The Changing Nature of Woodard Bay

The First People, a Rich Life

Native Americans have been living on the shores of Puget Sound for thousands of years. “Noo-She-Chatl” was the Indian name given to what is now called Henderson Inlet and its people. The Noo-She-Chatl lived in large, permanent winter homes called “longhouses,” which were located a few miles from here. From there, they would travel by canoe to resource-rich areas like Woodard Bay to hunt, fish and gather plants.

Change Comes to the Northwest

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The people harvested many kinds of plants and trees for food and for making dishes, tools, fishnets and other items. They harvested cedar bark for baskets and clothing. The bark was removed from live trees in long strips and then dried in bundles. The bark was stored for some time, then split lengthwise into the required width, and woven or twisted into shape. Harvesting bark was done with care, because if the tree was completely stripped, it would die.

The Woodard family arrives

In 1902, the Capital City Oyster Company bought the land here. They hired Robert Whitham to oversee an oyster farming operation. Whitham bought the property in 1920 and sold it to Weyerhaeuser Timber Company a few years later.

WESTERN RED CEDAR

TREE OF LIFE

Preserving Shellfish

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1700s-1900s

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