

**The Port welcomes the newest icon on the waterfront**  
By Bob McChesney, Executive Director, the Port of Edmonds

As winter shadows slowly give way to the nascent colors of the coming spring, a new kind of flower has bloomed along the Edmonds waterfront.

The new Edmonds Yacht Club building has finally opened with an understated elegance and sophistication. It is remarkable for its functional practicality and an all-weather beauty that salutes our maritime heritage.

We applaud and congratulate the Edmonds Yacht Club for a great design, for perseverance during a challenging economic situation, and for a commitment to excellence that reflects the values and aspirations of our community.

The building, just north of the Port's administrative offices, is not only a visual enhancement, but it provides much needed meeting space for the community. The 3,500 square foot ground floor main hall is open for meetings, banquets and social events. Besides Yacht Club functions, it is available for individuals and groups to rent as well.

The new facility has a large and modern kitchen and banquet seating for approximately 250 people, with local catering on request. The second floor of the building is roughly 7,000 square feet of upscale office space and has been leased to a local company.

The project is a classic illustration of how different entities can work in partnership to resolve community issues, in this case urban waterfront re-development. The City of Edmonds, the Port, and the Yacht Club found ways to create a functional, innovative design that adds value and long-term benefits to the Edmonds/Woodway community.

On the public side, the City of Edmonds made sure that everything was done according to code and that the building met community design standards.

Similarly, the Port of Edmonds worked to ensure that the building fit into the Port's vision for the next 5 to 25 years. As the landowner, we were involved from the beginning, offering guidance and—where appropriate—approving design and construction standards.

The Port of Edmonds is all about economic development and environmental stewardship. The economic development part of that is, in the final analysis, nothing more than an enlightened way of planning for the future.

How do we want the Edmonds harborfront to look 15 to 20 years from now? The new Edmonds Yacht Club building represents an architectural design standard that will take us on that journey forward.

As we look to the future we will be following a similar cooperative process with the Harbor Square business complex: Asking how we can maintain the character of Edmonds and its waterfront while, at the same time, allowing for the inevitability of growth and change.

You will be an important part of that process. Watch this column for news of meetings and presentations where your ideas will be openly sought and welcomed. The future looks bright. Let there be spring!

457 words.