

June 12, 2010

Contact: Jim Clarke

John L. Scott, Anacortes

360-293-2161

JimClarke@JohnLScott.com

Gilbane and Maxwell Officially Open Lower Overlook Park

Anacortes, WA. Bob Gilbane, chairman of Gilbane Development Company joined Mayor Dean Maxwell this week to cut the ribbon on the entry to Overlook Park at the foot of the San Juan Passage residential community. “This spot is a real treasure, with unequalled views of the islands, the water and native wildlife in every direction. We wanted Overlook Park to be a gathering spot for San Juan Passage residents and their neighbors all across Fidalgo Island. Clearly, this dream has now become a reality”, said Gilbane.

Mayor Maxwell has long been a proponent of the thoughtful development of the San Juan Passage site commented that “It has been enriching to experience the transformation of this hillside into a welcoming park for all our community to enjoy with an exceptional natural stone Amphitheater. I look forward to spending a nice, summer day here myself”. Gilbane’s team here in Anacortes, headed by site superintendent, George Bourque worked with several different landscape architects, engineers and specialists to design and execute the park’s amenities. Seattle based GCH-Planning and Landscape Architecture has been the lead consultant on the project.

The dramatic amphitheater was crafted by local stone-mason, Mike Harris, a project which took Harris approximately six months to create. Some of the stones used were native to the site, but others required to complete specific facets of the theater were imported from Harris’s personal collection. The “dry-stacked” stones were carefully maneuvered and set in place to form natural seating platforms that face out to the water, islands and majestic evening sunsets. “Watching Mike Harris practice his trade is like viewing a professional chess match—with every move painstakingly calculated and perfected”, said Bourque. “Understanding the care and artistry that went into this park makes it a special place to behold” Bourque points out that Harris’s work continues down a natural stone trail that cuts across the hillside from the park and connects up with the newly completed Guemes Channel Trail that meanders along the water’s edge for approximately ½ mile.

“Working with developers like Gilbane who follow through with their commitment to our community and with great respect for our environment and surrounds is gratifying. Every Anacortes resident can benefit from the great planning and collaboration that shaped this great park and community”, said Mayor Maxwell.