but respected his decision.

Also in 1975, when the contract with Elvstrøm ran out, the company name was changed to Fogh Sails. In 1980, the already very successful company joined with the huge American sail maker North Sails. The decision meant a move into computers and plotter cutting, which North sails were already leaders in. Lowell North was interested in Hans' production technique, so it was a perfect match. After Fogh Sails was sold to the American company, Hans stayed on for another 8 years.

In 1990 all North Saillofts, including North Sails Fogh, was sold to an American company. Hans still owned the building where he had operated his sail loft for twenty years. After year 2000, he had the property rezoned for residential high-rise and sold it. Today there are 2 forty-story towers built on that property.

Now Hans is involved with Pat Sturgeon Yachts in Port Credit where they import and sell big boats made in Germany.

Yachtsman of the year

The following notes were written by Gam Editor, John Grainger and outline the reasons the Port Credit Yacht Club's selection committee chose Hans Fogh as the National Yachtsman of the Year for 2010: