

MHS Newsline

MUKILTEO: MY HOW YOU'VE GROWN!

By Ann and John Collier



Mukilteo's City Hall located in Harbour Pointe

As we await election results today, the residents of Mukilteo in 1947 were similarly anxious. At stake back then was the future course of 775 residents within the 794 acres clustered around a ferry landing and a handful of small businesses, several churches, and one school. Would the residents choose to become an incorporated town on its own, or move toward eventual annexation into the growing city of Everett?

The vote was not close. On April 27, 1947, our civic ancestors in Mukilteo voted, 223 to 137, in favor of "incorporation as a town of the fourth class." The Snohomish County Commissioners approved the incorporation on May 5, and formal incorporation papers were filed with the Secretary of State at 11 a.m. on May 8, 1947.

For the next two decades Mukilteo's boundaries remained stable. Small annexations of land in 1964 and 1968 added to Mukilteo the sites of

the Olympic View Middle School and the Olympic View Ravine.

Then in 1980, pressures for southward expansion became irresistible. With the annexation of territory down to 96th Street, Mukilteo added two square miles to double its size, along with 2,500 residents that tripled its population. Much of the area was called "Mukilteo Heights" and other old maps reveal former road names: 88th Street was called Babbit Road, while 84th Street west of the Speedway was called Giersch Road, and 44th Avenue SW was referred to as Nelson Road.



Sign welcoming visitors to Harbour Pointe.

The largest and perhaps the most controversial "growth spurt" for Mukilteo was the annexation of the Harbour Pointe area in 1991, a change that added 3.4 square miles and increased Mukilteo's population to about 13,000. This large expanse of second-growth forests was owned by the Port Gamble Lumber Compa-

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MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



It's surprising fall is already here and even more that it is so beautiful! At Lighthouse Park, there are a lot of mussel shells in the parking lot that are being dropped and eaten by the crows. It's interesting behavior and makes for a crunchy walk around the grounds. Unfortunately, there will be no end-of-season or Christmas potluck this year. Board and general meetings will continue virtually for now. A determination will be made at the Board retreat in

gardening team group (Ann Collier, Andrea Moran, Pat Saunders, Tina Saunders) and the City of Mukilteo, the grounds look lovely. Thanks to the Everett Navy volunteers for painting the picket fence right before Lighthouse Festival. Their team took less than a day to do the entire fence under the supervision of the Public Works team. Public Works repaired a broken gate near the beach and Al Friedrich repaired the closing device. The Board meets annually with the City of Mukilteo and I'm impressed with how well our partnership is working.

“A lot has been achieved this year despite it being distinctive and awkward.”

January on any plans going forward. My wish is that we will be able to open in April for the 2022 season although that is an unknown for now. I appreciate the patience and support of our volunteers and members through these past two seasons.

A lot has been achieved this year despite it being distinctive and awkward. Several weddings were held through the leadership of Sharon Sutherland. Private shopping appointments have been a success. The lighthouse and gift shop were open for three *Music in the Park* evenings, and the July 4th and Lighthouse Festival weekends. For the Festival, the mask requirement was back due to Delta variant concerns and revised guidance from the Governor. Gift shop changes continue as we start a new tradition of a Members and Friends sale on October 30th. The team has worked hard to prepare for this event. The pandemic has afforded us the time and resources needed to create and modify processes to make volunteering easier and hopefully more fun.

The City of Mukilteo hired contractors to paint the interior of the lighthouse and that work is currently in progress. The ceiling has been repaired, so paint is no longer hanging down. Once this work is complete, the Exhibit team and Board members will reinstall exhibits or update those that need to be refreshed. Replacement signs will be ordered and installed.

Patrick Housey planned and provided an educational tour of Admiralty Head lighthouse on October 1st. He also scheduled a National Park Service docent for the Ebey House. It was an informative and beautiful day. A Friday Harbor tour is planned for spring.

The end of year is arriving quickly. Soon, the Board will be evaluating what was accomplished this year and developing new goals for 2022. All will be shared in the next newsletter. Thank you for your involvement and interest in MHS. I look forward to seeing more of you in the future.

~JOANNE MULLOY

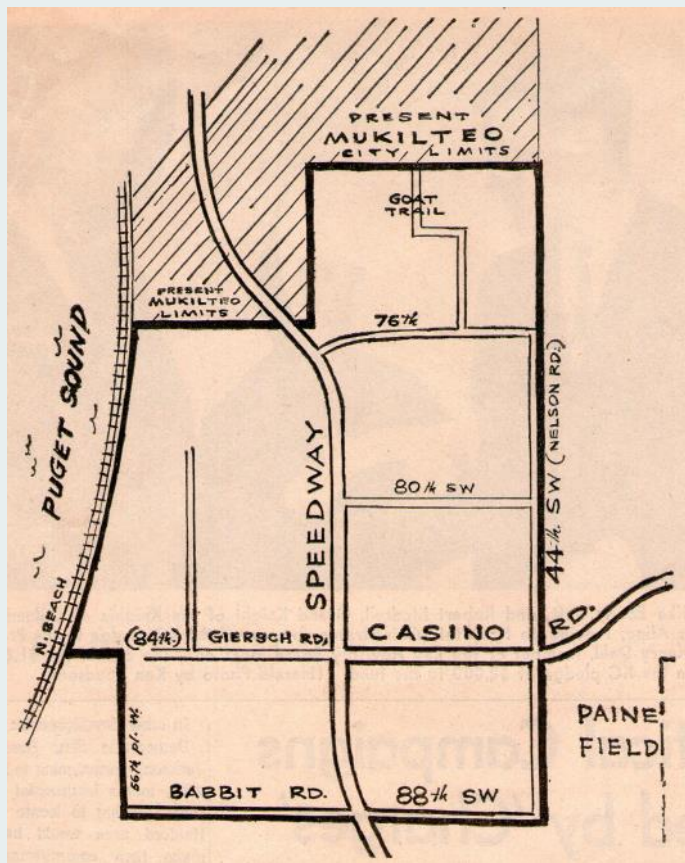
Gardening has been a fun getaway for me this year and thanks to the

...Continued from page 1

ny until its sale to the Standard Oil Company in 1952. Standard Oil had a plan to build an oil tank storage site and refinery at Picnic Point. However, old timers in Mukilteo still remember the area fondly as a prime place to hunt deer and pick wild berries.

By the late 1960s Mukilteans and others, mainly developers, began to see the area as prime property for residential development. After anti-refinery protests arose in Snohomish County (including Kayak Point up near Stanwood), along with the rising value of the area for residential housing, ownership was transferred from Standard Oil to Chevron U.S.A., Winmar Company, and later Daon Corporation.

In the late 1970s, development proposals emerged for Possession Shores, as the area was then called, in cooperation with Snohomish County and neighboring municipalities, including Mukilteo. One interesting proposal was to incorporate a planned community there in a new city to be called Highland Bay.



This map for a proposed annexation appeared in a newspaper in 1964. Notice the old road names: Babbit Road, Giersch Road, and Nelson Road. To see a map of annexation history, see page 4.

In 1978 the development of Harbour Pointe as a planned community was officially begun, including a shopping center, golf course, and industrial park.

The first phase was completed in 1989. Harbour Pointe was annexed into Mukilteo two years later and the new golf course was named by Golf Digest “1991’s Best New Public Golf Course.”

Harbour Pointe became Mukilteo’s largest neighborhood, adding 2,341 acres at annexation. Kamiak High School opened in 1993, joining Mariner as the second large high school in the Mukilteo School District. Two elementary schools and a middle school were built, as well as the Mukilteo library, police station, fire station, and city hall. Approximately 500 acres within Harbour Pointe were set aside to ensure the preservation of the area’s park-like campus settings.

The Mukilteo City Hall site was selected in 2006 at Harbour Pointe Boulevard SW and Cyrus Way. Old timers recall the road there in the 1950s was called Old Mill Road and that it went only a short distance to the west past Cyrus Road where it “ended in a swamp.” Former residents recall a “stump house” in the area: a huge hollowed-out old growth tree with an added roof.

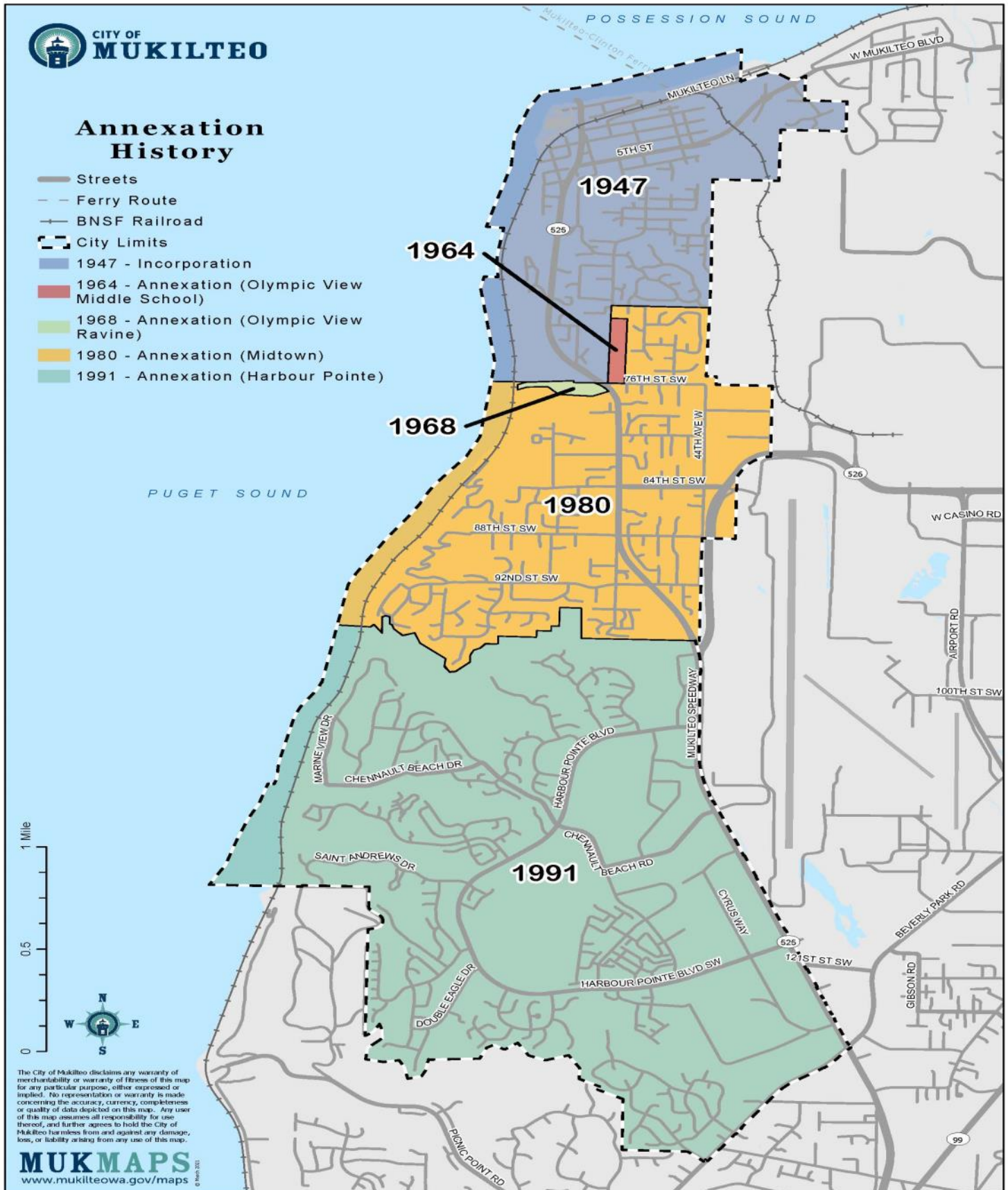
It is interesting that a public marina was proposed in 1985 for development at the Chenault Beach sector of Harbour Pointe. This was a serious proposal that included 840 slips in the marina and access over the Burlington-Northern rail line via an aerial roadway 23 feet, 6 inches above the tracks. There were problems with the proposal, but the primary reason for its eventual rejection was the potentially negative impact it would have on fishing in the area.

In 2020, Mukilteo’s population was 21,371—a far cry from the rural environment and population of 775 when the town incorporated in 1947!

Did you know?

There is a major submarine communications cable system named Pacific Crossing that uses fiber optic cables that travel from Mukilteo and Grover Beach, California to the Japanese cities of Ajigaura and Shima. The cable switching center is in Harbour Pointe.

**THE WEBSITE FOR THE CITY OF MUKILTEO
INCLUDES THIS MAP OF ANNEXATION HISTORY**



CEMETERY CORNER

The cut-off big ivy-covered maple tree behind the sign “Mukilteo Pioneer Cemetery,” which faces Webster Street, is supposed to have had one or two graves under it. No markers are there now.

According to Louisa Fowler Sinclair’s burial list, Jessie Brooks, possibly a member of the extended Fowler family, is buried there. The name “Jessie Brooks—Fowler” appears on the last page of the list between Leetta and Lenora Fowler’s names, with the note “under big tree.”

According to a cemetery survey made in 1999 by Kevin Fraley of the Sno-Isle Genealogical Society, there was a grave, unmarked or illegible at that time, of an “Indian Chief,” that once had a small cement marker. I don’t know what source Kevin was using for this information.

Back in August I was asked by a reader of the book I wrote about the Pioneer Cemetery whether I knew anything about this “Indian Chief.” She said it was something she had heard about years ago.

The “Indian Chief” may have been an Indian, but probably not a chief. The father of Mary Fowler, also known as DeDowble-Sa or Mary Warren, was “Chief General Warren”; he was buried at Long Point near Coupeville.

If anyone knows anything about burials under the big maple, please let MHS know.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

LOVE IS IN THE AIR...

MHS volunteers assisted as gatekeepers for seven events on the lighthouse grounds during 2021! Most were weddings and other were small gatherings. MHS does receive revenue of \$150 per event, so this income helps to pay operating expenses.

There was a military commissioning ceremony in June, which is a no-cost event. A memorial service was held in July. The first wedding of the season was held in July, followed by two in August, two in September and one in chilly October. Thanks to the following volunteers for your great assistance: Mark Sutherland, Joanne Malloy, Tina Saunders, Donna Fretz, Renee Ripley, Mary Shultz, Ramona Stafford, Al and Pat Friedrich and Andrea Moran. As of this writing, three weddings are already scheduled for the 2022 season!

November



Thursday, November 11
7pm General Meeting

Friday, November 26
Black Friday Gift Shop Sale



Saturday, November 27
Small Business Saturday Gift Shop Sale

January 2022

Thursday, January 13
7pm General Meeting

Thursday, January 27
6:30pm Board Meeting w/ Committee Chairs

MHS SCHOLARSHIP

This one year \$1,500 college or trade school scholarship is awarded to the student who submits a winning essay about some aspect of Mukilteo history. The award will be applied to tuition expense in the winner’s name to the school selected by the winner. Essays are due next Spring but now is a good time to start.

The winner must be a high school graduating student or equivalent who either lives in the Mukilteo School District or is the child or grandchild of someone living in the Mukilteo School District. Additionally, children and grandchildren of MHS members are eligible regardless of where they live.

Home schooled students may submit essays provided they will be eligible to enroll in a post-secondary school in the Fall of the contest year. Complete contest rules, how to submit an entry, and some suggestions for topics can be found by clicking Scholarships on the main menu of the Society’s website www.mukilteohistorical.org. If you know a qualified student, be sure to remind him or her of this opportunity!

The Board’s purpose in offering this opportunity is to encourage interest in Mukilteo history among high school age persons in the area and among the population in general. Secondly, the contest entries add to the Society’s trove of Mukilteo stories.

For further information, please contact:
erichstad@mukilteohistorical.org

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

With your help we added 48 new members to our organization bringing our 2021 total to 194. We have members representing Alaska, California, Indiana, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and Canada - AMAZING! This could not have been done without your help spreading the word about our wonderful little organization. As a thank you to our members, we have decided to replace our membership card with an exclusive Members Only Sticker (see image below). When you renew your membership (or new people join) you will receive the new sticker to be put on your car, water bottle, computer... anywhere you want. Show your pride and please help continue to spread the word!

As a reminder, memberships run from 01/01-12/31 each year. Any member signing up between now and the end of the year will have a membership in good standing through 12/31/22. In addition to mailing your renewal application and fee, the gift shop will be open for a handful of events over the next few months where you can renew your membership in person. Be sure to get your renewal in sooner vs later so you can start displaying your membership sticker!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

- Brandon & Di Beals
- Jeff & Susan Erickson
- Mary Ann McGinley
- Madison Richards
- Jim Steinhubel
- Steve & Mary Volenec
- Ruth Waggoner
- Andrew Woolsey



~TINA SAUNDERS

GIFT SHOP NEWS



The gift shop had a very successful Lighthouse Festival weekend. People enjoyed being able to get out and enjoy the festivities. This year the gift shop has exceeded previously projected sales and expectations despite not being open regular days on weekends.

As autumn rolls into winter we are preparing the gift shop for the final days of special events for the upcoming holidays. On Saturday October 30 from 12-4:00 pm we will have our first annual Members & Friends sale. This allows for our volunteers to see the changes that have been made so far and to learn more about the MHS. Bring friends and/or family members to share in the fun. (Those who sign up for a new membership while shopping will receive the member 10% discount.) You can start your Christmas shopping and find many exclusive items that will not be found online or in brick-and-mortar stores. Gift items include our cozy sweatshirts and comfortable windbreakers/rain repellant hooded jackets. Surprise your children with our cuddly plush stuffed animals and a good book.

We will also be open on Black Friday, November 26, and Small Business Saturday on November 27. If you prefer a private shopping appointment, email shoplocal@mukilteohistorical.org.

Be sure to check out the front museum room and the hall shelf for sale items and specials. You will find a number of old favorites that, once sold, will not be reordered.

Our goal to end 2021 is to sell as much of our inventory as possible so next year we can bring in new, fresh merchandise and to restock old favorites. We expect to bring in more items made in the U.S. and that will support local artisans.

We have enjoyed revamping and bringing new ideas to the gift shop. Many thanks to Inge, Joanne, Mary, Ramona, Sandy, and Tina for your exciting finds (rowboat display case) and vision.

~SUE ANDERSON



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Keepers of the Mukilteo Light Station

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please review the membership categories below carefully. As a member you will receive an exclusive member decal, quarterly newsletter and a 10% discount in the gift shop. Your donation is tax deductible.

Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. Return this form and your payment to:

Mukilteo Historical Society – 304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101 – Mukilteo, WA 98275

Membership Type:

☐ \$15 - INDIVIDUAL

☐ \$10 - SENIOR (65 OR OVER)

☐ \$20 - SENIOR COUPLE

☐ \$25 - FAMILY

☐ \$500 – LIFE

☐ DONATION ONLY –provide name and address so we may acknowledge your donation

Corporate Applications are available at mukilteohistorical.org or by emailing memberships@mukilteohistorical.org

Applicant #1 Data*:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

Applicant #2 Data*: *Please use a second application form for more than two applicants in family memberships.*

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

☐ Help us GO GREEN! Check this box to opt-in for paperless-only newsletters

For each applicant, please check the volunteer areas of interest (if any):	#1	#2
Archives/Trunk Treasures – Collect & archive all documents, photos and artifacts relating to the history of Mukilteo. Organize exhibits. Present Trunk tales throughout the community		
Garden – Join our group of gardeners or adopt a specific garden bed at the light station		
Gift Shop – Help to price, stock and maintain inventory. Operate credit card processing terminal and cash register.		
Lighthouse – Become a lighthouse tour guide.		
Maintenance – Liaison to Board about Light Station/Pioneer Cemetery issues and plans.		
Publicity – Advertising (Beacon/Herald/etc.). MHS Newsletter, Membership mailing (Sunshine)/emails/phoning		
Special Tours – Assist with docent tours, field trips & visiting groups.		
Technology – Website, internet, social media		
Weddings – Welcome guests & provide tours for wedding guests.		

How did you hear about the Mukilteo Historical Society?

☐ Lighthouse Visit

☐ Newspaper

☐ Website

☐ Friend

☐ Other _____

For office use only: Date Received _____ ☐ Added to Membership Roster ☐ Exclusive Membership Decal Sent

2021 Lighthouse Honor Roll

The **Mukilteo Historical Society** (Keepers of the Mukilteo Light Station) thanks the following corporate sponsors who help support its mission to preserve and exhibit items of historic value that pertain to the City of Mukilteo and its environs.



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