



ADAM PURDY

-inducted as an athlete in 2017

Adam Purdy was born in London, Ontario on January 22, 1981, with a congenital condition called arthrogryposis, yet quickly learned to deal with the physical limitations that affected the development of the muscles and joints in his arms and legs.

Adam's love of the water led him to complete the swimming programs offered by the London YMCA and, together with the support of the Thames Valley Childrens Centre, a new program was created and run out of the YMCA called the London Lightning Bolts – one of Canada's first swim teams for swimmers with a disability. As Adam progressed with the London Lightning Bolts, it became evident that he needed more pool time and professional coaching to hone his skills. In 1993 he moved to the London Aquatic Club, and in 1994 at the age of 13 Adam competed at his first IPC World Championships in Malta.

Adam went on to compete in the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta, finishing fourth in the 100m Backstroke in the S6 disability category. At the 1998 World Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand, Adam took home 3 gold medals and set two world records. He then set his sights on the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney, Australia where he won gold in the 100m Backstroke and 4x100m Medley Relay, both in world record time.

Adam went on to represent his country with distinction at the 2002 World Championships in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the 2004 Paralympics in Athens, Greece and the 2006 World Championships in Durban, South Africa.

After a 7-year hiatus from sport, Adam returned to the pool in 2013 setting his goals on the 2015 Toronto Para Pan American Games. After finishing 6th in the 100 backstroke at the 2015 World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, and with the stands full of family and friends in Toronto, Adam won silver in the 100m Backstroke, and bronze in Canadian record time in the 50m Butterfly at the Para Pan Am Games on home soil in Toronto. Adam was also a member of the bronze medal-winning Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay.

It was in January 2016, with his competitive swimming goals accomplished, that Adam hung up the Speedo for good. Adam now works from London as an IT expert in event management, while volunteering as a coach with a high school swim team and, together with wife Karin, raising his two children Olivia and Simon.

The Ontario Aquatic Hall of Fame is proud to induct Adam Purdy as an athlete.