

Haig-Brown award to Fr. Charles Brandt

Black Creek resident and hermit-priest Father Charles Brandt, who has championed the cause of conservation for decades, has won the prestigious Roderick Haig-Brown Conservation Award for 1991.

Brandt, 68, recently received the award at the Totem Flyfishers' 23rd annual general meeting in Burnaby.

"The presentation committee, in studying the list of worthy candidates, noted none more outstanding than today's recipient," the organization's past president Lee Straight said in announcing the honor. "He has been so active, over such a long period, on behalf of wise use of our natural resources, that yards of media material already have tallied the debt that society owes him."

Straight said Brandt is not only a "dedicated champion of careful ecology, he's (also) an unusually interesting, colorful clergyman who is one of us -- an angler -- the salt of the earth."

Brandt said Monday he was honored to receive the reward because he knew and admired Haig-Brown, who was a magistrate in Campbell River, a writer and a well-respected conservationist.

Brandt said Haig-Brown's true



Father Brandt receives award from Totem Flyfishers president Brent Lister

genius was in his unique ability to put into words the contemplative nature of fishing.

The Haig-Brown award is not always awarded annually, and recipients have included both organizations and individuals.

Brandt earns his living from paper conservation and restora-

tion. His involvement in conservation programs and campaigns has led to several previous awards.

Brandt lives alongside the Oyster River in a house that is also his workshop. He has been particularly active with the Comox Valley chapter of the

into the state of the nearby Puntledge River. He is also chairman of the society's Tsolum River enhancement committee which spearheaded local pressure for the provincial government clean-up of the acid mine drainage streaming out of the abandoned Mt. Washington copper mine.

Brandt earned a biology degree at Cornell University in the early 1960s and worked with eminent B.C. scientist Dr. Robert Bams in the late 1960s on the Tsolum River pink salmon study. He was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1966.

He has been or still is a direc-

tor of: Friends of Strathcona Park, Oyster River Enhancement Society, Haig-Brown Kingfisher Creek Society, Campbell River Environmental Council, Vancouver Island Resources Society, and chairman of the Environmental Committee of the Social Justice Commission of the Catholic Church.

Brandt remains dedicated to preserving the planet for future generations.

"In the past," he once wrote, "we have looked at this tiny planet as a provider of resources without limit for Man, yielding without end whatever he demanded."

Stealhead Society of B.C., heading up a task group looking