



## REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES FROM RAINBOW LODGE NO. 180

### *Kids Free Fishing Derby*

In 2000 we introduced a community fishing derby for children during Fi-Lo-Mi Days, a local celebration of the town's principal industries: fishing, logging and mining. The derby was intended to provide local children with their own event within the community three-day event.

#### **What did we do?**

We organized and advertised a derby to be held on the government dock in Port Hardy. The children would come to the dock in the morning and fish for whatever types they could catch. These were usually greenlings, small cod, *etc.* The fish were measured and recorded on our tally sheet. At noon all the catches were awarded prizes so that no one went home without. Their parents were there for safety on the dock. We have had as many as 75 young fisherpersons some years.

#### **Why did we undertake this idea?**

The service group that operated this before were too busy and looking for relief from this project.

#### **What was the cost?**

Our initial cost was about \$200 the purchase of prizes and trophies. This was donated by the brethren. We set three top awards for largest fish, most fish, and ugliest fish caught. We made our own trophy, which we keep, and place the winners name on each year.

#### **How many members are involved?**

The first few years only three or four brethren assisted. In the last years we have ten or more. It is

a chance to meet, out of lodge, and experience an event in public. We are now well known for this as well as the annual parade held each year.

#### **Benefits:**

You will not believe the looks on the kids' faces when they come up with a fish to be measured; smiles so big and they can't wait to get back to fishing. The energy is infectious at the prize table with the trophies being given out, the children having their pictures taken, and their parents being there with them. Plus, we get together to show our lodge to the public. This summer was our seventeenth year running the event. We also added another base to our trophy for a new derby held at the Orca Fest in Port McNeill, where, this year, there were thirty-five young, eager kids and their parents.

VW Bro. James A. Barrett, *Secretary*

