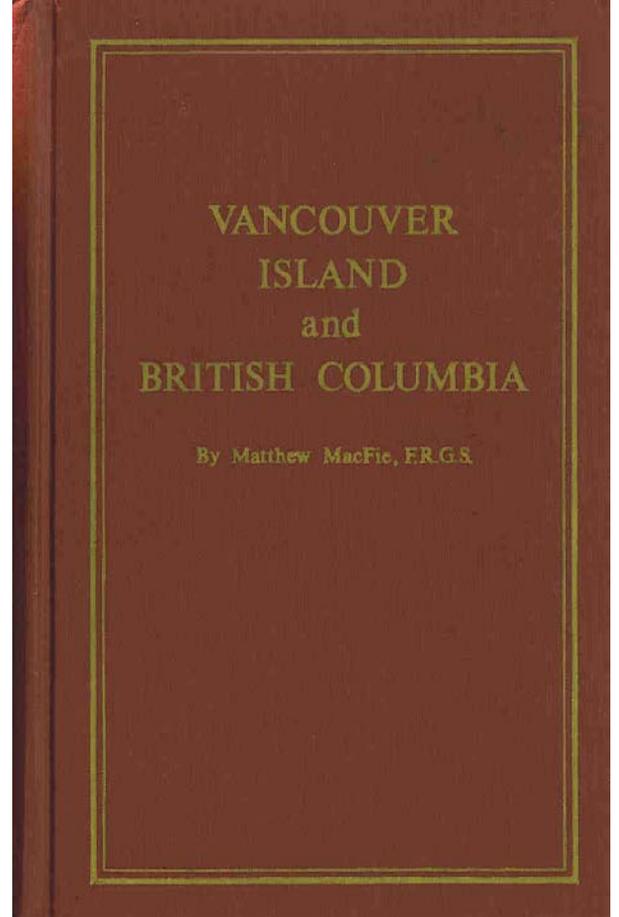


Vancouver Island's Fly- Fishing Heritage

**By Art Lingren
May 2004**



Published in 1865, MacFie's book is one of the earliest published on the two colonies



Vancouver Island's fly fishing heritage is entwined with that of the Hudson Bay Company (HBC). Founded in 1670, the HBC was given exclusive rights to trade in Northern North America. Over the next century and a half, the Company expanded from its Hudson Bay beginnings, pushing west to the Pacific Ocean and including the coast from what is now British Columbia as far south as Northern California. However, in 1843, as a result of a dispute with the Americans, the HBC moved its main southwestern headquarters from Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River to Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island. In 1849 Vancouver Island became a colony of Great Britain and remained a separate colony until joined with British Columbia, on the mainland, to form one colony in 1866.

Vancouver Island is probably the only colony in the British Empire that has its origins based on fly fishing. In the mid-1800s, it was commonly believed that Pacific salmon would not take the fly. Indeed, it was also rumoured that England's Foreign Secretary in the 1840s, Lord Aberdeen (on the advice of his brother-in-law, Captain John Gordon, who had actually fished for Pacific Coast salmon), suggested giving Washington and Oregon to the Americans to avoid war.



The Salmon: The fish that decided the boundary of a country
Art Lingren Photo

The territory was evidently not considered worth fighting for simply because the Pacific salmon would not take the fly! That story--a favourite along the Pacific Coast--circulated for many years. Clearly, Captain Gordon was not impressed with the country he saw or with the methods used for catching Pacific salmon. He concluded that he would not give "the most barren hills in the Highlands of Scotland" for all he saw on the Pacific Coast (Akrigg, *British Columbia Chronicle: 1778-1846*, p. 378).

It was that lack of resolve to protect British interests, which were simply those of the HBC, that resulted in the HBC giving up its claim to the lands south of the 49th parallel. This solidified Fort Victoria as the HBC base for its Vancouver Island operations.

Once Vancouver Island became part of the British Empire, it became a regular call for British ships as well as a place of adventure for British gentry to explore. They found a land rich in fish and game. Captain W. R. Kennedy, of the British man-of-war HMS Reindeer, sailed into Esquimalt Harbour on June 22, 1873. The ship spent the summer months at Esquimalt and Kennedy sampled the Island's sport. After he returned to England, he recorded his travels in *Sporting Adventures in the Pacific*, published in 1876. About Vancouver Island and its sport, he writes:

To my mind Vancouver [Island] is one of the most delightful of our colonies, combining as it does the rare attractions of pleasant society, lovely scenery, and good sport with rod and gun. . . . There is capital sea-trout fishing at the mouths of the lagoons, with fly; the fish take best at the turn of the tide, and good trout may also be taken in any of the numerous lakes in the island. (p. 190)

Ever since Captain Gordon made the claim about Pacific salmon not taking the fly, fly fishers in the new colony tried to prove him wrong. During his stay on Vancouver Island,

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Kennedy visited and fished the Chemainus River. About the trout fishing and salmon rising to the fly, Captain Kennedy writes:



A late 19th Century Chemainus River Photograph

Title: The Fishermen's Resort, Chemainus River, Mount Sicker

There is good trout fishing in the Chemainus river, and salmon also frequent it. One of the settlers showed us the water, and also the latest style of fly-fishing. Having hooked a trout of two pound, he turned his back upon the river and walked up the bank with his rod over his shoulder, dragging out the fish by the "hair of the head." In one pool we saw several large salmon, which we tried in vain to catch; my companion C _____ rose one to the fly and hooked it, but it broke away. This proves that salmon in Vancouver [Island] will rise to a fly, a fact which has always been disputed. (pp. 197-8)

Captain Kennedy's visit to Chemainus took place during the month of August, when they made a trip up-Island to get spars for the ship. The fish that he thought were salmon may have been coho, but were more likely summer-run steelhead. We will never know for sure which fish was hooked on that August day, but I expect this passage is the first written documentation of a summer-run steelhead risen and hooked on the fly on

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Vancouver Island. Others came to sample the sport that the Island offered and a few penned recollections of the sport they found. During the last part of the 19th Century and into the early 20th Century three rivers—the Cowichan, the Campbell and the Stamp—became famous for different types of fishing.

The Cowichan

Never has a British Columbia river received such attention and accolades in its early days as did the Cowichan. Even princes of the realm came to fish this jewel of Vancouver Island. Most of British Columbia's coastal rivers are not insect rich, and, in reality, produce little food. Some salmon use the nutrient-poor streams only for spawning and the fry migrate to sea as soon as they pop through the gravel. However, trout and coho salmon rear in them, often taking one to three years to become smolts before they migrate to the sea and grow large. Unique to the Cowichan Valley, and noted by Colonial Office explorers in the mid-1800s, is the type of surrounding soils and geology. This watershed contains minerals that, when leached into the water, produce a more nutrient-rich water than the average coastal situation. These nutrients create a prodigious insect life and food for the river's fish.



The brown trout was introduced to the Cowichan in 1932

Art Lingren photo

In the early days, the Cowichan became famous as the stream on Vancouver Island to take winter steelhead on the fly. Cutthroat and rainbow are the native trout species of this river. In 1932 the Cowichan received its first and largest plant of imported European brown trout. Just over 300,000 eggs were hatched at the Lake Cowichan hatchery. 176,000 fry were released into the Cowichan River and 50,000 into the Little Qualicum River. The balance of these fry were reared in ponds at the hatchery and released as one-year and two-year olds in 1933 and 1934. With good mayfly, stonefly, and caddisfly populations, as well as salmon fry and salmon eggs in season to eat, the habitat suited the brown trout. They can grow large and, indeed, some of these fish reach steelhead size.

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Bucktails dressed by Bob Giles Art Lingren Photo

Cowichan River habitat suits the coho salmon exceptionally well. Sometime in the 1920s, the prolific runs of returning coho salmon drew fly fishers' attention to Cowichan Bay. In the early days of the sport, fly fishing for coho was uniquely British Columbian. It was practiced by early British visitors and evolved over a

number of years, from the cast to the trolled fly. Moreover, with the introduction of hairwings flies (or "bucktails" as they became known) the flies became larger and, eventually, difficult to cast. Fly fishers of the day found that trolling these larger flies was more productive. The term "bucktailing" was born to describe a trolled fly made from the hair of a deer's tail.



*Wild flowers border the Cowichan in the spring and summer
Art Lingren Photo*

Even with its depleted stock of winter-run steelhead, the Cowichan River remains one of Vancouver Island's premier fly-fishing waters. On any given day you will find members of the Cowichan Fly Fishers wandering its river bank trails or floating its riffles and pools in pursuit of its game fish.

The Campbell

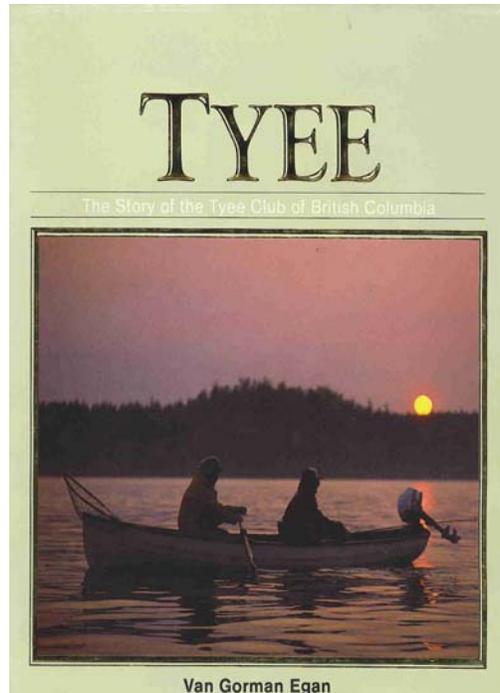
Sometime in the 1860s, salmon attracted the first sport fishers to the Campbell River area.

However, the Campbell River really started to become a destination

sport fishery for those with time and money in 1896. This was the year that Sir Richard Musgrove caught his 70-pound tyee, the largest ever caught on rod and line up

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to that time. Ever after, chinook salmon fishing off the mouth of the river would have its devotees, who eventually formed the Tyee Club of British Columbia to govern such a world-class fishery. But, this was not fly fishing.



Van Egan documented the Tyee Club History in his book, Tyee

Some anglers who came seeking the monster tyees also brought along their fly rods and wandered up the river. H. W. Gordon of the Royal Engineers was with Musgrove on his 1896 trip and in Musgrove's *Field* article he says that, "Gordon got four of about 3 pounds apiece with a fly."

Nonetheless, it was the salmon fishing that drew most sportfishers to the area. In recent years, salt-water coho salmon fly fishing has become the in thing to do. Many neophytes think they are breaking new ground but few know that this aspect of the sport was in its infancy 100 years ago. It was on the waters fronting Campbell River that fly fishers, in the early 20th century, developed fly fishing techniques for the scrappy coho. Dr. T. W. Lambert did not fish Campbell River, but he included a Mr. A. Duncan's salt water coho fly fishing testimonial in *Fishing in British Columbia* (1907). About the sport Mr. Duncan says:

The coho salmon will take a fly: white with silver tinsel, I found best. They take in the sea at sunrise and sunset when they are jumping--in fact, more could be got in this way while they are actually jumping than by trolling, only they must be jumping and also fairly plentiful. I have got an odd one casting, but nearly all by trailing the fly. They give splendid sport on a light trout rod. The largest I got last year (1903) was 12 lb. But they were not "running" this year, and I only got two of 7 lb. each on the fly. (p. 99)

A gut-eyed, well-tarnished Silver Doctor Art Lingren photo

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techniques today. They owe their origins to those early Campbell River fly fishermen. Sir John Rogers was another from past history who came to fish tye. He did, however, find good sport casting to coho and reported in his 1912 book that, "*the coho took a 2-inch Silver Doctor and rose steadily to the fly.* (Sport in Vancouver and Newfoundland, p. 69)"

Casting to showing fish and trailing the fly from a boat, which became known as bucktailing, are both popular

The Campbell River is Roderick Haig-Brown's river just as the Lea is Isaac Walton's, the Dove is Charles Cotton's, and the Stamp is General Noel Money's. Yet, the Campbell was a popular sport fishery for nearly half a century before writer/conservationist Haig-Brown came to live there.

Roderick Haig-Brown has had a profound influence on many North American fly fishers, including myself. As a city-dweller, and not familiar with river terminology, I remember dwelling over Haig-Brown's words in *The Western Angler*. Through his writings he taught me so much. In my early years, when I tried anything to catch a fish, Haig-Brown's writings planted the seed that led me to fly fishing. To me and many others, he is the father of steelhead fly fishing. Many fly fishers, visiting Vancouver Island, make the pilgrimage to Campbell River to see where the master wrote his great works and to cast a line into the waters he fished and made famous.

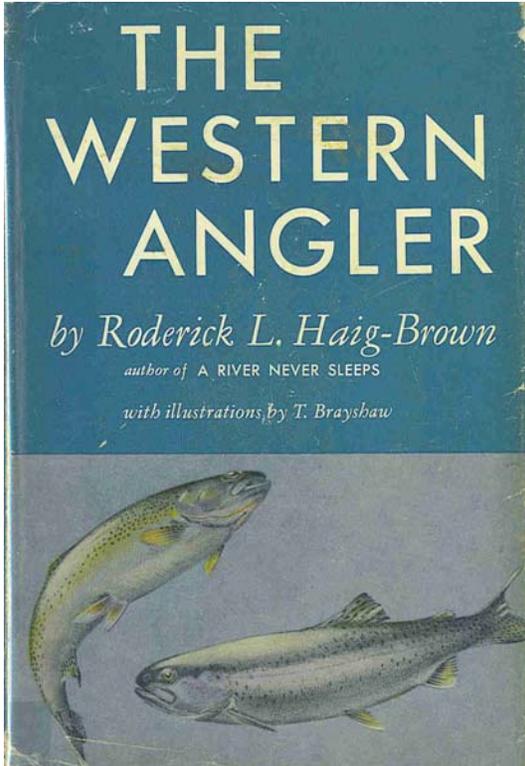
In 1927, at age 18, Roderick Haig-Brown came from England to North America. He initially worked in the USA for a Washington State forest company for some months. Unable to get an extension to his visa, he left the US and went to work in the Nimpkish Valley on Vancouver Island, north of Campbell River. I fondly remember a trip in the 1980s to the Nimpkish River with Haig-Brown's friend Van Egan. Here we visited some of Haig-Brown's Nimpkish haunts and fished some of the waters Haig-Brown fished, so many years ago. Often when I am giving talks to fly fishing clubs in the states, I like to joke with the Americans about their throwing Haig-Brown out of the country all those years before. We are fortunate that the Americans didn't extend his visa and that he came to British Columbia, settled permanently in Campbell River in 1933, married Ann Elmore in 1934, and purchased a 20-acre property, fronting the river, in 1935. Their new home was located just above the sea's tidal influence, and they named it "Above Tide." Here

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Rod and Ann raised a family and lived for the rest of their lives. Haig-Brown died, unexpectedly from a massive heart attack, in 1976. He left fly fishers a rich legacy.

His gift to fly fishers is his writing. Haig-Brown described himself as a writer who liked to fish rather than a fisherman who liked to write. There is a profound difference of which his prolific pen was testimony. Between 1931 and 1976 Haig-Brown wrote 25 books, contributed to many more, and wrote scores of magazine articles. Many of his books have had numerous printings with some being produced in other languages.

Haig-Brown's written productivity is underscored by Robert Cave who undertook the monumental task of detailing the writings of Haig-Brown. This took several years of research and work and resulted in the 332 page *Roderick Haig-Brown a Descriptive Bibliography*. The books about fish, fishing or rivers that he wrote during his 40 years in Campbell River are of most interest to anglers and include:



I cut my angling teeth on this book

The Western Angler--many a beginning angler cut their teeth reading this western classic; *Return to the River*--a story about the Columbia River chinook salmon; *A River Never Sleeps*--perhaps Haig-Brown's finest angling work; the four season's books *Fisherman's Spring*, *Fisherman's Summer*, *Fisherman's Fall* (which include essays on fly fishing Pacific Northwest waters) and *Fisherman's Winter* is about fly fishing in South America; *A Primer of Fly-Fishing*; *The Salmon of Canada*; and *Bright Waters*, *Bright Fish*, published posthumously in 1980, complete the list. Valerie Haig-Brown, who manages her father's writings, edited two more Haig-Brown fly-fishing books: *The Master and His Fish*, a series of essays on fly fishing and the latest, *To Know a River* is a selection of writings from those works he penned over 40 years.

No other writer has influenced more fly fishers to take up steelhead fly fishing than has Haig-Brown. Dry fly fishing for steelhead started on the Capilano River. Haig-Brown was aware of this and he began to experiment with dry flies for summer-runs, first on the Campbell and then later on other Vancouver Island streams. In *Fisherman's Summer* and *Fisherman's Fall* he wrote about his exploits fishing the dry fly for Vancouver Island summer-run steelhead. His successes influenced many to try this appealing technique. His Steelhead Bee is probably North America's most famous steelhead dry fly. I used his Bee as a model when I put together the "Skeena Steelhead Bee", which steelhead have

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found an appetizing dish on the Zymoetz and Bulkley rivers. Haig-Brown also developed a number of fly patterns for the trout of Vancouver Island, and some of these were actually the first ever British Columbia imitations of forage fishes and insects.

Rod Haig-Brown was much more than a writer of fishing books. He was a conservationist, educating many young environmentalists about our roles as stewards. He raised the ire of the Provincial Social Credit government of the day many times when he criticized blatant forestry, mining and other land use practices that were destroying fish habitat. This habitat loss was accepted as “matter- of- fact” by the leaders and by society.

After Haig-Brown died, the Haig-Brown home became a Heritage Property, with Ann Haig-Brown living there until her death in 1990. Visitors are welcome to walk the trails along Kingfisher creek, which flows through the property. The house is operated as a bed and breakfast and access to the house or the fenced lands surrounding the house are for guests or by permission only. The Campbell River will be forever remembered in the world of fly fishing as the place Roderick Haig-Brown used as the setting for so much of his writing.

The Stamp

The Stamp River was the home stream of General Noel Money. Campbell River's great sport for large tye salmon drew Money to British Columbia in 1913. On his way there he took a liking to Qualicum Bay and in 1914 he made Qualicum Beach his home. Shortly after Money settled in Qualicum Beach, war broke out and he returned to England, serving with distinction. After the armistice was declared, he returned home and opened the Qualicum Inn, which for the next half a century was a haven for Vancouver Island fishermen.



Noel Money picture from his Game Book

Since boyhood, Money recorded his sport with rod and gun in what he referred to as his “Game Book”. Consisting of three volumes, the books are now part of the University of British Columbia's Special Collections Division. An examination of the Game Book shows blank years during the war. The entries resumed in August of 1920 with notes about his cutthroating on Nile Creek where he successfully used a Professor, Grouse & Purple and Yellow Sally flies. Fishing the Stamp River for the first time on September 15, 1920 (a rainy day), Money fished in rising and colouring water for summer steelhead. In his Game Book for that day, he recorded the details of the day's catch:

Sept. 15th, 1920 10 1/2 lbs., 9 3/4 lbs., 7 3/4 lbs., 4 lbs., 7 1/2 lbs., 6 1/2 lbs. 6 total. Stamp River. Caught them on a 10 ft. 6 inch trout rod & a Dusty Miller. A grand morning's sport, in heavy water.

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For the next 20 years, the Stamp and General Money were inseparable. In 1922 Money built a cabin on the left bank overlooking what he called the Home Pool or Long Run. There he entertained the lords and ladies of the British aristocracy, including Canadian Governor Generals who came to fish with him. As well, Hollywood notables such as Spencer Tracy, Phil Harris and Warner Baxter joined him on the water. Over the years, Money named favourite fishing spots and pools such as the Black Rock, Junction Pool, One Log, Two Log, White Stone, Big Pool, Upper Ash Pool and First Below. Some names such as the White Stone (Haig-Brown called this the White Kidney Stone), One Log and Two Log are part of the Long Run or Home Pool, known now as Money's Run or Pool. The White Stone is still a place where summer-run steelhead lie.



General Noel Money's Fly Boxes and Fly Books with some of Tommy Brayshaw's Equipment Art Lingren Photo

Haig-Brown was new to steelhead fly fishing when, in the summer of 1939 (four years after Jock Scott documented Arthur Wood's technique in *Greased Line Fishing*), he introduced Money to the greased-line technique on the Stamp River. Though Money was late in years when Haig-Brown met him, the man had an ever-lasting influence on the young Campbell River writer. Haig-Brown was impressed enough that he dedicated his classic work, *The Western Angler* (1939) to Money:

To General Noel Money of Qualicum Beach, finest of western anglers, and to his own Stamp River, loveliest and most generous of western streams. (p. vii)

The General was highly regarded in British Columbia and, for years, his big McLaughlin Buick bore License plate number one. However, on February 16, 1937, *The Daily Province* reported:

General Noel Money of Qualicum, leading Vancouver Island sportsman, has lost the coveted "number 1" motor license plate of British Columbia. For many years General Money's car has carried the distinctive plate.

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When anglers saw the car with the No. 1 plate parked along the Island Highway roadside, it was a sure giveaway that cutthroat, steelhead or salmon were running in a nearby creek or river.

Very little of the Stamp/Somass watershed enjoys Park protection. The resource extraction and habitat loss sins of the past do haunt the future. The Ash and Stamp watersheds have partially recovered from early logging. However, second growth is now ripe and is being logged, possibly under a more “responsible” set of rules than applied in the very early days?

Poor ocean survival has affected the coho and steelhead stocks returning to the Stamp system, through the 1990s. However, in the past couple of years the returns of steelhead and coho have increased and many Vancouver Island fly fishers are enjoying renewed fishing success on this river. On any given day, members of the *Mid-Island Castaway Fly Fishers* of Qualicum Beach and Parksville, wearing caps sporting General Money's black-bodied and red-winged fly, can be found casting flies on Money's Pool or on pools in the lower Ash. They, and other fly fishers from Vancouver Island fly-fishing clubs, are continuing the time-honoured sport of steelhead fly fishing on the river where General Money's developed his skills which gave him the reputation as the premier fly fisher of Vancouver Island. Perhaps, it's time that we placed more importance on the historical significance of a river when considering angling regulations. If any water deserves “fly-fishing only” status on Vancouver Island, it is the Stamp River above Stamp Falls and the Ash River. The General's ghost would truly approve.



Joe Wilkinson and “Dad” Chisholm--A couple of old Stamp River Regulars Van Egan Photo 1955

A Fly-fishing-only regulation for the Stamp was first proposed decades ago. In the fall of 2003 I was searching the Haig-Brown files in Special Collections at the University of British Columbia for some Haig-Brown information. I didn't find what I was looking for,

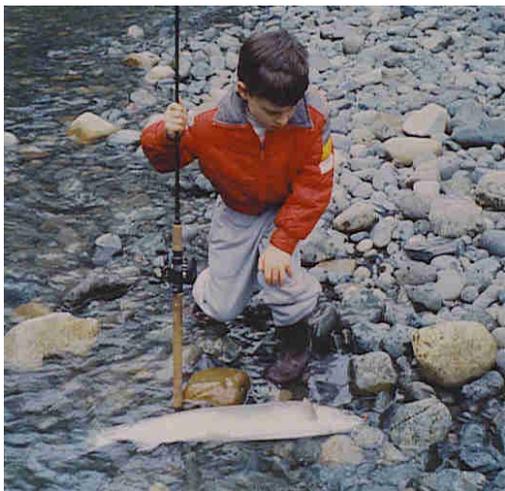
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but as I thumbed through letters of that era (1940s) I noticed a letterhead that caused me to pause and read. The Totem Fly Fishers of Vancouver are regarded as BC's first fly fishing club. However, it looks like that distinction may go to Vancouver Island and a long extinct club in the Alberni Valley. The letter that took me aback was to Haig-Brown, seeking his support for a request to the early Provincial Game Commission to make the Stamp River fly-fishing-only. I am pretty sure that the letterhead was from the "Port Alberni Fly Fishing Club" or possibly the "Alberni Valley Fly Fishing Club". One day I will go back to UBC and verify this. If true, this early group is probably British Columbia's first organized fly fishing club!

The Stamp River, in the world of steelhead fly fishing, will be forever known as General Money's river. It was named after Edward Stamp, who built the first for-export saw mill in British Columbia on Alberni inlet in the 1860s..

Other Vancouver Island Fishing Waters

It is true that the Campbell, Stamp and Cowichan draw many anglers to Vancouver Island in pursuit of sport with rod and fly. The importance of those rivers is recorded in my book *Famous British Columbia Fly-Fishing Waters*, published in 2002. However, for a good part of the 20th Century many other waters played important roles in making Vancouver Island a great sport fishing destination.



*A young Charles Lingren with a Little Qualicum River steelhead taken with a float-fished Polar Shrimp fly
Art Lingren Photo*

For many years, the east coast of Vancouver Island drew anglers in pursuit of its salmon, sea-run cutthroat and steelhead. The beaches from Victoria in the south to the waters north of Campbell River have innumerable

creeks and estuaries that provide good sea-run cutthroat trout sport for the fly fisher. In addition, Vanisle's coastal lakes, which are not rich like their Interior counterparts, support populations of rainbow and cutthroat trout. And...some of these waters have trout which grow to a very respectable size!

The Nanaimo, Englishman, Big Qualicum and Little Qualicum, Oyster, Salmon and Nimpkish rivers and many other streams, attract steelheaders in search of the prized, large sea-going rainbow trout. For decades steelhead seemed plentiful, and the bag limits were generous. The Island's population grew and more and more anglers came from elsewhere, lured by seductive tourism advertising.

As we are now appreciating, things were too good and too generous and steelhead stocks (especially those on the east coast of the Island) were declining rapidly. Provincial Fisheries, slow to appreciate and react to overharvest situations, has had to impose

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angling regulations of ever-increasing severity, ranging from total catch-and-release to full river angling closures. Adding to the woes of overharvest, is the reality of 150 years of freshwater habitat loss and a very uncooperative ocean that regularly makes survival conditions very difficult. So, over the latter decades of the 20th century, many runs of cutthroat, steelhead and coho salmon have been decimated. Thanks are due to progressive sport fishers, led by the Steelhead Society of BC, who pushed for catch and release, and to many other groups who are presently working on behalf of the fish.

The steelhead stocks along Vancouver Island's east coast remain in crisis and it is very uncertain that the east coast rivers will ever again be able to attract anglers in pursuit of that great fish.



With sea-run cutthroat trout it may be a different story on the overharvest front. Catch and release regulations, in both salt and freshwater, were implemented in the last decades of the 20th Century.

This action may prove to be the savior for this fish. The runs have responded well. Word from Vanisle sea-run cutthroat fly fishers, who are an enigmatic bunch and guard their hard-earned secrets, is that this sea-run trout is once again providing good sport along Vancouver Island beaches and estuaries.

Coho salmon, which are managed by Federal Fisheries and Oceans Canada, had continued to decline until the early 1990s. At that time concerns over the declines were reflected in management plans and regulations for all fisheries that impacted coho. As with steelhead, ocean conditions (especially in the Georgia Basin) have also gone hand in hand with over-exploitation to cause coho abundance to severely drop. In the early 1990's David Anderson became Federal Minister of Fisheries. Anderson comes from a long-time Victoria family, and is a fly fisher. He realized the coho were in crisis and implemented multi-year angling closures. As we start the new millennium, Vanisle coho stocks have rebounded. Along with improved pink and chum runs, fly fishers are once again lured to the Island beaches and estuaries to catch salmon on the fly. It is once again truly an exceptional fishery.

Vancouver Island hatcheries (both Federal and Provincial) have played a longstanding role in providing excellent quarry for fly anglers. Hatchery programs for salmon and trout are very much a mixed blessing. They can provide local abundances of salmon and trout, in river and ocean settings. Anglers are now allowed to take home hatchery coho and steelhead but are required to release wild ones. As well lakes stocked with trout have benefited the Island's interesting angling menu. However, there are many very complex questions that are emerging around large scale hatchery programs, especially for the sea-run species. Impacts of hatchery fish on wild fish (genetic, competition, changes to angler effort patterns) and the capacity of the ocean to accommodate large influxes of hatchery

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fish, are only a few of the perplexing challenges that are now facing managers, anglers and society.

Fly fishing clubs on Vancouver Island

How well an angling community is doing is often expressed by the specialized clubs that are formed to represent that constituency. Fly fishing is alive and well on Vancouver Island!

Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association: The following HBFFA club history was written by Barry Stokes and comes from their web site.

The Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association of Victoria B.C. was officially formed in March of 1977 by a group of anglers "who wanted to bring together a group devoted to fly fishing, who could exchange experiences, savour companionship of those with similar interests, fish together and enjoy themselves".



Original aims of the Club were "not to oppose those who fish by other methods, but rather to attempt to convince them that fly fishing is more challenging, more rewarding and often a more productive method of angling, to interest young people in the sport, hold classes where they and others can learn the basics of fly fishing and make a wider contribution to the advancement of the sport.

Initial organizational discussions included seeking advice from established Clubs and organizations such as the Totems and the Osprey Clubs of Vancouver B.C., Olympic Fly Fishers of Washington State, the Federation of Fly Fishers and the B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers.

When choosing a name for the Club, permission to call the Club "The Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association" was asked of and granted by the widow of Roderick Haig-Brown, Mrs. Anne Haig-Brown.

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The first elected Executive of the Club were President - Mike Dunne, Vice President - Barney Kent, Secretary - Garry Stewart, Treasurer - Ron Lovatt and Newsletter - Dick Gosling. The first official Club outing was held on October 1, 1977, to Council Lake in the Sooke Watershed Area, 10 members attended. The HBFPA was officially registered as a Society in 1981.

Over the years, many excellent guest speakers from all aspects of the fishing community have entertained the Club. Among the more notable guests have been Steve Rajeff, Mike and Denise Maxwell, Ehor Boyanowsky, the late Hugh Falkus, Valerie Haig-Brown, Brian Chan, Phil Rowley and Peter Morrison, not to exclude the many Club members both past and present who are experts in their own right.

Annual Club events include a fund raising auction, the Lorne Barrett Cowichan River Drift, Christmas Banquet and Awards, Summer Barbeque, an in-house Fly Tying Competition and B.C. Interior fishouts.

The Club has participated in a number of conservation efforts over the years, including a Steelhead study on the Goldstream River, stream and bank rehabilitation and fish population surveys on Sandhill and Shady Creek for sea-run cutthroat trout, dam maintenance on Forebay Lake in the Jordan River area, letter writing campaigns on fly-fishing-related subjects and participation in outdoor shows and conservation symposiums.

During its history, the Club has met at a total of six different venues before finding our present home at the Chiefs and Petty Officer's Mess facility at CFB Esquimalt.

Over the years the Club has amassed a substantial library including both fly-fishing books and videos.

The members of the HBFPA and the Club as a group support other organizations such as the B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and other fly fishing clubs by attending and donating to their fund raising activities.

The Club affiliations at present are the B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers and the Amalgamated Conservation Society.

The Club also holds regular Fly Tying nights where both old and new members, expert, intermediate or novice tiers can get together in a relaxed atmosphere to pass on tips, learn fly tying techniques and how to tie specific patterns.

West Coast Fly Fishers Association: Located in Sooke (on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, 30 kilometres southwest of Victoria) the West Coast Fly Fishers, formed in April 2002. The WCFPA was created to promote fly fishing and the use of artificial flies on all waters. The climate on Vancouver Island's southern tip is such that club members can fish 365 days a year. They can pursue a variety of game fish including rainbow trout, cutthroat trout & smallmouth bass in local lakes; sea-run cutthroat trout in river estuaries; coho and chinook salmon at surrounding beaches. There are three major rivers, close by, that offer great salmon fishing for chinook, chum and coho as well as winter- and summer-run steelhead. Their own Sooke River is a fly-fishing, catch-and-release-only stream.

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Some of the goals of the association include:

- Support, encourage and teach those people of all ages who wish to learn more about Fly Fishing.
- Support and encourage fish stocks by the preservation, rehabilitation and development of lakes, rivers, streams, tidal waters and wetlands as fish habitat.
- Submit views and recommendations to any government body or private agencies as the Association deems necessary to safeguard or enhance the interests of fish, parks and/or outdoor recreational resource values.
- Support government bodies wherever possible in projects that are intended to preserve or enhance sport-fishing opportunities in general.

The association is very active in promoting fly fishing & fly tying with youth. They can be contacted by Email at WCflyfishers@hotmail.com or through their website www.sooke.org/flyfishing

Cowichan Fly Fishers: The Cowichan Fly Fishers was formed in 1991 and is based in the town of Duncan. The club's home river, and namesake, is the famous Cowichan.



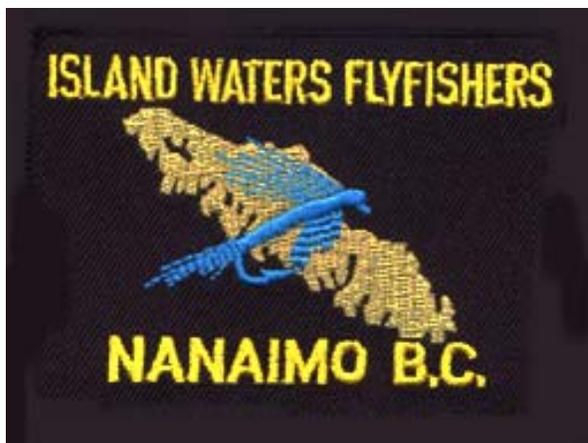
well as rainbow, cutthroat, and the introduced brown trout.

Fly tying is an important part of their club activities. Besides their fly tying instructional events and tying competitions, other activities such as fishouts to local waters, casting clinics and barbeques are sponsored. The club meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. In July and August meetings are held on the first Thursday only. These gatherings are held at the Air Cadet Hall, 3790 Gibbons Rd., Duncan, from 7 to 9 pm.

Few rivers on Vancouver Island are as rich in aquatic life and as a result the river supports all species of salmon as

Island Waters Fly Fishing Club is based in Nanaimo, British Columbia, located on beautiful Vancouver Island. The purpose of the club is as follows:

- To practice, further and promote the art of fly fishing
- To practice and promote fish conservation and enhancement
- To encourage fellowship and sportsmanship amongst anglers



Their meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month except during July, August or December. Guests are requested to attend at least three meetings before deciding to join. In addition to the meetings they also have fly tying sessions held at various members' homes. At the present time, they are tying twice a month. Demonstrations are presented and various methods and flies are practiced.

Fly casting sessions and other activities are held as determined by the membership. Each summer they have an annual salmon barbeque for members and guests. The main social affair is the annual Christmas Banquet and Awards Night, which includes a fund raising auction.



Thanks to Ian Beveridge for this brief club history.

**Mid-Island Castaways Fly Fishing Club:
The Beginnings of the "Castaways"**

The original suggestion to start a fly fishing club in the Parksville/Qualicum area first surfaced early in 1996. It started with casual conversations between several angling enthusiasts who just happened to be browsing through the goodies at "The Village Angler", John Pehowich's fly fishing store in Qualicum Beach. The formative meetings which eventually resulted in the establishment and incorporation of the "Castaways" took place during the spring of '96 in "Murphy's Coffee Shop" immediately across from John's store in the Carriage Place mall.

The organizational meetings for the club under the interim name "Parksville Qualicum Fly Fishers" resulted in the nomination of a steering committee which included Ian Beveridge (Secretary), Tim Tullis, James Craig, John Pehowich and Dave Harris. These five enthusiasts later became the charter members who co-signed the club's application for incorporation as a society.

June '96 saw the club's first general meeting held in donated space in the loft above the office of the Rathrevor Resort in Parksville, and the July meeting, which was attended by 27 of the 40 individuals who had by then expressed interest in the club's formation, was held at the same location. The speaker at that meeting was Craig Wightman, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks senior biologist for Region I, who addressed those present on the troubled state of the Province's salmon and steelhead fisheries. On a more positive note Craig also described some large scale examples of habitat restoration

Vancouver Island's Fly-Fishing Heritage

work then being undertaken jointly by the forest industry and government in the San Juan watershed. The meeting proceedings were recorded and distributed by Ian Beveridge in the club's first news letter, a service which Ian continued to provide for the first three years of the club's early existence.

In recognition of the Castaways' rapidly swelling numbers, the August meeting was moved to the Parksville Quality Inn. On that occasion, the business agenda included the introduction of the basic constitutional decisions required to satisfy the legal formalities set out by the Registrar of Companies (and Societies) in Victoria. These items were debated at some length and formalized at the club's September meeting. The August guest speaker was John Snook, the President of the Comox Fly Fishers Club, who, apart from contributing some most useful insights into beach fishing, was able to provide some practical observations about the process of establishing a fly fishing club, thanks to his having played a similar role in the neighbouring city to the North.

The September meeting, chaired by Ian Beveridge, voted to formally adopt the name "Mid-Island Castaways Fly Fishing Club" and also agreed on the other basic criteria for inclusion in the constitution including: objectives, membership categories, dues structure and budget. The General Money #2 fly was selected as the club logo in recognition of that master angler's local residency, combined with the fly's striking appearance.

The club's objectives were defined as follows:

- To practise and promote the sport of fishing with artificial flies.*
- To practise and promote the research, conservation and enhancement of all sport fishing in British Columbia.*
- To support and encourage the preservation of lakes, streams and beaches in British Columbia and the access thereto for the practice of fishing with artificial flies.*
- To encourage fellowship, ethics and sportsmanship amongst anglers.*

The constitutional decisions were followed by election of the first Castaways Board of Directors: Ian Beveridge, James Craig, Tom Dowling, Dave Harris, Tom Minton, John Pehowich and Tim Tullis. At a subsequent Board meeting, Tim, who had been President of the Evergreen Fly Fishers in Washington State, and additionally was one of the founders of the Lonely Loons Club in Kelowna, agreed to take the reins as President. Ian Beveridge, who had substantial experience with the management of several non-profit organizations, accepted the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

Progress

Although the "Castaways" is the youngest of the five fly fishing clubs on Vancouver Island, for the past several years it has had the largest membership, and indeed has been the biggest in the Province for much of the same period. There have certainly been many reasons for the club's rapid development in an area not necessarily recognized for its great trout fishing, although the Island's remarkable beach angling opportunities more than make up for this particular shortcoming. Perhaps the most significant of these growth factors has been balanced programming. From the earliest days there has been a

Vancouver Island's Fly-Fishing Heritage

strong club imperative to satisfy all categories of member interest, whether those are strictly fly fishing related, fisheries environmental or enhancement activities, government intervention, camaraderie oriented social functions, fund raising for good works, or education for anglers of all preferences and gear types. It goes without saying that credit must also be given to the many talented individuals named later in this article, who have joined the club and enthusiastically supported its programs.

The club holds ten general meetings per year, each normally preceded by fly tying demonstrations, and including no more than one half hour of business discussions, followed by a speaker on a current topic of interest. Also included on the agenda are: a few minutes to introduce and welcome guests, local fishing reports by individual members, and a coffee break which doubles as an opportunity for all to mix and mingle and ask the "experts" their "how to and where to" questions.

Another popular club activity is the holding of "fishouts" on local lakes, rivers and beaches. These are mainly held during the months of March through October, with locations dependent on the season's target species. Most years the club organizes a trip to the Pacific side of the Island for the excellent coho fishing at one of the West Coast's fishing hot spots in Clayoquot Sound near Tofino

Below: Tim Tullis, the Castaways first President with a Tofino coho



Two or three times a year the club imports special guest speakers from further afield. These have included many well known authors or highly regarded anglers such as Brian Chan, Barry Thornton, Art Lingren, Andy Murray, Bob Jones, Ralph Shaw, Jim McLennan, Bill Luscombe and Dr Dick Beamish.

Once a month during the winter, there is also a fly tying session, with demonstrations and instruction for beginners and experts. In the past these have mainly been organized by Harv Debuc, one of the club's many expert tiers.

Achievements

Some of the club's more notable successes to date have included:

The building and development of the Craig Creek coho hatchery in partnership with Andrew Pearson and the Pacific Shores Nature Resort. This facility which opened in 1999, annually rears several thousand coho fry from eggs provided by DFO's Biq Qualicum hatchery, with the resulting smolts being released into the creek in the late spring. Bill Rattray and his crew have been successfully managing this project since it opened.



The Castaways annual fund raising auction and dinner

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has during the past eight years netted a total of some \$30,000, starting in 1996 with \$2,500, and raising over \$8,000 in 2003. For the past several years Ken Kirkwood and his committee have managed this event with ever improving results.



Over the years, the majority of the auction proceeds have been donated to the Nile Creek Enhancement Society. Supervised by the indomitable Rod Allan, they annually raise hundreds of thousands of pink salmon which play such a significant role in our early fall beach fishery. The club also donated the majority of the labour and materials for the construction of the Nile Creek hatchery building, and assisted in the development of their extensive network of rearing channels.

Other beneficiaries of this environmental fund have included: The Fanny Bay Enhancement Society, the French Creek hatchery, Nanoose Creek Streamkeepers, and our Craig Creek hatchery.

Every year, Castaways volunteers led enthusiastically by Bob Weir assist with the Nile Creek hatchery operations as well as at several others including the Big Qualicum, Puntledge, Englishman and French Creek. Sieg Hansel has been one of the French Creek stalwarts for many years. There he has been depended upon during brood stock capture, for supplying the transportation which delivers those fish to the hatchery, while also being involved in many of that facility's egg taking and other operations.

Another annual event is the club family barbecue which for several years was held at Bob Burgess' home at the Nile Creek beach. Bob's other claims to a place in the Castaways' history was that he was the club's first fully paid up member, and additionally was the first President of the Nile Creek Enhancement Society. Sadly, Bob succumbed to cancer in 2003.

Perhaps one of the most visible of the club's ventures was the construction of a handicapped fishers and public viewing ramp on the river bank within the grounds of the DFO's Big Qualicum Hatchery in 1998. This receives substantial use every fall when the chinook, coho, chum, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout are returning to spawn. From time to time the visitors have included those who were hoping to construct similar facilities on their neighbourhood rivers or lakes.

In 1998 a work group of club members installed a series of signs on nine neighbourhood creeks to assist in their identification as salmon spawning streams requiring protection.

Vancouver Island's Fly-Fishing Heritage

In 2000, the Mid-Island Castaways Fly Fishing Club was presented with the BC Federation of Fly Fishers' annual Conservation Award in recognition of the successes they had accomplished during the preceding years.

The Future

Perhaps this club history is not the most appropriate place to express thoughts and concerns about the future, but it is essential to look ahead when so many of our fish species are at risk because of difficult environmental and/or climatic circumstances... whether or not some of these problems might be beyond our control.

Fortunately, many of our members do their utmost to preserve, protect and enhance the resources that nature has so generously provided, and our club is most fortunate to include among its members many knowledgeable individuals who are in position to keep the members up to date on various government initiatives and fisheries concerns.

These individuals include: James Craig, who is a member of the team which performs the annual fish counts, with particular emphasis on Vancouver Island steelhead, by swimming the local rivers on behalf of the BC Conservation Foundation; Scott Northrop works with DFO – Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Skip Rimmer is a senior provincial fisheries biologist who always has current information on BC lake stocking programs, and many other ministry activities of interest to the angling community; Bill Pollard is a consulting fisheries biologist who currently spends much of his time with the Weyerhaeuser company, and is the co-author of a book on the identification of juvenile salmonid species; Ian Beveridge has been active on several Federal and Provincial fisheries committees, has served as the President of the BCFFF and on the executive committee of the Sport Fish Advisory Board. He has received life memberships for his work in both the BCFFF and the Castaways. Howard Paish has long been a consultant to Federal Fisheries and a variety of other government conservation and fisheries agencies, he is a past Executive Director of the BC Wildlife Federation and has served on the Board of the Steelhead Society of BC; Frank Dalziel is a fisheries technology instructor at the Nanaimo campus of the Malaspina College and has served several terms on the Board of Trout Unlimited, Canada. There are also many members with wide national and international angling experience including such notables as Joe Nemeth, Tim Tullis, Hans Kaltenbach and John Snook.

In the present era of major government debts and budgetary deficits, it is simply unrealistic to rely upon the bureaucracies to provide all of the essential protection or rehabilitation required by our irreplaceable fisheries resources.

Hopefully our small club, which is so well endowed with expertise, will continue to be one of the many which plays a significant role in preserving these resources for the generations yet to come.

Vancouver Island's Fly-Fishing Heritage

Comox Valley FlyFishers: This club is located in the beautiful Comox Valley near the Vanisle towns of Comox/Courtenay. The Comox Valley Fly Fishers

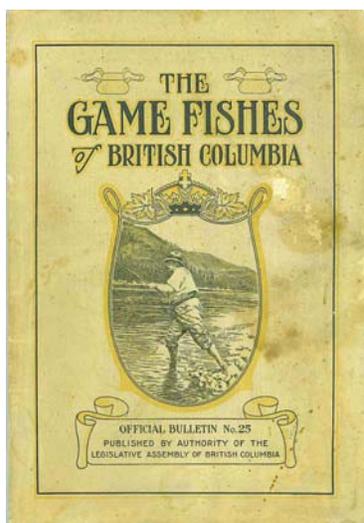


Club is dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of fly fishing. The Comox Valley offers close proximity to fly fishing in fresh and salt water. Salmon, steelhead and trout are all available in the valley or (depending on the

season and the fishing closures) within a short drive of the valley. The club meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Florence Filberg Center in Courtenay. Doors open at 7:00 pm and meetings go from around 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Beginners are welcome. Dues are reasonable and include club meetings, the club newsletter, fish-outs, access to the club library and liability insurance purchased through the club's membership in the [BC Federation of Fly Fishers](#)

Fishing literature relevant to Vancouver Island

Since the earliest days in the British colony of Vancouver Island, a written record of exploits with rod and gun was established. British officers in the Royal Navy, and other well-off British gentry who came and sampled the sport on Vancouver Island, wrote about their experiences. Starting in the 1860s, and for the next half a century, most of the writing about the Island's sport fishing was written by those who were visitors to Vancouver Island and British Columbia.



However, a few came and made this part of western North America their permanent home. Some recorded the sport they found in their new home. Dr. T.W. Lambert *Fishing in British Columbia* (1907) is the first book devoted to the sport of the province and has some Vancouver Island fishing in it, as does John Pease Babcock's *The Game Fishes of British Columbia* (1908). Lambert's is a written testament to the sport; Babcock's, however, is quite different. It has few words and is the first book of pictures detailing the sport to be had with rod and line. Arthur Brian Williams' *Rod & Creel in British Columbia* (1919) is the first where-to/ how-to book and has much Vancouver Island information. All three are important pieces in any serious British Columbia fly fisherman's library.

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Roderick Haig-Brown, however, is certainly the Dean of Vancouver Island fly fishing writing. It has been over 25 years since he died. Although we can never duplicate Haig-Brown's pen, there are other noteworthy present-day angling authors on the scene. Van Egan, Barry Thornton, and Bob Jones write sensitively and prolifically about Vancouver Island sport fishing.

The following is a listing of British Columbia angling books, some of which include sections or chapters on Vancouver Island. A few are entirely devoted to the Island's sport fishing. I did not include all the books that have information on Vanisle saltwater salmon fishing, and in particular Campbell River tyee fishing. The books that follow are listed in chronological order.

Author	Date	Title and Description
MacFie, Mathew	1865 1972	<i>Vancouver Island and British Columbia</i> —One of the first books written on Vancouver Island and British Columbia and has a section on "Fisheries" pp. 163-171. Mostly of commercial interest but mention of a catch of 20 trout (steelhead) from a stream (Coquihalla) near Hope. The 20 trout in aggregate weighed 146 lb. and the two largest weighed 11 lb. each. No mention of catch method.
Croasdaile, Henry E.	1873	<i>Scenes on Pacific Shores . . .</i> --Has two chapters in which he relates an account of hunting, fishing and travel on Vancouver Island.
Boddam-Whetham, John Whetham	1874	<i>Western Wanderings: a Record of Travel in the Evening Land</i> --In Chapter 19 he mentions a famous diplomat and the salmon-not-taking-the-fly story that resulted in Washington and Oregon being considered useless and given to the USA. There is also mention of the "capital trout and salmon" fishing around Victoria. In Chapter 20 he describes his unsuccessful fishing in the Brunette River for large trout (steelhead?) and white fish (cutthroat?). In Chapter 21 he tells of a good morning's salmon fishing with a spoon off the "lovely" Nanaimo River.

Vancouver Island's Fly-Fishing Heritage

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| Kennedy, Sir William Robert | 1876 | <i>Sporting Adventures in the Pacific</i> --Devotes Chapter IX to his June through October visit to Vancouver Island in 1873 and tells of capital sea-trout fly fishing at the mouth of lagoons and good trout fly fishing in lakes around Victoria. As well, he mentions the Chemainus River's trout and salmon where in August, his companion rose a salmon to the fly, which broke off. Most likely that salmon was a Chemainus River summer-run steelhead and, if so, that passage is the first written British Columbia record of connecting with a summer steelhead on a fly in a British Columbia river. |
| Hall, E. Hepple | 1879 | <i>Lands of Plenty; British North America for Health, Sport and Profit</i> --Chapter 6 on British Columbia and Vancouver Island. |
| Phillips-Wolley, Sir Clive Oldnall Long | 1884 | <i>Trottings of a Tenderfoot</i> --In Chapter V, "Paddling Our Own Canoe," he writes about a sea canoe trip from Comox to the Salmon River. First account of the dogfish as a pest to sport fisherman and the good salmon fishing off Quadra Island's Cape Mudge. This book includes some fly fishing for Salmon-trout (cutthroat) in the Salmon River. The cutts preferred bright flies and the largest caught weighed 4 1/2 lb. |
| St. Maur, Mrs. Algernon | 1890 | <i>Impressions of a Tenderfoot</i> --An account of the authors' travels. Chapter VII is about Cowichan Lake and River fishing. One of the earliest records of fishing these waters. Trout to six lb. on spoons in the lake and on a canoe trip down the river to Duncan they caught trout with fly. Also mention of fishing in the Kootenays. |
| Vachell, Horace Annesley | 1900 | <i>Life and Sport on the Pacific Slope</i> --In the "Fresh Water Fishing" chapter he includes information on the Cowichan River and Lake. As well, he provides a list of flies for the Pacific Northwest's "'turbulent northern waters." |

Vancouver Island's Fly-Fishing Heritage

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| Lambert, Thomas
Wilson | 1907 | <i>Fishing in British Columbia</i> --First book almost totally devoted to British Columbia fishing with information on Lac Le Jeune (Fish Lake), the Fraser District, Vancouver, Campbell River tye fishing and coho fly fishing with much on the Thompson River. See 1997 Lambert entry for information on reprint. |
| Babcock, John Pease
(Provincial Bureau of
Information) | 1908
1910 | <i>Bulletin No. 25: The Game Fishes of British Columbia</i> --Babcock was the Commissioner of Provincial Fisheries. This black and white photo book was produced to lure tourists to come and fish British Columbia. |
| Aflalo, F. G. | 1909 | <i>Sunset Playgrounds</i> --In Part IV he devotes three chapters to Canada, with one on British Columbia. In the British Columbia chapter he mentions some of the available fishing such as the splendid sport for steelhead on the Cowichan River, sea-trout fishing in the Gorge in Victoria, coho fishing at Vancouver and the excellent sport at Fish Lake (Lac Le Jeune). |
| Rogers, Sir John | 1912 | <i>Sport in Vancouver and Newfoundland</i> --Rogers hunting and fishing on Vancouver Island and the mainland. Much about Campbell River tye fishing (he was convinced by Bryan Williams that tye fishing with the fly was not the way to go). Rogers fly fished the river for cutthroat and fly cast for coho in salt water. |
| Maxwell, Sir Herbert | 1913 | <i>Fishing at Home and Abroad</i> --Devotes one chapter to Campbell River tye fishing and part of the "Trout Fishing in Canada" chapter to steelhead and trout. |
| Williams, A. Bryan | 1919 | <i>Rod & Creel in British Columbia</i> --Williams was British Columbia's first game warden and this how-to, where-to book is the prototype of future guide books. |
| Hodgson, W. Earl | 1920 | <i>Salmon Fishing</i> --Includes a 1905 letter from Sir Brian Leighton in the "Britain Beyond the Seas" chapter; that letter contains information on Pacific salmon and fly fishing for coho, during Leighton's 1903 trip. |

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Piers, Sir Charles	1923	<i>Sport and Life in British Columbia</i> --Devotes a short section to Vancouver Island salmon and steelhead fishing.
Department of Trade and Industry	1930 circa	<i>Rod and Rifle in British Columbia</i> --Eighteen page booklet on hunting and fishing, describing the sport available for the different game fish. No mention of brown trout, which were planted in the Cowichan in 1933, thus the c 1930 date.
Williams, Arthur Bryan	1935	<i>Fish and Game in British Columbia</i> --Where-to how-to book which set the format for succeeding fishing and hunting guide books.
Haig-Brown, Roderick	1939	<i>The Western Angler</i> --A comprehensive account of the fishes and fishing of British Columbia. Two-volume limited edition of 950 copies by The Derrydale Press.
Farson, Negley	1942 1981	<i>Going Fishing</i> --A highly regarded fly-fishing book containing two chapters on Cowichan Lake.
Whitehouse, Francis, C.	1945 1946	<i>Sport Fishes of Western Canada and Some Others</i> --General book on British Columbia angling by a well-known, ardent British Columbian fly fisher.
Haig-Brown, Roderick	1946	<i>A River Never Sleeps</i> --One of finest fly fishing books written in the 20th Century with British Columbia the backdrop for many of the essays.
Pochin, W. F.	1946	<i>Angling and Hunting in British Columbia</i> --Where-to, how-to guide book with much of the information taken from A. B. Williams' 1935 book. After printing, Pochin was forced to stamp copies recognizing Williams as the source for much of the information.
Haig-Brown, Roderick	1947	<i>The Western Angler</i> --A comprehensive account of the fishes and fishing of British Columbia. The original two-volume work was revised and condensed into one volume with a new introduction by Haig-Brown. It introduced colour plates, as well as pen and ink drawings, by Tommy Brayshaw.

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Spencer, Austin (Spent Spinner)	1947 circa	<i>First Annual Fishing Guide Lisle Fraser's Sporting Goods</i> —This 24-page booklet written by Spent Spinner provides details on popular BC fishing spots of the day and includes the Capilano and Thompson rivers as well as other popular late 1940's waters.
Whitehouse, Francis, C.	1948	<i>Sport Fishing in Canada</i> --Expanded the 1945 version to include eastern Canadian fishes, as well as some details on the Queen Charlotte Island Tlell River's cutthroat and coho fishing. Whitehouse spent six months there in 1946.
Luard, G.D.	1950	<i>Fishing Adventures in Canada and USA</i> --Part two is about an 1899 trip to British Columbia by one of the author's fishing friends. They fished the Cowichan system and Campbell River. Includes a photo of Sir Richard Musgrave's 70 lb. tyee taken in 1896 at Campbell River.
Haig-Brown, Roderick	1951	<i>Fisherman's Spring</i> --Essays about fly fishing British Columbia waters in the spring time.
McClane, Al	1951 1954	<i>The American Angler</i> --Many British Columbia references including the Skagit and Stamp rivers, and Clearwater Lake and River.
McClane, Al	1953 1975	<i>The Practical Fly Fisherman</i> --Includes trout on the Thompson and Clearwater rivers and steelhead on the Ash River.
Straight, Lee	1955 1956	<i>100 Steelhead Streams</i> --Brief description on summer and winter steelhead streams as well as information on gear types.
Haig-Brown, Roderick et al.	1956	<i>Sport Fish Resources of British Columbia</i> --Four-volume pamphlet written for the British Columbia Game Commission.
British Columbia Government Travel Bureau	1957	<i>Sport Fishing in British Columbia</i> --A 32-page where-to, what-for pamphlet with nine colour plates of fish by Tommy Brayshaw.

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| Patrick, Roy | 1958 | <i>Pacific Northwest Fly Patterns</i> --Revised and expanded with sections for Trout, British Columbia and Steelhead. Many editions were published over the next 25 or so years, some undated. |
| Haig-Brown, Roderick | 1959 | <i>Fisherman's Summer</i> --Essays about summer experiences with much on British Columbia summer-run steelhead fly fishing. Haig-Brown refined the dry-fly technique for summer-run steelhead on the Campbell. |
| Cramond, Mike | 1964
1970 | <i>Game Fishing in the West</i> --General British Columbia fishing book by <i>The Province</i> newspaper fishing columnist. |
| Haig-Brown, Roderick | 1964 | <i>Fisherman's Fall</i> --Fall essays with more information on dry fly fishing for summer-run steelhead. |
| Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club | 1965
1973
1986 | <i>Flies of the Northwest</i> --Includes many British Columbia patterns. |
| Merriman, Alec | 1967 | <i>Outdoors with Alec Merriman</i> --Where-to, how-to guide to Vancouver Island. Merriman wrote the outdoor column for Victoria's <i>Times Colonist</i> newspaper. |
| American Sportsman, The | 1968 | <i>The American Sportsman</i> , Vol. 1, No. 2--Contains "In Search of Trout" by Roderick Haig-Brown. In this article Haig-Brown summarizes his trout fishing experiences. It includes Nimpkish River cutthroat as well as trout fishing in Northern British Columbia. |
| Haig-Brown, Roderick | 1968 | <i>The Western Angler</i> --A comprehensive account of the fishes and fishing of British Columbia. The 1947 edition reprinted and the last edition with a new introduction by Haig-Brown before his death in 1976. |
| Weeks, Edward | 1968 | <i>Fresh Water</i> --In the "West and East" chapter Weeks profiles Rod Haig-Brown and relates a trip to Gold River steelheading with Skate Hames (former provincial government predator hunter), Rod Haig-Brown and Maxine Egan. |

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| American Sportsman,
The | 1970 | <i>The American Sportsman</i> , Vol. 3, No. 2--Contains "Along the Steelhead Rivers" which is a reflection on steelhead and fishing for them by Roderick Haig-Brown. |
| Combs, Trey | 1971
1988 | <i>The Steelhead Trout</i> --Includes information on British Columbia with some early patterns given such as the Whiskey & Soda and Nicomekl as well as patterns by Rod Haig-Brown, Tommy Brayshaw and General Money. |
| Egan, Van Gorman | 1988 | <i>Tyee: The Story of the Tyee Club of British Columbia</i> --The history of the tyee club, which is devoted to catching large chinooks from row boats, using regulation tackle. |
| Merriman, Alec | 1971 | <i>How to Catch Steelhead</i> --How-to book for Vancouver Island steelhead. |
| Chatham, Russell | 1976 | <i>The Angler's Coast</i> --In Chapter 12, he writes of a trip to Vancouver Island in which he stopped in for a visit with Rod Haig-Brown, and during that trip he fished the Nimpkish and Marble rivers. |
| Combs, Trey | 1976
1978 | <i>Steelhead Fly Fishing and Flies</i> --Includes much on British Columbia fly patterns as well as information on General Noel Money, Tommy Brayshaw and Roderick Haig-Brown. |
| Migel, J. Michael | 1977 | <i>The Masters of the Dry Fly</i> --Includes "The Charm of the Dry Fly" by Roderick Haig-Brown. |
| Thornton, Barry M. | 1978 | <i>Steelhead: The Supreme Trophy Trout</i> --Basic steelhead fishing book by the founding chairman (President?) of the Steelhead Society of British Columbia. |
| Haig-Brown, Valerie,
Editor | 1981 | <i>The Master and His Fish</i> --Contains many of Haig-Brown's previously published fly fishing and conservation essays. |
| Davy, Alf, Editor | 1985 | <i>The Gilly</i> —Contains some relevant Vancouver Island fly fishing. |

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| Ferguson, Bruce, Les Johnson and Pat Trotter | 1985 | <i>Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon</i> --The first book totally devoted to this aspect of fly fishing and includes much British Columbia information; the sport originated in British Columbia on Vancouver Island's Duncan and Cowichan bays. |
| McMillan, Bill | 1987 | <i>Dry Line Steelhead</i> --Book about Pacific Northwest Rivers' steelheading with some mention of British Columbia and includes some natural drift dry fly fishing on the Island. |
| Isenor, D.E., E.G. Stephens and D.E. Watson | 1989 | <i>Edge of Discovery</i> --A history of the Campbell River district with sections on sport fishing and Roderick Haig-Brown. |
| Hames, Jack | 1990 | <i>Field Notes: An Environmental History</i> --With 75 pages on sport fishing, this is a collection of Hames' columns which appeared in the local Courtenay, British Columbia newspapers. |
| Paterson, Wilma and Peter Behan | 1990 | <i>Salmon & Women</i> --T Pioneers at Home & Abroad chapter includes pieces on two British Columbia female anglers: Mrs E. S Tait and Maxine Egan. |
| Wright, Leonard M, Jr., Editor | 1990 | <i>The Fly Fisher's Reader</i> --Contains "Sea-Run Cutthroat" by Roderick Haig-Brown. |
| Bruhn, Karl | 1992 | <i>Best of BC Lake Fishing</i> --A where-to lake fly fishing book divided into regions including Vancouver Island. |
| Lingren, Arthur James | 1993 | <i>Fly Patterns of Roderick Haig-Brown</i> --A tribute to Roderick Haig-Brown by showing the flies he developed. |
| Mayse, Arthur | 1993 | <i>My Father, My Friend</i> —Edited, and with an Afterword, by Susan Mayse. A collection of fly fishing stories about the Oyster River. |
| Bell-Irving, Rob, Compiler | 1994 | <i>The Ardent Angler</i> --A British Columbia fishing anthology by a host of writers. |
| Davies, Gordon | 1994 | <i>The Living Rivers of British Columbia</i> --A collection of river stories from <i>British Columbia Sport Fishing</i> magazine. |

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| Crawford, Jim | 1995 | <i>Salmon to a Fly: Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon in the Open Ocean</i> --Where-to, how-to guide to salt water salmon fly fishing in British Columbia. |
| Thornton, Barry | 1995 | <i>Steelhead</i> --A tribute to this much-prized game fish written from a life time of experiences mostly on Vancouver Island. |
| Thornton, Barry | 1995 | <i>Saltwater Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon</i> --How-to book based on Thornton east coast Vancouver Island experiences on this increasingly popular fly fishing pursuit. |
| Egan, Van Gorman | 1996 | <i>Waterside Reflections</i> --Fishing anecdotes over 50 years of fly fishing with a closing anecdote on "Remembering Haig-Brown." Egan was one of Haig-Brown's closest friends. |
| Haig-Brown, Roderick | 1996 | <i>To Know a River: A Haig-Brown Reader</i> --Compiled by Valerie Haig-Brown, this book contains a selection of the master's writings. |
| Lingren, Arthur James | 1996 | <i>Fly Patterns of British Columbia</i> --British Columbia's fly fishing history shown through the development of flies for coast trout, Interior trout, steelhead and saltwater salmon fly fishing. |
| Lambert, Thomas Wilson | 1997 | <i>Fishing in British Columbia</i> --Reprint of this British Columbia classic with an "Introduction" by Art Lingren and "Afterword" by Ric Olmsted. Mention of Vancouver Island coho fly fishing. |
| Egan, Van Gorman | 1998 | <i>Rivers on My Mind</i> --Reminiscences of rivers fished during a half century of fly fishing and includes stories about fly fishing the Campbell, Dean, Nimpkish, as well as other rivers. |
| Lingren, Arthur James | 1998 | <i>Irresistible Waters</i> --A look at British Columbia's fly fishing opportunities through the year. |
| Pendlington, Mark, Compiler | 1998 | <i>West Coast Fly Fisher</i> --Lake sections by Brian Chan, steelhead by Art Lingren, saltwater salmon by Barry Thornton, rivers for salmon by Harry Penner, and cutthroat by Kelly Davison. |

Vancouver Island's Fly-Fishing Heritage

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| Haig-Brown,
Roderick | 2000 | <i>The Seasons of a Fisherman</i> --Haig-Brown's four season books combined into one volume. |
| Thornton, Barry | 2000 | <i>Fly Fishing-The Thornton Anthology</i> --a compendium of forty-five Thornton articles and columns. |
| Jones, Robert H.
Editor | 2001 | <i>Fly Fishing Canada, From Coast, to Coast, to Coast</i> --Contains many chapters on the West Coast and other British Columbia fly fishing. |
| Jones, Robert H. ed. | 2001 | <i>Fly Fishing in British Columbia</i> --A where-to, how-to book written by a number of Vancouver Island writers. |
| Lingren, Art | 2002 | <i>Famous British Columbia Fly-Fishing Waters</i> --About the origins of the sport of fly fishing in British Columbia, featuring prominent fly fishers and those waters where the sport developed. |
| Egan, Van Gorman | 2003 | <i>Rivers of Return</i> --privately published, this book is a compendium of angling stories in the more remote parts of Vancouver Island and mainland coast. Illustrated by Loucas Raptis. |

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