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“Captain” Jack’s Barking News ~ Jack is on Vacal

OUR MISSION

To responsibly develop property and facilities that encourage private investment, job creation, local economic diversity and stability; to preserve and better the quality of life for citizens of the greater Ridgefield area.

Board of Commissioners

Joe Melroy — District 1
Scott Hughes — District 2 *
Bruce Wiseman — District 3

*2010 Chairman

Executive Director

Brent Grening

“TEST WELL INDICATES CONTAMINATION THREAT TO REFUGE”

On November 26, 2000, the first year of the new millennium, that was the headline that no one wanted to read. The story behind the headline was especially heartwrenching to the citizens of Ridgefield:

...Carty Lake on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge may be threatened with toxic pollutants according to the Port of Ridgefield. Preliminary indications found contamination in one of nine test wells drilled recently to check the extent of underground contaminates from the former Pacific Wood Treating plant site at the Port’s 41-acre waterfront industrial park.

“The Port, Washington Department of Ecology, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the federal Environmental Protection Agency anticipated that contamination might be found during installation of the monitoring wells. Previous work on the site suggested that such impacts could be found. Initial findings have been reported to our partner agencies,” stated R. Bruce Wiseman, Port commissioner. “We will need laboratory analysis to determine the degree of contamination. Additional data will also be gathered to determine if the lake and underground aquifer are connected. The lab tests should be back by mid-December,” according to Commissioner Wiseman.

“The distinctive smell of wood treating chemicals was noted during installation of the monitoring wells. Possible oil sheen was also observed in underground samples taken from a test well adjacent to the south side of Carty Lake,” reported Brent Grening, Port executive director.

The port has proposed to use an advanced subsurface soil and water remediation process using steam to cleanup underground contamination. The process, which uses state-of-the-art technology, can safely and rapidly reduce chemical contaminates such as creosote and related chemicals. The cleanup of the former PWT treating area is expected to cost over 40 million...

Today, a decade later, Carty Lake and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge are no longer threatened by a massive toxic plume. The smells of wood treating products no longer hang in the air and thousands of gallons of underground chemicals, along with tons of contaminated debris, have been removed from the site. Today, a long held vision is no longer an elusive dream. Today, a community’s waterfront begins to show signs of it’s emergence from the edge of ruin.

(More about the waterfront inside.)



MILLERS LANDING ON RIDGEFIELD



From left to right: unk, Commissioners Joe Melroy, & Roy Randel, unk, Commissioner Bruce Wiseman, Congressman Brian Baird and Senator Maria Cantwell, throw a ceremonial switch to activated steam technology.

August 8, 2002, the switch to activate Steam Enhanced Remediation (SER), was turned on in a ceremony attended by Port Commissioners, political dignitaries, local officials and Ridgefield citizens. Since that event, steam has been heating up the pool of thick wood treatment chemicals so that it can more easily be pumped out of the ground and disposed of safely. Today, over twenty-five thousand gallons of the black gunk has been pulled out of the ground and no longer poses a threat to our wildlife refuge or our local water tables.

Conventional environmental cleanup technology would have been far less costly, but also would have taken decades to accomplish what steam technology has achieved in just eight short years! At this point in time, it is expected that steaming of the site will be phased out beginning summer of 2011.



What was known as building #1 and the drying kilns being demolished.

Much of what has been visible on the waterfront has remained the same for years after surface contaminants and some condemned buildings were cleared in preparation for steam. But all that changed as we moved into a new phase of clean up this past summer. In August, final earthwork and protective capping of the waterfront began. Just as construction on the new Ridgefield ~ SR501 interchange was about to break ground, the Port and Tapani Underground (general contract for the interchange) reached an agreement to have excavated soil brought to the waterfront. Since the trucks started rolling in October of 2009, over 128,000 cubic yards of fill material have been trucked to the site.

During the first phase trucks from the overpass project dumped fill in the north pole yard which borders Carty Lake on the east side and stretches south to Division St. Before long 19,000 cubic yards had been carefully sculpted into a 30 foot high mound covering nearly an acre. Oh, in case you are wondering, at 10 cubic yards each, that's 1900 truck loads of soil! And the trucks just kept coming and coming, sometimes only minutes apart as the construction at the junction progressed.



Trucks lineup south of the new interchange waiting for fill.



Dumping a load at the north pole yard.



A dozer configures the mound of fill for storage on the north pole yard.

THE MEN OF BRATLIE BROS. MILL AUGUST 1932



D'S WATERFRONT TAKING SHAPE



While stock-piling soil in the north pole yard, work also began on the south pole yard which stretches from south of Division street to the boat launch. Pilings along the waterfront are removed, the bank pulled back and tiered to raise levels higher than the 100 year flood plain with more fill. Additional fill is brought in after *barrier* sheeting was laid down to form a protective layer between existing soil and the new, clean fill. An old UTLX office building was demolished and more truck-loads of fill are deliver like clockwork. Load after load is brought in, dumped and spread with dozers and smoothed with graders. The end result is 16 acres are covered with 2-8 feet of healthy fill. The final touch comes with a covering of straw and grass seed to further protect the area during the winter months ahead.



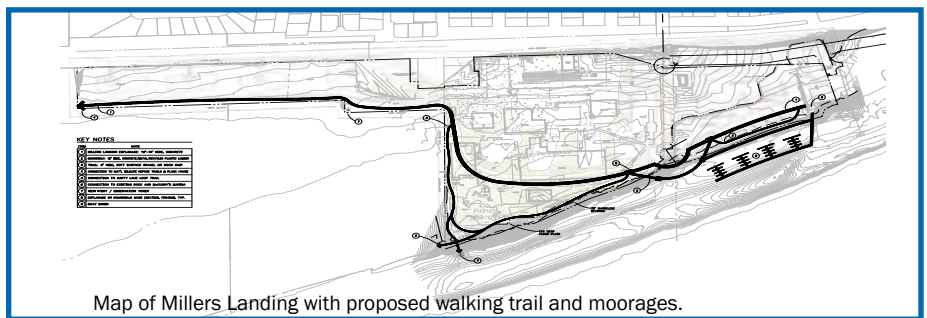
Concurrent with the remediation of the south pole yard was additional stock-piling of clean fill on the north side of Division near the Port offices. A mountain of fill now graces the area of the former truck scales run by PWT, all in preparation for remediation action similar to that used on the south pole yard. Most recently and the last major activity for this year, the sawdust collector tower, the closest structure to Lake River, was removed.

Initially steam remediation of the underground chemicals was broken into 4 sections, or cells, to achieve the highest efficiency. By March of next year *polishing* of all 4 cells will take place simultaneously. It is anticipated that by early summer, with the blessings of the Department of Ecology, that steam will be shut down and the system put through a replanned deactivation and cleaning.



By spring of 2011, additional contouring of the river bank will commence and more of the remaining PWT buildings will be torn down. This phase will initiate the construction of the riverwalk that will run from the boat launch along Lake River, up the east side of Carty Lake.

Over the years we have all waited patiently and tried to envision what our waterfront *could* look like...now, we watch as major changes take place. Changes that color our imagination and give us a glimpse of where our children, grand-children and generations to come will live, work and play.



Map of Millers Landing with proposed walking trail and moorages.



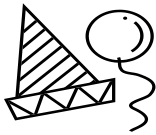


Raising Tomorrow's Standard
TODAY

P.O. Box 55
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Ridgefield, WA 98642

Public Meetings & Events

Port public meetings every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, check our web site for schedule or call the Port offices.



HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

"Captain" Jack Barking News

SCUTTLE BUTT STRAIGHT FROM THE POOP DECK



"The difference between golf and government is that in golf you can't improve your lie".

George Deukmejian

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NEARLY 12,000 PIKEMINNOWS CASHED IN AT BOAT RAMP

The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife reported recently that 11,624 reward size northern pikeminnows were turned in for cash rewards at the Port of Ridgefield boat launch during the 2010 season which ended October 10th. Total catch for the 2010 season, which runs May to October, was 173,981 fish according to the agency.

The Northern Pikeminnow Sport Reward Program is funded by Bonneville Power Administration. Northern pikeminnows are a major predator of young salmon and steelhead consuming millions before they can reach the sea. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of pikeminnows not eliminate them.

Cash rewards start at \$4.00 per fish with some specially tagged fish fetching \$500. For more information check out www.pikeminnow.org

