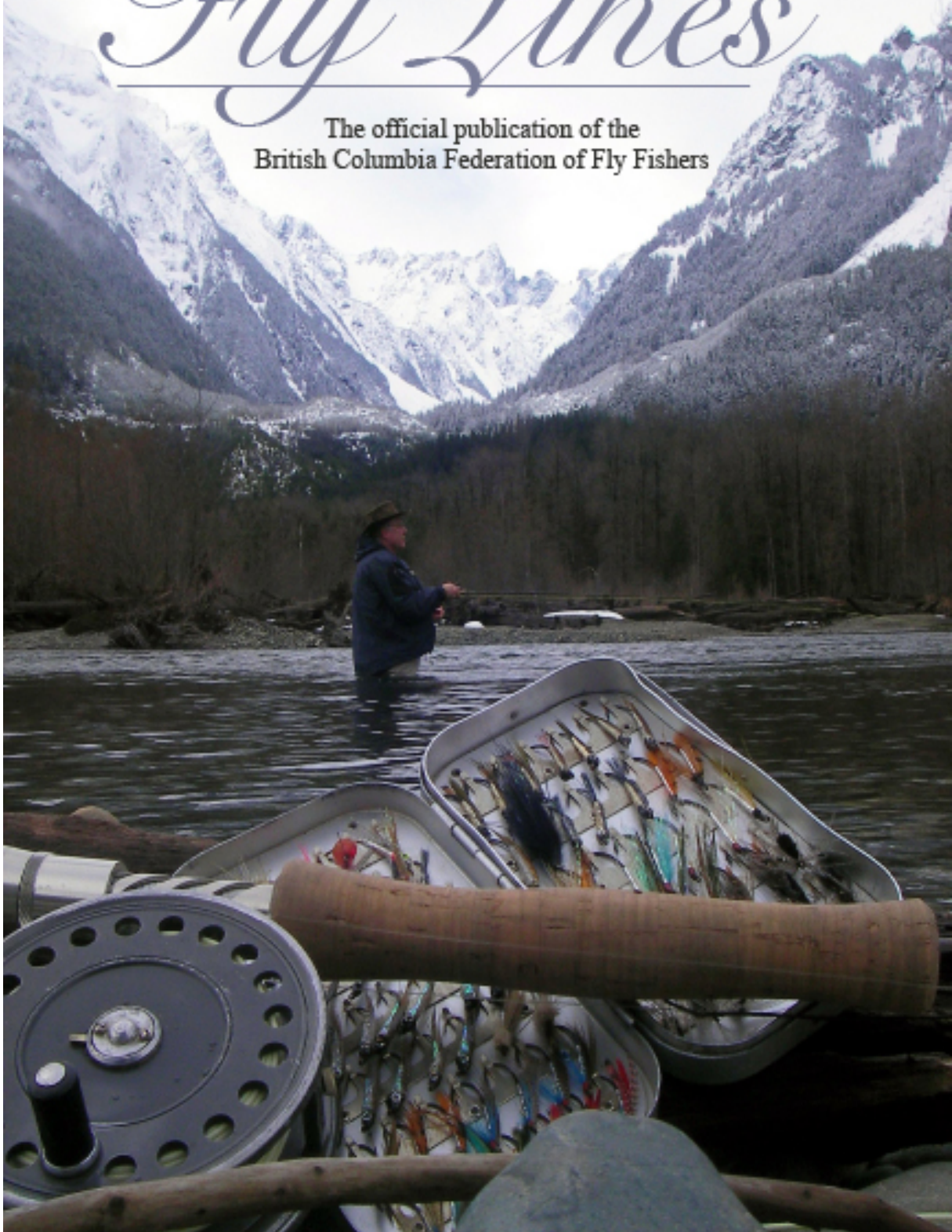


WINTER ISSUE 2007 | VOLUME 8 | NUMBER FOUR

# *Fly Lines*

The official publication of the  
British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers





# Fly Lines

*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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The BCFFF assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged material.

## Newsletter Committee

Chair – Terry Robinson  
Members – Peter Caverhill

On Our cover . . .



*Ron Schiefke, Atmarko River*  
Photo by Art Lingren

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## **BCFFF President's Message December 2007**

As a new year approaches we can look back on our accomplishments and forward to the challenges of the future. The BCFFF has focused the last 7 months on reviewing the organization's goals and on developing a plan for our future. The responses to our recent Planning Questionnaire have helped provide our board with critical information to set our direction.

The questionnaire responses reaffirmed the importance of the BCFFF as an organization. Among the most important responsibilities of the organization identified in the questionnaire are working to represent members and clubs with government and other organizations, our efforts to continue to preserve and protect the fisheries of BC and finally to promote fly fishing and encourage the development of fly fishing clubs throughout BC.

How we go about meeting the interests spelled out in the questionnaire will be one of the big tasks in front of our board and the BCFFF for the New Year. The board doesn't work in isolation, so it will be asking members and clubs to participate in having conversations with government about how we can preserve, protect and enhance our fisheries. The Board will also be working with our member clubs to welcome new members, particularly young members.

We will continue one of our most critical agenda items, the support, protection and preservation of steelhead fisheries. Steelhead are among the most threatened segments of our fisheries as we all know. We only have to look at two river system treasures, the Skeena and Thompson Rivers, to realize that we are losing our great fisheries. The other day a fly angler remarked that the BCFFF certainly spends a lot of energy tackling steelhead issues. Yes, we do! These great fish of great rivers are part of our heritage. Angler writers have produced volumes on them. Tales of fishing for them lighted up thousands, perhaps millions of angler's conversations. We will work hard to protect steelhead while at the same time we won't move away from other fishery issues that may be in front of us.

The development of new fly anglers must be a priority. We will cease to exist if our sport doesn't foster the development of new fly anglers. The BCFFF can offer support, work with clubs to develop programs that welcome new fly anglers, and act as a conduit for information about our sport. This can be done through a number of channels. In 2008 we will be asking clubs to share their stories of success and ideas for bringing new fly anglers into our sport and organization.

Truly this will be an exciting new year to come.

Pat Micek  
President

***Making Strip-built Fly Rods from Various Woods on a Lathe***  
**By John Betts**

Frank Amato Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 82112, Portland, OR 97282  
2007, 178 pages, hardcover \$45, limited edition \$125

John Betts, this book's author, is a master craftsman and this coffee table book attests to his craftsmanship in many areas. Betts tied his first fly over 50 years ago and has tied commercially for 30 years. During these fly fishing years he has made hooks, lines and reels. Over the years there have been many books on making split-bamboo rods. However, this is a first and making fly rods from various woods available to North American woodworkers on a lathe is Betts' latest endeavor.



Betts, in addition to some historical commentary on fly rod evolution, provides sections in the book devoted to all aspects of making strip built wooden rods from the tools needed to manufacture guides and reel seats. The publisher decided to reproduce Betts' neat and easy-to-read, hand written manuscript and diagrams detailing the process of making these rods. As well, the book is laced with Betts' fly fishing and fish-related illustrations. In addition to Betts

carefully drafted illustrations, there is a 23-page section containing about 140 colour pictures showing the rod building process, equipment and some of the finished product including his reels.

We many never build one of these rods ourselves but as the inside dust jacket reviewer comments, "I have thought that in all craft, his study, his art, that Betts is a conservator of origins. This book is a living remembrance of history, living in the actions of his hands and imagination in a sort of harmony that is wonderfully arresting. This unique book is an important moment on the long line of fishing's grand history."

## Remembering John

Over the years in BCFFF, key volunteers come and go. Some are there for the short haul, while others are there from the beginning. All of these folks have contributed and we should not forget their efforts that have been spent for the good of the organization and for the fisheries resource that we depend upon.

**John Warren** lost his battle with ill health in early October of this year, far earlier than the three score and ten that we should all be allotted.



John came on to the fly fishing scene at the so called “mid-life crisis” period in a man’s life, and he discovered that chasing gritty fish with a long rod and a pretty fly was rather interesting (please see the article by John in this issue of Fly Lines). It didn’t take long for John to appreciate that this fly-fishing fun could only continue if one fought to preserve it. John joined the Loons Fly Fishing Club in Vancouver (a BCFFF member club), and by the late 90’s, was the club Chairman and a member of BCFFF. Along with fly-fishing in general, John discovered fly tying and watercolor painting. His paintings captured the beauty and essence of the places that we all enjoy. John’s name first appears in the annual reports of BCFFF in 1997, when he agreed to set up and chair “A Task Force on Restructuring” for BCFFF. Over that year, John and the committee spent many hours deliberating on the future of the organization. This brainwork produced a 15 page report. The work on restructuring was contentious, and continued through the next year, 1998. The restructuring work, and its final acceptance, set the scene for the direction that BCFFF would take from this point to the present. At the 1999 AGM, John became First Vice President of BCFFF. Under this job title, he took on the role of being the BCFFF contact point with the Federation of Fly Fishers. In the summer of 2000, he attended the FFF conclave in Livingston, Montana to represent BCFFF (they elected him to their “International Relations Committee”). In this same year, John was elected President of BCFFF, and he continued in this position until the spring of 2001. In 2004, John took on the job of Gilly Committee Chair. After this, with a move to Vancouver Island and continuing health challenges, John was less able to maintain his participation in BCFFF.



Mid-way through life, John Warren discovered the importance of fly-fishing, and, how anything this valuable needed effort to sustain it. John was a quiet, hard working, sensitive and thoughtful man. When he opened his mouth, you knew it was important to pay attention. John didn’t waste words on trivial rhetoric. Organizations like BCFFF need more people like John!

**Pete Caverhill**

NOTE : the pictures that are part of our tribute to John Warren came from his wife Judy as does the following painting by John.



**Dec 4, 2007**

Dear Fellow Angler:

Our wild pacific salmon are in danger of disappearing. As our wild salmon stocks continue to decline in the wake of BC's unsavory fish farm legacy our tourism businesses, commercial and sport fisheries, coastal First Nation cultures and coastal forest/marine eco systems continue to bear the brunt of this reality. The peer-reviewed science substantiating this threat has proven beyond any doubt, sea lice are killing wild salmon fry, not just in BC, but also on many coasts worldwide. The sad reality is, both our federal and provincial governments have chosen to ignore this science and pass it off as inconclusive, thereby leaving the general public wondering who or what to believe.

This is a serious situation and we trust you will see the urgency to act now on behalf of our wild salmon before it is too late. The recent BC Legislative Committee on Aquaculture recommendations have not been acted upon by Minister Pat Bell (and the DFO continues to promote fin fish aquaculture in open net pens). This strategic committee, as one of its findings, proposed a move to a closed containment fish farming system within five years, to eliminate the detrimental effect of sea lice on wild salmon. We applaud this suggestion and the other key findings this committee has suggested. The real losers are our killer whales, grizzly bears, wolves, eagles and the many other forms of wild life which are dependant on the wild salmon for their survival. It would be shameful to lose the wild salmon's precious legacy due to ignorance and poor leadership. Please, go to the Save BC Salmon website: <http://www.savebcsalmon.ca>. Educate yourself on the issues, read the full page Globe & Mail Ad put together by local businesses, telling Canadian people and their politicians of this problem, go to the SOS button at the top of the page and fill out the petition urging Premier Gordon Campbell and Ministers Bell and Hearn to protect our wild salmon. Your participation in this appeal is vital and we appreciate your help. Recognition, real action and dedication are the keystones to sustain our communities, our economy and our environment. Wild salmon are the thermometer of our eco systems. We must all keep in mind the immortal words of Herbert Hoover, himself an avid angler, "All people are equal before Fish". If this is the case, then let us join together to make a difference and create that one unified voice which can initiate change. Fishers of the world, unite!

Craig Murray  
Owner/Operator Nimmo Bay Resort  
Brian Gunn  
President of the WTA  
[angling@wilderness-tourism.bc.ca](mailto:angling@wilderness-tourism.bc.ca)

## Taking Time

Submitted by Courtney Ogilive

Suppose; just suppose, that in this world of Doom and Gloom there is actually this wonderful, easy-to-access river that is quaint, smallish and produces trophy size fish. How many times have you driven past the North Thompson, the Coquihalla, the Upper Lillooet and so many others, wondering why we didn't see anglers working their wares. This tale is about such a River of Dreams.

During the early winter of 2004, January 8th to be exact, I took a good friend and outdoor writer to one of my favorite fly fishing rivers here on Vancouver Island. It is a river very often driven over and glanced at with words uttered like, "I have to fish that someday!" And that is exactly why he called me during the Xmas season and asked about that river. "What's in that river during the winter " he asked, and, of course, the ever optimist I am responded " There are a few trout and a few winter steelhead in the lower reaches, "wading access is fine but I prefer to drift with the kick boats". That being said was enough for us to act upon those wonderings. We agreed to meet centrally in Qualicum Beach, take one vehicle only even though we were drifting a river and, if lucky. I would hitchhike back to the truck; which I did.

I must mention the river, the Taylor River that meanders alongside Highway #4, on the way to the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Basically the fishable river ends at the rest stop some 25 km from Port Alberni to the west. This river is the main tributary to Sproat Lake and, in so being, receives good runs of cutthroat trout, some very large, from February through June, and rainbow trout in smaller numbers from May through August. Sockeye of course enter this system once they have traveled the length of the Somass River, Sproat River and Sproat Lake (15+miles) and then they move into the smaller tribs' and main River. Many coho and some steelhead also undertake this same voyage making this a very attractive destination for fly fishers. What is most apparent about the Taylor River is the water clarity and its accessibility. It is flanked by a major highway on one side and a logging road on the other, creating a love hate relationship indeed! One can walk the entire river from the rest stop to the lake, in good water conditions, but is really too much for a one day outing. During the late spring and into the early summer it is quite possible to look over the main bridge near the rest stop and see as many as 20 large cutthroat in their dark spawning colors maneuvering for position in the tail-out. In the fall and early winter you will watch many coho doing the same dance in the same tail-out. So it was these visions fresh in my mind that tempted our winter outing on the Taylor.

The day was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed with deep winter blue skies and soft breeze, cool but not cold. We drove to the rest stop, installed all out gear, set-up our two handers, inflated the kick boats and made our way to the tail-out adjacent to the parking lot. Just above the rest stop, on the river itself, is a large deep pool created by the inflows of Sutton Creek. We paddled our way to the top of this pool and noticed several large fish lying on the bottom. Of course, steelhead jumped into my mind and as always, the blood was racing through my veins as if to prepare me for a battle ahead and to hurry me up and



get the fly tied on! We worked that pool for an hour before we both realized it was futile to continue that attack. I took river left, knowing the water better than my partner. The new pool is about 100 yards long with a deep rock face on both sides. At that time the pool was about 15' deep ending with a wonderful tail-out followed by two 90 degree turns within 50 yards. Dangerous indeed in higher water! As we neared the tail-out I cast to a dark slot sheltered by the lower section of the rock face. Before I knew what hit me, I was into a fish that defied all odds, a steelhead- Wow! But it was not to be. It felt different, fought different, faster and nothing aerial. We were freely drifting through this pool, no anchor, unable to use the oars at first. I was able to kick my feet and that maneuvered me towards the trees and onto the shoreline. Once I felt a solid footing, I was able to play and land this bright coho between 12 and 14 lbs. Yes, my jaw dropped, a bright beautiful coho on January 8<sup>th</sup>. How could this be? It was and it is! Throughout the day we landed more coho and the closer to the lake, the more fish we saw- no steelhead, no trout, just coho.

That day has always haunted my visions of winter fishing here on the Island. So, this past Sunday was my wife's day for fishing. Annually, in early December after a rain, we try to fish a small stream near Tofino that has a nice run of small winter run steelhead. The stream is also easily accessible, making it very appealing to Val. We arrived late and someone had already been there so we saw no fish. Being a nice sunny day, we took our time on the way home. Nearing the rest stop Mother Nature hinted for us to stop. Our quick stop that turned into 3 hours. The ghosts of times past beckoned me to the deep pool near-by. I became very disturbed as I peeked over the rock face. The deep pool was now only about 6' deep, filled in by the high water mountainside run-offs, associated directly to logging practices. Also very visible were many coho spread throughout the entire pool. I have never seen them so evenly distributed. A few of the fish were in good shape, others not so good. I heard the car door shut and went running back to share the news. I mentioned that we should fish the Bridge area, knowing the access was easier for her and there are always fish to be seen. Once under the Bridge we saw a line of Coho lying alongside a rock face. Some of the more spent fish were fluttering about in the lower water of the tail-out. What happened next is what happens often when fishing coho. Val made a great cast slightly above the line of coho and the fish scattered all except for one big male that made a very violent attack on the "Intruder", shocking the both of us. The fight was on! Back and forth it went and it was a great fight for Val. Probably the greatest fight was within me, assuring Val that she was doing everything correctly and insisting that she not grab the line! "Leave the fish on the reel. Let the rod do the work", I probably looked like some old fart taking advantage of the situation! Especially rewarding for her and for me, was to see her land a large fish on a fly that she tied herself. The bright crimson male coho took good photos and was none-the-less for wear. Shortly after that we had a big cuttie take a whack at Val's fly only to spit it out and take off for the bottom of the rock face. It was time for us to go and leave these fish alone.

There is a lesson in all this activity...Take time to follow your hunch...you might just be rewarded.

## The Outfit

John Warren

How often have you heard that old Cliché, “today is the first day of the rest of your life”, an overdone platitude that is the favorite of the motivational set. In my case, it was much too often, but mostly from within my nagging conscience. It is, of course, an obvious reality of life, but most difficult for most of us that have experienced the proverbial “mid-life crisis”. Having endured that disturbing event, along came the post-mid-life crisis, unexpected perhaps, but not totally surprising when I look at where I have and have not been, and what I have and have not done. Silently, and with some sadness, I realize how much of my lifetime I have totally wasted and hoped life would have more to offer in this third period.

The symptoms of this restlessness are often subtle, but usually include a collection of offhand comments to whomever might be listening, like, “I think I should take up painting, perhaps watercolors”, or “perhaps it’s time to take an adventurous hiking expedition to the Himalayas”, even though these musings are being made by one who has no visible artistic talents or is totally out of shape and has not hiked in a significant number of years. As you don’t usually mean it, the predictable result is, no follow through, partly because there is no emotional support for these digressions from your current behavior, and partly because the goals are not realistic, to say the least. “You want to do what?” or “Get real Dad!” are familiar responses.

Putting away my flaky dreams of becoming a shepherd, or pruning the sun-ripened vines in my vineyard in Southern France, my reflection on the future continued to fester in my few remaining brain cells, but at a more humble level. One such muttering, to no one in particular, was that I should take up fishing---- fly fishing, no less. With this embryonic thought, I still retain a little of the “exotic” without triggering the verbal abuse reserved for my more irrational bouts of temporary insanity. This time it was “That’s nice dear” and “really, dad?” Polite responses to be sure, but they were not quite as discouraging as most.

What had driven me to reflect a lot more on the future than ever before was a back problem that was mostly solved by surgery in May of 1992, and a following sense of boredom created by my reduced level of physical abilities. At the time, our family lived in handyman special in suburbia North Vancouver that still needed work- lots of work- and lots of cash. Not having the desire or ability to adequately do the former, and having none of the latter, it was time to move on. With the mistaken parental thought that our children were mostly ready to fly on their own, my wife Judy and I purchased a townhouse condominium in the central part of the City of North Vancouver, sold the handyman special in suburbia, conducted the mandatory garage sale and jumped into the challenges of empty-nester condominium living.

With no yard work or other bothersome chores, that I seldom did and had very little ability for anyway, I found myself with an unfamiliar commodity – free time. At the outset, it was used unwisely. Too much television, too much wine and no exercise resulted in bad eyesight, a deteriorating liver and a continuing weight problem.

I did have good intentions, but no serious actions, other than the occasional brisk walk on the seawall with my close friend Dave Lytle. He suffers from the same ailments and body issues as I do, except he is too skinny and he continues to smoke heavily. “You’re going to die”, I tell him, but he’s not ready think about that just yet.

My son Cameron, intuitively picked up on my not so irrational reflections on my future in the world of fly fishing – and acted upon it. During one of his frequent visits to Washington’s Lake Whatcom with friends, and their ritual bargain hunting stop at Freddie’s (Fred Meyer’s) in Bellingham, they picked up a generic style coffee table book titled, “Fly Fishing” by a British author. It detailed the type of equipment you should have for various types of fly fishing, gave some instructional diagrams on how to cast a fly, and provided enough great pictures to transport your mind to the nearest stream where you are in hot pursuit of trout. I picked up this enticing book often in the weeks to come, only to set it aside in favor of another glass of wine and some ridiculous TV sitcom. Good intentions but no follow through.

Father’s Day is one of the rare days of the year when you don’t have to make your own coffee. For me it began routinely this June of 1993, with the usual assortment of goofy cards poking fun at the joys of fatherhood, and how you (along with millions of other very special Dads) are *The Best Dad in the Whole World*. At this point in their emerging adult life, our children have extended lives away from the nest, at least during the day, even if not all at the same time. This particular day would see Cameron, fresh from another weekend at the lake, including the mandatory stop at Freddie’s, and my daughter Andrea, home to pay homage to one of the greatest Dads in the world, at least according to Hallmark.

Today’s special treasure from Freddie’s was again to become mine. A solid two-tone grey tackle box by Rubbermaid, and a blister-pack fly rod set including rod, reel, fly line, leaders, and an assortment of fluorescent colored flies. The tackle box perfectly suited my taste in a qualitative sense, but the fly rod outfit was something else again. I felt like a first grader with my first fly fishing outfit! There was absolutely no resemblance to the balanced fly fishing gear that was so clearly described in the previously acquired authority on fly fishing, and the flies would have made great pasties for the ladies at the local peeler bar, minus the hooks, of course.

No matter, my son had tenaciously followed through in the absence of affirmative action on my part. I am sure he fully understood that the “blister-pack outfit” was not meant to be used in a serious way, but it was a very cleverly thought-out gift, with a subtly strong and effective message; probably much more than he could have imagined at the time. I suspect that his actions were partially prompted by a good sense of humor with a little bit of curiosity and a latent desire to participate in the upcoming fishing experience thrown in. I’m grateful for it, as we would have the opportunity to share the exploration and discovery of the awesome beauty and supernatural resources of the Province of British Columbia that I had almost forgotten about. Later there would be a commitment to do our part in helping to preserve this for future generations.

(Note: John had written this piece several years ago. It was read at his church service in October 2007 by a very good friend)

## **Conehead Steelhead Bugger**

Hook: Alec Jackson or TMC heavy wire # 4 -2/0

Thread: Purple or black

Tail: Purple Marabou with a couple of strands of crystal flash

Body: Deep purple webbed hackle over Glo- Bright purple chenille with silver tinsel wrapped between the hackle

Head: Conehead

This pattern has been very successful. It often can find fish and get a strong take. The conehead causes the fly to move up and down when retrieved.



Submitted by Pat Micek

## **CONTINUING THE TRADITION**

### **Island Waters Fly Fishers take up the Challenge**

By Harold Tinling

We have all heard the discussions on what is going to happen with the fly fishing community as many of the old-guard retires and passes on. We are not alone in this dilemma. The game and fish clubs, along with other fishing interests, are facing the same problems. The Provincial Government states that licences for hunting and fishing are declining as there are not younger folks taking up the outdoor activities that were popular in time past. Younger folks are needed!

Island Waters Fly Fishers in Nanaimo has embarked on a trial program to get younger people involved in fishing, particular into fly fishing. This trial program is headed up by two members of our club, Leo Snye and past president Bernie Heinrichs. Leo, a retired teacher has a lot of experience with youth and has taught fly tying and fly fishing to many classes in the Calgary school system. Bernie has experience with youth from the boys and girls club, along with conducting a fishing class at one of the local schools. The object of the program is to get youth exposed to the whole spectrum of fly fishing. This will involve tying flies, casting, knots, leaders, rods, reels, lines and what ever else comes up such as learning about good environmental habits. We hope we will have time for entomology.

From discussions we had at club director's meetings regarding youth, Leo contacted two bodies in the Nanaimo area namely, the Boy Scouts and Dover Bay High School. The Boy Scouts are currently running the program past their various executive and we hope to hear from them early next year. The scouts have a badge for fishing so Leo feels this would fit in nicely with their programs. The response from Dover Bay School was heartening as their principal and the teacher of outdoor programs immediately saw the advantage of Leo's fishing program and welcomed it with open arms. The high school has set aside time and locations in the school where classes will be held and has offered to do any copying we require. They will supply necessary items like video cameras and projectors. Our members will supply the tools and materials along with the expertise. This first class has thirty participants and we have enough fishers to go around and help with the fly tying.

We hope to tie the end of the first class into the upcoming BCFFF AGM by having students come to the afternoon sessions where they can meet and listen to Brian Chan, and others, see some good fly tying demos and, partake of the good will that surrounds our events. The students, along with their teacher, will also be invited to attend the Sunday events at the Nanaimo Game and Fish club where some good things are going to happen.

It has been discussed that if we have the need, some members could be called on to act as mentors for students who are keen for fly fishing.

This project will also be tied into the Haig-Brown centenary events that will be held in early 08. More on that at a later date.

## 2008 BCFFF Annual General Meeting

The 2008 BCFFF Annual General Meeting is being sponsored this year by the Island Waters Fly-fishers (IWFF), Nanaimo, BC, on April 25-27, 2008. The theme will be "**The Haig-Brown Centenary - Carrying on the Tradition**". We expect significant attendance from the Dover Bay High School, where the IWFF is involved in teaching students the art of "fly-fishing".

The venue will be the **Grand Hotel**, Rutherford Road, Nanaimo, Telephone 1-250-758-3000, e-mail [info@thegrandehotelnanaimo.ca](mailto:info@thegrandehotelnanaimo.ca). Thirty rooms have been reserved for the nights of 25 and 26 April at a rate of \$119 per night, which includes free parking. Bookings are an individual responsibility - so book now and make sure you don't miss the action.

The IWFF will host a Friday night "Meet and Greet" 7 to 10 PM in the upper restaurant - munchies on us - with a no host bar.

The BCFFF AGM will start on Saturday 0900 in the Emerald Room, while the Trade show will be held 0900-1600 in the main ballroom. The trade show will feature a Haig-Brown display organized by **Art Lingren**. **Phil Rowley** will be there to represent "Still-Water Solutions" and will also be active at the fly-tying bench, which will be manned continuously under the scrutiny of IWFF fly-tier of note, **Bob Leverman**. **Peter Morrison**, the rep from SAGE, will also be in attendance, with a full display of the latest Z-Axis and Z-XL rods. We will also have a number of local vendors as well as rods and reels from "RST" a line of German equipment being introduced into Canada, "Snowbee's" fly-lines and equipment as well as Beulah fly rods. Hardy rods and reels will also be featured, with the local representative, as well as a private collection of Hardy reels and bamboo rods for display/sale.

The featured afternoon speaker will be **Brian Chan**, who will provide an update on the Freshwater Fisheries Society and then a presentation on "Chironomid" fishing.

Cocktail hour and auction-item viewing will commence at 1800, with the banquet dinner to start at 1900. Dinner will be followed by closing of the silent auction items, our feature speaker, Mr. **Art Lingren**, our annual BCFFF Awards and then the live auction.

Sunday has been set aside as our BBQ and "educational" day to be held at the **Nanaimo Fish & Game Club**, 1000-1500. Tickets for the full day of activities and BBQ will be \$20. The morning will feature speakers **Phil Rowley** on "fly selection", **Peter Morrison** on "choosing the right rod for your fishing style", and John Beavan on "competitive fly-fishing". After the BBQ Peter Morrison will be manning the SAGE "Casting Analyzer", so come out and check your casting technique. **Courtney Ogilvie** will demonstrate spey casting techniques at the Archery Range, followed by **Joie Coe**, our FFF Certified casting instructor, who will wow you with his casting ability. Our own **Harold Tinling** will close out the day with his casting competition - prizes and draws!!!!

The high school students you will encounter at the trade show and at the Sunday activities are "ours". They are the future of our sport and your attitude toward them will go far to keep them interested and involved in the world of fly-fishing.

#### KEY CONTACTS

##### AGM Co-chairmen:

Bernie Heinrichs, 1-250-390-3266 [bheinrichs@shaw.ca](mailto:bheinrichs@shaw.ca)

Peter Huyghebaert, 1-250-756-32341, [pyogibear@shaw.ca](mailto:pyogibear@shaw.ca)

##### Banquet Tickets (\$40)

Mike Orr, 1-250-754-6148, [kuhnayjun@gmail.com](mailto:kuhnayjun@gmail.com)

##### Auction items

Keith MacDonald, 1-250-758-2138, [keithmac@shaw.ca](mailto:keithmac@shaw.ca)

##### BBQ Tickets (\$20)

Jack Toomer (IWWF President), 1-250-756-0987, [jtoomer@telus.net](mailto:jtoomer@telus.net)

##### Trade Show/PR

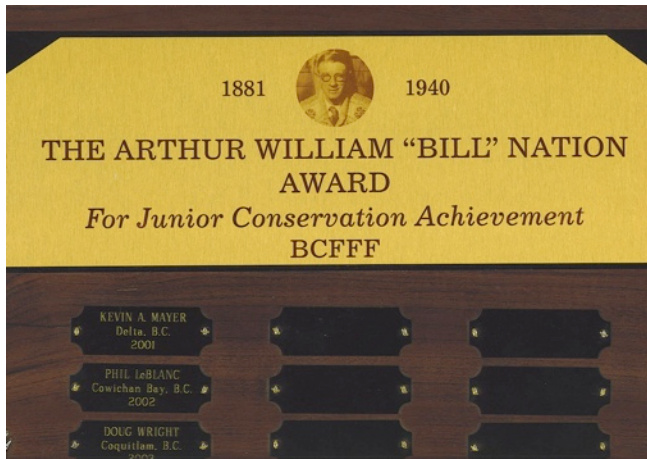
Peter Huyghebaert 1-250-756-3241, [pyogibear@shaw.ca](mailto:pyogibear@shaw.ca)

##### Fly-Tying co-ord

Bob Leverman, 1-250-756-1998, [bobleverman@shaw.ca](mailto:bobleverman@shaw.ca)

## ANNUAL AWARDS

It is important in the evolution of every organization to acknowledge and recognize the contributions and achievements for those few who contribute to the art and craft of fly fishing and conservation. Understanding where we are is often helped by knowing where we've been, what has occurred, and who was involved.



A look back to the people, places, and things of our past helps to give context and relevance to our organization and what we stand for. Our present achievements and future hopes are but an extension of the anglers and angles of the past. The BCFFF has a number of awards and it is time to consider who should be recognized in 2008. The BCFFF board reviews nominations at its spring meeting. Please forward yours or your club's nominations with supporting documentation to Art Lingren, awards chair at [art.lingren@telus.net](mailto:art.lingren@telus.net) by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

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

### **The Conservation Award**

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

### **The Appreciation Award**

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

### **The Gilly Award**

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

### **The Angul Award**

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

### **Arthur William Nation Award**

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

### **Jack Shaw Fly Tying Award**

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



## **Other Important BCFFF Information:**

**1) Volunteers or Nominations for BCFFF board positions follow up will be in the Spring Edition of the FlyLines.**

### **2) Dues are due for 2008**

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

**Please see below for details**

#### **• Benefits of Membership in BCFFF:**

- Affordable liability insurance  
(<http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/CoverInsExplanation.pdf> (see insurance details doc))
- Affordable membership
- Advocacy on behalf of members and BC fly anglers in general
- Access to BCFFF "Gilly Fund" for projects
- Newsletter (4X/yr) and website
- Assistance with club formation
- Assistance with local issues

**But.... Perhaps the most important "benefit" is ....membership in BCFFF provides you with an established, credible and structured avenue to work on behalf of the resource, upon which so much of your life's enjoyment is founded!!!**

### **Fly Fishing Club Membership**

BCFFF is primarily an organization of fly fishing clubs. We welcome new clubs to join BCFFF. The cost of club membership is \$15 for the club and \$10/member (this includes the \$5 cost of liability insurance). To join, please send your current membership list (preferably electronically) and your dues to the Membership Director (below). Providing your membership list will allow us to provide

you with individualized BCFFF membership cards. <http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/bcfffclubmemberapplication.pdf> (Club Membership Form is available on the BCFFF website)

### **Direct (individual) Membership**

Membership is open to all who support the objectives of the Federation. You, as an individual, can help to do your part by supporting the various programs and fundraising events of our organization, and to assist us more directly by becoming a member of the BCFFF. If becoming a member interests you, please download and complete this form <http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/BCFFFDirectMemApp06.pdf> (BCFFF Individual Membership Form is available on the BCFFF website) and return it by mail with your dues to the address below.

#### **Membership Director, BCFFF,**

P.O. Box 2442 Stn. Main

349 Georgia Street West,

Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 3W7

Please make Cheques payable to: **B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers**. Allow up to 6 weeks for membership processing.

Our BCFFF Membership Director is Ken Burgess.

Danie Erasmus is responsible for BCFFF Direct Members .

> [erasmus@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:erasmus@interchange.ubc.ca) <

## **BRITISH COLUMBIA FLY FISHING GALLERY**

The Grand Opening of the British Columbia Fly Fishing Gallery in the Kamloops Museum, January 18, 2008, is the culmination of over ten years work.

Commencing in 1997, the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, through the efforts of member Grant Stevens, made arrangements with the museum's director and manager, Elizabeth Duckworth, to establish a permanent display of fly fishing memorabilia. In addition to a substantial donation of material from the Alf Davy collection and the BCFFF, member clubs also provided start-up funds.

Having survived a number of staff changes, the museum, with current curator, Dennis Oomen, has recently been working diligently to complete this exhibit. The Museum is financed by the City of Kamloops with additional monetary donations from Highland Valley Copper, the BCFFF, and member clubs. This permanent tribute to fly fishers, past and present, will finally be completed.

Recently, we have been pleased to accept other material from Ralph Shaw (Jack Shaw), Charlie Thomas (Tommy Brayshaw), Dwayne Scott and Bill Jollymore (Bill Nation).

Invitations to the official opening of the BC Fly Fishing Gallery were mailed recently to local politicians, VIPs, BCFFF and member clubs, donors and contributors. A second open house will be held April 11, 2008 for those who are unable to attend in January due to previous commitments, weather, etc.

Gary Cutler

# The 2007 BC Endangered Rivers List

by Mark Angelo, CM, OMC, Rivers Chair, Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

continued from Fall 2007 edition

## No. 3 - The Coldwater River

While there have been improvements on the Nicola River system over the past 18 months, there remains significant concern about one of its key tributaries, the Coldwater River. On a positive note, the drought conditions that had existed in this area in recent years have eased somewhat and there will likely be some benefits from a good snow pack this year. However, the outlook for the Coldwater remains troubling and record low summer flows seem to be becoming the norm.

In addition, the low flow period is becoming prolonged by an earlier onset, in all likelihood a result of climate change. This has also resulted in increased summer water temperatures which continue to remain

near lethal limits for fish. Also, if snow packs melt too quickly this spring, this may again cause flow related problems this coming summer.

Due to concerns in past years that centered on excessive water extraction and the adverse impacts this is having on fish stocks, the Nicola and Coldwater Rivers have been widely viewed as endangered. These rivers are key tributaries of the renowned Thompson River system and yet, in recent summers, much of their flow has been diverted and removed. Furthermore, there are already enough water licenses in place to potentially dewater lower parts of the Coldwater while other tributaries, such as Spius Creek, are also being significantly affected by ex-

continued....

## The Outdoor Recreation Report - Summer 2007 Endangered Rivers Supplement

### No. 4 - The Fraser River

The Fraser drops to the No. 4 position this year but remains in the top five for the 13th time in 14 years. While long standing issues such as sewage and pollution continue to be problematic, there are also a host of emerging issues that are the cause of much concern. Among these are missing sockeye salmon, low summer flows, unchecked agricultural impacts and reduced protection for many urban stream tributaries.

In addition, the river continues to be threatened by impacts associated with rapid urbanization, urban runoff, extensive logging in its headwaters, widespread bank armouring, industrial pollution (especially along the north arm) and rapid development along its most productive stretch. There are also a number of old contaminated sites that continue to be problematic and an array of new development proposals near Iona Spit on the north arm, ranging from airport expansion to a new ferry terminal, are also causing concern.

All of these issues have played a role in this year's listing and there are increasing concerns about the river's long term health and our commitment to sustainability. And while it's important to note that progress has been made on some fronts over the past decade thanks to the valiant efforts of many stewardship groups, a significant number of respondents expressed concern that many of the most pressing issues facing the Fraser are not being addressed to the extent they should.

One of the most publicized events of 2004 was the mysterious disappearance of large numbers of sockeye salmon before they could return to their spawning grounds. While more than two million sockeye were expected to return to spawn, less than 500,000 actually made it, making this one of the poorest sockeye returns in decades. Similarly, in the fall of 2005, it appears as though another 1.4 million sockeye may have disappeared, although this is a preliminary estimate.

The causes of this, while not yet fully understood, may range from warmer water temperatures to excessive and/or unauthorized fishing. Whatever the reason, however, these occurrences (on top of similar, but less severe instances in recent years) indicate the need for a more cautious, risk averse approach to the management of the fishery until the causal factors behind these events are fully comprehended and acted upon to the greatest extent possible. There is also a clear need to allocate additional resources to DFO so that they can fulfill their management and enforcement obligations. On a positive note, DFO has recently acted to

limit or curtail fishing opportunities when the conservation of certain salmon stocks appeared to be at stake.

Still another example of the many diverse issues facing the Fraser occurred in early March, 2006, when the building of a berm to access Big Island near Rosedale for gravel extraction effectively dewatered a major back channel, destroying literally thousands of redds and killing millions of alevins, or newly hatched pink salmon. The use of adequate culverts, or the building of a bridge to access this gravel bar would have prevented this from occurring - and the fact that events like this continue to happen startled and angered many river advocates.

Another long-standing threat to the Fraser pertains to sewage pollution. While there are other examples elsewhere in the watershed, many respondents expressed ongoing concern that the Iona treatment plant still provides only primary treatment. And while this plant's effluent is discharged into the Strait of Georgia as opposed to the main stem of the river, many millions of young Fraser River salmon pass through the discharge area on their journey out to sea. At present, the upgrading of major sewage facilities to secondary treatment levels is not scheduled to be completed until 2030 at earliest, an excessive timeframe in the view of many.

Agricultural impacts along the Fraser and its tributaries throughout the Fraser Valley farm belt also continue to be problematic. Along many of the river's smaller tributaries that run through agricultural settings, there is a lack of riparian protection while other issues relate to the inappropriate use of pesticides and fertilizers. Another significant issue in much of the valley centers on the inappropriate disposal of manure during winter months in close proximity to streams. This is pertinent in that the Fraser Valley has the greatest concentration of farm animals (i.e. sheep, hogs, cows, turkeys and chickens) anywhere in Canada that generate a volume of untreated waste equivalent to what 800,000 people would produce in a year.

While the inappropriate disposal of this waste poses a problem for rivers and fish, there are also increasing concerns about the potential for human health implications. Yet, this past winter as in previous years, a number of offences were cited but seldom acted upon, in part because of current policies and/or a lack of available staff.

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### No. 4 - The Fraser river (continued)

In terms of mitigating agricultural issues, there must be increased efforts to enforce existing regulations and there's a need to develop a "best management practices" philosophy throughout the farming community. There is also need for a plan to better protect and restore streamside vegetation along many key tributaries throughout the Fraser Valley farm belt. In addition, there must be even more vigilance in terms of protecting lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), especially in light of continuing pressure to remove large parcels for development purposes.

On a positive note, despite the potential for conflict, agricultural land can also present an opportunity to protect stream habitat and farms and fish can co-exist side by side. In an effort to achieve this, farmers are being encouraged to develop "environmental farm plans" (EFPs) which could be very helpful in mitigating various environmental impacts. The Council is fully supportive of this initiative. But while it holds much promise for the future, this initiative has yet to be widely implemented. Yet, river advocates remain hopeful though that it will expand significantly over the next few years.

There is also extensive concern about the need to better protect the Hope to Mission stretch of the Fraser, which is one of the most productive stretches of river in the world. This section sustains more than 30 species of fish (more than any other BC waterway), including all species of salmon as well as Canada's largest population of sturgeon. In addition, more than 9 million pink salmon spawn in this part of the Fraser main stem in peak years and million of other fish migrate through this section.

Yet, while this area remains extremely productive in terms of fish habitat and is still largely in its natural state, there is currently no collaborative plan to protect key riparian areas along this part of the river. In an effort to address this, the new "Heart of the Fraser" campaign was launched in 2006 with widespread support and it remains a beacon of hope along part of the river. A key part of this innovative initiative deals with the acquisition of key private lands for conservation purposes. This is being spearheaded largely by the private and non-government sectors (including groups such as the BC Institute of Technology, the Nature Trust of BC, the North Growth Foundation, the PFRCC and the Council). However, there will also be extensive efforts to work with First Nations and various governments in the hope that certain key crown lands might also be better managed or protected. This

is one of the most exciting conservation initiatives in Canada and some major headway has already been made with the purchase and protection of much of the Harrison Knob (which in turn has been turned over by the Nature Trust to the Skowlitz First Nation to manage in perpetuity).

Recently Randy Hawes, MP, also advocated a linear park along this part of the river which is completely complimentary to the Heart of the Fraser campaign and would also be very helpful in protecting both recreational and environmental values.

And finally, there's an urgent need for an integrated approach to reducing the flood risk along parts of the lower Fraser. And while there continues to be debate over the extent to which gravel extraction will take place as one component of such a strategy, senior governments have complicated and worsened the situation by not adequately contributing to the improvement of the Fraser Valley dike system. In our view, it has been unfair to fully off-load the financial burden for upgrading and improving dikes onto local governments. There is a pressing need for 20 to 30 million dollars in dike upgrades and repairs that would help to protect more than \$6 billion in existing infrastructure. The federal government should contribute to this just as they've done in similar circumstances in and around Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Consequently, we hope the federal government, as well as the Province, will initiate a greater investment in the repair and upgrading of dikes, which is the most effective way of preventing flooding events. This would help lead to a more integrated and sustainable approach to flood control as opposed to forcing local communities to explore the more invasive option of gravel extraction as the only tool available.

In closing, I believe that the Fraser is the heart and soul of our province and the world's greatest salmon river. Yet, the river continues to face an array of threats and there are still too many instances where land-use and resource management decisions are made at the expense of this great waterway. There is also a need for a host of policy and regulatory changes that will more vigorously address the most pressing issues facing the Fraser.

From a habitat protection perspective, I believe there is also strong support for the development of an extensive and collaborative plan for the Fraser

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### No. 3 - The Coldwater River (continued)

cessive water extraction.

As a result, fish stocks have been increasingly stressed and, in August of 2004, 2005 and 2006, in the midst of dry hot conditions, stream temperatures soared to lethal limits. The release of some stored water from Nicola Lake was all that kept the river's salmon runs alive and, as the river's tributaries warmed and withered, juvenile fish were forced to crowd into what little habitat remained.

It must also be noted that steelhead numbers in the entire Thompson system have dwindled significantly. These fish are clearly threatened and about 60% of this world-renowned stock originates from the Nicola system. Consequently, there is an urgent need for a watershed-specific steelhead recovery plan developed in consultation with all stakeholders. The development of such a plan has been spearheaded by the BC Wildlife Federation which is certainly viewed as a positive development. To succeed, such a plan will require adequate flows among other habitat improvements. In addition to widespread concerns about steelhead, southern interior coho (many of which return to the Nicola to spawn) are also officially viewed as a species at risk.

In recent years, water use in the Nicola drainage has been relentless, an issue recently highlighted in a special report by the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (PFRCC). Based on its own observations, the Outdoor Recreation Council has also concluded that, while some ranch operators have proven to be good stewards and conservers of water, others clearly have not. This past summer, during the hottest dry spell of late August (and after the most profitable crops were cut), there were still hundreds of documented incidents of sprinklers running round the clock. Much of this water was clearly being lost to evaporation. Consequently, there's a pressing need to look at more efficient drip irrigation systems and regimes.

But on a more positive note, the BC Government has recently consolidated the management of water in the

province through the creation of the Water Stewardship Division within the Ministry of Environment. This will be helpful in trying to resolve water use issues in areas such as the Nicola River drainage.

In spite of far reaching concerns about the maintenance of adequate flows for the watershed, requests for new water withdrawals in this area are still being considered by the province. Licenses for thousands of acre feet of water stored in Nicola Lake are on the pending approval list. There is also a proposal for a large, all season resort development near Juliet Creek in the headwaters of the Coldwater drainage while additional proposals for a resort, subdivision and a golf course near the site of the Merritt Mountain Music Festival would exert additional pressure on local water resources.

Consequently, any water management plan for this area must respond to a number of key questions: Where will the new licensed water come from? Who will monitor its careful use? What will be left for the river, particularly in light of the increasing frequency of hot, drought like conditions?

There is some reason for encouragement in that some of these questions are beginning to be addressed - but until there are clear answers, the Council believes that there should be a moratorium on the issuance of new water licenses for the Nicola system as well as transfers of currently unused licenses unless these are used for conservation purposes. There is also potential for the increasing use of partial term or seasonal licenses where appropriate if they can be justified based on present (as opposed to historical) flow records and if there is adequate compliance with agreed upon cut-off dates.

In summary, the placement of the Coldwater River on this list continues to reflect the broader need to better manage BC's water resources and, in future, we must strike an appropriate balance between allocating water for development while also ensuring we protect the needs of fish and other aquatic life.

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**No. 4 - The Fraser River (continued)**

River lowlands. This corridor extends from Hope to Mission and such a plan would focus on the proper management and care of key riparian lands. This particular part of the river is a jewel in Vancouver's own backyard and such a plan, as outlined in the Heart of

the Fraser initiative ([www.heartofthefraser.bc.ca](http://www.heartofthefraser.bc.ca)) would be helpful in sustaining the exceptional fish and wildlife values that exist along one of the world's most productive river sections.

**No. 5 - The Coquitlam River**

The Coquitlam has unfortunately appeared on this list many times - and once again, the major issue continues to revolve around excessive sediment loads most of which is caused by gravel mining.

On a positive note, there has been some progress in recent years such as the creation of some significant new off channel habitat. The Council is also encouraged that the feasibility of sockeye re-introduction is being examined. In addition, praise should go to BC Hydro for moving ahead with the Water Use Planning process.

However, there continue to be major problems with silt and sediment loads from nearby gravel mines and, for much of the winter, silt levels continue to exceed those deemed damaging to fish. The settling pond failure that occurred in 2004 was also a troublesome event. As a result, there continues to be a need for a thorough review of current gravel operations and the strict enforcement of existing environmental legislation.

And while some significant funds have been spent by local gravel firms in an effort to control silt, there is a clear need to do much more. One need only drive above the gravel mines on a rainy day to see the difference in water quality there as opposed what exists downstream of the mines. And it's estimated that for close to 200 days each year, siltation levels along much of the river are considered to be at levels deemed

harmful to fish.

If this situation is to be resolved, the GVRD, BC Hydro, the Province, local government and DFO must all decide to act in unison for the good of the river. As part of this, they must develop an appropriate strategy for the river corridor below the dam and demand that the silt and sediment issue associated with the gravel mines be addressed. And given that both BC Hydro and the GVRD have been a major extractor of water (which often worsens the siltation issue due to less dilution and lower flows), many believe they should also be significant financial contributors to the restoration of this waterway along with other stakeholders, including the gravel sector.

Other problems in the watershed include rapid urbanization and urban runoff. The advent of additional bridges coming on line combined with an estimated 20 to 30,000 new residents moving onto the lower slopes of Burke Mountain, will place added pressure on the river system. Consequently, every step possible must be taken to protect the integrity of the river.

There is some hope, however, that the significant interest in the river that is being shown by some members of Coquitlam City Council as well as a plethora of individuals and citizen groups will be helpful in turning things around for this wonderful local waterway.