

# Welcome. *It's a great place!*

By JOHN DEAN  
*Special to  
the NEWS*

Greetings, and thanks for getting acquainted, or reacquainted, with Stanwood-Camano!

Those of us who have lived here for some time are constantly rediscovering this place, and our appreciation grows the longer we live here. There has been a lot of change since earlier days, when Stanwood was a self-contained pastoral farm town and Camano a remote island hideaway. But, to many, this part of the Northwest still feels far enough off the beaten path and is just as desirable to most of us as when we arrived, either by birth or preference.

Our geographical location, especially Camano's, often feels like a remote *cul de sac*. It allows us to share a traditional sense of living in a "separate place" with timeless rural and island connections, despite our urban associations and commutes. Many of us think often about how to continue preserving these valuable rural community roots, no matter how long we've been here or why we came.

Many never stop building community, and it shows.

Stanwood-Camano's quality of life is light-years beyond much of the world, and, by most accounts, we still live in paradise. It's not just the people that make it so. A hearty agricultural community wraps us in miles of timeless pastoral beauty and bounty. Puget Sound links us to the Pacific Ocean and soothes us in fluid reflections of that "other" world, dramatically ringed by Olympic-size snowcapped mountains. State parks open their gates to nature museums of how we once were. And all that is just a start.

Thanks for being here, for a day or a lifetime. If there's anything I can do for you, just ask.

*John Dean lives on Camano Island and is an Island County commissioner, representing District 3 (Camano and North Whidbey). Contact: johnd@co.island.wa.us or 629-4522 ext. 7356.*



**Commissioner John Dean meets with constituents during his campaign.**

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