

IWFF Honorary Member
BILL BROWN



Bill Brown was born in Nanaimo, raised in Washington State, worked in Vancouver then retired in Nanaimo. His immediate family at the time of his passing was his wife of 56 years Lenie. and two grandchildren Kim and Chad. Bill met Lenie during the liberation of the Netherlands during World War 2.

Bill took up fly fishing when he was 10 years old, in Washington State. Fly fishing was done by casting a snelled fly, tied to a loop on a 7ft. gut leader, fastened to a bush willow. The casting technique involved flipping the line into fast-flowing water. Bill never knew of any other method until he ran

into a 16-year-old who was fishing worms and was in awe! His fishing interests continued when his family moved to Vancouver and he became involved in fishing local streams, and the Kamloops area, once he obtained a driver's license.

A career of 30 years as an electrician for the city of Vancouver, kept him there until 1978.

In 1967, Bill and 3 fishing buddies started the Totems Fly Fishers, with the objective of having several lakes designated as fly-fishing-only. They also promoted conservation, site clean ups, and the teaching of fly casting and fly-tying. Bill became a professional fly-tying instructor some time during the 70's.

When Bill retired to Nanaimo, his passion for steelhead fishing switched to sea-run cutthroat, mostly beach-fishing in the Lantzville area. Cutthroat were caught all year with March-April and October-November being the prime times. His favourite fly was an American Coachman with a yellow body.

His experience with starting the Totems came in handy when he was asked to lend a hand in creating IWFF in 1983.

Although Bill Brown was a noted Fly Fisher tier and caster, he is probably known more for his sense of humour, as well as his storytelling and pranks. For more details of his life and photos, please go to <https://www.iwff.ca/NEWS/2003/billbrown.pdf>

Contributor: Bernie Heinrichs