

Fly Lines

*The Official Publication of the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers
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Fly Lines is the official publication of the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers and is published four times a year.

The full colour version can be downloaded and printed as a pdf file from the BCFFF website at <http://www.bcfff.bc.ca>

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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President's Message

The focus of this message is “Be informed and get involved!”

As I thought about what to say in this message I began to reminisce about the past. I thought of all the stories I'd heard and read and the experiences I've had related to fishing in BC. I wondered if there would ever be stories and experiences again like those I've known.

Yes, we often look back on the past days of fishing as something wonderful. We remember the numbers of fish as being greater and the size being bigger. Perhaps it is our memory playing tricks on us and simply remembering the wonder of fishing.

In recent days I've had the good fortune to look at old log books from decades past. The memories are captured in the writing and unless the writers are liars, and I think that doubtful, we have lost a great deal. Those written memories tell of better days.

Take a moment to think about the past. In most instances you will bring up stories and experiences that suggest we have lost a great many of the pleasures we once enjoyed. Yes there are a few positive pictures, like the successful changes in lake fishing. For the most part there are only memories.

The challenge for all of us is to make those memories live again. To do so we need to work together to acknowledge what we've lost, to identify what we have and work towards reclaiming the past glories of our fisheries. We do this by becoming informed and involved.

The BCFFF is a team of people made up of a board, committees, clubs and direct members. Each has a role to play in accomplishing the task of reclaiming our past glories. The board and committees work to identify, inform, support and lobby on matters regarding our fisheries. Our clubs and direct members have the important roles. They inform all of us of regional issues and act as representatives for us on those issues while actually doing work at the grass root level

The following is an incomplete, but current list of important issues facing us:

- Aquaculture (fish farming practices and their effect on anadromous fish)
- The declining numbers of steelhead and salmon (many causes)

Alien species introduction (lakes and rivers are being affected by - The introduction of various species that could put our fisheries at risk)
- Independent Power Projects (some of the over 400 projects may have a serious effect on fish and habitat)

Take time to understand issues, ask questions, inform others, be part of the action by constructively supporting fisheries and your fellow fly angler. Time is running out, so act now. Be informed and involved.

If we can all stay informed and get involved we can make a difference. We can reclaim the past glories.

Pat Micek

A HALF CENTURY OF FIGHTING FOR FISH



British Columbia's oldest fly-fishing club has honored one of B.C.'s longest-serving and most-respected fish advocates with the prestigious Roderick Haig-Brown Conservation Award. Totem Flyfishers of B.C. president Ehor Boyanowsky cited Terrace resident Jim Culp's "lifetime of dedication to fish and fish habitat".

Culp's career as a fish advocate began 52 years ago, when the then high-school student joined the Port Coquitlam Hunting and Fishing Club. He had a decade of experience in fish advocacy before the Totem Flyfishers came into being. He became the Coquitlam club's secretary when he was in grade 11. Soon thereafter he and one other represented the club at meetings of the B.C. Wildlife Association's Lower Mainland Zone.

From then on, Culp has been a tireless and respected spokesman for fish, fish habitat, and anglers. He has raised his concerns at every political

level—municipal, regional, provincial, and federal. His style is typified in the major role he played in a small committee later named in a B.C, Wildlife Federation conservation award given to the Port Coquitlam Hunting and Fishing Club. The committee succeeded in “significantly” reducing the flow of silt entering Coquitlam River from a stream that cut through property originally owned by Deeks McBride and then by Lafarge Cement.

During his two years working on the site, Culp befriended Lafarge superintendent Mel Earl who promised that, if permitted to operate another four years, the company would give its cleaned-up property—including a pond—to the community. The promise was kept, and the pond and its surroundings are now a green oasis in the community. Dubbed Lafarge Lake, the pond provides a little-known but much-appreciated put-and-take trout fishery.

Culp was also active in the small but determined ROSS Committee—which stopped Seattle Light and Power from increasing its Ross Lake storage capacity, and thereby prevented the drowning of the Skagit River upstream of Ross Lake. The Run-Out-Skagit-Spoilers and the Totem Flyfishers were formed in the same year, 1967.

**Jim putting
one back**

Art Lingren photo

Also in the late 60s, Culp and a handful of BC Wildlife Federation members met at



the Nanaimo Rod and Gun Club to establish a committee dedicated to the concerns of steelhead fishermen. The meeting led to the founding of the

Steelhead Society of British Columbia in 1970. Culp, a founding member, was the Society's third president.

In 1974, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans appointed Culp to the Skeena Salmon Advisory Board the significance of which is that every board member but one represented the commercial fishing industry. The exception was Culp, who represented sport fishers.

Culp calls the period from 1979 to 1992 his "busiest" years. His 20 years of volunteering with the Sport Fishing Advisory Board began in 1979. He and others fashioned the Terrace/Kitsumkalem Salmon Enhancement Society in 1982, but the First Nation members soon withdrew. Culp served the reorganized and re-named society—the Terrace Salmonid Society—for many years, as salmon hatchery manager, board member, and director.

Also in 1982, Culp was elected regional director for Thornhill, Terrace's across-the-Skeena "suburb". His six-year stint as the DFO's North Coast Restoration Fisheries Advisor and Sport Fishing Ombudsman began the next year. In 1985, Culp initiated a change in angling regulations —from a total angling closure on a section of the Morice River to fly fishing with dry or wading flies only. The change successfully protected spawning Chinooks and permitted angling for co-mingling steelhead.

In 1991, Culp led an initiative that created interim employment for 60 Terrace area residents, including eco-centered jobs such as creel censuses on the Skeena and Kitimat rivers, and restoring fish passage on the Kitimat River and Williams Creek. Somewhere along the way, he was feted with a National Recreational Fisheries Award for his contribution to sport fishing.

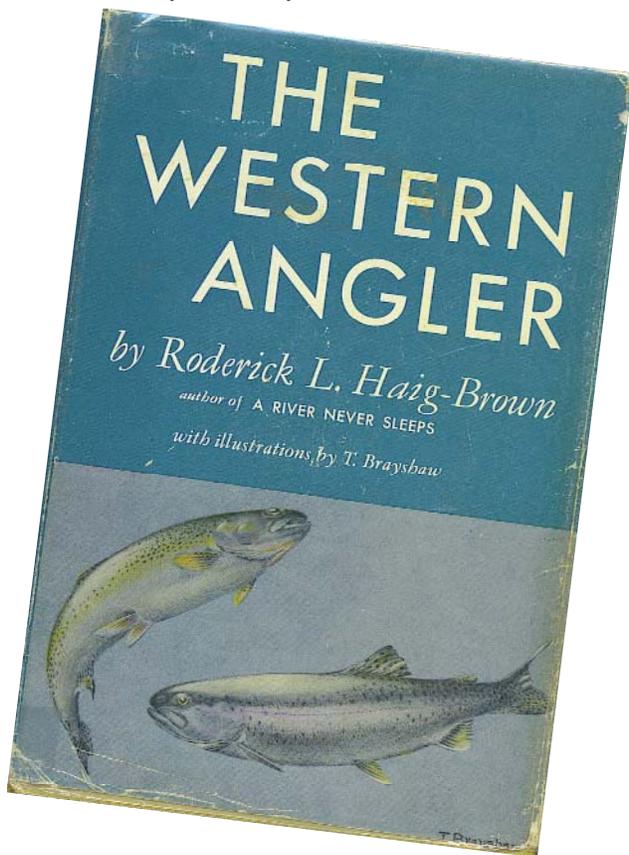
Culp got a blast from the past in the form of a Streamkeepers Award in 2003. He's still dazzled that his struggles to protect Hoy Creek, one of his boyhood haunts in Coquitlam, were honored half a century after the fact. He'd almost forgotten those efforts. Almost.

Pete Broomhall,
Feb. 16/08

ABOUT RODERICK HAIG-BROWN

The following is reconstructed from a short address to the Totem Flyfishers of British Columbia at the club's February 19, 2008 dinner meeting. Fellow Totem and well known fly-fisher, fly-tier, photographer, and author Art Lingren had invited me to say a few words at the conclusion of his main event slide presentation honoring the centenary of the February 21, 1908 birth of Campbell River's legendary judge, angler, conservationist and writer Roderick Haig-Brown. Lingren generously suggested it would be appropriate for me to say a few words since I am among a small and rapidly diminishing number of people who knew Haig-Brown.

Fellow Totems and guests. Everyone here knows of Roderick Haig-Brown. After all, we are anglers, and Haig-Brown is an icon in the angling fraternity. Many, if not most of us, have gone beyond knowing *of* to knowing something, or a considerable amount, *about* him. Like most other anglers, I came to know, respect, and admire Roderick Haig-Brown mainly through his writing. But unlike most other anglers, I didn't begin with his fishing books but with his tales of adventure, with *Starbuck Valley Winter* and *Panther* for example. *The Western Angler* established his reputation as a thinker and writer in 1939, when Haig-Brown was 31 and I was four. Reading is still the best way to know writers, and I'll get back to that, but first something about Haig-Brown and the spoken word.



Those fortunate enough to have talked with Haig-Brown know he was an engaging conversationalist, and those fortunate enough to have heard him address audiences know he was an attention-holding public speaker, perhaps even a formidable one. I've heard him speak on fisheries management on several occasions, two of which are particularly memorable.

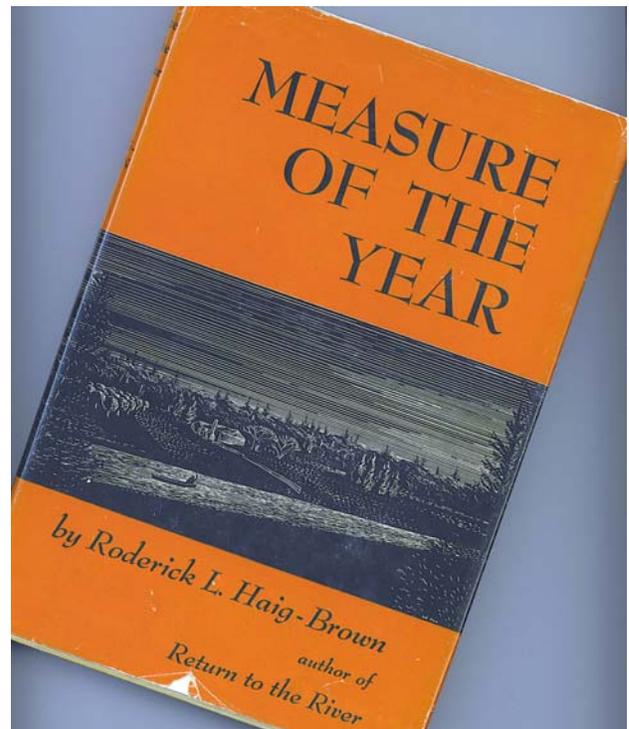
The first was in 1958 when Haig-Brown addressed the Capilano Rod and Gun Club in West Vancouver. He discussed the provincial government's

woeful ignorance of and indifference to dedicated steelhead fishers—which directly led to rescinding of the salmon roe and egg ban on Vancouver Island in 1956, and a consequent decline in steelhead and cutthroat trout stocks.

The second was 15 years later when he urged the Steelhead Society’s Annual General Meeting not to accept hatchery steelhead as alternatives to sound steelhead management. His audience hung on his words.

Most magical, for me, was witnessing Haig-Brown talk to a grade six class at Discovery Elementary School in Campbell River in 1968. He had accepted a student teacher’s invitation to talk about writing and publishing. The student teacher introduced him to her class immediately following the day-commencing formalities. He talked to the students, asked questions, and answered theirs, was never condescending, always attentive, yet at ease. It took the recess bell to break the spell.

Haig-Brown once told me he wrote and rewrote until the writing sounded right. If you haven’t yet read some of his work aloud, you owe it to yourself to do so. I’ll read two short Haig-Brown passages aloud here—to demonstrate the nuances of sound and rhythm that infuse his work, but mostly to give him the last word. The first passage comes from *Measure of the Year*, published in 1950. The second is from *Bright Waters, Bright Fish*, which Haig-Brown completed one month before he died—in October 1976—but which was not published till 1980. Much can be said, and much has been said, about what Haig-Brown has written. The words speak for themselves, too.



“The Big Fir,” from *Measure of the Year*

Once the Big Fir was shaded by other trees as large and larger, packed all about it in the heavy forest. The Indians had a smoke house within a hundred feet of it then and beached their

canoes within reach of its shadow. I have found myself fishing and swimming and planting seeds in the same shadow, and I have sheltered new-born lambs and nursed them to life in its lee. The first trail up the river passed near it and the first skid road and the first wagon road. It is only a mass of wood, pitch-seamed, diseased, and rotten, with no more than a spark of giant life remaining in a narrow strip of sapwood. There are probably a million other great trees like it on Vancouver Island, overmature, moribund, without significance except perhaps in the seed they throw. Only a sentimentalist could give importance to such a thing. Yet I shall look up at the Big Fir a thousand times or more before I die, and never without emotion.

From *Bright Waters, Bright Fish*

The philosophy of it all? Perhaps it can be summed up rather simply: The resource is a trust, and the first responsibility of angler, manager, scientist and politician is to ensure its protection and perpetuation. Others who come after us will need it. Following upon this, a first concept is that the resource belongs to the people of Canada, but the sport, its values, traditions, standards and ethics, belong to the anglers themselves and is in the care and keeping of anglers everywhere. The value of it all? It is worth as much or as little as people find in it: as little as an hour or two of happiness in a small child's day (if that is little) or as much as a long lifetime of happiness and sophisticated contentment. Measured in terms of the millions of men, women and children who turn to angling for the pleasure that comes from active participation in the world's true wealth of unspoiled natural things, this is happiness in massive amounts, harming no one, benefiting everyone. And the pleasure and happiness of bright fish in bright waters has deep meaning for many people who are not anglers at all.

Peter Broomhall

BCFFF FLY FISHING

WITH BRIAN CHAN, PHIL ROWLEY & PETER MORRISON

NANAIMO - TRADE SHOW

**APRIL 26, 2008, 9 AM TO 4 PM
GRAND HOTEL, NANAIMO**

**Haig-Brown memorabilia. Hardy, Sage and Grey's
Rods & Reels. Snowbee's, Beulah, RST & Fishpond's
equipment. Collectible fly fishing books. Stillwater
Solutions material. Private collection of bamboo rods
& Hardy Reels. Local vendors with
rod building & fly fishing materiel for sale.
Continuous Fly Tying demos by Island Clubs**

**Phil Rowley at the bench
Brian Chan on Chironomids**

FLY FISHING OPEN HOUSE

**APRIL 27, 2008, 10 AM TO 3 PM
NANAIMO FISH & GAME CLUB**

**Phil Rowley seminar on fly selection
Peter Morrison on choosing the right rod
Sage casting analyzer
Spey casting with Courtney Ogilvie
Joie Coe, FFF certified caster
Harold Tinling with the "Casting Challenge"**

FLY FISHING EDUCATION

April 27, 2008, 10 am to 3 pm
Nanaimo fish & game club

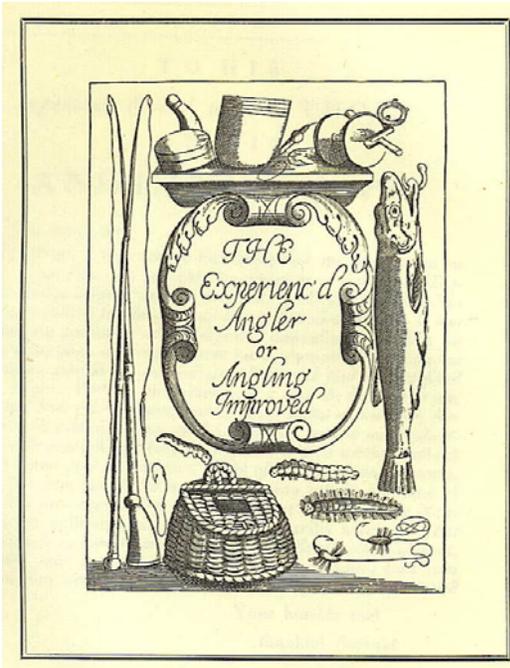
Phil Rowley: Seminar on fly selection
Peter Morrison: Choosing the right rod and Sage casting analyzer
Courtenay Ogilvie: Spey casting
Joie Coe: FFF certified caster
Harold Tirling: Casting Challenge Game

Lunch will be sold by the Archery Club at the club house



Art Lingren's Note: Recently I read Robert Venables book, published in 1623, and found the following observations quite interesting. Although written in the Old English prose of 400 years ago, the text is quite readable and much of the observations and the advice Mr. Venable gives is worthy of consideration today.

The Experienced Angler by Colonel Robert Venable



Directions in making the artificial flie.

1. In making the artificial Flie, chiefly observe the belly of the Flie, for that colour the fish most take notice of, as being most in their eye.

2. When you try how to fit your colour of the Flie, wet your Fur, Hair, Wool, or Moccado, otherwise you will fail in your work ; for though when those materials are dry, they exactly sute the colour of the Flie, yet the water will alter most colours, and make them either brighter or darker.

3. Flies made for the Salmon are much better being made with four Wings, than if of two onely, and with six better then

them of four ; and if behind each pair of wings you place a different colour for the body of the flie, it is much the better : and this in my judgement argueth that he loveth to have several flies on the hook at once, for the flie looketh as if it were divers flies together.

Cautions for the use of the artificial Flie.

1. When you angle with the artificial flie, you must either fish in a River not fully cleared from some rain lately fallen, that had discoloured it; or in a Moorish River discoloured by moss or bogs ; or else in a dark, cloudy day, when a gentle gale of wind moves the water ; but if the wind be high, yet so as you may guide your tools with advantage, they will rise in the plain Deeps, and then and there you -will commonly kill the best Fish ; but if the wind be little or none at all, you must Angle in the swift streams.

2. You must keep your artificial flie in continual motion, though the day be dark, water muddy, and wind blow, or else the Fish will discern and refuse it.

3. If you Angle in a River that is mudded by rain, or passing through mosses or bogs, you must use a larger bodied Flie than ordinary; which argues that in clear Rivers the Flie must be smaller, and this not being observed by some, hindreth their sport, and they impute their want of success to the want of the right Flie, when perhaps they have it, but made too large.

Directions upon the water and its colours.

1. If the water be clear and low, then use a small bodied Flie with slender wings.

2. When the water beginneth to clear after rain, and is of a brownish colour, then a red or Orange Flie.

3. If the day be clear, then a light-coloured Flie, with slender body and wings.

4. In dark weather as well as dark waters, your Flie must be dark.

5. If the water be of a Whey-colour or whitish, then use a black or brown Flie : yet these five last Rules do not always hold ; for there is no general but admits of particular exceptions, though usually in clearest mountainous or Rivers they do, or else I had altogether omitted them.

6. When you Angle with an artificial Flie, your Line be twice the length of your Rod, except the River be much cumbred with wood and trees,

7. For every sort of Flie have three, one of a lighter co another sadder than the natural Flie, and a third of the exact colour with the Flie, to sute all waters and weather before.

8. I could never find (by any experience of mine own or other mens observation) that Fish would freely and eagerly rise at the artificial Flie, in any slow muddy River ? by muddy Rivers I mean such Rivers, whose bottom or ground is slime or mud : for such as are mudded by rain (as I have already and shall afterwards further shew) at some times and sea I would choose to angle, yet in standing Meers or Loughs have known them (in a good wind) to rise very well, but so in slimy Rivers, either Weever in Cheshire, or Sow in Staffordshire, etc. and others in Warwickshire, and Blackwater in Ulster; in the last,

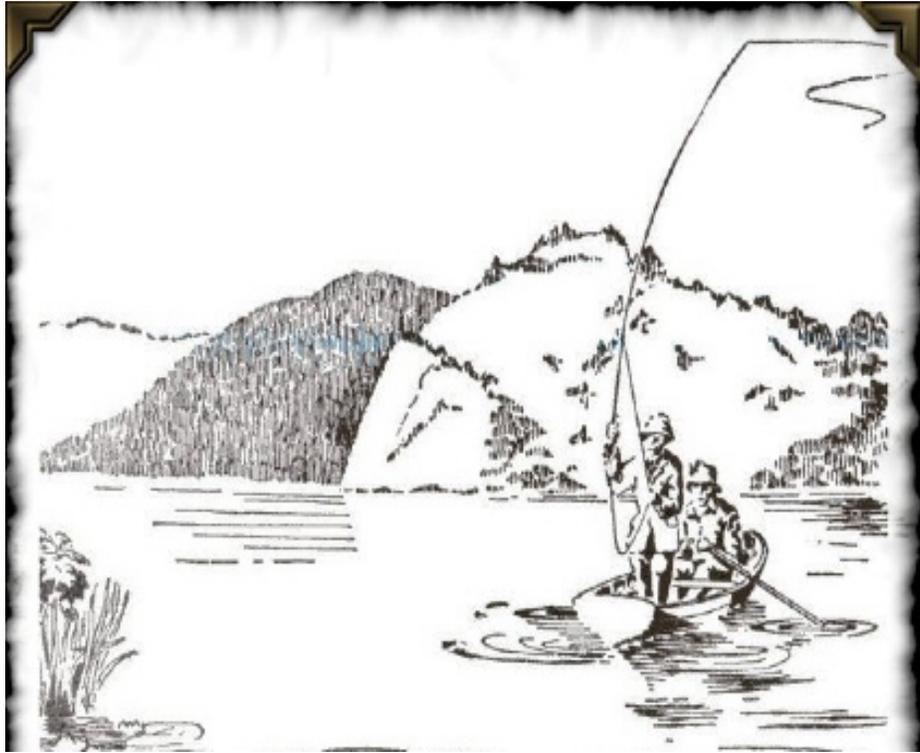
after many trials, I could never find (though in its best streams) almost any sport, save at its flux into Lough Neagh, but there the working of the Lough makes it sandy; and they will bite also near Tome Shanes, Castle, Mountjoy, Antrim, etc. even to admiration ; yet sometimes they will rise in that River a little, but not comparable to what they will do in every little Lough, in any small gale of wind : And though I have often reasoned in my own thoughts to search out the true cause of this, yet I could never so fully satisfy my own judgment, so as to conclude anything positively ; yet have taken up these two ensuing particulars as most probable.

Two conjectures why Fish rise not well at the artificial Flie in slimy Rivers.

1. I did conceive the depth of the Loughs might hinder the force of the Sunbeams from operating upon, or heating mud, which in those Rivers (though deep, yet not so deep much as the Loughs) I apprehend it doth, because in great droughts fish bite but little in any River, but nothing at all in slimy Rivers, in regard the mud is not cooled by the constant and swift motion of the River, as in gravelly or sandy Rivers, where (in fit seasons) they rise most freely, and bite most eagerly, save as before in droughts, notwithstanding at that season some sport may be had, (though not with the flie) whereas nothing at all will be done in muddy slow Rivers.

2. My second supposition was, Whether (according to that old received Axiom, *suo quceque simillima coelo*) the fish might not partake of the nature of the River, in which they are bred and live, as we see in men born in fenny, boggy, low, moist grounds, and thick air, who ordinarily want that present quickness, vivacity and activity of body and mind, which persons born in dry, hilly, sandy Soils and clear Air, are usually endued withall : And so the fish participating of the nature of muddy Rivers, which are ever slow, (for if they were swift, the stream would cleanse them from all mud) are not so quick,

KAMLOOPS MUSEUM – The British Columbia Fly Fishing Gallery



January 18, 2008 saw the opening of the long awaited B.C. Fly Fishing Museum. Originally conceived by the B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers and orchestrated with the Kamloops Museum by member Grant Stevens, the exhibit has been finally completed. Approximately sixty people attended including council members from the City of Kamloops, contributors Alf Davy, Dwayne Scott and Bill Jollymore. Also present was Brian Chan of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Ken Burgess with the Kalamalka Fly Fishers and Bob Hamaguchi from Highland Valley Copper (financial donors), and other VIPs. The Kamloops Fly Fishers assisted as tour guides and Past President, Paul Zaharia, and Director, Len Piggan, were at the fly tying table. Deputy Mayor, John De Cicco, gave opening remarks from the City and cut the ribbon to celebrate the occasion. Ample refreshments were provided by the museum.

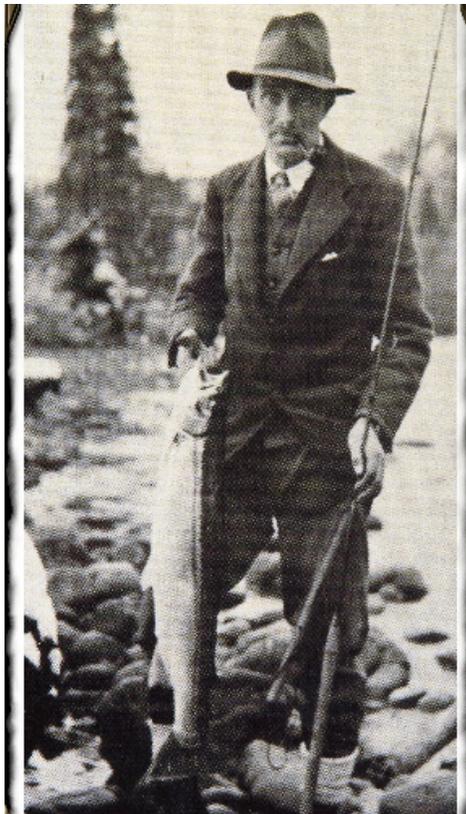
Commencing in 1997, with a donation of BCFFF memorabilia and startup funds from member clubs, the museum has attracted many other contributions. A substantial portion of the fly fishing display is from the Alf Davy collection of rods, reels, books and framed fly panels. Dwayne Scott and Bill Jollymore offered artifacts from the days of guide Bill Nation at Echo Lodge on Paul Lake. Cane rod building tools, rods, flies and other equipment,

from the estate of Tommy Brayshaw, were given by former fishing partner Charlie Thomas of Hope, B.C.. Ralph Shaw, from Vancouver Island, who is presently compiling a book of Jack Shaw's journals, donated Jack's aluminum fishing punt.

Through the generous funding by the City of Kamloops, the past year saw major strides in the completion of the "B.C. Fly Fishing Gallery". The third museum curator to work on this project, Dennis Oomen, has done an excellent job. His current remake of other areas in the museum will reflect his talent. We also thank Director Manager, Elisabeth Duckworth, and other staff members for their capable assistance.

The Kamloops Museum, together with the Kamloops Fly Fishers, will be hosting an Open House on April 11th for interested parties who were unable to attend the January opening.

Gary Cutler – (Kamloops Fly Fishers Assn. and BCFFF Museum Committee



Tommy Brayshaw











To celebrate the 2008 Fly Fishing Season, please join the Kamloops Fly Fishing club at the Kamloops Museum & Archives on Friday, April 11th 9:30 to 4:30

The members will gladly give you a guided tour of the new British Columbia Fly Fishing Gallery that opened in January 2008. Learn about the local fishing sport, rods, reels and the wonderful history of fly fishing in B.C,

In the afternoon, members from the Kamloops Fly Fishing Club will be demonstrating fly tying.

On display are artifacts from Bill Nation, Jack Shaw and Tommy Brayshaw

This new permanent exhibit is a collaborative effort between the Kamloops Museum & Archives, The B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers and the fly fishing clubs from around the Province of British Columbia.

***2nd Annual
High School Fly Fishing Championships
Date; April 27 2008
Place; Sun Valley Trout Farm-Mission B.C.***

What started out as one after school fly-fishing club, in Maple Ridge B.C, has now grown to beyond our wildest expectations with 3 schools on board and 2 more hoping to join in September. There are a total of roughly 32 students involved and the numbers keep growing. My name is Randy Morgan and I am the owner of “Hatch Match’r Fly and Tackle” in Maple Ridge and the club coordinator for each school. Our annual tournament is the highlight of the year for each school club as they compete against each other for bragging rights and a beautiful trophy that is displayed at their school for 1 year. As the number of students continue to grow so does the need for prizes. Each student will go home with something and there are 10 individual prizes for top performers as well as the grand prize of a belly boat, 2 fly rod combo’s, fly boxes and enough leaders and tippet for the entire school team. I was hoping that I could count on your donation of a prize(s) to help make this event a huge success. I will post the company name of each donator and if you donate one of the 10 top prizes and/or an item(s) for the grand prize, your company name will be attached to each item.(Send your company logo stickers so that you are easily recognized.)

Funding from the schools, as you know, is pretty much nonexistent but thanks to the tireless help from teachers and volunteers our clubs have been doing quite well. Fund raisers are a regular feature at our store, to help pay for outings, fuel, food etc. and loaner equipment is always available to the schools, helping the students that are less fortunate. We want our clubs to be self sufficient and non reliant on the school system but we are always on the lookout for good quality used equipment such as vises, flytying tools, vests, flytying materials, rods/reels etc.etc. If you could pass the word along to anyone that is interested that would also be greatly appreciated. They can get in touch with me at the shop.

As mentors we must use the sport we love to ensure its future now and forever.

We need to create the next generation of educated, dedicated and concerned stewards to help conserve our fragile resources. These kids will in turn become

the committed, caring individuals that will insist on positive environmental change. **Education is not an option but a priority.** There is no better place to start the process than to educate our children now and they in turn will become mentors for the next generation of apprentices.

Thank you in advance for your time and generosity and if we all work together my hope is that each school will eventually have enough gear to outfit any student interested in pursuing the sport we all love so much.

Please call Randy @ (604) 467-7118 for more details or if you would like to volunteer at the championship or if you have things to donate.

People Power - It Can Work!

We struggle with the issues of the day and they seem daunting and impossible. Our governments, the people that we elected to run our world, seem to be bent on destroying the things that we hold important. They don't appear to listen to our concerns. They devise 'processes' for our participation that must be designed to wear us down, one meeting after another. It is so easy to question the worth of it all; to think about packing it in.

However, in the last few weeks we have seen that the efforts we expend to express our concerns as citizens can be effective. There have been two major successes in the grindingly frustrating process of dealing with run of river hydro development and with fish farming on the North Coast.

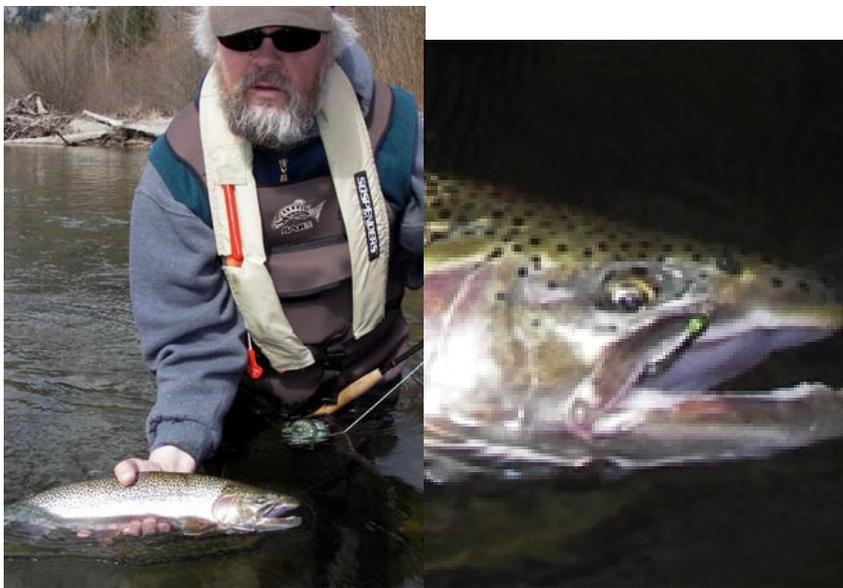
The recent announcement from the Provincial Minister of Environment that the "run of river" transmission line proposed through Pinecone-Burke Provincial Park is unacceptable was surprising and welcome. This new government position was the direct result of the hard work of many. The very large turnout of a huge number of passionate citizens at three public meetings called to address the park boundary change and the environmental assessment process was pivotal in changing the government mindset. The first meeting was held in Squamish and the third in Mission. The second meeting saw 300 folks in a too-small facility that was shut down by the Pitt Meadows fire marshal. At the second Pitt Meadow's meeting, two weeks later, there were over 1000 people in a larger Pitt Meadows school gymnasium, with latecomers waiting outside in the rain to come in. No one at this meeting, except the proponent's crew, was in favour of either the park boundary change or the development of hydro facilities, and other infrastructure, on all of the major tributaries of the

Upper Pitt River. This fight is not over yet but a major battle, the park boundary issue, has been won.

On the heels of the Pitt announcement came another press release from the provincial Minister of Agriculture and Lands. There is to be a moratorium on fish farm development north of Klemtu on the northern coast of the province. Since 2005, *Friends of Wild Salmon* (FOWS) has led a unified public outcry against salmon farms that brought together First Nations, conservationists, commercial fishermen, anglers, and local municipalities. Over 7,000 people signed declarations calling for a moratorium. Polling confirmed that over 70 percent of northerners oppose fish farms. FOWS are relieved that there will be no fish farms in the North, however they have vowed to continue to support neighbours in southern BC who are struggling to protect wild salmon from the impacts of fish farms.

These successes are shining examples of what is possible through people power. It isn't easy. It isn't quick. It isn't without failures. These successes should energize us and keep us fighting the good fight for these values that we hold dear!!

Pete Caverhill/ Gil Sage



Cover picture by Peter Caverhill of Steve Hanson and Large Cutthroat - Fishing the Bella Coola River - March 2006