

Announcement to Rotarians about Major Project:

SUBJECT: The Rotary Club of Bellingham Announces Major Project Award Recipient

Greetings, Rotarians!

The Major Project Committee and the RCOB Board are excited to announce that the **Bellingham Community Boating Center's new building** will be the recipient of our major project fund for 2021-22.

The new building will be named the ***Rotary Wheelhouse*** in recognition of our support of this project. The first level will be comprised of storage and bathrooms which are badly-needed. Showers and a handicapped-accessible bathroom and shower will be included. If you have ever had to change into a wetsuit in one of their Sani-Cans will know that this is a very welcome change! The second level will have a large classroom and a deck overlooking the bay.

While the building itself is a worthy project, what makes this something RCOB can enthusiastically support is the CBC's impact on our community. The Boating Center amenities are available to anyone without any membership fee. It has programs for children as young as 5 to learn about marine life and water safety, they have a middle school sailing team, and there are a number of programs for people of a variety of ages and abilities. They make it a point to reach out to communities that might rarely or never have the experience of being on the water, such as participants at the Max Higbee Center (the recipient of our Major Project award last year). The Port is also constructing a handicap-accessible launching ramp to facilitate this outreach.

Many people and organizations are enthusiastically supporting this project. The Port has altered CBC's lot line to make room for the building, they are also installing a new small watercraft dock, the sewer line is being extended at a greatly-reduced cost, and this is a fantastic opportunity for our Club to reinforce connections with community stakeholders.

The participation in CBC programs has grown tremendously over the last two years under the leadership of their new director, Bryan Rust, which makes the addition of this new building so vital to their growth...and vital to the importance of water recreation in our community. A project like this harkens back to why we took up a project like Boulevard Park many years ago – access to waterfront and the water is good for the soul of this community.

The Rotary Club of Bellingham pleased to have the opportunity to help this community asset grow. **To that end, we have attached our annual Major Project pledge form. We ask that you return this form by 12/31/2021 by mail, email, or you can return in-person at a meeting.** We will also have pledge forms at our meetings in December so you can fill one out there. **All payments must be received by 6/30/2022.**

Let's make a big splash with a strong donation to this very-Bellingham project!

Please reach out to Sandee, John Dunne, or Andy Day with questions:

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