

## The Fisherman's Pole



FISHERMAN  
(SKWATHSHUN)

KILLER WHALE  
(Q'UL-LHANUMUTSUN)

Don's style of carving is based on Coast Salish form, but he has developed his own distinct, contemporary style. *The Coast Salish is not as intricately designed as other groups* (Don Smith, Interview, Oct 2012). Master carver Simon Charlie gave Don permission to use his original design for this pole. This is quite an honour to get permission to use someone else's design, especially when the artist is not directly related. *It's a Fisherman's pole, the Coast Salish Fisherman...with a fishing spear...the Orca or Killer Whale represents the natural water fisher. It is two forms of Fishermen* (Don Smith, Interview, Oct 2012).

Dignitaries attended a formal dedication ceremony for this pole in 1990. The Little Raven Dancers, a local First Nations dance group, joined in the celebrations.©

Totem co-sponsored by: The Wince family and Phoenix Hotel.



1990 | Size: 13'1.5" (4.0 m)

### Si-yaaxultun (Donald [Don] Smith)

Don was born in 1964 in Duncan and is Coast Salish from Qw'umiyiqun (Comiaken), Quw'utsun' Tribes. He is from the Canute family. Don started to carve when he was twenty-one, and worked for four years in an informal apprenticeship with Simon Charlie. Don was an on-site artist at the Quw'utsun' Cultural & Conference Centre, and there he carved all three poles for the City's collection.©



Courtesy of Jane Mertz.