

Summer McIntosh breaks women's 200m butterfly world record at Canadian swim trials

'This is the one world record I thought I would never break,' says 19-year-old Toronto phenom

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Summer McIntosh, left, celebrates after setting a new world in the women's 200-metre butterfly Sunday night in Montreal. (Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press)

Summer McIntosh broke the world record in the women's 200-metre butterfly at the Canadian swim trials Sunday night in Montreal.

McIntosh touched the wall in two minutes 1.65 seconds, and was understandably emotional after the race. She broke Chinese athlete Liu Zige's time of 2:01.81, set in 2009 during what's known as the super-suit era, was the longest-standing individual women's record.

"That was the one world record that I've always dreamt of as a kid," McIntosh said. "To now do it is really incredible."

McIntosh now owns four world records, but this is the one she'll cherish the most.

Her mother, Jill, competed in this event at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.



"She always said she liked it because everyone said it was untouchable," Jill said. "That's why she wanted it so bad."

"I don't think you can really imagine what it's like to live with a world-class athlete and the second-guessing that they go into themselves, even sometimes around, 'Am I training as hard as I can? Can I accomplish what I want?'" added McIntosh's dad, Greg.

"It's not easy. And what she just did put it all to rest."

Summer McIntosh has had her sights set on breaking the 17-year-old 200m butterfly world record, and on Day of the 2026 Canadian Swimming Trials she did just that. Brittany MacLean Campbell & Devin Heroux break down everything from the first day of Trials.

McIntosh slammed her fists into the water in celebration while smiling ear-to-ear as the crowd erupted inside the Olympic pool.

"As you can see my emotions, this is the absolute world [to me]," the 19-year-old Toronto phenom told Alex Despatie. "Growing up this is the one world record I thought I would never break and to do it tonight is really special in front of a home crowd. "It means the absolute world and I'm in shock right now."

McIntosh has long targeted the record, coming within 0.18 seconds with a time of 2:01.99 last year in the world championships.

Fans dotted the Olympic pool stands with signs supporting Canada's biggest swimming star, including one that read, "Fly Summer Fly!"

"Thank you so much for supporting me, you guys were the reason I broke it tonight," McIntosh said as she addressed the crowd. "That last 50 [metres] was pure adrenaline and I could hear the crowd going crazy and I knew I was probably under or close to world-record pace so that's really what kept me going."

Toronto's Summer McIntosh swam to a time of 2:01.65 setting the world record time in the 200-metre butterfly at the Canadian swimming trials in Montreal.

The race Sunday was the first opportunity for many Canadian fans to see McIntosh compete since her high-profile move to train in Austin, Texas, under Bob Bowman, the coach who guided Michael Phelps to a record 23 Olympic gold medals.

"It's always special," Bowman said. "They're very few and far between, even with swimmers like Summer. It's hard to get there. It's fun to see her start the meet off that way. I think she'll have some other good events as well, so it should be fun."



A triple gold medallist at the 2024 Paris Olympics, McIntosh turned in a performance for the ages at the Canadian swimming trials in Victoria last summer. She won all five of her events and becoming the first swimmer to break three individual world records at the same meet since Phelps during his legendary eight-gold-medal performance at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

McIntosh's feat is even more impressive when you recall the details. Over a span of just five days, the then 18-year-old seized the 400 freestyle world record from reigning Olympic champion Ariarne Titmus, lowered her own record in the women's 400 individual medley by about three quarters of a second, and broke nine-time world champion Katinka Hosszu's decade-old mark in the 200 IM.

2:01.65 is the time Toronto's Summer McIntosh swam Sunday setting a world record in the 200-metre butterfly at the Canadian swimming trials in Montreal.

She followed up that showing with a five-medal haul at the world championships, claiming four gold and one bronze in Singapore.

McIntosh is only getting started as she's competing in the 400 individual medley on Monday, the 400 freestyle on Tuesday and the 200 IM on Wednesday.

- In the women's 100 backstroke, Taylor Ruck of Kelowna, B.C., surprised Lasalle, Ont., Kylie Masse, who is a five-time Olympic medallist. Ruck finished in a personal-best time of 58.33, followed by Masse (58.87), and and Calgary's Ingrid Wilm (59.21).
- In the S12 category, Quebec City's Nicolas-Guy Turbide set a new national Para swimming record with a time of 1:02.42.

1:02.42 is the new Canadian Para swimming record S12 category time set by Quebec City's Nicolas-Guy Turbide Sunday at the Canadian Swimming Trials in Montreal.

You can watch the entire Canadian swimming trials live on CBC Gem and the CBC Sports website from Sunday through Thursday. Preliminary races begin at 9:30 a.m. ET and the finals at 5:30 p.m.