

# H A A N E E N A A

N E W S

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## HAA NEE NAA LODGE

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## YEAR IN REVIEW

### SILVER CITY!

The coho are back! But were they ever gone? If you compare the summer of 2002 with the past few years you could definitely say they are back with a vengeance. So many silvers invaded the shores of Dundas Island and the surrounding area that fishing became almost too easy at times. Big runs came in as early as the fifteenth of June and continued strong until late August when we closed for the season. Now that limits are back to the historical 4 per day with a possession of 8 guests had the option to take home several of their beautiful catch for wonderful table fare.

Now in our 12th season of operation we have seen the ups and downs of the B.C. salmon fishery, 2002 was certainly an up year as far as the coho go. We opened the doors on the 25th of May last summer for our 11th season of operation. Jennifer and I have much to be proud of, what started off as a dream has become reality. Our initial goal has always been to provide clean comfortable accommodations, great food and fabulous fishing while enjoying some of the most breathtaking beauty found anywhere in B.C. We seem to have found the right mix. We've tried to cater to the serious salmon fisherman, a client who finds the quality of the equipment, the boats and the fishing more important than staying at a 5 star hotel with a Jacuzzi tub in his bedroom. Through the years the countless friends we have made makes this business a joy to be part of. We would like to take this time to show our appreciation to our repeat guests and friends many who have for years made Haa Nee Naa Lodge their choice for a fishing vacation.

Quite possibly the best crew ever assembled at Haa Nee Naa Lodge catered to our guests with the utmost professionalism. Chef Kirk Borchardt's fantastic meals served with a huge smile were always a welcome treat. His energetic and friendly attitude came through as he enjoyed serving lunches on the beach and on the BBQ float as much as in his kitchen. The tireless effort put out by our young dockhand Ben ensuring the boats and docks were always neat and tidy was appreciated. And who can forget the spotless lodge and wonderful serving always with a smile from our great hostess Inesia. Then there was Double D, Duane, Wonderboy and Willy sharing the guide duties who helped their guests catch some truly remarkable fish last summer. A great season all around. The weather also cooperated in 2002, not too many big blows and with very little rain it made for some very favourable fishing conditions. Our fishing for chinook was very hit and miss last summer. It seemed the fish came in waves which made for outstanding fishing at times and slow fishing during other days. Going over our catch stats at the end of the season showed me just how well the guests did. Previously 2001 was a record year for us on Dundas

*Fish The Magic*

Island so 2002's numbers are going to be compared to these. Last summer 180 guests participated in our chinook fishery which runs from mid May to the end of July. 550 spring salmon were harvested with an average weight of 28.2 pounds per fish. That compares to 2001's figures of 570 harvested chinook at a 26 pound average. Of these 550 chinook 121 were fish over 30 pounds, 69 were fish over 40, 22 were fish over 50 pounds and 4 were fish over 60 pounds. Big fish again 2 years in a row. Last years' largest chinook was taken by Jim Darby of North Vancouver. It was Jim's 5th trip to the lodge and although he has seen several fish over 60 pounds caught by his group, quite notably his son Chris' 64 lb. slab a couple seasons back, Jim had not yet hooked into such a monster. However on that memorable day in early July fishing with his long time friend and business partner Doug Halward and guided by yours truly Jim's luck got just a little better. We hooked into two of the largest creatures which swim these waters. The first strike bent the rod solidly into the water as the reel screeched at an astronomical rate, taking 200 yards out in the blink of an eye. Heading straight for the kelp the monster jumped several times splashing and slashing trying to free the barbless hooks. Only this wasn't a fish, it was 150 pounds of brown fur with whiskers, a female sea lion. The sea lion eventually threw the hooks much to our delight.

Not more than an hour later Doug expertly set the hooks on the 12 pull bow rod and passed it to his companion situated in the stern. Forty five minutes later after putting up a gallant effort not unbecoming a sea lion the huge fish came to the net. It topped the scales as the lodges' largest chinook salmon of 2002 weighing in at 64.5 pounds bled. A big congratulations to Jim for a splendid job on the rod and of course Doug who passed it to him. A trophy worthy of the highest recognition. As the chinook season passed by fly fishermen started appearing at the lodge with what would be the most remarkable ocean fly fishing seen during the lodge's history. The coho were big, hungry and up in the shallows feeding on whatever came their way. Fly casters chucked countless patterns at these hungry aggressive fish. Strange color combinations worked very well such as yellow and brown, red and of course chartreuse clousers. Fish were even caught on the surface with floating

lines and poppers. Truly a once in a lifetime experience for many of the fisherman who encountered the action. And who could



forget about the boiling coho at Kelp Point in early August. Literally hundreds of hungry silvers pushed bait to the surface for over an hour in a white water explosion that more resembled a tuna feeding frenzy. Over the next four hours almost every cast resulted in either

a hookup, a follow or a viscous strike. Truly out of this world! Peter Morrison was at Haa Nee Naa Lodge last season hosting his fly fishing seminars which were again a huge success. They went so well that in 2003 Peter will again be doing the seminars for 3 trips one of which is an 8 day excursion. They will be held on trips #22 (Aug. 3-11) #23 (Aug. 11-15) and #24 (Aug. 15 - 18th). If you'd like to take part in one of the fastest growing sports in North America come try salt water angling on the fly, you won't be disappointed. Peter's fun, humorous style of teaching was very refreshing and his knowledge of saltwater fly fishing is second to none. The seminar attracted fly fishermen at all levels from the beginner to the more advanced. The beginner fly caster was shown the basic steps to casting a fly and the more advanced casters were given personal lessons to increase distance and accuracy. Peter also fished with several of the guests personally to give them hands on instruction. All in all the seminars were a great way to promote this fine fishery. If you're interested in fly fishing or maybe curious to learn then take a look at one of these trips in August of 2003 and drop us a line.

In 2003 guests can expect much of the same type of great service and fishing that Haa Nee Naa Lodge is known for. Plans are underway to add more dock and staff facilities and to ensure that our quality level of service stays as high as in past years. Jenn and I look forward to seeing you all back in 2003 along with many new faces.

## FOCUS FISHING HOLE

"John and Martin come in", "go ahead Clay", the radio crackled. "you might want to come down here, the bite is pretty good right now. I've just hooked 6 coho on 6 casts" I explained or should I say bragged?. "We're doing good up here too, we think we'll stay" "sounds good" I responded, maybe I'll join you if it slows down" Martin and Jonathan Webster had come from England, nearly half way across the globe to chase acrobatic coho on the fly, now they were anchored at possibly the best spot on the entire B.C. coast to cast for ocean bright feeding coho salmon. The Englishmen had followed me over to the massive kelp forest but when I rounded the corner and headed another mile south something caught their eye and they stopped to fish in the shallows up along the beds. The area had two channels which carved their way through the forest of kelp like mountain streams meandering through a meadow. Only these channels weren't the home of ten inch brook trout but hungry coho salmon averaging 10 pounds in weight. Lured there by schools of small bait fish which find refuge in the thick kelp the coho were lurking the edges of the beds always the opportunists, always the hunters.

I rounded the corner heading north to see my new English friends, rods bent deep, reels screaming the sweet sound of success. The double header was way too much for my weak discipline, the work back at the

lodge would just have to wait until tomorrow. I anchored and cast a chartreuse clouser somewhere into 27 feet of water while I watched the other boat still fighting their fish. A pause, a count of 6 then I started to retrieve. One strip, two strips whom! A very hot, very strong 12 pound coho, bright and full of fight launched itself into the sunny warm sky. Ten minutes later pliers in hand I released what would be the first of many fish that day in the newly dubbed English Channels.

Catching coho on the fly can be a highly addictive sport and like a heroin addict being pulled by a drug induced trance I kept telling myself that the next fish I would stop.

When the dust had cleared and the last shiny coho gasped for air at the edge of the boat, I had a day of a lifetime. Solidly hooking 34 coho, 27 of those brought alongside, an equal if not as many good grabs and probably double that amount of fish followed my fly to the boat.

The Englishmen had lost count by this time in the frenzy of the day, all they could say was "it was remarkable" It surely was that.

The English Channels provided us many days of great action on the fly last summer, not all as great as that fine day but many were close. And as the days wore on the fish got bigger and more stubborn. The largest being Dan Shon's first ever fly caught silver, a gorgeous, plump 16 pound buck. One of many he hooked on another fine morning fishing the English Channels.

Another great spot to be investigated when you arrive with fly rod in hand at HNNL.

## 2003 FISHING FORECAST

From all indications the salmon fishing should be good again in 2003. Working off the late 90's early 2000 brood years when commercial fishing was held to a minimum stocks have rebounded very well as was seen in last year's fishery. What does concern me is the way the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans has allowed commercial fishing by trollers again in 2002 and looks to continue next summer. Although the fleet is nowhere near Dundas Island and they are fishing Dixon Entrance and the west coast of the Queen Charlottes the impact will still be felt. Both chinook and coho are again being harvested by a very efficient fleet of boats. This fishery piggybacked SE Alaska's troll fleet that harvested an additional 300,000 chinook salmon last summer. Up to 40% of these fish are heading to spawning grounds in B.C. Hopefully the direction the B.C. and Alaska governments are taking will not lead us back into the days of coast wide closures, and another collapse of this precious resource.

My concerns are voiced at every fishery meeting I attend, but so far they seem to be falling on deaf ears. This is the time to be very cautious, governments must learn from past experience. Undertaking full scale commercial and recreational harvests before the certainty that salmon runs can sustain the pressure is deemed for certain failure.

I think that most of my guests will agree with me when I say that it's better to side with caution and have a reduced recreational limit and commercial harvest which will ensure the same quality fishing we have seen over the last 3 or 4 seasons. If the department doesn't walk a tight line over the next few years my worries may once again be realized.

By all accounts limits for Dundas Island will once again be 4 salmon per day with a possession of 8, with a total bag limit for chinook not exceeding 4 per trip. Any changes will be made public by late January 2003 by DFO. Even though the recreational lobby groups are fighting to have the limits for halibut increased from a possession of 3 to 4 per trip, they have come against much opposition from commercial interests at the Pacific Halibut Commission. I don't foresee the increased bag limits being implemented for 2003 but it may take place for the 2004 season.

Due to coast wide declines of inshore rockfish DFO cut limits of rockfish last season from 8 per day to 5 per day. Considering that very few of our guests target rockfish as a main species I'm pleased with the cuts which shows the department is trying to prevent another species collapse.

Expect 2003 to be another good season of fishing. Even with all the exploitation on chinook salmon, run sizes have been strong for several consecutive years and next summer doesn't seem to be an exception to that rule. As long as a commercial over harvest does not take place fishing should again be strong.

Whether or not the huge influx of coho repeats again like last season we'll have to wait and see. The fishing for coho on Dundas and the surrounding islands has always been good. One of the finest, if not the finest fishery in B.C. takes place here every year, the question is just how good will it be? Fly fishing will once again be in the spotlight at the lodge come August. Each year more and more fishermen partake in this extremely addictive sport. Come try your luck on a cast fly, you may never fish for coho any other way again.

As with our lines, available dates are tight so book your trip early to Haa Nee Naa Lodge for what should be some outstanding action in 2003.

## THE TACKLE SHOP

In this segment I would like to talk about jigging for salmon and some techniques we use to ensure success. Have you ever heard of a Buzz Bomb? It's a long weighted diamond shaped jig that in no way looks like a bait fish. The manufacturer claims the lure makes a buzzing sound that drives fish wild. Through the years, I have used many types of jigs but none have come close to the effectiveness of the Buzz Bomb. They work! No, I don't own stock in Rex Field's company. I just had the honour of watching in person the Buzz Bomb out fish other jigs up to 5/1 while fishing for coho.

These lures were so effective that lodge guests rarely used bait this past season when targeting silvers.



The jig is lowered into the water and jigged up and down until a fish takes the lure. We found that by changing the depths often helped us locate the hungry coho. A short jigging method is preferred, lift your rod in a sharp jigging fashion up 18 inches to 2 feet then drop your rod tip to allow the Buzz Bomb to flutter and buzz downward. Most takes are on the drop so you must really concentrate and watch your rod as you jig.

Generally the hook up percentage is very high, unlike bait which is only about 40% when fishing for coho. The buzz bomb will have a success ratio of over 90%. Landing a lot of fish weakens the line strength from

nicks and abrasion from the sharp teeth and pliers. When we pull the bomb out of the package we instantly throw away the treble hook. Take a 2-3 foot chunk of 40 lb. test line and run it through the Buzz Bomb attach a 5/0 barbless hook using a snell knot or a regular fisherman's knot. Be sure to place the bumper between the hook and the Buzz Bomb. Attach a barrel swivel on the other end of the line then attach it to your main line. Although the manufacturer of the lure recommends not using a swivel we found that it made absolutely no difference in the number of hook ups. The extra strong 40 lb test was more durable and the single barbless hook was easy to remove out of the fish's mouth when practicing catch and release.

If you can find bait balls this increased your chances ten fold when buzz bombing. Drop your jigs slowly through the ball until you're at a depth just below the feed then start your jigging motion. Coho aren't the only salmon that like Buzz Bombs several chinook were landed on these last summer. Most memorably John & Doug from Idaho guided by Jason Tonelli who hooked a double header 33 and 32 pound Tyees at the Wall while Buzz Bombing. Ling cod, halibut and rockfish also go crazy for these jigs. Next time you're out on the water don't discount the old Buzz Bomb. Although simple enough for a child to use, as I found out with my wife and kids, you'll be squealing with excitement.

One of the best fishing lures I've ever seen for coho salmon, but watch out for the flying hooks they can sometimes spit at you!

## TESTIMONIALS

"If I ever had a better fishing trip I can't remember it. Thank you so much for all the friendliness, help and hospitality." *JONATHAN WEBSTER - UK, JULY 29 - AUG. 2, 2002*

"Thanks for the best trip yet. We caught more fish this time than all the other trips put together!! Great food and great service!!" *CHRIS, CRAIG & CHUCK LANGER - SEATTLE, WA, PORTLAND OR. AUG. 9 - 12, 2002*

"Many thanks for a fabulous few days. Everyone's performance was first class." *MARTIN WEBSTER - UK, JULY 29 - AUG. 2, 2002*

"Clay and Jennifer, Thanks a million! Fishing and food were outstanding as usual. I know this was a trip Danny and I will never forget! We had a great time fishing this year. It couldn't have been better for him on his first trip. The only down side was his arms got tired reeling in all the fish we caught. I hope next year his older brother can come with us. Hope all is well and you enjoyed a successful season. Thanks again for the great service and hospitality!" *BILL PURCELL - OREGON, AUG. 9-12, 2002*

## MEMORABLE & NOT SO MEMORABLE MOMENTS

### TIP OF THE HAT

Goes to Kurt Kogita who had one of the most remarkable fishing trips ever at Haa Nee Naa Lodge. Kurt landed a 61, 58, 50.5, and a 30 pound chinook on his trip last summer. He also took home 4 coho 2 halibut and 5 ling cod. On top of that success he also released chinook weighing 22, 15, 18, 23, 25, and 12 pounds. Way to go Kurt! Honourable mention goes to the Barnes group which includes Diane her husband Larry and son in law Steve. The 3 of them took home chinook weighing in at 61.5, 61, 27, 15, 37, 40, 29, 48, 25, 30, 35, which included one terrific afternoon where they hooked the pair of sixties and a 48 pounder less than half a mile from the lodge.

### YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN?!

For those of you who have ever eaten at the Fior d'Italia America's oldest Italian restaurant in San Francisco you may have met one of the owners Bob Larive. A very bright, intelligent and humorous man who loves fishing and the outdoors in general. Bob and his lovely wife Jinx brought their son Ian and his girlfriend to the lodge on an excursion in early August last summer. Fishing was great however the weather was poor for most of the trip as a coastal southeasterly hit the north coast bringing wind and cold rain. It's not the great fishing, the poor weather or the great camaraderie that makes this trip stand out in my mind it's something that happened one day out on the water that I need to share with you. While Bob was out fishing with Ian one rainy afternoon Jinx and Julie stayed curled up with their books quite content to keep the warm amber of the fire going strong. Returning later that afternoon the great white fishermen slowly made their way back into the bay. Waiting on the docks were their wives and staff to greet the bold adventurers and listen to their tales of success. As they approached the dock some 60 feet out, the boat slowed down, you see, Bob is a cautious and safe seaman. The skiff then slowed some more until finally coming to a complete stop some 20 feet from the dock and actually started heading backwards. Bob looked very puzzled, here's a highly intelligent businessman with the look of utter bewilderment on his face. After a few questions, and a little bit of gear shifting he proclaimed that the boat just wouldn't go any further. When asked why, he said he really didn't know. Then like the wily coyote chasing the roadrunner the light bulb came on. You see, Bob had forgotten to pull his anchor when departing the fishing grounds, and when he got close to the lodge the anchor hooked the lodge's beach line and stopped him dead in his tracks. Of course like the smart businessman he his he blamed Ian for the blunder.

### BBQ BARGE!

Bring back the BBQ barge! After a 3 year absence on the water Chef Kirk had the BBQ Barge in full swing again last summer. For those of you who don't know about the barge it is a 18' by 18' dock with a motor mounted to the stern. The staff then loads on the BBQ, tables, chairs, coolers and anything else needed to have a perfect BBQ. The barge is then driven out to the fishing grounds and guests pull their boats up along side, get out and have lunch, then hop in their boats and resume fishing. On one wonderful July afternoon Kirk was returning into the cove after another great lunch, like all addicted fishermen he of course had his rod out the back trolling along, when he hooked and landed a 32 pound chinook, the first and largest ever recorded on the barge. Way to go Fozzi!

### FISH IN THE BAY

One fine June morning while fishing at the Wall with a couple of my favorite guests I had the urge to make a move to Kelp Point for the tide change. This didn't meet with too much opposition from my partners until I stated I wanted to go to the lodge and grab a coffee and croissant. After much discussion the skipper always wins and I got my way. While preparing my fresh croissant from the kitchen a large splash interrupted the peaceful calm of our cove, not more than 75 feet out front. I was so sure it was the resident seal that shares our protected bay that I thought nothing of it. When Mr. Seal didn't appear I quickly routed the troops in a excited frenzy started mooching right from the front dock. We were met almost instantly by a double header, "rockfish" I cursed, then re-baited the hooks as fast as possible. By now we were some 150 feet out in front of the lodge by the big rock which comes awash at low water. I noticed the 6 pull bow rod and watched another rockfish tap, tap. I pointed it out to Mike and said, "it's just another a rockfish!", however when he set the hooks the muscular head shakes spoke otherwise. We had hooked a spring salmon right in the bay! As the reel screamed and we hooped and hollered the 4 pull bow rod dipped sharply as yet another large chinook raced for safety. A double header in the bay less than a 3 second drive from the front dock. When we finished a hour or so later we had boated 5 springs between 24 and 35 pounds while we watched other lodge boats hook up many others. The bay turned out to be a wonderful hot spot for us last June and not just for salmon. The largest recorded halibut of the year at 90 pounds was also taken in what we know as Sage Bay. Sometimes the pasture is not always greener the farther you venture.

## RECIPE BOX

### HAA NEE NAA BEER BATTER FOR ALL FISH

#### INGREDIENTS:

Beer	Flour (as needed)
1/2 teaspoon Baking powder	1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. garlic powder	1 tsp. onion powder
2 tsp. turmeric	



Mix flour into beer until batter becomes the consistency of a pancake batter. Add other ingredients and mix thoroughly. Preheat cooking oil in deep fryer or large pot. Dry off boneless fish filets and role filets in flour then in batter. Deep fry until golden brown and place on pan lined with paper towel to absorb excess oil. Sprinkle with salt. Serve hot and enjoy with homemade tartar sauce. This recipe won't get you any slimmer but it sure is a nice treat every now and then and there may not be a better way to cook fish.

### TARTAR SAUCE

#### INGREDIENTS:

2 cups mayonaise (I prefer Hellmans)	1/2 cup dill relish
1 tsp. lemon juice	1/2 tsp. onion powder
1/4 tsp. garlic powder	

Stir up and serve cold. Measurements are approximate, I never measure ingredients in the sauce, I do it to taste.

## SUGGESTION BOX

Make your stay at Haa Nee Naa Lodge a more memorable one. Jenn and Clay would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions or comments that would help us serve you better. Thank you to several guests last year who made recommendations. Many of these suggestions will be implemented in coming seasons. Please fax us any comments to: 1-800-668-8955 or e-mail us at: silverbk@citytel.net.