Chebeague seeks employees for new town

BY DAVID TYLER
When one candidate for the Town of Chebeague's full-time administrator position was picked up at the ferry, he was surprised at his chauffeur.

"I couldn't believe it when I realized it was Nothing Doughy, the chauffeur," the candidate said, according to Donna Damon, chair of the Governmental Structure Subcommittee on Chebeague Island. He heard Doughy, one of the first secession representatives, when National Public Radio did a story on Chebeague's secession movement and was thrilled to meet her in person.

Several candidates for town administrator were given tours of Chebeague Island on April 1, as the Transition Committee for the Town of Chebeague works to interview candidates for jobs in the new town.

On July 1, Chebeague Island leaves Cumberland to become its own town, and The Transition Committee will be meeting in person.

Maine State Capitol

Peaks Islanders take their fight for secession to the State House

BY DAVID TYLER
The debate over Peaks Island's independence from the City of Portland now moves to the State Legislature, as the bill filed by secession supporters goes for a hearing in front of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

The Peaks' bill, L.D. 1703, is scheduled to be heard by the committee on April 30, at 9 a.m. in Room 216 of the Cross State Office Building.

The bill includes a provision for another referendum for Peaks Island voters, after an agreement or arbitration of debts and assets between the City of Portland and the island.

It recommends a Town Meeting form of government. It also includes a provision for binding arbitration if the City and Peak cannot reach agreement on secession by Jan. 1, 2008. The bill is sponsored by State Sen. Christine Savage (R-Kennebunk).

Excerpts from the Peaks secession bill

The following are excerpts from L.D. 1703, "An Act To Authorize Peaks Island, House Island, Pumphkin Knob and Catnip Island To Secede from the City of Portland."

"...the people of Peaks Island, House Island, Pumphkin Knob and Catnip Island now seeks to secede from the City of Portland and to incorporate into a separate town by the name of the Town of Peaks Island, House Island, Pumphkin Knob, Catnip Island and the surrounding waters, referred to in this Act as 'the Peaks Island'..."
In Brief

Pier proposals at PINA
The two groups that the City of Portland is considering to develop the Maine State Pier will each make a presentation at the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association at 7:30 p.m. on April 17, at the Peaks Island Community Center. The chance to make the proposals on Peaks was made by the developers, according to Don Webster, President of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association (PINA). "It definitely affects our front door," said Webster. "And very clearly, if they mess it up, we're going to be in trouble."

Ocean Properties Ltd. and The Olympia Companies are the two groups vying to develop the seven-acre parcel. The parcel includes the section that is not occupied by Casco Bay Lines and Compass Park, where BIW was once located.

Ocean Properties plans to spend $50 million on its proposal, building a complex that includes ferry service to other Maine communities, an office building, a parking garage, restaurants, and art gallery and a new public fishing area. For more information go to the companies' Web sites: www.oceanstatepier.com.

The Olympia Companies' proposal includes a village at the end of the pier and a two-acre park. It also includes a hotel. For more information on this plan, go to: www.theolympiacompanies.com.

The proposals are being reviewed by the Portland City Council's Community Development Committee. -David Tyler

Island storyteller performs at Vietnam Memorial
Peaks Island storyteller Bill Hindere will be performing at the Vietnam Veteran's War Memorial in Washington, D.C. on April 13 and on April 14 in conjunction with the Cherry Blossom Festival.

These stories by a combat veteran of the Vietnam War transcend the "war story" genre by reaching out to everyone by exploring the deep emotional and spiritual lives of men and women who served in the military. Using the themes of family, love, and enlightenment these stories honor both those who are forever named on the memorial, and all of those who served in the Vietnam War.

Bill Hindere's stories also honor the families of soldiers who suffered fear for loved ones in combat and they recognize the harassment and abuse families have suffered for having a loved one serving in Vietnam. These stories will be part of the National Park Service's guided tour of the Vietnam Memorial. Tours are held at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and at 5 p.m. This is the first time a storyteller has been part of the tour.

Casco Bay friends top million mark
A capital campaign to sustain the work of the Casco Bay Baykeeper, of the Friends of Casco Bay, has now raised over $1 million, according to Mary M. Ciervalo, the group's associate director, in a March release.

"Thanks to pledges received and investment management by the Maine Community Foundation, the value of the group's endorsement was $1,053,201 as of the end of last year.

"Attaining a $1 million endowment helps to ensure there will be a Baykeeper in Casco Bay for many years to come. This is a great moment," said Portland Attorney Nicholas Walsh, who was President of the organization during the capital campaign.

"Endowing the Baykeeper Program and the Casco Baykeeper position it supports was fundamental to our ability to respond to the ever-emerging issues that threaten the health of Casco Bay," said Cathy Ramsdell, the group's executive director. "Maine Community Foundation has done an outstanding job investing and managing this fund for us, and each year we receive a transfer from the fund to support the Baykeeper Program. This frees us up to raise revenue for other programs in water quality research and public outreach. We are most grateful to the donors who supported this effort." -David Tyler

Waterfront money part of bond deal
Gov. John Baldacci and the State Legislature's Appropriations Committee came up with a nearly $400 million package of bonds that includes a $15 million bond for the Land For Maine's Future program, which matches private donations to protect farms, forests and open space. Included in the $35 million bond is $3 million to help protect the state's working waterfront. If passed by the full legislature, it would go to the voters this November.

If passed, the $3 million would continue the Department of Marine Resource's Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program, which distributed $13 million in matching grants to purchase working waterfront property, according to a release from the island Institute.

"Interest in the pilot program was far greater than the amount of funds available," said Jennifer Litref, Marine and Working Waterfront Program Manager at the Island Institute, "so we are pleased that the Appropriations Committee showed such strong bipartisan support for the program at an increased level of funding."

Island Institute research shows that fewer than 20 miles of the state's 5,000-mile-long coastline remains available to support those who rely on access to the water for fishing-related jobs.

-Bill de Vries

Baykeeper Joe Payne, of the Friends of Casco Bay, takes a water sample in the bay.

Bring some of the island home

Take a Peak

Old Port Wine Merchants.
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In April and May

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Old Port Wine Merchants.
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342 Fore Street Portland, Maine 04101
One block from The Portland Harbor Hotel.

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12 noon to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday

NEWS BRIEFS, from page 3

Jurisdiction of the Board or Harbor Commission

April 2007

completi o n of agreement or arbitration of

arrows, removal of own of Peaks Island from
to permit its submission to ultimate voices of the
terred vote within the Peaks Island territory of a public meeting to select its transfer representatives by written ballot.

The island commissioners have indicated that the transition is necessary so that the Peaks Island territory and the City of Portland can then proceed in the negotiation of debts and assets between the Peaks Island territory and the City of Portland in Part B of the agreement. The meeting is to be held on Tuesday, June 19.

The city clerk of the City of Portland will prepare the required ballots on which the subject matter of this Act must be reduced to the following question: "Do you favor the separation of Peaks Island, House Island, Pumpkin Knob and Crab Island and the establishment of the entity or corporation as a separate town?"
The referendum election must be held in accordance with the provisions of the State, excluding only those voting in the Peaks Island territory and the City of Portland territory as a separate town?

The referendum election must be held immediately after the election, the transition representation selected at the meeting are voted with the powers to represent the City of Peaks Island and to enter into letters of intent and memoranda of understanding for the establishment of its local government, to negotiate interlocal agreements and to engage in other necessary transactions. Any agreement made by the transition representatives must be presented for ratification by the Town of Peaks Island and a relative body authority for the corporation of the Town of Peaks Island ... (Deleted paragraph that follows states that notice of a public meeting to transact business of the board of commissioners will be posted 30 days prior to July 1, 2009).

Area C. Form of government. If a

majority of those voting under section 2 approve the question, the Town of Peaks Island will be incorporated and separated from the City of Portland, which will assume its jurisdictions and duties.

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majority of those voting under section 2 approve the question, the Town of Peaks Island will be incorporated and separated from the City of Portland, which will assume its jurisdictions and duties.

S E C. Allocation of debts and assets. If the Town of Peaks Island is incorporated and is separated from the City of Portland on June 25, 2009, the city clerk of the City of Portland shall proceed to sum up the debts and assets.

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Peaks s e cession bill debated

BY MICHAEL RICHARDS

In accordance with the secession statute, the Island Independence Committee has prepared the necessary legislation which would provide for the establishment of the Town of Peaks Island, but only after careful consideration and experience after the financial terms have been determined. Following the careful examination of the financial terms and experience of islanders and citizens of Peaks Island's independence, the island majority clearly leans toward self-government.

Accordingly, the IC will ask the Legislature and the State and Local Government Committee to refer to conference passage of the bill. They need islanders to speak at the hearing on the bill on Monday, April 20, beginning at 9 a.m. in Augusta.

On Peaks Island, the demographics, Peaks Island has changed rapidly, primarily at the hands of Portland, which has tried to dictate the economic future of Peaks Island. Three years ago, Portland's Assistant City Manager came to Peaks Island and pointedly threatened to close the Peaks Island Elementary School if the Peaks Island tax cap referendum passed, saying it was a "threat to the health and future of Peaks Island." He later said he would not close the school if the referendum passed, but would continue the threat. It has made permanent changes on the island, closing one primary school and the elementary school.

Two years ago, the city redesigned its fire department, Peaks Island has 13 of its 26 firefighters coming from off-island, including firefighters from other cities. In the last 15 years, Peaks Island has had a spectacular growth in population, with an increase of 600% over the last 15 years.

The various tax-abatement, circuit-breaker and other remedial efforts have been insufficient to undo the damage to the island that has resulted. Furthermore, the island's business community has been thwarted by the new administration's economic strategy, which is the result of the city's own decision.

The IC has prepared a budget that will be submitted for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The budget has been prepared carefully and presented to the IC's deliberations. The budget has been prepared with careful attention to detail and has been carefully reviewed by the IC.

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Letters to the editor

IslandViews

Island jeopardy

The only thing that Peaks Islanders agree upon is that the vital energy of our community is being drained along with its resources because of the secession debate. We are approaching $70,000 in lobbying fees, the staggering cost of a single issue, and we face a potential $150,000 in legal fees. This was not a TV game; it could begin in two years from now the commoner. If you were unable to attend the meeting about the information presented, I would ask that you sign a petition for the office of the Secretary of State. peaks.island

SECTOIN

Self-government is the right path

On March 24, the Island Independence Committee, the town council, the school district, and the library board held a meeting to discuss the future of Peaks Island as an independent city. The meeting was attended by more than 100 residents of Peaks Island, many of whom were parents of school children. The discussion centered around the issue of whether Peaks Island should become an independent city or continue to be a part of Portland. The meeting was lively and informative, with many residents expressing their thoughts and concerns on the matter. The meeting ended with a vote to allow the Island Independence Committee to continue their work and pursue the possibility of Peaks Island becoming an independent city.

Scession by manipulation

Why have the secessionists been so careful in their manipulation of the community? Why so careful to exclude the voting participation of those of us who are born, but are not currently living on Peaks? Our lives are certainly severely impacted by the obvious wisdom of a path to secede. This is truly a secession attempt by manipulation, without representation. What are the secessionists afraid of? We, like George Ross, did sign the original secession petition, as an act of fairness in bringing the subject up for discussion. This was to start the process of accosting the neighbors, asking the question.

I was a contestant on the TV’s Jeopardy show called Island Jeopardy, hosted by a character resembling Thomas Rain. After remaining one of my “unanswerable and indefensible rights” and my “guarantee of safety and happiness,” he started, “If the answer to the above question was yes, I pushed the answer button. Our Excellent Peaks Island School, where we have hardworking, dedicated professionals, backed up by many resources should be replaced through what? SECESSION WRIGHT.

Our firemen and triple-trusted police officers able to respond to emergencies within 5 to 10 minutes should be replaced through what? SECESSION WRIGHT.

Our public works professionals, operating at peak efficiency, would be reorganized through what? SECESSION WRIGHT.

Our efficient branch library would be recreated through what? SECESSION WRIGHT.

A 75 percent increase in sewerage fees should be eliminated through what? SECESSION WRIGHT.

In my dream I was unable to ask any question. Our entire system was to be replaced through secession. This made me feel sad and defeated.

Upon waking, I suddenly realized that secession was not in the least bit better thought out, and in position, changing the current work that really would be. It is quite another thing to actually represent our vote for merely having a fair discussion, while excluding us as not current residents, from voting, in fact, on what so severely impacts our future on Peaks.

In the meantime, we have thrown our support to the fairer better thought out, and thorough, position advanced by Solutions NOT SECESSION. Let us not be misled into thinking that the space and the workers under contract and overstressing the functional volunteer energy to sustain secession. Your energy and enthusiasm will result in the time when you try to govern them in the abdicated town government. Remember the Bainbridge.

We shall be contacting all the legislators to clarify our original support for discussion, but absolutely not for this manipulation by the secessionists. We urge you to continue to resist secession.

Peaks Island and Lexington, Mass.

Exploring sharing of education services

Recently Governor John Baldacci's education regionalization plan and other similar proposals caused the debate in the legislature on the sharing of education services across traditional town boundaries. All Maine islands and the people who live on them are anxiously awaiting some resolution to an important matter. It seems that the legislature this year will adopt some regional plan that will start the process of combining school districts. When Peaks becomes a town, many islanders believe that we would want to maintain some level of local control on island school. The debate in Augusta indicates that islands would be considered unique in any consolidation plan. Hopefully, when some bill passes, it would allow an island to maintain local control of their schools, and allow them to form mutually beneficial agreements that would describe how the sharing of services would occur. For example, Peaks Island most likely will share a superintendent and other district services.

Peaks Islanders who favor independence have worked hard to establish the beginning of these agreements.

We have already received from Long Island and Falmouth letters of memorandum which indicate their willingness to discuss this sharing of education services. We have received from Portland a similar letter of memorandum from them to the IIC. Unfortunately the Portland City Council did not respond. Please send a copy of this letter to the IIC through the Portland superintendent to begin any discussions with the IIC about sharing school services when we become independent.

The IIC is confident that our bill will pass the legislature. We have 18 sponsors of our bill including the majority leader of the House of Representatives. After passage, our bill stipulates that a transitional team will be chosen on Peaks Island to explore all components of our new town government. A key part of those transitional plans will be to develop sharing agreements with other towns.

Mike Laugher, Education Committee Chair, Island Independence Committee, Peaks Island

Library is neutral territory

Peaks Island Library, what a great place! If there are you just to pick up a copy of The Maine Sunday Telegram, or doing serious research, you find people all ages enjoying themselves. The Portland Public Library (PPL) has basically provided a library that we are all proud of. One of the few things that would make it better is that it could be bigger. Now, what will happen to our library if we become an independent town? There is only one answer to that, and that is the Town of Peaks Island will continue the equivalent basis.

First some background of the PPL, which is a separate and distinct nonprofit corporation. The charter for the library was established by the Maine Legislature in 1867. The charter has been amended several times, once in 1899 which established the Board of Trustees. They were given the explicit power allows for the operation of their business.

The City of Portland assists the PPL by providing funding for library space and the workers. The PPL, Board of Trustees sets its own budget each year. The PPL does not take its business direction from the City of Portland or the Town of Peaks Island.

The independent Town of Peaks Island would first establish negotiations with the PPL for the opportunity to reach an agreement on financial and procedural issues for the Peaks Island Branch. The Town of Peaks Island would enter into this negotiation of the library as we have it today. The charter of PPL can be amended to make our library a legal branch of the PPL.

Should that agreement with PPL not be found, the Town of Peaks Island will begin the process of setting up its own independent free municipal public library, as did Long Island and most of the other round islands of Maine.

By Lynn Richard

Last April, I asked for people to give me a call if they heard wood frog calls or observed migrating salamanders.

On April 1, Jamie Hogan called to say that while out walking her dog she had seen a strange-looking brightly thing ambling down the road. I quickly ran outside to check, and sure enough there was a yellow-spotted salamander migrating across the road. I found them on Island Avenue, near Pleasant, on Seashore, and near the Blackman's Farm pond near Reserve.

In fact, at Blackman's, I was able to watch a display called "congressing"—where dozens and dozens of the salamanders meet and greet in the assembly meeting. Thanks so much to Jamie, as the timing to see "Big Night" is tricky; the next night there wasn't a sign of a salamander anywhere!

A couple of weeks later, I observed many egg masses in the little pond between the Ice Pond and Spar Cove—where the "no parking" sign is. One egg mass was attached to the signpost, and please see SALAMANDER, page 19

Births

Mabel Sophia Tyler was born at 6 p.m. on March 19, 2007 to Dr. Laura Tank and David Tyler at the Portland Bay Medical Center in South Portland. She weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 20 3/4 inches long. Her grandparents are George and Jacqueline Lafooz of Woonsocket, R.I., and Anthony Tyler of Portland, N.Y. Her great-grandparents are Mabel and Sanford Dougherty of Chebeague Island. She is named in honor of her grandmother, Mabel Dougherty.

There are a number of agencies through the Maine State Library that we can use to do this. The most prominent is the Southern Maine Library District, whose base of operations is the PPL. Also, the PPL issues library cards to all residents of Cumberland, York and some Town in Oxford County. So we can still keep our PPL cards.

Through these agencies and foundations and trusts we can replicate the services we have today, and since the Town of Peaks Island would have control we could make improvements as we see fit.

The Peaks Island Library is neutral territory, along with the school, children’s workshops, medical center and others. They exist today and will continue to exist in the Town of Peaks Island. No one should say or believe that they will not.

David Adams, Peaks Island

Get ready for salamanders’ bright night

Publishers: Mary Lou Wendell/David Tyler

Members of the New England Press Association

The Islands Times is a community newspaper covering the islands in Casco Bay. We welcome birth, engagement and wedding announcements, obituaries, notices of community events and letters to the editor. Please send typewritten letters or 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit all letters. The newspaper is available by mail for $20 a year. Address checks to Islands Times. Our mailing address is 166 Ledgewood Rd., Peaks Island, Maine 04108. To reach Mary Lou Wendell, call 777-0893, to reach David Tyler, call 772-3100. Our e-mail address is islands@mainet.com. For ad rates, call 272-2800.

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Bay garage—finding the car. There are as many memory-jogging systems as there are parkers. Recorders, diagrams on refrigerators, Zen, meditation notes on skin have all been tried, yet the march of the searchers goes on.

The closest anyone has come to a reliable solution was, in one case, turning the problem over to the family dog. This particular pet prodigy was first taught to bark to five and then to designate left or right by raising its paw. A special treat is used for the sole purpose of triggering the location of the car—two pops, right paw, meant second. Copied from recipes from the "Feral Cat Diet Plan" were sent around. These usually required good-natured begging and borrowing.

Hot homemade pizza with leftover hamburger, a venerable oak half lay in giant sawn logs. The demand for clothing worn in civil uprisings and at disco raves. The ticket seller may assess a threatening-and-abetting-dog-in-vehicle fine. As for the segregated people part of all this, for example, one foot in the street, the other on the curb, we must wait until summer when the embarking and disembarking heroes take to the street.

It is now okay to be poverty stricken.

The new island chic is thrift store stuff. Hand me downs are up. High or low, it is important to say something like "Oh, this I picked it up for practically nothing at Goodwill." Unprocessed (unwashed) goods are at a premium. Just as worn, torn jeans once were high-end merchandise. Grains are in. Imports fresh from Asian rice paddies and the steppes of Mongolia are certified to bear the fragrance of the country of origin. There is demand for clothing worn in civil uprisings and at disco raves. I saw a tuxedo coat with what appeared to be a bullet hole. Watch for this trend as our summer folk drift in.

Mainland parking is a problem. Worse still, once parked—say, in the Casco Bay garage—finding the car. There are as many memory-jogging systems as there are parkers. Recorders, diagrams on refrigerators, Zen, meditation notes on skin have all been tried, yet the march of the searchers goes on.

The closest anyone has come to a reliable solution was, in one case, turning the problem over to the family dog. This particular pet prodigy was first taught to bark to five and then to designate left or right by raising its paw. A special treat is used for the sole purpose of triggering the location of the car—two pops, right paw, meant second. Copied from recipes from the "Feral Cat Diet Plan" were sent around. These usually required good-natured begging and borrowing.

Deer, sensing a lack of protein in the island chic lifestyle, occasionally used to be a bullet hole. Watch for this trend as our summer folk drift in.

Happy Easter!
The uncommon ladies of the Island Commons

BY DI-COLBERT

Midway between the east and west ends of Chebeague, lies the Island Commons, a handsome assisted living facility that is home to seven rather extraordinary ladies. They are nurses, artists, a musician, a dancer, a postmaster, a seamstress and all are mothers and grandmothers who rich histories.

Nicki Wheldon was an Army nurse who took care of American soldiers in World War II when she was stationed in Berlin. She was also part of the takeover of one of Hitler's mother hospitals. She is an avid reader, loves a good game of bridge and enjoys visiting with her friend.

Bertha Gray was a registered nurse, a housewoman, and mother to her Navy family as they moved from place to place and when she was stationed in Berlin. She was also a part of the takeover of one of Hitler's mother hospitals. She is an avid reader, loves a good game of bridge and enjoys visiting with her friend.

Barbara Guilfoil also took care of our soldiers as a member of the first post-war class.

Minnie MacNeil was also born on the island and is an artist. She loves the colors of flowers and began crocheting her flower designs into squares and just kept going until they became afghans. Her recipe for success, do all your work piece by piece.

Eleanor Moore came to Chebeague as a summer person who brought along her love of music and dedication to community service. She directed the church choir, gave piano lessons, sang with the women's cappella group, the Whalers and taught Sunday School. Despite their individual accomplishments, these ladies of the Island Commons do not rest on their laurels; they are into everything. They read and write poetry, attend interactive lectures, play bridge and dominoes, contribute their crafts to the church at Christmas, invite the island children in to play games and usher in the seasons by decorating their home.

And you will also see them on the road again and again as they attend church, stilt figure drawing, and plays, fairs and concerts at the Island Hall.

A month at the commons

Shirley Burgess was born on Chebeague Island. And so the island is the subject of much of her artwork which includes painting, carving and quilting. She has donated quilts to the Island Institute, the Historical Society and the Island Hall. Shirley was the island postmaster for 22 years.

Mantie MacNeil was also born on the island and is an artist. She loves the colors of flowers and began crocheting her flower designs into squares and just kept going until they became afghans. Her recipe for success, do all your work piece by piece.

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Cliff Island News

BY LEO CARTER

Early February on Cliff is usually an icy time, with snow drift blowing by and the road frozen solid.

This year was no exception, but it was still a joy to put on the cross-country skis, and slide and glide to the post office.

There were no encounters with "road rage" islanders about adapting to the winter island weather. There is also a desire to find a warm place with a little bit more sunshine.

By the middle of the month, the channel between Cliff and Falmouth was too compelling to resist. Alice and I headed to Falmouth a day early hoping to avoid being caught by winter storms before flying south. This did not save us from the winter travel horrors which inevitably follow massive flight delays and cancellations caused by icy conditions across the country.

We were given a choice of waiting in Boston for an undefined period, or going to Portland and taking a ferry to reach our destination. We chose the later option.

From that point on we savored every successful connection and shrugged off the short delays. In spite of the ice, we managed to reach our son's home, which is a few miles out on the edge of an Atlantic cove filled with small fishing boats.

We enjoyed comparing Sao Miguel, this coastal village in southern Brazil, with our own Cliff Island. There are similarities, like the communal effort of hauling boats, the obvious skill in maneuvering boats, and the handling of nets and equipment in a practical and yet careful way. It seemed a preview of our Cliff summer to see the early departure from the cove of a few but a few of the colorful, wooden, 20-foot shrimp boats, and see them return randomly, with the sound of put-put motors barely audible. Here and there, we could see the very fine white nets drying near the dirt roads which faced the little town of Sao Miguel.

On the weekend, we wandered the countryside where native cheeses, small wineries and leather goods combined with ocean beaches and fabulous little eating places, where shrimp, oysters, octopus and a wonderful selection of fish complemented the always-popular beef and pork. The roads outside our little town were very modern, although the array of vehicles included many more motorcycles and bicycles than we are used to seeing on mainland roads. There were even a few donkey carts. Occasionally, on the road we encountered mom, dad and the kids on one bicycle. There's a will there's a way! A visit to the shipyard, where our son works, revealed hundreds of bicycles and motorcycles, and less than a dozen cars and trucks.

It is tempting to compare places, but a mainland fishing village in southern Brazil is quite different from an island fishing community in Maine. Cliff Island is more isolated, and much quieter. Sao Miguel has a large influx of weekend visitors who love noise and stay on the streets way after dark.

Several young children can be seen walking the streets well after sundown. We visited one fisherman's night spot where his two early teenage daughters managed the operation, while their only slightly older brother manned the kitchen. Father was at sea for 10 days on a larger ship, and mother was at home. They seemed to handle the responsibility with ease.

Another difference between this small village south of the equator and our little northern island is the availability of a wonderful restaurant: People entering the place all knew each other, and we got to meet the doctor, the lawyer, the mayor and of course the owner and his wife.

The owner and chef, Scarfim, was introduced to us by our son as "the greatest chef in Brazil," and the meal of salad, fish, rice, and potatoes only enhanced his reputation.

It is said that there is no place like home, but it is also true that every place has its unique gifts to offer. New places show us good ideas to improve our own. We see again that people are very much alike wherever we go. Being a "guest" is always a privilege that we appreciate.

Nevertheless, we are glad to be home again, and plan to be enjoying spring on Cliff Island.

Kelly Hanson is the principal of Peaks Island and Cliff Island Schools.
New island trails director drawn to Maine coast from boyhood

**By David Tyler**

When Doug Welch was a boy, his family traveled from their home near Lake Erie to Peaks Island, off of Portland, Bay along the Damariscotta River.

"Those early experiences really shaped me as a person," said Welch. "It also influenced my interest in conservation."

Now, Welch has become executive director of an organization, the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) and will oversee the education plan for the Town of Peaks Island.

Welch was vice president of Youth Alternatives in Boston before he joined MITA as its director. Welch has always had a love for the Maine coast. He and his wife, Caitlin Guthrie, who works as a health care administrator at Bowdoin College, and their seven-year-old daughter, Genevieve, moved to Portland in 2009.

Before he arrived in Maine, Welch worked for five years at the Maine Island Alliance that helps people enjoy and use the Boston Harbor Islands National Park. His last post was as director of operations, a position he valued for its business development.

In Boston, the islands had been used and abused for over 400 years, used for dumps, a wastewater treatment plant and prisons. Before the harbor was cleaned up, these lands could be appreciated.

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New Island Trails director drawn to Maine coast from boyhood

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ISLAND TIMES

April 2007

Star Gazing

BY MIKE RICHARDS

By federal fiat, Easter Daylight Time came three weeks early this year, bringing back an hour's darkness to our mornings. Weekdays when the clock alarm grates at 5 a.m., I groan but then remember, "Jupiter is up!" I stumble to our southern window and look up through wisps of haze through the great white world a half mile from ours. It's often hidden by Maine's springtime clouds, but tonight it's the brightest object in the pre-dawn sky (unless the moon washes them out). NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, on its way to Pluto, just past this evening giant and used its mighty gravity to sling the small craft forward at nearly 50,000 miles per hour. As it passed we got two million miles of Jupiter shots. The photos of the Little Red Planet look and radiate them back to Earth.

Everything else, including the Little Blue Planet, is optimally left out of the water. Those probably didn't survive, but there were many more so I'm sure there's a healthy population of salamanders in that area.

After the eggs hatch and the juveniles grow out of their aquatic stage, they move to nearby upland habitat. Yellow-spotted (Ambystoma maculatum) are "mole salamanders," named for their light-colored, unpigmented appearance. They're considered to be overwintering. Spring migration, often called "Big Night", can only occur after the snow is melted, whereas there was a saturating rain, and when nighttime temperatures dropped to freezing.

I haven't seen wood frogs on the island. I've heard that egg cases were uncovered in the spring by humans, along with salamanders; they, too, overwinter in the ice.
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Long Island gallery brings out the artist in everyone

BY DAVID TALER

If you’re an Islander with an artistic bent, your work could be exhibited in the Long Island Dowd Gallery.

A major goal of the gallery, which held its first show in July 2004, is to give people who do not consider themselves artists a chance to have their work displayed.

“It has given artists an opportunity they might not have had, or even looked into,” said Long Island resident and artist, Maggie Carle, a volunteer who runs the gallery. “Most of the artists are not professional artists,” she said. “Most of them work in the field, but they’ve sought a place to exhibit their art.”

Maggie sees artists all over Long Island, and as an arts educator, she passionately believes that everyone has artistic ability. “The wide range of people displaying in the gallery also means that Islanders learn new things about each other,” she said.

Along with many of them not considering themselves as artists, there is the element of other members of the community not realizing that this talent was one of them. “We’ve seen the variety of acknowledging and learning something new about somebody already amongst our other, your grandmother or your next-door neighbor.”

The Dowd Gallery is part of the expanded and renovated Long Island Community Library. Work is displayed along a wall opposite a bank of windows, which have built-in ultraviolet light protection to help preserve the art. It was named in honor of Long Island artists James and Shirley Dowdwell, who were shown in the gallery’s first exhibit in 2004. Since then, there have been 13 exhibits featuring the work of over 60 artists, mostly from Long Island. Maggie said, although artists from Chebeague, Greater Gdilland, and Peaks islands have also had work displayed.

Usually the shows have a theme. Last summer’s show was art about sex, but it was arranged that way. It was arranged so that you were walking around Long Island. Maggie said. The current show, “Artists’ Choice” is, she said, “the only show where the artists choose to display art they consider their best work.”

Maggie said that they’ll be running through April 20. The artists’ work includes 3-D paintings, which can be starring in movies and in windows and shower doors.

She enjoys her work at the gallery, and said it is often an eye-opener for people in public builds the artists confidence. You can learn to see in a different way. She noted that she has also had the opportunity to meet some interesting artists, “One of them is an artist from New York City who makes such a difference for an artist to have their work on a public wall. More than anything it is an artist’s vision. And unless somebody out there oaks and oaks once in a while, it’s almost impossible to show.”

“It’s all about creating a sense of positive feedback for something you have done, whether you’re doing it as a paid professional, or whether you’re doing it just because you love doing it.”

Community Notes

PITA helps with March taxes

In March, Peaks Islanders paid another set of property taxes to Portland, and those islanders who needed assistance were able to receive help from Peaks Island Tax Assistance. Once again our clergy helped us to answer our taxes. We begin work in May 2007, paid out $14,622 as a tax assistance to over 500 people and friends of the community. Our goal of helping to keep our neighbors on Peaks is coming to fruition. And we do intend to continue working neighbors discussing their neighbors.

Since 2001, PITA has raised $22,757 through our fundraising efforts, through events sponsored by various island groups on our behalf, and contributions from year-round and summer volunteers. We feel very fortunate to be on the receiving end of such generosity.

The community is very pleased to have received $500 ($100 non-profit status which matches our fundraising efforts and charitable contributions. If you wish to contribute, please send donations to: PITA, 50 Carlin Street, Peaks Island, ME 04101.

Now that a new fundraising season is beginning, we are hoping that new people will join our constituency. We could use more people to join our mailing list. See us at the Boothbay Regional Library, call Cynthia Peddiekin, 786-6067 to join.

Boat show opens at Gem Gallery

The Gem Gallery will host a variety of events in the month of April. “The Boothbay Regional Library is sponsoring a number of events, including a day of music and island musicians will be scheduled for Thursday, April 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. Celebrate island authors on Thursday, April 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. Books will be available for sale.

On Sunday, April 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. Louise Will show children how to make a knot friendship bracelet and on the following Sunday, April 22, from 1 to 3 p.m., she will demonstrate how to make a knot bracelet. The cost per child ($5) and up for each Sunday is $1 to cover the cost of materials. The Gem Gallery will be open from Friday, April 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., then April 29. For more information contact The Gem Gallery, Peaks Island, 786-5600.

The taxman cometh

“Taxman Cometh,” a musical comedy, will be performed on Saturday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Boothbay Regional Library on Peaks Island. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for children. Sponsors include Chebeague Island Land Trust, Boothbay Regional Library, and PITA.

The taxman cometh is an original play written and directed by Kevin Atta. All songs in the show written (except one) and performed by Kevin Atta and Brenda Dale, with musical support from Faith Ford and Torr Merrill. The musical stars Heath Thompson as Bury, Jack O’Shea as the taxman, Maggie Carle, Sharon L. Carley, Anna Brie and Melody Mallonee. All proceeds will go to the Boothbay Regional Library and the Gem Gallery.

Casco Bay water quality volunteers needed

The Friends of Casco Bay water quality monitoring program is gearing up for the 2007 sampling season. Friends of Casco Bay is looking for new volunteers. Please see COMMUNITY NOTES, page 10.

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