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Island Times, Apr-May 2008

MAry Lou Wendell

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Casco Bay Lines approves fuel surcharge

BY CHRIS HOPPIN

Chris Hoppin is the CBITD Islander at Large Board Member and Chairman of the Rates Committee.

Rising fuel prices have prompted the Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD) that operates the Casco Bay Lines ferries to adopt a new fuel surcharge to balance its District (CBITD) that operates the Casco Bay Lines ferries to adopt a new fuel surcharge to balance its 2009 fiscal year budget.

During an emergency board meeting on March 28, the CBITD Board voted 7-2 to apply a 50 cents fuel surcharge to each adult round trip fare, affecting tickets and passes, and 25 cents for seniors, handicapped and children.

The range in increases runs from $2 to $5 per round trip, with $10 for week passes, and $20 for year-round passes.

Walter Schneller, a beloved member of the Peaks Island community, died Sat., March 22. A memorial service will be held at the United Methodist Church on Peaks Island. Desi Larson of Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church will lead prayers and readings with hymns and music led by Fr. Fred Morse of St. Christopher's Roman Catholic Church.

The Peaks Island Council chooses to subsidize ferry passes

BY KEVIN ATTIA

After lengthy debate in sub-committee meetings, the Peaks Island Council (PIC) has decided to allocate the $50,000 it received last year out of the city manager's discretionary fund to fully subsidize the cost of transportation on the Casco Bay ferry lines for students in 4th to 12th grades, and to provide $25 vouchers for year-round adult residents of the islands.

Council member Lyune Richard said she wasn't enough money to effectively solve the larger parking and transportation problems that plague island residents. "[T]he thousand dollar bill is too much to ignore, but not enough to do anything," she said, and described the subsidy program as a "little bandage.

Still, PIC members are working to get control of even more money next year, although the timing may be against them. According to Chairman Mike Largella, the city is currently facing its worst fiscal crisis since 1976, when it became embroiled in a contentious battle over cuts in service and job layoffs, especially in education. As the extent of the current decline in revenues becomes clear, Mayor Ed Suslovic, who previously described the expected budget cuts this year as difficult, now calls them "brutal.

In order to ensure continuous funding, the PIC took a gamble in its regular meeting on March 24 to request an increase of $50,000 in funds for "transportation, parking or other needs of affordability for year-round island residents" from the city manager's office for next year's budget. By adding the phrase "or other needs of affordability," this request will be subject to vote by members of the City Council. If it had been left under the discretion of the city manager it would probably have gone unnoticed.

Islanders celebrate Earth Day

BY ROYDIA BERN

Multiple events are planned for Saturday April 19, including an island clean-up, a new gardeners forum, Christiine Luce, and The First Annual Clothesline Day. The ever successful community clean-up relies on volunteer efforts of residents and visitors, who are encouraged to check in with coordinators down by the Manhattan Market between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday morning to pick up instructions and trash bags. Referring to the map posted there, families and teams of friends, as well hardy individuals can check that they're covering as many different areas of the island as possible. After 10 a.m., the operation will be strictly self-service, but every bit as important. The task is to pick up and bag every possible bit of litter, no matter how small, visible or unseen, and streets of Peaks and leave it all where the Public Works Crew can easily sort it on Monday for removal to the transfer station.

Other things such as broken glass and metal cans can't be left in bags, but anything you can drag out to the roadside is fair game! Also on Saturday, folks interested in growing their own vegetables can attend a new event in the community room from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. This Forum will allow an opportunity to meet other gardeners and learn about the rewards of culturing your own island produce, as well as the pitfalls (such as lead and other contaminants) and how to detect and avoid them. This is a new endeavor, and one which promises to support and inform islanders and summer residents for the months to come.

Finally, Saturday will be a celebration of the clothesline. If everyone on Peaks hangs their wash please see EARTH DAY, page 6.

Clothesline for Earth Day

BY SAM SALSTONSTAl

What's the trend? Hanging your knickers on the line. Where do you dry your clothes? And there's the roller pin.

Earth Day is fast approaching, and there is something simple that island families can do in honor of our beleaguered Mother Earth that will both save us money and at the same time reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming - hang our clothes out to dry. Yes, April 19 is National Hanging Out Day!

There is something comforting about laundry hanging on the line. It takes us back to simpler times. Some of us remember hanging clothes out in a quiet and pleasant breeze. Others may have childhood memories of playing hide and seek behind the drying hampers. Others may have childhood memories of playing hide and seek behind the drying hampers. Others may have childhood memories of playing hide and seek behind the drying hampers. There is a real nostalgic reason for hanging laundry out to dry these days. There is a reason why there is global please see CLOTHESLINE, page 5.

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In meetings earlier this year, City Manager Joel Gray assured the PIC that he would provide this money to the council indefinitely; however, members of the PIC were concerned that anything might happen to change that arrangement, since they only had Gray's word on it. In addition, the money would have to be used for purposes that he (Gray) mandates, which members of the PIC felt undermined please see COUNCIL, page 7.

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Star Oozing p.6
Postman Bob Swett retires

Came to know how quickly 10 years can fly! Ask Bob Swett, postmaster for Peaks Island, who is about to leave 04108 on his birthday, April 28, 2008. This gentle island fixture describes his departure as perhaps the saddest thing he’s ever had to do.

It may be difficult to picture Bob, US Air Force veteran and former Portland undercover (and bearded) tamman, shifting gears and driving in the slow lane that is Peaks Island. But in 1992 he did just that, following a 12-year apprenticeship at the Forest Avenue PO branch. When the island position was posted, Bob bid and won the job. At first, the 12-year apprenticeship at the Forest Avenue job environment to suit them. If you walk along the steam that feeds into Trout Pond, you can see ample signs they’re building the dams and lodges. They can be breached, uncovering a rich layer of sediments. (A common misperception, thanks to Walt Disney’s Bucky Beaver, to that they use their broad tails to move mud while they’re building the dams and lodges. They actually use their front paws; their tails are used to help prop them up while they are gnawing trees, to stay flat for the water, to slap the water’s surface as a warning signal, and as a rudder when swimming.)

The North American beaver (Castor canadensis) is a semi-aquatic rodent, and can live for 25 years and weigh up to 60 pounds. They are active year round, and do most of their work at night. Back, twigs, and roots of water plants provide them with nourishment, with their favorite Peaks Island meals being aspen, red maple and speckled alder. Although the leaves of few natural predators on Peaks, they can be injured or killed by the very trees they are trying to fell because they don’t know which tree will drop. They store some of their food in an underwater cache in their lodge to help them through winter. Their sense of smell, hearing and touch are highly developed. They have powerful paws, and they do not have a second set of eyelids which are usually present and serve as goggles underwater.

What impact do these beavers have on our environment? They are frequently a benefit because they take down trees and cause flooding which can turn previously people-friendly recreational areas into swamps and even undermine foundations. According to Garry Fox, island resident and Battery Steele Land Servant for the Peaks Island Land Preservation group, the beavers have raised the water level about a foot and a half. He says they could potentially flood one section beside Battery Steele, and could bring the water level up to the back shore road. But, there are ways of working with and around them to minimize undeveloped impact.

Fox says that the beavers could "come to a wall regarding food availability." If they deplete the supply of their preferred trees, they will abandon the site, and go hunt for a new one. On the plus side, their work also fosters biodiversity by creating stillwater environments for other creatures such as frogs and fish. Eventually their dams will be breached, uncovering a rich layer of sediment to feed a new generation of plants and trees.

- Cynthia Stollas

New Volunteer Program

The Island Institute has received increasing requests over the last 18 months from members and other individuals who want to make a non-financial volunteer commitment to island communities. With the increasing need for volunteer service on the islands, and the lack of human capital to meet these needs, the Island Institute is launching a Volunteer Placement Program to provide much-needed assistance to island organizations.

Unlike the Island Institute’s Fellowship program, which is oriented to younger, postgraduate college students who are willing to make a 1-2 year full-time commitment to a project, the new program would allow individuals to volunteer for short-term projects and, if desirable, work with the island communities on a virtual basis (e-mail, telephone, occasional visits to the islands for meetings).

Despite the culture of voluntarism on many islands, many tasks are predominantly filled by the same, small group of volunteers, and organizations need help coordinating activities, furthering their mission, and completing many projects. New volunteers can help catalyze projects and create energy and excitement for the work. By creating public interest around projects, outside volunteers can provide opportunities for further local volunteer participation.

The new Volunteer Placement Program will initially be piloted in Casco Bay. Chris Wolff, the Institute’s Community Development Director, will work with the Casco Bay Islands to determine specific volunteer placements. Simultaneously, the Institute will be seeking volunteers to serve with island communities. Volunteers will complete an application stating their skills and interests, and interested communities interested in having volunteers will also complete a description form. Chris will then match volunteers with opportunities.

In a best case scenario, we will have more volunteers than we need," says Wolff. "But there is a focus on recruiting older "baby boomers" on the islands who might have a more flexible schedule to contribute the time they can give."

In Brief

Postman Bob Swett

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This island life

BY GEORGE ROSOL

Whatever brush is painting Earth with global warming missed a spot in our part of the world. My Russian friends on tour in the states came to Peaks, then returned home where they say it is warmer. We are now living in the fabled winters of our grandparents. But, if it weren't for the weather, there would be precious little to talk about while waiting around for the fabled summers of our grandparents. Our normal winter supply of conversation ran out a month earlier than usual. The other day, I told "hello" to Eddie outside the Cold and he reminded me that I had said the same thing the day before. Yet, it is still a little to say about a lot of things.

For starters, take grants. There is money to be had for almost any quirky need. There is a grant for the study of the color of city trash bags that is less attractive to crows and gulls. One whole island block of families was given money for a year’s supply of regular coffee in a study of caffeine’s effect on a community’s behavior. It has been six months into this project and the results, though mostly unpleasant, are astounding. You may know the affected street. Tasty behavior, lights on late into the night, can’t take a joke, that kind of thing. Then there is the English as a Second Language project for English-speaking kids. One goal is the reduction of the number of times the word “like” is used in a sentence. This was brought about when a high school actor started the famous line in Shakespeare’s Hamlet, “To be or not to be.” Like, is that the way, questions...? The big beans are the free conference to be held, right here, on the subject of The Big Deal Theory. This is a whole new body of scientific research. We are finding out that we will be able to assign levels of big dealism. And find an answer to the question, should we worry or should we not. There are four levels of The Big Deal: BD1, the personal; BD2, the local, the international, and extraterrestrial. It’s a big personal deal if your purse is snatched. Or you find a flyer in your soup. Increases in taxes and boat fares and killer porpoises are local BDs. War, famine, severe weather, and pestilence are international BDs, and Earth collisions with county-size meteors or an invasion of aliens would certainly be the mothers of all big deals.

But, how big must a deal be before action is taken? The Second Law of Big Deals states that it doesn’t matter if a BD is real as long as it is a critical mass of people going along with it. If no one makes a point of your big deal, then you could get parked as a crank. I’m not sure if there is a First Law. If not, it’s no big deal...

Attention island lovers! The Common Arts Fair, the annual festival of bad art, crafts, and literature is coming soon. It’s time to gather up and exhibit those paint-by-number pieces, knick-wood picture frames, reclaim pottery, and rejection slips. Readings and signings by unknown authors will be featured. This year’s obvious bummer will speak on the challenges encountered in teaching writing to the criminally insane. Not to be missed is the crafting clinic, which concentrates on crossing objects out of cigarette butts, cereal boxes, and burnt toast. Remember: Anything of real worth is excluded from this juried exhibition and sale.

I am happy to report that no missing islanders or pets have been found under the moving snow pack. But there were items that may be important. Among these, a cell phone, still in working order, with 267 unanswered calls. A dozen parking tickets. Eight scratch tickets with one $2 winner. Three dog collars and four chewed leashes. One 1957 Volkswagen, three tackle boxes, and a partridge in a pear tree... Circle the wagons. Grid up thy lima. The grandkids are coming to Grandma Camp. A year smarter, they bring with them a strange and unfamiliar lifestyle. Physically stronger, playful noises could injure. Unbelievably computer literate, they will add on, substract from, clean and alter your disc drives beyond re cognition. Games will pop up in the middle of your checkbook reconciliation. They will come laden with wheels of every kind. And they’ll be itching to get their hands on your island vehicles. Some will bring friends, peculiar strangers whose ideas of fun may differ from yours and those of the local constabulary. Forget last summer. This edition of grandchildren will be different. Their hormones have since developed. They’ll be riding in with six guns ablaze.

Casco Bay Happy Hour on Thursdays

Casco Bay jeweler with spots in Casco Bay, Portland, and the center Maine coast, our site can be positioned to handle even the largest job.

- Building Supplies
- Asphalt/concrete trucks
- Utilities/well drilling
- Gravel, stone

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Peaks Island Land Preserve seeks to preserve and protect open space in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of islanders and visitors. 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.

BATTERY STANDS
Temporary Mooring Markers for Battery Island

Kevin Attra to take over the Island Times

I appreciated as a carpenter and made a career of renovation work. All I ever wanted to do was write. It’s all I ever did, really. Even as a child I was more artist than scientist, writing all kinds of proxy reports and witty operator manuals (which got me into a lot of trouble). I’ve been a social worker, a carpenter, an environmental chemist and several other things, but none of it has lasted longer than paid law, less than writing. After submitting reams of stuff over the years to such notable as the New Yorker, the Antioch Review, and Columbia Records, I have quite an impressive stack of rejection and witty operator manuals (which also provided the Island Times with a few letters to the editor). Wish me luck. I know can I write...

Kevin Attra

PUBLISHER 4

Letters to the editor

Handicapped parking

I wish to thank all the people on Peaks that helped me and a couple of others to get permanent parking spots in the Casco Bay Garage. With your help, the support of the Peaks Island Council, and the help of Mike Murray, our Neighborhood Liaison, it would not have happened.

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On Peaks Island
24’ x 24’ garage

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Heater, insulation and 220 outlets available for purchase from current tenants

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I know that Mike worked very hard, and kept pushing the powers to be to get these Handicapped Parking places made available to us. The PIC also kept the pressure on, to get this accomplished. I give you all my heartfelt thanks.

Dave Adams, Peaks Island

Publisher’s final note

Over the years, I have come to learn that life is a series of losses. It seems that nothing ever stays the same. I started the Island Times six years ago. The idea was sparked by the news that a couple of my classmates at Columbia Journalism School had started their own publications. I had a nine-month old son at the time, but starting a newspaper on Peaks Island seemed rather unnecessary. Everything fell into place perfectly. David Tyler was very talented and immediately interested in the project, which we worked on together as co-publishers. The newspaper was a lot of work but quickly became a integral part of Island life. David and I felt we were making a contribution.

But now we have both moved on. David left first, after having his first child. Now I must follow his lead and say goodbye. Myself. I will focus on my three children and on different kind of writing. As I write this final note for the Island Times, I am under deadline elsewhere, which leads me to think of something else I have learned during my time here. Simplicity is meant to be trusted.

Which in turn leads me to Kevin Attra, the next editor and publisher of the Island Times. Simplicity is the best word to describe our meeting. During the last six years, Kevin has had several conversations with different people about taking over the newspaper. But it never made sense until now. Kevin is perfect for the job. I will continue working with him until he is ready to fly solo, which will be very soon, given his talent and enthusiasm.

There are several things I will miss about this job, including the many letters from subscribers living all over the country who write to me, the regular interviews, the occasional correspondence, the letters to the editor. Please try to keep them to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters. The newspaper is available by mail for $20 a year.

The Island Times is a community newspaper covering the islands in Casco Bay. We believe in community engagement and wedding announcements. We do not publish letters to the editor. Please try to keep letters to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters. The newspaper is available by mail for $20 a year. Address all correspondence to Island Times, 410 Commercial St., Peaks Island, Maine, 04131. To reach Mary Lou Wendell, call 272-0666. Our e-mail address is times@mainenance.com. For all rates, call 272-0666.
boomers," there is no age limit for volunteers, and there is hope that some seasonal residents will have an interest in volunteering while they are on-island during the summer months. The PeaksFest Committee will expand the Program to Penobscot Bay and Downeast Islands in 2009, if there is a good crop of volunteers or being a volunteer, please visit the Island Institute's website: www.islandinstitute.org/ volunteer. Contact Chris VoUf at cvoUf@islandinstitute.org.

Cyran Moreau

PeaksFest, June 20 to 22

The PeaksFest Weekend Official schedule has been set for June 20 to 22, and will mark the seveth year that we will be holding our celebration of the community of Peaks Island, Maine—our people, heritage, environment, neighborhoods, businesses, spirit and loveable eccentricities. While the PeaksFest "off schedule" is just being organized now, we did know that many of the favorite events will be back again, plus there are a few new ones in the works!

For instance, it looks like the big weekend of PeaksFesting will begin again with the hugely popular Community Schmoonseal, and the annual PeaksFest Bingo Bash, sponsored by the Trefethen-Evergreen Improvement Association (TEIA) children, bringing neighbors, visitors, and special guests together to march, mingle and quaff as the sun sets over our favorite pooches: "What is human nature?..." and "What is human nature?..." and "What is human nature?..." and "What is human nature?..."

We get it up and running again.)

SCHNELLER, from page 1

endary Hackley teachers." He called them the "insomniacs," teachers whose long service and tremendous influence on Hackley students fundamentally shaped the school. Few earned the title more than Walter himself.

He maintained life-long relationships with many of his former students. MSNBC news broadcaster Keith Olbermann, one of Walter's students, devoted his "Best Person in the World" segment on his March 34 MSNBC Countdown broadcast to "Mr. Schneller," noting that Mr. Schneller was the first teacher to instill in him a true understanding of American politics. Olbermann learned from Walter that "history is not inevitable, that each of its chapters is made up of a million decisions, often by very ordinary people, and we can all define and shape and insist upon the history yet to come." (The tribute is archived at the MSNBC site.)

Walter joined the Hackley faculty in 1956 as a history teacher, and served as history department chair and eventually Director of Studies. He and Tanya, who were married for 35 years, met at Hackley, when she arrived as the school's first kindergarten teacher, and they raised their children (Nina Markov "88, Andrew Schneller "91, and Nicholas Schneller" on campus.

In 1988, he received Hackley's Davidson Family Chair in History. He was a three-time recipient of the school's Kimelman Award, which recognizes that teacher who students feel had the most significant impact on their education. In 1992, he was awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities Reader's Digest Teacher Scholar Fellowship. In 2001, the Hackley Alumni Association named Walter an Honorary Alumnus of Hackley School. He received the Hackley Medal of Honor, the school's highest honor, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the school, in 2002, and a year later, was one of three teachers honored with the creation of gourdies in their likeness (2003) and permanent parts of the Hackley architecture.

As a teacher of history, debate, government and politics, he provided vivid illustration of the American Presidential process by running for President four times — in 1966, 1976, 1988 and 1996 — carefully orchestrated campaigns that provided students an up-close glimpse of the process, one of which was covered by The New York Times. His scholarly travels took him all over the world. He wrote India studies materials for use in public schools, and studied in Russia, Japan and England.

Walter was born in New York City and raised in Duchess County, New York. He began his education in one of the last one-room schoolhouses in the state. He went on to the State University of New York at Albany, where he received his B.A. and M.A. After teaching two years in Wallkill, New York, Walter accepted a position at Hackley School, where he remained through his retirement.

In addition to writing his history of Hackley, he completed the manuscript of a history of Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Tarrytown, New York, which will be published by the Club later this year. Following his passion for music, Walter had also begun work on a third book on the world's great concert halls and "secular temples."

In addition to his wife, his daughter and sons, Walter leaves four grandchildren: Natasha, Nikolai, Jasmine, and Natasha. Walter also leaves behind his nephews, Rick Schneller, and his wife, Hannelore, in Tarrytown, N.Y., and a sister, Loretta Schneller, in Kingston, N.Y., as well as numerous nieces, nephews and grand and great nieces and nephews.

His family gathered on Peaks Island Sat., March 29, to remember Walter, and there are plans for a memorial celebration at the Fifth Maine Regiment, where Walter was a docent, on Sat., May 17. Another memorial service will be held at Hackley School some time in the fall.

Those wishing to express condolences to the family may write them at: 125 Upper A Street, Peaks Island, Maine, 04108. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests Peaks friends consider gifts to either the Fifth Maine Regiment or the Loretta Voyer Fund, which helps pay ferry fares for Peaks residents undergoing cancer treatment on the mainland.

HAUL AWAY YOUR DEAD CAR AND BENEFIT THE PEAKS ISLAND CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP. CALL PAUL FOR MORE INFO.

SCHNELLER, from page 1

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Star Gazing

BY MIKE RICHARDS

As scary as the world seems today, in 1963 it was: grade schoolchildren and I practiced hiding under desks in the event of a nuclear bomb launched by the Russians from Cuba. After the Cuban missile crisis passed, Kenneth and Swissy Magnuson, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty strictly limited nuclear tests. A few years later, the US suspected that Russia was conducting nuclear tests in outer space and launched a satellite to detect bursts of gamma rays, then the explosion would release.

To their surprise, they did not find evidence of any near-earth explosions but instead detected a fairly steady diet of gamma ray bursts (GRBs) from the far reaches of space. In the month, more modern satellites detected the largest GRB and the intergalactic bright celestial event — earthq".uks — ever recorded.

T wenty-two "star" in the eastern horizon and perhaps even Venus might be visible. The winter constellation Orion is now in the western sky at sunset. Its follow by the Pleiades star cluster now rising to the west, the twins Castor and Pollux, and finding it so easy to spot a star, then it's actually a few miles away in summer — it's the tilt toward the Sun that causes Earth to warm up. Earth's atmosphere is only 8% carbon dioxide (CD), so it's a relatively thin blanket that keeps our average temperature 50° warmer than it would be without an atmosphere.

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EARTH DAY, from page 1

out to dry even for that one day, it would save a great deal of energy as well as affording folks the benefits and fresh scents of dried sheets, towels and clothing. Think of it! What more pleasurable way to support the environment than by hanging your laundry out to dry? To get the most from your investment in a super-efficient line dryer, line dry your clothes and detergent throughout Casco Bay, providing a good time to gauge its movement eastward.

The peaks are saturated with snow; this month and next are best for picking blueberries, which warms the land, sea and air. A recent study suggests that the planet is warming as a consequence of climate change. The rest of the world is warming because Earth was closer to the Sun then, and it's actually a few miles away in summer — it's the tilt toward the Sun that causes Earth to warm up. Earth's atmosphere is only 8% carbon dioxide (CD), so it's a relatively thin blanket that keeps our average temperature 50° warmer than it would be without an atmosphere.

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A Bit of the Bard

By Cevia Rosol

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POLICE LOG

Feb.1: 1:22 PM, Island Avenue, Warrant Check
Feb.2: 2:26 PM, No Address Listed (NAL), Suspicious Activity
Feb.3: 6:40 AM, City Point Road, Animal Complaint
Feb.5: 9:07 AM, Onway, 911 Hang-up Calls
Feb.6: 7:26 PM, Island Avenue, Warrant Check
Feb.7: 10:19 PM, Upper A, General Disturbance
Feb.8: 4:25 PM, Pleasant Ave, Serving Paperwork
Feb.9: 3:51 PM, Brackett Ave, Special Attention Check
Feb.10: 2:09 AM, Church Street, Motor Vehicle Stop
Feb.17: 7:21 AM, Island Avenue, Animal Complaint
Feb.19: 10:30 PM, Greenwood, Check Well Being
Feb.25: 8:39 PM, Sterling, 911 Hang-up Calls
Feb.26: 10:11 AM, Woods Road, Parking Complaint
Mar.2: 8:08 PM, NAL, Special Attention Check
Mar.1: 1:15 AM, Soulebo, False Alarms
Mar.2: 4:40 PM, NAL, Special Attention Check
Mar.3: 3:03 AM, NAL, Domestic Dispute
Mar.3: 8:29 AM, Church Street, Special Detail
Mar.3: 5:50 PM, Island Avenue, Motor Vehicle Stop
Mar.3: 2:21 PM, NAL, Check Well Being
Mar.4: 9:34 PM, NAL, Special Attention Check
Mar.5: 6:55 AM, Island Avenue, Serving Paperwork
Mar.18: 2:56 PM, Woods Road, Follow-up
Mar.18: 6:31 PM, City Point Road, Criminal mischief

COUNCIL, from page 1

Council President Mike Murphy, Town Treasurer
Bill Overlock recommended General Manager Katharine Debo and her staff for their efforts. However, they also charged residents to pay their bills for the benefits they receive.

Across
1. Tubercular Pulmonary disease
2. A course or game on Balls
3. Nut, hazel, oak, etc.
4. A word or phrase
5. Coals
6. 9 across may see this item as an unnecessary program in competition with some children's pass subsidy next year, in the hope one's discretionarv fund, but the motion was withdrawn.
7. O'Brien's discretorial fund, but the motion was withdrawn.
8. Tipped, false, or crooked
9. COUNCIL, from page 1

Surcharge, from page 1

again in the fiscal year. The budget for the new year includes approximately $5.3 million in revenues and expenses, similar to last year's. Overall expenses were virtually flat, up only one third of one percent over the past year. However, increased fuel and health insurance costs increased a total of 6.5 percent. Casco Bay Lines paid an average of $2.87 per gallon for fuel during the year that concluded March 30. Its most recent bill for fuel was $3.90 per gallon. The new budget calls for an average of $3.82 per gallon, leading to a "fuel gap" of $258.90 in the budget. The City Council approved March 21.

Council President Mike Murphy, Town Treasurer Bill Overlock recommended General Manager Katharine Debo and her staff for their efforts. However, they also charged residents to pay their bills for the benefits they receive.

The Rate Structure Committee held several public committee meetings earlier this year to discuss rising costs. The committee considered eight different "fuel surcharge" options, including several that raised freight and vehicle rates. However, there was also considerable interest in keeping the present prices for vehicles. That led to the passenger ticket surcharge. The Rate Structure Committee plans to hold more public meetings, including one on a Saturday on Peaks, to consider more opportunities for cost-cutting and seek more creative solutions to rising costs. Many islanders ask why round-trip residents and taxpayers pay the same as visitors. The simple answer is that the Federal law does not allow discrimination to those who may purchase what ticket for a given day or period of time. However, CBID has been able to help year-round residents for many years by offering rates for the off-peak season substantially lower than those used during the peak season. CBID also provides more economical annual passes as another important means of providing savings.

The company is also exploring acquisition of electronic fare collection equipment. This new technology, identified in our Strategic Plan, may enable CBID to offer annual electronic ticket passes that could provide additional savings.

Dowing to an inadvertent error in assigning resident status to some respondents, the results of the Peaks Island parking survey were not available until April, according to Council Member Elizabeth Stout. She said, provisionally, that the results appear to have "no surprises." Most households reported having 2 cars, one on the island and one on the mainland, and more people either walk or bike to Peaks Island. The results indicate a concern about car traffic by island residents, and about the volume of traffic on the island in general. The other Casco Bay Islands are now conducting similar surveys using the CARP questionnaire.

A presentation of changes in 911 service were among those who favored renaming 3 streets on Peaks Island in lieu of secession, and is closely monitored by the situation between the City of Portland and the PIC. In other business, the Charter Commission's recommendation for each council member a sphere of responsibility was implemented in a special meeting on March 5, which gives the public a contact person on the council for specific areas of concern. The ordinance was assigned to the area of park and transportation. Bob Holmes, public health and safety, Kathy Moxhay, recreation and public works; Elizabeth Stuart, human services; and Bob Tabb, planning, development, land use and zoning.

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A Peaks Island Memoir

The following is part of a project called "For the Love of Peaks: Peaks House is interesting people who have a connection to Peaks Island and are willing to write or be interviewed and photographed for an exhibit in June 2008.

BY HELEN MURPHY

After several invitations from our friends and family to come and visit Peaks Island, we finally realized we had waited too long to visit the place on our bucket list. The island, which was once an uninhabited volcanic rock, is now home to many locations and the importance of the Children’s Workshop’s (PlCWJ) for the stars, announcing the Peaks Island and the then pick a winner at the June meeting rest. Reurrect an old clothesline or install a one’s welcome at PEAT meetings on the first children were so taken with the Island that it lowered so loud it seemed to be right in their Back shore, and just exploring the Island. Peaks Island will soon notice posters and literature, with an image of a reach reaching into particularly lead. We’ll provide sample testing items of importance this spring is the tainted use their gas rationing tokens to come to the Portland concert. The program, which takes it’s name from a collection of five songs by Lovitz from the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Sara will be showing powerful visuals while discussing the science of global warming. Her slideshow addresses Maine and New England specific impacts and situations. Ten percent of the money will go to the NRCM. WWenrnr.com. Sign up now!Maimaima.m, Mail deposit of $20 (Checks payable to Inna) snatch phone and email to: Est Morris 54 Usacey Sound Road, Peaks Island, Maine 04108. PMC 207-766-3708 x702. www.innaraiiwa.

Earth Day Events April 19

Island Clean Up: Come to the table in front of Hannafing’s from 10 a.m. and sign up to man a table from 10 -11 a.m. Consider taking charge of your street, a portion of the beach, or a favorite spot that would like to see tidied up. You will get your very own bag and gloves. You also provide gloves and sun screen. Peaks Island Workshop in Jensen’s Old Building has dark trash bags. Use clear bags for recyclables (tin cans, aerosol cans, glass jars & bottles, aluminum cans, etc.) Leave filled bags along the roadside where the folks from Public Works can see them on trash day. If you are handling a pile of trash with no regular trash collection, please take refuse to the transfer station or phone 766-2277 for assistance. For larger trucks, such as lobster pots, tires etc., make piles along the roadside to be collected separately. If you can’t partici­ pate at that time, we encourage you to pick your own day and hours later that day or that week.

Island Gardener’s Forum will meet for the first time in the community room from 9 to 11 a.m. in May and June. They will address the topic of to­ gether gardening on Peaks, there’s a need for a regular meeting time so gardeners, old and new, can share their ideas and experience. Discussion could be wide-ranging, but one item on the agenda is exploring the possibilities of planting a rain garden on Peaks. We’ll provide sampling tasting kits and information on how to order and use them as well as ideas for the safest veg­ etables to grow in unstaked soil.

Hand ’em out to Dry Day, a day to celebrate the clothesline, is from sunrise to sunset. Hang up your wash and give the dryer a rest. Resurrect an old clothesline or install a new one, listen and discover or redesign the delights of sun-dried laundry while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Island Clothing Photo Contest: Entries accepted from April 18 until June 1. Snap a picture of your favorite clothesline before or after dark, at any time. Submit your entries to The Peaks Environmental Action Team: 6:30 p.m. June 1 at Crescent Avenue. Every­ body is welcome to submit a photo and category of The Peaks Environmental Action Team. Everyone can include a caption to go with their photo. First, second, and third place winners will be announced on the phone the Monday of each month, and if you come to the winner’s page you could even vote for yourself.

PICW Campaign

Peaks Island Children’s Workshop will be hosting posters and brochures, with an image of a child reaching for the stars, announcing the Peaks Island Children’s Workshop’s (PlCWJ) for the stars, announcing the Peaks Island and the then pick a winner at the June meeting rest. Reurrect an old clothesline or install a one’s welcome at PEAT meetings on the first children were so taken with the Island that it lowered so loud it seemed to be right in their Back shore, and just exploring the Island. Peaks Island will soon notice posters and literature, with an image of a reach reaching into particularly lead. We’ll provide sample testing items of importance this spring is the tainted use their gas rationing tokens to come to the Portland concert. The program, which takes it’s name from a collection of five songs by Lovitz from the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Sara will be showing powerful visuals while discussing the science of global warming. Her slideshow addresses Maine and New England specific impacts and situations. Ten percent of the money will go to the NRCM. WWenrnr.com. Sign up now!Maimaima.m, Mail deposit of $20 (Checks payable to Inna) snatch phone and email to: Est Morris 54 Usacey Sound Road, Peaks Island, Maine 04108. PMC 207-766-3708 x702. www.innaraiiwa.

PeaksFest2008

PeaksFest will be held the weekend of April 19 and this will be the tenth year of PeaksFest’s (wow!). It’s a genuine feel-good, grass-roots effort that has been sustained over the years by the peak islanders and a great chance to celebrate our island community. Bring your great ideas and contributions and join us on another beautiful Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. at The Pub at the Inn on Peaks Island. (Drink specials during our concert!) We are encouraged! As always, we’ll keep the festivities going until 60 – 90 minutes after the show’s over. Our PeaksFest Planning Meeting schedule of the first seven meetings until PeaksFest 2008: April 3 & 17, May 15 & 29, June 5 & 12.

Children’s Summer Camp

Would you be interested in learning to serve tea at PeaksFest? Program this summer at Trefhen-Beyer-Everett Community Association (TBEA) The Friends of TBEA offer “campships” to all island school children. Please contact Barbara Hoppin at 766-2283, or Stephanie Castle at SEALIGHTS999@AOL.com for further information and applications.

Peaks Island Opening: Our annual Peaks Island Open House celebration and tour takes place on Saturday June 21st and Sunday June 22nd. Entry is by donation. Ten percent of the money will go to the NRCM. WWenrnr.com. Sign up now!Maimaima.m, Mail deposit of $20 (Checks payable to Inna) snatch phone and email to: Est Morris 54 Usacey Sound Road, Peaks Island, Maine 04108. PMC 207-766-3708 x702. www.innaraiiwa.

Fifth Maine Opening

The new may still be with us but preparations for a busy season are well underway at the Fifth Maine. In addition to our 12th birthday celebration on April 19th and yummy pancake breakfasts, we’ll be offering a wide variety of activities for islanders and many summer visitors. We’ll also be open to the public on a regular basis beginning Memorial Day weekend and every weekend through the middle of September. All of this is possible by ear hardworking volunteers. As always, many volunteers are welcome. Perhaps you might like to flip pancakes, take a stroll with refreshments for a Wednes­ day evening program, or greet visitors at the museum. Please mark your calendars for the excellent day of the 17th, at 2 p.m. We will also be offering a peaks island open house celebration and tour as part of the Fifth Maine Opening.

Thank You Peaks Island

Four island children worked on a social services project during Lent as they prepared to receive their First Communication at St. Christopher’s Church in May. Annaerrick Erickson, Grace & Audrey Byrne and Danny Hasley sold baked goods in front of Hannafing’s Market on a snowy Monday Mar. 15, the Saturday before Palm Sunday. They wish to thank all the islanders who contributed $160 to help poor people in Haiti.

Drum Workshop/Concert

“Heart Beat of the East” at the First Parish Church, Portland, ME on April 26th. Workshop at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., $75 per person. This workshop will invoke our intentions for healing the planet through drumming, chanting, rhythm and dance. Accommodating all levels. Each level will be given parts to play for our piece “Heart Beat of the East.” Drumming will be limited to a part of the evening performance. Drum Rentals available.

Inna Performance, Global Warming presentation, and dance concert at 7:30 p.m., $15 admission. $10 seniors/students, children under 12 free. Come and hear Inna’s music as it weaves through an amazing presentation on Global Warming given by Sara Levitz from the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Sara will be showing powerful visual visits while discussing the science of global warming. Her slideshow addresses Maine and New England specific impacts and situations. Ten percent of the money will go to the NRCM. WWW.nrrc.org. Sign up now!Maimaima.m, Mail deposit of $20 (Checks payable to Inna) snatch phone and email to: Est Morris 54 Usacey Sound Road, Peaks Island, Maine 04108. PMC 207-766-3708 x702. www.innaraiiwa.

Sponsor a Tulip in the newly planted garden on Peaks Island

Friday April 11

5 -7:30 pm, at the Inn

(Open house for other islanders during the up -coming peak island opening)

Stop in, buy or sponsor a tulip, enjoy some pink lemonade, and join the fight for women’s health!