

# 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

### HOLY HALIBUT!

Not only was the long-standing lodge record of a 125 pound halibut smashed in 2005, but the catch of halibut increased substantially as well. More and more guests are taking time off from the toil of slamon fishing to pursue this wonderful eating gamefish. The old lodge record was crushed by Ryan Schnitzer and John Paul.

The adventure started one evening when the boys decided to try their luck fishing flatties after a busy day salmon fishing. Their destination was Wolf Island, only minutes from the doorstep of the lodge. Not expecting a halibut of legendary proportions, they did not have a harpoon with them and consequently the duo found themselves somewhat handicapped when the "monster from the depths" latched on. No problem, however: renegade chef Fozzy streamed to the rescue, not only saving the day, but helping the boys land their fish of a lifetime as well. When all was said and done, the skys were dark and the fish topped the scales at 165 pounds. Many smiles were flowing.

Calm seas ruled once again last summer so halibut catches shot up for the second straight year. Chicken halibut, fish averaging between 15 and 20 pounds, made up the bulk of the catch, although several fish over 50 pounds also were taken. Predictions for this season are for continuing great catches of chickens, but there are fish larger than the new lodge record swimming around out there, so anything is possible when it comes to halibut fishing.

A coast wide phenomeneum of smaller chinook salmon also hit the shores of Dundas Island. The lowest average weight per fish (21.73 pounds) in our 14 years of operation was recorded. However, guests took home more chinook than ever before, so what they lacked in size, they made up in numbers. 725 chinook were harvested by guests last summer — an increase of 70 chinook over 2004 and averaging out to 3.43 chinook per guest. Haa-nee-naa lodge hosted 211 chinook fisherman last season and another 96 anglers pursuing coho. 2005 saw 74 fish weighing more than 30 pounds caught, 10 fish over 40 pounds, four over 50 and one weighing more than 60 pounds.

*Fish The Magic*

Haa-nee-naa again opened its doors in mid May to good fishing: the first couple of groups had some of the best fishing of the season, notably during the U.S. Memorial Day weekend when guests tubbed out easily on both chinook and halibut.

As a general overview, the season went remarkably smooth, very few mechanical problems and sensational weather, notably during the early part of the season with almost no rain from April 1 through to July. July proved to be wet right through the month, but as the fly fishermen made their way to the lodge, the weather became better and better.

Our fabulous hard working staff was back again: Deckhand/guide Ben for his fourth year, Hostess Robyn three years, Deckhand Taylor 3 years, Guide Jason eight years, Guide Billy 10 years and Chef Kirk four years. We welcomed new guide Barney for his first season. He proved to be a great addition to the team and all who fished with him testified to his wonderful demeanor. On a sad note, Chef Kirk has decided to pursue other ventures and moved to Edmonton this past December. He will be dearly missed by management, staff and of course by all the guests.

How do you describe a coho fly fishery that is virtually undescrivable? Firstly by stating that this coho fly fishery is here to stay. So remarkable are the catch numbers that you truly have to experience the action first hand to

believe it. Waves upon waves of bright, hard fighting coho invaded the area from the first week of July until Sept. when we closed. Fishing was so good that many guests simply cut the hook off the fly, content to feel the aggressive grab rather than reel another fish to the boat. These beauties, typically in the eight to 12 pound range, were so abundant that on several occasions we saw the water boiling washing machine style. Such observations became commonplace. Of course every cast into these feeding frenzies produced hook up after hook up. Dry fly and dry line fishing became the weapon of choice as anglers watched



in awe as sometimes several fish boiled behind their gurgler minnow at once. To see some dry fly action go online to [www.haa-nee-naa.com](http://www.haa-nee-naa.com) and go to the fly fishing page to see video segments of coho chasing the dry fly. Peter Morrison again will be hosting our fly fishing seminars on trips # 21-24, (July 31-Aug. 14). The seminars are all booked up, but if you wish to go on the waiting list, please call.

## 2006 FISHING FORECAST

With a successful 2005 season under our belts, we anxiously await to see what the fishing will be like in 2006. All indications from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans call for average to good Chinook returns to most rivers on the coast. Of course there are bound to be exceptions. The large number of three-year-old fish showing last season should bode well for larger fish in 2006, but this was what I predicted last year and I was proved wrong along with everyone else. Only time will tell if the hogs will be back in force for 2006.

The lodge is booked at 99% occupancy at the time of this printing, our best year ever. Each year the increased knowledge of tides, fishing holes and runs becomes more



apparent — lodge guests who run at 90% return get better and better at motor mooching for salmon. Catches go up; fishermen are happy.

I don't expect a repeat of the numbers of coho we saw last year in our area — it's just not possible. However, even if we have only half that many, the fishing will still be outrageous. Fly fishermen are again in for a real treat when they fish the bountiful waters of Dundas and the surrounding

islands. This fishery, still in its relative infancy, is a real learning curve. Many new fly casting spots were discovered last summer and exploring more nooks and crannies will be high on the "to do" list in 2006.

Halibut limits look to be unchanged as unsuccessful lobbying of the International Halibut Commission has kept catch limits at two per day, three in possession. Hopefully the halibut fishing will be as good or better than last year. Weather plays an important role here, determining whether or not the offshore fishery is available to us.

Salmon limits will be unchanged in our area for 2006: four salmon per day aggregate, with a possession limit of eight. Only two per day with a possession of four may be in force for Chinook however.

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 2006.

## FOCUS FISHING HOLE

### THE OUTSIDE EDGE

Situated some 15 miles from the lodge is an underwater plateau which rises from the abyss to the fishable depths of a couple hundred feet. A potporrii of fish inhabit this flat. Baitfish abound in such vast schools that it is uncommon not to have thick schools fill your sounder screen. On anchor the halibut fishing is

extraordinary. Many times before your fresh herring hits the bottom, you have a hookup. Put on lighter salmon gear and drop mooch through the schools of bait and you will pick up numerous salmon, everything from feeder chinook in the 10 pound class to tyee-sized locomotives which charge to the surface instantly on the hook up. Come July the coho also frequent this shoal. It is almost impossible to have a drop without a hook up in this truly amazing fishery.

The area is out of bounds unless you are accompanied by a guide and guide boat, but if the weather cooperates and you get the chance take the long haul and fish the outside edge, you'll be happy and sore that you did.



## MEMORABLE & NOT SO MEMORABLE MOMENTS

### TIP OF THE HAT

Goes to Jason Nordstrom who took home three beauties last summer. His three tyees of 51, 32 and 30 pounds were a remarkable catch. Not to mention the multiple smaller fish he let go unharmed. Jason was fishing with his Dad Dan (who made the honourable mention list in 2004) and guide Jason Tonelli (Wonderboy).



Honourable mention goes to Steve Snorky for his massive 63 pounder caught in early June.

The fish ranks in

the top 10 big fish of all time for Haa-nee-naa Lodge. Steve added three more fish in the low 20's to round out his catch.

And how about Bob Mosqueda and Gary Bowden? The duo hooked more than 30 springs during one glorious day at Two Pull. What an amazing feat!

### WHALE OF A TIME!

The Orcas are getting educated! So many fish were eaten by Killer Whales last summer that we lost track of precise numbers. There were simply too many to remember. If you had a fish on while the whales were present, it was over before you knew it. Don Pahrman and his partner Bob Reidhead experienced this all to well as they lost a double header chinook to the whales. But Martin and Randy from the Consolidated group watched in awe as whales ate their fish right before their eyes only inches under the water. The feeding frenzy lasted several gut wrenching minutes.

### HANLEY ROCK!

You know the rock I warn everyone not to hit on the way to The Wall from the lodge? The rock which is 300 yards past the breakwater to the right. You remember! Well guess who hit it? The Hanley's. It's now known as Hanley Rock. Good thing Honda's are tough. A busted up prop and bruised egos were the only casualties.



### COMING OF AGE!

Keep your eyes open in the bay because my kids have come of age. You'll see them bombing around in the 14 foot Livingston, practicing for when they can take the reins from dad as the lodge head guides. Oh how time flies!

## TESTIMONIALS

"Burt and I are still enjoying the memories of our great week at Haa-nee-naa last August. We are already looking forward to next year."

GINGER SARVER, OLYMPIA, WA. AUG. 2005

"What a great trip we had this year! As usual the service was fantastic, the food great and even coming later in the season managing to tub out on springs and coho made this a truly special trip that will not soon be forgotten".

CHRIS LEEUWENBERG, BALLWIN, MS. JULY 2004

"What a fabulous vacation we had - thanks to you and Jennifer for a truly memorable experience. You are such gracious hosts and made everyone feel most welcomed. The salmon is superb!! Our friends can't believe how fresh tasting and oh-so-delicious it is!"

BARBARA HANNA, SAN MARINO, CA. AUG. 2005

"Just a brief note from Duncan and myself to thank you for a really superb fishing holiday. Having fished all over the world, we are both in agreement that fishing from the Haa-nee-naa Lodge provided us with some of the best fishing which we have had anywhere and of course we'll be back....despite our age!"

RON TAYLOR, ENGLAND, AUG. 2005

## DRY FLY COHO

We've come a long way, baby. Wasn't that long ago when it was generally held Pacific salmon could not be caught on the fly, period. Well, the fly flingers proved 'em wrong.

Chinook are still proving elusive, but man have the fly fishers ever nailed it when it comes to coho and much of the "nailing it" happened right at Haa-nee-naa Lodge. There are a couple of reasons for this, Clay's willingness to experiment chief among them, but the main reason beyond any doubt is the lodge's key location smack in the midst of what has to be one of the greatest concentrations of ocean-feeding coho anywhere in the North Pacific. It would not be a stretch to say the lodge is home to the finest coho salmon fishing anywhere on the planet.

Great! Now go get 'em. This was easier said than done, at least initially. Flies had to be perfected, fly lines and rods had to keep pace with the demands we put on them and so on. While all that slowly came together, coho stocks kept rebuilding until finally everything gelled. That was last season, 2005, the season that will live forever in the memories of all who participated. We had the flies, the gear and a wealth of fish, so many coho salmon milling and feeding that it

literally boggled the mind. True to the fly fishing mantra, only one thing remained: How the heck do we make this more difficult?

Crazy but true. A fly fishers' interest level is directly proportional to the level of difficulty. Make it too easy and they look for ways to make it difficult, which is what happened in 2005. A couple of years before THE BIG ONE, a few of the boys began experimenting with dry lines and dry flies. They met with some success, not huge, but worthy of kudos within the peer group. So how would the dry perform in the season of plenty, we wondered. Well, we wonder no more.

We nailed 'em and nailed 'em and nailed 'em again. Fly fishing great Peter Morrison caught hundreds (no mistake, HUNDREDS) on the dry fly. Even the humble bumbler caught a dozen or so on the dry fly EVERY DAY. And they did it day after day after day until it was time to go home, arm weary and sad to leave, but buoyed forever in the knowledge they had participated in one of the greatest angling experiences of all time.

Will it ever be like that again? Who knows, but one thing is clear: Unless you go, you'll never know.

Karl Bruhn, lodge guest 2005

## TO GUIDE OR NOT TO GUIDE...

Many guests ask me the question when booking a trip to HNNL: "Do I need to be guided at your resort?" The short answer to that question is no. Haa-nee-naa Lodge provides all guests with top of the line boats, motors and the fishing equipment needed to catch that trophy salmon or halibut. The resort is anchored close to the fishing grounds, only minutes away on calm protected waters. Thorough area and fishing orientations are given prior to any guests hitting the water. Guests can fish from dawn until dusk with unlimited time on the water in search of that fish of a lifetime.

Lodge statistics do show a much greater catch percentage on guided boats, but if you are the do it yourself type of fisherman then you will do very well fishing on your own.

For the first-time salmon fisherman, or those individuals who wish to relax a little more, the small daily fee for a guide is well worth the price. The average guided day is 10 - 12 hours and costs approximately \$10 per hour \ per person based on double occupancy. Guides need to be booked well in advance since only a limited number of guides can be housed at the lodge. If you want to be guided, call early. Haa-nee-naa Lodge guides are all local, professional, first-class fishermen who will make your trip an experience to remember. Those of you who do fish a lot and prefer to fish alone, our guides' local knowledge and fishing ability are still recommended for at least one day of your trip. It may make the difference between a fabulous trip or an average trip, so it's money well spent.

## RECIPE BOX

### SALMON TOMATO PRMESAN

SENT TO US BY JERRY SCHROEDER, FLY FISHERMAN\GUIDE FROM KELSO WA.



#### INGREDIENTS:

Skinned Salmon Filet  
Sliced Tomatoes

#### MIX THE FOLLOWING INGREDIENTS TOGETHER:

- 1/2 cup softened butter
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning

Place salmon on aluminum foil, spread with mixture. Refrigerate until butter mixture is firm. Place sliced tomatoes on fillets on top of butter. Seal foil, place on baking sheet and bake in preheated 400 degree oven for approx. 10 minutes per inch or until fish is opaque in center. Pull out before fully cooked as fish will continue to cook while being served. Serve with basmati rice and vegetables of your choice, asparagus goes well. Enjoy!

## 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 either fax us your comments at 1-800-668-8955 or email us at silverbk@citytel.net.