



# TOWN OF YARROW POINT

## *Friends & Neighbors*

### Anniversary Newsletter

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### *FOLLOWING THROUGH ON WHAT HE STARTED*

#### Erik Lund's Commitment to Yarrow Point

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*This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Yarrow Point's incorporation June 15, 1959. In honor of the special year, the town will be publishing the stories of long-time residents who have contributed to Yarrow's unique character and have fond memories of its past.*

**E**rik Lund moved to Yarrow Point in 1956 at a critical time of transition. Without his efforts, the town likely would not be the quiet, close-knit community it is today.

That year the Tremper Holly Farm was open for its last season, and post-war development was accelerating. In 1959 a large residential and commercial development would threaten to change the town's quiet character. Erik was a part of the group that kept that from happening.

When developer Thomas Dunstan proposed that Houghton (now Kirkland) annex county land near Morningside Park to accommodate part of a 100-acre development, the neighborhood alarm sounded.

"His project included retail shops and a big apartment complex. So we anticipated an unbearable amount of traffic. So they rang the bell and called me," Erik recalls.

A petition protesting annexation brought the developer to the bargaining table. After meeting with a group of residents, Dunstan agreed to a five-foot buffer strip that would keep traffic away from town. Erik tells the story this way:

"So what we did, was to threaten lawsuit against those people developing in the flatlands of Yarrow Bay. And, they were anxious to put their program together so they could get an income from it, and it looked like a big program. So they reluctantly consented to our demands. And our demands included a five-foot buffer strip along the east side of 95<sup>th</sup>."

An informal group called the Yarrow Point Community Club wanted to take it a step further and put Yarrow Point per-

manently in charge of its own destiny. Erik was one of eight residents on an incorporation committee.

"And the plan was to incorporate so that we could have formal control of this type of thing. We divided the group up into various assignments. I was to study the economic viability of forming the Town, if we could financially handle it. My conclusion was it wouldn't be fat, but we could."

Erik is quick to give credit to other people who helped in the effort. Other members of the incorporation committee were: Otto Kirschner, Joe Ellis, Sid Cox, Robert Pease, Ron Lyle, Jack Hellsell and Vic Scalzo. John Roberts, Bob Morrow and Bill Horton also were important volunteers, Erik says.

The committee presented its findings to the community and the residents of Yarrow Point voted to incorporate in a special election. The results were certified by King County June 15, 1959.

While the proposed development that motivated residents to create a Town never got off the ground, Yarrow Point elected its first Mayor, Bob Morrow. Erik remembers that an apartment above a garage on 91<sup>st</sup> was Town Hall for the next 30 to 40 years.

Erik was appointed chairman of the Planning Commission and of the Board of Adjustment. He authored the Town's first Comprehensive Plan. He even built the original Yarrow Point sign at the entrance to the town before it was incorporated, and built the sign that is still standing near Tully's Café.

When asked what motivated him to serve his community, Erik simply says he is just a nice guy. For him and his wife Jeane, Yarrow Point has been a great place to raise his children Jan, Chris, Karen and Mary Ann.

"I have many times appreciated raising kids here. I think if you asked anyone that would be a good reason to have lived here. That has to be top on my list."

So if you see Erik around Town, thank him for being a nice guy and helping to put Yarrow Point on the map.