

## SCHEDULE 'A'

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Haig-Brown House and Grounds



*Adapted By Michele Sirett, BREC, CRM  
Recreation and Culture Supervisor  
City of Campbell River*

## **Haig-Brown House and Grounds: Statement of Significance**

### **Description:**

Haig-Brown House and Grounds Historic Site is a 1½ story shingled house and its surrounding 20 acres of land on the south bank of the Campbell River. This parcel of land includes Kingfisher Creek (a tributary of the Campbell River), an English garden, orchards and woodlands.

### **Heritage Value:**

Haig-Brown House and Grounds commemorates the life of Roderick Haig-Brown—a famous Canadian author and leader of the early environmental conservation movement in Canada-- and the family he and his wife, Ann, raised there. The inspiration that his family and home provided to Haig-Brown can be seen in his work, *The Measure of the Year*, while the surrounding natural environment inspired him to write works such as *The River Never Sleeps* and his definitive works on fly fishing. The house and grounds embody Haig-Brown's values about family, and his environmental ideals, respectively. This site effectively interprets the philosophies of environmental and social stewardship which made Haig-Brown such a force in Canada during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and which continue to underpin the Canadian environmental conservation movement.

Architecturally the house is a good example of a wooden vernacular arts and crafts design of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (1923), and the mature gardens surrounding the house provide an appropriate context within which to understand this architectural style, and the conservation values held by the Haig-Browns.

### **Character Defining Elements:**

- The 1940s, 50s and 60s elements of the interior and exterior of the house, such as colours, finishes, hardware, and furnishings.
- The view of the Campbell River from inside the house, particularly from the study and the master bedroom.
- The Study, including the 4,000 volume library, layout of furnishings, colours, fittings, fixtures, and situation of artifacts.
- Roderick Haig-Brown's desk and chair, as situated in the corner of the study in front of the window. The contents of the desk and surrounding shelves, as they were left at the time of Haig-Brown's death.
- Roderick Haig-Brown's fly fishing tackle collection.
- Collection of Roderick Haig-Brown provenance artifacts (1938-1976)
- The relationship of the house to the river.
- The cutback eaves on the exterior of the house.
- The arts and crafts architectural elements of the house.
- The plantings surrounding the house, including rhododendrons, the camellia, the grapevine, bulbs etc.
- The unpaved driveway leading to the house, and the trees and shrubs alongside it.
- The English-style manicured lawn, and its surrounding plantings of roses, bulbs, trees and shrubs.
- Kingfisher Creek.
- The stone jetties in the river.
- The birch grove, underplanted with myrtle, periwinkle, and bulbs.
- The orchards.