

Winter 2009

Volume 23

Tight Lines

Majestic British Columbia fishing
with more comforts than home.



THE
WEST COAST
FISHING CLUB

westcoastfishingclub.com

AROUND THE CLUB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2009



We recognize that the 2008 fishing season was a very unusual one—things that we consider constants changed, and the weather threw curveballs to keep us on our toes. For the first time in our 16 years at Langara, we had to man an armada to do two changeovers solely by boat. We conquered the challenges and finished the season on a high note for big fish and guest experience.

The fishing was not up to our expectations, but we noticed some positives come out of it. We believe that the unusual fishing and the unusual weather had our employees really reach down and focus on the quality of the experience and the enjoyment of our guests. They did a great job delivering a memorable product in a season of challenges.

Taking the cue from our employees, we believe in the quality of our operations and believe in the experience of the Queen Charlotte Islands and it's for these reasons we continue to invest in our properties and why you'll see some new changes and great surprises this coming year. We are optimistic that we will all be moving in a better direction in 2009 and look forward to welcoming you once again.

Rick & Brian

FISH FACTS

It was a test of wills for all anglers this year... could you stick it out and be rewarded? Patient guests triumphed, and in some cases with large fish. Some of the five year springs our guests landed were trophy fish of a lifetime, with more 60 pounds that we've seen in 5 years. These bursts of brilliance fostered hope in all, but left everyone wondering where the consistent runs of chinook salmon that we are accustomed to had gone.

Most of the blame for the poor salmon season falls upon a period of low food conditions in the Pacific Ocean during 2005. "Poor ocean survival" is the umbrella term used to explain the decline for all salmonids that went to sea in 2005. Salmon fry spend about one year in their natal creeks, then venture into the ocean for two, three, or four years of growth and predator avoidance before returning home. Most chinook salmon have a four year life cycle, so fry that hatched in 2004, went to sea in 2005 and were returning home in 2008 were the group we were expecting to see this season—the elusive four year olds.

It's important to keep in mind that the current salmon season has absolutely no bearing on the following salmon season. Coho and chinook live in three, four and five year cycles so salmon that were spawning in 2008 don't give any clue to the upcoming brood year. And there is some good news on the horizon for 2009. So far, the number of three year old returning chinook is far higher than expected; giving hope for a strong run of four year olds next year. Plus there is the added positive effect of a cold water flow out of the Gulf of Alaska bringing south an abundance of copepods—the foundation of the fish food chain—promising lots of food for growing salmon.

REMEMBERING WALTER TILDEN

The West Coast Fishing Club lost a dear friend this summer in colleague and long-time supporter, Walter Tilden. Walter passed away at home, shortly after his 80th birthday in July. We were so pleased that Walter's sons, Bruce, Roger, David, Robert and his wife Donna were able to join us at the Clubhouse this season to carry on the Tilden tradition. Walter has been bringing friends and family to the Clubhouse for a number of years and though not able to join this year due to illness, he was there in spirit.

Nearly 20 years ago, Rick met Walter while bird hunting at the Goodwood Club in Toronto. Walter was 'dog-less' and became 'uncle' to Rick's black lab and the three of them continued to hunt odd Saturdays. Walter was an avid outdoorsman who included fishing as one of his passions and when he retired in the early 90's he set up an office at the West Coast Fishing Club in Toronto. Walter introduced the WCFC to a wide range of his business associates and helped connect and mentor the Club. Walter was a true gentleman and his company and knowledge were enjoyed by all who walked the halls of Sheppard Avenue with him.

Walter is a notable Canadian in every sense of the word; proud, successful businessman, philanthropist, volunteer and dedicated family man. He was inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame in 1993 and was given the Order of Canada. He dedicated a great deal of his time to many business and professional organizations including Scouts Canada for 45 years. We will miss our friend dearly but Walter's spirit will live on in his family and the West Coast Fishing Club.



CLUBHOUSE RENOVATIONS

This year, the Clubhouse will benefit from some aesthetic renovations. The last remaining upstairs bedrooms on the ocean view side will be updated to the level of the newest Clubhouse bedrooms. These updates will give rise to the creation of a gold/executive floor with an exclusive private lounge. Guests with mid-sized groups will now be able to 'reserve' the gold floor bedrooms and lounge for exclusive use by their group. The lounge will also be updated to include a 60" plasma TV for sporting events and presentations.

We are also making improvements to the main and private dining areas, as well as adding a business center, allowing members a private and quiet area to keep in touch. These changes are all designed to improve the guest experience while at the lodge. We feel these are the important next steps in creating the premier salmon fishing resort on the BC coast. The Clubhouse has been 16 years in the making and is the leader in the evolution of a premium fishing club.



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THE CLUBHOUSE

The 2008 season will long be remembered by members and staff alike. Our guides will recall the effort needed to attract the elusive chinook salmon. Many unique rig-ups, depths and locations were tried; some successfully, others not. When the chinook weren't cooperating, fortunately, the coho were present and often in abundant numbers. Also bountiful this season were halibut, almost always available just east of Coho Point or several miles west of Langara Island for some monsters. This is when we really appreciate our big Boston Whalers and how safely and speedily they get to the grounds. Those Whalers were responsible for making fishing possible three times this season when no other boats dared venture out.

The weather and springs made 2008 full of challenges—some unique in our history. Twice in August, weather was so poor that our trusty helicopters were unable to lift off. When we deemed it necessary to tackle the changeover by boat, quick action ensured everyone reached their destination safely with stories that will be told many times. Fishing for Kids was another great 2008 success with 42 guests raising \$507,100 for the BC Children's Hospital. Our second annual Culinary Adventure featured some wonderful fishing, fantastic cuisine and an opportunity to learn gourmet secrets from David Hawksworth and friends.

This winter, our construction crew will continue to improve the Clubhouse with a number of renovations all designed to improve your experience. On behalf of the many returning staff, thank you for visiting us this season and we look forward to welcoming you back to the Clubhouse in 2009.

Terry Cowan

THE OUTPOST

This year marked the tenth anniversary of The Outpost and it is more solid than ever in its reputation as 'the lodge' on the remote west side of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Things started out with a bang with father and son, Bill and Todd McGaw, landing the largest chinook of the season—a 62 pound silver beauty in 30 feet of water at Gillan Point during the second week of June.

There were some stellar highlights, like the lucky June 16 –20 guests releasing over 200 chinook between them. Longtime WCFC guest Gerald Grieve landed a 34 pound chinook with his trusty fly rod. A relatively new halibut spot, Taylor Shoal, turned up a 207 pound monster for Mike Bird. Almost within eyeshot of the lodge, David Fehr landed a 37 pound chinook off Brock Island. David and Marie Dore released a 250 pound halibut caught at Tian Islets. New-comer, 20 year old Tanner Arychuk logged a 39 pound tye and a 188 pound halibut... some great moments from the non-summer of 2008!

The Outpost has proven to be a success in its intended goal—to be an 'outpost' of the Clubhouse. We welcome Clubhouse guests who'd like to a walk on the wild side!

Great Job Team Outpost!



NORTH ISLAND LODGE

I must start by thanking our guests and staff for making my first season as general manager an enjoyable and rewarding experience. My inspiration for the challenge grew, with the pride of watching our enthusiastic staff show great character in delivering an exemplary product. Guests noticed the first rate personalized service, camaraderie between staff and guests, and Walter and crew's outstanding food.

Although the chinook fishing in 2008 was challenging, we saw an incredible size average. Every trip from June 2nd to Sept 8th produced tyees; with 40 and 50 lb. fish not uncommon. We refined techniques and explored new fishing grounds. Guides dug deep in their tackle boxes, finding that a change in menu often paid dividends. Several large chinook were taken from "the cabbage patch"- including Richard Masef's 60 lb. season record—a spot relatively unknown to us that proves we can still learn at Langara.

Coho showed in late June and stayed in good numbers right up until our last trip. The halibut fishery delivered consistent limits, and when westerly winds eased, guests often found a large one or two, with the season record being Reto Suter's 208 lb. monster.

Right now is an exciting time for us as we reflect on our past season and look to enhance the next. We continue to work hard to provide our guests with the finest overall fishing vacation possible and look forward to seeing all our friends again soon!

Todd McIntyre



STRAIGHTENING THE LEARNING CURVE

For the 2009 season, North Island Lodge is pleased to introduce a new fishing coach program designed to expand the knowledge base of our self-guided guests, and hopefully, improve their ability to react to changes in the fishery. All self-guided guests will receive one day of on the water fishing school during their stay with us for the upcoming season.

Our coaches will teach new skills and expand guests' fishing repertoire, improving confidence and success on the water. The day of instruction will include:

- Familiarization of boat, safety, fishing locations and equipment.
- Salmon producing areas and structure, ideal depths, effective trolling speeds.
- Downrigging, cut plugging, teaser head and artificial lure tips and tricks.
- Hooking, playing and successfully landing fish.
- Tides and advanced fishing theories.
- Halibut locations and riggings.

Through hands-on teaching, coaches can assess individual levels of knowledge and provide customized training for each guest. As any accomplished angler will tell you, becoming a better fisherman means you never stop learning. We would like to show you a few of the things we've learned over the past 20 years. Our goal is to provide self-guided guests with the best equipment and the knowledge to use it.



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2008 PHOTO GALLERY



Photo by: Jessica Haydahl



Photo by: Art Ulveland



Photo by: Randy Culler



Photo by: Mike Tonnesen



Photo by: Sheldon Taitinger



The perfect gifts are waiting at our online gift shop:
WCFCLIFESTYLE.COM



Photo by: Art Ulveland



Photo by: Mike Tonnesen



Photo by: Todd McIntyre



Photo by: Todd McIntyre



Photo by: Jessica Haydahl



Photo by: Jessica Haydahl



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SPECIAL EVENT



FISHING FOR KIDS TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER



Can you think of a better reason—or excuse—to go fishing than supporting BC Children's Hospital? This year, the West Coast Fishing Club was proud to host its third annual Fishing for Kids Tournament fundraiser at the luxurious Clubhouse on Langara Island. Boasting a picturesque location, stunning accommodation, top guides and boats, prizes, great wines and cuisine from renowned chef, David Hawksworth, this year's exceptional event was co-hosted by local Vancouver Canuck favorite, Willie Mitchell.



Overall tournament winner, Mitchell Zulinick took the top prize of \$100,000 and generously donated his winnings back to the BC Children's Hospital Foundation. Second place winner, Dave Sharples, and third place finisher, Michel Letellier also donated their prize monies back to BC's kids. Thanks to all participants and our generous sponsors and suppliers for another great fundraiser that netted \$507,100 and put generous anglers contributions at nearly \$1.5 million in just three years... the largest amount of money from the smallest number of participants generated by any event that supports BC kids! Don't delay; sign up for the upcoming June 11–14, 2009 tournament while there is still space.





Dear Children's Hospital . . .

Hello, my name is Matthew Williams. I am 16 years old and live in Langley. I have epilepsy and ever since I was three months old, I have been a patient at BC Children's Hospital. I underwent brain surgery nine years ago and it has changed my life. Now my seizures are under control with medication. I would really like to thank my neurologist, Dr. Mary Connolly, and neurosurgeon, Dr. Paul Steinbok, for helping me get better.

Over the years I have been asked a number of times to talk about my experiences at the Hospital. This past spring, I was very excited when I was asked to represent BC Children's Hospital at the Fishing For Kids Tournament Fundraiser at the West Coast Fishing Club. The whole trip was amazing! On the first day, a guide took my dad and I fishing and I caught my first salmon ever! The next morning we went up in a helicopter to watch the shotgun start for the tournament and saw the boats race out to start fishing.



To see additional photos of the tournament and for more information, please visit www.fishingforkids.ca.



Another highlight of my trip was meeting Willie Mitchell of the Vancouver Canucks. He was very nice to me and it was cool that he came to support BC Children's Hospital. I was so happy that the fundraiser was such a success and raised \$507,000! Even the tournament winners generously donated their winnings right back to BC Children's Hospital. Thank you to all those who participated in the Fishing for Kids Tournament, including the West Coast Fishing Club and the organizers who helped make it such a success. It was the best trip I have ever been on and I will never forget it! Thank you to everyone who supports BC Children's Hospital!

Matthew Williams

Thank you to our Event Supporters:



Media Partners:



Auction Donors:

- Bosa Construction • Finning (Canada) • Chef David Hawksworth • Lakemount Duck Club
- Masters Gallery—Calgary • R.D. Berger • Vancouver Canucks and Willie Mitchell • Walter Tilden

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- Helly Hansen • Hills Foods • Howe Sound Brewing Company • Outback Clothing • PosterOne
- Russell Brewing Company • Stormtech • Sysco Foods • Trimpac Meat Distributors Inc.



\$15,000 WOULD LOOK GREAT ABOVE THE MANTLE.

SPRING SALMON CHALLENGE

Catch & Release Derby

We are continuing our Spring Salmon Challenge; a fee-free derby with some great weekly prizes and a fantastic grand prize of \$15,000 for the 2009 season. Every West Coast Fishing Club guest who visits either the Clubhouse, the Outpost or North Island Lodge on any trip that ends before July 6th, 2009 is eligible for the derby. What's the catch? Guests must be booked on fully-guided fishing trips. The grand prize winner may opt to swap the cash prize for four free trips to the lodge instead. Don't, or rather, let this one get away... register today!

Results:

1st week:	no entries		
2nd week:	Chuck Burnfield	Outpost	42.83
3rd week:	Chris Kuykendall	Clubhouse	41.46
4th week:	Frank Fezza	Clubhouse	48.88
5th week:	Gary Grant	Clubhouse	49.41

2008 Grand Prize Winner:

Gary Grant Clubhouse **49.41**



Mike Wiegele
Helicopter Skiing

Have you ever wondered where our helicopters spend the winter?

They continue to move guests to fabulous resorts, but colder ones! This month, the machines relocate to Blue River, BC to play their part at the renowned Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing Resort.

Stretching across the Cariboo and Monashee mountain ranges in one of the world's most productive snow belts—the 1.2 million acres of skiing terrain and 1000 peaks and runs provide the ultimate in powder fun.

The Lodge offers luxury and comfort with such amenities as massage therapy, fitness center, sauna, whirlpool, stretch room and boutique. The Lodge is also where guests experience an award winning wine selection, exceptional fine dining and outstanding service. Apparently our helicopters live the best of both worlds—fishing in the summer at the West Coast Fishing Club and heliskiing at Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing during the winter. For further info contact our friends at Wiegele's.

www.wiegele.com

Toll free: 1.800.661.9170



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THE BEACH HOUSE B&B OPENS

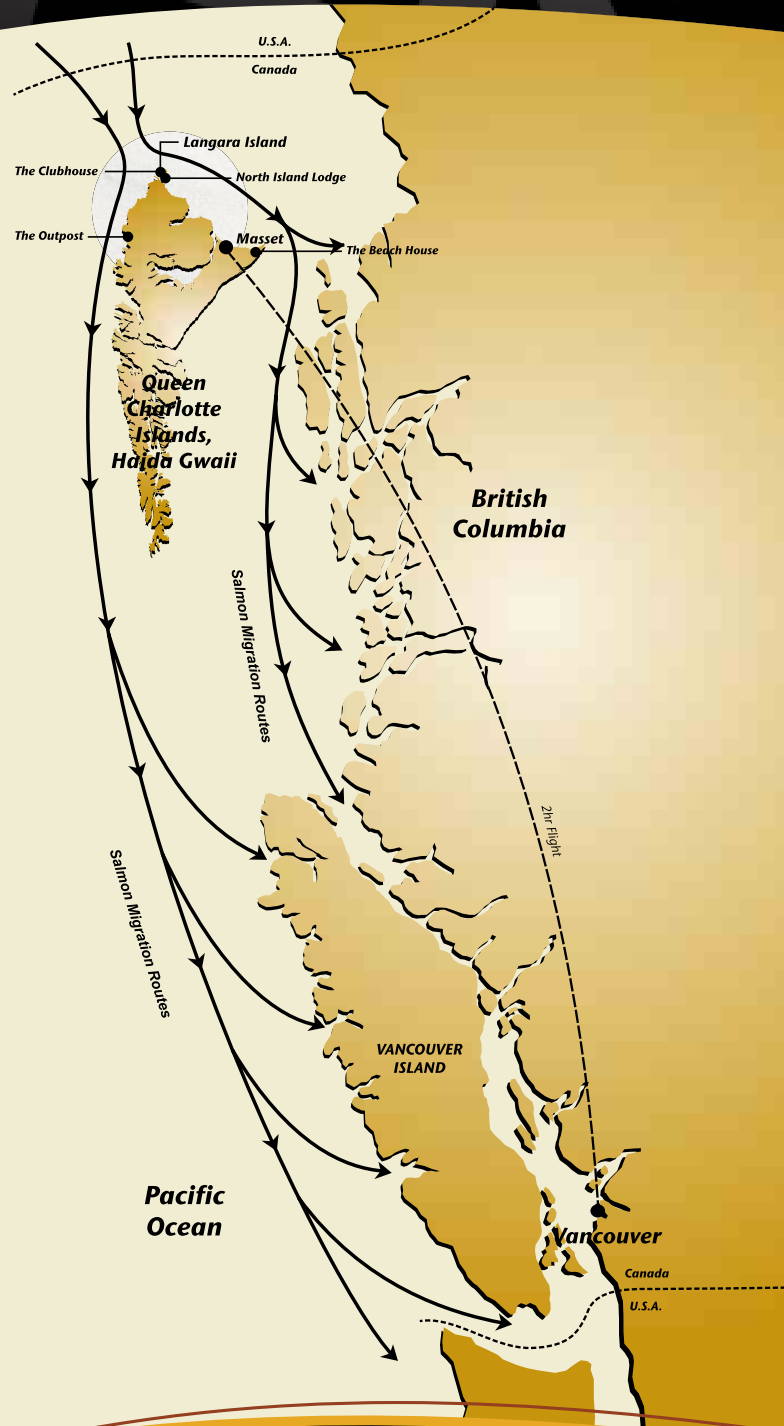
We're pleased to announce the opening of another West Coast Fishing Club property; the Beach House B & B opened this June in Masset. This intimate property nestled in the dunes on South Beach, accommodates just six guests and is a perfect first or last stop on the way to all other West Coast Fishing Club properties. During the summer months, enjoy the incredible natural surroundings; including some of the world's best beach combing, clam-digging, scenic helicopter tours, hiking tours of the ancient Haida Gwaii rainforests, cultural tours and visits to historic sites. During the winter come for some of the finest steelhead fishing you'll find on pristine, breathtaking small streams and creeks. Check our website for more details.

2009 BOOKINGS

Now that you are armed with some positive information about next season's salmon fishing, it's the perfect time to contact our offices and reserve your 2009 fishing date. With a stronger US dollar our package prices have, once again, become more appealing to our US guests. Don't miss out on what's forecast to be a stronger fishing season. Contact our offices today to book your spot.

QCISUS WINNER

The lucky winner of the trip for two to any West Coast Fishing Club property is Avery Smed. Avery entered during his trip to North Island Lodge in June. Guest support of this essential society ensures that we can continue to produce salmon for local Queen Charlotte waterways.



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