

THE MILLER BAY GUARDIAN

Volume 9, Issue 1

February 2007

Status Report

Cowling Creek Project

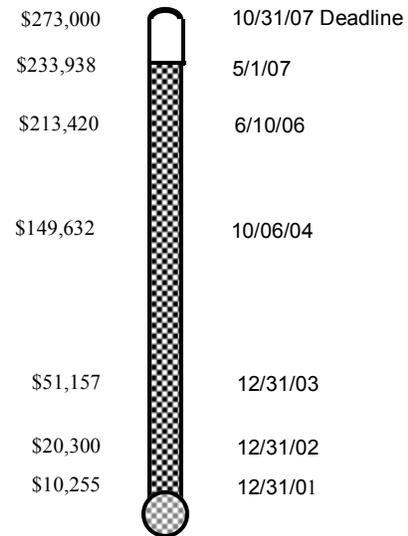
The Cowling Creek Project continues to be the main focus of Friends of Miller Bay activities. It all started in December 1999 when 18 acres of land located along South Cowling Creek near where it enters Miller Bay (just south of Bay Marina on Miller Bay Road) went on the market.

Its eighteen acres were recognized as critical habitat, both for the role it plays in protecting the water quality of Cowling Creek (and its collateral effect on Miller Bay and Puget Sound) and as a refuge for native plants and animals that share this area and the adjoining thirty acres of the Cowling Creek Forest Preserve. The potential for a network of accessible and enjoyable walking trails was also recognized as a community asset.

Friends of Miller Bay joined forces the Great Peninsula Conservancy and Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department to set aside these eighteen acres as open space, to be preserved in its natural state.

Kitsap County arranged to buy the property and hold it while Friends of Miller Bay raised the money to reimburse them (we were given a time limit which expires in October). Great Peninsula Conservancy agreed to act as our fiscal agent and to provide project management assistance. When fundraising is complete, the property will be transferred to GPC and managed by Friends of Miller Bay with GPC overview.

\$39,000 TO GO!



Since the project began, Friends of Miller Bay has worked hard to inform the community about the project and has sponsored many fundraising events, each one bringing us nearer to our fundraising goal of \$273,000. At our 2006 annual meeting in November I reported that we were within \$54,144 of our goal. Today, I can report that we are now within \$39,062 of our goal.

-Dick D'Archangel

Can we raise the remaining amount by our 2007 Annual Meeting? I believe we can, here is our plan!

Sid Price's daughter

New board member remembers Miller Bay in the 1950's

At the 2006 FOMB Annual Meeting we elected a new board member, Sharon Nichols, to replace longtime member Roger Meyer.. Although we were sorry to lose Roger, we are very happy to have an energetic and knowledgeable new member. Sharon has recently been appointed by Commissioner Endresen to be a member of the Saquamish Citizens Advisory Committee and has written an article about the committee's activities on page 2 of this newsletter.

Upcoming events



Indianola Sandspit circa 1951

Photo by Bill Lindsay

FRIENDS OF MILLER BAY

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Bay Benefit, Teresa Dwyer

THE MILLER BAY GUARDIAN is the newsletter of FRIENDS OF MILLER BAY. P.O. Box 37, Suquamish, WA 98370. Submissions from readers are welcome. We reserve the right to edit due to space, grammar or legal reasons. Email submissions to darchangel@earthlink.net, or mail to the above address. Opinions expressed herein are those of the credited writers and do not necessarily represent the official position of Friends of Miller Bay.

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North Kitsap bear leaves its calling card
Photo by Niki Quester

Suquamish Citizens Advisory Committee

Suquamish committee has county's ear

By Sharon Nichols

In June, 2006 the board of Commissioners established the Suquamish Citizen Advisory Committee (SCAC) to advise the county of the needs of the Suquamish community. The SCAC is a link to the county to let the county know the wishes of the citizens. I was appointed to this 12 member committee in July and was made chair of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee.

SCAC was given the 2005 Suquamish Rural Village Sub-Area Plan as a blueprint to the priorities to be worked on. This Sub-Area Plan was signed by the Suquamish Community Council of 2004-2005, the Suquamish Tribe, and by the County Commissioners, Chris Endresen, Jan Angel, and Patty Lent.

The Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee went to work on implementing the priorities of this Sub-Area Plan. We have painted and refurbished the Suquamish Sports Court (the Pickle Ball Court by Chief Seattle Park). We are making further improvements, including new basketball backboards and improved parking. The Suquamish Garden Club has drawn up a landscape plan and the county will provide topsoil for the project.

Our sub-committee took a survey of the neighbors around Pat Brandt Park and is working on implementing their wishes for this park.

We also organized a walk in the Place of the Bear, the 218 acre parcel of land off of Widme. This is county owned land that was logged about 22 years ago. Being the largest parcel in the area, it has great potential as wild-life habitat. In fact the . The Sub-Area Plan recommends preserving Place of the Bear in its natural state for passive recreation like hiking. We are encouraging the county to find a way to protect it from development and have listed it as our number one priority on our 2007 Priority List.

If you would like to find out more about the Place of the Bear, watch for future walks, maybe in March or April. We also need a work party to remove non-native invasive plants from the existing trails.

The Suquamish Citizen Advisory Committee meets monthly on the first Thursday at 6:30 at the Suquamish Elementary School Library. The Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee usually meets one hour earlier.

Email me at rsnichols1@earthlink.net if you would like more information, would like to attend our meetings, or would like a tour of Place of the Bear.

Realtor will donate commissions to Cowling Creek Project

By Niki Quester

Kitsap realtor and avid supporter of the Cowling Creek Project, Bridget Young, has made a very generous offer that allows you to make a significant contribution to the Cowling Creek Project at no cost to you! When you are ready to sell your home, call Bridget and when it sells she will donate ten percent of her commission to the Cowling Creek Project. Or when you want to buy a home, call Bridget, and when she finds the perfect house, the same offer applies; she will donate ten percent of her commission.

She says, "I truly believe that doing my job

"When you are ready to sell your home, call Bridget and when it sells she will donate ten percent of her commission to the Cowling Creek Project."

well is about more than facilitating a successful transaction. Having grown up in Kitsap County, I understand and appreciate the diverse neighborhoods throughout the area. I truly love living and working here and my enthusiasm shows. Working with both

buyers and sellers, I place strong emphasis on building lasting relationships.

By working with those who appreciate the level of service I bring to each transaction, I am able to give my very best to my clients. I hold the Accredited Buyers Representative (ABR) certification."

Contact Bridget Young at 360 598-8565. If you talk with anyone who wants to buy or sell a home, let them know about this offer. There is more

information about it on our website; friendsofmillerbay.org.

Apollo Massage Fund Raiser June 18, 2007

Nancy and Brian Koontz recently opened their own massage business. As members of the community, they would like to contribute to their community. They would like to do a fund raiser to benefit the Cowling Creek Project. On June 18, all profits from their massages will be donated to the Cowling Creek Project. They will even sell gift certificates and all the profits from the gift certificates will be donated, too! A one half hour massage cost \$40 and they accept both Visa and MasterCard. So to FEEL GOOD and help a GOOD CAUSE, call Nancy or Brian at (360)860-0150. They are located in Downtown Poulsbo at 219 NE Moe Street.

Join Friends of Miller Bay and make a donation to the Cowling Creek Project.

Name _____ Email adr. _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Tel. _____

FOMB Memberships (Make check to FOMB)

- I include \$25 for a one-year membership.
- I include \$100 for a one year Conserving Membership
- I include a \$_____ gift to support CCP fundraising events.

Cowling Creek Project Donations (Make check to GPC/Cowling Creek Project)

- I would like to donate _____ to the Cowling Creek Project (\$4,400 will buy 0.1 acres).
- Please contact me about a gift of securities.

Call the GPC office (360 373-3500) for a **credit card** donation .

Please mail this form and your check to Friends of Miller Bay, Box 37, Suquamish, WA 98392

Return Service Requested



Save the Date!

Check for dates and time for all our events and projects on our website or call (360) 598-6564.

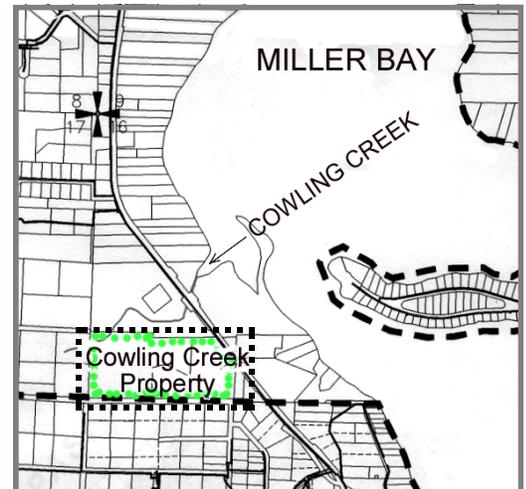
Deadline approaches on Phase 2 The Cowling Creek Project

Phase 1

Area - 13 Acres
Sales Price - \$157,500
Donations - \$157,500
Donations Needed - 0

Phase 2

Area - 5 Acres
Sales Price - \$115,500
Donations - \$76,438
Donations Needed—\$39,062
Completion Deadline - 10/31/07



"This land is critical to the health of the Miller Bay watershed. Even within the existing laws and regulations, development would contribute significantly to the deterioration of Cowling Creek."

"Chum salmon return to Cowling Creek each fall. Bear, eagle, and river otter feed on these salmon and find refuge on the land."

"It is our hope that this land will be permanently protected." - **Lane Holdcroft**, Miller Bay Citizens Action Group President & Board Member since 1988 - 2000.

Friends of Miller Bay has made a commitment

to support the Great Peninsula Conservancy in the purchase of 18 acres of land adjoining Cowling Creek. The acquisition of this beautiful acreage for open space will assure its preservation as woodlands for the community and for future generations to enjoy.