

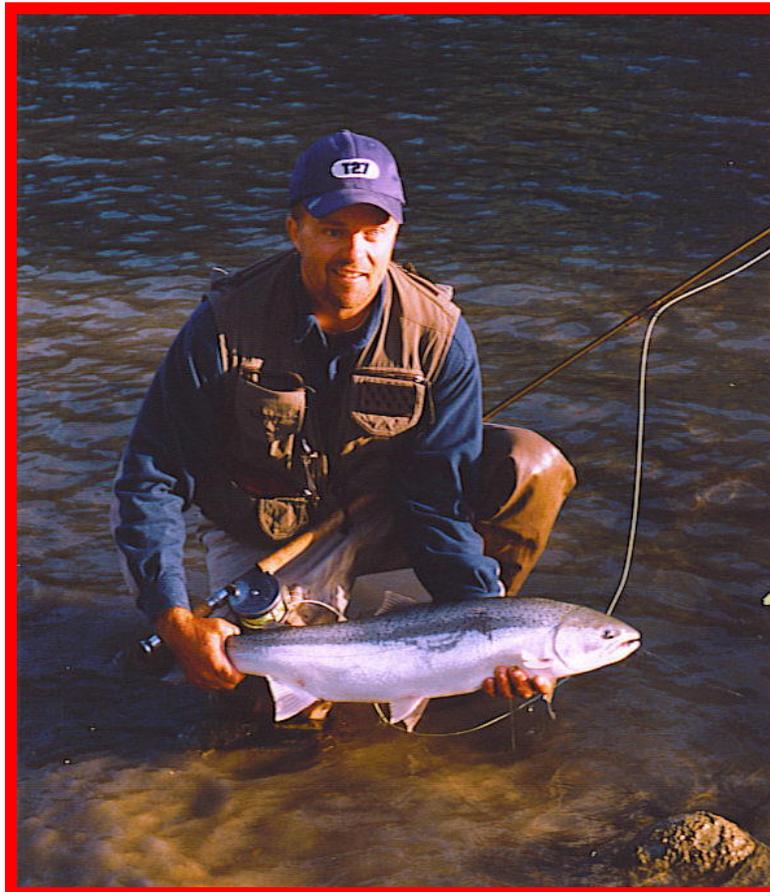


Fly Lines

The official publication of the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers

Winter 2004

Volume 5, Number Four



Peter Caverhill—**Charting Our Waters Impressions**
Art Lingren—**Newfoundland Atlantic Salmon Fly Fishing**
Evan Joubert—**Mike Maxwell**
Garth Fowler—**The Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Symposium**

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Fly Lines

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Members as well as guest writers are invited to submit articles, photographs and artwork related to the pursuit of fly fishing. Send unsolicited material, with a self addressed stamped envelope for return to:

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Chair – Art Lingren

Members – Peter Caverhill, Rob Way

On Our cover . . .



The summer-run steelhead is one of our most sought after gamefish. Chris Purcell with a Dean River beauty.

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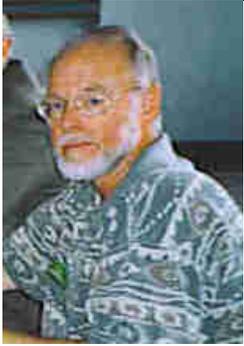
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President's Message



Free stuff
below!!

It's a Two Way Street!

Most lakes and streams are solid, or very cold. Chironomids, damselfly, dragonflies, sedges and stones are hunkered down for the dark season. Salmon are gone from the estuaries and rivers. Surface-oriented steelhead are holding in deep, black pools, awaiting spring and spawning. For most of us, rabid fly fishing shifts into neutral for a much needed respite. It is perhaps an appropriate time for each of us to do some navel gazing – philosophizing if you will – to consider things of great importance!

BCFFF tries very hard to be a strong voice for the fly anglers of this province. We need healthy populations of nice fish in pleasing surroundings, suitable for fly fishing. We also need to remember, preserve and promote our fly fishing past. A famous philosopher once said, “where we travel in the future should be guided by the footsteps that are behind us.” The backbone of BCFFF is our fly fishing clubs, and we encourage and assist in their formation. BCFFF is truly a “federation”- an amalgamation of clubs. No one in the organization should ever think of BCFFF as “they”, but most accurately as “we”.

These days, it's getting harder and harder to stimulate the formation of new fly fishing clubs, let alone keep the ones that are with us now. There must be many reasons for this – some obvious – but many, more obscure. Perhaps BCFFF is no longer serving the fly clubs and fly anglers of this province adequately? Perhaps our vision has become impaired?

So, here is a challenge to all of you fly anglers who may be reading this. Let's call this the “BCFFF New Year 2005 Challenge”. I want to know where BCFFF can better serve the fly clubs and fly anglers of this province. What aren't we doing now that we should be attending to? Any constructive and useful comments/criticisms will help BCFFF to do a better job. It truly is a “two way street” since you have a responsibility to let us know what you think if you are concerned about the way we operate. However, human nature being what it is (even fly anglers are prone to human nature), there will be little response to my request. Maybe then, there should be an incentive.

Provided that I receive at least 40 individual comments, I will construct one of my (?) famous Caverhill fly plaques (they have gone for as much as \$400 at auctions in the recent past) and this will be awarded to the submitting individual or group whose name is drawn at the BCFFF AGM in May 2005.

So, I sincerely urge you to give me your thoughts. Perhaps the best way is to send me an e-mail (pandlcaverhill@shaw.ca) or mail me a note (1203 Cypress Place, Port Moody BC, V3H 3Y7). I'm looking forward to hearing from you, and I'll be disappointed if I don't!!

Peter Caverhill

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Upcoming Events and Notices

Dues are due for 2005

We want to thank all clubs and members for their past support. It is that time of year once again to renew your membership. Membership is open to all who support the objectives of the Federation.

Dues:

Clubs: \$15 plus \$5 for each member

Direct\$15.00

Please make cheques payable to **B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers** and send to:

P.O. Box 2442 Stn. Main
349 Georgia Street West,
Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 3W7



Affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers

2005 Western Canadian Fly Fishing Exposition in Cloverdale

Date: February 18 - 20, 2005

Where: Cloverdale Rodeo Grounds, Agriplex building



For more information on speakers etc. see
www.flyfishingevents.com

“Tie a Fly Catch a Kid” Volunteer Fly Tiers needed for the booth.

The event organizers have donated space for a booth to the BCFFF. Like the 2004 show in Richmond, the BCFFF will have a fly tying section for kids at our booth. If you would like to volunteer for the BCFFF booth as a fly tyer and/or to help teach kids how to tie a fly (woolly bugger) please contact Danie Erasmus at d_erasmus2000@yahoo.ca or phone 604 732 1552

Vernon: 2005 AGM

The Kalamalka Fly Fishers of Vernon are the host club in 2005 for the BCFFF's AGM and Fly Fishing Show fundraiser. **Mark Saturday, May 13, 14, and 15, 2005 on your calendar..** More details will be coming in the Spring issue of fly lines and on the BCFFF website.

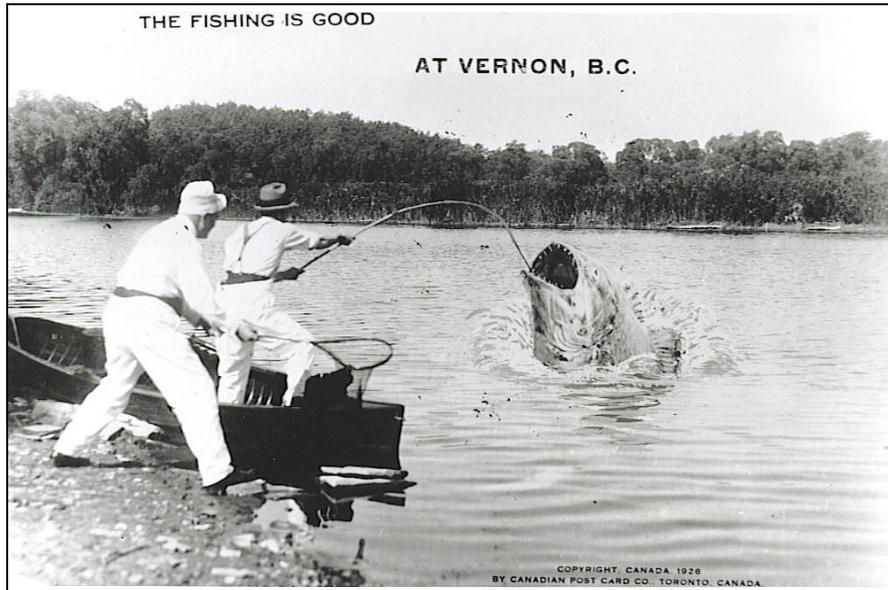
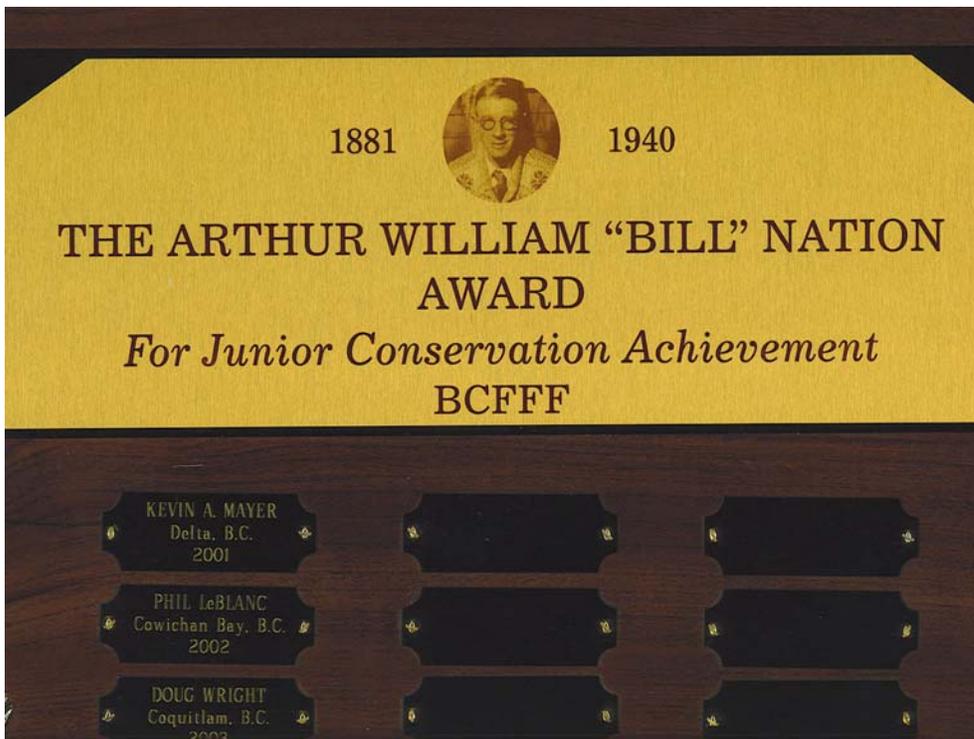


Photo courtesy of Vernon Museum and Archives

Seeking Volunteers or Nominations

The Board struck the nominating committee at its Fall meeting and there will be a follow up notice seeking volunteers or nominations for board positions in the spring issue of *Fly Lines*.



Annual Awards

It is important in the evolution of every organization to acknowledge and recognize the contributions and achievements for those few who contribute significantly to the art and craft of fly fishing and conservation. The BCFFF has a number of awards and it is time to consider who should be recognized in 2005. The BCFFF board reviews nominations at its spring meeting. Please forward your own ideas on who is worthy or your club's nominations with supporting documentation to Art Lingren, awards chair at artlin8@telus.net by February 28th, 2005.

The Bill Nation Award recognizes young fly fishers for their contribution to BC's freshwater fly fishing

The Conservation Award

Given to that BCFFF club in recognition for their contribution to the conservation and enhancement of BC's fishery for a specific conservation-related project.

The Appreciation Award

Given to that individual, group or business in recognition for their support of the BCFFF. It is customary to give the AGM's hosting clubs this award. It is also given to individuals and businesses who have contributed significantly to the event.

The Gilly Award

Given in recognition to that BCFFF member who has continuously given exceptional service to BC's Fishery, the Sport of Fly Fishing, and the BC Federation of Fly Fishers.

The Angul Award

Given to that individual, (not necessarily a BCFFF member), for their outstanding contribution to the heritage of the Arte & Science of Fly Fishing in British Columbia.

Arthur William Nation Award

In the spirit of Bill Nation, given to a young fly fisher/conservationist for their work in BC's freshwater fisheries.

Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award

Given to a BCFFF members who excels at the art and craft of fly tying.

Charting Our Water Future – Workshop – October 14 & 15, 2004 **Merritt Civic Center, Merritt, BC**

(IMPRESSIONS by Peter Caverhill)

The Workshop: organised by the Nicola Watershed Community Roundtable; 2 days (day 1= technical presentations; day 2 = small working groups take technical info from the previous day and answer questions about water planning in the basin). The overall objective was to discuss water use planning and decide on the advisability of establishing a water use planning process with the eventual production of a water use plan.

BCFFF Representative: Peter Caverhill (joined by BCFFF direct member Bill Starr of Merritt)

Why BCFFF attended: BCFFF has been involved with steelhead related issues for many years. Most recently we have had considerable concern for the greatly diminished Thompson River steelhead stocks and the loss of angling opportunity for them that has occurred in 2003 and 2004. The Nicola/Coldwater is a Thompson watershed sub-basin that provides critical spawning/rearing habitat for Thompson steelhead and other salmonids. The scarce water resources in this basin, and their management, are extremely important and are key piece in Thompson River steelhead recovery puzzle.

This IMPRESSIONS Document: will not provide a detailed summary of what was presented or done over the 2 day workshop (this will be done by the organizers and provided to all attendees and stakeholders, soon). This document will simply provide my views on the workshop that I think are important to pass along to the BCFFF membership and our allies on the fish conservation scene.

General – this workshop was very well organized and facilitated (Urban Systems was the contracted facilitator). Lunches, refreshments and goodies were provided at no charge to all participants (excellent home made quality food). Day 1 was attended by well over 100 people with considerable representation from local landowners, First Nations, and all levels of government (Merritt's Mayor attended both days as did the local MLA. MP Stockwell Day was there for all of Day 1.) On the fisheries side there were reps from WLAP and DFO. For the NGOs, reps from BCWF, BCFFF, Pacific Salmon Foundation, and the Spences Bridge Advocacy Group attended. Day 2 was attended by about 60 people. I was impressed by the community dedication to dealing with the water issues and the desire to have a grassroots "made in the sub-basin" water use plan.

Day 1 (the background/technical information) – Here is a brief overview. A number of topics were covered:

- Geologic history related to groundwater – groundwater resources exist. They are very important but not well inventoried. It is critical to protect them from contamination. They may be useful in dealing with future shortages.
- Guichon Ranch – managing in a holistic fashion according to a plan that they have produced. This appears to be a good model for ranching that considers the ecosystem.
- Ecological processes (fish from a provincial and federal perspective) – discussed surface flows and fish habitat creation. There are good guidelines from instream flow work to determine the flow/habitat needs for various species of fish. A critical period for salmonids in this sub-basin is summer/fall when flows are lowest and water use demand is highest. Interior coho may be listed under SARA. Ocean is a big factor in declines but resident stream dwelling fish also in decline, suggesting freshwater habitat is an important part of the puzzle.
- First Nations – are very involved with recovery efforts. However they are not always adequately consulted (ie in the issuance of water licenses in the sub-basin). Province is failing to protect species of importance to FNs ie Burbot. Aboriginal rights and their implications must be considered in the water equation.

There was a panel discussion that dealt with a number of “sectors” that rely on water in the sub-basin:

- Agriculture – can't give up on agriculture as it reduces the reliance on outside food sources which can become very expensive or not available; this sector now appreciating the needs of fish in the water equation; users of water need to share liability (agriculture has been responsible for the creation of many impoundments- via small dams- which have developed into excellent recreational fisheries). These fisheries need to share the cost of dealing with liability concerns.
- Forestry – operations have the ability to affect water quality. It is critical to monitor the impacts of all aspects of forestry on water. Pine beetle problem is pushing logging into more areas- faster- and this could place greater pressure onto the maintenance of water quality.

Area settlement patterns/trends – the greatest future impacts will come from recreational/lifestyle settlement (recreational or permanent development as a result of people moving out of cities to obtain cheaper land and a more desirable lifestyle). This will have large potential impact on water resources. This is a very desirable sub-basin for people to locate in.

Mining (Highland Valley Copper) – is a large water user although they re-cycle a large portion of their water needs. They have an issue with contaminated water (molybdenum) but they can contain this for the present.

Tourism and Recreation – world tourism is increasing. This is a desirable area and will attract people with an associated impact on the water resources.

Current water use in the Nicola sub-basin – licensed irrigation (75%); Urban (5%); Mining (3%); Conservation (17%)

Overview of surface flows in the Nicola basin – this was presented by a very experienced hydrologist who has worked in the area for decades. This presented a very gloomy outlook which was probably the conservative guideline that everyone should be working under. There are water shortages now every other year. Into the future (as we approach 2050) these shortages will become ever more frequent and won't be alleviated by increasing storage in the basin (new or enlarged dams). Available water in periods of highest demand/need will be greatly reduced. Climate change is a factor that must be factored into the future- look along with other impacts like increased agriculture production and increased population growth. It is unlikely that groundwater supplies will be a saviour in this scenario. All users of water will have to find ways to share the ever more-limited surface water in the sub-basin.

Day 2 – people were divided up into small groups of 6 people and tasked with working on a number of questions related to water use and planning in the Nicola/Coldwater. We explored the idea of a water use plan (should there be one?); what the important water issues are?; What a water use plan should contain? Vision and Goals for the Nicola? Information gaps? How to work together to prepare and implement a plan?

It was very clear that people wanted a plan and a process for creating the plan, with clear ideas on how implementation of the plan could occur (including funding for implementation). The City of Merritt said that there would be funds forthcoming from them to continue this process and there were indications that funding would come from other sources as well.

There was a commitment to continue this process.

Gilly Fund at Work

ISLAND WATERS FLYFISHERS

P O BOX 323, LANTZVILLE, B. C. VOR 2H0

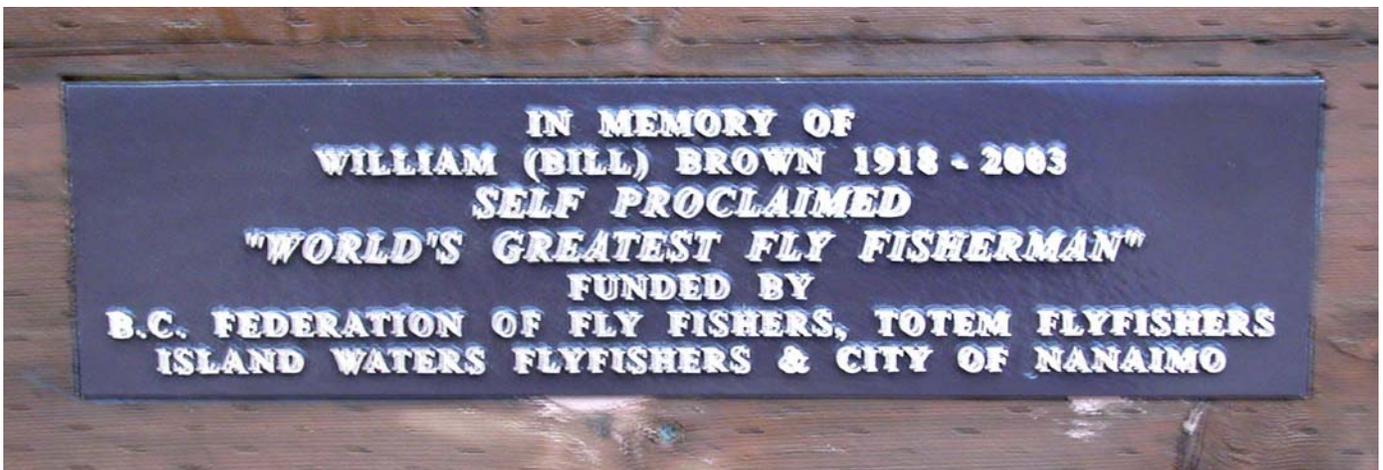
December 8, 2004

Richard J. Harding,
Manager of Parks,
Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Culture,
500 Bowen Rd.
Nanaimo, B. C.
V9R 1Z7.

Dear Richard:

On behalf of Island Waters Flyfishers, Totem Flyfishers and the B. C. Federation of Fly Fishers, it is my pleasure to extend my personal thank you and that of our clubs to yourself, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Al Britton and the many others who participated in the planning and construction of the Jingle Pot Marsh viewing platform.

Our club has in recent years become interested in contributing to the community for the benefit of everyone. The ease and cooperation with which this project was completed makes us look forward to future endeavours. Joan Rogerson with her hard work and bubbling enthusiasm has added immeasurably to the creativity of this project.



It is an honour to remember our past Charter Member, Bill Brown, self proclaimed "Worlds Greatest Fly Fisherman," in this manner, and a tribute to his wife Lanie.

Again, our sincerest thanks,

Dave Connolly
Past President,
Environmental Committee Chairperson,
Island Waters Flyfishers

MIKE MAXWELL (1924-2004)

On September 30, 2004, Mike Maxwell died peacefully in Smithers, close to several of his favorite pools on his beloved Bulkley River.

Born in India, Mike returned at an early age to England for his formal education. As a young man, during World War Two, he served as a tank commander in the 5th Royal Iniskilling Dragoon Guards. Following the war, and soon after completing his technical education, he emigrated to Canada.

Mike worked as a consulting structural engineer in Alberta with his own company, designing and building many buildings in the Lower Mainland. During his many years in Alberta, he applied the knowledge he had gained from flyfishing England's chalk streams as a kid. After experiencing the rivers of the northern half of British Columbia, he moved to this province, first residing in Vancouver and then in Port Coquitlam. Before long, he began spending his autumns at a hideaway on the Bulkley River upstream of Telkwa, where he fished, guided and conducted speycasting and spey fishing clinics for steelhead anglers.

Mike was a vocal and visible proponent of flyfishing in general and spey fishing in particular. His thoughts and theories are articulated in his books, *The Art and Science of Spey fishing* and *Advanced Spey fishing*. He also produced videos on flytying, flycasting and spey fishing, and conducted flycasting clinics in Vancouver-area high schools and at Burnaby's Central Park.

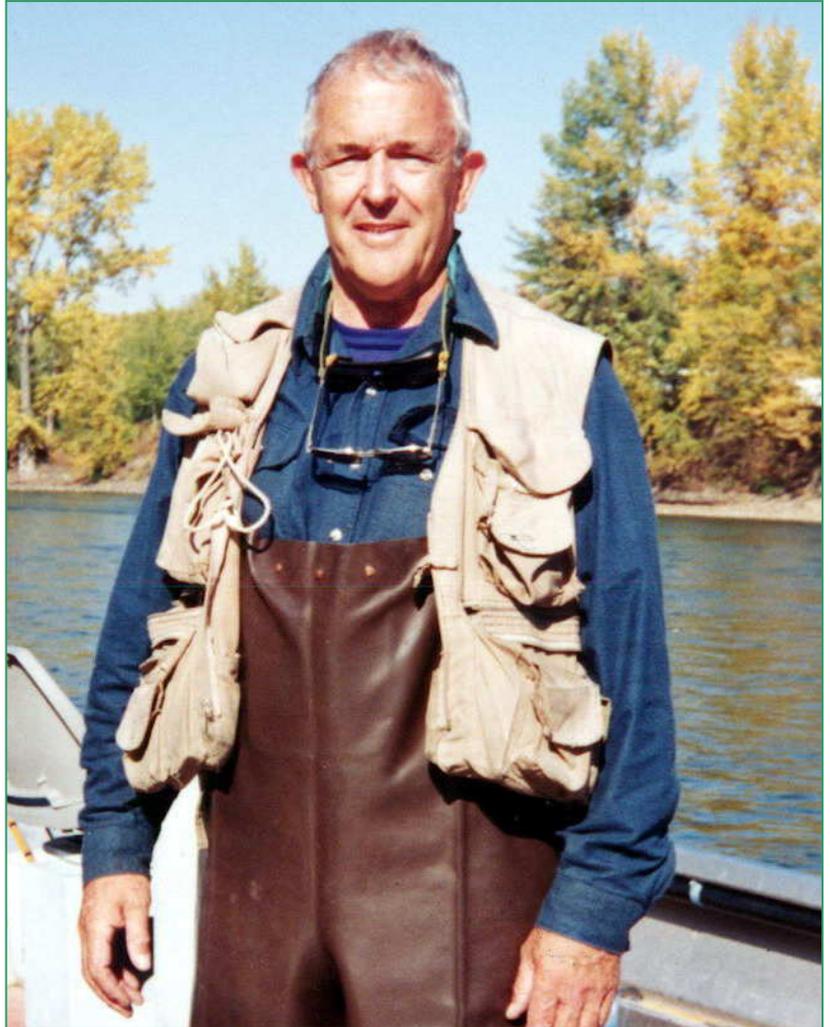
Mike introduced, inspired, and converted many youngsters and adults to flyfishing. His engineering background played a major role in the way he analyzed the craft and art of flyfishing, in the way he designed and built fly rods, and the tapers of the fly lines he used.

In 2003, Mike received *The Gilly Award* from the BC Federation of Fly Fishers in recognition for exceptional service to BC's Fresh Water Fishery and the Sport of Fly Fishing. Early in 2004, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award in San Francisco, at the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club's Jimmy Green International Spey-O-Rama, for his role in the advancement of fly fishing and spey casting. Fellow recipients were the late Jimmy Green and Jim Vincent.

Mike was an "up-front" kind of person who didn't hesitate to express his opinions. Most people quickly knew where they stood with him. To Mike, only his wife Denise eclipsed the world of flyfishing. He credited Denise for being instrumental in his achievements, and central to their Bulkley River guiding and casting-school operation. Together, Denise and Mike were a team, the "Maxwells".

To the fishing fraternity, he was a good and loyal friend. He will be missed.
Farewell, my friend

Evan Joubert
November 2004



Haig Brown

Fly Fishing

Symposium

A Big

Success

By: Garth Fowler

Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association



presented by

Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association

University of Victoria, Commons Block
November 13, 14th, 2004

Featured Speakers

Les Johnson	Kathy Riddick
Brian Chan	Gordon Honey
Trey Combs	Andy Snedden
Peter Morrison	Shawn Bennett
Ian Muirhead	Jim McLennan

The Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association of Victoria has, in the past, successfully conducted workshops and seminars both in-house and for the public. Early in 2004 the Association decided to present a fly fishing symposium and began to plan and prepare for a fall event. Pauline Loos, Secretary of the Association, chaired the symposium committee. After many hours of meetings and impressive teamwork by members of the committee, this large undertaking was presented at the University of Victoria on the 13th and 14th of November, 2004.

On Friday the 12th of November the presenters, organizing committee members and several guests, including Peter Caverhill, President of the B.C.F.F.F., gathered at the home of Dr. Brian Saunders and his wife Susan Leacock for a wonderful dinner and social evening. Brian is a member of the Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association and 2nd Vice President of the B.C.F.F.F.

On November 13th and 14th, the 194 symposium participants met at the Cadboro Commons Building, University of Victoria, where club volunteers and their spouses provided each participant with a personalized schedule of selected presentations and a site map. Refreshments were served as club members and other guests, (including members of fly fishing clubs from as far away as Williams Lake), mingled with seminar presenters.

A great deal of thought and careful consideration by the planning committee resulted in an impressive list of presenters, which included fly fishing experts from Kamloops, the Lower Mainland, Calgary and Washington State. All of the presentations were

extremely well done and held the interest of large audiences. Participants took full advantage of the array of expertise available to them; many took notes and asked detailed questions.

Symposium guests were able to attend up to twelve sessions, selected from the following list of presenters and topics:

Jim McLennan: *Reading Moving Water / Favorite Waters Near and Far.* Jim, who lives in Calgary, was one of the first guides on the Bow River and has written three books on fly fishing.

Brian Chan: *Chironomids and Mayflies Stillwater Favorites / Understanding Stillwaters Where to Find the Trout.* Brian, who is from Kamloops, is the author of several books, a DVD and numerous magazine articles. He is a much sought after speaker on the subject of stillwater fishing.

Gordon Honey: *Conjugating Chironomids// What to Expect From a Guide.* Gordon has been fly fishing for 48 years, the last eleven as a guide at Lac Le Jeune where he resides. He is co-author of *Fly Fishing Small Lakes for Trout*.

Les Johnson: *Fly Fishing the West / Catch and Release Impact on Coastal Cutthroat.* Les, who is from Redmond, Washington, is the author of *The Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout* and several other books on fly fishing. In 2002 he received the Dawn Holbrook Memorial Award from the Northwest Fly Anglers for lifetime achievement in teaching others to grow in the art and science of fly fishing.

Trey Combs: *Steelheading the Great Rivers / Blue Water Fly Fishing.* Trey's book *Steelhead Fly Fishing* is considered to be the "bible" for those seeking to take steelhead on the fly. His latest book *Blue Water Fly Fishing* details where to go and how to take the world's big game fish on the fly. Trey lives in Port Townsend, Washington.

Andy Sneddon: *Building the Custom Fly Rod / Depth Control: Presenting your Fly at Depth in Moving Water.* Andy owns Custom Rod Builders in Victoria and supplies rod building components to customers around the world. He has been addicted to fly fishing since his early teens.

Peter Morrison: *Open Ocean Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon / Creek Mouth Fishing.* Peter was selected to represent Canada in the 2nd Annual New Zealand Saltfly Tournament in 1999. He was a contributing author and consultant for the popular book *Fly Fishing in British Columbia*.

Shawn Bennett: *Salt Water Species Available to the Cast Fly / Thoughts and Theories on Open Water Coho Fishing.* Shawn has spent the last seven years developing a salt water fishing program at Vancouver Island's Clayoquot Sound. He is currently marine operations manager and lead fishing guide at Weigh West Adventures Resort in Tofino, B.C. where he lives.

Ian Muirhead/ *Casting Analysis.* Ian is a full time professional fly fishing guide and casting instructor based in Victoria B.C.

Kathy Ruddick: *Tropical Saltwater Fly Fishing / Fly Lines and Leaders - the Next Generation.* As owner of Ruddick's Fly Shop in North Vancouver, Kathy has had ample opportunity to pursue her passion for fly fishing throughout the world. She was the first woman chosen as a member of Team Canada in the 1999 World Fly Fishing Competition held in Australia.

On Saturday night, a social at the University pub, gave fly fishers a chance to meet and speak with these presenters, all of whom were in attendance. The pub social featured a draw for approximately 36 prizes donated by sponsors and speakers. Some very happy winners took home valuable prizes. On Sunday, the seminar ended with one final prize draw.

The Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association believes that this Symposium was a big success and was pleased at the very positive response of those who attended. We achieved our goals. We are also very happy that, as a result of this symposium, we have been able to add approximately \$6000.00 to our Conservation Fund.



Symposium Chairperson Pauline Loos with Presenter Kathy Ruddick

The Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association has received a letter of congratulations on the success of the symposium from Peter Caverhill, President of B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers, and we thank him for being able to attend our symposium.

Dear Folks in the HBFFA:

Re: Fly Fishing Symposium - November 13/14, 2005

I wanted to tell you what a great weekend I had at your Symposium! I'm sure that you are all feeling relieved and very happy that your planning and hard work paid-off in spades. It's not often that 175 participants can come together for two whole days, to hear so many good speakers--and -- have the affair run so smoothly!! In all the chit-chat that went on, I only heard kudos for the symposium and the Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association.

On behalf of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, I'd like to thank your club (and especially the super hard working Symposium crew) for putting on such an excellent reason for fly fishers to get together and talk about the things that matter. BCFFF is proud to have the Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association as a member club!

Sincerely,
Peter Caverhill
President, BCFFF

Newfoundland: The Land Where the Fish of Kings is Enjoyed by the Common Man

By Art Lingren

Tout ce qui brille n'est pas or, c'est une bande d'argent en bataille.

(All that glitters is not gold, it is a fighting bar of silver.)

David Priebe Photo



My wife dropped me off at Vancouver's YVR Airport at 9 pm on July 25th. I was taking the red-eye flight to the other side of country to fly fish for Atlantic salmon in Newfoundland. Flying east after a 10:30 pm Vancouver departure, I dozed a bit but in no time the rising sun greeted me and, after flying for 4 ½ hours I landed in Montreal at Pierre Trudeau Airport around 7 am Eastern time. Sleeping in an airplane seat is not the easiest place to catch a few winks of shut eye and needless to say I didn't get much sleep. However, that was by design on my part. I wanted to be tired so that when I went to bed that night at the lodge the lack of sleep and the early-to-bed would help my body adjust quicker to Newfoundland's 4 ½ hours time difference. I had a very short stay at Montreal airport. By



the time I found my connection gate passengers were being loaded for the next hop to Halifax. In Halifax Vince Sweeney joined me for the flight to Deer Lake Airport just north of Corner Brook, where George Pike, owner of the Dhoon Lodge, picked us up. From George we learned that Charlie Brumwell and David Priebe, the other two of our west coast foursome of fly fishers, had booked into the lodge that morning. Charlie and David with their ladies had spent the previous two weeks exploring Newfoundland.

The West Coast Foursome

Art Lingren photo

The hour-long drive from Deer Lake to Dhoon Lodge went quickly and upon arrival at the lodge we received a warm welcome from Odelle Pike, George's wife. I had left Vancouver at 10 30 pm on the 25th and it was now 3 pm on the 26th. We

were not to start fishing until the 27th, so we spent a leisurely afternoon and evening visiting and getting our equipment ready. The weather had been cool during David and Charlie's travels. Harry's River was at a good height and when I checked the water that evening it was 60 F, a good temperature for floating-line fly fishing.

The run of salmon into Harry's River is monitored and all fish must pass through a counting fence near tidewater. According to George Pike, the fence slows up the run and not many fish had come into the system. The lodge is located in the lower reaches of Harry's River and fresh fish migrating upriver can appear at any time in Lower Roberts Pool behind the lodge. Months earlier when I was booking the trip I had hoped to get a time two weeks later. However the lodge takes a maximum of eight fishermen and those times were taken, so our group of four was forced into an earlier date. George Pike assured me that the week we booked was a good one. Rain was predicted that evening which could bring some fresh fish into the river. At the same time, the Dhoon Lodge guides were checking out other rivers in the area. In Newfoundland, non-resident anglers must be guided unless fishing with a

direct Newfoundland relative. A maximum of two anglers per guide is permitted and anglers must remain in sight of the guide when on the river.

The regulations governing Newfoundland fishing are similar to those in British Columbia, i.e., residents of both provinces can fish anywhere in their respective provinces. Atlantic Salmon fishing in many other places of the world is a rich man's activity where the waters are owned and/or leased and anglers pay a daily rod fee to fish a "beat" (a section of river). On the best water, daily fees can cost a fly fisher anywhere from a few hundred dollars a day into the thousands. Money buys privacy. Newfoundland is a place where the common man, whether resident or non-resident, can afford to fish for Atlantic salmon—"the fish of kings." However, you will be sharing the water with others. Residents of Newfoundland do not need a license to fish trout and a yearly salmon license costs \$20. A non-resident salmon license cost \$53 and a trout license \$8. Atlantic salmon waters are referred to as "scheduled salmon rivers." There are four classes of scheduled salmon rivers. Most of the rivers fished by Dhoon Lodge guests are either Class III or IV, with the exception of the Great Codroy River and its North Branch tributary, which are Class II. On Class I through III, there is a daily/season limit on salmon 63 cm or smaller. Class IV rivers are catch and release only. During our seven-day stay at Dhoon Lodge we fished half a dozen rivers. All Scheduled Salmon Waters are fly-fishing only and have other special management measures which include:

Barbless Hooks

An artificial fly must be used for all angling - whether for salmon or trout - on scheduled salmon waters throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. Only one hook may be used at a time. Regulations describe an artificial fly as a single BARBLESS hook dressed with materials to attract fish; not baited, not having a weight attached to sink it, and not having a spinner or similar device attached. A barbed hook may be made barbless by cutting or filing off the barb or by pinching the barb flat so that it is in complete contact with the shaft of the hook.



Environmental Protocols

- Main stems of Class I rivers will not be closed to angling due to low water levels and high water temperatures.
- Class II and III rivers will be closed to angling when water levels are low and water temperature exceeds 22 degrees C.
- Class IV rivers will be closed to angling when water temperature exceeds 18 degrees C.

In addition to these management protocols on Scheduled Salmon Rivers there are also limits on catch and release, called "hook and release" in Eastern Canada. For Class I through III, it is four fish per day and on Class IV two fish per day. On my last day fishing I landed two salmon in a half hour on Harry's River and that finished me on that stream for the day.

This was my second trip to Eastern Canada to fish for Atlantic salmon. On my 2003 trip to Dhoon Lodge I fished very low, clear and warm rivers. The fishing was challenging but I did okay considering the conditions. For the other three in our west coast foursome, this was their first trip after Atlantic salmon and I hoped that all of us would return home with fond memories.

This was me second trip to Newfoundland to fish for Atlantic salmon

David Priebe Photo

Early in the morning of June 27th, the storm arrived and it rained hard. Harry's River was fishable that morning but because few fish entered the river our head guide Jackie Besaw believed we would do better elsewhere. Our other guide, Mark Hobbs, a few days earlier had great success on one of the local rivers. That river is a good one

hour's drive away and, in unrelenting rain, we drove south. When we arrived at the river, we found it too high for fishing and the other rivers we crossed on the way back were also rising quickly. The rain continued, and after lunch Vince and I looked at the upper Harry's but it was also too high. Mark took Charlie and David to the Home Pool and they fished nice water but found no fish.

Home Pool is at the outlet of George's Lake, but not enough salmon had entered Harry's River and traveled that far to make it a viable fishing option. Jackie took Vince and me to Flat Bay Brook and it was too high to fish. We ended back at Harry's River and the only fishing we managed on this first day was a little bit on Lower Roberts Pool behind the lodge. Atlantic salmon fishing is not too much different than fishing for summer-run steelhead. They are almost impossible to catch on a fast rising river. However, like the steelhead, Atlantic salmon often move on a good rainstorm and, as a river recedes after a storm, the fish in the river, whether they have been in the river for a while or are fresh run, can be eager takers. Now if only the rain would stop!

By the time we finished fishing for the day, the rain had turned from its continuous downpour to sprinkles and then it stopped. Our guides told us that these local rivers come up fast but they also recede quickly, and we wondered what the rest of the week would bring.

The next morning, Vince and I headed to the North Branch of the Grand Codroy River while Mark took David and Charlie to the Home Pool. The rivers were high but dropping. That morning I took my first salmon of the trip on the North Branch; a fish I raised four times before I finally got a hook into its mouth. With that fish I achieved one of the things I wanted to do on this trip which was to get a salmon on a Black General Practitioner. On this trip I added two more rivers to the long list of waters I have used this fly successfully. That list is now approaching 75 waters in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon and Newfoundland. In addition to chinook, coho, chum and pink salmon, bull trout, Dolly Varden char, rainbow, sea-run and non-anadromous cutthroat and brown trout, and summer-run and winter-run steelhead, I have now added Atlantic salmon and brook trout to this fly's credit. However, I digress . . . Back to the fishing.



*Vince Sweeney
playing a small
salmon with
Mark Hobbs
ready with the
net*

*Art Lingren
photo*

On the North Branch, Vince raised three fish pricking one and that was it for him for the day's effort. David and Charlie drew blanks at Home Pool but Mark took them in his boat to a slow moving stream flowing between two ponds (lakes) and Charlie came back to the lodge that night with a smile on his face. He landed his first Atlantic, a salmon of about 9 lb. on a dead drift Bomber. David drew a blank. However, as the week progressed, the rivers fished better with some fresh fish moving in and in-river fish becoming more active. In the five remaining days we managed to hook about eight fish a day and landed about 20 or so salmon for the trip. The largest fish would have tipped the scales down to more than 15 pounds. No person was skunked. Charlie was top rod

for numbers hooked, while David did the best at landing. We all come home with fond memories of the fishing and with stories of large salmon landed or lost.

Memorable Moments



Charlie says that his most memorable moments resulted from the hooking of several largish Atlantics on a 6-weight rod, dry line, and a number 10 riffle-hitched wet fly.

Landed! No; the fight continued after the salmon plunged through a hole in the landing net. When anglers pay good money and travel long distance they hate loosing a fish because of sub standard equipment.

David Priebe Photo

The take and acrobatics were very exciting as he had never caught an east coast salmon before. Fishing for Atlantic salmon was a steep learning curve! One fish in particular, his best fish of the trip, put up a very good scrap. The guides prefer to net the fish rather than have the angler play the fish out and slide it into shallow water for release. However, before the release we like to get a picture or two for our records and to show the folks back home. Charlie played an active fish for quite a while, with Jackie standing by ready with the net and giving advice. When the fish was

ready, Jackie scooped it into the net. Once a fish is in the net that is usually the end of a fish story, but to both Jackie's and Charlie's surprise, the fish continued going right through the net and back into the river. Fortunately, the fly was still in the fish's mouth. A scramble ensued but Charlie maintained his composure. While the fish frolicked about in the river, Charlie continued playing the fish with the line going through the net. Eventually Jackie managed to grasp the fish's tail and land it. Charlie was one happy fisherman after that near disaster.

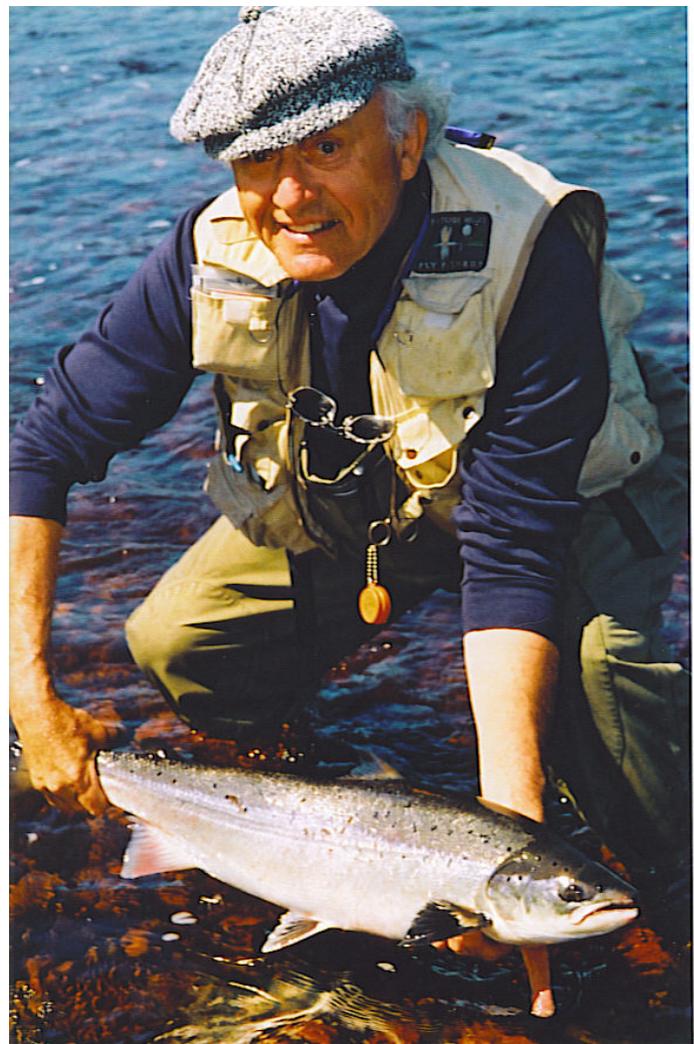
David also latched onto some nice salmon. However, on Crabbe's River he hooked a fish and somehow his fly line became tangled and fixed around the upper part of his fly rod. The fish he had on really thrashed about trying to get away. He did land it but ended up breaking his Sage rod and he had to fish the rest of the day with a rod that was missing the few top inches. David writes that

One of my most memorable experiences of the trip was when I caught a grilse with a broken fly rod at Crabbe's River. We had stopped at a small convenience store and Mark, the guide, had picked out 4 or 5 flies for me to try. One of them was a gigantic bug. Charlie said, "that's not a fly. That's an anal suppository!" That was the only fly I could get any distance on with my broken tip.

David Priebe with one of his fine salmon taken on what Charlie called the anal suppository fly.

Charlie Brumwell Photo

I fished with Vince the day he landed his first and second salmon, both grilse. Later in the week at different spots he managed to hook three good salmon. It is true that we often remember the big one that gets away over others we land. His last chance to land a large salmon took place on the last day of the trip. Vince remembers the day well.





Mark took Vince and Charlie across the bog to one of his favourite runs on Harry's River. Vince was methodically working his way down the run when a good-sized salmon took his fly in a favoured holding spot. The fish put up a good struggle trying to get free but Vince was slowly wearing the fish out. He was very eager to land this prized specimen. All of a sudden his line became tauged and wouldn't budge and he couldn't feel the fish struggling at the end of his line. Mark has fished this spot many times and he had not had a fish hang up in that location before. After some tugging, Mark decided to wade into the run to see if he could get the fouled line free and, to his surprise, he pulled up a beaver-cut branch stuck in the river-bottom rocks. He pulled the branch free and found Vince's fouled line minus the fly and, of course, no fish.

Mark Hobbs and Vince Sweeney with one of Vince's grilse

Art Lingren Photo

Every fishing trip is different and this trip was no exception to that rule. Some things stick out as memorable while others fade, never to be thought of again. I was fishing the piece of water on the North Branch of the Grand Codroy River from which I had taken a fish the day before. I had been through the run from top to bottom with no rises and was working my way through a second time. For this trip I bought a four piece, #6, single-hand travel rod on which I was throwing an eight weight floating line. Angler, rod and line were

working well and I was pleased with my casts that sailed across the river. Things happen when you are fishing well. My thoughts were on this when my fly landed after a good single Spey cast of about 70 feet. The fly had just started its swim, when a fish took

and I knew I had a good one when I felt the hook bite home. Shortly after, a salmon leapt out of the water and I thought that is a nice fish. The way the salmon took and jumped reminded me of a steelhead I hooked in the Cheakamus River over thirty years ago will remember for the rest of my life. It shot from the water in a great leap and when I saw it I thought "what a big fish." That large Cheakamus steelhead which I didn't land is etched in memory and I think of it often. But back to the salmon fishing story. . . Jackie was on the run above with Vince and it took some time for him to wade the river and get down to where I was. Standing atop a steep-sloped gravel bank I played this salmon to shore three times and to me it looked as if it may have been a fish of about 35 inches, perhaps a little bigger, not a monster salmon but still a good fish. On one of the occasions I had it close to shore I noticed its depth as it slid on its side. Its depth impressed me. I slid the fish into shallow water, Jackie went to grab it, but the fish made one last effort, shot through his legs out into deeper water and the hook came away. When my mind drifts to memorable fishing moments and I think of that Cheakamus steelhead I will think of this particular Atlantic salmon as well.



Art Lingren with Mark Hobbs and a consolation salmon of about 10 to 12 lb.

Charlie Brumwell Photo

Flies and Fishing Techniques

On this time of year, depending on the air temperature, the water temperatures in Newfoundland Atlantic salmon rivers can vary about 10 degrees Fahrenheit (F) from morning to night. When we started the trip and after the rain the rivers had cooled and Harry's River had a temperature of about 50 F in the am and 60 F in the pm. As the weather improved during the week and the days became hotter, water temperatures were higher in the morning and reached 70 F on some afternoons. As a general guide, the lower, clearer and warmer the water, the smaller the wet fly, with 6 to 10 being the recommended sizes. However, that guide doesn't apply to fishing the dry fly. Some of the Bombers used are dressed on large 4 xl, hooks which the fish will charge and grab even in the warmer water temperatures. Using anything other than a floating line with a fly fished on, or just under, the surface is frowned upon in this part of Newfoundland. A number 7 or 8 weight, single-handed rod or small double hander is about the right tool for this fishing. The fly-fishing techniques recommended and used on this trip were the typical wet fly fished just under the surface, or a wet fly riffle hitched. Both of those techniques call for the standard down-and-across sweep. A Bomber-type fly fished down and across causing a wake and the natural drift Bomber fished dry on the surface are other favoured ways of enticing salmon to a fly. All these techniques are used on the west coast for summer-run steelhead with the natural-drift dry fly the least employed. Summer-run steelhead do not respond well to a natural drift dry fly, not like Canadian Atlantic salmon do.

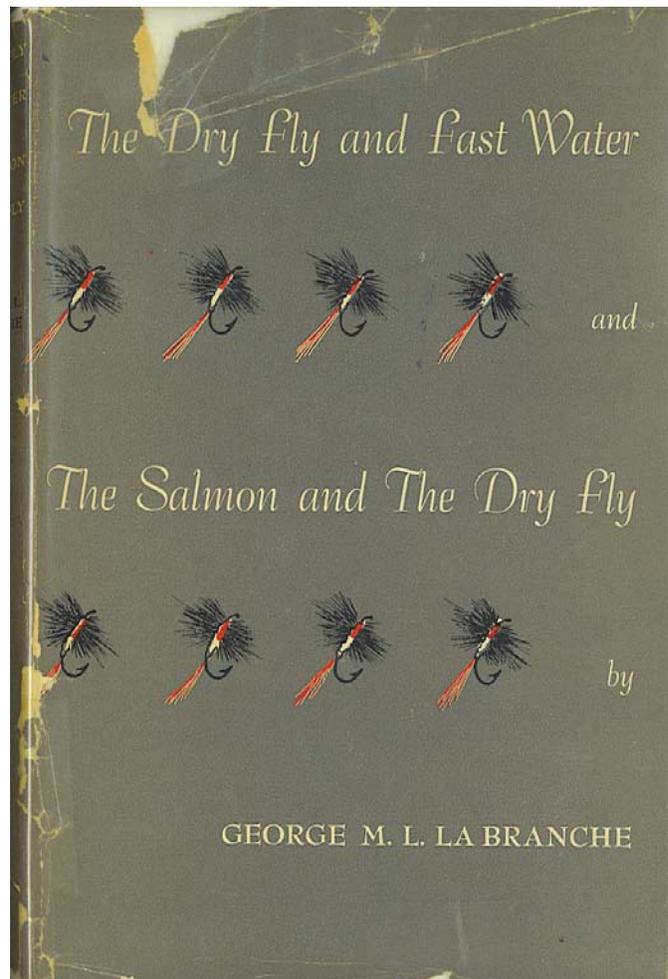
My library shelves are lined with books about fishing for Atlantic salmon. The techniques used by the salmon fly fishers in Great Britain were those that British anglers employed when they came to British Columbia. Steelhead fly fishing's roots come from British Atlantic salmon fly fishers and I learned a great deal about fly fishing for steelhead from reading those books. Combining the local knowledge and expertise of the Dhoon Lodge guides Jackie Besaw and Mark Hobbs with our steelhead fly-fishing knowledge and experience, helped us adapt quickly to fishing Atlantic salmon.

However, with regards to the dry fly technique used for Atlantic salmon in Eastern Canada, it is a method developed in New Brunswick by a group of American fly fishers almost 100 years ago. The day after I arrived home from Newfoundland I dug out George La Branche's two books reprinted as *The Dry Fly and Fast Water* and *The Salmon and The Dry Fly* in which La Branche records this technique's development on New Brunswick's Upsalquitch River. La Branche credits Colonel Ambrose Monell with taking the first salmon on the dry fly in North America and also with the development of this technique during the years before the Great War (WW I), which ended in 1918. La Branche's salmon dry fly book was first published in 1924. I read La Branche nearly 25 years ago and his words impressed me then. He was a man of good observation, sound reasoning that produced practical solutions. Some of his important basic observations which formed the basis for the dry fly technique include:

- Salmon are not as wary of man as trout and can be approached quite closely
- Returning salmon do not feed in fresh water and dry flies do not need to be representative of insects
- Dry fly fishing is suited to low and clear water
- Short casts can be very effective
- Repetitive casting over the same fish can often entice a take
- Sometimes the angler must land his fly directly over and hit the fish on the head to entice a response

All those principles form the technique used by Newfoundland salmon fly fishers when fishing the dry fly. They do get very close to the fish and use a short line, which they "flick" almost

onto the heads of seen salmon or, if fish are lying in water too deep, over known lies. However, the flies La Branche and his friends developed almost a century ago have fallen into disuse. Today, the fly of choice is the Bomber or Bug as it is commonly called in Newfoundland. When you have fished a spot with the traditional down-and-across fly, your guide may recommend that you "flick a Bug over the fish." Following are the flies and dressing that we used on this trip.





A trio of the author's Bomber variations

Bombers or Bugs

Hook: Size 4 to 8 xl

Tail: Kip tail, white is the most commonly used colour but other colours and materials are used

Body: Spun and clipped elk or deer hair

Hackle: Palmered, brown most commonly used but many other colours used as well

Wing: Optional of kip tail extending over hook eye

Comments: The Bomber was the brain child of Rev. Elmer Smith, who developed this fly for Miramichi Atlantic salmon back in the mid 1960s. Its use has spread throughout Eastern Canada and it is also a favoured fly for summer-run steelhead on our west coast. Paul Mariner in his book *Modern Atlantic Salmon Flies* (1998) says that one French Canadian writer produced a table with 103 colour combinations for the Bomber. In addition to the Bomber being the most widely used dry fly for Atlantic salmon, it has more variations than probably any other fly.



Wet flies from top left: Jackie's Special, Black, Cosseboom, Almost Always, Blue Charm and Lingren's Indispensable (Black GP) center

Blue Charm

Hook: Size 6 to 10 low-water salmon

Tip: Fine oval tinsel

Tail: Golden pheasant crest feather

Body: Black floss

Rib: Fine or medium oval tinsel to match hook size

Throat: Silver doctor blue hackle

Wing: Grey squirrel

Comments: An old British fly dating back to the 19th century and made into a hairwing version by North American fly fishers. This fly is an extremely popular pattern in all of Eastern Canada and a staple for waters fished by Dhoon Lodge guests.

Jackie's Special

Hook: Size 8 and 10 low-water salmon
Tip: Flat silver tinsel
Body: Black floss
Throat: Mallard flank
Wing: A few strands of pearl Krystal Flash and moose hair

Comments: This is the invention of Jackie Besaw, the Dhoon Lodge's head guide. The fly is jokingly referred to as the Jack Shit by Mark Hobbs, our other guide.



*Jackie Besaw readying equipment
Charlie Brumwell Photo*

Newfoundland Cosseboom Special

Hook: Size 6 to 10 low-water salmon
Tip: Fine oval tinsel
Tail: Chartreuse floss
Body: Chartreuse floss
Rib: Fine or medium oval gold tinsel to match hook size
Throat: Yellow hackle
Wing: Moose
Head: Red

Comments: Moose are plentiful in Newfoundland and fly tyers have incorporated moose hair into many fly patterns. It is the moose hair wing that distinguishes this fly from the original Cosseboom. This is one of Mark Hobbs' favourites.

*David Priebe and Charlie Brumwell, Grand Codroy River
Art Lingren Photo*

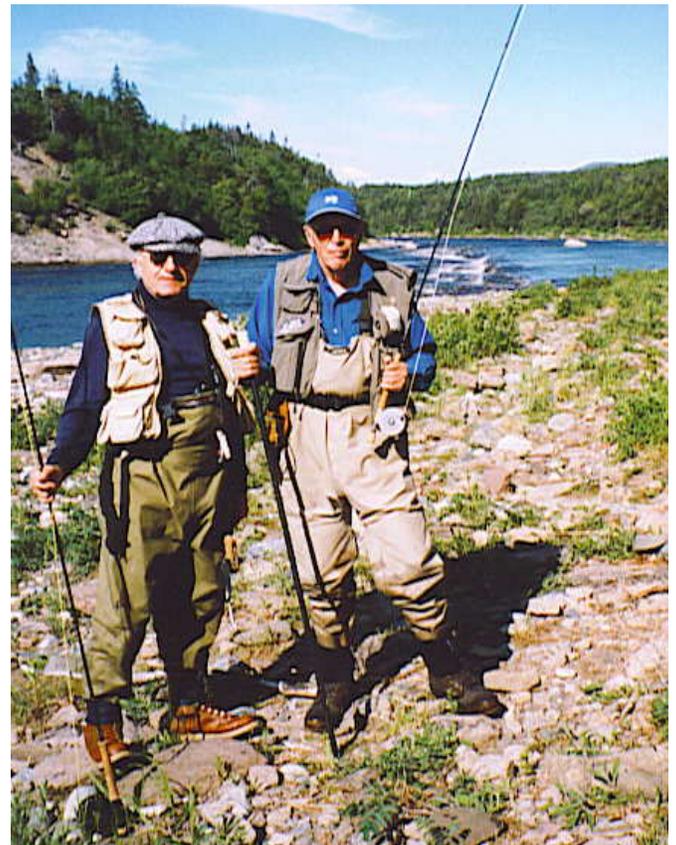
Almost Always

Hook: Size 6 to 10 low-water salmon
Tail: Golden pheasant crest feather
Body: Black floss
Throat: Black hackle
Wing: Black squirrel or bear

Comments: This simple pattern is one that Bill Jollymore recommended for Atlantic salmon. With this fly in 2003 on my first trip in the first few minutes of my first day fishing I landed my first salmon. This is the pattern with which I hooked the large Atlantic mentioned in the memories section.

Black

Hook: Size 6 to 12 low-water salmon



Tip, tag and butt: Fine oval silver tinsel followed by black floss then black ostrich herl
Tail: Guinea fowl
Body: Black floss
Rib: Fine or small oval silver tinsel
Hackle: From second turn of tinsel, black, palmered, one side stripped
Throat: Black hackle
Wing: Black squirrel

Comments: This is one of my floating line flies that I use for summer-run steelhead. It owes its origins to two flies: the Atlantic salmon British Stoat's Tail and the British Columbia Doc Spratley. With its tip, tag and butt, it is dressed sparsely and in the style used by Atlantic salmon fly tyers from an earlier era in Great Britain.

I would feel very comfortable using this fly as my staple dark pattern for Atlantic salmon. I caught fish on it in 2003 and used it on my last day fishing and in a half hour took two salmon from Harry's River which, with its two fish catch-and-release limit, that finished me for that day on that river.

Lingren's Indispensable (Black GP)

Hook: Size 7 low-water salmon
Tail: Black squirrel with a few strand of black or pearl Krystal Flash
Body: Black mohair
Rib: Oval silver tinsel
Hackle: Black, palmered, one side stripped for sparseness
Wing: Two black-dyed golden pheasant breast feather laid flat

Comment: The Black General Practitioner originated from my fly tying vice in January 1984. In those early days I dressed the fly as a copy of Esmond Drury's Orange General Practitioner, but as the years passed I have altered the pattern considerably and because I have caught virtually every game fish in the waters I fish with this fly, and thus has become indispensable on my fly-fishing trips, I have changed the name as well. I dress it for steelhead on a variety of hook sizes ranging from 5/0 to size 6 and on smaller sizes for trout. I used it when the rivers were receding after the rain that occurred early in this trip. However, once the rivers become low and clear, it is not a good bright-day, low-water fly but can be effective in the poorer light conditions of early morning and late evening.

The Dhoon Lodge

is a large country-style lodge resting on 20 acres of quiet scenic grounds bounded on the south and east by Harry's river and cradled by the Long Range mountains. The original log structure was built by Bowater Pulp and Paper Company of England in 1941 as a private V.I.P. Hunting and Fishing Lodge. We wondered where the name originated but the Pikes couldn't tell us. An internet search showed that on the Isle of Man off the Scottish coast there is a place called The Dhoon, with a Dhoon Glen and Dhoon Bay and over on the River Dee estuary in Scotland there is another Dhoon Bay. The Headquarters for the for Clan Donald Society for London and the South of England are located at The Dhoon, Maughold, Isle of Man. In one Gaelic dictionary I found on the Internet Dhoon was a fort. So perhaps the original owners or principles of the lodge came from this area and named the lodge as a reminder of home.



The Dhoon Lodge offers a five day salmon package which includes lodging and guide service. In 2004 that five-day package cost \$1375 but the Lodge is increasing it to \$1500 in 2005. We added two extra days at \$275 each and including HST (Harmonized Sales Tax), our seven day trip cost \$2250. Transportation to and from Deer Lake airport is another \$40 per person and gratuities for

the guides and service staff at the lodge are extra. Including the \$1000 cost to fly across the country, I spent about \$3700 on my seven-day Atlantic salmon fly fishing trip.

It is a long way to go to fish especially considering British Columbia has so many fly-fishing opportunities, but if you combine the fishing trip with a holiday as Charlie and David did, it becomes more economical.

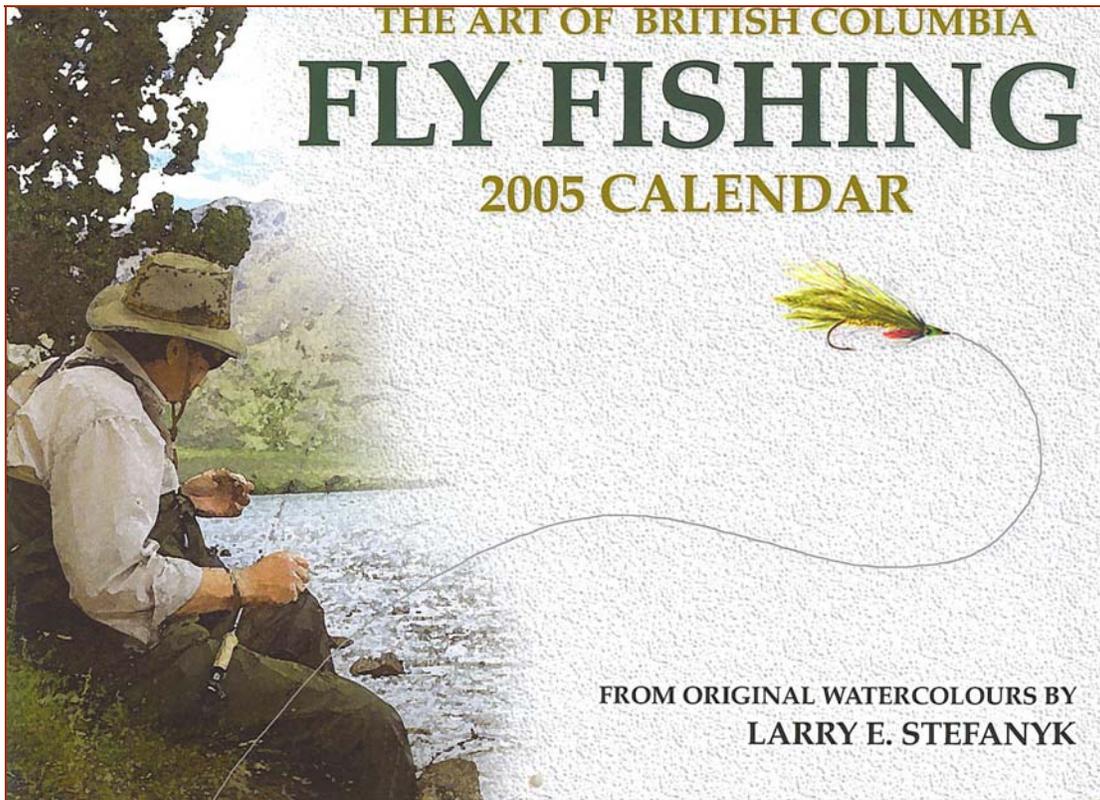


*Art Lingren thanking guide Mark Hobbs for a memorable trip
Charlie Brumwell Photo*

Newfoundland has some lovely rivers, the people are very friendly, the guides are ardent fly fishers and have very good local knowledge and want you to do well. For those who can afford it, love fly fishing adventure and like to test their skills in a place where the common man can enjoy fishing for the “fish of kings” then a trip to this part of Canada should be something that a fly fisher should try to do at least once in their lifetime.

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The Art of British Columbia Fly Fishing 2005 Calendar featuring profiles of 12 prominent fly tiers in BC (many members of the BCFFF); these are not necessarily pretty flies, but their working patterns from original water colours by Larry Stefanyk of Vancouver Island. For more information email Larry at ifmm@telusd.net



Winter Fly Fishing

The coastal cutthroat trout does provide the fly fisher with some sport during the cold winter months. Ian Ricketson, dressed for the weather, on one of the blustery winter days with a Fraser River cutthroat tugging away.

Art Lingren photos

