

THE CANADIAN

FLY FISHER Top Guides Spotlight:

M A G A Z I N E

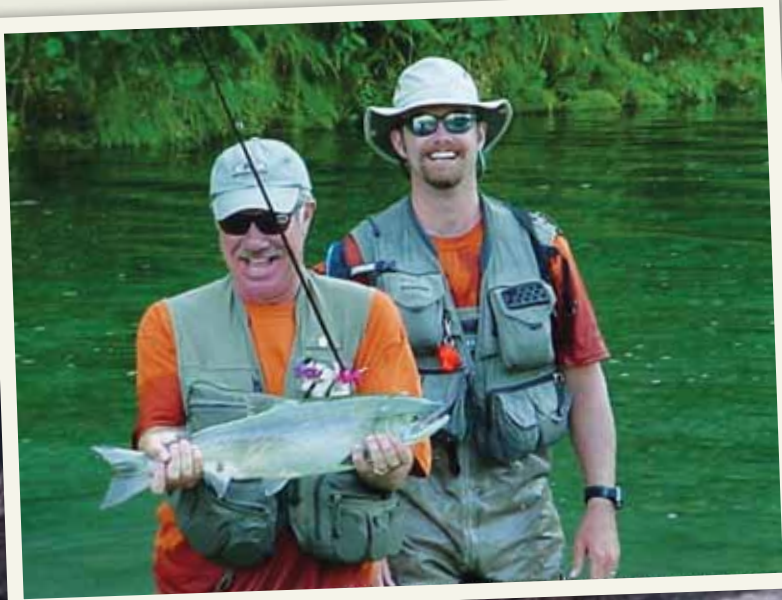
Clint Goyette

What drew you to fly fishing?

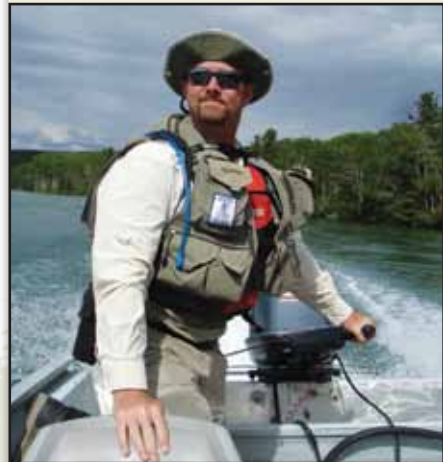
I started fly fishing when I was 18 after seeing *A River Runs Through It*. During this time, I was working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at the Petawawa National Forestry Institute in Chalk River. I was working on a small lake that held largemouth bass and crappie. The boss just happened to keep a fly rod in his office. One lunchtime, I borrowed it and, with a tin fly box filled with rusty flies that my grandfather had tied before I was born, I went to work on those fish. Two things happened. I hooked a bass on a yellow and black popper, and fly fishing hooked me.

What is your most memorable experience as a guide?

Pretty much every trip has a memorable experience. I've guided rock stars, billionaires, and professional athletes. I've stepped off float planes into what I thought was a foot of water only to find out that it was all "loon poop" and was left hanging onto the floats to prevent sinking over my head. Then there were the bear chases, the elk that ran over my fishing gear, the fish-thieving loons, and many others. All are worth telling here, but are better for sharing out on a fishing trip.



PROFILE



Clint Goyette

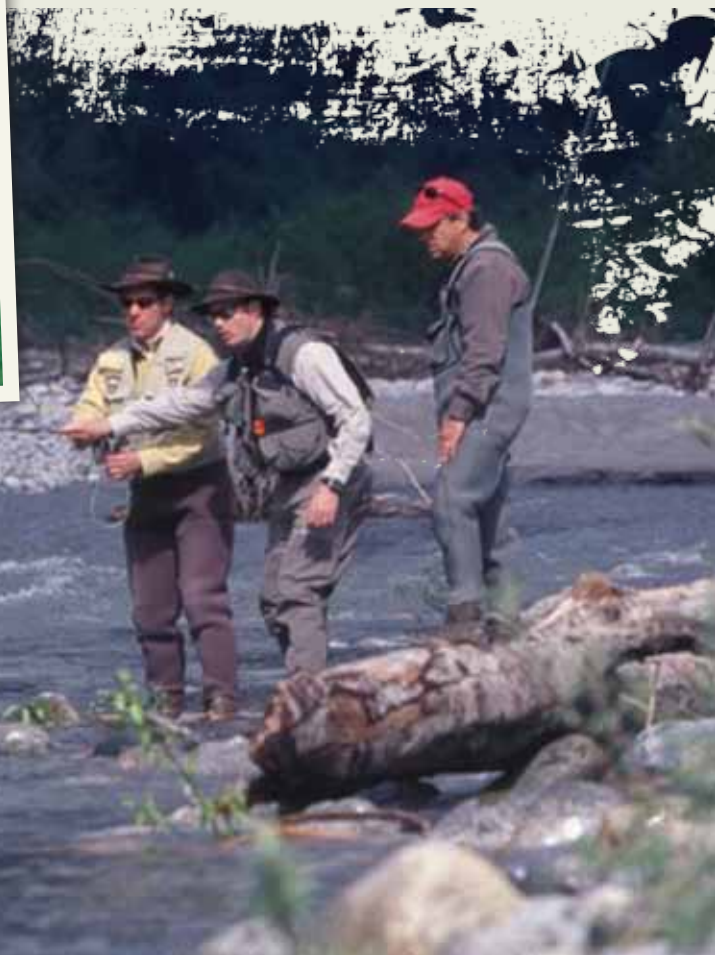
Valley Fishing Guides Ltd.

Years guiding: 10

Home waters: around Squamish, B.C.

Species targeted: all species of Pacific salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, bull trout, rainbow trout, steelhead

Web site: www.valleyfishing.com



Before starting your guiding business, did you ever think you would end up with a career which keeps you on the water?

I had always hoped that I would have a career that involved fish and wildlife. I went on to university to study biology and upon graduation went on to attend Sir Sandford Fleming College for Fish and Wildlife Technology. Unfortunately, after all of my post secondary schooling, I found out that jobs were few and far between. In fact, I found none. I ended up moving to Whistler, and it was there within a community of young entrepreneurs that the idea of owning a guide service was born.



What fly rod / reel setup would you recommend to visiting anglers?

I recommend a 9 to 9.5 foot 4 to 7 weight fly rod for trout, a good reel. You'll also need a floating, intermediate sink, and Type III to IV sink tip lines.

I use a 7wt outfit for bull trout and pink salmon, a 9wt for chum, coho, and chinook

salmon. The reels all have solid drag systems to handle big runs.

I also use a 9 wt Spey outfit for steelhead and salmon.

If you could only take one fly with you on your next outing, what would it be and why?

I would have to say I would take a brown bead-head Woolly Buzzer in a size 8. I have caught and seen more fish caught on this fly than any other. It has hooked all species of salmon on the coast, walleye, small-mouth bass, bull trout, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout.

Given your experience, how do you find fly fishers have adapted to non-traditional species and angling opportunities?

My guess is you are talking about gar and carp. With the growth of populations and cities, creating a fishery that enables people to get out and enjoy the sport of fly fishing can only help it grow in the future. I have never had a fish on the end of my line that I wish I hadn't hooked, except for a dead chum salmon one time—removing that one was just gross. >(<

What advice, tips or tricks can you offer novice fly fishers headed to your local waters?

The Province of British Columbia has some of the best free online information you can find in Canada. River levels, tide charts, lake stocking reports, and bathymetric maps, are all available on the Internet. Bookmark them and use them to plan your outings.

If you need gear, hire a guide. Most supply all the equipment you will need.

What should clients expect when they book a day of guided fly fishing with you?

I ask my clients what they would like to get out of the day, and I address those needs to the best of my ability, while keeping them entertained with my stories and local knowledge. At the end of the trip my clients should leave having had a memorable day on the water and having learned something new about fly fishing.



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FLY FISHER

MAGAZINE

RECOMMENDED



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Bellevue, Alberta CANADA T0K 0C0
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Toll-Free: 1-800-267-1778
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Fly Gal Ventures

Chilliwack, BC
www.flygal.ca
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www.bcoutback.ca
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or 1-604-414-4954
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Fishing Pole Guiding Inc

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Cast Adventures

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www.castadventures.ca
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E-mail: castadventures@sympatico.ca

Glen Hales

Belleville, Ontario
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Grindstone Angling

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Fly Fitters

Goderich, Ontario
www.flyfitters.ca
Benmiller, Ontario CANADA
Phone: 519-524-7474
E-mail: mike@flyfitters.ca

First Cast Fly Shop

Guelph, Ontario
www.thefirstcast.ca
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Jay's Fly Shop

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519-672-5487 or 519-631-9552
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Ontario Drift Boat Guides

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Ken Chandler Fly Fishing Adventures
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E-mail: ken@ontariodriftboatguides.com

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