

BIRCH BAY DISCOVERED IN 1792

Birch Bay was discovered on June 12, 1792. Representatives of England and Spain were vying for priority rights to the waters and adjacent shores of the Northwest Coast; more particularly, they were concerned over the rights on the inland seas now known as Puget Sound and the Gulf of Georgia.

Captain George Vancouver, commander of ships “Discovery” and “Chatham”, was flying the British flag; Galiano and Valdes with a schooner and a sloop, displayed the colors of Spain.

Captain Vancouver’s party was interested in erecting an observatory. They walked along the beach to a low point where they found a clear, level spot with grass and wild flowers, divided from the forest by a winding stream of fresh water that emptied itself into the bottom of the Bay.

Walking further they found tents erected, and traveled around to the bottom of the Bay to examine the natural landscape – pine trees, white and trembling poplars plus black birch trees.

The Semiahmoo Indians inhabited the area. They gathered edible plants, waterfowl, shellfish and hunted wild game for food.

They would spear salmon along Terrill Creek, adjacent to the present Birch Bay State Park.

The large Birch Bay clam was highly prized by the Indians; they dried and/or smoked them in large quantities during the summer months for use in winter.

The Semiahmoo’s called the area “Tsan-wuch”, and the Lummi’s called it “Strav-a-wa” (place for clams)

The Spaniards called the Bay “Ensenada de Garzon”.

Vancouver’s choice; Birch Bay, prevailed, due to the many black birch trees.



Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce

Invitation to Membership

360-371-5004



NEW!

April, 2005!

BBCC Office / VIC:

4880 Beachcomber Dr, Suite C
(Trendwest Building)

Mail Only Address:

4550 Birch Bay Lynden Rd PMB B119
Birch Bay WA 98230

Profile of the Chamber

On October 16, 1972 the Birch Bay Resort Owner's Association registered Articles of Incorporation with the State of Washington Secretary of State. The attorney who assisted the group with their organization was David Syre of Lynden.

In 1986 the name was changed to Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce under the Non-Profit Corporation Act. Birch Bay is an unincorporated urban growth area.

The Chamber, being the only organized group open to membership for business and residents alike, became the focus for group discussions and education, networking opportunities, and actions relating to Birch Bay.

By the 1990's, Chamber meetings were the place to go when a person needed information about Birch Bay.

In 1999 the By-Laws were revised to include:

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the BBCC shall be to promote, encourage and coordinate cooperation and civil exchange between all elements of the community; to promote, enhance and advocate for the civic, commercial, economic, recreational and general welfare interests of the Birch Bay area, all being done not for pecuniary profit or financial gain.

Chamber meeting programs often provide educational opportunities as well as a forum for the community to communicate with various service providers; Whatcom County Sheriff's Department, Birch Bay Water & Sewer District, Whatcom County Parks Department, Whatcom County Public Works.

**Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
meets the third Tuesday of each month**

Mission

To advocate and educate on behalf of member; promoting a healthy business climate while recognizing the quality of life at Birch Bay

Vision

Our vision for Birch Bay is a community with a varied economy, good prospects for investing and permanent jobs, at many skill levels, which respects the tranquility of our environment

We Value

Community commitment
Economic stability
Sustainable development
Volunteer leadership
Community expectation of a healthy Chamber
Employment stability
Community trust and support
Empowered residents
Quality of life and community fun
A community with open door accessibility

We Support and Encourage

Preservation of our environment
Development of infrastructure
Birch Bay visitors
Development of new businesses
Incorporation of Birch Bay
Safety within the community

MAIL ONLY ADDRESS:

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The BBCC is funded solely through membership dues and fundraising events. Investment guidelines are determined by the Board of Directors (BOD), and are dependent upon the number of employees at a location/business. All funds received from members are expended to carry out a broad program of business development. These funds are used to maintain an office, provide information and literature, maintain memberships in the Washington and U.S. Chamber of Commerce; also develop and implement programs for the betterment of Birch Bay.

Thank you for your contribution to the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce.

DUES CLASSIFICATIONS & RATES; U.S. FUNDS

- Student/Senior Membership** \$30
Full time students who are not employed, as well as individuals 65 years or older, not currently employed
- Individual Membership** \$35
Those people who are not sole proprietors, partners or corporate officers of a business
- Not-for-Profit Organization** \$50
Civic or Private non-profit organization. This includes Associations
- Visiting / Associate Businesses** \$75
Non-Birch Bay based companies
- Local Business Membership**
 - 1 – 2 people active in the business \$75
 - 3 – 10 “ “ “ “ \$125
 - 11 + “ “ “ “ \$200
- Seasonal Employment Membership**
 - Less than 24 employees during a season \$125
 - 25-50 employees during a season \$150
 - 51 + employees during a season \$200

Please note:

“People active in the business” means those who are active on a year around basis.

“Seasonal” is any operation which employs 50% of its staff, less than 4 months a year.

Invitation to Membership

Date _____

Name _____

Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Brief description of business: _____

Average full-time year-round employees and/or owners in your business _____

Annual membership dues (see classifications) _____

Committee involvement is not a requirement, but is guaranteed to enhance your Chamber experience. Please review committees and make a selection:

Membership _____ Marketing _____ Newsletter _____

Arts & Crafts Fair _____ Sand Castle Contests _____

Discovery Days Parade _____ Other Events _____

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