



Musée de pêche à la mouche du Canada Canadian Fly Fishing Museum

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Liaison 2013

Report to members for the year 2012

The Canadian Fly Fishing Museum has completed its seventh year of existence.

On January 29th 2012 we held an Open House at the museum for members and the public. Visitors were able to have a glimpse of which artifacts would be on display for the summer. Everyone browsed and examined objects, and discussed with the welcoming volunteers the many and varied aspects relating to fly fishing.

Flyfishing: is really to catch a fish with a fly, But it is also:

- *Observation and study of fish and wildlife*
- *Observation of plants, shrubs and trees*
- *Appreciating the wonderful sounds and smells of nature*
- *Studying aquatic and terrestrial insects*
- *Understanding and improving fish habitat*
- *Canoeing with safety*
- *Orientation on the water and in the woods*
- *Fly tying*
- *Fly rod building*
- *Angling photography*
- *Appreciating arts in fly fishing*
- *Appreciating angling literature*

- *Studying and understanding hydrology*
- *Understanding water chemistry*
- *Collecting flies, rods, art and books*
- *Studying fish behaviour*
- *There is really no limit!*

Flyfishing is the sport of a lifetime!

Many members and visitors took advantage of their visit to the museum to become new members or to renew their membership cards for 2012. Many also procured some of our promotional items such as books, collections of flies or wading staffs. Many also left a donation in the Remembrance Box.

At the "Forum de pêche à la mouche Québec/Maritimes de Granby/Granby's Québec/Maritimes Fly Fishing Forum" on February 4th and 5th, the museum and two volunteers, Gisèle Dupuis and Jean-Marc Lacroix, demonstrated the value of protecting Canada's fly fishing heritage, as well as explaining certain techniques for tying flies and building rods. And naturally, we also promoted the museum and its objectives, accepting renewals of membership cards, and welcoming new members. Among the variety of workshops at the Forum, the president of the museum, Claude Bernard, had three presentations of his slide-show "La Yamaska-nord au Centre-ville de Granby/The North Yamaska in Down-Town Granby".

Strong collaboration is now well acknowledged between the ACPE (Association des Chasseurs & Pêcheurs de l'Estrie/Association of Hunters and Fishers of l'Estrie), PMHY (Pêcheurs à la Mouche de la Haute Yamaska/UpperYamaska Fly Fishers), the Québec/Maritimes Fly Fishing Forum in Granby, and the Canadian Fly Fishing Museum Inc. of Waterloo. What's more, it is to be hoped that the wider region of the north Yamaska will eventually become known as a regional centre for recreational fishing.

At the Forum's banquet we announced the winner and made the presentation to the eighteenth recipient of the Paul Plante's Honourable Mention: Yvon Gendron of Drummondville was the 2012 winner. Fly tier, story teller, fisherman, Yvon is known to all fly fishers especially due to the company he founded: "Mouches Neptune".

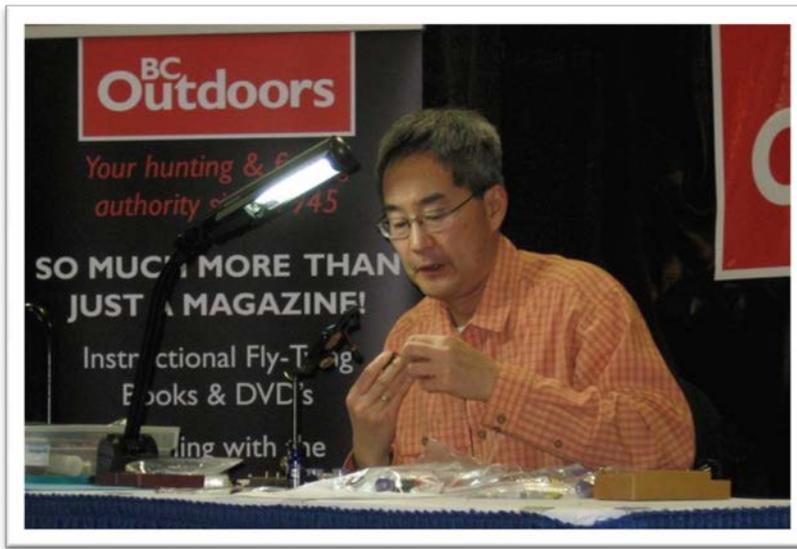


Yvon Gendron on Lake Wapizagonke in Mauricie Federal Park, July 1988.



Yves Laurent's artwork in the Museum booth, February 2012.

The Jean-Guy Côté Award was attributed to a very well known Canadian implicated in fly tying in British Columbia. The 2012 prize was awarded to Brian Chan. This was presented to him by Ian D. Martin at the Canadian Fly Fishing Forum in Hamilton. Brian has donated to the museum one of his books, "Morris and Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes". This copy of his book is available to visitors at the museum.



Brian Chan during a fly tying demo at the BC Outdoors Show.

Jean-Guy Côté

By Steve Brideau

Jean-Guy Côté (1949-2006), founder of UNI-THREAD Inc. was born in Trois-Pistoles, in the Gaspé peninsula. He grew up near the St-Lawrence River and the Trois-Pistoles River. Near this little river, Jean-Guy begun observing little bait fish eating insects at the water's surface. He met some salmon anglers in his town and was fascinated by their fishing stories. Fly fishing literature was very rare at this period and the fly boxes where kept closed to other fishermen.

It was enough to pick his curiosity, forbidden things are always more attractive: His uncle had a fly rod and fly box and always said «Don't touch these...». Jean-Guy

asked: « Who made flies? Which materiel used for tying them? » One day, at a restaurant of his place, a salmon angler named Jean Michaud, related his last salmon trip at the Matane river. The little J-G was around with his sister and asked him to see his fly box. A few days later, Jean-Guy arrived at his first fly tying course with this man, but two hours later...The teacher was angry about him « You're late Jean-Guy!» He answered, « With my bicycle it's a long ride from Trois-Pistoles to Rivière-du-Loup!» Ok.

He was a good cyclist and he devoted to the practice of the bicycle and became very good. He liked the sport and intended to become a physical education teacher. He opted for studies in Cegep in Montreal. The first thing which he made by arriving in town was to go to John Cucco's fly fishing shop, the character about whom he had so much heard. His dream to see all these materials for fly tying and these fishing articles come true. John took him under his wing and polished up him in commercial tying who can assemble hundreds of time the same fly. John Cucco's speciality was the tying of "Muddler Minnows". This skill will become a particular line in the possible creations of Jean-Guy.

John used tying thread he ordered in large spools and that he spooled on small spools that could be installed on his bobin for fly tying. Besides studying in Cegep he ties flies for the business of John Cucco. It is preferable that the thread is waxed to properly hold materials on the flies. Over the years, Jean-Guy develops his own method to coat his thread of the proper amount of wax.

Jean-Guy Côté's business (les Produits UNI) takes shape gradually.

He now lives in Ste-Mélanie where he teaches physical education at the elementary school. He still ties flies but his interest is carried towards the spooling of fly-tying thread. He spools threads of various materials, various colors and varied diameters. During a journey in Boston to attend a fly fishing show, he showed his products to several players of the fly fishing business. His products are not still known and sales where very bad. However, he met Japanese distributors who convinced him to use black spools. For the Japanese black color means quality. At this moment, Jean-Guy used spools of different sizes and colors, the size of the thread that it is or not waxed. On the spool, the hold down slot for the thread was on the opposite side of the label so as to fit it in the "UNI-Tray".

These innovations pleased the Japanese a lot. Following the production of a new "UNI-Tray" with more capacity of insertion of reels, Jean-Guy proposes then to the fly tyers the "UNI Store Box".

In 1993, Jean-Guy went to Fly Tackle Dealer Show of Denver, Colorado. In the surrounding hall, there were all the companies associated with our sport. Imagine a big room as 20 hockey rinks where, there are four casting ponds for people who can cast the whole line. "It's in Denver I realized the scale of the fly fishing industry on the earth!" He said. It is like that that the exports of tying spools and production began. Today UNI products are distributed in about 50 countries worldwide.

Jean-Guy Côté: The fisherman

Besides the passion for work, our man also had the passion for fly tying & fly fishing! During his first years as fly tyer for John Cucco, he created some new patterns. His creative spirit allowed sometimes creating new flies for specific situations. The series of "Mud-Hopper" to imitate the Phryganedea (caddis) were his first creations. By changing the color of the body and by adapting the thickness of the fly, he could imitate almost all hatches of Phryganedea appearing on the lakes which he frequented. He was one of first use the foam bodies in his flies. He created the series of "Foam Muddler" and the series of "Foam Bug". By varying the color of materials and the size of the fishhook, he managed to meet the needs of most fishermen.

It is necessary to say to you that at the certain moment having left his friend John Cucco and having settled down to Ste-Mélanie, he set up his first company "Les mouches du Québec". It is from this company that he sold flies and other products for fly assembly.

This is when, imagination, combined with his fisherman experimentation, he invented these patterns (to name a few) "Branchu orange", "Mud-Hornberg", "Matonipi" and "Presque Pas". He used them for fishing brook trout lakes of Quebec Province. It happened that he go fishing over sandbanks situated far from shore and to hear fishermen to say: "you saw this fellar which go fishing in the middle of the lake!". It is a pity they did not know the techniques of Jean-Guy ...

Jean-Guy going worldwide

During an ATOS show in Drummondville, Quebec, Jean-Guy met the highly considered William Cushner picture framer of flies and works of art. This gentleman had been very involved in the operation of the Fine Arts Museum of New York. Cushner knew Jean - Guy's reputation as an excellent fly tyer of the Muddler style. After discussion, he tied two series of twenty four styles of Muddlers and Cushner made two frames. One for Cushner and one for the ATOS collection. That of the collection Atos remained at Jean-Guy's until it was transferred as well as all his personal collection to the Canadian Fly Fishing Museum in Waterloo.

In 1994, he was a member of the Canadian team representing Canada in Norway during the world Championship of fly fishing. He was among others accompanied with Paul C. Marriner, Brian Chan, Donald Thom and John Huff. During this competition, Canada was classified at the 8th position.

In 2000, his UNI company received the KUDO for the quality of its products and its innovations in the field of products got round for fly tying during Fly Tackle Dealer Show in Denver, Colorado. During the last years of its life, a cancer was diagnosed. He saw his friends and went fishing as long as he was capable of it. During the weeks preceding his death, he had the strength to receive at home a team of La semaine verte of Radio-Canada for the recording of two segments. The last segment of this broadcast will have been filmed during the press conference announcing the creation of the Canadian Fly Fishing Museum in Waterloo on January 17th, 2007 and during the announcement of the first recipient of the Jean-Guy Côté Award at the banquet of the Québec/Maritimes Fly Fishing Forum in Granby.

The Jean-Guy Côté Award

The tying of flies for fly fishing was the pivot of Jean - Guy's life. At the request of the organizing Committee of the Forum in Granby, he agreed to lend his name to an award to be handed annually to a Canadian having demonstrated during several years the excellent undeniable qualities in the fly tying implication. The recipient must have made a big contribution either to the teaching, or for the excellence of his assembling, or by his papers, or by his skill of creation or by his very big implication to promote the fly tying and encourage fly tyers to progress.

The Québec/Maritimes Fly Fishing Forum created in 2007 the Canadian Fly Tyers Hall of fame in partnership with the Canadian Fly Fishing Museum in Waterloo. The winners will be inaugurated there. Jean-Guy decided to deposit all his personal collection of artefacts of fly fishing to the Museum of fly fishing of Canada in Waterloo. A part of this collection is now on display at the Museum for the benefit of all amateurs.

In mid-July 2006 Jean-Guy lost his battle against cancer. At his request, his ashes were deposited in the Bonaventure River on September 5th in the presence of some of his friends. An important Quebecker left us for beautiful lakes and magnificent rivers for which he fishes now every day!

Good bye Jean-Guy!



Jean-Guy Côté, founding president of UNI Products in happy times on the Bonaventure River in 2001.

During the banquet at the Forum, Patrick Vincent, Regional Director of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, presented Claude Bernard with the Canadian National Recreational Fishing Prize. He was accompanied by Gérard Bilodeau who represented Québec on the national selection committee of the prize for recreational fishing.



Claude Bernard with Gérard Bilodeau and Patrick Vincent, receiving the 2011 Canadian Recreational Fishing Award.

On the occasion of the Québec/Maritimes Fly Fishing Forum last February, the museum's kiosk exhibited for the first time four framed plaques of original flies from the Sportsman cigarette series. These flies were used as models by the artist mandated to draw them, after which they would be reproduced on the back of Sportsman cigarette packages for more than two decades. Also, we had invited a

renowned artist/sculptor - Yves Laurent, known as "Fish Carver" at Québec-Pêche. We were able to admire his sculptures such as the Sockeye Salmon, the male Brook Trout, the trophy plaque "Autumn Salmon", and the Cut-Throat Trout. The presence of Yves with his amazing fish sculptures, painted in their real colours, made the Museum's kiosk a major attraction. What magnificent work!

Due to an exceptional bill from the museum's preceding accountant, it was agreed in mid-February to invite Mrs Andrée Brault to become part of the administrative team as the accountant for the museum. As an incorporated organism we are obliged to submit to the Revenue Ministry the state of our finances, and we think that Mrs. Brault will be of valuable assistance.

The 1st of March being the date for renewal of membership at the museum, we have sent to each member a personalized message. You must have noticed that we used Canada-Post's pre-fly stamped envelope designed with a fly especially for you!

Jean-Pierre Martin was speaker at a week-end of intensive training in mid-March, dealing with fly casting. From the simplest elements to the most complex, Jean-Pierre explains and demonstrates using his most efficient style. Aided by his skilled coaching and his new "Micro Practice Rod Echo", the 1001 casts in his arsenal were offered to us. Even with nearly forty years of teaching fly fishing, each time I participate in one of Jean-Pierre's workshops, I'm able to add an interesting number of refinements to my fly casting knowledge and abilities. This year, 2013, Jean-Pierre will once again be at the museum on 16th and 17th March. Those who are interested can sign up on our web site: www.mpmc-cffm.com or on Jean-Pierre's personal site: www.jepechealamouche.com.

On 15th April the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Fly Fishing Museum Inc. was held at 13:30 in the reading room of the Public Library of Waterloo, 650 rue de la Cour, Waterloo, QC.

Once again, on 28th April, the monitors of the museum ran the "Pêche en herbe" Program ~ "Kid's Fishing Day" sponsored by Quebec Wildlife Foundation. Thirty kids from the Waterloo region were able to discover both the theoretical notions and the practice of recreational fishing. For more than eight years we have enabled this worthwhile event for our young people. BRAVO!

The prestigious fly rods built by Jean-Marc Lacroix generated an important profit for the museum. They are frequently used in small private drawings to raise funds. Bruno Bergeron, Bertrand Boivin and Denys Poirier have become owners of one of the rods in 2012.

This spring we received substantial financial aid from both the Town of Waterloo and from the Forum de Pêche à la Mouche Québec/Maritimes de Granby, for which we are most appreciative. This financial support~ added to our membership fees~ permits us to continue reaching towards the museum's goals.

During the summer the museum was open on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1-4:30pm and on Saturdays from 9-12pm. This schedule has been adopted to coincide with the public library's hours; it is now closed on Sundays. Many visitors have profited from the expertise of our volunteers.

It was agreed that on Saturday 15th the museum would have a kiosk at the "Lac oublié" meeting held by "Les amis du bassin versant du lac Waterloo/Friends of the

Lake Waterloo Watershed". That day was a huge success. Many people discovered the museum for the first time. Jean-Marc Lacroix and Christopher Wodja animated the kiosk with their explanations, demonstrations and pertinent replies to questions. The majority of the visitors came to understand the relationship between the aquatic insects, the imitations of flies that we use for fishing, and how it is extremely important to protect all watersheds. Some important contacts were established by this activity with "Les amis du bassin versant du lac Waterloo/Friends of the Lake Waterloo Watershed".

On Saturday 6th October several members of the museum participated in the clean-up day along the trail 'Sentier des libellules'. This trail on the north shore of Lake Waterloo between Lewis Street and Mario Bridge is being upgraded by the "Comité Image centre-ville de Waterloo" to become a site for recreative fishing for the "Pêche en herbe" program organized by the members of the museum on the last Saturday in April each year.

In mid-October the board of directors of the public library tackled the renovation of their book storage in the basement, which is on the same level as the museum. The books as well as all the bookshelves were removed. Then the renovation began of lighting, heating, walls and finishing. The workman of this task was Yvan Labrègue. His work enabled the transformation of a little-used book depository into a multi-purpose room of about 700 sq.ft. This room is now available for the museum's activities.

The 6th December was an "Open House" day at the museum. We had prepared, labeled and displayed a new selection of artifacts in the museum's main hall. In the new adjoining room for visitors a corner was set up with tables and chairs for discussion. The continuous projection of some fishing DVD's were shown on the screen. Besides, coffee and biscuits were served by our hostesses Lucille Milaenen and Louise

Bernard. Several new visitors became members of the museum while others renewed their membership.

The next day, the museum's financial committee met with our legal counselor Me. Serge Racine at his office in Laval. A working lunch advanced several of our files.

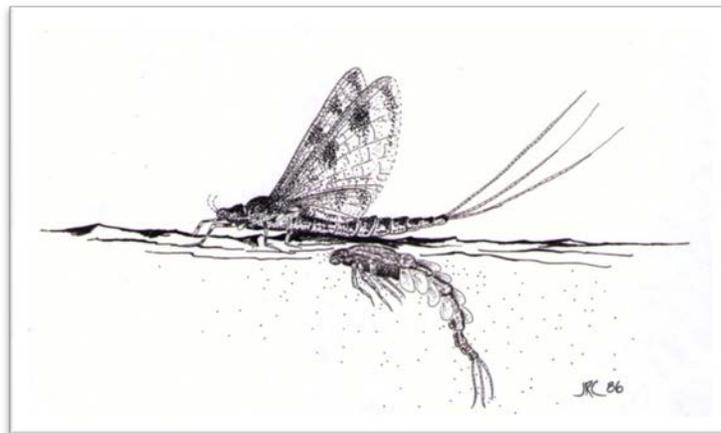
Please know that even if the museum is not progressing as rapidly as we would have wished, however, the directors and many volunteer members do a gigantic task!

You, the members of the Canadian Fly Fishing Museum Inc., are of inestimable importance to the administrators.

Please come and see us at the museum's kiosk at the Québec/Maritimes Fly Fishing Forum in Granby on 2nd and 3rd January 2014. You can renew your membership as well as encouraging us to continue our unending task!

Thank you,

Claude H. Bernard, Chairman



Dun getting rid of it's nymphal shuck, drawing by Robert Cormier.