

# WELCOME

Spring / Summer 2024

COMPLIMENTARY

## Connected by the Salish Sea

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**Seas the Day:  
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# WELCOME Magazine

**PAINÉ FIELD AIRPORT | SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
PNW REGION | TRAVEL | BUSINESS & LEISURE**

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## Letter from the Publisher

Jump In!

One of my most treasured childhood memories is when my father encouraged me to jump from a high ledge into the icy waters of the Capilano River in British Columbia. That was the first time I experienced the shock of cold, clear glacial waters rushing all over my body – it was thrilling. I have never felt more alive.

In this issue we invite you to jump in!

Discover our immense network of waterways, from the Salish Sea to our lakes and rivers that have and continue to bring people of all cultures and generations together.

Join the Canoe Journey as Tulalip and other sovereign tribal nations from Alaska to Oregon unite and travel sacred waters in honor and celebration of the canoe culture. The Canoe Journey carries a spiritual significance symbolizing the connection between people, water, and land, inspiring us all to respect and protect our precious water and each other.

Honor the great fisherman of our region who work hard to bring in the fresh catch of the day. Enjoy their bounty of local, fresh seafood served up in all of its deliciousness to your table. Explore our waterfront villages that continue to inspire great art and artists from around the world.

Whether you dive in, float by, or walk the beach at sunset, give thanks and take care of our precious life-giving water, and the people who care for it.

Most of all, enjoy!

Fawn Clark, Publisher



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# what's inside

Spring / Summer 2024



10

Connected by  
the Salish Sea  
Canoe Journey  
connects tribes from  
across the region  
*by Michael Rios*



18

When the Tide is Out...  
the Table is Set  
The seas provide  
from community to the  
communal table  
*by Ellen Hiatt*



56

Sea's the Day:  
A Coastal Weekend  
Adventure  
*by Richard Porter  
for Seattle NorthCountry*

19

Watersports Guide  
Get on the water for  
a true PNW experience  
*by Richard Porter*

26

Dive into your Summer Reading!  
Handpicked Pacific Northwest  
titles that will make a splash  
*by Shannon Wallace  
Sno-Isle Libraries*

45

Bothell Built for Gathering  
Urban energy and vibrant  
parks are calling  
*by Ellen Hiatt*

52

The Living Art of La Conner  
*by Anne Basye*

61

Across the Pond  
Edmonds, Kingston where a  
love of pizza, art and community  
*by Ellen Hiatt*

68

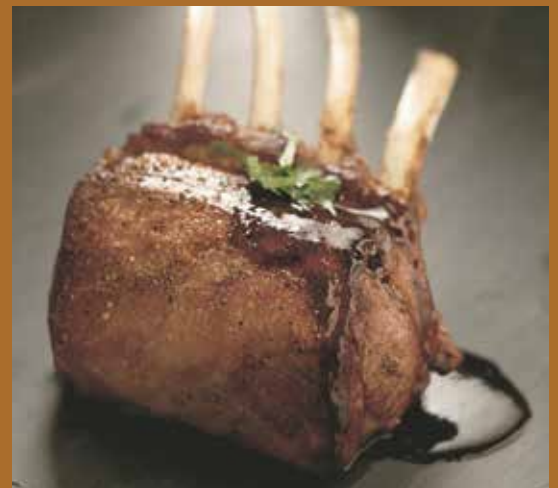
Puget Sound AVA Visionary  
Vineyard & Winery  
*by Jeff "Wick" Wicklund*

74

Live Music is in the Air  
*by Ryan Crowther*

78

What If?  
Possible Port expansion poised  
to magnify region's potential  
*by Ellen Hiatt and Wendy Poischbeg for  
Economic Alliance Snohomish County*



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Sam Davis, Tulalip Chief Operating Officer, holds baby Enzo Rios as he experiences the waters of Tulalip Bay.

# Connected by the Salish Sea

## Canoe Journey connects tribes from across the region

BY MICHEAL RIOS

*Photos by Michael Rios*

Since 1989's iconic Paddle to Seattle, a remarkable cultural revival has been taking place across the Pacific Northwest, known to the tribes therein as Coast Salish territory. Sovereign tribal nations from Alaska to Oregon have united nearly every summer since '89 to travel the sacred waters in honor and celebration of our common canoe culture.

The annual summertime event, dubbed Canoe Journey, has a deep cultural and spiritual significance not just to the Tulalip Tribes but all tribal communities connected by the Salish Sea. A tradition passed down from the ancestors, Canoe Journeys have been practiced for millennia.

Traditionally, dugout canoes were the primary means of transportation, allowing our ancestors to navigate the intricate





Cover Photo: Tulalip matriarch Natosha Gobin showing thanks after getting permission to come ashore.  
(above) Paddles Up! It's customary to hold paddles up when approaching each tribal host site, preceding the asking of permission to come ashore.









(left) Tulalip citizen Tisha McLean beams with pride as she awaits a canoe landing at Tulalip Bay. (above) Each traditional dugout canoe is handmade and intricately carved to represent its unique canoe family.

network of waterways that traversed their territories. These Journeys were not only practical but also ceremonial, carrying spiritual significance that symbolized the connection between people, water, and land.

However, the tradition began to wane before ending abruptly due to the impacts of colonization, forced assimilation policies, and the displacement of one tribe after another from their ancestral homelands. Yet, in the latter half of the 20th century, a revitalization movement breathed new life into the practice, and now, in the 21st century, Canoe Journeys are experiencing a resurgence like never before.

“Canoe Journey is such an important event for our people. What it does is bring back the culture to our people. We gather, we sing and dance, we share meals, and we strengthen our connection to one another as tribes of the Salish Sea. It’s so important for our people to bring back the culture that was lost for many generations,” explained Tulalip Chairwoman Teri Gobin.

The revival has been spearheaded by Native American leaders, cultural activists, and elders who recognize the

importance of preserving their heritage and passing it on to future generations. Through storytelling, intergenerational knowledge sharing, and the relearning of traditional canoe-building techniques, our sovereign nations are actively reclaiming their cultural identity with each paddle stroke.

“Canoe Journey, to me, is the epitome of being a tribe,” said Monie Ordonia, Tulalip elder and Journeys veteran. “As we journey to our destination, there are several stops along the way. At each stop we come together at designated campsites. We’re all there together. The younger kids are running around, making friends and having fun. The older kids are taking in all the experience from becoming a puller and getting opportunities to sit with their elders and hear their stories.

“The adults become that traditional teacher again,” she continued. “Whether it’s sharing songs and dance, or some kind of regalia making technique, or even just accepting the role of watching other people’s young ones and making sure they stay safe. This is the closest thing to experiencing the real village environment that our ancestors thrived in.”

Central to the significance of Journeys

is the sense of community they create. 2023’s Paddle to Muckleshoot had nearly 100 canoe families, each representing different tribes, clans and community groups, embark on a Salish Sea expedition that stretched for weeks. As these proud culture bearers navigated their ancestral waterways, they were greeted by host tribal communities that welcomed them with open arms, sharing food, songs, and dances. This exchange reinforced the ties that bind our Coast Salish people.

“When I was six months pregnant with my son Klayton, I was on the water pulling canoe, so he has not known a day without the canoes...until Covid,” shared Tulalip citizen Theresa Sheldon.

“My son has grown up with Canoe Journey every summer since before he was born. It’s something I like to think he inherited from his grandmother and my mom, Toni Sheldon, who was the only woman to pull for Tulalip in 1989’s Paddle to Seattle. All four of her daughters pull canoe, and now her grandchildren are pulling, too. We are living who we truly are as canoe people.”

In recent years, local and regional media outlets have made it a priority to spotlight the annual summertime





Tulalip canoe family pulling together on their ancestral waterways.

**“Canoe Journey is such an important event for our people. What it does is bring back the culture to our people. We gather, we sing and dance, we share meals, and we strengthen our connection to one another as tribes of the Salish Sea. It’s so important for our people to bring back the culture that was lost for many generations.”**

**- Tulalip Tribal Chairwoman  
Teri Gobin**



Members of the Tulalip Tribe, including Chairwoman Gobin (top left), offer a welcome song to canoes as they make landing.

tradition. Both tribal and non-tribal Washingtonians marvel at the beauty of the traditional cedar canoes as they navigate the Salish Sea; whether it be paying special attention to its local news coverage, following along on social media, or being present on tribal shores to witness the canoes arrive.

The revitalization of the Tribal Canoe Journeys has also highlighted the importance of environmental stewardship. As participants paddle through pristine waters and encounter the impact of climate change, the connection between the land and its people becomes even more evident. The tribes have been at the forefront of advocating for the protection of their waterways, embracing sustainable practices, and raising awareness about environmental issues within their communities and beyond.

“Our ancestors were the original stewards of this land. As the people of the Salish Sea, we must protect the water, the land, and our animal relatives because we understand that we are all connected,” described Chairwoman Gobin. “Canoe Journey reinforces our connection with our life-giving water ways and our codependent relationship with the orca and the salmon and the Salish Sea that we all call home.”

Clearly, the impact of Canoe Journey extends far beyond the participating tribes. Non-Indigenous communities are invited not just to witness the significance of Journeys, but to contribute to various cultural exchange activities as well. This cross-cultural understanding helps dispel misconceptions and raise appreciation for our Coast Salish traditions and histories.

As the sun set on Canoe Journey 2023, honoring our warriors past and present, the participants returned home with hearts full of memories, renewed connections, and a strengthened



**Elders and former Tribal Councilmembers Marie Zackuse and Mel Sheldon with Tulalip's iconic canoes, Big Brother and Big Sister.**

sense of cultural pride. The revival of this sacred tradition has proven to be a powerful force in preserving tribal identities, encouraging healing, promoting environmental stewardship, and creating lasting connections among communities.

“For us in Tulalip, I’m sure last year’s Paddle to Muckleshoot had a record of youth pullers and parent/child combinations,” reflected thrilled elder Monie. “Does this youth movement excite me? Hell to the yeah! For me, I’m on the verge of retiring and hanging up my paddle, so to witness the youth be so excited to learn and pull for the first time brings me so much hope. I know the next generation is eager to carry on our canoe teachings and keep this part of our culture alive.”

For three and a half decades, coastal families have navigated the sacred waters of the Salish Sea every summer in a marvelous resurgence of canoe culture fueled by vibrant tradition. Each Journey’s final destination changes annually, as tribes take turns hosting the much anticipated, week-long celebration potlatch that honors participants, witnesses, community leaders, elders, and, most of all, the power of enduring ancestral knowledge. ♦

## The sun will soon rise on Canoe Journey 2024

Canoe Journey 2024, Power Paddle to Puyallup, is expected to take place in mid-July. This summer’s Journey is anticipated to draw dozens and dozens of traditional handmade canoes, each filled with proud culture bearers as they return to their ancestral Salish Sea waterways. United by a shared history, culture and an unbreakable connection to water and land, each participating canoe family will pull together, one stroke at a time, for their final destination: a week-long potlatch hosted by the Puyallup Tribe.





## PORTS STAND FOR JOBS, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

As the fastest-growing county in Washington state, Snohomish County has proven to be a place where both community and industry thrive. A big piece of the economic prosperity and opportunity found here today and into the future is tied to the efforts of the County's only global gateway, transforming destination waterfront and environmental excellence being delivered by the Port of Everett.

For more than a century, the Port of Everett has been an economic engine for the region, driving new opportunity and creating thousands of family-wage jobs.

Through operation of its international seaport, public marina and real estate divisions, and through the lens of improving quality of life and the environment, the Port has provided a steady stream of capital investment to support people, create opportunity, enhance recreation and transportation, and incorporate sustainability initiatives for a healthier, livable community.

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INDUSTRY

Port leadership has prioritized key maritime investments at the working waterfront to support the efficient movement of the \$21-30 billion in annual commerce value coming through Snohomish County and to support key industries — from aerospace, military and construction to advanced manufacturing, energy and beyond.

In the past decade, the Port has invested more than \$150 million to modernize its seaport facilities and add sustainable features to help green the supply chain. This effort includes the \$57 million South Terminal modernization to support the new 777X and other high-value cargoes, and the \$40 million, 40-acre Norton Terminal development that completed upland cleanup at the last mill site to shutter at the Everett waterfront and increased cargo handling capacity.



### PEOPLE

Ports create jobs & enhance the quality of life for the people of the communities they serve



### OPPORTUNITY

Ports deliver a strong, thriving economy through investment in community priorities & infrastructure



### RECREATION

The Port of Everett has invested \$26M+ in new public access amenities since the early-2000s

Together these projects created 2,300 new jobs, generated millions in economic output and have become a key attraction for companies looking to site their businesses in the area.

## QUALITY OF LIFE & PUBLIC ACCESS

Significant investment has also been made by the Port at its recreational waterfront, helping mark Snohomish County as a true destination and providing for sustainable growth in tourism.

The Port has focused capital resources on upgrading and maintaining its marina facilities at the state's largest recreational boating hub and largest public marina on the West Coast, and forging ahead on a new mixed-use destination at Waterfront Place, adding new housing, hospitality, retail, commercial and public spaces. The \$1 billion+ in public-private investment is adding 1.5 million+ square feet of new opportunity and attracting new companies, like the first-ever Washington-based Maritime Institute, as well as adding new jobs, public access, and quality-of-life enhancements for locals and visitors to enjoy. The Port is also supporting similar economic opportunity at the Mukilteo shoreline, focusing on the anticipated waterfront redevelopment program there.

Since the early 2000s, the Port has invested more than \$26 million in new public access, with millions more underway now or on the horizon. Nearly half of Port properties are dedicated to public access, including Jetty Island, and the Port continues to seek ways to enhance appropriate shoreline access.

## ENVIRONMENT

The Port takes pride in its role as an environmental steward, focused on incorporating sustainability initiatives into its operations and infrastructure to help restore and protect our air, land and sea. Port leadership has taken an aggressive approach to remediate legacy contamination along the waterfront stemming from years of mill and industry. Through the Puget Sound Initiative, the Port has facilitated cleanup of 250 acres along Port Gardner Bay to date, with more to come.

A large portion of the Port's properties are dedicated to habitat too, including the recently completed 353-acre Blue Heron Slough. The \$20 million project added critical salmon habitat along the Snohomish River, improves water quality, provides flood protection and offsets greenhouse gas emissions. It also serves as a mitigation bank, balancing economic development with a healthier environment. The Port looks forward to continued implementation of its climate initiatives, including work to electrify its shipping facilities and green the supply chain.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

As the most trade-dependent county in the state with about 60% of jobs tied to trade, the Port is always looking ahead to our youth to ensure a skilled maritime workforce into the future. The Port has been focused on workforce development, engaging students and educators from elementary to high school and via community and technical colleges to facilitate programs that illuminate pathways to careers in maritime.



## TRANSPORTATION

Ports help move goods & people more efficiently with investment in trade & transportation projects



## SUSTAINABILITY

The Port is a committed steward of our air, land & sea with clean up of 250+ acres, creation of habitat & more

## STAY INFORMED

Keep up with the latest Port of Everett news & happenings including an upcoming ballot measure on the potential enlargement of Port District boundaries to most of Snohomish County slated for the August 2024 primary.

Learn more @ [portofeverett.com](https://portofeverett.com)



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The royal blue waters of Edgewater Beach, Mukilteo. Everett cityscape in the distance.



# Watersports Guide

Get on the water for  
a true PNW experience

**BY RICHARD PORTER**

*Photos by Richard Porter*

## IN THE BEGINNING

Not so long ago, the waterways of Snohomish County were like highways. Coast Salish tribes traversed mountains, valleys, and shorelines in dugout canoes. If an orca approached a tribal canoe, Tulalip passengers would greet it by saying, "Killer whale, killer whale, your ancestors were also my ancestors." Such was local respect for the watery realms and its animal inhabitants.

There's nothing quite like spending time on the sea or lazily floating down a river on a July afternoon. You may even be greeted by a pod of orcas while out kayaking.





From kayak to canoe to paddle board, getting out on the water in the Pacific Northwest is an adventure with so many possibilities.

## WHERE TO GO?

Good news! There's absolutely no shortage of water to explore in this scenic region. Let's start big and work our way down to your more granular options. From gear to location, I'm sharing some of my favorites to guide you on your journey across our waterways.

### PUGET SOUND/SALISH SEA

Our county offers access to Port Susan, Possession Sound, Jetty, Hat, and Camano Islands, plus 74 miles of coastline. Lining the shore are madrone trees, a lighthouse, and county parks.

Coastal areas can be enjoyed by canoe, SUP, sea kayak, motorized boat, or rowboat. Another option available to specialists is kiteboarding off the coast of Jetty Island in Everett.

One other option that I absolutely love is the foldable kayak. I invested in one about five years ago and don't regret it. I'm afraid that this ninja-mobile approach is going to be very popular soon. You don't need car access or a boat launch to put in, allowing you to pop up at a local beach and unfold your watercraft.

Make sure you're confident in your skills before putting out to sea. Currents and fluctuating waves can make for inconvenient, even dangerous conditions.



Summertime watercraft at Jetty Island, Everett.





With enough information and guidance, everyone can safely enjoy the waters of our region.

## ESTUARIES

Ah, estuaries. The most underrated of local ecosystems.

To be sure, these are also fragile biospheres, and one must travel lightly. But, if you're a skilled rower and don't mind currents and a little mud, the estuaries of the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers offer fantastic beauty and a bountiful variety of wildlife.

During my tidal peregrinations I've witnessed deer (on Deer Island of all places — who would've thought?), harbor seals, herons, river otters, osprey, bald eagles, and a variety of sandpiper.

Your best bets to put in for estuary travel are the Marysville Boat Launch, or the boat launch at Langus Park in Everett. I think you'll return from your trip with a new appreciation for the flora and fauna of our region.

## SNOHOMISH, SKYKOMISH, SULTAN, AND STILLAGUAMISH RIVERS

Yes, our county is crisscrossed with rivers that start with the letter S. The Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Sauk and Suiattle rivers, among others, are named for the Native American tribes of the region.

River travel often comes in the form of kayaking or a lazy summer inner tubing trip. Again, let's stress the importance of safety on local rivers.

- Currents can be extreme and can catch you off guard.
- Water play and booze do not mix well.
- Beware of "snags" in rivers. You can easily become pinned to a root ball or a submerged tree by the force of the current.

## Before you go...

The most basic rule (actually, it's the law) is that you need a PFD, or personal flotation device, any time you take your watercraft out. This is typically a life jacket.

Closely monitor children on the water, and make sure they have taken and mastered basic water safety courses. Research ahead of time and consult tide charts, boat launch permitting rules, and places to put in and take out watercraft.

Hopping in for a splash? Local lake and sea temperatures hover around 55° and 60°F. Hypothermia can definitely be an issue; monitor your time in the water.

Most watersports require training or a personal guide. Hire a local outfitter for your first time doing something new.

## TREAD LIGHTLY

- Respect woody debris in rivers. Fallen logs and branches create pools where salmon can lay eggs.
- Don't park motorized vehicles on sandbars or drive across or into bodies of water.
- Increasingly warmer summers have lowered the water level. Local streams act as critical salmon habitat. Please give all fish that you encounter lots of room.
- Ditto osprey nests, whale pods, or driftwood occupied by harbor seals. You get the idea.
- Respect private waterside property. You wouldn't want random bros in your front yard; extend the same courtesy to others.





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River floating can bring some of the best of summer times to your year.

If you'd like to master the basics of kayaking, I recommend visiting the Outdoor Adventure Center in Index ([outdooradventurecenter.com](http://outdooradventurecenter.com)), where you can receive personalized, professional instruction in both river and sea kayaking.

## LAKES

Lakes offer the perfect place to dip your toes (literally!) into watersports. And there are so many options in this glacially-carved landscape of ours!

Flowing Lake, Lake Cassidy, Martha Lake, Silver Lake, Lake Stevens, and Lake Tye are all easy, placid, low-risk places to practice your watersports basics.

Build up your skills on relatively tranquil waters before tackling surf and tides.

## A LAND OF WATERWAYS

These are only my suggestions of places to recreate. The beauty of our county is finding new, previously unthought of places to explore by watercraft. I've seen folks backpacking an inflatable SUP board up to an alpine lake. I've seen boogie boarders off the shore of Mukilteo. I've unfolded a kayak and paddled into the waters of Howarth Park.

There's so much to explore: now go test the waters for yourself! ♦



## Types of watercraft

Rent kayaks or SUP on the Everett Waterfront at KayakShare ([kayakshare.com](http://kayakshare.com)). You can also access motorized watercraft and sailboats on the Everett waterfront, courtesy of Freedom Boat Club ([freedomboatclub.com](http://freedomboatclub.com)).

There are so many options for the would be watercrafter. Buy an inflatable SUP board, score a raft off Facebook Marketplace, invest in a motorized boat. Go big with your tax return and load up on kiteboarding gear.

Another piece of water-related equipment to consider is the crab pot. Once properly licensed, you can help yourself to the bounty of the sea by simply rowing out offshore several hundred feet and dropping a baited trap.



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*Photo of The Harlem Gospel Travelers  
by Peter Dervin Photography*





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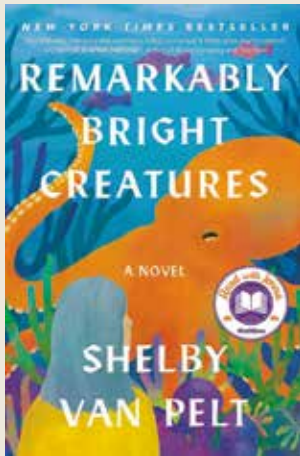
# Dive Into Your Summer Reading!

## Handpicked Pacific Northwest titles that will make a splash

BY SHANNON WALLACE  
SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES

Whether you're lounging on the beach or relaxing in a hammock, these captivating books will add a wave of excitement to your summer. From gripping mysteries to feel-good romances, these books are your passport to adventure.

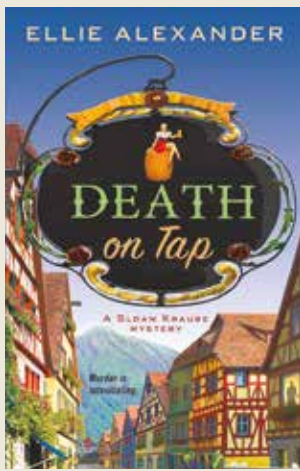
Grab your Sno-Isle Libraries card to start your summer reading!



## REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES

by Shelby Van Pelt

As a recent widow whose son disappeared many years ago, Tova Sullivan worries who will look after her as she ages. In her small town along the Salish coast, she works the night shift cleaning the local aquarium, where she befriends a giant Pacific octopus named Marcellus, known for frequent escape attempts. Aimless young man Cameron arrives in town looking for the deadbeat father he never knew. When he gets a job at the aquarium, Cameron and Tove begin to understand we are all a bit adrift, all searching for family and connection, all capable of finding our place and purpose. From his tank, Marcellus observes all, waiting for his chance to communicate what he knows.



## DEATH ON TAP, SLOAN KRAUSE MYSTERIES

by Ellie Alexander

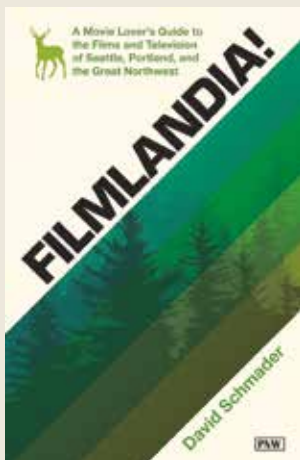
In the quaint Bavarian town of Leavenworth, Sloan Krause recently left her cheating husband and her job at one of America's top breweries for a new position at a microbrewery startup. When a rival brewer is found dead, floating in her tank of beer, her ex-husband becomes the prime suspect of the murder. Despite their rocky history, Sloan knows he's not guilty, and jumps in to investigate. Filled with heart, community, and lessons on craft brewing, this book is the first in a cozy mystery series that will have you pining for Oktoberfest and seeking out the unique independent breweries of the Northwest.



## DRIZZLE, DREAMS, AND LOVESTRUCK THINGS

by Maya Prasad

Life is about to change for the young adult Singh sisters, whose family-run Songbird Inn on Orcas Island gets named the most romantic hotel in America. Eldest Nidhi's future is all mapped out, when a storm brings a tree crashing into her room, and a cute guy comes to repair the damage. Grief stricken twin Avani is planning a memorial party when she gets trapped in a barn with the boy she's been avoiding. Youngest Sirisha is having a difficult time letting a new girl know how she feels. Hopeless romantic twin Rani is living a Bollywood dream where three guys are vying for her attention at once. Spend the four seasons with four sisters each finding their own sweet romance.

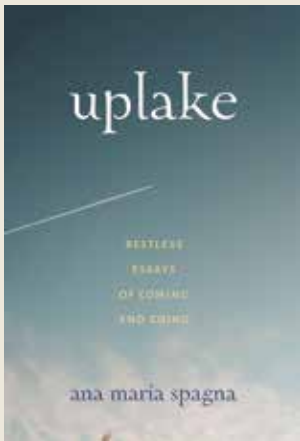


## FILMLANDIA!

by David Schmader

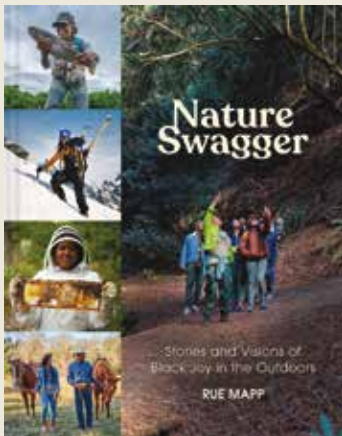
Take a nostalgic trip through cinema history in this fun collection of movies and TV made right here in the Pacific Northwest. As film critic at Seattle newspaper The Stranger, David Schmader spotlights old favorites and the obscure, cult classics, and campy b-films, local directors, and actors with plenty of trivia to impress your friends. Reminisce on landmarks made famous on screen, like the houseboats of Lake Union (Sleepless in Seattle), the Timberline Lodge (The Shining), Snoqualmie Falls (Twin Peaks), and Elvis at the Space Needle (It Happened at the World's Fair). Check your local film festival, second run cinema, public library, or Northwest treasure Scarecrow Video to find these titles and more.





**UPLAKE**  
by Ana Maria Spagna

At the north end of Lake Chelan lies the tiny town of Stehekin, a perfect place to plan a remote summer getaway from busy city life. Author Ana Maria Spagna lives there full time, where she ruminates on the wanderlust that makes her want to hit the road, and the deep roots that inspire her to stay. Her essays lyrically describe the push and pull between the beauty of nature with the dangers of wildfires, the tranquility of solitude with the desire for city culture, the long days but short lives that require us to make so many choices about where we call home.



**NATURE SWAGGER**  
by Rue Mapp

As a young, Black city-dweller, author Rue Mapp had the opportunity to retreat to a family ranch in the countryside, where she developed a lifelong love for nature and outdoor recreation. She later founded the organization Outdoor Afro to encourage other Black people to experience the outdoors and all its transformative possibilities. The collected stories in this volume will inspire anyone, but especially Black individuals, to pursue joy through adventure - whether farming, horseback riding, beekeeping, or rock climbing - and discover belonging in nature.



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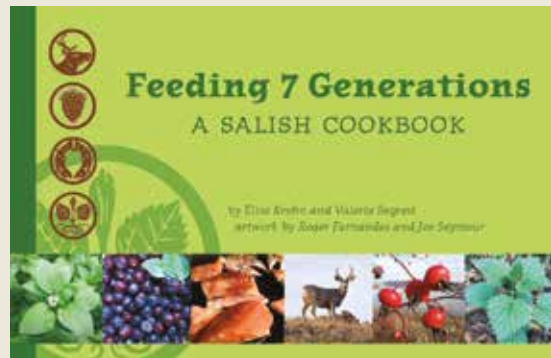


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**FEEDING 7 GENERATIONS: A SALISH COOKBOOK**  
by Elise Krohn and Valerie Segrest

Puget Sound is abundant with plants and animals ready to gather, grow, hunt, and harvest. Learn how to collect seaweed, turn Douglas fir fronds into tea, and prepare delicious soups and treats from this collection of traditional recipes. Alongside the recipes, Elise Krohn, native foods specialist, and Valerie Segrest, nutrition educator and Muckleshoot tribal member, tell the origin stories and native importance of local seafood, game, and weeds you might not realize are edible. Share in the wisdom of Salish Elders who stress that the choices we make about what we eat will affect the land and people for the next seven generations.

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Photo courtesy Nik Mardesich





Photo courtesy Mel Sheldon

(left) Connor Wernz, Alaska crewman for Nik Mardesich, readies the crab pots. (above) Mel Sheldon says "Not a day goes by that I don't wish I was on the water." The Tulalip Tribal leader was once a commercial fisherman from Alaska to Oregon.

# When the Tide is Out...

## Cultures connect to community through our waterways

BY ELLEN HIATT

As the tide pulls the foamy crests of waves away from rocky shores, a sensory smorgasbord is unveiled... Briney air is filled with scents of seaweed; tiny, sporadic fountains in the sand announce the hiding places of geoducks and clams; beyond the shores, glittery sunshine sparkles on bobbing markers of crab pots, dropped for sport and for survival.

### WHEN THE TIDE IS OUT, THE TABLE IS SET.

Often attributed as a Native American phrase, "When the tide is out, the table is set," is self explanatory. The bounty of the Salish Sea – nearly 6,000 miles of shoreline and with thousands of species – seems endless. The network of waterways from the Straits of Georgia to the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound, even feeds rich nitrogen into the ocean itself, sustaining life beyond our coasts. Nearly 3,000





Croatian fishermen are among the various ethnic groups that created a life on the Salish Sea.

species of marine life, including all seven species of Pacific Salmon, feed here.

From the Coast Salish Tribes of Indians who first inhabited the land to the colonizing cultures who have since come to call it home, there are many cultural connections to our waterways as a food source.

In archaeologically significant locations of the Coast Salish Tribes, no fewer than 50 various marine life forms have been found as historical food sources.

Octopus, snails, clams, barnacles, shrimp are among the incredibly diverse types of shellfish and fish in Native Americans' traditional diets here. Today, the sea and its shores continue to be vital to their culture and survival.

**“I AM HAPPY AS A CLAM AT LOW TIDE.”**

“Why is a clam happy?,”asked Mel Sheldon, former chairman of the Tulalip Tribes, after providing the idiom as a greeting. “Because they are squirting against the world!”

Their squirting is a signal that has made many clam diggers happy, as well. Hunting for clams and harvesting mussels, fishing for salmon and more, have represented family, care for community, connection, and celebration for the Native Americans of the Coast Salish region for generations. Our inland waterways represent a food source, and a means of making a living.

The victory in District Court that came to be known as the Boldt Decision reaffirmed the rights of tribal fishermen to enjoy this key form of sustenance, for food and finance, once again. Sheldon had recently returned from Vietnam as a young helicopter pilot when the 1974 decision upheld Native fishing rights.

“Boldt allowed me to become a full time fisherman,” Sheldon said, adding he “drydocked” for 15 years for a leadership role in tribal affairs.

“Not a day goes by that I didn’t wish I was on the water,” he said. “So many times I have watched the tide come and go with the water. Many many sunrises and sunsets.” As a Sioux and Tulalip Indian, Sheldon has fished from Alaska to San Francisco.

Dramatic declines in the salmon populations have shifted the commercial operations to more plentiful crab and geoduck. Though geoduck were found in archaeological digs of tribal communities, Sheldon said today they're mainly shipped to Japanese markets where they're in high demand.

"When I went down to the marina maybe eight years ago I didn't know anybody down there," he said. "It was a whole new generation. There was a resource and they could make a living like our ancestors... feed their families as a resource, then have enough money to go hunt for elk or deer."

While the numbers of shrimp, salmon and other sea life are diminishing, the interest in them and their cultural connection among native youth is growing.

"Today, every spring we have the Return of the Salmon Ceremony. That's part of our mythology, part of our culture. Today, if you go to the salmon ceremony, a whole group of young kids is there. We are creating memories, and hope that the Chinook salmon could carry on. Hopefully salmon will be around fully for their lifetime."

## GENERATIONS OF FISHERMEN

Sheldon, whose grandmother was Norwegian, remembers her cooking up batches of herring

for him. In those days, he said, the herring were enormous in size.

The numbers and size of fish have diminished, as have the fleets of fishermen whose boats once were the mainstay of the Port of Everett's marina. The Norwegian and Croatian communities, in particular, were a tremendous part of the culture and commerce of Everett and Anacortes.

"I got a freezer full of salmon right now," said commercial fisherman Nik Mardesich.

He is the descendant of a long line of Croatian fishermen. Mardesich fishes the waters of Washington and Bristol Bay, Alaska. In the same spirit of camaraderie as his grandfather's community before him, Mardesich and fellow fishermen repair their nets in the off season and fish for salmon when they can.

"I grew up out here catching crab on the sand flats, catching shrimp and prawn out on the water my whole life," he said. Mardesich was raised on Guemes Island near Anacortes, his family having left Everett generations before.

His fishermen buddies are tied to the bounty of the sea as a part of their identity. "A lot of us, when we were little kids, were catching crab, digging clams with our bare hands. We'd be four or five years old. I still do it. Or at least," he added, his buddies "wish they were."



Photo courtesy Explore Edmonds

Ken "Kuzma" Hewitt has been working in the fish business since he was seven years old, a passion ignited from working for his grandmother's West Hill Fish market in West Seattle. Kuzma's Fish Market now serves in Edmonds.



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**PAE**



Photo courtesy Gerardo Rodarte

Gerardo Rodarte arrived on Samish Bay from his fishing village in Sayulita Mexico. Here, he made a thriving business by farming oysters on his own lands.

### COOKING SQUID ON THE PIER

The pier in Edmonds is to many people of Asian descent like a nightclub is to youth looking for a good time – it’s THE place to be. People of Thailand, Korea, the Philippines and other Pacific Islanders gather on the nearly 1,000-foot long pier year round. During crab season, the crab pots are stacked up near the rails as they are dropped in and out with a fresh turkey leg for bait. The nearby waters around the ferry dock are a marine sanctuary, where lingcod grow giant as the years pass and they’re allowed to live out long lives. But around the pier, it’s fair game for crab, salmon and squid.

Squid season is when you see the biggest gathering of cultures. The squid begin arriving in September and stay as long as the weather is cold enough. They’re attracted to the lights around the pier, and are easy picking for eager pier-side diners.

“We’ve been doing that since we were kids,” said Madayag, who grew up in Edmonds. “There’s a big Korean community. They will cook it up right on the dock.”

#### “I BELONG TO THE SEA.”

In Skagit County, Gerardo Rodarte is growing oysters. It takes a year of growing a crop from a tiny “seed” on the Samish Bay tideflats. Rodarte arrived here from Sayulita, Mexico, a fishing village where his neighbors would sell fish on the shore as soon as they brought it back from the sea, and he would “go to the little crick to get shrimp.”

“I feel like I was born to be on the water. I feel more better to be on the water than to be on the city. When I am on the water, I feel happy. I feel like I belong to the sea,” he said.

Rodarte saved his money, he said, and bought his own land to farm, opening Samish Gold Seafoods.

Whatever the cultural roots, the Salish Sea is the shared thrill, the lifeblood, and the sustenance of all who live on its shores.

“The water is the one that brings us all together,” Sheldon said. ♦

**“I feel like I was born to be on the water. I feel more better to be on the water than to be on the city. When I am on the water, I feel happy. I feel like I belong to the sea.”**

**- Gerardo Rodarte,  
Samish Gold Seafoods**





Photo courtesy Nell Thorn



Photo courtesy Ivar's

(left) Pacific Northwest mussels, shrimp and squid make the perfect Del Mar Spaghetti at Nell Thorn in La Conner.  
(above) A mouth-watering selection of expertly prepared Northwest seafood specialties at Ivar's Mukilteo Landing.

# ...The Table is Set

## Enjoy the bounty of the Salish Sea

BY ELLEN HIATT

I remember vividly the pungent smells of shrimp, bagged up in a non-descript paper sack, and my twin daughters loudly sucking the juices from their exoskeletons with the delight only a Filipina can muster. Their heritage shines brightly when they return today as adults with grown children of their own, stopping, as is tradition, at the Shrimp Shack near Deception Pass.

There is nothing like a meal delivered straight from the waters of Puget Sound to awaken the senses. It keeps us on the hunt for the perfect restaurant serving local seafood, paddling across the water, or dropping lines from a dock.

Fisherman Jack's, a new dim sum restaurant on the Everett waterfront, serves everything from pork to shrimp. Jack Yang Ng grew up in a remote village before immigrating to Whidbey Island, working in Chinese restaurants, and eventually becoming a commercial fisherman in Alaska.

Today, he hops on a boat every chance he gets to fish for salmon. There are plenty of opportunities when you live and work between the Everett marina and Whidbey, where he owns four separate restaurants. He even enjoys harvesting from the 5,000 oysters growing on a friend's waterfront property, along with clams and geoduck.



Brian Madayag, owner of Barkada in Edmonds, also enjoys fishing off the docks in Mukilteo, made more available with the move north of the ferry landing.

“The old docks are great for crabbing. I take a paddle board out and have a couple crab pots on board,” Madayag said. “I go 100 yards out in summer crab season. Between Edmonds and Mukilteo, there’s an abandoned dock at Meadowdale. That’s an area for crabbing that’s amazing.”

Culturally, said Madayag, seafood is important. “The water is always something we look to that connects us to the Pacific, to the Philippines. The food that we cook at Barkada is all about lineage. We pull things from our lineage all the time.”

Whether you’re eating the best of salmon and tuna in a bowl of Poke, Hawaiian style at Ono Poke in Edmonds, or garlic shrimp at Barkada, lobster dumplings, dim sum style at Fisherman Jack’s, or the consummately local and delicious Ivar’s fish and chips, there are plenty of places to find seafood and community in our local restaurants.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, it’s easy to find ways to appreciate the best of what the Salish Sea offers us. Enjoy a few suggestions here, from Samish Bay to the shores of Edmonds.

### **TAYLOR SHELLFISH & SAMISH OYSTER BAR AND SHELLFISH MARKET**

2182 CHUCKANUT DR., BOW

Stop in during one of their special events, like Shucks on the Beach, for live music and a bonfire, with all you can eat U-Shuck raw and grilled oysters, or for just a regular day, when seafood of all kinds is served patio side. The market and restaurant are open till the sun sets over Samish Bay.

### **SLOUGH FOOD**

5766 CAINS CT., EDISON

Edison feels like the town that time forgot. And maybe that’s a good thing. Capitalizing on the local grain economy, the town’s bakery produces the best in sourdough fare, and Slough Foods, aptly named for the slough the town sits on, is a hot spot for its monthly Paella days. PaellaWorks shows up with its dimpled, flat carbon steel pans, as wide as a yardstick, and makes magic with rice and other colored spices of saffron and turmeric. The traditional dish of southern Spain is complete with oysters and clams from Taylor Shellfish.



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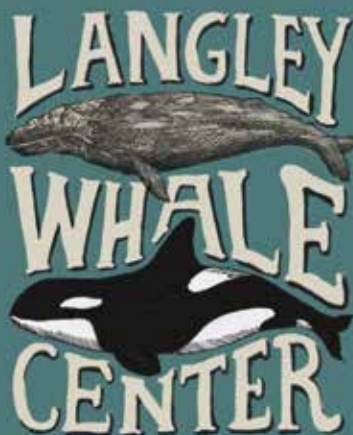
**COB + CORK**  
5545 CHUCKANUT DR., BOW

The menu at Cob + Cork, one of the newest restaurants in the Skagit Valley, is a clear celebration of the bounty of our inland seas. Look for fisherman-direct blackened salmon, crab in fried patties or in macaroni and cheese, oysters and clams.

**NELL THORN**  
116 1<sup>ST</sup> ST, LA CONNER

The plea to visit Nell Thorn is written by its many raving reviewers: "The best shrimp bisque on the planet." Frutti de Mare (a spicy seafood pasta) that is "melt in your mouth, slap your mama, bring a tear to your eye amazing." "The ambiance, the staff, and the food!!! WOOOW!! So fresh and just outstanding!" When you're in the heart of an agricultural community, surrounded by the rich delta farmlands and smack dab on the channel that travels between Skagit and Padilla Bays, it's bound to be amazing. Especially when you're Nell Thorn, sourcing from local farmers and fish purveyors, and paying attention to the finest of culinary detail. Visit

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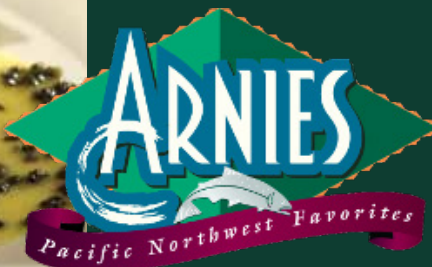
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for bread baked daily and pasta made in house, along with Willapa Bay and Kusshi oysters, the latter named for a Japanese term for “precious.” All manner of Pacific Northwest, from farm to sea, is on the menu. Make a reservation for the patio and take in the sunset with views of the local mariners bringing their boats home down the Swinomish Channel.

### THE OYSTER SHUCKERS OYSTER BAR & TAQUERIA

17026 ALLEN WEST RD BOW, WA 98232

You can buy their oysters and clams, grown nearby on sandy shores of Samish Bay, in the Samish Golds Seafoods market nearby on Avon Allen Road in Bow, or stop in for oysters served on the halfshell, or in legit street tacos. The owner’s Mexican heritage contributes to the menu, with chamoy rimmed shooters (a Mexican condiment made of fermented fruit), and fried oyster tacos, fish, shrimp and carne asada, as well.

### THE MARKET'S FISHMONGER AND EATERY

508 MAIN STREET, EDMONDS

There’s not a lot of seating in the heated streetside dining, but it’s worth it to either wait for a seat or take it to-go and head to the beach. The MARKET’s fish and chips, chowder, crab and lobster rolls and oysters are slurp-worthy. Try the cold roll, Maine style, or Connecticut style, nice and hot. Or opt for the crispy shrimp roll with sweet honey chili aioli. Or try the crispy lobster bowl with thinly sliced red onions, cucumbers and dill. If it’s seafood you want, casual style like any good seaside town offers, then this needs to be on your bucket list.

### KUZMA'S FISH MARKET

21104 70<sup>TH</sup> AVE W, SUITE B, EDMONDS

Either enjoy a poke bowl with the freshest tuna and salmon, or pick what you want from the fresh water tanks. Everything from live clams and geoduck to oysters, Dungeness crab and Maine lobsters are waiting for lifelong fishmonger Ken “Kuzma” Hewitt to prepare for you. Raised in his Croatian grandmother’s West Seattle fish market, he will clean, filet and portion your fish, clean and crack fresh crab, remove pin bones from salmon, and prep it all for airline-approved transport that will stay cold for two straight days.

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Sometimes the best in seafood comes from the most unassuming places. Parked on a corner lot, near the bridge that crosses the Snohomish River in the town of Snohomish’s historic district, Andy’s Fish House is the place locals recommend. Try the fish and chips for an



Photo courtesy Explore Edmonds

Fresh fish can be found in our fish markets across the region.



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**Here in the Pacific Northwest, it's easy to find ways to appreciate the best of what the Salish Sea offers us.**

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Beardslee Public House is Bothell's gathering space. The outdoor patio is a welcoming respite of any day.

# Bothell Built for Gathering

## Urban energy and vibrant parks are calling

BY ELLEN HIATT

At Bothell's core is an urban energy with a sense of community, a bit of nostalgia and a clear taste for the finer things in life. Skirted by I-405 with convenient options for the traveler, the City of Bothell is easily found, and yet, somehow, easily missed.

Between Woodinville and Kenmore, it's a vibrant place, where families are creating their own path, gathering at the local restaurants before Little League games or spending a day at the park, supporting entrepreneurs with pop-up locations, and fiercely loyal to the the produce stand that supplies the freshest in local berries, herbs and vegetables served in cocktails and meals.

Jump off that freeway, and pull into McMenamín's Anderson School, a resort-size property complete with a community pool, a hotel, and a cozy theater where you can enjoy a meal with your movie. McMenamín's model of breathing second life into historic buildings has created a magical place of whimsy, with its signature surplus of vintage lighting fitted with colorful bulbs, eclectic paintings lining the halls of the old schoolhouse, and courtyard conversations buzzing into the evening by fire pits stoked by McMenamín's staff.

The private courtyard is surrounded by the resort's restaurants and theater, where cocktails, brews and meals



## **That sense of identity, found from gaming tables in Zulu's to parks filled with walkers and bikers, restaurants brimming with chatter and connection, is why families, techies, and retirees are all drawn to this urban hub.**

are served. The Shed, a whiskey and cocktail bar situated in a hobbit-sized building cattywampus in the courtyard corner with its own brick fireplace attached outside of it, fits a baker's dozen patrons in its moody, rough interior, fitted with the same assortment of multifarious vintage chandeliers.

Visitors from across the Pacific Northwest gather here, groups of girlfriends, travelers who met on the train up from California and over from the Tri Cities. It's worth the visit to stay the night, chill and chat by The Tavern's fireplace on cozy couches, or walk the various themed and well kept gardens that embrace the environs.

Penny Galen recently visited from SeaTac and stayed at McMenam's while visiting her sister. The two grew up in Bothell. While long-time locals of any place often lament change, these two were quite pleased to see what Bothell has become: a town with a University of Washington campus, adding intellectual energy and opportunities; the vibrancy of families filling the Beardslee Public House with a cacophony of youthful energy any given evening, parents enjoying companionship over cedar grilled steelhead and a house chardonnay, the kids performing a perfected boardinghouse reach across the table to share fries and sodas.

"It's changed for the better," Galen said.

### **MAIN STREET**

Main Street here is just four-and-a-smidge blocks long, one of which is converted to a pedestrian pathway. There, Alexa's Cafe welcomes a loyal line of customers willing to wait the hour for a coveted seat for eggs benedict. The portrait of the restaurant's owner and her daughter Alexa hang in the halls of McMenam's, as many locals of historic and modern lore have been captured there.

Near Alexa's is the latest storefront for Zulu's Board Game Cafe, which has its original location just a block northeast. This town likes to gather in fun... burgers and fries are coming out of the kitchen while tables are filled with game boards and card decks of every variety, surrounded by families, friends, and game enthusiasts of all ages.

Main Street gives way to the busier boulevard, where less than a mile up Beardslee Public House draws the locals to the casual dining concept of celebrated steakhouse chef John Howie. Trees from the original location were turned into custom tables, beer is handcrafted from Master Brewer and partner Drew Culey, and meals are created with locally sourced ingredients. On the ground floor is the restaurant's sister company, Wildwood Spirits Co., where the spirits are made with barley, wheat, Douglas Fir and Braeburn apples grown in Washington, and sometimes apples from as close as the backyard of the company's third partner, Erik Liedholm. An advanced sommelier and the wine director for Howie's many restaurants, he distills each botanical separately for Kur gin, ages bourbon in hand-coopered artisan oak barrels, and leads sommelier courses for the staff.

Brew pubs, bakeries, cocktail bars and eateries abound within a few short blocks of each other here. The Cottage continues to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Even the French toast comes with a pairing recommendation for a citrusy cocktail if you like. If you arrive with an appetite, the Cottage Burger is a must try, with candied shallots, garlic aioli and Beecher's cheddar on a ciabatta bun. It's prime season in spring, summer and fall when The Cottage is serving fresh made biscuits with local berries, sourced nearby, of course, at the 86-year-old Yakima Fruit Market, locally owned by Stuart and Karin Poage.

**(clockwise from top left) From wine with friends at local gathering spaces, an evening well spent in the rescued, historic schoolhouse, to a taste of Rendition Rye Whiskey at Wildwood Spirits or the perfect Benny at Alexa's Cafe, Bothell is calling you for a weekend.**







The market is so crucial to the town's identity as well as their seasonal meals, that the locals rallied to defeat an eminent domain capture of a portion of the business's property for light rail expansion. People were saying "this is part of my history.' 'I don't want this to go'," Stuart Poage told the late radio host Dori Monson in 2020. "I had no concept, really, Dori, that we meant that to the public. And it was overwhelming."

That sense of identity, found from gaming tables in Zulu's to parks filled with walkers and bikers, restaurants brimming with chatter and connection, is why families, techies, and retirees are all drawn to this urban hub.

Discover Bothell yourself. For more information for your exploration of Bothell, visit [www.beginatbothell.com](http://www.beginatbothell.com). ♦



Bothell loves its gathering spaces, protecting its beloved Yakima Fruit Market and the parks along the riverfront.





# Bothell's Parks:

## Living Laboratories & Summertime Playgrounds

BY ELLEN HIATT

Woodinville Drive curves round two bends in the Sammamish River, hugged by a network of trails and parks providing a multitude of ways to get outdoors in Bothell and connect with neighboring cities.

Construction of the shared UW Bothell and Cascadia College campus with the restoration of 58 acres of riverine and floodplain ecosystem, provide a regionally important living laboratory for students. The conserved ecosystem hosts a variety of bats, beavers, birds, insects and wildlife, many visible on a walk through North Creek Trail's floating boardwalk.

The Park at Bothell Landing, the site of many summertime events, a playground, and wildlife, is the perfect place to rent paddle boards, kayaks and canoes from WhatsUp Stand Up Paddle and Kayak. Paddle under the iconic arched bridge that connects pedestrians to trails from Bothell to King County.

Cross the bridge and walk the paved Sammamish River Trail, stretching riverside for 10 miles from Bothell to Marymoor Park in Redmond as part of the "Locks to Lakes Corridor." It connects to the Burke Gilman trail for another 18 miles from Bothell to Ballard. Both trails connect at Blyth Park, where 41 acres of greenery is perfect for a picnic or a game of 10-hole disc golf.

The final gift of parks for Bothell is the Former Wayne Golf Course, a once private 89-acre golf course converted to open space for habitat restoration, walking, bird-watching and bicycling.



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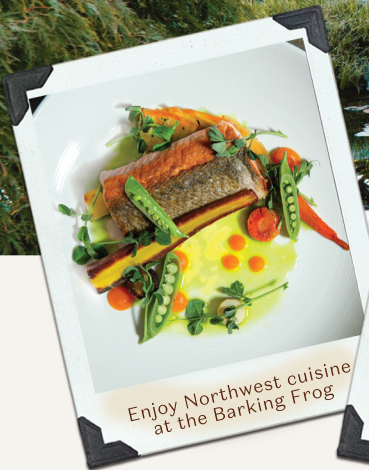
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gas fireplace and a deep soaking tub. Plan a tour of some of the more than 130 Woodinville wineries and tasting rooms all around the lodge. Explore our gorgeous gardens and hop on a bicycle for a ride on the Sammamish River Trail. Enjoy a relaxing massage, facial or body

treatment at our full-service spa. Don't miss the innovative cuisine and award-winning wine cellar at Barking Frog, one of the finest restaurants in the Pacific Northwest. Book your wine country getaway today! ♦



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Photo courtesy Museum of Northwest Art

The Museum of Northwest Art honors the Northwest School of artists that arose out of the landscape of the La Conner community.

# The Living Art of La Conner

BY ANNE BASYE

“Art’s Alive!” is the name of La Conner’s annual arts celebration—and it couldn’t be more appropriate.

Art is alive in this charming waterfront town. For hundreds of years, Salish Sea natives carved cedar canoes and wove cedar hats in the area. In the 1930s, Charlie Edwards set to work carving the large totem pole in Swinomish Village, on the west side of the Swinomish Channel.

Just about the same time, artists Morris Graves and Guy Anderson turned up in a Model T Ford with no top. Looking for a cheap place to live and paint, they rented a partially burned house on the hill. La Conner was changed forever.

As artists followed Graves and Anderson, this quiet backwater, which didn’t even have a sewer system until 1975, became a center of art. Author Tom Robbins (Even Cowgirls Get the Blues) arrived in 1970. A second and third wave of artists

followed, squatting for free in shacks along the Skagit River or renting modest houses in town.

“La Conner had a very open mind,” said Cathie Wyman, whose husband’s family befriended the new arrivals. “They accepted anybody. You could just be goofy as hell and it was okay, you were just another goofy guy.”

While fewer artists reside in La Conner, given its shift away from the low-rent district of Skagit County, Robbins has remained. Last year the town threw an appropriately quirky parade in celebration of Tom Robbins Day.

An afternoon visit can immerse you in the art that lives on here, indoors and out. Start by visiting the Museum of Northwest Art (121 S. First Street). The enormous second-floor “Mural of Skagit County Agriculture 1941” by William Cumming depicts everything from milking cows to felling timber and baling hay. Through 2024, you can view this

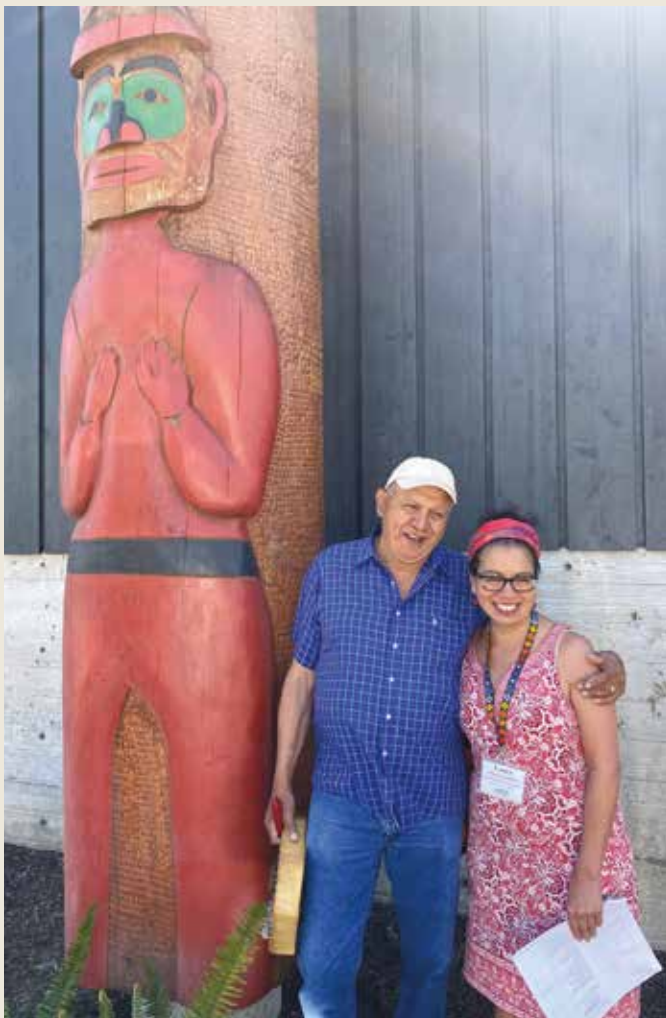








The enormous mural of Skagit County agriculture was found languishing in a barn before it was rescued and displayed at the Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner.



Laura Flores Cailloux shares a moment with story pole carver Kevin Paul, Swinomish Tribal member. Cailloux led Leadership Skagit students on a tour of arts and culture in La Conner.

jewel of depression-era social realism alongside other works from MONA's permanent collection. "The Northwest School of Art remains one of the important visual narratives of our region," says MONA Executive Director and Chief Curator Stefano Catalani. The upstairs works "explore the points of contact between the many narratives and sensibilities that comprise Northwest art."

If you'd like to own your own piece of Northwest art, visit MONA's bookstore and gift shop, or consider attending the annual June art auction (<https://www.monamuseum.org/2024-art-auction>). Find present-day Skagit County landscapes at La Conner Seaside Gallery (101 N. 1st Street). For contemporary regional artists, visit Marts Modern Gallery (719 S. 1st Street) or Forum Arts (721 S. 1st Street). Textile art is on view at the Pacific Northwest Quilt and Fiber Arts Museum in the beautiful Gaches Mansion on Second Street.

A lovely country drive takes you to the River Gallery, near the Skagit River (19313 Landing Road). Its spring 2024 show runs March 30–April 28. If you are interested in work by Guy Anderson, proprietor Sylvia Strong can arrange a showing.

You don't even have to enter a gallery to see art in La Conner. It's in restaurants (Coa and Nell Thorn are two that come to mind), on street corners, in front yards, and along the channel boardwalk. Some are whimsical. The mayor has a large pink pig on her front porch. A famous local dog has his own statue. A ball-shaped buoy, mounted on a hydraulic mining nozzle, is repainted with a new theme every season.

Discover it as you amble, or download the La Conner Arts Commission's helpful map to organize a walking tour ([www.townoflaconner.org](http://www.townoflaconner.org)). Several pieces are by Swinomish singer-carver Kevin Paul. One of his totem poles stands in front of La Conner Elementary School on Sixth Street. Quite





new is the pole at the new La Conner Swinomish Library on Morris. Inside the library, find a sculpture by longtime resident, the late Clayton James.

La Conner's most famous artist now is Swinomish photographer Matika Wilbur, whose New York Times bestseller *Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America* was launched last year at the Swinomish Social Center. Seaport Books on Gilkey Square carries her books, which include portraits of members of all 562 Native sovereign territories.

To get a feel for the light and the view that drew artists to La Conner, walk or drive to the Skagit County Historical Museum at the top of Fourth Street, the highest point in town. Even if you've never picked up a paintbrush, you'll be inspired by the panorama of mountains and farmland from the Museum's balcony (open Thursday - Sunday, 11 to 4) or parking lot.

If you're really smitten with La Conner's art, come back the first weekend in November for the Art's Alive! festival. In its early days 40 years ago, Art's Alive arranged for artists to display their work in stores. "You could walk around and get to know people, watch live demonstrations, listen to music," said Wyman. "It was a town event."

Now the town Arts Commission invites people to Maple Hall to mingle over wine during the Friday Opening Gala—and spend the weekend soaking in two floors of art in all media.

Before you leave, cast a vote to help your favorite piece win the People's Choice Award. In a small way, you'll be adding your own mark to this town's long creative history. ♦

**(right) The outdoor sculpture "Could you have been her?" by marble sculptor MJ Anderson invites viewers to see the female form through the eyes of a woman.**







Lighthouse Park on the Mukilteo waterfront.

## Sea's the Day: A Coastal Weekend Adventure

BY RICHARD PORTER FOR SEATTLE NORTHCOUNTRY

Let's talk about remarkable beaches of Snohomish County. They may not be the tropical, palm tree type of place (Jetty Island being the notable sandy exception), but they offer so much to maritime explorers. There's nothing like the crunchy feeling of brine in your hair after a dip into the water. The white noise of the surf washing in. The sweeping views of Hat Island, Whidbey, Camano, and the Olympics. Imagine wading far out into gently undulating emerald-green waves at, say, Howarth Park in Everett. Incredible.

Winter's over. It's time to thaw out. A warm weather jaunt up the coast of Snohomish County is just what the doctor (or therapist?) ordered. Here's our itinerary for exploring and experiencing the seaside towns and cities in our corner of the Pacific Northwest.

It's time to "sea's the day."

### EDMONDS: CUTE AND ARTSY

Edmonds is a seaside community defined by a ferry terminal, art boutiques, and a walkable waterfront.

Marina Beach Park is a wonderful place to access the water. Bonus: it also has an off-leash dog park. For fresh flavors of the sea be sure to try MARKET Edmonds or Salt & Iron. MARKET is a more casual dining spot where you can order buttery lobster rolls, whereas Salt & Iron is a sit-down place where local oysters on ice and swanky cocktails are the order of the day.

Best bets for beverages? Salish Sea Brewing Company for adult drinks and Walnut Street Coffee for the caffeine fix or tea to go.

## MUKILTEO: VIEWS AND BEACHES

Mukilteo is the southern access point to Whidbey Island via ferry — home to an iconic lighthouse and a row of seaside dining establishments.

Mukilteo Lighthouse Park is a must-visit. Beachcombing is best experienced with an ice cream in hand, so you'll want to stop by the walk-up window at Diamond Knot Brewing for a scoop beforehand.

A lesser-known treasure, Japanese Gulch is comprised of an extensive hillside trail system. This place is highly recommended for trail runners, mountain bikers, dog walkers, nature lovers, and hikers. Japanese Gulch also offers a popular off-leash dog park.

## EVERETT WATERFRONT: DINING AND WALKING

Post-industrial warehouses have made way for a pedestrian bridge, high-end cocktail bars, brew pubs, cafes and more in Everett—all on a walkable waterfront with views of boats in the marina and Jetty Island floating in Possession Sound.

Visiting in the a.m.? Start at South Fork Bakery, Woods Coffee, or The Muse. With energy from hot coffee and pastries, you're ready to hit the boardwalk or Boxcar Park.

Fisherman Jack's offers a fresh take on seafood with their dim sum-style approach and ultramodern décor, including



Photo by Elise Giordano

Sharing drinks and a bite at The Muse on the Port of Everett waterfront.



Photo by Elise Giordano

Strolling the beach on Jetty Island.



a top-notch bar. Sound 2 Summit Brewing is the place for chilling on an outdoor beer patio—a magnet for cider enthusiasts.

The Muse is housed within the Weyerhaeuser Building. This historical structure was once the showroom for the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company, featuring their finest moldings, wainscoting, and other lumber products. The Muse has fancied up the location into a coffee shop by day and speakeasy-style high-end cocktail bar by evening. Go early for quiet chats over an Americano with lots of natural light or pop by in the evening for a handcrafted martini that will leave you feeling like a celebrity.

The Milltown Trail is a five-mile interconnected path, mostly running parallel to the water, that is perfect for jogging, strolling, bicycling to your heart's content—all with views of the marina, Puget Sound, islands, mountains, and the daily sunset.

## UP THE COAST: NATURE IN INSPIRATIONAL GLORY

Eagles, sunsets, harbor seals, sandpipers, coastal cliffs, driftwood, madrone trees, shore pines, and seagulls aplenty. Let the relaxing nature of our coastlines wash your citified woes out to sea.

Continue up the coast to lesser-populated beaches. The northern stretches of seaside

Snohomish County are an ideal place to unplug and commune with nature. We all need to hit refresh on the old mindset every so often.

You'll find a walkable bird sanctuary at Spencer Island. This well-maintained county park serves as a preservation site for a variety of wild fowl as well as the estuary ecosystems that filter and regulate the waters at the confluence of the Snohomish River and the Salish Sea. A highly recommended lesser-known spot for ecotourists and nature lovers.

The spring months bring whale watching season. Every year, grey whales migrate from the Gulf of Mexico all the way to Alaska for calving season. En route they stop off in Port Susan and Possession Sound to feed on ghost shrimp at the mouth of the Stillaguamish River. Your best bets to publicly view whales from the shore are at Jetty Island or Kayak Point. (Please note that Kayak Point will be open for only part of the summer due to shoreline restoration projects. Please check out the Snohomish County Department of Natural Resources website before heading there.)

The sea is so much of who we are in Snohomish County. It's a source of food, fun, fresh air and it's always an aesthetic inspiration no matter the time of year. Visit and be inspired. Please enjoy the waterfront, maritime culture, locals, and wildlife responsibly so that future generations can also be inspired by this place we call home. ♦



Photo by Richard Porter

Sunset on Whidbey Island.

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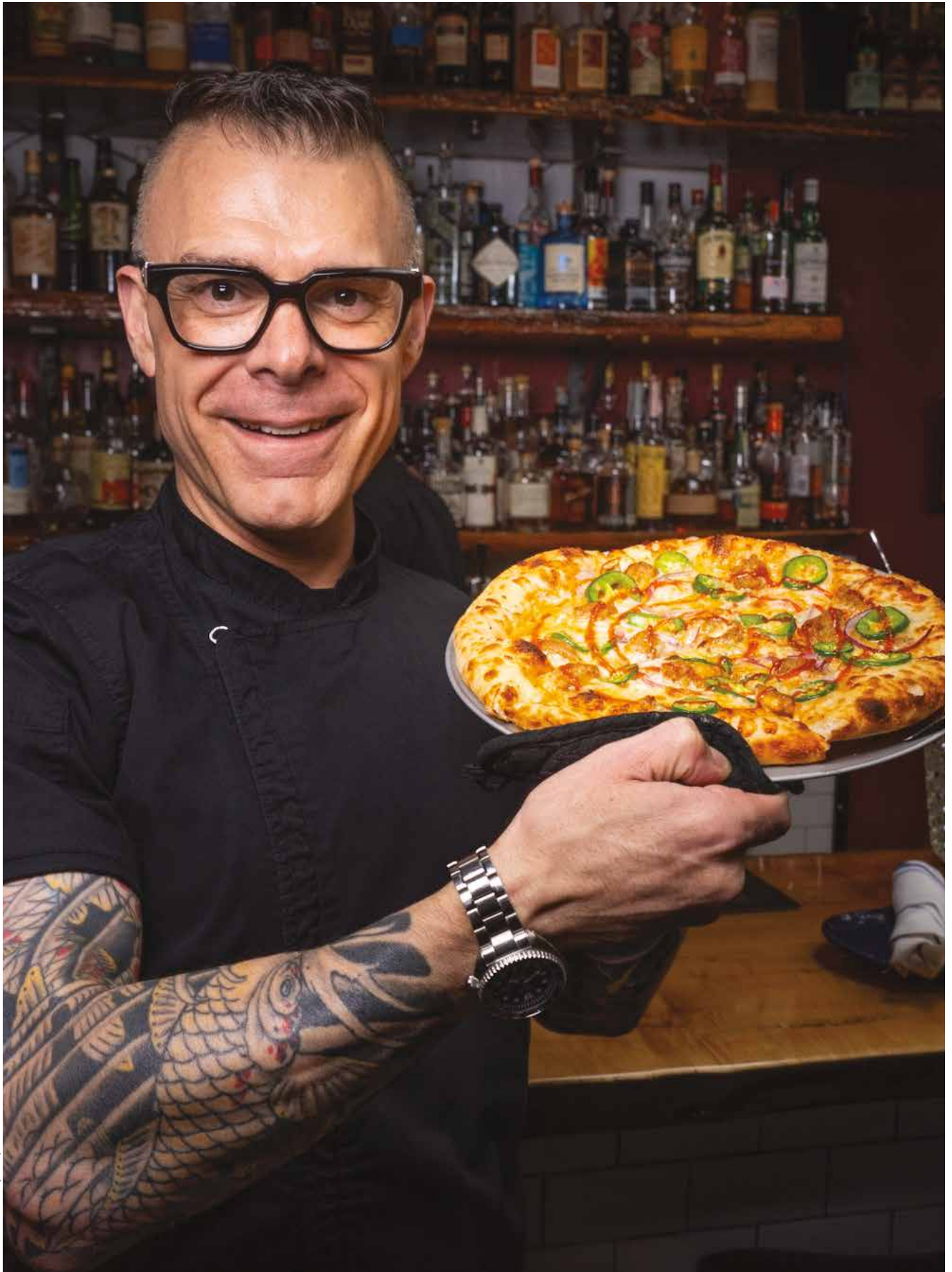


Photo courtesy Explore Edmonds



Photo courtesy Explore Edmonds

(left) Niles Peacock proudly shows off a pizza made with sourdough crust, a collaboration with another award-winning Pizzaiolo. (above) The sandy shores of Edmonds beaches are a perfect place to spend a summer day, made even better by a ferry ride across the pond to Kingston.

# Across the Pond

## Edmonds, Kingston share a love of pizza, art and community

BY ELLEN HIATT

The quintessential Pacific Northwest experience includes a ferry ride, complete with its gentle rocking across Puget Sound, a tremendous blast of its horn, and the accompaniment of seagulls squawking high-pitched demands for a tourist's stale french fry tossed to the wind. It's a must-do for families spending a leisurely day, and a given for anyone entertaining out-of-state guests. Between Edmonds and Kingston, the ride includes views of kite surfers on sunny days and colorful rainbows on the wet ones, along with another unexpected gift: the epicenter of world class pizza.

On mainland or peninsula, sliding out of wood fired ovens are pizzas with a global reputation, cocktails from a James Beard recognized mixologist, and performance art from top-ranked entertainers from all continents. In short, there is no better experience for entertainment, arts and dining in the region than a weekend spent between Kingston and Edmonds.

When Niles Peacock planned to open on the Edmonds waterfront, he decided he would be a world class pizza maker. A friend told him he had to study under Will Grant in Kingston. Ambitious and creative to his core, Peacock is a second level sommelier and The Taste America - Seattle and James Beard Foundation Recognized Mixologist. Peacock jumped at the idea, deciding on the spot that he'd fly to Kingston, New York to learn from the best. Turns out, world class pizza lessons were just across the pond.



Grant, a Master Pizzaiolo, is certified to train others in the art of making pizza by the Scuola Italiana Pizzaiolo, the oldest and most prestigious pizza school in Italy. He is the main instructor at the Pacific Northwest School of Pizza, Executive Chef for Shepherd's Grain Flour, and a World Pizza Champion Team Member. And you can enjoy pizza layered with those credentials and a lot of other goodness on an aromatic sourdough crust coming out of his unassuming shop, Sourdough Willy's, on the corner of Washington Boulevard and Highway 104.

In fact, pretty much everything in Kingston is unassuming. Kingston's town center is about the size of four square blocks, easily enjoyed within a couple hours, and worth every bit of that passing time. When the ferry unloads its human cargo, walk briskly if you're in the mood for crepes. J'aime Les Crêpes Crêperie forms a line as quickly as passengers debark. It's standing room only next to the ice cream

case where staff deliver savory and sweet crepes of wide variety.

In a town where a pandemic creates opportunity, one wine cellar started anew, a transplant out of Sonoma Valley's wine world, with jazz nights, a piano bar and art gallery, Cellar Cat. On the same block, d'Vine Bistro expanded its offerings to a full scale restaurant, where braised duck cassoulet may be as tempting as the expertly curated wine list. Both offer hard-to-find small production spirits.

Edmonds shares yet another restaurant experience with Kingston. On either side of the water, Steven Ono's Hawaiian-themed poke restaurants, Ono Poke, change the menu daily to source only the freshest ingredients, including Hawaiian Ahi, British Columbian Salmon and Hamachi and Tako from Japan - all Premium Sushi Grade 1.

Before you catch the ferry back to Edmonds, grab some freezer meals to-go from the newest entrepreneur in town, The Saucy Sailor. Savory pies of bangers and



Photo courtesy TimDavisImages.com



Photo courtesy TimDavisImages.com



(left) The waterfront is a popular gathering space for families in Kingston. (above) Wine cellars, brewers, restaurants, and artists make the thriving, tiny town of Kingston a pleasure to visit.



mash, cottage pie and meatball stroganoff provide comfort food with a clearly British bent.

Back in Edmonds, Peacock learned his lessons from Grant; this spring he will compete in Naples, Italy for the Caputo Cup Pizza Competition and Global Pizza Summit, Italy's most renowned pizza contest. It's the next step for Peacock's pizza journey, earned by winning Best Non-Traditional Pizza in the Northwest at the 2023 Pizza Expo in Las Vegas.

In another way, he shares the award with Grant in Kingston. The fermented crust he spends days crafting, including the award winning "My Hot Date" with gorgonzola, balsamic reduction and caramelized dates, is redolent with starter gifted to Peacock by Grant.

The budding friendship has Grant and Peacock talking nearly every day by phone, training each other's staff, and trading notes. Peacock, once voted as King 5's Best Bartender, examined Grant's cocktail menu and revamped it for him.

Niles Peacock Kitchen and Bar serves up combinations that have the power to change minds and palates, turning the most ardent hater of beets or funky cheeses into perplexed fans.

"The earthiness of the beet isn't masked," said Peacock. "It becomes the star." Indeed, the accompaniment of beets



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Photo courtesy Tim Davis Images

J'aime Les Crêpes is the go-to place when the ferry unloads. Waste no time to get in line for a savory or sweet crepe, or a scoop of ice cream.

with goat cheese, roasted pistachios and raspberry vinaigrette should win an award of its own.

Peacock comes from a family of creatives. The dapper-dresser designed at least 20 different suits of his own just last year. Art from his retired mother lines the walls in riotous color and joy.

People flow into the restaurant in a constant swirl picking up take-out and vying for a seat at the table. The hour-long wait doesn't appear to be a deterrent.

"I can't believe I get to do this for a living," Peacock said over shaking cocktails and customer chatter. "I'm just loving it. I'm a perpetual student and always learning."

High achievers abound in this town where the arts are celebrated with two independent bookstores, a 700-seat performing arts center, multiple art galleries, and an art museum celebrating the early artists of the Northwest School of Art. More than 65 pieces of public art are installed from the waterfront to the plazas. And if pizza isn't what you had in mind, there are restaurants serving rave-worthy freshly made pasta, Filipino food, prime steaks, and more.

Whatever a perfect day on the waterfront looks like to you, you're sure to find it in Kingston and Edmonds. ♦



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Photo courtesy Explore Edmonds

Public art enlivens the waterfront and downtown experience in Edmonds.

**Kingston:**

[visitkitsap.com/kingston](http://visitkitsap.com/kingston)

Plan your trip to land in Kingston on a Sunday between May and October and you'll be lucky enough to enjoy the Kingston Public Market, or go on a Saturday in July or August, take in all the good eats, and enjoy a concert at the Port's waterfront.

**Edmonds:**

[exploreedmonds.com](http://exploreedmonds.com)

A full calendar of events, including weekend concerts in the park, performances at the Edmonds Center for the Arts, and gallery openings are on the website. Street parking is free.

**Washington State Ferry:**

[wsdot.com/ferries](http://wsdot.com/ferries)

Passenger and walk-on is free from Kingston to Edmonds. The route is short enough you can leave your car in Edmonds where parking uptown is plentiful and the jaunt down the hill takes you by plenty of boutiques for window shopping. Or find parking closer to the ferry (for free if you can find it or for less than a dozen bucks in the paid lot.)

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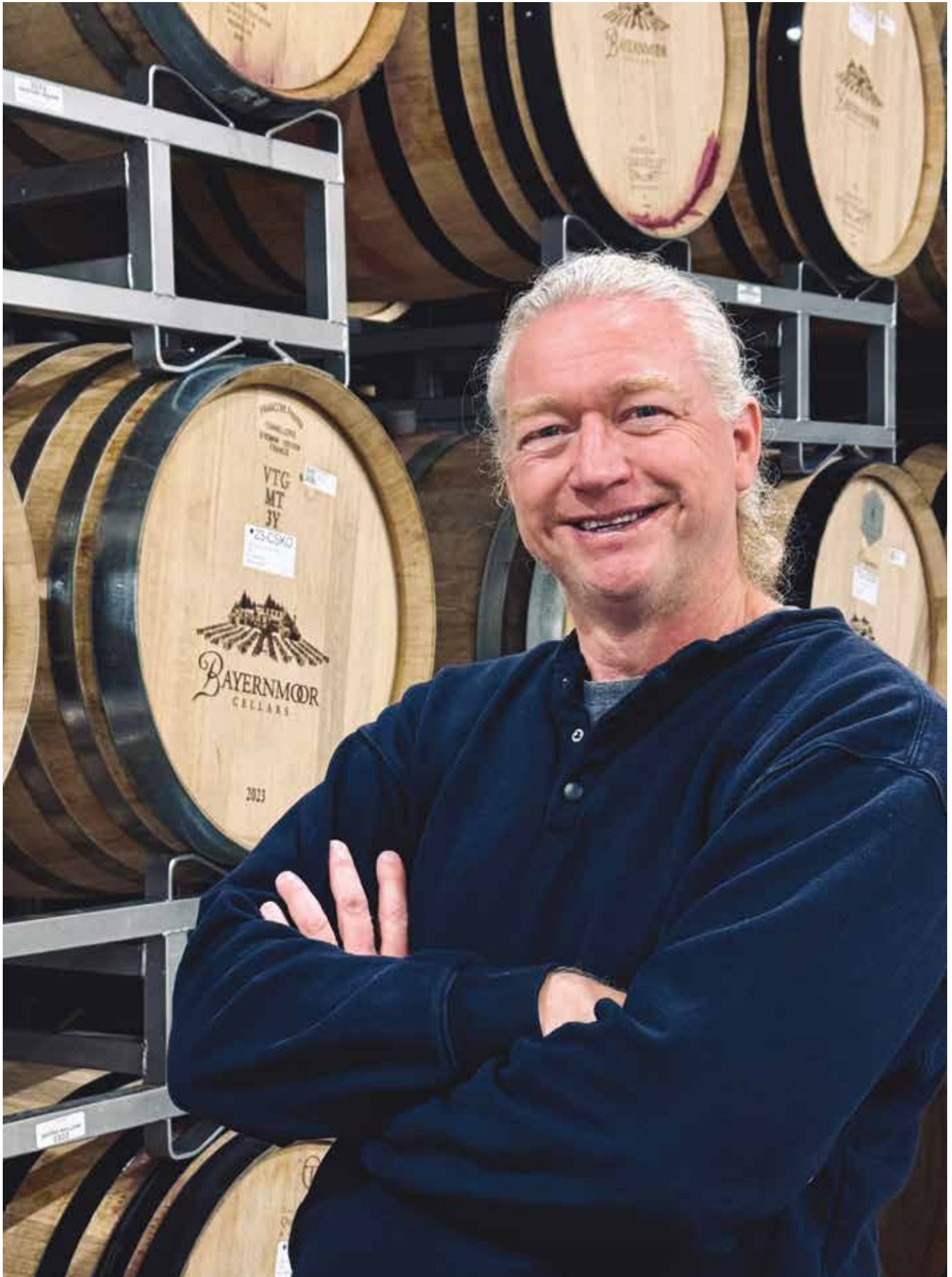




Photo courtesy Bayernmoor Cellars

Larry Harris guiding a happy walking tour at Bayernmoor Vineyards.

## Puget Sound AVA Visionary Vineyard & Winery

BY JEFF “WICK” WICKLUND

When you think about venturing to wine country, your first thought might be the anticipation of savoring the magical elixir of fermented grapes or, it could be the allure of the vineyards. The beautiful symmetry of trellised vines rolling over fog-laden hills can be an equally intoxicating sensory experience.

It's hard to imagine Alexander Payne's iconic, comedic, film noir about two middle-aged college roommates going 'Sideways' about wine (among other vices) without the backdrop of the stunning Santa Ynez Valley vineyards.

Washington State has equally amazing vineyards. The vast majority are located on the eastern side of the state.

There are currently 20 AVA's (American Viticultural Areas) in Washington with the Columbia Valley AVA being by far the largest, encompassing over 11 million acres with an excess of 50 thousand acres planted, reflecting 99% of all of the vineyards in the state.

Western Washington is home to more than 300 wineries and tasting rooms that dot the landscape from the U.S.-Canadian border to Vancouver, WA including some of the Islands of the Salish Sea yet, it is home for only about 1% of the vineyard land that provides the raw material for the end product. An old friend of mine, Mark McNeilly (Owner/Winemaker of Mark Ryan Winery) perfectly summed up the dichotomy of

Washington's wine industry with one of his first wine labels he produced – “Long Haul” (emphasizing the trek of grapes from the east to the west) which is a harmonious, Merlot-driven blend with fruit sourced mainly from the iconic vineyards of Ciel du Cheval and Klipsun, within the Red Mountain AVA.

This “Farmers Market” approach to the Washington wine industry isn't anything new as Associated Vintners (Columbia Winery) and American Wine Growers (Chateau Ste. Michelle) both built production facilities in Woodinville, WA in the late '70s and early '80s to capitalize on the proximity to major urban areas of the state.

What is new however, is the idea,





Pinot Noir lovers sip and savor the wines of the Bayernmoor Vineyard.



Viticultural Visionaries Kim & Larry Harris of "Bayernmoor Cellars".

vision and execution of world-class, Burgundian-inspired Western Washington Pinot Noir vineyards that could rival our neighbors to the south in Willamette Valley.

There are a couple of viticultural visionaries who have created a mini wine Mecca in an area of Western Washington that, on the surface, might seem out of place or at least, unlikely.

Kim & Larry Harris of Bayernmoor Cellars have built a stunning boutique winery and estate Vineyard in the rolling hills east of Stanwood. Situated on what was once a dairy farm, the 100+ acre property currently has six acres of vines planted exclusively to Pinot Noir with the early-ripening Précoce variety comprising the majority and Dijon Clone 777 making up the balance.

“Our goal here at Bayernmoor is to create the best possible wines while honoring and respecting the land. We weigh each viticultural decision to improve quality against its impact on the surrounding environment by implementing organic and other mindful farming practices. We are in this for the long haul so we will continue to act in a way that makes the vineyard and surrounding land generationally sustainable,” Larry said on a stroll through the vineyard while joyously sipping the glorious results of his efforts.

Plans are in the works for a major expansion of the vineyards at Bayernmoor and Larry has acquired a barrel room and case storage facility to efficiently accommodate

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**"Our goal here at Bayernmoor is to create the best possible wines while honoring and respecting the land."**

**- Larry Harris, Bayernmoor Cellar**


that expansion and provide an ideal venue for barrel sampling and implementing the art of blending. When the offer was made to join Larry and his team for some "barrel thievery," I would be remiss not to eagerly accept. Like kids in a candy store, the sensory evaluation of what the vineyard provided and

Larry's deft touch with his barrel selection was nothing short of magical!

For decades I've chased this ethereal "wine dragon" at vineyards and wineries all over the planet and I have to say that Bayernmoor Cellars, with their estate Vineyard located right in our backyard, is one of the most exciting for what they're accomplishing now and what impact they will have on the entire Puget Sound AVA.

Bayernmoor's beautiful tasting room is located in Woodin Creek Village if you'd like to visit, sample Larry's amazing wines and have a delicious, chef-inspired food pairing. ♦





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Clint Black smiles as he plays Rock the Boat 2023 at the Port of Everett.

# Live Music is in the Air

BY RYAN CROWTHER

As we finally inch our way toward spring, we've all become accustomed to the sound of raindrops pattering against our windows and talking ourselves out of weekend plans to stay cozy. If you live in the Pacific Northwest, you understand. There's nothing quite like the first warm, sunny afternoon you catch yourself smelling fresh cut grass and charcoal barbecues to remind us that better weather is on its way and days are finally getting longer. As the chill leaves the air, this opens up ample opportunities and amenities to enjoy in Snohomish County.

From farmers markets to spring hikes and walks along the rivers, lakes and seaside towns, this time of year helps us to reconnect with nature and our neighbors. Spring also marks the kickoff to the outdoor event season. Community events make us appreciate where we live and often make it the best time to visit a place. Whether you're into three-day music festivals or just looking for evening activities, Snohomish County is a fortunate home to high-caliber events this spring and summer.

**MAY 16-18**  
**FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL AND NIGHT MARKET**

Since 2014, Fisherman's Village Music Festival has delivered a destination event featuring dozens of national, regional and local talent across venues in Downtown Everett. This year's lineup includes Drive-by Truckers, Allen Stone, Shovels & Rope, SOL, Courtney Marie Andrews and dozens more. In addition to the ticketed event inside the venues, the Fisherman's Village Night Market offers a free, two-block party on the pavement offering over 40 maker and artisan vendors, food trucks, live music, beer garden and more.

**JUNE 1**  
**BOTHELL BLOCK PARTY AND BREWFEST**

One of Downtown Bothell's biggest days offers over 20 brands of craft beer, cider, wine, kombucha and more, with a stacked lineup of live music playing all day. This year's live music stage will include The Helio Sequence, Skating Polly, Oblé Reed, Hot Bodies in Motion and other local acts. The Block Party also enlists an impressive group of food trucks you'll want to try.

**JUNE 7-9**  
**SORTICULTURE**

While Sorticulture is best known as one of the region's largest and best garden, art and handmade outdoor product events, it also offers three days of live music and a beer garden in the heart of Downtown Everett. Attendees who have previously made a short visit to breeze through vendors should consider checking out this year's lineup and making more of a day of it.

**THURSDAYS, JULY 11 – AUGUST 29**  
**MUSIC AT THE MARINA**

For over 20 years, Music at the Marina on the Everett waterfront offers a sunny weeknight concert with a beautiful backdrop of the Port of Everett's marina and mountains. With a hotel, new homes and a growing list of new waterfront restaurants and businesses at the Port's Waterfront Place Development, this free weekly series only continues to grow. In addition to brick and mortar options, Music at the Marina offers food trucks, a beer garden, ice cream and more for sweet teeth of all ages. The Little Lies, Fleetwood Mac Tribute as well as Queen Mother, playing all of Queen's biggest hits will return this summer, as well as some fan favorites playing original music.

*Photo by Christine Mitchell*



Dancing the Thursday evening away to The Dusty 45s at Music at the Marina at the Port of Everett.



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# FEST

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The Upper Left Beerfest & Everett Food Truck Festival will once again join forces with the Everett Makers Market to throw one of the biggest "craft" festivals around - combined in the heart of downtown Everett

Featuring 25+ breweries, 20+ food trucks and 40+ local makers & artists surrounded by local live music and more! There's sure to be something for everyone!

**FRIDAY**  
4:00-8:30PM

*COMIN' AT YA*  
**AUGUST 16 & 17**

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MORE INFO AT: [UPPERLEFTBEERFEST.COM](http://UPPERLEFTBEERFEST.COM)





Photo by Jake Hanson

**The Little Lies, PNW Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, headlining the Night Market stage on Wetmore in Downtown Everett for Fisherman's Village Music Festival 2023.**

**JULY 19 & 20  
ROCK THE BOAT**

Since 2015, artists such as Clint Black, Sir Mix-a-lot and Meat Puppets have played on the water's edge at Boxcar Park. Last year's success prompted a jump to a two-day event this year featuring classic Seattle rock and rollers Mudhoney and Sweetwater as well as 90's country superstars Clay Walker and Deana Carter. The event will offer premium seated tickets as well as general admission, allowing attendees to bring a blanket or chair and sit further away from the stage. Boxcar Park's views make it hard to keep your eye on the stage and this year's lineup is sure to bring in some crowds.

**AUGUST 9-11  
TASTE EDMONDS**

One of South County's largest community celebrations of over 40 years returns to the new Civic Center Playfield. All female AC/DC Tribute band Hell's Belles and 80's New Wave Tribute will headline this summer's bash, along with

a local lineup sure to keep everyone moving. Thousands of tickets are sold each day for a full day of live music, locally made beer and wine along with elevated meal options. Featured chef tents will offer sizzling meats and fusions from around the globe by Executive Chefs and restaurateurs Shubert Ho, Ethan Stowell and Jose Garzon. Food trucks, treat booths and family friendly activities such as putt-putt golf and jump houses make this event fun for the whole fam. A free maker's market will bring over 30 vendors to downtown Edmonds on the same site.

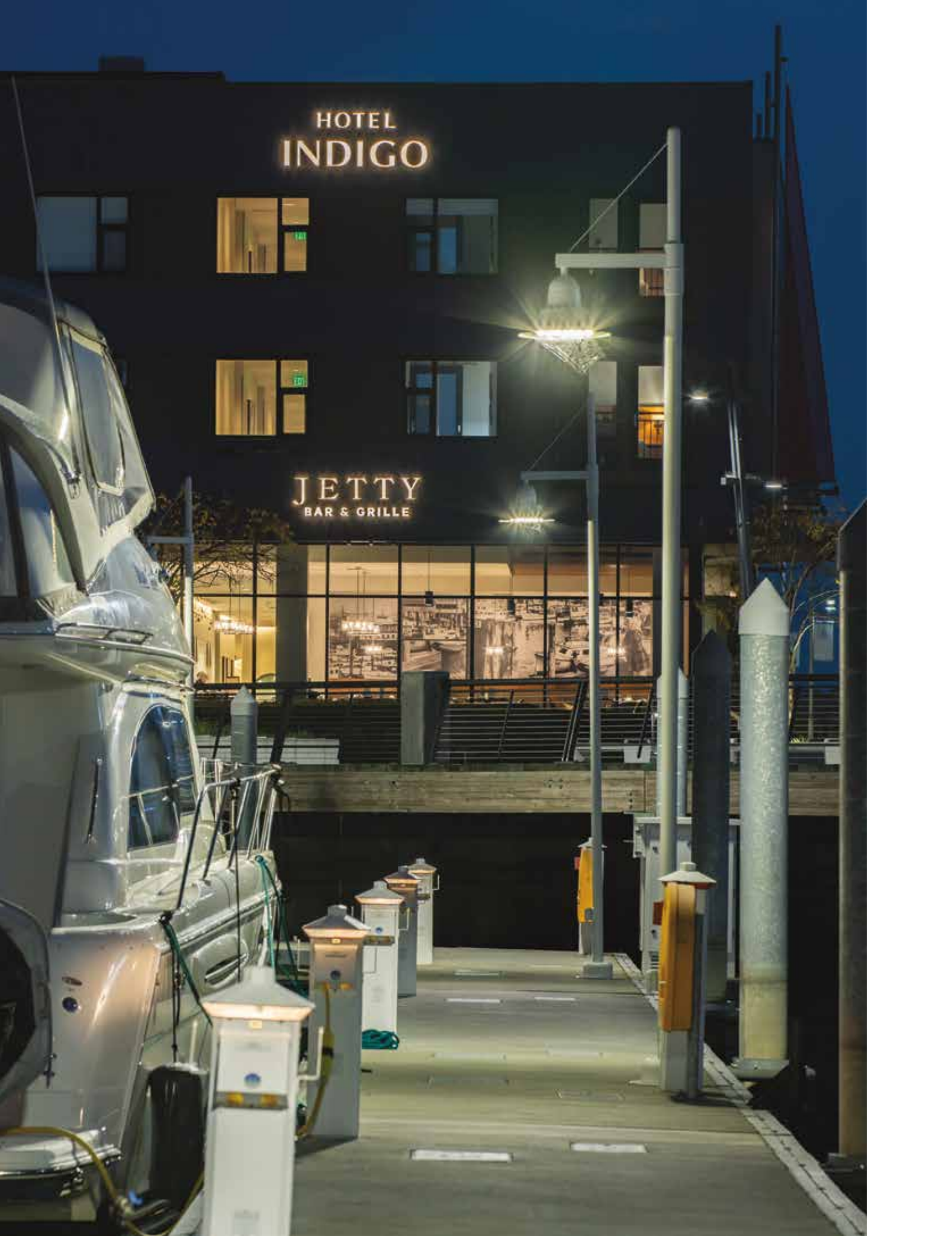
**AUGUST 23 & 24  
SNOHOMISH BLOCK PARTY**

One of the county's hottest newcomers, Snohomish Block Party, has made a name for itself the last couple years bringing artists such as Noah Cyrus and Black Belt Eagle Scout to the downtown known for its antiques and car shows. Dance parties, comedians, food trucks and a beer garden and themed events each day make this event worth your Friday and Saturday. ♦



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The Port of Everett is in a singular position to potentially bring economic development opportunities beyond its waterfront and deeper into the county's rural regions.

# What If?

## Possible Port expansion poised to magnify region's potential

BY WENDY POISCHBEG, INTERIM CEO AND PRESIDENT,  
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE SNOHOMISH COUNTY & ELLEN HIATT

*What if we could leverage more in federal grants to improve the roads you get to work on every day?*

*What if all of Paine Field, not just a portion of it, were in a designated Federal Trade Zone, giving more businesses a competitive edge and bringing more enterprise to our region?*

*What if all of Snohomish County's lands could benefit from the exclusive tools available to a Port District?*

Port Gardner Bay any summer day is full of families and boaters, kayaks and motorboats, walkers and sunset catchers. Everett's marina is pulsing with energy, children's laughter, fishermen, bird watchers and artists.

The Port of Everett is creating a vibrant waterfront with walking trails, restored estuaries and wildlife habitat, and a growing scene of hotels, restaurants and boating amenities.

Beyond the boat launch and kiteboarders off Jetty Island, catch a glimpse of the gantry cranes at the

deepwater seaport, or venture further south to Mukilteo where cargo from Japan is sent by railcar up Japanese Gulch to Boeing's manufacturing facility.

From public access gems like the marina, to business development parks along the Snohomish River, the Port of Everett works within its boundaries to improve the quality of life and vitality of Snohomish County.

Unfortunately, it's fairly limited there... within its "boundaries," ... a wonky configuration of districts



encompassing most of Everett, parts of Mukilteo, and small parts of Marysville and unincorporated Snohomish County.

The Port's district includes about 110,000 residents in a county of 830,000.

Why are those numbers important?

Port districts are uniquely positioned in Washington State as the only public agencies whose primary purpose is economic development. This means they can take measured risks, leverage federal dollars, and create opportunities that other public agencies cannot. Because only about 15% of the county's residents are represented by the Port of Everett, this powerhouse of an agency is limited in its impact to the region.

In its 106-year history, the Port has stewarded the Everett waterfront from a sawmill and shingle manufacturing hub, to a commercial fishing center, to a modern container facility. The operation morphs over time according to public interests and, importantly, shifting economic opportunities. The most recent iteration features a modernized port capable of charging electric container ships and handling the oversized cargo vessels that navigate the Panama Canal. Add that economic power to an Everett waterfront with more public access amenities than ever before.

Under the leadership of Lisa Lefeber, a 20-year veteran of Port operations, the Port of Everett is

capitalizing on the waterfront amenities for public access, a modernized marina, and cleaning up historic contamination from early industries. Few agencies are capable of leveraging the dollars needed for multi-million dollar environmental cleanups the way the Port can and does.

What's more, a public vote to expand the Port boundaries to the entire county, excluding the Port of Edmonds as it's currently proposed, would open up over 100,000 miles of saltwater shoreline for potential public access projects, environmental cleanup, and more.

The Port's decommissioning of the defunct Tank Farm in Mukilteo, which had obstructed waterfront views and access for decades, is a prime example of how reclaiming waterfront space can open new opportunities along Mukilteo's shore. This effort has not only restored public access and habitat but also supported regional transportation, benefiting our communities.

Supported by current and former elected officials, including retired Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel, the proposal has far reaching implications.

"This expansion transcends boundary extension; it's about broadening our community's opportunities to thrive—economically, environmentally, and socially. It marks our commitment to a sustainable future, where growth and environmental stewardship go hand in hand."



Photo by njpPhoto, iStock, with special thanks to PlanningNetworkPartners.com

Public access along the Port of Everett's waterfront includes interpretive signage, public art, walking paths and more.

**"This expansion transcends boundary extension; it's about broadening our community's opportunities to thrive—economically, environmentally, and socially. It marks our commitment to a sustainable future, where growth and environmental stewardship go hand in hand."**

**- Bob Drewel,  
former Snohomish County  
Executive and Emeritus Member  
Puget Sound Regional Council**



*Photo by Bjorn Bakstad, iStock Photo*

**With a boundary expansion, the Port could help towns and cities across the County thrive with public access and economic development projects.**

Despite being the state's largest and most trade-dependent county, Snohomish County remains distinctively without comprehensive access to the resources and investment opportunities typically afforded by port infrastructure. The Port of Everett is the only seaport in the state that is not countywide.

With expanded boundary lines, our Port could extend its community investments throughout the County to support economic and community initiatives where they currently cannot. Public ports have access to infrastructure and financing tools that our cities and County do not, making it possible to better support regional priorities like faster freight movement from our manufacturing centers to the markets buying locally-made goods, reducing congestion, and creating more livable communities.

The Port also has its hand in the business community, helping multiply Economic Alliance Snohomish County's efforts to recruit new family-wage jobs to the region.

Public ports throughout Washington are connecting their communities to their environmental resources, and the Port of Everett has demonstrated time and time again its skill and commitment to expanding public access and making recreational opportunities more widely available.

Additionally, the Port is setting new standards for sustainability through the implementation of advanced stormwater management and pollution control strategies.

Actions such as removing derelict vessels and expanding educational programs highlight a deep-seated dedication to environmental stewardship. These measures not only pave the way for a healthier future but also establish Snohomish County as a leader in sustainable port development, ensuring the long-term prosperity of its communities and natural habitats.

This expansion is more than policy; it's about the lasting impact on human lives. The community's connection with the water has defined Everett's essence—its livelihood, beauty, and industrial innovation. This proposed expansion taps into that spirit, actively engaging residents to shape the shores of the whole region, and broaden impact to the manufacturing, public access, and transportation resources countywide, even in its most rural reaches far from our saltwater shores.

The proposal invites all residents and leaders to participate in shaping the future with an expanded toolbox. Through forums and programs like "Port Stewards," we're fostering a unified effort to build an economy as vibrant as the sea, ensuring a balanced prosperity for all industries and residents.

As we face this crossroads, let's seize the chance to craft a future where our Port reflects our community's diversity and leads in fostering a more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable Snohomish County for generations to come. ♦






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# 11

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