

Local conservationist receives high honor

By Karin Wilson
Mirror Reporter

A director of the Oyster River Enhancement Society has been named the most recent recipient of the Haig-Brown Conservationist Award.

The Totem Flyfishers Club awarded Father Charles Brandt the prestigious honor at its annual general meeting Tuesday night in Vancouver.

The award dates back to 1978 and was named after the world-renowned angling essayist, the late Roderick Haig-Brown of Campbell River. Haig-Brown was the first honorary member of the Totem Flyfishers.

This marks the second time a local conservationist has won this award. In 1984 Van and Maxine Egan won the same award for their work in conservation over the years.

Other well-known recipients were Tom Perry (currently advanced education minister) for his work on the Skagit River, and Calvin Wood who founded the Steelhead Society of B.C.

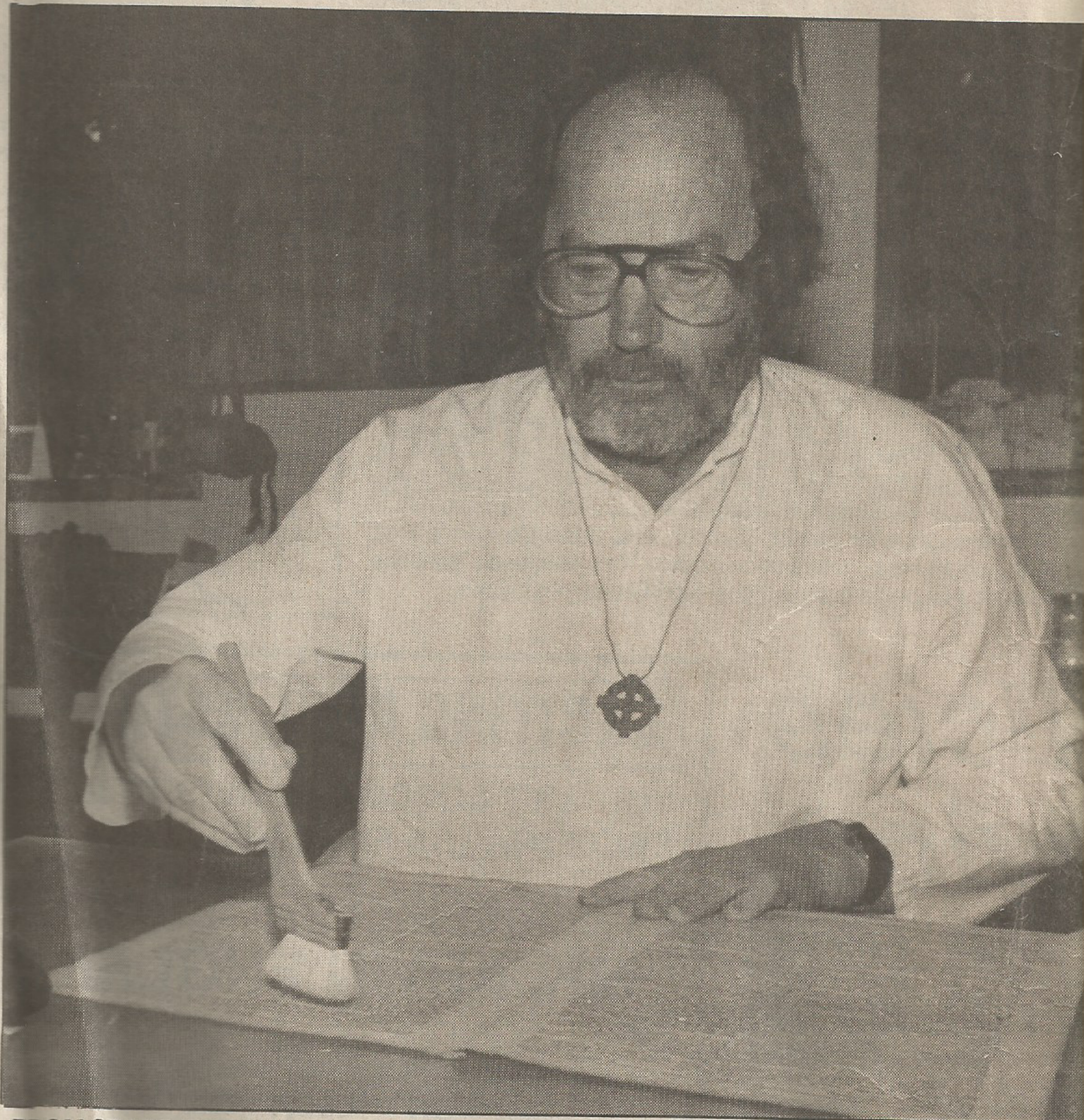
Lee Straight, past-president of the Totem Flyfishers and a former outdoors columnist with the Vancouver Sun, said Brandt was chosen for this year's award because of his work with the steelhead society, preservation work on the Puntledge River and Tsolum River, and his battle to preserve the Oyster River.

"He just believes in nature," Straight said.

Brandt, 67, received a degree in biology in 1947 from Cornell University. He immigrated to B.C. in the early 1960s and was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1966.

In the early 1970s he began his work to stave off development near the Oyster River. He lost that battle, Straight said, but succeeded in his battle to stop copper leaching from a mine into the Tsolum River.

"This is a general conservation award. It's not necessarily awarded every year," Straight said.



FROM START TO FINISH...In addition to preserving trees and rivers, Father Charles Brandt this year's winner of the Totem Flyfishers' Haig-Brown Conservationist award, carefully conserves old manuscripts.

World of Com

AMIGA

Introducing CD

