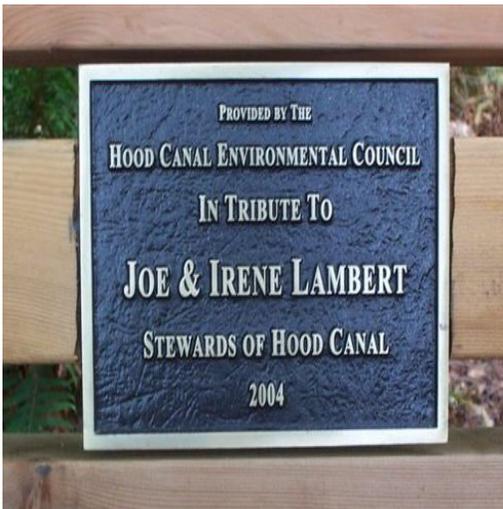


HOOD CANAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Winter 2005

Bench and Dedicatory Plaque Presented in Appreciation of Joe and Irene Lambert by HCEC



Above, The plaque in tribute to Joe and Irene Lambert. Right, HCEC Board members at dedication of the bench in Anderson Landing Park. l to r; Phil Best, Karen Best, Alice Harris, Bill Matchett, Judy Matchett, Don Monise.



By Karen Best

On August 18, 2004, the Hood Canal Environmental Council honored long-time board member and HCEC secretary Joe Lambert and his supportive wife Irene by dedicating a park bench and plaque in their honor on a bluff overlooking Hood Canal in Anderson Landing County Park near Lone Rock north of Seabeck. In appreciation and acknowledgement of the many contributions to the protection of Hood Canal the HCEC presented the bench and plaque, which was made and placed with the cooperation of Kitsap County.

Irene Lambert passed away a few years ago, and Joe moved last year to Monroe, Washington to be near his family. Joe still enjoys the view from his former Hood Canal home on his computer's screen saver.

His dedication is missed and will always be appreciated by all who love and care about Hood Canal.

Joe's fellow board members regard him as truly one of the canal's strongest advocates. As a member of the board he served tirelessly. His integrity, thorough research and constant awareness of all things related to the canal benefited the area for over thirty years.

In addition to the placement of the bench for Joe and Irene, the Lambert name will be used in cutting through a new trail to "Lambert Observation Point" or "Lambert Lookout"; the northern most point of the park, with a view out over the Hood Canal they loved. (The naming of the spot has yet to be decided.)

Port Of Tahuya's Public Access Plan Tossed

A Mason County Superior Court Judge scrapped the Port of Tahuya's public access plan following an order of default in a recent lawsuit brought by the Residents for Preserving the Quality of Life on Hood Canal.

She found that the Port of Tahuya did not submit its Public Access Plan in advance to the appropriate state agencies. Judge Sheldon also found that the port is not authorized by the laws governing port districts to plan for recreational facilities outside the port district boundaries. According the Judge Sheldon: "The Public Access Plan, together with any previously adopted portions of the Port of Tahuya comprehensive scheme for harbor improvements, fails to meet the statutory scheme of harbor improvements." *By Vern Rutter*

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Neil Werner from Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group gave a presentation regarding Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) in Washington.

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group is working with multiple state and federal agencies, individual landowners, the Tribes and legislators for restoration of salmon. Currently, they have over 70 active funding sources.

Aside from education and research, they have completed 55 construction projects for a little over \$6 million between 1997 and 2003. There are 22 additional construction projects for another \$6 million to be completed over the next year and a half. In the final analysis, promoting stewardship will be the main focus. Neil also discussed the plans for the Salmon Center in Belfair.

The Good and The Bad in The Year's Water Quality Report

A new report by the Kitsap County Health District contains these facts about some of the waters that flow into Hood Canal:

- Big Anderson Creek, near Holly, is among eleven streams in Kitsap County so polluted with bacteria that the health department advises the public to avoid contact with them.

But on the positive side:

- Union River, which flows from Kitsap County into Mason County, now meets the state's water quality standards at the county line. Improvements resulted from a special project known as pollution identification and correction or PIC. The project was completed recently after eight failing septic systems were repaired and livestock management was improved at several farms.
- Seabeck Creek is showing significant improvement.
- The Tahuya River ranks as number 1 in the Top 5 Cleanest list, Big Beef is number 3, the Dawatto River is number 4 and Seabeck Creek is number 5.
- Among projects just getting underway which will search for pollution sources is one that will involve the Hood Canal shoreline from an area north of Seabeck south to the Mason County line.

These findings are from the health district's annual Water Quality Monitoring Report, which summarizes monthly test for 52 Kitsap County streams, 72 salt water beaches and 28 swimming areas on 17 lakes. For a copy of the complete report, check the Kitsap County Health District's Web site, www.kitsapcountyhealth.com

January 28, 2005 is the closing date for comments regarding Fred Hill's application for an enlarged gravel mine in the Hood Canal watershed, leading to an industrial pier in the waters of Hood Canal. Talking points and contacts are on page 4.

CONTRIBUTION TO HOOD CANAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Individual - \$10 ____
 Family - \$30 ____
 Group - \$50 ____
 Patron - \$100 ____

Contributions in any amount are welcome. ____

NAME _____
 MAIL ADDRESS _____
 _____ E-MAIL _____
 HOME ADDRESS _____
 _____ PHONE# _____

Please send this coupon and your check to: HCEC, P.O. Box 87, Seabeck, WA, 98380.

"Rewatering" of the Skokomish Begins...Maybe

By Bill Matchett

The Skokomish River was at one time the richest on Hood Canal, with the largest runs of chinook, coho and sockeye salmon and steelhead trout. That came to an end in the mid-1920s when the City of Tacoma, ignoring the objections of the Skokomish Tribe, illegally diverted all of the water out of the North Fork of the river. With a license permitting the flooding of four acres, they proceeded to build two dams on the river, creating vastly larger Lakes Cushman and Kokanee and sending all the water through large pipes to their hydroelectric plant, still in operation near Hoodsport.

That ludicrously stretched license expired in 1974, but relicensing procedures dragged on into the 1990s. Hood Canal Environmental Council was on hand to testify when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission finally held hearings, it being our position that the river should be "re-watered" to enable reestablishment of the fish runs. Though this hydroelectric plant produces only about 5% of their power needs, Tacoma claimed that abandoning it would be a financial disaster for customers and also mounted a scare-campaign for property owners around Lake Cushman, claiming the Tribe wanted to drain their lake. Nonsense. The water could still flow through the lake before reaching the river. The Tribe only wanted its river back.

The FERC, as is usual, sided with the power company and, in 1998, "compromised" by requiring Tacoma to release 60 cfs (cubic feet per second) into the North fork. This comes to about 1/16th of the original flow and is not nearly enough to restore the river to health. Tacoma resisted even this minimal amount and was exempted from complying during its appeal.

All has been quiet since then, so it came as a great surprise when, at the end of this last June, the FERC suddenly amended Tacoma's license to require the prompt release of 240 cfs, a fourfold increase. Though this comes to only about a quarter of the original flow, it begins to be enough to allow fish passage.

Apparently the FERC was led to change its position as a result of the listing as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act of chinook salmon, Hood Canal summer chum and bull trout, all three of which are present in the Skokomish watershed.

Though not yet what it should be, this ruling is certainly a step in the right direction. "Promptly,"

Continued next column

New Tribal Fishing Regs Confronting Low Oxygen

The Skokomish Tribe has passed a fishing regulation making it illegal to dump salmon carcasses in the Canal. A study done in 2004 showed that instead of feeding the ecosystem, tons of decaying fish were contributing to low-oxygen conditions believed to be killing marine life in southern Hood Canal.

The price of chum salmon has been down for so many years that fishers slice open the female fish, pour out the round red eggs, and discard the fish. The price of eggs for caviar has been dropping but they are still more valuable than the rest of the fish. Hence, tribal members have been tossing up to 300,000 salmon carcasses a year in the canal, where it was believed that nature would make good use of the fish.

A federal grant of \$95,000 secured the services of Bellingham based American-Canadian Fisheries a fish processing company with the intent of stopping the waste and this source of pollution in the canal by making good use of every salmon carcass. U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, who helped secure the funding, praised Skokomish tribal leaders for stepping up to the problem when they recognized that discarding fish was harmful. The tribe was granted \$92,000 to make the program work and to explore local uses for the salmon.

The tribe's actions are a firm step forward but dead salmon are not the biggest problem, according to the study. Human waste discarded through septic systems was estimated to contribute up to 240 tons of nitrogen a year, possibly 60 percent of the problem; agriculture fertilizer and livestock manure was listed at 14 percent; salmon carcasses came in third, at 13 percent, followed by polluted stormwater at 11 percent. edited from The Sun. "Fighting a Dead Sea" by Christopher Dunagan

...Skokomish River Water, *continued*

however, is not yet: Tacoma is still resisting. The ruling specifies 240 cfs or a figure equal to the inflow into Lake Cushman, whichever is less. Tacoma is trying to reach a lower figure by limiting inflow measurement to the single main source entering the lake, ignoring all the other streams that contribute, not to mention rainfall.

Having cheated the Tribe ---and all other citizens--- for more than eighty years, Tacoma Power still knows how to drag the process on. Keep tuned, (but don't hold your breath).

JEFFERSON COUNTY MINING APPLICATION---FRED HILL'S PROJECT

John Fabian of the Hood Canal Coalition

"Fred Hill Materials has applied for a very large sand and gravel mining operation on 165 acres of commercial forest land.

This mining application is the next link in the Fred Hill Materials plan to construct a 1000-foot pier on Hood Canal to export gravel on barges the size of football fields and ships the size of NATO aircraft carriers. The result would be an industrial port facility in Hood Canal and open the door for further industrial development of a national treasure.

This mining permit is just too large for the local market. We believe that it would last for more than 50 years without any further need for new federal, state, or county permits.

The mining would be conducted in 12- to 15-acre segments to depths of up to 90 feet.

This area is within a disputed mining district designation (MRL) that is under appeal in Jefferson County Superior Court.

If approved, the 165 acres would be the largest mining permit in the history of Jefferson County and, when combined with the existing 144-acre mine, one of the largest in the state.

The mine would be within the Hood Canal watershed and further endanger the ecological health of the canal which is already highly stressed due to development along its shore and within its watershed.

The strip mining operation will permanently alter ground water patterns resulting in less inflow to small salmon bearing streams and potential silting of spawning grounds.

Removal of the overlying forest will directly and adversely impact wildlife. Heavy industrial activities are detrimental to the surrounding habitat.

This mining permit is just too large for the local market. We believe that it would last for more than 50 years without any further need for new federal, state, or county permits."

Closing date for comments: January 28, 2005. Contact: Greg Ballard, Jefferson County Department of Community Development, 621 Sheridan St. Port Townsend WA 98368, Email: gballard@co.jefferson.wa.us
Phone: 360-379-4450 Reference: MLA03-00377



P.O. Box 87, SEABECK, WA , 98380

HCEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Best

Phil Best

Gary Cunningham, Vice President

Alice Harris

Carol Ann Jackson

Joe Lambert, retired

Margee Lynch

Bill Matchett, President

Judy Matchett

Don Monise

Karen Monise

Vern Rutter

Ester Starcevich, Treasurer

Thersa Trotland, Secretary

Nicola Yarbrough, Editor

The Board of Directors meets the second Monday of each month. If you would like to attend, call Bill Matchett at (360) 830-4154 .

Visit HCEC at: [http:// www.hcec.ws](http://www.hcec.ws)