

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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by  
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## **Overview of Spring/Summer 2003:**

The year 2003 will certainly long be remembered as a time that many Kitsap County men and women were deployed overseas in the nation's service. Kitsap County may also look back upon 2003 as the year that some very important development efforts, long in the making, became very visible.

## **Downtown Bremerton Revitalization:**

In Bremerton, ground was broken on two of the key elements of the city's revitalization program. The Conference Center, and its associated hotel and parking garage, represent a \$40-million public/private partnership that will provide 18,500 square feet of meeting space, 109 hotel rooms and parking for 518 cars. Immediately next to the Conference Center, construction also began on Bremerton's Government Center, a six-story, 158,000 square foot office building that is expected to foster other commercial development downtown. (See the TRENDS Fall/Winter 2002 edition for more detail.)

## **Fast "Foot Ferry" Service:**

Kitsap Transit responded to the Washington State Ferries' decision to eliminate the small ferry boats that provided passenger-only service to and from Bremerton. Kitsap Transit is working on obtaining legislative approval and financial support of its plan to provide more convenient "foot ferry" service.

## **Growth in North Kitsap/Poulsbo Area:**

The 215-acre Olhava Master Plan development in Poulsbo is now quite apparent as highway interchange work has begun. This site work is a precursor to construction of Olympic Community College's North Campus that is underway. Classes are scheduled to begin in January 2004.

## **Employment Growth:**

The Kitsap Regional Economic Development Council conducted a survey in the Spring of 2003. This survey reported that the expected growth in jobs will outpace the population growth in Kitsap County.

## **Fiber Optic Cable Expanding:**

NOANET joins AT&T and Qwest in supplying high bandwidth connections to county businesses and residences. Specifically, the northern end of Kitsap County is experiencing an extension of a fiber optic cable.