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Stormwater treatment facility located in the Fairhaven Historic District of Bellingham, WA.

## **PADDEN CREEK ESTUARY WATER QUALITY RETROFIT**

The recent completion of this noteworthy project provides enhanced treatment of stormwater from about 90 acres of urban area above the waterfront in historic Fairhaven Village located in Bellingham, WA. The treatment facility is extremely compact in size at 4,200 square feet, resulting in a footprint that is only about 0.1% of the area treated. The facility will treat about 42 million gallons of polluted runoff annually.

The system includes pre-treatment, bioretention filtration and infiltration. On average annually, the facility is expected to remove: 12 tons of suspended solids, 9 tons of hydrocarbons (fuels, oils and grease), 60 pounds of zinc, 1 pound of copper, all garbage and 80% of dirt particles. Prior to this facility being placed on-line, the pollutant-laden runoff flowed directly into the ecologically sensitive

Padden Creek estuary. Water quality in the estuary is expected to improve substantially as a result of this project.

We integrated the facility within and around site constraints such as the extensive underground utilities, a restricted marine Shoreline Buffer area, close proximity to Padden Creek, and adjacent roadway/sidewalk improvements. It also required relocation of 8th Street. The total cost for this project was about \$20K per acre treated. Our client was the City of Bellingham.

Michael Matthes, PE, LEED AP ND, was the Senior Project Engineer with support from Rhett Winter, PE, LEED AP ND, and Curt Schoenfelder, PE. Site survey work was performed by Survey Manager Tom Brewster, PLS, and members of his staff. The General Contractor was Faber Construction.



## INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR STAFF

John Wilson, PE, joined our structural engineering department in April and brings over 31 years of experience designing and evaluating a wide range of structures. Originally from Canada, John has worked on projects in British Columbia, Washington, California, Utah and Nevada during his distinguished career. He worked for Anvil Corporation in Bellingham for 6 years and managed his own consulting engineering firm, Tye Consulting, for 7 years prior to joining Wilson.

We welcome John to our team, and with a last name like Wilson we anticipate a good fit. Feel free to contact John at [john@wilsonengineering.com](mailto:john@wilsonengineering.com) with any structural engineering related inquiries or to introduce yourself.



Team Wilson, from left, Tom Brewster, Charles Waugh, Ryan Griggs . (Photo: BTC)

## TEAM WILSON NEARLY WINS TRIVIA BEE FUNDRAISER

The stakes were high in Settlemyer Hall on April 21st as 28 teams squared off at Bellingham Technical College for the 21st Annual Trivia Bee and Silent Auction. The event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Whatcom Literacy Council. Team Wilson, comprised of three "masters of factoids" Charles Waugh, PE, SE, Ryan Griggs, EIT, and secret weapon Tom Brewster, PLS, brought their considerable knowledge to challenge the competition.

As they progressed through four qualifying rounds, several teams comprised of three competitors each and sponsored by local businesses were eliminated. The two teams scoring the most points in each round qualified to advance. Topical questions ranged from sports to pop culture, history, art, science, music and literature. Particularly entertaining was co-host and *Jeopardy!* champion Ken Jennings, who brought down the house on more than one occasion with his well-timed and hilarious quips. When the final round commenced the eight remaining teams redoubled their efforts to eliminate the competition in their quest for the coveted Totten Trophy.

With spectators on the edge of their seats, occasionally gasping at incorrect answers, one by one the finalists began to unravel. As the field dwindled the two strongest teams emerged, preparing to go head-to-head for the final push to victory. Tied at the end of the final round, members of Levi Johnston Team II (LJ2) exchanged nervous glances as Team Wilson looked on with steely determination. In the hushed Hall, all eyes were on these two teams as they entered "sudden death overtime."

The strain of the event was clearly evident on the faces of LJ2 while Team Wilson exuded the confidence of a duck in a rainstorm, appearing poised to claim the title. When event co-host Scotty VanDryver of KAFE radio posed what turned out to be the last question of the night, "When was John Lennon assassinated?", trivia master Tom Brewster of Team Wilson dug deep and gave his best guess, albeit incorrect. However, the wily members of LJ2 somehow managed to produce the correct answer and in seconds it was all over. The majestic and lustrous Totten Trophy was awarded to LJ2 while Team Wilson gracefully accepted the somewhat diminutive, but still lustrous, second place trophy.

A great time was had by all, with the Whatcom Literacy Council raising over \$30K for their valuable programs serving our community. The sizable audience enjoyed an entertaining night of trivia, comedy, food, beer and wine. Meanwhile, Team Wilson looks forward to their chance at competing for the Totten Trophy next year with great enthusiasm.

And the answer to the winning question: December 8, 1980. RIP, John Lennon.

*If you are interested in learning more about the Whatcom Literacy Council, please contact staff at [info@whatcomliteracy.org](mailto:info@whatcomliteracy.org) or 360.752.8678. One member of Team Wilson, Charles Waugh, volunteers three hours per week tutoring in the adult literacy program and finds the experience "extremely rewarding."*



Squalicum Boathouse, Bellingham, WA

## 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION UPDATE

Planning is well underway for our celebration marking 50 years of providing engineering and surveying services to our valued clients. Please save the date for Sunday, September 17th. The celebration will take place at the Squalicum Boathouse, located at Zuanich Point Park in Bellingham, from 12pm-3:00pm. There will be catered food and drink, outdoor games, music, door prizes, and other fun activities. Invitations to this family friendly event will be sent later this summer

along with RSVP information.

**STAY CONNECTED**



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*Wilson Engineering, LLC has been providing engineering and survey services to the Pacific Northwest since 1967.*