2-2007

Island Times, Feb-Mar 2007

Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/itn_2007

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/itn_2007/1
Legislative committee to visit Peaks Island

**BY DAVID TYLE**

The legislative committee that will hold hearings on Peaks Island secession bill has scheduled a trip to the island on two sides of the issue.

On Sat., Feb. 10 an undetermined number of representatives from the legislature's Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government are to come to Peaks Island for the day.

They will take the 9:30 a.m. ferry from Portland and spend the morning listening to proponents of secession, according to Rep. Christopher R. Barstow (D-Gorham), the committee co-chair. That session will be at the community center. At 1:15 p.m., the committee will listen to secession opponents, also at the community center.

Barstow set up these sessions working with the Peaks Island Independence Committee (JIC), and the group Solutions Not Seclusion (SNS).

"Both sessions are open to the public, but he wants to make sure each side will be heard," Barstow said he would like "equal time for both groups such that one group would not infringe on the other's time and try to turn it into a debate or rebuttal period," I would hope the presentations by both groups will be civil."

At press time, Barstow could not say how many members of the committee will come. There are 10 members from the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate on this committee.

Peaks began the secession process in 2005 and held a vote on leaving Portland in June 2006. Islanders voted in favor of secession.

**Debo takes helm at Casco Bay Lines**

**BY DAVID TYLE**

Catherine Debo has had a varied career as a consultant, town manager, campaign worker and general manager of several public transportation systems. Now she's running a ferry company.

Debo became the new general manager of Casco Bay Lines on Jan. 1, taking over for Pat Christian, who has served as general manager for the past 22 years. He left in December.

"I'm very excited to be here," she said. "This is interesting, challenging work and the people there were so far are terrific." Riders are already meeting with her. "I have a lot of folks from the islands stopping in to say hi," said Debo. "I hope they enjoy these discussions." She has met people through e-mail and in person that "I welcome them to stop by and talk with me about their concerns."

Debo starts work just as the ferry company increased fares 15 percent due to a budget deficit. In the past, they have had two critical petitions from riders and employees and a company analysis by Patricia A. Pearl stating that the ferry company suffered from lack of leadership from the top, poor communications and very little accountability. Debo said she talked about the report's recommendations with the CHBD and is interested in meeting the challenges laid out in the report concerning significant improvement in internal communications, enhanced training programs, visible leadership and follow-through in accountability.

Debo said she's meeting monthly with ferry captains and operations agents and on a regular basis.

**Governor's plan feared to threaten island communities**

**BY NINA RISS**

Governor John Baldacci's school consolidation proposal is making islanders nervous.

While Long Island and Chebeague Island, separated from mainland communities partly to ensure they could control their own schools, the governor's plan would take decision-making power away from local school boards and give it to a remote regional board.

Some islanders fear their schools may eventually be closed under such a plan, threatening the very existence of island communities.

"Our school is integral to the survival of our year-round community," said Donna Damon, a member of the transition committee working to create a new Town of Chebeague Island.

Mainers do not always appreciate the extent to which isolated island communities depend on their schools, she said. "Our sustainability is on the edge all the time. There used to be about 300 year-round island communities. Now there are only 15. We're an endangered species."

"We became a town to have local control here—and the school is number one, for heaven's sake," said Mark Greene, who serves as moderator of the island's Town Meeting. "I don't see it—I feel like we're going to be forced into a compromise. And I'm not one who likes to compromise when we haven't anything to gain here."

Proposed in early January, Baldacci's plan calls for cutting the state's 269 school districts and 152 superintendents to 26 regional districts, each headed by a superintendent. Regional governing boards would replace local school boards, with a community's representation determined by its population. A half-dozen alternative consolidation plans are also under consideration.

Under Baldacci's plan, Chebeague, Long, Peaks, and Cliff islands would all be put in Region 27, with Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Cumnor, Falmouth, Yarmouth, North Yarmouth, Pownal, Gray, and New Gloucester, creating large districts of over 20,000 students.

"There is clearly a reason for consolidation, especially in rural Maine," where some districts have only a few hundred students, said Peaks Island resident Maureen Thompson, a former Portland high school teacher and researcher at the University of Southern Maine Education Policy Research Institute, and currently a private education consultant.

"But some districts, like Portland's, already operate under consolidation. Putting Portland in a mega-district of 20,000 students does not make any sense and would put these schools in jeopardy," she said.

Currently the Portland district, which includes the Peaks Island school, serves about 7,000 students, Thompson said.

"You can't use a cookie cutter to plan schools," she said.

**Peaks Island secession bill to be submitted to the Legislature**

**BY NINA RISS AND DAVID TYLE**

The Peaks Island Independence Committee plans to submit a secession bill to the State Legislature by Feb. 10, according to Michael Richards, the group's chair.

The legislature must approve the bill in order for Peaks to become independent of the City of Portland.


**Tom Fortier**

Fortier leaves island post to become Richmond manager

**BY DAVID TYLE**

Tom Fortier almost missed his last boat off Peaks Island.

He was at the top of Welch Street saying good-bye to islanders when he heard the whistle blow for the 9:40 a.m. ferry to New York. New District 1 City Councillor Kevin L. Donohue was also with Fortier. "We started running down Welch Street—the boat was pulling away and it had to come back," Fortier said.

It was the new Peaks-to-Great Diamond trip, and the Great Diamond riders were initially upset. When they saw it was Fortier, they laughed, and friends of his from Great Diamond go to say good-bye as well.

Fortier had come out the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association meeting. Instead, there was a surprise tribute to Fortier. "We just hung around and told stories, and that was it," Fortier said.

The Legislative committee plans to submit a secession bill to the State Legislature by Feb. 10, according to Michael Richards, the group's chair.

The Legislature must approve the bill in order for Peaks to become independent of the City of Portland.

In Brief

Ferry rates go up
A 15 percent rate hike for riders, vehicles and freight was approved by the Casco Bay Island Transit District Board of Directors on Jan. 31. The increase will be needed to absorb the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to become final.

If approved, the new rates will go into effect April 15. The increase was needed to make up a $450,000 budget shortfall. With the hike, a summer commuter book will cost $22.20 compared to $19.25 last summer. A trip to Chai Island will cost $10.95, up from $9.60.

Because of the time it takes to get PUC approval, and the need for the rate hike now, CBITD was not able to analyze how fares are changing on Casco Bay Lines. The Rate Structure Committee formed that work at recent meetings. Committee members have asked whether it would make more sense to issue ferry tickets electronically, rather than using paper tickets, said Gene Taylor, a Peaks Island board member and chair of the Rate Structure Committee. They want to investigate “a different kind of system that can be functional much easier than the paper system we have now,” Taylor said. “We don’t know what kind of enrollments a computer system would have.” Discussions about these kinds of changes are preliminary.

Receiving station takes shape
The passenger receiving station for the Ocean Gateway project is well underway. Construction of the $20.5 million project is proceeding, although changes to the project due to security, utility and infrastructure issues means the completion date will be around December of this year, according to Capt. Jeff Monroe, director of the city’s Waterfront Department. The building that is going up on the pier is the terminal, he said.

The new Ocean Gateway terminal building is due to be completed in December.

“Our big target for the facility is to be active for the Cat in 2008, and that one we seem to be on target for,” the Portland-to-Yarmouth, Nova Scotia high-speed ferry will also be located at Ocean Gateway, in addition to a berth for cruise ships. - 

Long Island revaluation
The Town of Long Island is moving ahead with its first revaluation of island property since the early 1990s.

New figures are likely to be available to property owners by the spring, said Mark Greene, town meeting moderator. For the past year, Long Island has been working with Mitchell Geographics Inc. of Portland to convert its town maps to a Geographical Information System format. “We just wrapped up final corrections this week,” said Greene, who has been working on this project.

Although property owners will be named soon, “it will be next year before the new values go into effect,” Greene said.

Oil dumping disappoints
The Friends of Casco Bay were astounded and confused when by Overseas Shredding and Recycling Group Inc. pleaded guilty in December to violating counts of oil deliberate vessel pollution from nine ships and false pollution log entries in the ship’s additional ships.

The company operates oil tankers which call at the Portland Pipeline. The company agreed to pay $3 million in fines and a civil penalty for deliberate vessel pollution in U.S. history, according to a release from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Massachusetts. The pollution took place outside the ports of Portland, Boston, Lewiston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Wilmington. The investigation determined that approximately 50,000 gallons of oil contaminated waste was dumped off the New England coast in 1999, in some cases between three and eight miles off the Maine coast.

The violations occurred on the following oil tankers: Ano, Cabo Hidalgo, Neptune, Overseas Alcator, Overseas Alexandra, Overseas Shirley, Overseas Portland, Pacific Sun Shiner, Pacific Sunbud, Rebecca, Sapphic and Vega.

“It was very shocking and surprising,” said Capt. Joe Payne, of Friends of Casco Bay. “We have always been impressed at what a first-class company they are.” He said the board of the company called the day the settlement was announced and said they were “as distressed as we are and that they will work hard to try and regain that reputation that they had earned previously.”

In Portland, the company uses double-hull tankers, new ships and the latest safety devices, said Payne. When a ship unloads oil, a separate captain oversees the entire process. Payne said given what Friends of Casco Bay know about this company “then here is the disturbing news about a delinquent action you lose your friends,” he said. “It is like your best friend or a pillar in your community turning out to have done something surprising and bad.”

Payne said he has talked to crew who ship out on oil tankers out of Portland over the years and said no one had heard horror stories about OSG. That good relationship with OSG does not mean that Friends of Casco Bay is happy about oil going into the ocean.

This is a terrible thing to happen and despicable thing and we condemn it.” - 

Fishing boat lost
The U.S. Coast Guard was unsuccessful in a search for the 52-foot fishing vessel, Lady Luck, which was reported in distress about two miles off Cape Elizabeth at 2 a.m. on Feb. 1.

The vessel, from Newburyport, Mass., was carrying Swen Cron, 24, of North Andover, Mass; and Dan Miller, 21, of North Hampton, N.H., according to a Coast Guard press release.

Weather conditions at the time of the vessel’s last known location were 10-knot winds and four-foot seas with a water temperature of 40 degrees.

stewart NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 3
The Coast Guard conducted 27 searches covering more than 8,140 square miles, with the assistance of local fishermen, a P-3 U.S. Navy fixed wing helicopter from Brunswick Naval Air Station, Coast Guard cutter Marcus Hansen from South Portland, cutters Seneca and Flyingfish from Boston, a Canadian Coast Guard helicopter from Petrolia, N.S., HH-60 Haydak helicopters from Air Stations Elizabeth City, N.C. and Air Station Cape Cod, an HH-65 helicopter from Air Station Atlantic City and HH-65 Falcon jets from Air Station Cape Cod.

The search was suspended at 5:34 p.m. on Feb. 2. "To suspend a search is one of the toughest decision to make," said Rear Admiral Tim Sullivan, commander of the First Coast Guard District, which includes Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. "We grieve with the families of the Lady Luck's crew and with New England's fishing community. The second tragic loss in so short a time reinforces our commitment to work with the fishing community and federal and state partners to identify and remove the hazards that imperil fishermen."

Four fishermen were lost when their boat, Lady Grace, a 75-foot dragger, sank about 11 nautical miles north of Nantucket, Mass. It was reported missing Jan. 28.

-Robert Daniels

Taking the plunge on Chebeague

The ocean water was probably 45 degrees or so, but that didn't stop five brave souls on Chebeague Island from taking part in the annual Polar Bear Plunge, which this year took place on the beach near the Chebeague Island Boatyard. Those who dove in were Bob Earnest, Chip Corson, Scott Earnest, Anna Maine and Beverly Johnson. It was all part of the 2007 Winter Festival, held on Feb. 3. The chill contest was won by Jen Horner with Mark Bowman in second place and Pam Pulsifer and Laura Samma in third. Arlene Dyer won the soap contest, with Bruce Bowman in second and Debbie Bowman in third. The chowder contest was won by Polly Westworth with Andrew Todd placing second and Esther Knight taking third. There were five roosters in the Rock-a-holn who raised over $1,200. To see a video of the plunge and photos of past plunges, go to the Chebeague Island News Web site at www.chebeague.org.

-Debbie Calkins

Old Port Wine Merchants.
Where it all comes together.

207-772-WINE (9463)
422 Fore Street, Portland, Maine 04101
One block from The Portland Harbor Hotel.
Open 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday – Saturday
12 noon to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday

"Quality Service, Wine and Gifts. The Way Life Should Be!"

FOR RENT - VICTORIAN COTTAGE
397 ISLAND AVE.
$1,100/WEEK;
$900/WEEK (OFF-SEASON)
$150/NIGHT (OFF-SEASON); SLEEPS 9

FOR SALE - VICTORIAN COTTAGE
SUNNY AND ADORABLE.
105 BRACKETT AVE.
$249,000

RHONDA BERG, ASSOCIATE BROKER
(207) 766-2483
RBERG@HARBORVIEWPROPERTIES.COM

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO BE CONNECTED TO THE INN ON PEAKS ISLAND. WEDDING AND SPECIAL EVENT PARTICIPANTS OFTEN WANT TO RENT FOR A WEEK OR WEEKEND. THINK ABOUT IT!
The Island Times received this opinion article from the Peaks Island Independence Committee. We showed it to the group Solutions Not Secession and requested a rebuttal. That rebuttal is included on this page.

BY LINDA CAPONE-NEWTON

Background

The latest Peaks Island independence movement began in May 2005 in response to the City of Portland’s refusal to consider adjustments in property assessments. Over 50 Peaks Islanders attended the City Hall hearing on the subject, but their comments were ignored. The lack of response led islanders to meet at Bradstreet Church on the island. The consensus of those present was that the hearing was just the latest example of how the city government of Portland does not take into consideration the needs and desires of Peaks Islanders. Consequently, for many times in the past 200 years, a group of islanders felt they had no recourse but to begin a formal secession process, as provided by statute.

The Peaks Island Independence Committee (PIIC) launched a hardallet on the research and analysis of issues pertaining to our possible independence. Several islanders have labored diligently to determine the feasibility of forming an independent city. Should this independence be successful, it is the only real answer, just as it has been for other island communities.

The opposing Solutions Not Secession (SNS) group wants Peaks Island to remain part of Portland. They have committed to solve the island’s problems by list­

ing some of our grievances and presenting our case to the City Council. The SNS does not believe that substantial progress has been made.

In June 2006 an independent group of islanders wanted to pursue the secession process, which the SNS opposed as a positive expression to continue its work. IC continues to be a grassroots group of islanders. IC meetings are open to the public, and the IC disseminates information and analysis through regular meetings, the SNS website, and other means. We seek to involve all Peaks Islanders in the secession process. The SNS is not open to the public and the question raised is that of who they represent.

Contributions

Both organizations have significant expenses for legal advice, lobbying and publicity. In the past year each organization has sought donations for their operations. Contributions have been told that they were a Political Action Committee (PAC).

An analysis of contributions clearly shows the difference between the grassroots IC and those associated with the SNS. Through June 2006, both organizations have filed PAC reports, public documents, with the SNS that have not submitted such forms. The SNS is thus still open to analysis.

It is not just the totals and time frames but the dollar amounts of donations and the number of contributions that point to the significant differences in the characteristics of these operations.

*SNS has received donations from 19 indi­

viduals.

• IC has received donations from 159 indi­

• The two highest donations to SNS were $5,000 and $10,000.

• The two highest donations to IC were $3,000 and $3,600.

• SNS average donation is $1405 per contrib­

ue (19 donations).

• IC's average donation is $311 per contributor (159 donations).

You may draw your own conclusions from this analysis. It is clear that islanders’ contributions reflect the referendum vote of June 2006. The City would not negotiate a mediation on June 24. The Maine Constitu­

tion allows residents choice in their form of governance and the majority of people living on Peaks Island want independence and support that goal with their contributions as well.

Linda Capone-Newton is a member of the Peaks Island Independence Committee’s Steering Committee.

Solutions Not Secession responds

BY GENE TAYLOR

Last winter, months before the adviso­

tory vote on Peaks, the Peaks Island Independence Committee (IC) voted to hold a prominent lobby, according to the group’s newsletter of June 2006. At the sametime, the IC leaders were saying they were still gathering information and could stop the process and avoid going to the Legislature if their research showed that an independent town could not cover its prices.

We have been reluctant participants in this process to stop the secession move­

ment. Our fundraising is in response to the IC’s campaign. We plan to keep raising additional contributions from anyone who wishes to support our campaign. The group should be insisting on the best possible deal for it’s remaining 6,000 residents.

It is a disservice to their constituents—the city should be insisting on the best possible deal for it’s remaining 6,000 residents.

We have been contacts with a panel of arbitrators, taking a chance with taxpayer’s money. This type of high-handed approach for residents interests is outright pre­

hened coverage of the real story—that Portland has refused to even consider how Peaks independent city would benefit both main­

land and island residents. We believe this is a disservice to their constituents—the city should be insisting on the best possible deal for its remaining 6,000 residents.

We have been contacts with a panel of arbitrators, taking a chance with taxpayer’s money. This type of high-handed approach for residents interests is outright pre­

hended coverage of the real story—that Portland has refused to even consider how Peaks independent city would benefit both main­

land and island residents. We believe this is a disservice to their constituents—the city should be insisting on the best possible deal for its remaining 6,000 residents.

We have been contacts with a panel of arbitrators, taking a chance with taxpayer’s money. This type of high-handed approach for residents interests is outright pre­

hended coverage of the real story—that Portland has refused to even consider how Peaks independent city would benefit both main­

land and island residents. We believe this is a disservice to their constituents—the city should be insisting on the best possible deal for its remaining 6,000 residents.

We have been contacts with a panel of arbitrators, taking a chance with taxpayer’s money. This type of high-handed approach for residents interests is outright pre­

hended coverage of the real story—that Portland has refused to even consider how Peaks independent city would benefit both main­

land and island residents. We believe this is a disservice to their constituents—the city should be insisting on the best possible deal for its remaining 6,000 residents.

We have been contacts with a panel of arbitrators, taking a chance with taxpayer’s money. This type of high-handed approach for residents interests is outright pre­

hended coverage of the real story—that Portland has refused to even consider how Peaks independent city would benefit both main­

land and island residents. We believe this is a disservice to their constituents—the city should be insisting on the best possible deal for its remaining 6,000 residents.
Inventors, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, heads up. I've an idea that will revolutionize the Island transportation industry. (If there is such a thing.) Some islanders, those on Peaks included, have what they consider the divine right to hop onto whatever car or bike or golf cart that is at hand and drive off with it. This is a naughty and, in some societies, an illegal thing to do.

Enter an idea whose time has come. A device that allows every car or golf cart on the island to be its own taxi. A dashboard box with a slot that accepts a magnetic card having a stored number of really cheap rides. The owner allows his or her vehicle to be rented, so to speak, by any cardholder. Said owner activates the availability function manually, or remotely by cell phone. A percentage of the proceeds from the card purchases goes to the owner of said car or golf cart. Everybody wins and nobody goes to court. I have copyrighted the name, Wheel Borrowes, Ltd. For more information, see me most days in the cafe between 7:20 and 7:30 a.m., Monday thru Friday.

It is a good thing to review island living at the beginning of each year. It strengthens our resolve to stick it out because, to be brutally honest, this just isn't a much better place to hang. No better place to lose any way you darn well please. To keep bacon grease on the kitchen table. To keep a junker in the yard for parts and storage. To spend a night with a 12-pack, a slaughter movie, and a frozen hot dog. Talk to your dogs as equals. Burn scrap construction wood in the fireplace. Store the latest copy of Uncle Henry's next to the family bible and use both interchangeably. When it's cold, you say you're cold. You never, ever think of going south. You run only to escape. And when your thoughts turn to what heaven may be like, you just look around.

This from my mail box. Every fall and late winter I have this recurring dream. Peaks Island is in the shape of a giant sliced pizza. Each slice is a neighborhood, Telegraph, Dixon Point, Centennial Beach, Fort Knox, Falmouth, Upper A, Byfield, etc. In the center of this pizza island is a volcano with a pathway leading to the rim. Twice a year, the volcano becomes active and glows red. In order to keep it from erupting and sending rivers of molten mozzarella into our streets and homes, we climb the mountain holding shoeboxes full of money. When we dump them into the bubbling mass. This quiets the pizza god and for about six months we are at peace. It is during this quiet period that we sweat and strain, bodies all aching and racked with pain in order to refill the shoeboxes. Any ideas on what this all about? Signed, Burnout On A Clift on Peaks.

---

**L.P.A., Inc.**

**Specializing in:**

* Island Deliveries Of Sand, Stone, Gravel Lumber & Building Supplies
* Excavation
* Site Work
* Septic Systems
* Driveways
* MARINE SERVICES
  * Barge Transportation
  * Marina Services, Slips, Moorings, Gas & Diesel

*We gladly accept Visa & Mastercard*

98 Island Avenue Peaks Island Maine 04108 Phone: (207) 766-2508 Fax: (207) 766-2507 Email: lplante@maine.rr.com

---

**L.P.A. Fuels, Inc.**

**Specializing in:**

* Home Heating Fuels
* #2 Fuel, K-1 & Propane
* 24 Hour Burner Service
* Furnace Installations
* Propane Appliances Sold & Serviced

**Master Service Technicians:**

* Terry Mulken
* Coley Mulken

**Licensed Journeyman:**

* Guy Fradette

**Licensed Delivery & Tank Setter Technicians:**

* Terry Mulken
* Coley Mulken
* Guy Fradette
* Jay Soile
* Marty Mulken
Chebeague Chronicles

By D.J. Colbeth

So how was your winter? For years this has been a standard greeting by our summer friends and neighbors as they return to our island "business away from home." Usually a colorful, somewhat abbreviated, winter weather report suffices—until we all settle into a new season and its familiar routines. And then, little by little, the spring turns brings forth the more personal details of the island winter.

This year, however, there is not a lot of weather to report so far: no remarkable snow, no ice storms, no epic power outages. But not to worry, we islanders have begun fur a all cas1 the C winters. Instead, it has taken a back seat to our story of becoming our own town: the Town of Chebeague Island.

Billed by many as a David and Goliath story, it is that of a small community of 350 citizens who saw the mainland's wish to downsize their elementary school and the town's escalating taxes as the beginning to an end of life as they knew it. That is that of a small community who did not want their island to become a retirement Colony as so many other Maine islands have become.

And so, in the winter of 2005, islanders met and created committees to investigate how best to save their year-round home. It didn't take long before they framed the core questions that would shape the island's future: What if Chebeague seceded from Cumberland and what if they formed their own government?

Throughout the following year, headline stories and editorials from The Island Times, The Working Waterfront, the Portland Press Herald, the Forecaster, the Community Leader, The Notes and even The New York Times chronicled the events that lead up to April 5, 2006 when the secession bill, LD 1725 "An Act to Authorize Chebeague Island to Secede from the Town of Cumberland," was passed by both the Maine State Senate and House of Representatives.

Sunday go-to-meetings

This story of the next winter of 2006 actually begins on a Sunday last August when island folks packed the Recreation Center's gymnasium to elect the nine representatives who would be charged with the responsibility of structuring their new town government. There were nearly endless nominations with two dozen acceptances followed by several rounds of speeches and finally an official transition committee of nine members were elected.

For these representatives: Chairman John Martin, Co-Chairman Mark Dy-er, Donna Damon, Leon Hamilton, Da-vid Hill, Jim Filippa, Doug Ross, Stephen Hold and Carol White. The business of this winter has been the business of meetings. They meet Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. All together there are nearly 100 volunteers who serve on transition subcommittees dealing with government structure, town and school budgets, fire and rescue services, public works, marine resources, land use, waste management and community services. Most subcommittee meetings occur weekly and are open for public attendance and public comments.

On Sunday, Jan. 28, the Transition Com-mittee called islanders together to present results of some of the work they have accomplished to date. At the opening of the meeting, we were reminded that we are now halfway to July 2 when the doors of our town office will be open for business. The meeting then commenced with reports from transition representatives covering the process and timeline for the development of the town budget and employee hiring procedures. Governmental structure was outlined and the coastal waters ordinance was reviewed. Recommendations from these committees and others will ultimately form the articles of the warrant that residents will vote on at Che-beague's first town meeting on July 1.

The next public call to order will be on Sunday, February 25. At this time the Transition Committee will present a report concerning the process and timeline for the development of the school budget and will outline the hiring procedures for the school staff.

It seems no matter how small the town, it is not easy task to create one's own government. In many cases, we are creating local legislation specifically tailored to fit an island town and it will be our elected se-lector, school board, town officers, and committee members made up of family friends and next-door neighbors, who will be the caretakers of our government.

Perhaps this living lesson in civics will give us the opportunity to teach our chil-dren that along with our rights come responsibilities. And maybe we adults will also learn a thing or two about self-government and good citizenship. Our town-to-be is a work in progress and will require the assistance of all those who hold Chebeague dear to make it work.

So how is our winter so far? Busy, very busy!

Veterinary care to the islands all year long.

Committee, from page 1

of secession bill approved by the State Legislature on April 5. But Chebeague had worked out agreements with both the Town of Cumberland and the school district before submitting a bill.

Although the policy issues are different with Peaks Island, the visit will be beneficial. When asked how the Peaks situation differed from Chebeague, he said that it is interesting that there seems to be a much bigger division between Portland and the islanders who want to secede than was the case between Cumberland and Chebeague.

He also noted that Chebeague Island residents were more unified about secession, and that Chebeague islanders voted in favor of secession with 41 opposed.

"Peaks is more divided and that will make it more challenging for our committee to make policy decisions in that regard," Barstow said.

The Legislature is now the next step for secession after an impasse in mediation. After six months of unsuccessful negotiations between representatives of the city and the Island Independence Committee, a mediation session was held on Jan. 24.

Barstow is a councilor for the Portland firm, Curt-is Thaxter Stevens Broder & Michieau, oversaw the all-day session.

In the morning, they talked about the introductions of the city, according to Michael Richards, head of the city's negotiating team. Richards said there was no way for the island to have control over these local issues without seceding and becoming its own town.

"In the afternoon, when it came to nego-tiating the secession issues, the city refused to negotiate," Richards said. "We are disappointed that, in spite of our efforts to work towards a compromise, the city team was unwilling to enter into a dialogue about the issues," said Lynne Voss, the city's legislative coordinator. "Portland is behaving badly," said Richards, about mediation. The city's stances "is contrary to the letter and the spirit of the secession statute, which requires the parties to discuss the issues related to secession."

District 5 City Councillor Jim Cohen said that while it is possible that we could reach agreement on the terms of secession, because of a fundamental philo-sophical difference between the two sides, we found that we couldn't reach agreement.

At the end of mediation, the two sides were clear that we had reached an impasse and that mediation should be deferred to a close and we should move forward to Augusta for a final resolution of the issues," Cohen said.

He disagreed with Richards character-ization of the city's stance. "I think the city has been incredibly patient and in terms of our willingness to meet pub-licly and to meet often on the island. We have been incredibly forthcoming with financial information and frankly we've received very little information from the city," he said.

Nina Rits also contributed to this story.

aisle to
isle

Tuesdays: shop for groceries before 11:30am and they will be delivered by Casco Bay Lines to Peaks Island that afternoon!

For more information inquire at Forest Ave., Hannaford or call 761-5965. Normal boat fee applies.

Happy Valentine's Day!
February/March 2007

Cliff Island News

BY LEO CARTER

It is a sure thing that people on Cliff Island are having plenty of time to enjoy solitude and the life they lead. Talking about the ways things are out here in the sweep of the wind and the sadness that the temperature is too low to do much about the island community is different, and we wonder about ways to sustain and improve the community. Our fire department is an illustration of the atypical nature of the Portland Island community. The Cliff Island Fire Department is a small group of dedicated people who donate their time and talent for the good of the community. The members receive training and equipment from the state fire department. Their main function is actually to be first responders during medical emergencies.

David Credeley is the leader of the island volunteers. He is a member of the Portland Fire and Rescue, and is our most advanced FRT. When he got to work on Cliff Island there was no more of your trained neighbors will be with you in minutes. It might be three. It could be later during winter when the roads are too rough. But, Dale Dyer, Bob Howard or Steve Little. In the more serious cases, appropriate immediate help is given, and a ride on the fireboat takes place. A trip to the hospital can involve about one hour from the time of your call. Mac McKone and Charlie Green help with trucks, pumps, ladders and much more when fires or training is involved.

The uniqueness of our "neighborhood" does not end with the fire department. Imagine that people in Rockland (or anywhere about a 50 minute drive away) were a Portland neighborhood. Then provide four buses (with hard seats) daily as the only transport for all but a few. Don’t miss the 45 pm bus! Homemakers in mainland events as awkward, especially if they are near or after the late boat. Modern communications may eventually allow attendance and participation at city events via internet. History suggests that island initiative will be required. We often fend for ourselves.

Our parks and recreation are provided entirely by the neighborhood. We have a half-acre, a tennis court, a dance hall, a community kitchen and even a stage for the performing arts. All of these have been provided by neighborhood effort and money. The last major work done on the school was by island volunteers using city-supplied materials.

Public needs on area of Portland government that spreads considerable resources on Cliff Island. The wharf and the roads are maintained by the DFR. The wharf may shift to the state if a bill filled by Representative Roy Darley passes. A current DFP project is the assignment of street names and household addresses for the improved emergency phone system. (E911). There presently are no street signs or house numbers on the island. Mike Bobins, who heads DFP, is under pressure from the state to complete this work soon, but islanders are dismayed at the antiquated and unfamiliar street names currently held to be official. Ideally, DFP will accept the guidance of island emergency workers in selecting names familiar to residents. Even if a delay for city council approval occurs this project might to maximize the safety of the islanders, not cater to convenience or experience.

Trash removal is another DFP function, and this has been made more difficult for the last few years by the project to move the landing to a new location. The work of dealing with all islander’s suggestions and objections, and of satisfying all permitting agencies appears to be drawing in a close. Bob Howland stated that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection is the last reviewing agency, and that their decision, if favorable, would permit spring/summer construction. Most islanders will welcome the return of recycling, and the ability to dispose of the junk cars which seem to appear here by magic. The inconvenient blue bags, which take our money and are taxed to encourage recycling, will probably reappear.

As the lights and cheers of the recent holiday season drift away into the fog of the past, we hope that the future will bring opportunities for improving life on Cliff Island and beyond. Life is mostly dreams. That is why we make New Years Resolutions, and that is why we often fall short on our plans. Even so our periodic effort of thinking about what we want to do, to do or to have is worthwhile. Are we really going to do better? In what way will we improve? Do we need more things? Have we even picked the best categories? Perhaps we should select goals for physical, social, spiritual, intellectual, financial, professional or political. Maybe we should make resolutions about peace, poverty, health, civility, the environment, energy or population.

Maybe our cell phones will work everywhere. Perhaps 1851, and wireless connections will be good enough to bring a five internet entrepreneurs (with school children) to live here. Perhaps we will be able to meet our needs for non-polluting energy by driving less, by insulating better and dressing warmer. Possibly, we will be putting windmills and solar collectors to run our homes.

Maybe we will see a row of windmills on the outer islands, and be rewarded with cleaner or air pollution to mollify those who may be disturbed by change. Where would Don Quixote have been without windmills? Why are the quaint and clumsy old windmills revered while sleek brilliantly designed modern ones are not so admired? Maybe a few wave energy devices will be functioning nearby. Wouldn’t limiting cars in many places and providing quality public transportation seem logical? Would such changes happen? Life is mostly dreams.

Need home financing?

Ask Me!

Stuart Dye
Manager Banker
$250 donated to the Peaks Island Endowment Fund for every island loan closed.

For Valentines Day and Everyday, the finest in fresh seafood, local vegetables, wine, cheese, and of course Champagne, Caviar and Chocolate!

GMAC Mortgage

For every island loan closed.

CALL ME FOR THAT HOME REPAIR PROJECT!

Let me help you with that home project you just can’t seem to get off your list! Whether it’s painting, carpentry, hauling debris or cleaning out that basement, call me today to schedule your job.

PAUL BRIDGES

Peaks Island, Maine 04108

207.415.4295

anything@callpaulbridges.com

For your Portland, Maine

HOME REPAIR PROJECT!

call me: I can do anything.
Innovative artist takes up residence on Peaks Island

By KELLY HANSON

Kindergarten through grade five students at Cliff and Peaks Island Schools kicked off 2007 with a unique Physical Theater Artist-in-residency program with renowned performers and educators Gretchen Berg, Gwyneth Jones, and Paul Sarvis. Berg, Jones, and Sarvis, as they are known professionally also teach at Bowdoin College when not working with schools throughout the state. Physical Theater is a unique genre in performing arts where actors use their bodies to create characters, props, and settings. Through an innovative approach to drama, students collaborate to create scripts, sequence scenes, and use their bodies creatively to deliver their performances. Berg, Jones, and Sarvis worked with Peaks Island students during the first two weeks of January. Students performed for their families and community members on the evening of January 11 in the school gym. Kindergartners performed a piece about a magic forest, nocturnal animals provided the theme for the first graders’ play, second and third graders performed a piece about Native Americans, and fourth and fifth graders performed a play about space.

Cliff Island’s six kindergarten through grade four students took part in the Physical Theater residency during the second week of January. Their culminating performance, “If Dinosaurs Came Back to Cliff Island,” was performed for families and island neighbors on January 22 at the Community Hall. Students reflected on what they had learned in thank you letters to ling, Jones, & Sarvis. Peaks Island’s Daisy Bean expressed how fun it was to see things not without props, to do slow motion tripping, and to create mountain scenes. She also learned how hard it is to stay still in the wings.

Physical Theater artist-in-residency was made possible through generous grants from the Peaks Island Fund and the MBNA Education Foundation.

Kelly Hanson is principal of Cliff and Peaks Island Schools.

BILL, from page 1

which will review the legislation.

Barstow said the Legislature has a February break coming up, then it takes a week or two for the bill to be formally drafted and then two or three weeks to advertise and schedule a public hearing in Augusta.

“I want to get this policy matter over with as quickly and as deliberately as possible, because of the fact that if we decide to let Peaks Island secede and become their own town, they need time for planning,” said Barstow. “If we deny the secession effort, we want them to be a building of bridges between the city and the islanders.”

State Senator Christine Savage (R-Kennebunk) has agreed to sponsor the Peaks Island secession bill. The IC submitted what is called a “placeholder bill” on Dec. 15, in order to make the deadline for submitting bills for the next legislative session.

Savage, who has been serving in the state legislature since 1994, said she was asked by Ann Robinson, attorney for the IC, if she would be willing to sponsor the Peaks’ secession bill because the senator has experience representing island communities that are independent of mainland municipalities. Savage’s district includes the Popham Beach Bay Islands of Vinalhaven and North Haven, both independent towns.

“I went out to Peaks Island to visit and talk to members of the secession committee (on Jan. 29), and I asked and got good answers to questions that some legislators might not think to ask,” said Savage, who has considerable experience in municipal government, having worked for the town of Camden in various capacities for 16 years and as the Warren town manager for five.

The supporters of secession have really done their homework. They have worked hard to develop their future,” Savage said. She emphasized, however, that she had “only heard one side of the story—and there are always two sides.”

“I am in favor of communities having self-control if they are able,” said Savage. “Portland might be—and I have only heard one side—he more concerned with tax dollars lost than with the welfare of Peaks.”

When asked to comment on Savage’s sponsorship of the bill, Chris Hoppin, a spokesman for Solutions Not Secession, said Peaks should not be grouped with other Maine islands in this debate. The IC found a legislator and said that “the reason they went that far away is because they represent islands.” Hoppin said “I believe Peaks Island is a very different from those other islands—we are a commuter island with 14 boats tying us to the mainland every day.”

Savage said she helped develop the state’s secession law in 1995, after several Casco Bay islands and two sections of Biddeford sought to secede. Only Long Island succeeded in establishing independence.

“It is evident that the statutes governing secession needed to be tightened up. These procedures were not in place yet when Long Island seceded from Portland in 1992, and they were instituted to help resolve what can be a complex and contentious process,” she said.

Richard said the bill will include a provision for arbitration by a three-person panel to divide up debts and assets between the city and Peaks Island.

District 5 City Councilor Jim Cohen said the City Council has not decided who will testify in Augusta. Cohen was the head of the city negotiating team. “I feel pretty confident in saying we will be represented in Augusta as the bill moves forward, both to answer questions that the Legislature might have, but also to continue to represent the position of our City Council on behalf of our residents that we don’t believe that secession is in our collective best interests.”

The sun shines on Peaks Island after a recent snowstorm.

Photo by Natasha Markov-Rias
Hidden inside this puzzle is a nine-word message, not necessarily in order. The first three solvers to complete the puzzle correctly and find the message will win the prize hidden therein. Drop off or mail to me at 30 Ryefield Street, Peaks Island, ME 04108. (Hint: The clue numbers of the nine words add up to 362.)

Across
1. Insignificant person
2. Source of antimarial medicine
3. Hash browns
4. Tiger's version, perhaps
5. Montefiore in the art world
6. Anand
7. Stairways to the water in India
8. Colgate-Palmolive purchase
9. Tax on our Feet
10. Pedal digit
11. One-way to empty the wine bottle
12. Sub follower
13. Piece of work
14. Female, 2002 thriller
15. Cheese from the Netherlands
16. Elm bed
17. Mid-month days
18. Not needed a pre-peak
19. Mohanet
20. Al-Bayda
21. JTG, in Maine, perhaps
23. What 13 down might do
25. Parents or dox
26. Give a Slash burger
27. Celebrity status
28. What contents may end in
29. Bootstrap, slangily
30. Sons of God
31. Stairways to the water in India
32. Nine-word message, not necessarily in order, puzzle correctly and find the Peaks Island, ME 04108. (Hint: to me message will words add up to 302.)

Down
1. Tin takes on flavor of other ingredients
2. Blink your lights, maybe
3. finest tackles
4. Airborne didactic
5. Internationalize
6. State birds on the endangered list
7. Malacology
8. Tongs, for example
9. This crosses the warp
10. Ma. Kent from early comics
11. Start suddenly
12. Cambodian in this Mutu's habitat
13. Rid bird
14. Conservation
15. Creator of James ala607
19. Young Rib
20. Melody
21. Social alliance
22. Five carbon monosaccharides
23. House speaker married to Callista
24. Crossword puzzle stave (Anybody ever use it in conversation?)
25. Where many SUVs come from

Solution to last month's puzzle:
21. Giri Ria ingredients
22. Diamonds, slangily
23. What it takes might do
25. Parents or dox
26. Give a Slash burger
27. Celebrity status
28. What contents may end in
29. Bootstrap, slangily
30. Sons of God
31. Stairways to the water in India
32. Nine-word message, not necessarily in order, puzzle correctly and find the Peaks Island, ME 04108. (Hint: to me message will words add up to 302.)

COMMUNITY NOTES, from page 12

barn Hopkins at 766-2558 or Ellen Mahoney at 766-2543 or send a note to HOMEMAKER, PO. Box 174, Peaks Island 04108.

In addition, HOMEMAKER, a non-profit, tax-deductible 501 C 3 organization, seeks donations of property and funds. It also welcomes new members who would like to help our community by answering the need of some of our community members. The group meets the third Wednesday of each month. This month we will meet on at 7 PM, Wednesday, February 21st in the Senior Center on Central Avenue. Would love to see you there!

Peaks Island School mid-winter night's read

Peaks Island School will hold its second annual Mid-Winter Night's Read on Thursday, March 1 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in honor of Read Across America Day (a.k.a. Dr. Seuss's Birthday). All students, families, and community members are invited to bring flashlights, pillows, stuffed animals, and favorite books to read around the gym as the lights are dimmed low. Appropriate attire is encouraged — pajamas, balaclavas, and slipper socks! Peaks residents and children's author/illustrator Scott Nash will return as our special guest. Scott will read his favorite bedtime stories so don't miss this wonderful evening.

Writers wanted

Please call 766-0951

DIVER DOWN
UNDERWATER SERVICES

HANDLING ALL YOUR UNDERWATER NEEDS
Throughout Casco Bay

Full service mooring sales and repairs, we stock what you need to keep your boat safe.

General commercial diving: inspections, installations and repairs.

399 Presumpscot Street
Phone: 207-828-0444
Portland, ME 04103
Fax: 207-828-1255
email: info@diverdowndiving.com

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Peaks Island Land Preserve seeks to preserve and protect open space for the natural and aesthetic values and the enjoyment of present and future generations. Contributions and membership dues are used to purchase lands and provide appropriate land management. We also work with the City, State and individuals to preserve open space through conservation easements and gifts of land. Please join us in this important effort.

Peaks Island Land Preserve

DISTINCTIVE HOMES FOR DISCERNING PEOPLE

KIRK GOODHUE ALICE A. BAUERLE JILL KEEFE
LAURIE WILDES DEB HANNA

PEAKS ISLAND PORTLAND LONG ISLAND
207.766.5966 207.775.7253 207.232.0758
WWW.PORTISLAND.COM
Star Gazing

BY MICHAEL RICHARDS

February is named for Februia, the ancient Roman festival of purification, and March is named for Mars, the Roman god of war.

The night sky now is ruled by the constellation Orion the Hunter, with its shoulders, feet and belt clearly marked by bright stars: upper left is red giant Betelgeuse; upper right is Rigel; lower left is Saiph. With binoculars, you can see in this view the reddish sheet of clouds that make up the Orion nebula. To Orion’s upper right is Tauros the Bull, with nobby Ahabarian serving up his right eye.

LETTERS, from page 7

voted in favor of secession, but they are up against the biggest city in the state, which uses islanders’ tax dollar to fund lobbyist in Augusta to defend Peaks independence. In addition, the editors of the Portland Press Herald have consistently adopted the city line but missed the real story.

The secession statute requires the Island Independence Committee and city to try to resolve the issues that have led to the secession request, to vote on the results, and if a majority favor secession instead, to negotiate a plan of action. The city has the final say on this matter of necessity. At the March 25, 2006 public hearing, the Island Independence Committee presented its plan for the islands to become self-governing, to begin negotiations with the city. The city said no. The city council opposes it, so the Portland city council will not join the negotiations. The two teams then met jointly to close this mediation session, and the mediator suggested that Jim Cohen and Sue Sugden consider meeting with the mediator to break the deadlock.

The next day, the IC proposed to the city a two-party plan of compromise and mediation. The city wrote back that they “would not negotiate privately, as this is a public issue.” The mediator then notified the parties of mediation rules, which included a non-mutual option to terminate the mediation, and the mediator reiterated this point this week in an email to both parties.

The Portland Press Herald congratulated the city for refusing to negotiate “privately” but added that “the result is still a failure of negotiation.” The mediator did not privately negotiate with the city council, but negotiations have not been suspended.

The IC has presented one showing that the city would actually make money if Peaks seceded, especially if they “regularized” certain services with Portland. The city denied the IC proposal as “unreasonable and unfair,” and finally agreed to the mediation.

At the day-long secession mediation session last month, the two legislatures presented their proposals, and the two teams did not seem to make progress.

In the end, the two teams did not make progress, but they did make progress toward the goal of a better understanding with the city’s behavior.

The city explicitly ignored the IC’s issues and “negotiated” with the SNS on their issues. Unfortunately, one after large public meeting ended with lists of problems covering the walls of the gym, working groups met but accomplished little.

Meanwhile, the IC announced and held regular public meetings for the first Thursday of each month at which all islanders, for or against secession, openly expressed their views, and IC publishes its minutes both on its web site and at the Peaks library.

The alternatives the city offered were vague promises to consider doing something.

But they missed the point and left all of the decision-making to the city. Peaks to the city’s bane, as a result, 56 percent of the islanders voted in favor of secession and self-government over the alternatives offered by the city.

The city spurned the election results, damning islanders did not know what they were voting for or did not mean what they said. This question was pretty clear. The city said no to the IC’s request for a vote, the IC failed to negotiate the terms of secession, so they could be included in the legislative bill all along.

The IC failed to negotiate the terms of secession, so they could be included in the legislative bill all along. The city council opposed it, so the Portland city council will not join the negotiations. The two teams then met jointly to close this mediation session, and the mediator suggested that Jim Cohen and Sue Sugden consider meeting with the mediator to break the deadlock.

The next day, the IC proposed to the city a two-party plan of compromise and mediation. The city wrote back that they “would not negotiate privately, as this is a public issue.” The mediator then notified the parties of mediation rules, which included a non-mutual option to terminate the mediation, and the mediator reiterated this point this week in an email to both parties.

The Portland Press Herald congratulated the city for refusing to negotiate “privately” but added that “the result is still a failure of negotiation.” The mediator did not privately negotiate with the city council, but negotiations have not been suspended.

The IC has presented one showing that the city would actually make money if Peaks seceded, especially if they “regularized” certain services with Portland. The city denied the IC proposal as “unreasonable and unfair,” and finally agreed to the mediation.

At the day-long secession mediation session last month, the two legislatures presented their proposals, and the two teams did not seem to make progress.

In the end, the two teams did not make progress, but they did make progress toward the goal of a better understanding with the city’s behavior.

The city explicitly ignored the IC’s issues and “negotiated” with the SNS on their issues. Unfortunately, one after large public meeting ended with lists of problems covering the walls of the gym, working groups met but accomplished little.

Meanwhile, the IC announced and held regular public meetings for the first Thursday of each month at which all islanders, for or against secession, openly expressed their views, and IC publishes its minutes both on its web site and at the Peaks library.

The alternatives the city offered were vague promises to consider doing something.

But they missed the point and left all of the decision-making to the city. Peaks to the city’s bane, as a result, 56 percent of the islanders voted in favor of secession and self-government over the alternatives offered by the city.

The city spurned the election results, damning islanders did not know what they were voting for or did not mean what they said. This question was pretty clear. The city said no to the IC’s request for a vote, the IC failed to negotiate the terms of secession, so they could be included in the legislative bill all along. The city council opposed it, so the Portland city council will not join the negotiations. The two teams then met jointly to close this mediation session, and the mediator suggested that Jim Cohen and Sue Sugden consider meeting with the mediator to break the deadlock.

The next day, the IC proposed to the city a two-party plan of compromise and mediation. The city wrote back that they “would not negotiate privately, as this is a public issue.” The mediator then notified the parties of mediation rules, which included a non-mutual option to terminate the mediation, and the mediator reiterated this point this week in an email to both parties.

The Portland Press Herald congratulated the city for refusing to negotiate “privately” but added that “the result is still a failure of negotiation.” The mediator did not privately negotiate with the city council, but negotiations have not been suspended.

The IC has presented one showing that the city would actually make money if Peaks seceded, especially if they “regularized” certain services with Portland. The city denied the IC proposal as “unreasonable and unfair,” and finally agreed to the mediation.

At the day-long secession mediation session last month, the two legislatures presented their proposals, and the two teams did not seem to make progress.

In the end, the two teams did not make progress, but they did make progress toward the goal of a better understanding with the city’s behavior.

The city explicitly ignored the IC’s issues and “negotiated” with the SNS on their issues. Unfortunately, one after large public meeting ended with lists of problems covering the walls of the gym, working groups met but accomplished little.

Meanwhile, the IC announced and held regular public meetings for the first Thursday of each month at which all islanders, for or against secession, openly expressed their views, and IC publishes its minutes both on its web site and at the Peaks library.

The alternatives the city offered were vague promises to consider doing something.

But they missed the point and left all of the decision-making to the city. Peaks to the city’s bane, as a result, 56 percent of the islanders voted in favor of secession and self-government over the alternatives offered by the city. The city spurned the election results, damning islanders did not know what they were voting for or did not mean what they said. This question was pretty clear. The city said no to the IC’s request for a vote, the IC failed to negotiate the terms of secession, so they could be included in the legislative bill all along. The city council opposed it, so the Portland city council will not join the negotiations. The two teams then met jointly to close this mediation session, and the mediator suggested that Jim Cohen and Sue Sugden consider meeting with the mediator to break the deadlock.

The next day, the IC proposed to the city a two-party plan of compromise and mediation. The city wrote back that they “would not negotiate privately, as this is a public issue.” The mediator then notified the parties of mediation rules, which included a non-mutual option to terminate the mediation, and the mediator reiterated this point this week in an email to both parties.

The Portland Press Herald congratulated the city for refusing to negotiate “privately” but added that “the result is still a failure of negotiation.” The mediator did not privately negotiate with the city council, but negotiations have not been suspended.

The IC has presented one showing that the city would actually make money if Peaks seceded, especially if they “regularized” certain services with Portland. The city denied the IC proposal as “unreasonable and unfair,” and finally agreed to the mediation.

At the day-long secession mediation session last month, the two legislatures presented their proposals, and the two teams did not seem to make progress.

In the end, the two teams did not make progress, but they did make progress toward the goal of a better understanding with the city’s behavior.
ISLAND SERVICE DIRECTORY

Robin Carr
Licensed Massage Therapist
for an appointment call
207-766-2062 or 207-712-6512/cell

Peaks Island Health Center
Nancy L. Wright FNP

Robin Carr
L ct• c en5ma5e T hera5,151
for an awomtment caU .
2 onU- 2062 or
201 -112-6,01/tell

Romm~nshye
Photography
Victor Romanyshyn
Portraits, Wildlife, Landscapes, Still Life
Tel: 207-766-3387
Fax: 207-766-3146
vromany@maine.net

Peg's Pots, etc.
Pottery, Gifts, Ceramic classes and parties
Peg Astarita
www.pegspotsetc.com
51 Woods Road
Peaks Island, ME. 04108

New Construction
Renovation
Property Management
John Kiely
Carpenter
591 Island Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108
Fully Insured
(207) 766-2026
JKiely1@maine.rr.com

CARPENTER
FOR HIRE
30 Years in the Trade
Macey Orme
766.2380

H A ND D I G S
- Patios
- Stone Walls
- Walks
- Lawns

DON CROGER - 207.766.5525
FULLY INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES

PORTLAND SERVICE DIRECTORY

BOUCHER
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
NEW HOMES • REMODELING • ROOFING • SIDING
(207) 324-9069 Tel
(207) 205-206 Cell
488 Walker Road
Lyman, ME 04002

FREE DELIVERY
to the Boat

MICHAEL MCINTYRE
ELECTRICIAN
A call to me equals a call to you
749-4777

www.pondcovepaint.com
Back shore walks and friendship lead to book of poems

BY DAVID TILLY

Daily walks began the creative process.

The two friends met at the intersection of Pleasant and Trefethen avenues and walked for an hour along Peaks Island’s backshore.

They walked and talked, then began writing poetry. They swapped the poems back-and-forth and then decided to create a book.

Five years after those walks started, Peaks Island residents Carol Cartier and Sarah Goodman have published their second book, “Ferry Ride,” a collection of 50 poems, set up like the conversations they had on their walks.

Carol Cartier and Sarah Goodman will read from their book on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Peaks Island Library and on April 4 at a book-launching party at the Porthole Restaurant from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The poems are in groups of two, with Goodman’s on left-hand pages and Cartier’s on right-hand pages. It’s difficult to summarize their subjects, but the poems are precise observations of island nature and moments in daily life.

“It was an ongoing poem, a diary of our developing friendship,” said Cartier, er, about their writing. “It just grew and grew.

They first met six years ago when Goodman moved to Peaks Island. They began walking together, and then Cartier told Goodman about a dream that included some poetry. She encouraged her to write more.

Goodman grew up with poetry. Her mother, Miriam Goodman, has two books published by Alice James Books. When Cartier started sharing her poems, Goodman’s interest in writing poetry “got me interested in it again and I wanted to share poetry again.”

Goodman began work on a handmade poetry volume, “A City Around the Fire.” Each poem in this volume, of which there are only 19, was named after a month. Her partner, illustrator Tim Nihoff, helped make this book.

Cartier began filling volumes with her poems. “The act of writing is pure joy and pure pleasure,” she said.

And the walks were part of the process. “We would talk about all kinds of things in life—there is an ease and an intimacy,” she said. “We gave each other the freedom to do what we wanted this would’ve been a secret journal that would be on my bookshelf.

She said her first published poem, “Hangover Day,” that appeared in The Cafe Review in 2004, was actually sent by Goodman, as a birthday present.

Cartier also slipped a poem into the classifieds at the Islander, Uncle Henry’s. She set it up like a used car ad, but old lady was a poem. She tried it again, the magazine caught, and told her they didn’t publish poetry. In 2006, Cartier won the Portland Library’s poetry contest.

Goodman designs T-shirts and is freelance photo stylist. She’s also a member of the Gem Gallery and does miniature paintings in acrylics and assemblages with Found Object.

Goodman edits social studies texts for middle and high school students for McDougal Littell, a division of Houghton Mifflin, in Boston. When the decided to create the book, they set down 100 poems each, but realized they wouldn’t have to cut from that group. The poems were not originally written in pairs; that format evolved during the selection process. “It turned into that in a natural and organic way,” said Cartier.

Goodman said her partner, Nihoff, did a tremendous amount of work designing “Ferry Ride.” She said they chose the title “Ferry Ride because there is much in the metaphor of a ferry,” said Goodman. She works two days a week in Boston, and the rest of the time on Peaks, so does commute regularly.

“The thing that made it seem right as a book is it is a ride. You’re either going to work or going away from work or going to escape or you’re going to get somewhere,”

Goodman enjoys her rides on the ferry. She refers to this poem and I am amazed at what I see. I always look at what the weather is doing and what the sky is doing. I feel like my senses are awakened when I am out there.”

“Ferry Ride: Poems Between Carol Cartier and Sarah Goodman” is available at Longellow Books in Portland by e-mailing Goodman at smgoodman@gmail.com.

Sarah Goodman
to do. There was never an editing thing regarding to criticising each other. It was only just encouragement to keep it going.

Cartier welcomed her friend’s encouragement. “If it weren’t for Sarah, I wouldn’t have published the poems.”

Captive Poetry Press founded in 2004, was actually sent by Goodman in 2004, was actually sent by Goodman.

Grace
Two gulls in seven inches of snow, seven inches in the sun form two octaves’ worth of major chords. Even the evergreens have doubles. Each puckered up Queen Anne’s lace lifts a snowball.

On the beach, we dig in for winter, watch two seagulls cannonball into shadows.

Sarah Goodman

Carole Cartier

Community Notes

Art benefits cancer center

A portion of sales from an art opening of works by Peaks Island artists at the Gem Gallery will benefit the Cancer Community Center of South Portland. The Gem Gallery will be open on weekend afternoons, on Feb. 10 and 11 from 12 to 5 p.m. For more information contact, The Gem Gallery, 62 Island Avenue, Peaks Island, 766-5280 or Cancer Community Center, 877-774-2200, www.canocc.org.

Valentine luncheon at Peaks Island School

All seniors citizens are invited to attend a Valentine’s Day Luncheon with students and staff on Wednesday, February 14 at 11:30 a.m. in the Peaks Island School gym. Lunch will include turkey sandwich, carrot sticks and dip, pineapple dois, and milk, as well as salads and desserts provided by the school staff and PTO.

Fundraiser at Flatbread

The Peaks Island Children’s Workshop will hold a fundraiser night hosted by Flatbread Company in Portland on Feb., Feb. 14 from 5-9 pm. A portion of the proceeds from that evening will go to support the programs of the workshop.

PIFA hosts winter carnival

Are you ready to beat the winter blues by adding some fun to your life? An old fashioned, full-fledged Winter Carnival is coming to Peaks Island during February vacation week, February 18-25. Peaks Island Tax Assistance started the ball rolling and we have other Peaks Island students, who have been scheduling throughout the week including a toboggan run from Linden Avenue (off Tidewater Road) to daytime activities for kids. Look for fliers and updates as the dates approach. We will be having a snowman competition on Sunday February 18 and Monday, February 19. Call Jane at 766-8594 or 766-4067 to have your snowman judged.

Sunday, February 18: Dinner with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Legion with a Wacky Tacky Auction, Dinner at 4:30 p.m., $10 per person to benefit The Auxiliary Scholarship Fund. The auction will benefit PITA, join us at the American Legion for a night of good food and fun.

Monday, February 19: “Skiing on an Island Bend,” Jane and Sid Gerard and Carla Jeff Robbins will be serving hot dogs, chips and cocoa at 5:30 p.m. at the Ice Pond on Snail Road near Exit One.

Tuesday evening–an original musical, “The Toonoomom,” by Bonda Dale and Kevin Arta at the Brackett Memorial Church to benefit Brackett Church at 7:30 p.m., adults $5, children under 12 free.

Wednesday, Feb. 21: Sports evening–cvd volleyball at the school gym starting at 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 22: Storyteller Bill Hinderer and a dance show with Skipper and Debbie’s smoke shop at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. No change. Family Dance. Dinner at the Peaks Island Baptist Church to benefit PITA. The supper begins at 5 p.m. and runs until 7. Adults, $5 and children under 12 free.

Friday, February 23: Music at the Inn with Pam Gardiner and Mike Richards sponsored by JOC. Let these wonderful musicians. Cover charge to the door.

Saturday, February 24: Winter Carnival Dance sponsored by PITA, 7-11 p.m, $10 per person. Home of dancing and voting to your favorite CDs. Please note that City of Portland Property Tax Bills are out, and Peaks Island Tax Assistance is prepared to assist homeowners with tax payments. If you need tax assistance, please pick up a form at the Peaks Island Library, Fuel Center, or Peaks Island Cafe. There will be an application as an insert in the February Island Times. Instructions for applying are included with all applications which must be received on or before February 21st.

HOMETOWN happenings

HOMETOWN, an organization of Island residents for affordable housing, has been energized recently defining and outlining possible affordable housing projects. The optimistic five-year goal of HOMETOWN is to provide ten housing units that would stay as affordable housing in our community. This would enable people of moderate means to own homes thereby allowing them to continue staying and working in our community.

Besides working on funding and assessing available properties that would suit the needs of affordable housing, the group is looking for those people who would like to become pre-qualified as buyers of those properties. To be considered, please call Bar...

Please see COMMUNITY NOTES, page 3.