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Casco Bay Island Development Association Newsletter : Feb 1973

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GREETINGS!

To all residents, both year-round and seasonal, of the Casco Bay Islands.

This NEWSLETTER is being issued by the CBIDA for general distribution to both membership and Bay residents as an effort to fill a bit of the communication gap being felt by the year-long suspension of Nor' by East.

The plans announced so hopefully last July concerning the revival and broadening of Nor' by East, did not materialize and we are again looking for some way of resuming publication.

Meantime we will "make do" with whatever issuance of Newsletters can suffice.

COMMUNICATIONS

A few contacts here and there gives us somewhat of a gull's eye view of what's going on.

CUSHINGS ISLAND

SIDNEY W. THAXTER reports from Cushings Island as follows:

The great news of Cushings Island during the last two years is the development and preservation of the former Fort LeVett property.

In 1970, the quadrangle area, the shore along Whitehead Channel, and some vacant land, was sold to a group of young developers. And sixty acres, including Whitehead and most of the south shore of the Island was given to the Nature Conservancy to be held in its natural state. Eleven new families have restored and converted most of the brick buildings. (The large barracks were demolished) Thus the number of residences on the Island has increased by about fifty percent. The new residents will be a great addition to the Casco Bay community.

*Mr. Thaxter is a board member of CBIDA

CLIFF ISLAND

At the other extreme of the Bay we would like to introduce young, talented, businessman ROGER BERLE who is making his permanent home on Cliff Island.

"I've never been so busy in my life and never had so much fun" commented Roger in a telephone interview. His parents were lifelong summer residents of Cliff Island, and Roger spent every summer there for all of his thirty-two years. A Bowdoin graduate, and member of a Boston business corporation for several years, Roger is also a graduate in business administration and is involved in several investment enterprises including a Ski resort at White River, Vermont.

"But I've settled on Cliff as my permanent home." He speaks enthusiastically about living in a community which totals 75 individuals in winter and enjoys the
usual summer influx. Roger became very much involved in the threatened loss of the school three years ago and played a leading role in resolving the problem. He is past president, and currently Vice President of the Cliff Island Association, and a board member of CBIDA. (Incidentally, girls, he's single! But don't rush him!)

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND
From Chebeague Island for Nor’ by East editor FRAN CALDER reports that several new styled houses have been built on Chebeague including a pre-fab log cabin owned by the Hayden family; an A-frame at Chandlers Cove built by Harland Webber; and a round house in the Massachusetts Colony built by Justin Hicks of Cumberland. The old post-office has been purchased and is being remodeled for a home by the Sharpe family. All of this contrasts with the oldest house on the island (and possibly in the Bay) the Della York house - 1724 - a replica of which hangs in the Mellon Art Gallery in Washington.

BINKIE DENNETT reports that a major library project for this summer is the plan to catalogue every home on the island using the forms provided by Greater Portland Landmarks. This could be a valuable tip for other islands in preserving the priceless heritage of the Bay.

LOU DENNETT says the search for an island resident physician still continues and new plans are being made to publicize the needs and the facilities available including a free house.

LONG ISLAND
Long Island’s Ivy Class is energetically putting on benefits to pay for having a well dug at their headquarters. How to get out of the hole after undertaking the "hole thing" is the challenge.

Island "mayor" and postmaster Jim Coolbrith is recuperating from a heart attack and his family and friends are having a hard time to "slow him down" and make him mind his doctor.

New winter residents on Long include two young women, Carol Hess and Vicky John from Seattle, Washington, who work in the Organic Food store across from Sulkowich Hardware.

MRS. VIRGINIA STARBIRD whose husband, Sumner, works at the Canal Bank comments with enthusiasm about their decision to live year-round on Long Island. "It's wonderful to live in a place where people care." The Starbirds are formerly from Waltham, Mass. and this is their fourth winter.

Demonstrating the growing interest in modular homes, Mrs. Phyllis Jones a soon-to-retire schoolteacher in Brewer, is the proud owner of the first barged-over modular home on Long Island. This is an Imperial Home and was sectioned in two pieces and assembled by Thomas Wood of Yarmouth. It's reportedly a very attractive and sturdy home.

LITTLE DIAMOND ISLAND
PAUL STEVENS, president of the Little Diamond Island Association, has planned a Cold Cottage Campout for all Little-Diamonders on the 17-19th of February weekend. Winter sports and Casino hospitality are offered for all or any part of that weekend. Sounds like fun!

TED RAND, Little Diamond "anchor man" is recuperating from a brief bout of minor surgery.

GREAT DIAMOND ISLAND
A NEW YEAR ROUND FAMILY is living on Great Diamond Island and loving it, according to Mrs. David Banville, her husband and four children. They hail from Steep Falls and became interested in the island when a brother-in-law David Eliot, purchased the nearly 100 acres of land and dwelling owned by Milton Smith. Three children commute by CBL to Peaks to school. They are Denise, Katherine and Amy. Baby Margaret stays home. Their Daddy who is a painter and paperhanger in Portland brings the weekly groceries each Friday night by pack-frame.

PEAKS ISLAND
Peaks Island will see more than $100,000 in new construction come spring. This in addition to what is currently going on shows healthy signs of residential development.

Some 25 new year-round families are here this winter, including one former summer family, the Thomas Findleys and their five children whose Daddy commutes to Washington, D.C. to his work. The peace and quiet of Peaks and its relative safety for children contrast with the big city treadmill.

A CHILD CARE CENTER in the Parish Hall of St. Christopher's Church has successfully completed its first year of operation. It is sponsored by the Bureau of Human Relations Services and State Department of Health and Welfare. Mothers have been able to work or to accept employment training as a result of this resource. A Child Care Center is far more than a baby-sitting service. It is instructional and developmental with complete nutrition and health services provided. Changes in the nationwide picture of social services due to federal administration policies may jeopardize this productive accomplishment unless private and local resource can be found. Those who contributed to the initial start-up of the center would find re-subscribing a meaningful investment in the lives of preschoolers on Peaks.

The annual mid-winter reunion of the Trefethen-Evergreen Improvement Assoc. will be held at the Stage-Coach Inn on Saturday, February 24.

CBIDA

Well attended and interesting monthly meetings of CBIDA Steering Committee are held regularly at the Maine State Pier on the first Saturday of each month.

Special programs have been held on Conservation Commissions; Maine Coast Heritage Trust provision for conservation easements which are more legally binding than local zoning; and matters of relations with governing municipalities and provision of services to the islands. CBIDA is the longest and continuous operative inter-island organization. (1958)

With the growing emphasis on regionalization there is much to be gained by working together on programs of mutual interests, while respecting the individual differences of the community of Casco Bay Islands.

Membership is open to all at $5 a couple, $3 single, and information on goals and programs may be obtained by addressing secretary Mrs. Winthrop K. Deane, Box 66, Peaks Island.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

For all who live on any island with inadequate septic systems discharging into the ocean, the first dateline has passed (January 1) when you are in violation of Environmental Protection Agency standards in Maine.

CBIDA offers detailed information on what to expect in the way of further dates and enforcement of outlawed discharges. This carefully researched information may be obtained by writing to CBIDA and requesting "A Guide To Maine's Water Pollution Laws As They Affect Casco Bay Property Owners.

PROJECT REPORT

The "backshore" project on Peaks Island has made several advances this winter.

*The $50,000 bond issue has been completely liquidated.

*Due to the more stringent Planning Board demands relative to the third housing subdivision, the Association has paid out more than $4500 in water testing,
gate and hydrant repairs, and other details enabling City water to be available for buildings on the North Gate. Lot owners will soon receive a letter from the Association relative to establishment of a WATER FUND to be operative until such time as the Portland Water District takes over and any remaining funds can be returned to builders. The increasing responsibilities of this non-profit development by non-professional volunteers has been a big job with many unexpected requirements. We trust those involved will understand the Association's position.

LEGISLATION

With the leadership of former Congressman Stanley R. Tupper who has returned to Maine from Washington, a separate corporation is being formed to deal with the International Center Project per se.

Plans are now being formulated for a six week summer work project for college students on the site itself. Termed Project Down-To-Earth (to counteract our pie in the sky image) the 106th Legislature is being asked for $20,000 in state "seed money" on the condition that the same amount be matched through other sources. Sponsor of this legislation is Senator Gerard Conley, (D) of Portland who is also a City Councilman. We will need strong support and you in Maine can help by writing a letter to your legislators.

If plans materialize it is hoped that a transformation on the land itself may be accomplished in such matters as clearing the land, filling in the gun pits and manholes, constructing stone steps to the Battery top, and possibly building a temporary dome which can be used for programs until the permanent construction can be realized.

There seems to be considerable interest among the sponsoring legislators and other sources over this realistic approach toward promoting the Center Concept and getting some "homework" done at the same time.