

**A year in the life of Edmonds, as seen through the eyes of the Port**  
By Chris Keuss, Executive Director, the Port of Edmonds

The New Year is a time for looking ahead and a time for reflecting on the preceding year. Thumbing through these columns for 2008 it is interesting to see how many things have changed in even as little as 12 months.

Last January, we wrote about what was then a community project of wide interest, the ongoing Harbor Square / Antique Mall redevelopment project. Today the project seems to have been put on hold. Jacobsen's Marine was in the permitting process for their new building at the Port. No more; the economy of 2008 changed that, too.

In February the topic was the Port's 2008 operating budget. The emphasis was on changes brought about by the Port's acquisition of most of the buildings in Harbor Square.

Incidentally, for this year the Commission kept budget adjustments to less than the inflation rate.

March found us talking about the Port's successful participation in the Seattle Boat Show, where we promoted our dry storage and Destination Port of Edmonds programs. We will be doing it again this year, starting on January 23.

One of May's columns told about an extraordinary design for the waterfront redevelopment project, perceptively and beautifully prepared by students at Edmonds-Woodway High School. The other May column detailed the outlook for the 2008 salmon fishing season, which it turned out was an outstanding one.

In June we focused on the Port property tax and what citizens are getting for their money. In July we stopped to smell the flowers—the Port's summer flower program. We announced that a listing of all the plantings and varieties had been posted on the Port's website:

[www.portofedmonds.org](http://www.portofedmonds.org). It is still there, plus we just added information on our shrubs and trees, too. Check it out.

As August dawned and the political season moved into high gear, we did a column on how to involve yourself in the public process, in particular here at the local level. The Port-sponsored Edmonds Sea Scouts had just returned from their week-long annual cruise; we told you about that, too.

Our early September piece paid tribute to the victims and heroes of 9/11 and what it means to us today. Another column explained the new landscaping project going on in the mid marina parking lot.

In the fall, as the economy plunged, we did an October piece on dealing with finances in turbulent times. We also talked about Sound Transit's new Edmonds station and that they would temporarily be leasing parking space from the Port. A November column introduced readers to some of the noteworthy tenants at Harbor Square.

Finally, December brought a column on the Edmonds Yacht Club's annual "Holiday On The Docks" event, and—as if we could forget—the big snowfall and the people who keep us safe in spite of it all.

Attempting to look ahead from here, 2009 looks like a year of financial restraint for the Port of Edmonds. Otherwise, the atmosphere is one of guarded optimism and hope. The Commissioners and I wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

509 words