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Kevin Attra

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CBITD Approves Rate Increase

Monthly rates increase percent on Peaks; 7 percent down-the-bay

BY KEVIN ATTRA

A rate hike was approved at an Executive Committee meeting on Feb. 26, on a project shortfall of $271,900 for fiscal year 2009. In several public hearings held by the Budget and Rate Structure committees in February and March, board members wrestled with various options to offset expenses or increase revenue, but ultimately decided their only choice was to raise ticket prices.

Among the criticisms heard during the hearings were inaccuracies in the financial reports that formed the basis of the rate hike, uncertainty over salary increases while union contract negotiations were going on (they were still ongoing at press time) and a controversial $200,000 fund that was arbitrarily added to the budget as a way to raise money but was not actually used. The board is considering using this fund to pay for the rate hike.

According to board member Matt Hoffner, the money would be used as an emergency cash reserve. "If something completely unusual happens, we had no money in any of the previous budgets to fix it," he said. Several people questioned the logistics of putting any money at all into a slush fund during an economic crisis, while others said it was an unfair burden to put on island residents who struggle to get by as it is.

But according to board member Garry Fox, the money would be used as an emergency cash reserve. "If a boat loses an engine," he said, "if something completely unusual happens, we had no money in any of the previous budgets to fix it." Several people questioned the logistics of putting any money at all into a slush fund during an economic crisis, while others said it was an unfair burden to put on island residents who struggle to get by as it is.

Local NBC Affiliate Channel 6 sent a news team to cover the public hearing held by the PIP's Finance Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Public comment focused on inaccuracies in the company's financial reports and argued for cutting shore-side expenses to avoid increasing ticket prices. "It's not a problem in terms of the project," said SIWP President Gary Fox, "it's a problem with your kids and your grandparents and anyone coming down the pike in being left with something that they're struggling with." But according to board member Matt Hoffner, the money would be used as an emergency cash reserve. "If something completely unusual happens, we had no money in any of the previous budgets to fix it," he said.

But in early March, after consulting with its lawyers over restrictions in the easement, the PIP decided not to allow the meteorological tower to be erected; Fox said the decision was based on the power initiative stalled. According to the resolution in favor of the wind project, but regrettably had no choice in the matter.

In its regular meeting on March 6, the PIP's executive board received a temporary structure to be erected for up to 90 days; however, it can only be done once, and therefore, was inappropriate for this use. Wind speed data must be recorded continuously for one to two years in order to determine if there is sufficient wind energy to justify a wind turbine project. As a result of PIP's decision, PEAT will fall back on the original plan to locate a tower in Trott-Littlejohn Park, according to project spokesman Sam Saltonstall. "There are no conservation easements on the city-owned land," he said in an email last month.

The project will require a zoning variance due to a height restriction on the property, but Saltonstall believes PEAT won't have to pay the $2,000 filing fee that's usually required. Instead he says, "We will now be looking for City Council support for wind testing on Peaks, which will hopefully come in the form of a height exemption for a wind testing tower."

In its regular meeting March 26, the Peaks Island Council unanimously approved a resolution in favor of the wind project and formally asked the Portland City Council to support the project.

At the meeting the PIP also finished authorizing ways to spend the $50,000 discretionary fund it has been given by the City Manager's office for two years now. After months of research and discussion, councilors authorized $12,500 to fund a nonprofit taxi service for Peaks Island.

PEAT wind test stalls over location

Crossing the Blue Line

The Badge on the Ben - a presentation of original poetry by members of the Portland Police Department.

In the Arts

Studio Walls at the Space gallery

Jamie Hogan looks at walls as art in a show by four island artists at Space Gallery.

In Regular Features

Letters p. 6
Yoga p. 7
Love of Peaks p. 8
PIES p. 9
The Puzzle p. 10
Star Gazing p. 11
Financial Tides p. 17
Community Notes p. 21

In the News

Two House Fires on Peaks Island

Two homes were destroyed by fire within a month. In the aftermath the families try to recover.

PILP Criticized over Wind Testing Decision

PILP President Garry Fox explains his decision to use a meteorological tower on a conservation land.

Earth Day Celebration

April 25 Details on page 22

FAIR WARNING: This is the April Fools edition

Getting Ready for Lobster on Peaks Island

Police Department.

Two homes were destroyed by fire within a month. In the aftermath the families try to recover.

In the News

PILP President Garry Fox explains his decision to use a meteorological tower on a conservation land.

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Getting Ready for Lobster on Peaks Island

Police Department.
After coming across a highly accurate map of the new world dating to 1421 in a University of Minnesota library, retired British Navy commander Gavin Menzies began researching the history of celestial exploration and discovered that apparently the Chinese had navigated and accurately charted the entire world at least 70 years before Columbus sailed for America.

In 2002, Menzies wrote a 552-page book about his findings, called "1421". It is a compelling argument, but he is so dogmatic you start to wonder if, in the next page, he's going to tell you how the Chinese discovered Casco Bay.

His premise is based on historical records and accounts of early Chinese navigation, their knowledge of astronomy, the sailing capabilities of their ships, and the existence of several early 15th-century maps which show the Americas, Australia, and Antarctica drawn with an accuracy of latitude and longitude that Western cartographers were not capable of at the time, nor would be for another 300 years.

Menzies also cites findings of Chinese artifacts throughout the world, the distribution of Chinese plant and animal species, contemporary accounts of pre-existing Chinese culture when Europeans first made their voyages, and other facts. An extensive bibliography is included.

In 1352 an uprising by the Chinese people against Mongol depredations had been ongoing since their conquest by Kublai Khan, grandson of the great Genghis Khan, in 1279. The fighting lasted 35 years and marked the end of the Mongol Yuan dynasty. It was the beginning of the Ming dynasty in China.

When the last of the Mongols were driven out of the country, Chinese emperor Zhu Di (1360–1424) initiated a reformation in his country to rebuild it as a center of world culture. He began by expanding the imperial fleet at Nanjing, adding 1,500 more to an already vast number of treasure ships, merchant vessels and warships. He relocated the capital to Beijing, and rebuilt it into the Forbidden City, a fortress complex 1,500 times the size of London at the time, with fifty times the population. He also repaired the Great Wall, adding watchtowers and turrets, and extending it another 570 miles.

More significantly, "in the first year of his reign he restored the nightly practice of recording the stars," in order to increase the accuracy of navigation and charting. "His aim was to ensure that Beijing's great observatory was the reference point from which the entire world would be explored and charted, and all new discoveries located—in short, the center of the universe".

The wealth of the Ming dynasty at the time was enormous. To inaugurate the new city in 1421, Zhu Di threw a lavish ceremony attended by 26,000 people who toasted on a 10-course banquet served on the finest porcelain, and were carried back to their homes in a hundred ships with a complement of 30,000 men.

In comparison, the English King Henry V's wedding to Catherine of Valois around the same time was attended by 600 guests who ate salted cod on bread plates. When Henry went to war later that year, his army crossed the English Channel in four fishing boats that could only ferry 100 men at a time, and had to sail in daylight.

Menzies theory begins here, with an expedition that Zhu Di launched in 1421 of huge diplomatic flagships 480 long and 180 feet wide that contained hundreds of envoys and their families. In early March 1421, these levies thinned out with a fleet of merchant vessels and warships and sailed away on a mission to explore the world, find new sources of trade and expand the Chinese empire. The envoys would settle new lands and establish satellite colonies that would pay annual tribute China.

But when the fleet came struggling back to China 2 years later, having lost many ships and hundreds of people to seas of storms at various places throughout the world, it was to a new and unrecognized nation, one that scored its very existence and eventually obliterated all records of its travels.

While the expedition was away, a number of catastrophes had occurred back home that shook Zhu Di personally, and led to the rapid demise of his reign as emperor. The first of these occurred only months after the fleet set sail, a freak lightening storm that apparently sent fireballs down the Imperial Way of Beijing. It destroyed the imperial palace in a fire that "seemed as if 100,000 torches provided with oil and wicks had been lit up therein... so much so that the whole city was set ablaze by the light of that conflagration and the fire spreading." At about the same time a horrible epidemic of an unknown disease raged through the country and killed more than 174,000 people in the Fujian province alone.

Zhu Di also ordered the huge fleet to sail away in March 1421. It included a number of new discoveries located in short, the center of the universe.

Unfortunately, as they throw down "proofs" and argue against each other, Menzies and Prescott eventually start sounding like they both belong in the Oprah book club.
Peaks Island CERT looking for new members

BY KEVIN ATTRE

When members of the Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team responded to a fire on Upper A Street in early March, Chris Hoppin noticed that they were all over 65 years old and decided the organization needed some younger blood, ones who could more easily perform some of the strenuous tasks involved. He hastily put out a call for volunteers to attend the monthly CERT meeting on March 16, but was disappointed when no new people showed up.

"The CERT program on Peaks Island was created in 2007 by the Portland Fire Department under the direction of Captain David Jackson and is funded through the US Department of Homeland Security. According to CERT member Albert Bleau, its goals are to educate the community about emergency response through articles and outreach efforts, and to have a disaster response system in place to handle an island-wide emergency, which might include anything from a house fire to a terrorist attack."

The organization has an average of 15 members, many of whom were volunteers from the start, and who are all trained in first aid and emergency response procedures. Personnel from the fire department also attend the monthly meetings at the Community Center on the third Monday of each month to provide ongoing training.

"Once a year CERT conducts a drill for an island-wide emergency, such as an imagined explosion at the public works facility that was enacted in 2007. The drills involve some play acting but mainly give CERT members valuable practice responding to a large scale disaster and the opportunity to work out the kinks in its emergency response procedures. Practice paid off during the Patriot's Day storm when CERT was able to quickly organize food and shelter for victims of the storm."

One of CERT's most important accomplishments has been to compile a list of emergency resources, which includes the names of about 100 people on the island with medical training, as well as social workers, carpenters, electricians, heavy equipment operators and others who have volunteered their services in the event of an emergency. The list also includes the locations of islanders with chainsaws, power generators, haulers, and essentially "all the assets we could find," said member Gerald Garman. "People are willing to help."

"He said that because the island is an isolated community, the residents need to be self-reliant to a greater degree than communities on the mainland (according to Bleau, Peaks Island was chosen for that very reason). The philosophy of CERT is that communities are essentially on their own, and in a widespread disaster they have only each other to rely on."

"Think about where you're living now," said Garman. "If power goes out, where are the candles? Where are the flashlights? Some people are completely helpless," he added. "They probably struggle with 911."

At the March 16 meeting, Caroline Harden, a firefighter and trained medical technician with the Portland Fire Department, came out to review new CPR procedures with the team. Using an apparatus like a facemask with a breathing tube for administering artificial respiration, members were able to practice on two training dummies Hopsin brought with her.

According to Harden, CPR is rarely needed in emergencies — she uses it maybe four times a year — but it's important for the members of Peaks Island's CERT to have the skill. When her team gets an emergency call indicating that someone on the island needs CPR, she said "We're going like this [holds her head in despair] because it's so long to get out here."

CERT has identified three emergency shelters on Peaks Island - the MacVane Community Center, the Children's Workshop, and the Senior Center — because they all have power generators. CERT would like to get generators at the Brackett church and the elementary school so they can be included as secondary shelters.

To become a CERT member, simply come to the regular meetings, held on the third Monday of each month at the MacVane Community Center. You can also call Albert Bleau (207-772-0007), Jerry Garman (207-504) or Chris Hoppin (207-593) for further information.

Homestart Update

BY MARY TERRY

In mid March, when MIT released a study, commissioned by The Maine Affordable Housing Coalition, Homestart was anxious to compare data with their Peaks Island Housing Needs Assessment which was conducted the previous December, through a grant from the Peaks Island Fund. Both point to an aging population and discrepancy between income growth and the median price of a home.

The Planning Decisions Inc. assessment report indicates affordability is critical to Peaks Island residents and that an island household earning the median income can no longer afford the median priced island home. Also like the MIT study, our report indicates the median age of islanders has increased slightly over the past eight years. The complete text of the Planning Decisions Housing Needs Assessment Report is available on the HOMESTART webpage at: http://peaksland.homestart.org/news/needs_assessment.pdf. A printed copy is available for review in the HOMESTART reference book located in the Peaks Island Library.

The raw data has already and will be used in future to test assumptions about housing needs and solutions. As an example, it has shifted our impression that young families are the most housing stressed group to considering strategies to allow older residents to age here. Certainly, the many open-ended comments reinforce the need for consistently updated public information and a mindful process for public and organizational decision-making.

Currently, 23 respondents indicated a need for either a rental or sale alternative to their present homes. Our first task has been identifying these individuals and building an application and review process."
Fires destroy two homes on Peaks Island

BY KENNETH ATTRA

Fires occurring within weeks of each other destroyed two homes in separate incidents on Peaks Island in February and March. A fire gutted the home of Leslie Davis and her 9-year-old daughter, Samantha, on Welch Street Tuesday, Feb. 10. It apparently started on the back porch around 10 a.m. and was well underway before Leslie even noticed it. She said she and her daughter were in the living room watching a movie on her laptop. "We were watching Scooby Doo. All of a sudden, I heard these snapping and cracking noises. I sat up and looked out the back door. I just saw black smoke." By then the back porch was in total darkness, and black smoke was curling through the crack at the top of the door into the house. "It was creepy." She ran upstairs to get dressed—then both in pajamas—and still not fully realizing how bad it was, spent as much as five minutes getting their clothes together before getting out of the house. She thought about grabbing her computer and other valuables, but decided against it. "I kept looking up at that door and all the smoke." The smoke alarm didn't go off until they were leaving the building. "We went to the side of the house and stopped at the driveway so I could put her on her shoes, and that's when I saw it." By then the entire rear of the house was in flames, and the small garage door next to the house was starting to catch fire as well. "That's when I kind of went, 'Oh my God,'"

In a written summary of the firefighting effort, Portland Fire Captain Danny Pendleton said the first call came in just before 10 a.m. "Engine No. 12 with Peaks Island Fire Police Officer Les Smith arrived at the scene at about 10:04 a.m. and reported that the rear of the building was well involved in fire. The dispatcher then transmitted a second alarm with the updated information at 10:06 a.m. "The fire, who was on the island, arrived right behind Engine No. 12, and he and Officer Smith charged a hose line and first extinguished the fire that had extended to the cottage next door before putting water on the burning house. Meanwhile, crews from the Munjoy Hill, Bramhall and Central fire stations were dispatched on the Cavallaro and Marine 3 (the aluminum skiff with my onboard). With Pat Flynn in charge, the crew from Central arrived at the scene at about 10:21 a.m. Three crew members from the hill, along with Deputy Chief Thomas, arrived in the Cavallaro in time to relieve Flynn's crew when their air packs started running low, forcing them out of the building. In addition to these crews, members of Peaks Island's Public Works were involved, and when Deputy Thomas requested additional help, the Coast Guard brought in six more firefighters from the Munjoy Hill and Bramhall stations to assist. Long Island was also notified and sent five firefighters, but they were returned before arrival. Bob Hannigan was very helpful in providing transportation to and from the dock to the fire scene," said Capt. Pendleton. "He also provided drinks and pizza to the firefighters who were very hungry." You can see how there was a tremendous amount of teamwork and cooperation that occurred at this fire and working together prevented a terrible situation from getting worse.

Within hours of the event, an account was created at the Maine Bank & Trust branch office on Peaks Island to receive donations for Leslie and her daughter. By early afternoon, emails had circulated to request clothes and toys, and by sundown, the Dahl family had learnt Leslie and her daughter the use of their home. (The Dahls were in South Carolina for the season, but had the cable system reinstated so Leslie's daughter could watch television.) By Wednesday, Leslie asked that no more donations be given, because by then they had basically received as much as they'd had to begin with before the fire happened. "It's amazing what the community's done for us," said Leslie later. "We all need to take a minute and be in awe at what we accomplished as a community in this situation which could have been so much worse," said PIC councilors Lynne Richard and Bob Tiffney in a general email to the Peaks Island residents.

The fire was not considered suspicious, so fire officials are not investigating the cause, but Leslie said there were two possibilities. "It may have been electrical," she said, "or, I just cleaned out the pellet stove that morning." She is inclined to believe that the ashes caught fire. "I had let it out the night before, so it had been out for hours. Even when I cleaned it, the ashes were cold," but she said the firefighters explained to her later that even cold ashes can contain small bits of smoldering material. "They have these little bursts that can ignite things," she said.

"So now I know, and I think everybody should know that even pellet stoves—the manual only tells you to have to wait a few hours, but it's not true." She urged people to wait at least 48 hours before collecting ashes and always put them in metal containers. Less than three weeks later an early morning fire, first called in at 3:57 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, destroyed the Berry house at 140 Upper A Street. According to Deputy Chief Bill Flynn, 16 members of the Portland Fire Department responded to the fire, but the house was fully engulfed when they arrived.

It took approximately three hours to get it under control, and crews were delayed getting started because the house was a significant distance from the nearest hydrant—volunteers on the island were still trying to get water to the site when the city team arrived. Cold temperatures further hampered their efforts. The other firefighters spent six hours at the scene. No injuries were reported; however, the house was completely destroyed. "It's just a total loss," said Chief Flynn.

The property is owned by Edward Berry with his sister, Susan, who co-inherited it from their father upon his death two years ago. It's very sad for both of us," said Edward, who added that they lost artifacts from their childhood and irreplaceable memories of their parents collected over the years. The family has owned the property since the late 1960s. Because it was known that gas and electric service had been disconnected, and that the house was unoccupied at the time, the fire has been deemed suspicious and is currently under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Division of the Portland Police Department.

Electrician Paul Erico disconnected electrical power to the Davis house before firefighters poured water into it.
Lines from Casco Bay Lines

BY CHRIS HOPPIN

Difficult economic times led to considerable discussion during the past few months about ways to reduce costs to operate Casco Bay Lines and save islanders money. The Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD) must operate as a state-funded entity, so $8.5 million worth of revenues and expenses must balance each year.

This column was written March 24, before final decisions on revenues and costs were determined by the elected CBITD board. However, it may be useful for readers to see the process that led to the result of new policies.

The balance between revenues and expenses leads to a strong catch-22 situation whenever fare tickets, vehicles, and freight are considered. As would be straightforward if the CBITD lowered ticket rates in an area like passenger tickets, it must not make a difference in another, like vehicles and freight charges. There is a need to pay Paul simply of operations. Payment of the seasonality of travel also affects the business. Year round and seasonal residents shall rely on and tourists all see the effects of pricing.

One common misconception is that we can attempt to make prices less for year round residents than those paid by visitors. This is done in effect by using winter rates that are lower than summertime rates, and other differences such as more space. The month and annual passes are also being explored. However, since CBITD receives $464,400 in Federal funds, $228,700 in Maine State funds; and a rural grant of $185,000, it is required to charge all passengers the same rates. The one exception is with senior citizens, who must receive at least a 30 percent discount under federal regulations.

All agree CBITD would benefit from more state funding; however, some people express concern that state-sponsored ferries in northern Maine have much less frequent service than Casco Bay Lines.

Several islanders are exploring some methods to gain more funding from the City of Portland and the towns of Long Island and Chebeague. One proposal is a Metro-Casco card, a photo identification card for residents and taxpayers that could lead to a specific, transaction-based discount that would be paid directly to the ferry and the bus lines by the municipalities.

Furthermore, the seasonality of CBITD’s operations leads to an imbalance throughout the year. Obviously, more passengers and revenue expenses during summer months are offset by fewer passengers and less revenue during the off season. As a result, CBITD must burn through each spring to pay its bills. The District operates at a loss until the summer travelers return. Because the overall rolling debt has averaged as much as $600,000 in past years, the CBITD board voted in January to reduce those loans and their costly debt interest by $200,000 per year over the next four years.

At the same time, the board asked staff to cut expenses and to suggest ways to reduce costs. They recommended $75,000 in reduced costs in a range of other savings, including better telephones and lower rates for credit card charges. They also have continued 2008 fuel conservation practices that have led to considerable savings in fuel.

However, the universal decision to lock in fuel prices at a fixed rate of $3.61 per gallon when they went spiraling upwards last year left us paying too much when prices dropped unexpectedly. As a result, the board felt the 93 cent per ticket fuel surcharge must continue until Sept. 1, 2007. When a new, lower fuel contract takes effect.

Reducing costs to avoid increasing ticket prices led to considerable discussions of options or alternative plans to reduce the number of ferry trips throughout the year. However, each time the staff suggested cost saving cuts in service, the board listened to public objections and denied the proposals. Also, U.S. Coast Guard rules limit the number of passengers that can be carrying on each of the ferries, so there is real process to qualify them for a Homestart home as soon as something appropriate is available. If you, the reader, are one of those people please call or write Mary Terry, Casco Bay Island Fellow, at 221-2507 or marykerry@gmail.com for a confidential application.

We are also fortunate to have an internship project in place with Laura Wurts who has been holding and is seeking more interviews with the 30-something community who were less able to return the original question.

The purchase and sale agreement for 36 Luther Street has lapsed with no further plans for activity at this time. At 18 Luther Street, we are pleased to have provided additional maintenance documentation to the house through a HomePort Program grant. Further development of some nature for the property is an ongoing financial requirement for Homestart in order for it to continue in an affordable residence.

On Pleasant Street, we have completed a survey and septic study reaching the parcel for consideration by Greater Portland Habitat for Humanity who is interested by the island presence. The Habitat model involves not just future owners but an active full community process and they are anxious to begin that dialogue here. We are particularly interested in matching their newer green building options for Peaks.

If you are interested in applying for an affordable rental or ownership opportunity, please call or write Mary Terry, Casco Bay Island Fellow, at 221-2507 or marykerry@gmail.com for an application which has been developed with criteria used by the State of Maine and sister islander organizations. Following confidential review by a committee outside the Homestart Board, qualifying families and individuals will be placed on a wait list for the first available home as it becomes available.

The board next meets April 21, 7 pm in the Fay Garman Senior Center Long Cove with Steve Bolton, Executive Director of Homestart for Greater Portland.

Secessio movement
tabled for now

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Soon after meeting with a group of Peaks Island residents interested in revisiting the island independence movement, three islanders met with members of the new state legislature in Augusta to discuss their chances of succeeding from Portland. According to Russ Edwards, an organizer of the effort, he went with island residents Judy Powluck and Frank Pentri to a meeting with State Representative Peter Stucker, Senator Justin Alfond and Speaker Hannah Pingree in January, where they were told legislation was being discouraged due to financial constraints caused by the current economic crisis, and that as a practical matter there would have to be some ‘significant change’ from last year before they would introduce a new secession bill.

“I don’t see what’s different,” he said to them.

Given the lukewarm reception by the legislators, as well as advice from members of the Peaks Island Council who feel the PIC should be given more time to resolve some of the conflicts the island has with the city, the effort was tabled. “Significant change hasn’t happened in our favor, that’s what the [group] has decided to do.” He said they will keep an eye on things and see if, in a couple of years, the independence movement should be revived.

April Specials

Save 20% off Fresh Cheeses

Mix and Match Olive Oil Cases in 6, 20% OFF

10% Tuesdays

Show your Casco Bay Lines pass or tickets and receive 10% off your purchase!

20% off selected Cellar Wines!

Wine Tasting

Thursday 4/30/09
Community Letters

THANK YOU

Samantha and I will never be able to express how much the island support has made this whole, awful experience bearable. We never had to feel sorry for what happened. We were constantly surrounded by generosity and kindness.

There was a time when we weren’t sure if we could stay on the island, but this experience has made up our minds that we have to stay.

I want to be a part of this community that is so giving. I want Samantha to grow up remembering and experiencing many generous moments like these.

Thank you Peaks Islanders. We will be eternally grateful.

Leslie Davis & Samantha Flynn
Peaks Island

Open Letter to Peaks Islanders from PITA-EA

Peaks Island Tax Assistance began a program in January 2008 to assist homeowners and renters with energy bills. The program continues to help with energy costs. As part of our process we offer an Energy Audit and Weatherization Program to help reduce the amount of energy used and perhaps reduce energy bills. Energy Assistance has set aside funds to provide this service. The one thing we all know is that we can save on energy costs.

As president of the CBITD board, I believe I can respond to the letter disagreeing with the new personal cart regulations. Unfortunately, though some families have used Radio Flyer wagons on the CBITD ferries without incident, many people have overloaded these wagons and caused concerns about safety. Personal cart regulation has been discussed by both riders and crew members for a number of years, with the major concerns being safety and, particularly in the busy summer season, the storage of carts on the boats during passage to the various islands. We have recently seen an increase in very large carts that are bigger than the freight carts used by CBITD. It was time to finally address this issue. Thus the new personal cart regulations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Pamela Trefed
Peaks Island

Response From Casco Bay Lines

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Pamela Trefed
Peaks Island

Trash talk

Weekend visitors, landlords, and realtors, it’s time to assure that your properties each have a covered trash barrel for use by renters. Please be sure that your posted information includes a request that renters not place blue bags out on the curbside—bags should be put into the covered cans. Too often, renters are placing bags on the street when they leave on Saturday or Sunday, giving animals access to tear the bags open and dump trash around. It’s not fair to neighbors to have to pick up trash generated by renters and weekenders. Thanks! Lynne Richard for the Public Services Committee of the PIC.

The Peaks Island Council congratulates June Bergh for receiving the very first PIC Island Heroes Award. At the March PIC meeting, June was recognized for her year-long after school program, which serves more than 30 island elementary school students. June organizes and implements learning activities each week which are fun, educational, and which take advantage of the talents of island residents. June’s energy and vision have filled a need in an island way, and our community is enhanced as a result.

The PIC will accept nominations for future awards—an easy to complete nomination form can be found on our website; www.peaksislandcouncil.info.

Tentative: (The sign is ordered and I need to make sure it will be delivered by this date)

Community Center renaming ceremony. On Saturday morning, April 11, at 9 am, a new sign will be placed to designate the Community Center in Doug MacVane’s honor. Friends and family are invited for an “unveiling” and a brief reception.

Lynne Richard

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The Island 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 try to keep letters to 200 words or less. We reserve the right to edit all letters. The newspaper is available by mail for $25 a year. Address changes to Island Times. Our mailing address is 208 Brackett Ave., Peaks Island, Maine, 04108. To reach Kevin Attra, call (207) 623-3716 or e-mail islandtimes.org. For ad rates visit our website at www.islandtimes.org.

Printed by the Times Record, Brunswick.
A yogic perspective on health and simple living

BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stephens teaches weekly yoga classes and private yoga lessons on Peaks Island. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or column ideas to 766-3101 or sfyoga@usa.net

A few years ago in late March, I was scheduled to guide a meditative walk for Portland Trails. The night before the walk we had one of those late spring snowfalls which left a lovely blanket of about a foot of heavy, wet snow even as the pussy willows were beginning to blossom. A hardy group showed up for the walk and we walked in a small clearing where we stopped to warm up for the walk and we hiked to a clearing where there was a crosswalk, no traffic light. As we crossed the street we paused to look across the road, no traffic light. Our breath becomes rapid and shallow, the heart speeds up, and muscles tend to clench.

In a commentary on the decline of decency in the entire human race! One primary drawback of neglecting the pause and settling between activities is that we carry the energy of the previous experience and it may be quite inappropriate. On the yoga mat we practice moving from posture flows to stillness and back, refining the ability to transition smoothly and feel. Inevitably, we require that we wait to get on and off the boat. Rather than bellowing your neighbor out of the way, use that time to take a few conscious breaths and feel. Inevitably, we venture outdoors - even if it's only from the parking lot to the boat and from the dock to the garage. Unless the deck hands are hauling in the ramp, pause and look up at the sky, check the tide, notice if the boat is choppy or smooth, feel the air on your face, notice something unique about the day. Even a brief interlude of attention invites you to be present in the moment you are experiencing and takes you deep into an exploration of your own inner balance.

As spring emerges and the days lengthen, we often go to the shore of our beautiful island and give yourself the gift of an intentional pause, listen and feel. Rather than offering yoga postures with this column, I'm leaving you with a few of my favorite places to pause on Peaks Island.

Trees are wonderful witnesses of our soul journeys." - Jamie Hogan

photo by Jamie Hogan
For the love of Peaks!

BY FRAN HOUSTON
ASTOLD TO RHONDA BERG

Fred and Margaret Bragon

Fred: I fell in love with her because she lived near the ocean!

Margaret: I grew up near Cape Cod. That’s what Fred is referring to when he says she lived near the ocean.

Fred & Margaret: So this woman, who was the wife of a guy I worked with for years, Connie Dimmick, she said, ‘Why don’t you concentrate on Peaks Island?’ She put together a couple of trips for us. She showed us all about sailboats and the ocean.

Margaret: [About the school] It’s very special, because it’s so small. They’re able to treat each child as an individual. And I think that’s the key. There are unique teachers. They have a real commitment. They have to commute. That says a lot.

Fred: Sometimes, when I’m reading to Mathias, someone will say, ‘Oh, what are you doing?’ We write this way. What makes it unique is that everybody who wants to get on or off the island has to ride that ferry. People say, ‘Oh, what a nice thing!’

MUD SEASON NEWS

Public Works launches kneel high to a pot hole program

Due to heavy rains and street flooding this year, the Public Works Department is asking families who want to earn a little extra cash to rent their small children out on Wednesday, April 1, to help road crews locate pot holes that need filling. To qualify, children must stand less than 18 inches high and be able to swim.

Bio-fuel from mold

Training will begin Friday, April 10, for owners of a new device called the Germ Press, which converts fungus into super-concentrated biofuel. It is the brainchild of British mathematician, John Fortgurges, who calculated a method to convert mildew into convenient sized pellets based on the Fibonacci Sequence that will burn for up to eight hours, depending on how valuable you are. According to the manufacturer, the pellets work in any heating system that uses solid fuel, and also make a delicious tea.

Mud jump planned to extend ski season

Plans are underway to extend the ski season well into spring with a 230 foot ski jump off Battery Steele that uses a proprietary slurry of mud to create a slick skiing surface. The mud slurry is fed continuously over the surface of the ramp by an electric pump powered with a wind turbine located at the top of the jump.

City officials said, ‘Where are we going with this, Kevin?’

Skiers wear a specially designed back pack that feeds water over the skis keeping them wet, however, a recent controversy arose over the use of heavy water to increase skier’s momentum.

The water, which is slightly radioactive, apparently comes from somewhere near Wiscasset, and has boosted the sale of Geiger counters throughout Maine.
Peaks Island Experiences

April 2009

The Chicken or the Egg?

BY JERRY GARMAN

After much local lobbying and support from groups such as the Maine Poultry服务质量 Meetup Group, the Portland City Council passed an ordinance on Feb. 18 permitting residents to raise chickens. The arguments for self reliance, fresh eggs, food security, pets and energy saving ruled the day. Unknowingly the council also resolved one of man’s long-standing dilemmas: “The chicken or the egg?” They said yes. The ordinance allows ownership of six hens (no roosters), requires chicken permits and coop building permits, defines the location of the coop, and controls the egg and other output from chickens. If only 100 Peaks Island households became chicken farmers their 600 chickens could produce 180,000 eggs per year, or 41 dozen per day. Since the eggs cannot be sold and the hen cannot be slaughtered, a whole series of unintentional consequences will occur, especially on the island, some good, some bad. Here are a few possibilities:

The ordinance allows ownership of six hens (no roosters), requires chicken permits and coop building permits, defines the location of the coop, and controls the egg and other output from chickens. If only 100 Peaks Island households became chicken farmers their 600 chickens could produce 180,000 eggs per year, or 41 dozen per day. Since the eggs cannot be sold and the hen cannot be slaughtered, a whole series of unintentional consequences will occur, especially on the island, some good, some bad. Here are a few possibilities:

- Fresh eggs for Peaks Island households become available for $2 a dozen, City of Portland revenues increase $27,000.
- The bartender says he can’t serve eggs. Lyme disease is eradicated. GOOD.
- Islanders buy “red earlobe” chickens which produce only brown eggs. No white eggs available for Easter egg dying. BAD.
- Eggs become items for barter. GOOD.
- People carrying signs “Will work for eggs” appear on Welsh Street. Lawn mowing is done for five dozen eggs and snow shoveling for Mockingbird eggs. BAD.
- Eggs are offered free on outdoor stands. GOOD.
- Two egg thrift shops established. GOOD.
- Crows and seagulls forego blue plastic trash bags and greedily consume free eggs. Public Works is pleased. GOOD.
- Ornithological groups flock to Peaks to see rare new species of golden-beaked crows and seagulls. Restaurant sales increase. GOOD.
- Red foxes migrate to Peaks from nearby islands in direct proportion to the number of chicken coops built. BAD.
- Emergency 911 calls about missing chickens increase (all chickens look the same). BAD.
- The island’s sewer treatment plant experiences large chemical swings as some chickens waste gets into the sewer system. BAD.
- One hundred families use nitrogen-rich waste to fertilize vegetable gardens. GOOD.
- The island’s sewer treatment plant experiences large chemical swings as some chickens waste gets into the sewer system. BAD.
- One hundred families use nitrogen-rich waste to fertilize vegetable gardens. GOOD.

One hundred new locations for outdoor stans. GOOD.

- What do you call a non-egg-laying hen? Dinner BETTER.
- Moral problems may also arise. How long do you keep feeding a non-performing hen? Since you apparently generating more GOOD than BAD consequences it looks like the Portland City Council will not have egg on its face, but there are rumors of an additional ordinance to permit one cow per household. Bobby Hannigan was heard to say, “This goes the dairy market!”
Paying the Piper - by Anna Tierney

ACROSS
1. World-famous beach
6. Can be toxic
11. Car loads, for short
14. Money in Iraq
15. Root
16. Paper promise
17. "Evan ______ of The Lemonheads"
18. April pastime
20. Firstborn
22. Dealt with shingles
23. Kind of horn
25. Cleaver
28. Dog in Peter Pan
29. BA, formerly
30. Rite of spring
32. Pancake
34. Tom or Vinny
35. Jewel from Peaks
36. Nabokov novel
39. Volente
40. Used by taxi drivers
43. Bridge event
45. Doctor's writing
47. Heralded by ice out
52. Speck
53. Smell
54. Instrument
55. State, briefly
56. Icing favorite
58. You put someone in it
60. Often part of 18 Across
63. Blood vessel
66. How many flew over the cuckoo's nest?
67. Resident of Muscat
68. My dad, e.g.
69. Pa or flan follower
70. Gregor the beetle
71. Cleaver's one-time cellmate

DOWN
1. 66 Across, for example
2. Vietnam phenomenon
3. Provide crossword clues?
4. Venue for 30 Across
5. 30 Across absentee, 2009
6. Hay fever does
7. Break
8. Friend of sorts
9. Painful contraction
10. Drez men's site
11. City in Spain
12. Famous chopper (first name only)
13. Easter, for example
19. Color
21. Logical preceeder
23. Baker, Charlie
24. Kind of shark
26. Joyce Carol Oates heroine
31. Found in Third World countries
33. Reserve
37. Lodging place
38. Curtains raised
40. Food market in Naples
41. Bread
42. Yard or gaff
43. Church support
44. Known for what they lost
46. Mayo
47. Bad haircut dude!
48. She became a swallow (Greek myth)
49. Jacob's wife
50. Woman's name
51. Baseball star
52. Stirs, flaps
59. Ten penny, for example
61. Pulp Fiction actor
62. Headlong flight
64. High rocky hill
65. ______ Lowell, American poet

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

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"April is the cruellest month," wrote T.S. Eliot in 1922, "breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dust roots with spring rain." Right after "The Great War" (we know it now as World War I), it must have seemed so, and now it's tax time. But as the Sun has passed north of the equator, April is also the kindest month, adding a little more sunlight each day, warming the vast northern land mass, encouraging the brave crocuses to rise and bloom.

THE PLANETS

For months, Venus has dominated the skyline high over the mainland at dusk, but now she's fallen between Sun and Earth and will pop up in the early morning low out over the ocean, a waxing crescent for early risers with telescopes. Jupiter joins Venus rising high in the east, but the gas giant is still a few months from optimal viewing. Mars hides just below Venus, small and dim now, but growing over time. Looking to the southeast, Saturn sits below Leo the Lion.

In the evening, Mercury jumps up above the western horizon and can be seen with binoculars when the sky is clear. It is the smallest planet (smaller than some planets moons) in our solar system and the closest to the Sun, so it's visible to us for only a few minutes before dawn or after dusk, when Earth's horizon blocks the Sun. Its surface is essentially devoid of atmosphere and yet what the Sun can blast out of the rocky surface, so in daytime there is a black sky roasting its sunny side to 80°F and freezing its rear to -300°F — the biggest temperature swing in our universe. (Venus is hotter, but its clouds hold and spread the heat more evenly.) "What are the reasons that clutsch, what branches grow out of this stony rubbish?" asks Eliot. On Mercury, the answer is none — it is The Waste Land materialized. Composed mostly of heavy metals, Mercury is unusually dense, and its orbital period is a short 59 days. The planet rotates three times every two orbits, and each orbit is highly eccentric: the Sun is 21 million miles away at perihelion and 32 million miles at aphelion — a 50 percent increase. By contrast, Earth's orbital eccentricity is minimal, a mere 5 percent now, though it increases over thousands of years as the other planets line up to pull it more out of round. As a result of Mercury's eccentricity, some of its Earthly appearances are better than others, and this month's is the best this year, so sneak a peek while you can, especially during April vacation when it's brightest.

THE STARS

The great winter constellation Orion the Hunter is now in the western sky in early evenings, but is followed faithfully by the bright Dog Star, Sirius, low in the southeast. To the left, Gemini twins are standing nearly upright now, with the small-dog star Procyon to their lower right. Directly over head is the dim constellation Cancer the Crab, and at its head is the Beehive star cluster, definitely worth a look with binoculars. Next to it is Leo the Lion, the big reverse outlining his majestic head. Later in the evening, low in the southeast, you may notice Spica, the left hand of Virgo the Virgin, dim but full of galaxies.

High in the sky to the north is the Big Dipper, its cup upside down, and its handle starting the North Star. Arcturus, the red super-giant star that is the fulcrum of kite-shaped Bootes the Herdsman.

THE ALMANAC

April 1 — Sunrise is at 6:23 a.m., and sunset is at 7:07 p.m. April 12 is the first new Moon of the month. April 19 is the full "Fish" Moon rising at 4:49 a.m., lighting the way for those on the 8:15 boat home.

April 6 — That yellow dot near the western horizon is Mercury. Its rings are nearly edge-on to Earth, so it's not as bright as it might be, but its big moon Titan (one of the moons bigger than Mercury) causes a shadow on its cloud top. It starts appearing at 1:22 a.m. on April 13 and at 12:22 a.m. on April 29.

April 9 — Full "Fish" Moon rises at 4:49 a.m., lighting the way for those on the 8:15 boat home.

April 10 — For those on the early boat to town, a nearly full Moon sets over the city at 6:06 a.m.

April 17 — Last-quarter Moon is at 4:39 a.m., low in the west at dawn, but is visible during April vacation when it's brightest. The Moon's age is less than seven days. This is the time to observe the phases of Venus, Mercury, and Mars. Venus is now at its best phase, low in the west at dawn, but it's not shining near Titan, the Moon's big moon. Because of its size, Venus is only visible with binoculars on April 17.

April 22 — The Moon is at its last quarter phase, and is visible in the west after sunset. The waning crescent Moon in the east is visible at quarter to the south.

April 24 — New Moon means no moonlight to ruin the contrast for your armload of faint galaxies, nebulae and star-clusters. Tonight's best for finding the open star cluster in Cancer.

April 27 — The Moon's at perigee (close to Earth) at 1 a.m. tomorrow, so it's pulling tides higher and lower, with 12.5 feet between high and low tides. The lowest spring tide of the month is this morning at 7:15 a.m., so let's hope the ferry doesn't get stuck while trying to leave Peaks Island, loaded with schoolchildren fresh from April vacation. Eliot would say, "Hurry up please. It's time!"
Art in the garden
BY CHRISTINE MCDUFFY

Tired of this winter cold? Heat off the press comes “The Inspired Garden”, a new book by Long Island writer, Judy Paolini, to set your gardening thoughts on sizzle. We know all gardeners are artists in their hearts - certainly island gardeners are - and Judy has interviewed 24 of New England's finest to find those elements which inspire both their work and their gardens.

It started when Nance Trueworthy was asked by Down East Books, which had already produced several collections of her lush Maine photography, to come up with a fresh garden book. Nance called her friend, colleague and traveling buddy, Judy Paolini, who thought up a theme of artists' gardens. What better excuse for some very interesting field collections of her lush Maine elements which inspired both their work and their gardens.

Judy says her desk was layered high with her notes, Nance’s photographs, transcriptions of the interviews, and lots of gardening resource books. Now is not the season to visit gardens, but mark your calendar for a tour of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay this spring, because all 24 artists featured in “The Inspired Garden” will be showcased.

From the FIFTH MAINE

Buildings as Artifacts
BY KIM MACISAAC

A community’s buildings or man-made structures are the most visible clues to its past. Peaks Island is blessed with a wealth of old structures (most are 100 years old or more) representing a variety of architectural styles. The most curious of these are the concrete structures built by the government during WWII. These structures help to document the crucial role of the Peaks Island Military Reservation during the war.

The towers, batteries and other structures were constructed of steel reinforced concrete and the gun batteries, the plotting room, the mine casemate and the water reservoir were also covered with several feet of earth and planted with shrubs, grass and trees as camouflage. The idea was to make them appear to be part of the natural landscape to any enemy ship or plane that might venture into Casco Bay.

Attempts were also made to camouflage other military structures – a covered porch was added to the three story building near Wharf Cove in hopes of making it look more like a cottage (photo at left). This building served as the mine command station for the mine casemate.

In good Yankee fashion, many of these concrete structures have been recycled by their post-war owners. The three story tower is now a comfortable home. Battery Craven and the mine casemate serve as foundations for two new homes (photo above right). And the largest “artifact” structure, Battery Steele, is recognized by the Department of the Interior as an important historic site with a listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

So in your travels around the island, take a moment to really look at the variety of styles and designs of the buildings where we live, work, and play.

Each can tell us something about our community’s past.
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Each collection of the artists’ notes, photos, lists, sketches, post-its, postcards, toy, clip, porch, and trinkets form a visible trail of triggers. The often mysterious process of making art becomes a little more transparent, in which artists become visual souvenirs of accumulated experiences.

Scott decided he needed an actual wall to recreate the southern wall of his Peaks Island studio, which currently serves as his “writing wall.” He asked the landlord of his Portland office on Union Street about any possible demolitions in the building. Sure enough, a carpenter happily took a Saws-All to a wall owned by neighbor, Cyrus Hagge. "A 4’ by 4’ piece, studs and all, was delivered to Space. Working from a photograph, Scott arranged a composite that included rope, an ornate gold frame, sketches of birds, postcards, stickers, cartoons, vintage family photos, maps, a French curve, a dried rose, black plastic bird, and a photograph of Lorraine Hunt Lieberson. “She became my muse during a recent project,” Scott said. He listened to the late opera singer obsessively while writing “Blue Jay the Pirate”, a novel soon to be published by Candlewick Press. “Music is another wall of inspiration for me, I could tell you the soundtrack of every book I’ve worked on.”

Prior to the opening, the artists worked side by side arranging their wall spaces, finding some surprising commonalities among their collections. “I’m intrigued by what connects us,” Scott said. “There were at least 3 Karen Gelsardi references up, and any New Yorker cartoon seemed to create a cultural reference point for everybody.” I mentioned that I had the same piece, Tom Gauld’s Characters for an Epic Tale, in my studio. He replied, “Visual prompts are great for story-telling. Some people find a smell brings up something. For me, a doodle can conjure all sorts of things.”

Scott returned from the opening reception on March 6 to face the blank wall in his studio. “I felt nauseous. It was like a missing limb. My equilibrium was totally thrown off,” he said. Within a half hour, he began filling the emptiness with stray scraps of watercolor paper, used for blotting his brush during painting. Now listening to John Coltrane, he’s moved onto a new project. The field of colorful splats is becoming an improvised narrative, a backdrop to the next creative journey.

“The things surrounding me are weights. It’s good to purge, examine what and why we keep what we do, what informs our thinking and visualizing. There is no whole, we’re all built around fragments. This show got me to think about that,” said Scott. “And also about the curator as artist, akin to a record producer, making choices that are more interesting in their totality.”

I followed this trail of ideas next door into Nancy Gibson Nash’s space. As an assemblage artist, Nancy’s a professional hoarder. On one wall, an antique mirror frame that belonged to her grandmother enraptured a collage of visual references from art history, culture, holiday cards, ornaments, and stickers. I noticed the recurring image of hands. Scott returned from the opening reception on March 6 to face the blank wall in his studio. “I felt nauseous. It was like a missing limb. My equilibrium was totally thrown off,” he said. Within a half hour, he began filling the emptiness with stray scraps of watercolor paper, used for blotting his brush during painting. Now listening to John Coltrane, he’s moved onto a new project. The field of colorful splats is becoming an improvised narrative, a backdrop to the next creative journey.

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In the wake of the proposed new condominium development at Diamond Cove, a well-known, national theme park developer is looking to build a small theme park on the island. “We think it will compliment, in spirit at least, the conversion of public property into private land,” said company spokeswoman Suma Ketch. A pilot study has been proposed with a single amusement ride, which Ms. Ketch would only say will involve golf carts in some way.

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Crossing the Blue Line, the Badge vs. the Pen

BY R. WINGFIELD
ARTS & MUSIC CONTRIBUTOR

Thursday March 5 I attended "Thin Blue Lines," the Police Poetry Reading held in The Rines Auditorium of the Portland Public Library on Congress Street.

Three TV cameras along with many flashing point-n-shoots captured the event attended by over 80 people, among them the mayor, the interim police chief, police personnel in full uniform, city councilors, local luminaries from Portland's poetry/art and activist communities, and regular folks like me.

We all signed release forms agreeing to appear in any future documentary video.

The poems, written by police officers, detectives, and nationally-recognized local poets, were published in the 2009 Police Poetry Calendar - available at Longfellow Books, USM and SMCC and other national book sellers - and tell the story of life and other national booksellers - a documentary video.

Currently being implemented by the Arts and Equity Initiative, part of a much bigger project currently being implemented by Arts and Equity Initiative, a kind of collective started in 2007 in Portland, with long-reaching goals of asking big questions such as: What if local artists made art about city government? What if city workers made art about the work they do everyday? What if the art informed and inspired the government & the community?


The program affects interaction with the public they serve, was interesting to me and I wish there had been more time to get responses from the different officers.

A too-brief Q&A followed the readings, mostly questions directed to the participating police personnel: Is the program affecting morale in the PPD? (General consensus seemed to be Yes, positively so far); How are you perceived by the rest of the force? ("No one has said anything to my face!"); Have there been any changes in your family, home life? ("My family was shocked! I sent my poem to all of my officers and they were really surprised.")

When asked what they have learned from the project one officer replied she realized more how much there is to see.

After intros and thank you's we got a quick overview of AEl from Director Marty Pottenger (more on her later). Next we heard readings from the calendar, one for each month, read by police officers or local poets and authors.

"I like it - the uniform, the badge, the justice. I hate it - the computer, the pen, the law." From L.t. Michael Sauschuck's poem "Fishbowl"


Mentioned often were words and themes of love, hate, rage, keeping streets safe, crack, blood, drums, guns, badges, jobs no one else wants to do, tears, blood, silence, night, neighborhoods, excitement, dread, junkies, bullets, violence.

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"Riding around with Martin [Steingesser] is exhausting, he sees so much in everything." These questions and others - such as how police participation in this project has affected their interactions with the public they serve, was interesting to me and I wish there had been more time to get responses from the different officers.

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Every surface is completely covered. Her magical juxtapositions leap from this saturation of visual stimuli.

"It's an act of appreciation, really," said Nancy. "These are the ages and spirits that remind me of what I want to pursue." The gaze of Georgette O'Keefe, a poet by Stanley Kunitz, the hand of Saul Steinberg watch as she lays out quotes, books, and windchime shells, an overwhelming array of materials.

"I'm always looking and collecting. These are the little gems you want to remember. Everything is spread out and it just suggests the next idea. I somehow filter it, not consciously. It's more inventive for me," she said.

Not all artists need staff around them. Amy Stacys Curtis, well-known for her expansive installations, exhibited only a list in the space show. Really? Not even a pathetic patched plant on a window sill? I asked Victor Romanysyn, a photographer on Peaks Island, about his studio. His work often features still lifes of objects, a stray art tool, and sometimes his own watercolors or pastels as backdrops to become his subject.

"Not really," he said. "I don't have a wall in particular with anything on it. It's broader than that. I might see an object somewhere, or notice something on a walk, or read something in a book that gives me an idea."

The PIT Crew plays big for PITTA-EA

By KEVIN ATTRA

The Peaks Island Improv Troupe held a fund-raiser for Peaks Island Tax Assistance-Energy Assistance Sunday, Feb. 25 at the Bar Room at the Inn. The show opened with a stand-up routine by former PIT Crew member, Mike Sylvester, in which he took pokes at the economic downturn—"MacDonald's is now calling it Happy Meal the Costume Meal. Health insurance—"they say an apple a day keeps the doctor away, but not having health insurance will do the same thing—and damned, among other things, the daring habits of a certain islander and the drinking habits of the population of Lewiston.

Sylvester brought with him stand-up comic, Brian Brinegar, new to the Peaks Island crowd, who gave an autobiographical, often frank and sexually revealing performance in which we learned, for instance, that he was newly divorced, and had recently moved out of his house "because that's what you do when all your [stuff] is on the front lawn."

When its turn came, the PIT Crew hit the floor running with an imaginative line-up of unscripted material couched in minimalist titles like "Emotional Symmetry," "ABC" (an alphabetical discourse on fish), and perhaps the most violently competitive version of a children's game I've ever seen, which they called "Musical Chairs."

The 2-hour show included lots of audience participation, a PIT trademark that combines community support with public humiliation, and raised $300 for PITTA-EA. Plus, the crowd paid an extra $60 to hear Mike Sylvester come back at the end and deliver a sexually graphic encore. You don't want to know.

Fourth Anniversary Soiree at the Brackett

By MARGO S. LODGE

Friday night, Feb. 20 was the fourth anniversary of the open mic at Brackett Church. It was well attended, with over 25 people playing music, singing, acting and reading poetry, and the kids were physically and sexually abused, routinely sterilized and subjected to medical experiments.

In Canada 150,000 children's bones were found in mass graves at some of the state schools. So people were shocked when I read my poem, and no one spoke to me except the minister. I'd say they were speechless.

Phil Daligan sang and played the guitar, Rebecca Stearns sang while her friend played guitar, and Stephanie Eliot did one of her acting things, which was yummy.

The night ended with music by The Crudty Minstrels, so no one was funny except for me. Just can't seem to write those damned, funny poems. Oh well!
Current Financial Tides

BUSINESS SERVICES

BY ALISON SCHNELLER

Spring is coming, and soon the islands will be hopping with visitors and summer residents. Now is the time to make certain that your business is efficient and that the season is profitable. What do business owners never have enough of? If you own a business, the answer is easy - it's time and money.

The two things business owners never have enough of are time and money. Most full-service banks offer a number of ways to save on both.

Having all your financial needs met in one place is a good way to save time, so let's explore a few products and services offered by most full-service banks that will save you both time and money.

One of the most popular timesavers is online banking. It's a safe and easy way to check your account balances, transfer funds and make payments. Account information can be downloaded into computer-based software such as QuickBooks for easy accounting, allowing you to keep up to date on daily activity and balances. It saves you time, which also saves you money.

Through an upgrade to online banking, you can also have the added ability of becoming an automated clearing house originator (ACH), letting you set up electronic files to receive and send payments. Using ACH will eliminate delays waiting for checks to arrive in the mail, and waiting for them to clear after they're deposited to your account.

Another tool that is becoming more and more popular is remote deposit capture (RDC). If you prefer the convenience of depositing checks right from your office, RDC is the right solution for you. The checks are scanned through a special terminal, and the images are sent electronically to the bank. By scanning the checks, the deposit is made faster and your money is available to you sooner.

The ability to accept credit card payments using Merchant Services is another tool used by many businesses. Statistics show that businesses that accept credit cards increase their sales by 20%. And Merchant Services is not limited only to retail business. An increasing number of companies in the service industry, as well as the business-to-business trade have found Merchant Services to be an invaluable tool in managing cash flow.

If you feel your business may benefit from a Merchant Service Account, it is worth your time to investigate the service. Most businesses with employees need a payroll service. This is another service provided by most full-service banks. Tax laws change and penalties from noncompliance can be a hefty and unnecessary expense. By outsourcing your payroll, this stressful issue is greatly reduced for the business owner. Using a trusted bank to manage your payroll will bring you peace of mind and allow you to concentrate on what matters most - growing your business.

These are just a few of business services offered by banks. Retirement savings options like 401Ks, and cash management services such as investment sweep accounts are among the many resources available. It's always helpful to meet with your banker and discuss your goals. Banks can provide you with solutions to help you meet those goals.

From me to you - wishing you a healthy, profitable spring & summer season!

The Addison-Woolley Gallery closes its doors

When operatic soprano Danielle Vayenas sang the closing number, "If I Loved You" from the musical "La Bohème," she planned to create a series of children's workshops and lecture programs, but when that didn't prove to be viable, it was difficult to find another way to produce income.

She said the workshops were fundamental to the success of the initial business plan for the gallery, because without them the only way to make money was to sell photographs. Unfortunately the photography market has declined now that people have a digital cameras and access to Photoshop. People come in and they'll look at something and think, 'I could do that.'

Susan spent the last few days of March dismantling a show by local guerrilla artist, John Fahnley, before handing the keys back to the landlord. She said "I still want to think about some kind of arts/photography publication. I may experiment with it on the website at first, and then think about where it could go. But first I need to sleep, clean my house, walk and sit on the backshore. We'll see what this morphs into in the future," she added.

Alison Schneller is Vice President & Market Manager for the South Portland and Peaks Island Branches of Maine Bank & Trust. She has 26 years experience in finance, including banking and residential lending. She can be contacted at alison.schneller@mainebank.net.
PILP Profiles
The Parker Preserve

By Cynthia Mollus

This is the first in a series of articles about Peaks Island Land Preserve properties and the board members who help manage them.

The Parker Preserve, located in the south-central part of Peaks Island, is a 21-acre property. It consists of one large parcel given to the State of Maine by David and Vivian Parker in 1976; these were then transferred to the Peaks Island Land Preserve in 2005. Parker is the second-largest of the PILP properties, with the city parcels being the largest at 94 acres, and Brackett being the third-largest at a little over 14 acres. As a frame of reference, a full football field includes over an acre and a half.

Nearly 20 percent of Peaks’ 750 acres is under PILP management, and the Parker, city and Battery Steel properties make up the bulk of PILP’s acreage. The northern boundary of Parker lies behind the houses and privately-owned lots along Brackett Avenue, and access points to Parker is the Indian trail that begins on private property off Brackett. In fact, most access points to the Parker Preserve are on private property.

Parker is bordered on the west by privately-owned lots and the dead-ends of three paper roads, so called because they exist only on paper. The southern boundary runs along the paper extension of New Island Avenue, with some additional lots on the south side of the extended street that are included in the preserve. The end of the New Island Avenue paper road extension is one of the access points on public land; another truly public access point could be from the parking lot on Welch Street. The east end abuts city land across from the transfer station on the northwest corner of Brackett and New Island Avenue.

A large section of the Indian Trail runs through Parker Preserve, from the northwest corner to the south-central edge before continuing on south-central part of Peaks Island.

PILP President, Garry Fox explains a tough decision

An Open Letter from the PILP President

As President of the Peaks Island Land Preserve, Garry Fox has recently come under fire for his decision to disallow the installation of a meteorological tower on a military observation post on conservation land as part of an initiative to explore wind energy potential on Peaks Island. We asked him if he could clarify the reasons for this decision. This is his response.

Dear Peaks Islanders,

In recent weeks members of our community have asked about an exploration of wind energy potential for Casco Bay Islands, including Peaks Island. Members of this group asked the board of the Peaks Island Land Preserve if they could make a presentation at our February board meeting about their interest in exploring wind energy potential on Peaks. We agreed to hear their presentation, at the end of which they asked the PILP board to consider providing access to one of the two WWI observation towers on city land, which PILP has had a conservation easement on since 1998, in order to erect a meteorological tower to gather wind data over a two year period of time.

In deference to this group, and with a genuine desire to support such efforts we agreed to refer their proposal to our legal representative, Brenda Buchanan, in order to determine if a conservation easement restriction would apply to any structure erected on top of these towers. Mr. Fox

The easement does have a provision for a temporary structure, however, for a period of time, and the need to follow the legal advice we received, we voted unanimously to turn down this request, in spite of any personal feelings of support members of the board had for the wind group’s goals.

Subsequent to informing the wind energy group of our vote to turn down their request, they expressed concern and asked us to reconsider our decision in light of what they believed would be a way around the legal restrictions of the easement by interpreting the proposed structure on the basis of a zoning ordinance.

Regrettably, the zoning interpretation of what constitutes a structure in no way satisfies the PILP board from enforcing the restrictions set forth in the easement.

We wish this group every success in their efforts, hope they can find an appropriate alternative location, and trust this clarifies our actions on behalf of PILP.

While this may not be what the PILP board wants to do, it is what we are required under the easement. I hope this helps everyone understand our decision and that we can continue to work toward a consideration of wind energy potential for the benefit of all islands.

Sincerely,

Garry S. Fox, President, PILP
Portland North Land Trust Collaborative seeks national accreditation

BY KEVIN ATTRA

The Portland North Land Trust Collaborative hosted a gathering Thursday, March 19 at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to "spread the word about where we've come in 2½ years," said Roger Berle, President of Oceanside Trust, so Portland North's Executive Director Jessica Burton (center) at the Thursday evening gathering, March 19 at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

"We decided that we, none of us, could afford to hire someone on our own because we've all got minimal budgets, you know, $5,000, $10,000, $15,000, $20,000 a year, and you can't hire anyone on that kind of money. So to pool our organizational resources and join together we formed an organization in which we could hire somebody. Peaks Island resident Jessica Burton was the person they hired to run the collaborative. Initially she served as an administrative assistant but was quickly given greater responsibility when she proved capable of handling a lot more, and is now the executive director. "She's the employee of the collaborative," explained Berle, "but she works one-third of her time for each of those three trusts. That's the work she does for the collaborative. "It has worked, hopefully to everyone's advantage," said Burton, "that I am the executive director now. So what changed is really that I'm more responsible for the finances, fundraising, for the collaborative.

According to Berle there are 110 land trusts in Maine. Some are large and well funded, some are tiny, like ours, and just kind of scrabble along. Under the administrative umbrella of the Portland North Collaborative, the land trusts are seeking accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. "The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation, according to information on the commission's website. "It recognizes organizations for meeting standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent. "Berle believes that in the future the number of land trusts will probably cut in half as they join forces the way the Portland North trusts have done. "To be able to do our work, land trust activities, our stewardship much more effectively," he said. "With warm weather due in April, trust members are gearing up to walk the properties and see how they weathered the winter. "Roger's boat, the Christian Ali, will soon be in the water," said board member Christine McDuffie, "which gives us access to our property.

"We walk every single property every single year," she said, "take photographs and document the scene ... It's probably our greatest pleasure." Berle agreed, quoting a former volunteer, "My piece of advice to you is, get out and enjoy the land that you're saving.

"I'm the only original member of Oceanside," said Berle, who added that it was started on Peaks Island in 1982. The event attracted about 75 people, many of them members of one of the organizations, but also many folks like Larry Niskanen, a focal forester who came for maps of some of the conservation lands.

According to Berle, Portland North came together out of a need for organizational staff in all three trusts. "The top thing on everyone's list, other than money, was having administrative help," he said, "but she works one-third of her time for each of those three trusts. That's the work she does for the collaborative. "It has worked, hopefully to everyone's advantage," said Burton, "that I am the executive director now. So what changed is really that I'm more responsible for the finances, fundraising, for the collaborative."

According to Berle, Peaks Island is a truly special place, with its rocky shores, its woodlands and its wetlands. Your membership (only $15 individual, $25 family) and your donations are crucial in helping us maintain open spaces.

HELP PRESERVE WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT PEAKS.

Portsmouth is a truly special place, with its rocky shores, its woods and its wetlands. Your membership (only $15 individual, $25 family) and your donations are crucial in helping us maintain open spaces.

Join today. Help preserve what we love about Peaks.

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P.O. BOX 99, PEAKS ISLAND, ME 04103
(207) 766-3067 (home)
(207) 632-8229 (cell)

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Kitchens / Baths Doors / Windows
Carpentry LLC

Weidemann
766-3030
Adam Weidemann

Langella Construction and Painting Company
382 Pleasant Ave.
Peaks Island, ME
(207) 766-3067 (home)
(207) 632-8229 (cell)
Portland Mayor Jill Duson presented a hero’s award to Peaks Island resident and Portland Fire Chief Bill Flynn on Thursday, March 19, for a sea rescue he made in June. The following is a transcript of her remarks.

On behalf of the City of Portland, I would like to congratulate you on your receipt of the American Red Cross Real Heroes Award for 2009. Your actions on June 1, 2008 saved the lives of two people and I am pleased to join the American Red Cross in commending you for your heroic actions.

Your quick thinking and action that day last summer was remarkable and a true testament to your character. All too often we hear tragic stories of people losing their lives at the hands of the elements and we find ourselves asking why and what could we have done to avoid the tragedy. Today we are lucky to have your answer to the question. Looking out your window, you saw someone in trouble and without hesitation or concern for yourself, you took your boat into rough seas to pull not one but two people from the grips of the harsh, cold water of Casco Bay.

The City of Portland is lucky to have you not only as a resident but as a member of our firefighting force. Today, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to you today as you receive much deserved recognition for your life-saving actions.

June Bergh

June Bergh (left) received a Peaks Island Council’s Island Hero Award March 25 during the regular session of the council at the MacVane Center. The award was presented by Councilor Lynne Richard who explained that the program honors members of the community who have shown outstanding initiative and accomplishment, dedication to the community, and have helped to improve the quality of life for island residents through selfless volunteer work.

Richard praised Ms. Bergh for her work in organizing an after-school program for elementary school children that was “not a babysitting service, but a meaningful enrichment program for children giving them valuable experience they could not have received anywhere else.”

Ms. Bergh said she owed the success of her program to the many volunteers who share their knowledge and skills with the children in the four-hour program each Wednesday afternoon, and said the Peaks Island community made it possible. She also wanted to thank administrators of the Peaks Island Fund for providing the grant money needed to implement the program. After she was given the award, her youngest son ran up to see it, and then, dejectedly reported to his father, “She just got a piece of paper.”

In Memory

Robert J. “Bob” Wellwerth, 74

Robert J. Wellwerth of Peaks Island, Maine and Braintree, Massachusetts died after a brief illness on March 9. He was 74.

Born in Boston Nov. 23, 1934, he worked as a master plumber for most of his career in the greater Boston area. In the early 1950s he served with the U.S. Coast Guard on a buoy tender working along the Maine coast, and was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 142 on Peaks Island as well as a member of the VFW in Somerville and Braintree, Mass.

He first came to Peaks Island in 1976 and bought land the following year where he built his house on New Island Avenue. Over the next 36 years, he came up to the island with his wife, Marcia Riley, “all the time, up for vacations, whenever we played hookey”, she said.

They were married on the island at the Moon Shell Inn (no longer in business) in 1981. They rented all the rooms so everyone could spend the night. They relocated to the island permanently in 2002.

Mr. Wellwerth was active in the community, involved in organizing the American Legion’s Memorial Day Parade for years. Ms. Riley said she thought it was his idea to get bands from the mainland to play in the event.

He also administered the Legion’s Citizen Award, given to graduating fifth graders with the best essay defining what it means to be an American. He was very proud of the winners, and said he remembered every one of them.

According to his wife, he was also a big sports fan. She said thankfully they had at least two televisions in the house so she could still watch one. When asked which teams he liked she said, “Oh please! The Red Sox and the Celtics.”

He is survived by his wife, Marcia; sisters Anne Blais of Arlington, MA and Eleanor Cazen of Medford, MA; daughters Robin McAulisse of Connecticut, Sheryl Annino of Waltham, MA and Carolyn Wellwerth of South Portland; sons Robert J. Wellwerth III of Medford, MA, John A. Martin of Braintree, MA and Trent Martin of Hanson, MA; 11 grand children, and many nieces and nephews.

A wake and funeral were held March 13 in Braintree, MA. The burial was private. A memorial service will be held on Peaks Island at St. Christopher’s Church in late June. Contributions in Mr. Wellwerth’s name can be made to the Peaks Island Health Center, 87 Central Ave., Peaks Island, ME 04108, or to VNA Home Health and Hospice, 50 Foden Rd, South Portland, ME 04106.
**ATTHE GEM GALLERY**

“THAW” - a group member show celebrating the ice melting on April 11. Open Fridays, 4 pm to 6:30 pm; Saturdays and Sundays NOON to 5 pm.

The Gem Gallery is a cooperative of artists working in the varied media of painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, printmaking, and fiber arts. The mission of the gallery is to support and provide an affordable rental space for artists creating contemporary craft and to reach out to and increase the broad base of appreciation and interest in the arts. Free admission.

**AT THE DOWDOWELL**

“How Green Thou Art” a collection of nearly 40 scenes by Green artist Maggie Carle, who does not collect money per nightings and objects and art generated by trash, things found around the island, and paintings created from recycled materials; April 1 through May 3. Opening reception Sunday, April 5, 2-4 pm. Carle was certified as a Green Artist by the Maine Green DESIGN Libary (full.com). For more information about her and her work, visit her website: www.maggiecarle.com.

The Dowdwell Gallery is located on 21 Herman Ave, (Children’s Workshop), a large area for test-riding, mini-workshops, exhibits by local bike shops, food and drinks for more and more. Admission is $5, with free admission for children and students enrolled in University of Southern Maine and students in a 12 or under. Maritime Community Information helps support the Bicycle Coalition of Maine by sponsoring a recycling bin for bicycle parts. For more information please visit www.BikeMaine.org or call (207) 652-4831.

**AT THE LIBRARY**

First Tuesdays Book Discussion

April 2 - "Brandel" by Kenneth Roberts, is located at 129 Island Ave. Open 2530.

First Tuesdays Book Discussion is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Doug MacVane Community Room. It is sponsored by the Friend of the Library and is open to all. Interested are welcome to discuss the selected book by calling or emailing the librarian.

**BIGREAD**

In May, the First Tuesday Book Discussion will be dedicated to the BIG READ, a number of events all over the city, focused on the Age of Innocence. The Age of Innocence is a novel by Edith Wharton, on Tuesday, May 5, it will be led by guest moderator Heather Tiffany. On Saturday, May 23, the island Film Committee will show The Age of Innocence as the 8pm movie. Some copies of the book, along with a study guide, are available at the library for those who plan to attend the discussion.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to revitalize the nation’s love for literacy and reading in American popular culture. Reading at Risk: A Survey of American Adults, released in 2004 said the NEA, identified a critical decline in reading for pleasure. The 2005 Big Read was led by guest moderator Heather Tiffany. On Saturday, May 23, the island Film Committee will show The Age of Innocence as the 8pm movie. Some copies of the book, along with a study guide, are available at the library for those who plan to attend the discussion.

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**PORTLAND RECREATION ON PEAKS ISLAND**

First Monday Fun for School and Community Programs in the Community Room. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Program registration is required and appreciated. Monday, April 6 at 11:00 am (in the community room) Let’s move to music of all kinds: kids’ tunes, ethnic music, and more! We’ll start with making our own musical instruments using recycled items. Monday, May 3 at 11:00 am at community building Springtime fun - Mother’s Day gifts, more music and fun.

**COMMUNITY FOOD**

77 Herman Ave, (Children’s Workshop Building), Open to the public Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 6 pm, first Saturday of every month 9 am - 4 pm.

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AT THE BRACKETT CHURCH

Holy Week:
- Palm Sunday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Observations, Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 12:
  - Ecumenical Sunrise Service, Wakefield, Sunday, 5:30 a.m.
  - Brunch/Sunday, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Easter Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Weekly Activities:
- Worship, Sunday 10 a.m., includes children's choir
- Children's Choir, Most Tuesdays, 4:30-5:35 p.m., call MaryAnn for details 891-0108.
- Lent Study Group, Thursdays 6 p.m.
- Wednesday Thrift Boutique 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the church fellowship hall.
- Scripture Study Groups, Wednesdays 10 am and 7 p.m.
- Tutu Prayer Service - Thursday Evenings - 7 p.m. Join us for contemplation in prayer and meditation.
- Stay tuned for more info.

Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church, 9 Church Street, Peaks Island, Maine. Pastor: Rev. Desi Larson; 207 766-3013; www.brackettmumc.org

FRIENDS OF TEIA NEWS

While it is snowy and chilly during these months the Friends of TEIA, thinking of summer, are planning for their eighth season of offering summer "camperships" to the children of Peaks Island who want to attend the club's sailing, tennis and kids camp programs.

In the past three years we have seen our "camperships" increase from 19 to 31 to 45 in 2008. These 45 children totally enjoyed the sailing, tennis and the kids camp programs they were enrolled in. Children who are year long residents on the island may participate with a campership in any program of their choice. The responses we have received from parents whose children attended through the years have been overwhelmingly positive, appreciative and thankful.

Parents please think about these opportunities for your children this '09 summer and be ready to sign up in April after vacation. You will be able to obtain registration forms at the Peaks Island School.

Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavor either by volunteering or contributing financially should contact Stephanie Cole at sailights99@Paul.com or Barbara Hoppin at babyhop@club.com. From Melissa Conrad

PEAKS CHECK-IN LINE

The telephone check-in line at 766-0067 is now in service, designed for those who live alone, for those who have recently had medical issues or surgery, and for those who are housebound for any reason. Every morning between 7 am and 10 am, participants call the answering machine to leave their问候 and let us know if they are well.

If we do not hear from them by 10 am then we call to ensure they are all right. For those who cannot call us, we will be happy to call you. If you would like to join, or if you have questions about the program please call Howard and Cynthia Peddicord at 766-0067.

The cold windy weather is here and some of us do not get out every day. The line is a way to keep in touch and let us know you are okay.

Earth Day April 25

BY CYNTHIA COLE

Earth Day began in 1970 when Senator Gaylord Nelson asked Dennis Hayes, a Harvard graduate student interested in solar energy, to become the national coordinator for the event. The first Earth Day organizers in different cities protested against air pollution, oil spills, vanishing wilderness, DDT, lead poisoning, and many other problems.

But Earth Day was in effect a huge town meeting, asserting that there is more in the American Dream than over-consuming.

According to Dennis Hayes, Earth Day launched the modern environmental movement, and today is celebrated in many different countries. There is ongoing concern for the earth's natural systems which people are using in ways harmful to the planet. Some current major issues include:

- Ozone of fossil fuels, leading to atmospheric pollution and climate change
- Waste and recycling
- Pollution of air, water, and soil
- Protecting animal and plant life, and water systems

Over the years, Peaks Island has had a number of Earth Day activities. In recent years, Peaks Environmental Action Team has organized "Clean Peaks" activities, collecting bottles and cans or other trash along roads and public paths.

This year PEAT will observe Earth Day on Saturday, April 25, with a variety of activities. Community will be sold down front. The Gem Gallery may display new island recycling bins that have been decorated by local artists. Appropriate posters will be shown, clothes lines will be in full use instead of dryers, the school may have special environmental projects, and books and magazine articles will be available for interested students at the Community Center. In addition, the community garden project will be unveiled.

Next Issue

The Secret Lobster Count of Peaks Island

For seven years Steve and Lynne Richard have counted lobsters for the Maine lobster conservancy in an effort to protect fisheries in the Gulf of Maine. For nine months a year during the lowest tides of each month, they head to the shore and peak under rocks. See what they find in May.
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A living museum
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eighthmainehost@att.net

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Jkiely1@maine.rr.com

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Rebecca Johanna Stephens
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207-776-5547

Peaks Island Baptist Church
HAPPY EASTER
Sunday School: 10 AM Worship: 11 AM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 7 PM
766-3037

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GBM Gallery/Peaks. Fulfill your 
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The (dying) art of building lobster traps

STORY & PHOTOS BY KEVIN ATRA

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One of the Lionel Plante barges bellies u p ro ,he r a mp ro discha r ge a lo ne car ar
Peak s Jsland facility. Casco Bay Lines conrracred with Planre s ,o provide car ferry
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each trap cos t s at least $ 35 to bui ld,
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"It can't be cut d... it can't be cut d..."
Pete will t ell you, sc ratching your
as a Rid he
catch i ng lobsters since he was a child.
Peaks Island fisherman who's b een

Pete Mayo heads into his workshop to get started building traps, while his dog Rosie
heads back to the warm house.
he attached a net, called a head, which directs the lobsters inside. He could teach you to knit heads in 15
Here's how it works. As more

and we're not even talking about the
heat for the shop.
"I built those 25 for something to
do, he told me later. "It's not a large number to build. When [son] Chris was with me I'd build 100 to 150
each winter.

As Pete will tell you, scratched your
head is an important step in building a
good trap.

Plante's barges stand in for
Machigonne II

One of the Lionel Plante barges belles up to the ramp to discharge a lone car at its Peaks Island facility. Casco Bay Lines contracted with Plants to provide car ferry service starting March 16 while the Machigonne II is inspected by the Coast Guard. Soon it will be out of the water the hull will also get a new paint job. She is tentatively scheduled to be back in service April 13.

new group looks at affordable housing in Casco Bay

BY JOHN FORTGORGES

An organization, calling itself simply the Peaks Island Group, held its first meeting Thursday, March 15, to discuss the shrinking world economy, diminishing natural resources, and funny acronyms. Based on a study released by Exxon-Valdez last month showing that heating oil improves the weather resistance and

In the meantime plans were made to
build a secondary outhouse down front in a pilot study using

calls to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection were never made by press

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in the area uses it, the yellow
wire helps him easily identify his traps if they happen to wander away.

For instance, one winter someone thought a couple of his traps were on a pier in Portland. "I started digging around in the snow bank and the first thing I saw were yellow brick cages. I thought, 'With all this snow, I'm that lucky? and sure enough it was a pair of mine. Somebody had brought them in."

He said most of the lobster fishermen he knows in the bay help each other out like that. "You gotta take care of each other," he said. "It's a trust thing.

Pete worked very carefully on the trap he built for his benefit, often stopping to reconsider what he was doing before committing to it, although no mistake would have been irrevocable unless he cut an opening in the wrong place. But he said even that has happened. "Every once in a while the quality control man goes for a small break," he said.

"As soon as I'm done with this I'm going to start painting buoys." Painting to four blank Styrofoam plugs bunging in the corner, he said they were all he had left from last year.

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