



# Flylines

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WINTER 2019

January 25, 2019



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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

This is the time of year for planning the rest of the year! This is the time of year for making resolutions, and keeping the plans. This is the time of year to tie the fishing flies that you didn't get around to last year. And this is the time of year to sit somewhere relaxing and reading a good book about fishing. And this is the time of year for sharing plans, for sharing new fly patterns, and even swapping new flies.

This is the time of year to write letters to politicians. Then be patient waiting for a reply!

But most of all this is the time of year to renew old friendships, raise a toast to new friends. If you can't be where the fish are, be where the fishermen are!

## CONTACTS

### Board of Directors

Jesse Blake	President
Myles Armstead	Vice-president 1
vacant	Vice-president 2
Darren Sipika	Secretary
Brandon Charlesworth	Treasurer
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Rich Ronyecz	Past president
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Peter Caverhill	Director
Jim Culp	Director
Danie Erasmus	Director
Trystan Willmott	Director
Don Grimway	Family Fishing Director
Kyle Sawayama	Director
Monte Clark	Director
Art Lingren	BCFFF Historian

### Affiliated Clubs

Cariboo Chilcotin Fly Fishers  
Comox Valley Fly Fishers  
Cowichan Fly Fishers  
Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Assn  
Island Waters Fly Fishers  
Kalamalka Fly Fishers  
Kamloops Fly Fishers  
Long Beach Fly Fishers  
Loons Fly Fishing Club  
Mid Island Castaways  
Osprey Fly Fishers  
Penticton Fly Fishers  
Totem Fly Fishers  
West Coast Fly Fishers  
Rocky Mountain Anglers

**Mail:** PO Box 41023, RPO Woodgrove, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M7

**Email:** [general@bcfff.bc.ca](mailto:general@bcfff.bc.ca) Use email to request telephone contact with any members.

**Newsletter editor email:** [acre5age@gmail.com](mailto:acre5age@gmail.com)

**Website:** [bcfff.bc.ca](http://bcfff.bc.ca) or [Facebook.com/BCFFF](https://www.facebook.com/BCFFF)

**Membership:** Open to all persons, and members of associated clubs. Direct memberships are \$20 payable to the Membership director.



## **You are invited to attend the BCFFF 2019 AGM at Corbett Lake**

**"There will be days when the fishing will be better than ones most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either way is a gain over just staying home."**

*Roderick Haig-Brown*

There is nothing like the hope of a great fishing trip to get through the winter! Next spring's AGM at Corbett lake is going to be a fantastic time. For those of you interested in booking be sure to do so as soon as possible as rooms fill quickly. This trip to Corbett Lake Lodge is a raucous time to meet old friends and get out on the water for some early season Interior still water fishing. There are lots of lakes nearby that provide fantastic fishing as well as Corbett so there are options for those who want to explore. Friday April 26 pm meet and greet, Saturday April 27 meetings, speakers, banquet, fishing, Sunday fishing.

For Corbett Lake Lodge April 26, 27, 28 Book here:

<https://www.corbettlake.ca/contact/> or contact Ann Thomson, Manager

at: [corbettlake@gmail.com](mailto:corbettlake@gmail.com) , or phone 250-378-4334

Summer rates extended for accommodation and fishing to BCFFF members and special on boat rentals. \$20 per person over double occupancy fee is being waived for the AGM.

### **Accommodations**

All prices are accommodation only.

Large duplex cabins 4a and 4b \$159 per night, sleeps 6 singles.

Cabins 6-11 \$129 per night, sleeps 3 singles

Lodge Rooms \$119 per night

-2 and 3 sleep 2 singles

-1 queen bead sleeps couple or single

RV Parking \$25 per night (self-contained only)

### **Fishing**

A fixed rate for fishing of \$50 per day per angler will apply. (A half day on arrival, full day Saturday, half day Sunday is considered two days)

### **Meals**

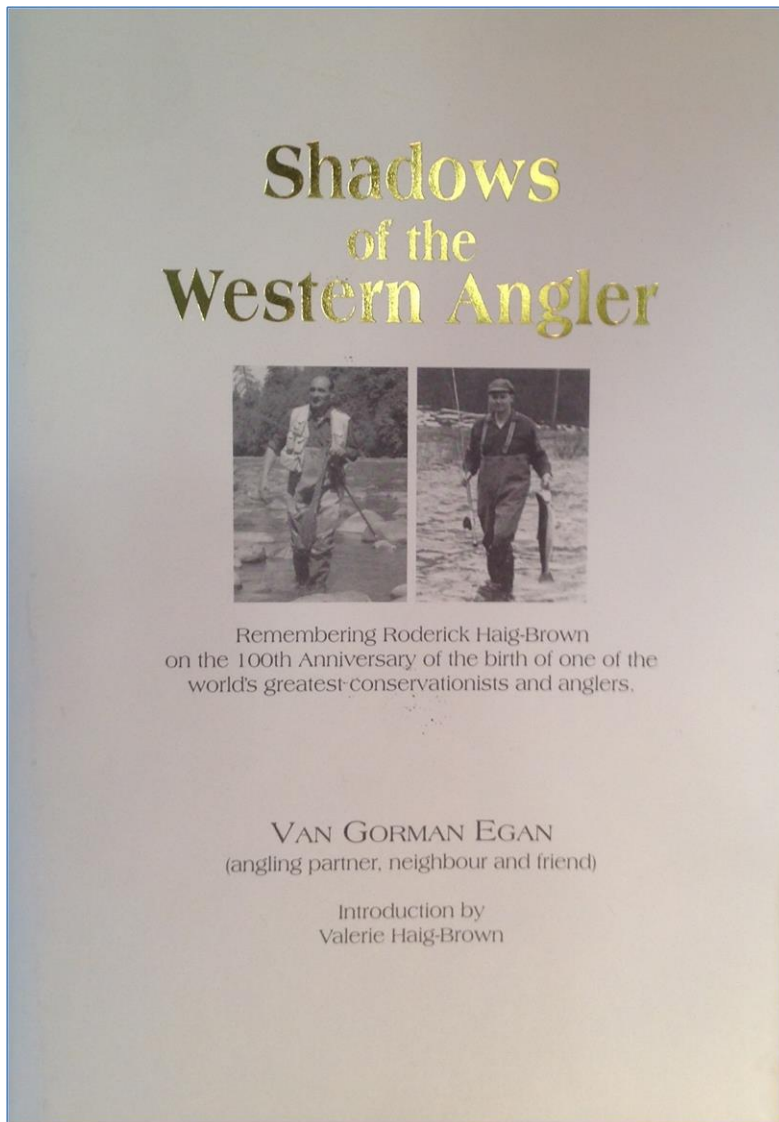
There will be no food service on Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>: \$60 / person plus tax.

Sunday (April 28) breakfast is \$15 by individual reservation.

Cancellation of reservations of meals must be received 24 hours in advance otherwise charges will apply.





### Shadows of the Western Angler by Van Gorman Egan

“Shadows of the Western Angler” celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birthday of Roderick Haig-Brown. Van Egan probably knew Roderick Haig-Brown better than anyone, being both angling partner, neighbour and friend. Although the book is about Haig-Brown, it also tells a lot about Van Egan. That’s why the title is so significant. He was a fly fisherman, a conservationist, a teacher, an author and a gentleman. He wrote several books, including *The Tye Club of British Columbia*. He lived in Campbell River, fished in the Campbell River, but also knew rivers over the whole Island such as the Stamp, the Quinsam, the Gold, the Nimpkish and the Tsitika.

### *Shadows of the Western Angler*

introduces many of the books that Roderick wrote, often describing the when and why they were written. It contains a good balance of Rod’s conservation ethic, but also holds the attention of fly fishermen with stories of fishing. Some chapters discuss specific flies. A sleeve in the back contains a coloured photo of Haig-Brown’s flies.

The introduction was by Valerie Haig-Brown. This edition was printed with high quality paper and in limited quantity. The book was published in Campbell River. An appendix lists all the works that Roderick Haig-Brown had published in his lifetime.

Lavant Gorman Egan passed away July 8, 2010 at Campbell River Hospital at the age of 84. No doubt he will be reunited with his old friend Roderick Haig-Brown.

## MEET AND GREET: MYLES ARMSTEAD



Myles has been Vice-president in the BCFFF for the last 2 years and is a member of the Comox Valley Fly Fishers. He is also a member of the Courtenay Rod and Gun club.

Myles lives in the Comox Valley with his wife Silvia. He works as a Realtor for Remax Ocean Pacific, so if you are looking for a change in location give Myles a call.

Myles has been a fly fisherman for the past 15 years and ties his own flies. He loves fishing for steelhead, but also really enjoys all the fishing opportunities around Courtenay such as cutthroat on the beaches, coho in the ocean. Myles has a Lund for lake fishing and a 19.5 foot Champion for getting on the chuck. For fishing cutthroat trout he is partial to a *Charm Baby* and a *Rolled Muddler*. For coho in estuaries, he is partial to a *California Neill*, a *Mickey Finn*, and other bucktails.

What are Myles goals for BCFFF? 1. to make the executive more inclusive of Interior anglers. 2. To engage young fly fishers and encourage them to join a fishing club. This is at a time when fewer people are joining clubs but are interacting using various types of media. 3. Encourage more people, including senior members to join the Board of Directors and work to sustain the BCFFF.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NICOLA VALLEY FISH AND GAME CLUB**

The following Canadian Press article was extracted from the December 8, 2018 issue of the Times Colonist.

### **Judge orders access to public lake through BC cattle-company lands.**

A British Columbia judge has prodded the provincial government for its inaction while he granted public access to two lakes in the Interior nearly three decades after the route was blocked.

The Nicola Valley Fish and Game Club took the Douglas Lake Cattle Company to court after the company blocked access to Stoney and Minnie Lakes near Merritt. The firm, one of the world's biggest cattle companies, decommissioned a road leading to the lakes in the early 1990's, locking out access to members of the club.

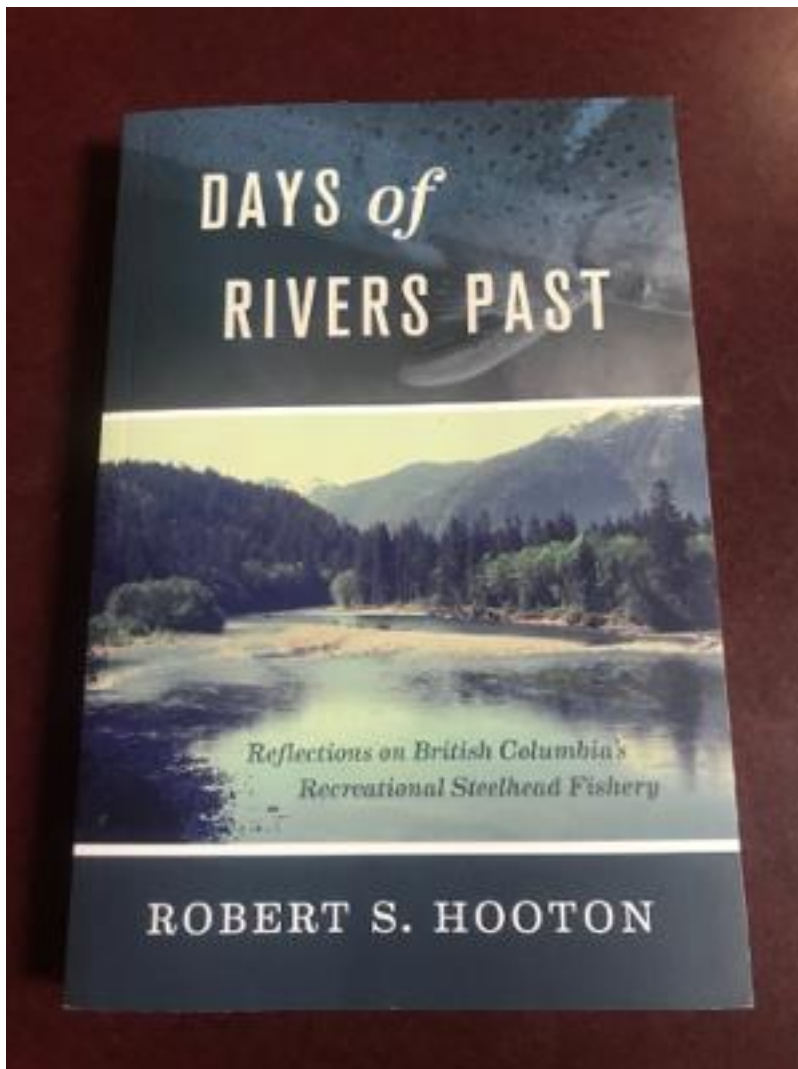
In a ruling issued Friday, Justice Joel Groves said the provincial government retained rights to the lakes, making the fish in the lake public property, meaning the public would need to access the lakes. Groves concluded that the province breached its obligations to the citizens of B.C. when the cattle company unilaterally closed a public road and "no government official had the wherewithal to insist that the lock on the gate be removed."

Nicola Valley Fish and Game Club director Rick McGowan said the decision is precedent setting and will mean the people of B.C. have a right to access all public places in the province.

Groves said in his ruling that the province has a duty to maintain the ownership of public lands and roads and to prohibit those who, for their economic or personal benefit, choose to occupy those public lands.

**Note\*** January 24 TC reports Douglas Cattle Co plans to appeal.





## **DAYS OF RIVERS PAST**

[http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/pub\\_riverspast.php](http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/pub_riverspast.php)

The BCFFF is sponsoring the publication of this book. All profits will be contributed to the Gilly Fund.

If you didn't get Bob Hooton's new book for Christmas you can order it online or visit one of these fine locations to purchase a copy and save yourself the shipping costs!



You can also inquire with members of the executive, see contacts page. You can find Bob's blog page Steelhead Voices here <http://steelheadvoices.com/>

**Highwater Fly & Tackle** - North Vancouver  
**Michael & Young Fly Shop** - Vancouver and Surrey  
**Searun Fly and Tackle** - Coquitlam  
**Hatch Match'r Fly & Tackle** - Maple Ridge  
**Fred's Custom Tackle** - Abbotsford  
**Robinsons Outdoor Store** - Victoria  
**Coast Sportfish** - Parksville  
**Gone Fishing** - Courtney, Port Alberni and Nanaimo  
**Curious Coho Books** - Campbell River  
**Oscars Fly and Tackle** – Smithers

### **BCFFF Days of Rivers Past Price Sheet**

**All costs listed below are only book costs and do not include any shipping fees.**

#### **Regular edition**

-website cost (retail) \$50+gst\$52.50 plus shipping fees (around \$20)

#### **Club and shop (wholesale) costs**

-single book \$40+gst\$2=\$42

-case price (8 books) \$30 per book=\$240 +gst\$12=\$252

#### **Limited edition**

-\$150+gst\$7.5=\$157.50

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Michael Young Spey Day Saturday April 6, 2019

Tradex Boat show Abbotsford March 1-2-3

(contact Greg Carpenter, Ospreys 604-649-8729)

## **ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR WHAT?!!**

### **A primer on watercraft for fly fishing.**

Although you can fly fish lakes by wading along the shore, the most productive and flexible platform for casting is a boat or some kind of watercraft. A boat allows you to fish in all directions, toward deeper water or toward the shore. It allows the fisherman to get closer to the fish. And a boat can carry all that gear that is so important. For us older guys, the appropriately adorned boat allows us to sit back and relax.!



The watercraft with my most fond memories was a 3-log raft. In spite of mighty efforts with a pole or a paddle it didn't move very fast, so we didn't get into much trouble. The log raft didn't have much floatation, so only a couple of us could get on, and we had to watch out for tipping our gear into the water. We didn't catch a lot of fish, but we had a lot of fun.

The first boat I owned was a 12-foot aluminum. It was relatively stable, with lots of floatation. Over a short while, and with thanks to writers with lots of useful recommendations, this boat became more comfortable and productive as I added anchors (2-see above picture), seats with back support, rod holders, and a cooler with ice. I have since added an electric motor.

But, of course, one has to try other options. I tell myself that the aluminum boat is too big and cumbersome, and, in the absence of roof racks on my truck, needs to be hauled on a trailer. Especially when I need the comfort of a camper on the back of the truck.

My next boat was a 16 foot fiberglass Frontiersman canoe. This boat was easier to haul, and indeed, I did carry it some fairly long ways into lakes. It was almost too good at hauling gear because carrying the gear required another trip. Some people find canoes too tippy, but it was okay for me.

Nevertheless one should wear a PFD whenever in a canoe. But I still needed roof racks to carry it on my truck.

A canoe can be made more agile by setting it up for rowing. The best way I've seen to do this is to build a rowing frame, with the fulcrum for oars about 6 inches outside the gunnels. This makes it easier to use light oars such as ones that come with a pontoon boat. Although a paddle moves a canoe quickly, a pair of oars is even faster and more agile.

So I had to try the next latest technology, namely a float tube. The neatest thing about a float tube was the ease of carrying it just about anywhere. The biggest downfall is using it in a river;;don't; its too easily toppled by currents. Also, a float tube is pretty slow for propulsion. You need waders for that. Make sure they are on properly because they are almost impossible to retrieve from water more than knee deep. I don't really like the float tube because I feel like I'm going to lose gear through the tube or over the side. But some people really like a float tube because its low profile allows closer approach to fish, such as along weed beds. And I can always find a place to carry my float tube in my truck or camper.

Although a float tube has many desirable traits, I found myself imagining some improvements. How about a floor to keep all the gear intact? How about larger diameter tubes so the fisherman can sit higher? Add a rowing frame so it can be paddled faster. Or arrange a transom so you can add a motor? And what do you get? A pontoon boat!



*Pontoon boat 1*

Pontoon boats typically are constructed with inflatable tubes of hypalon fabric. Considerable rigidity is managed by connection with rigid members such as floor or transom. The tubes are inflatable; with the corollary that they can be deflated such that they take up less space. This useful characteristic is also its shortcoming, namely a person is constantly inflating or deflating depending on whether you are coming or going. These boats can be set up to have all the advantages and amenities that other boats have, plus its is much quieter on the water. Their main downfall is that they are heavy.

I still haven't found the ideal boat for hauling with my camper. I am intrigued by the *Porta-Boat*. These boats save space by folding side to side making a



package about 18 cm thick (by whatever length the boat is.) These boats are made out of Polypropylene so are light and flexible. You can see from the picture they can be set up like any other boat. So why haven't I tried one?



*Porta Boat*

Boat owners are often subject to a peculiar ailment known as “2-footitis”. You might expect me to be running a larger boat now. Larger boats typically need more power. They need a trailer to travel with and a boat launch to get in the water. But they are more comfortable and are really nice on big water. You probably figure I have a boat like the following.





18 foot Lund

But I think the most ideal boat is like the one following:



Photo contributed by Jesse Blake