

DOOBIE

A FLY MEANT TO BE SHARED.

Kevin Conway describes himself as a teetotaler. Socially, he drinks non-alcoholic beer or wine. At times, to help join in the mood of joyous celebration on his many fishing trips and other get-togethers with friends, he isn't averse to consuming a little cannabis, or marijuana. He has always been subtle about it because, as he puts it, "many people misunderstood cannabis and some even believed in the demonization of weed programs that were so common in the USA during the 60s, 70s and beyond."

Conway is also a keen Atlantic salmon angler and a talented musician, who has been known to entertain fellow guests on his frequent visits to the Micmac Camp



Top: Lynne Trudeau at the vise tying a Doobie; above: Kevin Conway and the Montreal Gazette front page from October 15, 2016.

on the Grand Cascapedia. Back in 2016, when the plan to legalize marijuana across Canada hit the newspapers, the front page of the *Montreal Gazette* motivated his musical creativity. The headline read "O Cannabis," in large type, accompanied by an image of a large marijuana leaf.

It turns out Conway is also a talented songwriter, because he came up with lyrics (to the tune of Canada's national anthem) for an "O Cannabis" song. His plan was to introduce the Doobie fly by singing the tune on July 1 at Micmac Camp as a surprise for fellow guests and staff.

Flash forward to the ASF Montreal Dinner last April. Conway was visiting some of the booths associated with the event, when he met fly tyer Lynne Trudeau. Her famous fly creations, based on the 16 teams of the NHL's Eastern Conference, were being showcased at the banquet.

The intricate, artistic designs impressed Conway and suddenly he was struck with the idea of a possible salmon fly to accompany his "O Cannabis" song. In his own words, "It hit me like a ton of Mary Jane." Trudeau and Conway discussed a concept for a fly which could be part of his upcoming Micmac Camp musical performance. Both agreed that Trudeau would see what she could come up with.

All through the rest of April and May, Trudeau thought about how she could tie a fly based on marijuana. Then, one day working in the garden, a strangely familiar odour wafted over from the neighbour's yard, the unmistakable scent of marijuana! "Because I had not seen a joint since high school, I went to pay my neighbour a visit," she said.

Based on a sample from her neighbor, Trudeau was able to sketch and tie a Doobie fly, which she promptly sent to Kevin for approval. He fished the fly on his lake and was impressed the way the fly behaved in the water. "It is beauty in motion!" he told Trudeau, and placed an order.



LYNNE TRUDEAU (2)

DOOBIE FLY

Hook:	Salmon Daichi 2051 #3 or #7 singles
Thread:	UNI-Thread 8/0 white and UNI-Thread 8/0 black
Tail:	AXXEL Flash 8" tie wrap hanks red
Ribbs:	AXXEL flash 6 ply pearl
Body:	Cord (4 strands) on smaller hooks use 2 strands
Wing:	Ginger colour marabout feather, followed by one select ringneck natural spey feather
Collar:	One natural teal feather
Head:	Black, lacquered twice

"My heart was pleased," Trudeau wrote in a letter to the *Journal*. She then tied a number of Doobie flies to give to Conway. After performing "O Cannabis" at Micmac Camp, Conway distributed them to his fellow anglers and the camp's guides. He explained that rather than a Canada Day celebration (it was July 1), this was recognition of the fact that exactly one year hence, cannabis was scheduled to be legalized in Canada.

The Doobie fly is a marriage of musical inspiration and artistic creativity. It is also an expression of the openness and freedom of Canadian society. As it was first discussed at ASF's Montreal Dinner on April 27, which falls, coincidentally, one week after the iconic date that has evolved for the celebration and advocacy of marijuana, perhaps an alternate name for this fly would be the 4-20. Whatever you call it, according to all reports, it is a wonderful addition to any salmon angler's "stash" or fly box. 🍷

Want to purchase or create a fly? Email Lynne at lynnetrudeau@sympatico.ca or message her via Facebook at www.facebook.com/lynne.trudeau.96.