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Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

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Islanders consider affordable housing options

By David Tyler

On Long Island, there is only one lobsterman under the age of 30 living on the island, according to Stephen Train, chair of the Board of Selectmen.

"We've lost a generation of lobstermen on the island," he said. "They live in town and still come and fish the island.

It's a story that could be told on any of the five unbridged islands in Casco Bay. The islands are not even visible on a map and are a limited supply of housing exacerbate the problem that threatens the future of all the islands, according to the Board of Directors of the Casco Bay Island Trust District (CBITD).

The group has undertaken a few workshops and seminars to work towards improving the operation of Casco Bay Island Trust lines, only to see the same problems occurring again and again.

Photo by Marci Train

Peaks Island teacher Roberta Deane decides to retire

By Mary Lou Wendell

Roberta Deane holds up a copy of the magazine, Time for Kids, and asks her students what they notice about the school building on the front page. "Solar panels," one student says.

The combined class of fourth and fifth grade students at the Peaks Island Elementary School is learning about "green" schools, or schools designed to conserve energy. Deane then asks what direction these solar panels would face. Another of the 12 kids in her classroom answers, "to the sun."

"The direction they would have to face is to the south," Deane explains. "We are one of the 12 kids, so our classroom represents a "schoo" without a school, and the kids like the focus on academics at Peaks Island School."

Pretty soon, the school bells ring and the kids rush to leave. "Check the future out," Deane says. "This to me has been a wonderful process and I'm glad that I have been part of it," said Mabel Doughty, who Baldacci asked to speak because he heard she was the oldest member of the five official secession representatives. Baldacci celebrated her 84th birthday. Afterwards, she said, "I want to acknowledge all the help we had from so many people."
In Brief

Mothballing part of pier considered

A hearing will be held on Wed., May 10 at 5 p.m. to discuss mothballing the part of the Maine State Pier that is not currently used by Casco Bay Lines, Conness Park or the parking garage. The proposal is part of Portland City Manager Joseph Gray's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget.

The Community Development Committee (CDC) is holding the hearing, which will take place in Room 209 on the second floor of Portland City Hall. Gray recommends mothballing that part of the Maine State Pier, pending recommendations for a business plan for the property by the CDC, Engineering studies done for Ocean Gateway showed that there are extensive structural needs for the facility, according to the meeting notice. The CDC will consider whether a business plan could be created during the early part of the city's fiscal year to generate revenues in this fiscal budget. Anyone interested in the waterfront economy is urged to attend this meeting.

-David Tyler

City mulls trash fee hike

There are proposals in the City of Portland's fiscal 2007 budget to drastically increase the fee paid for city garbage bags. City Manager Joseph Gray has proposed that trash bags be increased from $4.75 to $10 for either 10 15-gallon bags or 30 30-gallon bags. The increase would take place on Sept. 1 and would generate $160,000 to expand the city's recycling program. The City Council's Finance Committee proposed an increase to $7.50 per roll. The proposal was strongly criticized at a May 1 City Council budget hearing. The council is expected to vote on the budget in mid-May.

The Finance Committee also proposed the following changes to Gray's budget: the addition of five community policing officers at a cost of $175,025; $55,000 more for the city library; a reduction of the contribution to the Portland Arts and Culture Alliance from $25,000 to $10,000; $25,000 for a Parks and Recreation study; $25,000 for a study and recording of oral histories of the Somoine and Sudanese immigrant communities; $35,000 for a study on ways to combat the increase in drug-related crime; and $10,000 to keep the Riverside Recycling facility open on Sunday, according minutes of the April 27 Finance Committee meeting.

-David Tyler

Soda machines recovered

In early April, two divers located two soda machines that had been dumped off the pier at the Peaks Island ferry landing on Christmas Eve, 2005 by a group of intoxicated young people. A public works worker pulled the machines out of the water. Officer Dan Rose of Peaks Island Division, Portland Police Department, made an appeal for those responsible to come forward and pay for the damage, and several did. Since the item ran in the April Island Times, two more people stepped forward, Rose said. However, not everyone has done so.

"It has to be all, or nothing," he said, otherwise the effort at restitution won't work. The coins were still in the machine and can be washed, Rose said, which will bring down the value of the crime.

-David Tyler

Ambulance donated

Long Island recently received a much-needed larger and newer ambulance as a surplus gift from the Town of Cumberland. Town Clerk Coleman Clark in turn ran an ad online for BRIEFS, page 3
BRIEFS, from page 2

in the Working waterfront newspaper offering Long Island's original ambulance to any island community that might need it. Islesford, one of the two year-round communities of the Town of Cranberry Islands, expressed an interest, since they had never had an ambulance. On March 16, Chief Clarke, accompanied by Brad Brown, Jim Willer, and Mark Greene drove the donated ambulance and a return vehicle to Northeast Harbor to have it ferried to Islesford. As a surprise, new decals with "Islesford" were affixed to the ambulance and much surplus equipment gathered by the department and county and placed inside to help the fledgling ambulance volunteers get off to a good start.

Unfortunately, the winds and waves made transporting the ambulance not possible that day, but the Long Island delegation took the passengers boat out to the island. We took the full tour and enjoyed a great meal and camaraderie with town officials and a group of volunteers in all day training for EMT certification.

From a historical perspective, many may remember that the Cranberry Islands were one of the first places we visited as we began to consider secession. We considered it to be the most similar in size to a possible future Town of Long Island. It felt good to be able to return in some small way the kindness and help shown in our early deliberations about township by the people of the Cranberries. It was especially impressive to see the levels of enthusiasm and commitment to improving services that are occurring on the island at this time. There is a town hall, a new fire station, solid waste and recycling improvements, and of course the ambulance. The younger people of Islesford have stepped forward to guide the future of the community in a very energetic way. We left promising to keep in touch and continue sharing ideas in the future on how to improve town services.

Peaks fire warning

Peaks Island residents are asked to check in with the police before starting any type of outdoor fire, such as burning brush. "Even though we have had a lot of rain, the ground is still dry and we are very under our rainfall totals," said Officer Dan Rose, of the Peaks Island Division, Portland Police Department. "Nine times out of ten we will OK it, but if it is windy and too dry, it can be dangerous on the island with all the underbrush," Rose said. Rose also thanked those islanders who responded to his request for information on illegal drug activities on Peaks Island.

Jesse and Evy Harrriott's home on Great Diamond Island, before the fire

Photo courtesy Jesse and Evy Harrriott

Fire destroys island home

Jesse and Evy Harrriott have said they will rebuild the fire totally destroyed their 1877 Victorian cottage on Great Diamond Island on April 20. "We are going to rebuild in a style that is consistent with other homes on the island," said Jesse Harrriott. The couple lives in Jaffrey, N.H., and purchased the summer home four years ago. "My wife said it best, it was her favorite place in the whole world," said Jesse Harrriott. "It's a wonderful community and the people on the island make the experience so much richer."

The couple, who have a 7-month-old baby, planned to come to the island that afternoon. "God forbid that we had been in the house, it could have been a horrible situation," he said. They received a message on their voice-mail, and when they called back and were told about the fire "we were obviously shocked," he said.

The fire began at 10:30 a.m. Volunteer firefighters from Long Island were on the 10 a.m. Casco Bay Lines ferry and got off the boat to help fight the fire. The Portland Fireboat also responded, as did volunteers from Great Diamond and Peaks Islands. It was impossible to save the Harrriott's home, but firefighters put out small brush fires triggered by the main fire and kept other homes from being damaged. "That to me is the small miracle," said Harrriott, noting that he was not. Jesse and Evy Harrriott lived in Peaks Island 1877 destroyed several homes. Harrriott said the fire has already been investigated, but the cause has not yet been determined. "It could have been as simple as a mouse chewing on some cable," he said.

Gate 4 project starts

The construction of a new gate 4 at the Casco Bay Lines terminal will begin sometime in mid-May, said Pat Christian, the company's general manager, at the April 26 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Casco Bay Lines Island Transit District. Reed & Reed Contractors, the company building Ocean Gateway, is constructing the new gate, under the supervision of the Maine Department of Transportation, a ferry from Peaks Island in 1877 destroyed several homes. Harrriott said the fire has already been investigated, but the cause has not yet been determined. "It could have been as simple as a mouse chewing on some cable," he said.

Community garden funded

The Long Island community garden received a grant of $12,250 from the Kay & Dopp Fund of the Maine Community Foundation, according to Perry Murley, Long Island residents Murley, and Lisa Whelan are the community garden coordinators. "It was like a dream come true," Murley said. We put for a dollars grant, which will pay for the building and lumber to build garden beds, and other supplies. The garden is on town-owned land on Island Avenue behind the Lot 2 building. Volunteers are needed to help get the garden going. Work will start at the site a.m. on both Sat, May 6 and Sun, May 7. There is a set up the deck fence, move soil and build raised beds. Any time that can be doned during the weekend will be appreciated.

Murley said she got the idea for the project in 2004. She and husband, Curtis, retired to Long Island after running a greenhouse in Raymond for 20 years. She came up with the idea of a community garden after thinking about all the challenges to gardening on Long Island: lack of good soil, some homes set in the woods and deer eating from unfenced gardens. She took a 16-week course at the University of Maine's Cooperative Extension and became a master gardener. Then she approached the Long Island Civic Association and asked them to sponsor the project. They partnered with the Long Island Recreation Department, which will run a program to teach children how to gardens in the summer. In February, the Board of Selectmen approved the site. What pleases us the most is that we've got tremendous support from the community," Murley said. "We've got kind of folks itching to get their hands dirty." Plants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, she said. The program will start with 20 plots. Those who want to garden also have to agree not to use any chemical fertilizers, because of the community garden's proximity to the ocean.

Jesse and Evy Harrriott's home on Great Diamond Island, before the fire

David Tyler

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Island views

Peaks secession: supporters and opponents make their case

On June 13, Peaks Island voters will cast their ballots on the issue of secession from Portland. The ballot question reads: "Do you favor the establishment of the island of Peaks Island, Maine, as a separate, incorporated municipality, with home rule authority, as provided by law?" Supported by the town’s independence committee, the secession movement has gained momentum in recent months and has succeeded in garnering widespread interest and support across Maine. In a statement, the Peaks Island Independent Committee (PIIC) has stated that its goal is to create a town that is "independent, free, and equal." The PIIC has also asserted that "the island of Peaks Island is a separate, distinct community with unique needs and desires." In response, many Portland residents have expressed concern over the potential impact of secession on the island’s shared resources and infrastructure. The issue has sparked a heated debate among residents of both Peaks Island and Portland, with supporters and opponents advocating for different perspectives.

Letters to the editor

Islanders thanked after fire

When our 1887 Victorian inns burned to the ground on Thurs, April 26, we were absolutely devastated. When you have a place so much, it comes as a strong blow when it is taken away in 20 minutes.

We want to express our appreciation for the support you have given during this difficult time: Mary, Ted, Nancy, Anne, John, Chip, Chris, Ruth, Roger, Don, Long Island fire crew—the list goes on and on.

There are so many of you that dropped everything to help fight the fire to prevent it from spreading, others that reached out with comfort and advice. "Thank you" does not begin to describe how we feel.

We take great comfort in the fact that no one was injured, but we are grateful that nobody was injured. This is a direct result of your actions, and we are grateful.

Although the fire will require us to move our antique home, we are determined to rebuild a home that is in keeping with the other cottages of Great Island.

Joseph and Ely Harrison, Jefferson, N.H.

A response to city problems

Thanks for offering the most thoughtful, yet honest, treatment of some of the substantive issues driving the secession movement on Peaks Island. As an interested public citizen and prospective city councillor for District One, I am indebted to the service provided by all of the newspapers and public media, including the Portland Sunday Herald, Maine Sunday Telegram, and the Island Times—for staying on staff through the long struggle for citizen involvement.

While I have no philosophical opposition to secession, I read with great interest and internal dialogue the four points of primary concern that would need to be addressed were Islands to be well served by the city council. I share with my thoughts based on what I know and seek your feedback: (1) who knows best where our public services are most needed? Who knows better than we who our own emergency boat and crew on Peaks Island should have? Who knows better than we what type of fire protection and police protection we need? Who knows better how to spend our precious property tax dollars?

Please see Richards, page 11

Suggesting Solutions, Not Secession

By Chris Hoppin

We urge all Peaks Islanders to vote "no" on secession on June 13. There is no provision in Peaks Island's charter for a second vote. The Island Independence Committee (BIC) has not yet produced a budget as legally required by the secession vote. They have not offered any concrete plans that would make Peaks Island more economical for Peaks Island taxpayers. If the island were to secede from Portland, services would be more expensive for Peaks Island taxpayers and cause disarray for those of us who live here. The BIC has not yet produced a budget that would be legally required to be presented.

1. Tax reform in the state of Maine is needed for all citizens and the state and City of Portland. Portland has been helping with programs to ease the burden and trim costs. These range from L D 1 for local education to the state to the state and federal programs that reduce property taxes. More revenues are needed and we urge our state representatives to do more for all Mainers, especially those in service centers like Portland, to help reduce taxes.

2. It is not about the money, but it is not that we have looked at Portland for and received many more services and facilities than the other Maine islands or most other small communities. This includes many dedicated police and firefighters and large investments in infrastructure. Portland supports our child care centers, school, library and community center, transfer station, health center and senior housing have been new in recent years. It took Long Islanders almost 10 years to pay off their debt to the city for the public works services. Our current costs would be much more expensive because of our many city properties.

3. We have an estimated 1,000 citizens on Peaks and it just doesn't make sense to throw it away to create quality programs without the proven expertise and specialized services readily available from Portland. These programs provide leadership to reform zoning to facilitate creating affordable housing by requiring that a given percentage of new development be targeted at lower income groups. I would similarly seek to require family units in exchange for allowing smaller rental units for singles.

Publishers: Mary Lou Wendell/David Tyler

Member of the New England Press Association.
This island life

BY GEORGE ROSSO

Interest in Peaks Island is sometimes overlooked by the bustling city of Portland. The island, with its well-preserved historic buildings and picturesque harbor, offers a refuge from the hustle and bustle of city life. The island's charm is evident in its narrow streets, quaint shops, and well-kept gardens. The island is home to a diverse population, including artists, musicians, and intellectuals, who contribute to the island's vibrant community. The island is also known for its lush greenery, colorful flowers, and stunning views of the ocean.

The island is served by ferries that transport islanders and visitors to and from the mainland. The island is also served by a network of buses that connect the island to the mainland. The island is also served by a network of buses that connect the island to the mainland. The island is known for its strong sense of community and its commitment to environmental sustainability. The island is also known for its strong sense of community and its commitment to environmental sustainability.

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Chebeague Chronicles

By Gordon Murphy

Independence is at hand for Chebeaguers, as the Maine Legislature on April 5 overwhelmingly voted in favor of the creation of the Town of Chebeague Island. (Jefferson Davis' biographer Albert Beddoes Taylor once said, "If the right of secession be denied, and this nation be divided, enforced by the sword of coercion; the nature of the policy is changed, and freedom is in its end."

Chebeague has a long history of resistance, as the Maine Legislature on April 5 overruled a mayoral veto of the bill. "Chebeague Island has been a place of refuge for many years, and it is time for it to have its own government," said one legislator.

The vote was 75-25 in favor of the bill. "Chebeague Island is a special place, and it deserves a special government," said Representative John Smith. "We cannot just continue to rely on the Maine Legislature to make decisions for us." The bill will now go to Governor John McKernan for his signature.

The bill was introduced by Representative John Smith and Senator Jane Andrews. "Chebeague Island is a unique place, and it deserves a say in its own government," said Smith. "We need to give the islanders a say in their own future." The bill was passed unanimously by both the House and Senate.

The bill was opposed by some legislators, who said that the island is too small to have its own government. "Chebeague Island is just a small patch of land, and it doesn't deserve its own government," said Representative Tom Johnson. "We need to keep the islanders in the main stream of society." The bill was passed despite the opposition of Johnson and other legislators.

Chebeague Island is located in the middle of Casco Bay, and it is home to just over 1,000 people. The island has its own school, library, and police force. The island is also home to a number of historic sites, including the Old Mill and the Great Chebeague Lighthouse.

The island was first settled in the 1700s, and it was a center of resistance during the American Revolution. The islanders were known for their independence, and they were often in conflict with the British.

The bill will now go to Governor John McKernan for his signature. "I will sign the bill," said McKernan. "Chebeague Island is a special place, and it deserves a special government." The bill will now go into effect on July 1, 2026.

Chebeague Island Chronicles

By Gordon Murphy

The next step in the independence process involves Chebeague Island forming a new government. "Chebeague Island has a rich history of resistance, and it is time for it to have its own government," said Representative John Smith.

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Recently, some sunny summer days caused my bees to shrug off their winter lethargy and appear outside their snug bubble-wrapped hives. They sense the approach of another season of renewal. There are jonquils, forget-me-nots and dandelions as well as lots of tiny purple flowers. Rocks are about to pop too!

As Mother Nature awakens, so does island life. The Andersons, Griffins and Greens have returned from winter getaways in warmer climates. It is good to see a few more faces around the island. Recently, we have met Rufus Saunders MacVane at the post office, and while he is a man of few words he has a way of charming everyone in sight. Rufus is a newborn son of Heath and Casey MacVane. This is not surprising in view of his parents and grandparents. New faces on the island include Rich and Rachael Robinson, who have just purchased Leslie Eldridge’s place on southeast side of the boat dock. We always enjoy seeing those lights across the cove. Leslie and her family will be missed and fondly remembered by many islanders.

While most of our travelers seem to be returning we do hope that the Bermudas are enjoying their visit to Victoria’s native land of Bulgarias to visit her grandmother. The trip will surely give the children, Julian and Elwin, an exposure to their roots. I imagine that they will be greatly enjoyed by their elders too.

Mark at Mill’s store by the wharf is increasing his days on Cliff each month heading for the full weeks of July and August. It is good to enjoy the wonderful pizza and the many conveniences that he provides.

Joe from the Gasco Bay’s ferry is leaving the harbor and more complex. Cliff’s case seems to be distinct and more complex. Cliff’s case seems more like Chebeague’s, or that of Long when he left Portland, but each community is unique and Cliff must ultimately decide its own best course.

Lobstering women of Cliff Island

At this time of year the island’s lobster boats are mostly out of the water, and people are replacing and repairing gear and equipment or in some cases the boat itself. It is a time of optimism about the coming season and as many will tell it’s a hard time for the finances. In order to find out what it’s like to be part of this lobster-centered life I decided to ask the women who are or have been involved. Most people I talked to are from Cliff Island, but I managed to learn quite a bit from Long Island and Great Diamond Island as well.

Many women have worked as “seamstresses,” others have stayed ashore while their men have gone out, and only one that I talked to is in charge of her own boat. That one person is Madelyn Clusking, who says that she has had to learn a lot to be able to go out on her own boat. Sally Howard has worked on the boat for her father, Carleton Clusking, for about a quarter of a century. These two women are legacies of a tradition on this island. Their mother Eleanor MacVane Clusking has never gone out, but her father and two brothers did. The Clusking ladies illustrate a full range of lobster involvement. Eleanor, who never worried when bad weather strikes or if Carleton has gone out alone, Sally, who works at it regularly on the stern, and Madelyn, the Captain of her own boat.

Joanne LaPomarda was asked about lobster-catching. She pointed out the romance of seeing her husband’s boat returning from the sea, and while she has not gone out she is very busy in the summer weighing and selling part of the catch. By contrast, by Griffin, who lives on Long Island but owns land on Cliff, has never touched a live lobster. She makes up for this by keeping the books for her husband, Gordon.

Frequently, young couples start out working on the boat together, but having a family makes it necessary for the wife to stay ashore with the children. Even so Karen Griffin (of Cliff Island and Tommy Robinson of Great Diamond Island) both smiled and said how handsome, and masterful their men were when they shared time on the boat. Neither one suggested that they really wanted to be on the stern again. Joanne LaPomarda real


The Island Times is looking for a summer intern. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning about community journalism. Please call 766-0951.
MOTHER, from page 16
work and her lengthy list of other duties and roles, mom is a selectwoman for the town of Vassalboro. She brings the same leadership and commitment to the smallest of town government positions that she did to the State House. This too has inspired me in my own thinking about a Town of Peaks Island and how we could manage it.

Like many of my friends, I have struggled in the past six years not to become a complete cynic. The utterly disastrous results of a national political "leadership," more criminal than inspiring, and the nature of the 2000 and 2004 elections makes it darn near impossible to feel good about participating in politics. But mom continues to work harder at it than could be expected of anyone even, refusing to allow a lack of representation to be a reason to stay out of the political system.

This is just to say thank you from one son—that spirit of public service and of working hard to help others is not lost on your kids—you're a great mom and an inspiration. Happy Mothers Day!

The dream weaver

BY STEVE SCHULTZ

Dreams, like seedlings, need nourishment, care and the opportunity to reach for the sky. My mother’s birthday is due for a mom, my wife Marsha, who has encouraged dreaming; who has helped her sons take the little steps in dream form is perhaps the best gift of all.

I recall the day when our youngest son, Jake, came home from school with tears in his eyes. He was 7 or 8 years old. Jake was a dreamer, and a very big Michael Jordan point guard.

The University of North Carolina was not a dream for Jake, but certainly schools so that he wouldn’t go to the University of Maine. So much so, that all things blue, the hue lid off what is possible, was a dreamer, and a very big Michael Jordan point guard.

At school that day an otherwise well-intending adult had told Jake that he shouldn’t get his hopes up—that aspiring to attend The University of North Carolina was not realistic. She suggested that he think about other schools to that dream. This hurt deeply.

Behind Jake’s tears and broken dreams was a feeling that something wrong had happened. Marsha asked him about his sadness and what had occurred at school that day. I guess his story surprised her. Perhaps there was misunderstanding. A child of Jake’s age could easily have misinterpreted what had happened.

Marsha has always been a strong advocate for her sons. That is the nature of a dream weaver. She went to the school and asked the person who had spoken to Jake about his goal. Her recollection at that conversation was identical to Jake’s. He had told her about his dream and she cautioned him that his goal would only lead to disappointment when he got older and applied to college. Marsha’s response was something that has stayed with me to this day, “Your mom as an educator, as a caring adult, is to help my son realize his dreams, whatever they may be,” she said. “My job, as Jake’s mom, is to help Jake dream and to nurture those dreams.”

On this mother’s day I honor Marsha, the dream weaver, who has encouraged both of our sons to dream big dreams and live lives.

Sweet memories

BY JUDITH BERG

I was eight when mom got her driver’s license. She took it to look like apple pie ice cream. On one of her frequent forays to various second-hand stores, she noticed a young woman wandering a Bangor sidewalk looking lost. Clutched in her hand was a piece of paper with an address on it. Mom helped her with the unsuccessful search for a house with a room she was to rent for her first year at Husson College while far from home.

Sitting at our round oak kitchen table (room loved a round table), covered under the Sabbath tablecloth with its second, third or fourth coat of paint that mom had caused my friends into helping her antique along with the kitchen wainscoting that always matched the table, they would talk to mom about their families, concerns and feelings. "Tell me of the last time you washed a pillowcase;" so, they would listen to mom. Mom’s already crooked fingers guided piles as she would listen with kindness and understanding, to what was on their minds.

Bring some of the island home

BY JON WOLFER

If I hadn’t been actually aching
You wouldn’t have exploded.
You know that you exist
To tickle me upo
That tickling was

I will not stop ironing my sheets!

My Daughter dropped by

BY LIZ ROEDOLD

You wouldn’t have exploded.
You know that you exist
To tickle me upo
That tickling was

You may hear that grumble
In your ironing cord? Burn

peak
Unique Jewelry and Gifts
Open Weekends or by appointment.

INDEPENDENCE, from page 1

Chebeague proved the power of local control in its historic September vote to become the latest community to seek independence. The vote will take place right away. Cumberland Town Clerk Nadine Daniels will run this afternoon to get a house in her home in Washington, D.C., but it happens in local communities and neighborhoods,” Baldwin said.

When asked what advice he would give to other islands considering secession, the governor said, “Follow Chebeague and the way they did it. They went about doing it in a very constructive way. A roll model for all others that are thinking about it to follow the Chebeague example.”

Now that Chebeague has achieved independence, there is a transition process, Chebeague officials tell that person officially became an island town until July 1, 2007, until then the island is still part of Cumberland.

By the time the Legislature adjourns, a meeting will be held to pick nine islanders who will become part of a transition independence committee, according to Herb Maine, president of the Chebeague Island Community Association, who spearheaded this initiative.

The Legislature did adjourn on April 28, and the vote was taken on May 22. If that May session is considered a special one, the 90-day period starts at the end of that session. By that new governing body would be serving a year in August, according to Bill Shaine, Cumberland town manager.

Cumberland Town Councilor Stephen Mor- riroy will be the moderator of this special meeting. Those interested in being on the nine-person transition committee are not allowed to campaign before the date of the meeting. Shaine said. Candidates will declare their intent during the meeting, and talk about why they want to be part of the transition committee. The vote will be held in the next session, which will be held in the next session, which will be held the next Wednesday night from the date of the meeting until July 1, 2007, he said. "It’s the transition town’s show to run; we’ll only be there as technical advisers,” he said, if the offer is accepted.

The major areas that will need work are likely to include transportation, public safety, town government structure and school government structure. There will be a ton of work ahead. In the meantime, residents will need to be patient, said Maine.

In August, those who worked to achieve this independence will be elected to their first government, said Maine.

Androscoggin

Robert J. Ryan, a member of the Androscoggin County government structure and school government structure and school government structure. There will be a ton of work ahead. In the meantime, residents will need to be patient, said Maine.
"[...]

"For the first time in their lives, islanders are in control. " For the first time in their lives, islanders are in control.

"pitches in, our kids will have a better future." In addition, he wants the city to establish a loan

break tax relief program with Casco Bay Lines. "Being in the ferry terminal, Fortier said. "The main problem is that one weakness was..."

Peaks Island zoning maps have been updated to the public by a passenger was injured while working and has filed a lawsuit. In which he prevailed,ockett said. In 1983, another employee prevailed in an action after he was injured. In 2001, the Maine Human Rights Commission found against Casco Bay Lines in three instances, she said. "There are a pending lawsuit from another employee who was..."

"It is the board's sincere wish to thoroughly investigate all of the issues raised in the petition, to develop plans to promote safety, and to move forward in the best interest of everyone concerned," wrote Arlen Davis, the board's president.

In an e-mail to the Island Times, Christensen said that he fully supported the decision to hire an investigator. "I am confident that the allegations described in the petition are false," he said. "I am confident that I will be vindicated once this investigation has been completed."

"But for Richard's, the vote is about empowering islanders to do what they believe is right," said Brenda Buchanan, a member of the alternative group. "The district has made public several times its intention to re-distribute the benefits of its program. Two barriers to quality improvements..."

Gene Taylor, an opponent to secession, said that he fully supported the decision to hire an investigator. "I am confident that the allegations described in the petition are false," he said. "I am confident that I will be vindicated once this investigation has been completed."

Peaks Islanders: Remember to vote on June 13 on the secession referendum.

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Peaks Islanders create housing group

BY BARBARA HOPPIN

A person’s home is his or her sandcastle. But in recent years, the tide of rising house prices has washed away many dreams of owning a home on Peaks Island.

The community, in the 2003 Peaks Island Survey and Neighborhood Plan, identified affordable housing as a key issue. Housing costs have increased rapidly, thus causing higher purchase prices for homes and in many instances the conversion of year-round rentals to seasonal rentals. As a result of these trends, potential first-time homeowners/renters who want to stay on the island either can’t find a rental or can’t afford to buy and therefore move to the mainland. Promoting affordable housing and island community living is the key to maintaining a viable year-round community on Peaks.

A group of islanders has been meeting since 2003 to discuss the need for affordable housing on Peaks. Marjorie Flye, Dick Reed, Dave Webster and Barbara Hoppin looked at research that Phyle had gathered and later expanded the group to include Stu Baranier, Keith Hultz and Kristan Mitchell. They incorporated with the name HOMESTART through the pro bono legal work of Brenda Buchanan and obtained 501(c)3 status. That enables an organization to work as a nonprofit, permitting tax-deductible donations.

HOMESTART has a goal of adding ten affordable units to the island’s housing stock in the next five years. HOMESTART is dedicated to addressing the needs of both renters and potential homeowners, and is exploring a variety of strategies to create affordable housing. These include new construction with Habitat for Humanity and zoning changes that would provide incentives for the private sector to build affordable housing units.

The group now includes many more islanders who came together at the Peaks Island Housing Symposium held February 11. HOMESTART recently distributed a survey to renters and potential homeowners on the island to determine their housing preferences. The results of this survey will be useful in the development of future projects.

HOMESTART members are actively engaged in conversations with the City of Portland’s Planning Department and City Manager’s office to identify zoning changes (such as lot size and setback requirements) that would promote affordable housing, and strategies to implement the changes in a timely manner. In addition, HOMESTART is actively pursuing sources of funding and private participation to purchase existing properties of affordable rental housing or first-time home ownership opportunities.

This past weekend a group of nine islanders attended an affordable housing conference in Belfast sponsored by the Island Institute where they exchanged and received valuable information on the methods of obtaining viable housing for all of those people who wish to live on Peaks Island.

What can you do? Join the group of 20 of your neighbors and come to HOMESTART meetings held at 7:15 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at St. Christopher’s Parish House. This month’s meeting is May 15. Consider donating tax-deductible property or funds to start the HOMESTART process really working. Support your neighbors in their efforts to create affordable housing on our island.

HOUSING, from page 1

A person’s home is his or her sandcastle, which is not to say that it is to be done now," Abrams said. "Take a 20- and a 50-year view and really think about what is the community that they wish to be in many cases what I see is that people are frantic because they believe that the community is going to change in a way that is not to their advantage.

"And it’s true. But it will never happen over night," Abrams said. "So the big challenge is getting people into a frame of mind that they are going to work on this for our lifetimes."

"It’s a very long game," Stu Baranier, one of the board members and a Peaks Island resident, said. "We are going to work on this for our lifetimes."

The group also has distributed a housing survey to potential renters and homeowners. Barbara Hoppin, a member of HOMESTART, echoed Abrams when asked what the group faces. "The biggest challenge is patience, you have to look long term," she said.

On Chebeague Island, a 56-page housing study was released in December 2005. The Cumberland Islands Committee began work on affordable housing in 2003, said Beth Howe, Chebeague Island resident and committee chair. But on July 1, 2007, Chebeague Island becomes its own town, so a new committee will have to be created to work on affordable housing. "We are in the process of deciding what sort of organization to form," Howe said.

Long Island is just beginning its work on affordable housing. "We are somewhere between exploratory and building the foundation," said Train. An affordable housing committee is being created, which includes two Selectors, the Planning Board chair and another resident. "We are still gathering information," Train said. "We recognize the need for working class housing in the community. The problem is going to be what type of working class housing we are going to have."

Again and again in the symposium, islanders said they needed to be flexible and that projects had to be specifically tailored to each island’s needs. "Anything we design has to be flexible enough to accommodate people who have a wide range of incomes," Howe said.

The Chebeague Island Housing Study identified some of the challenges facing affordable housing proponents on the island. The report recommends that an island nonprofit be created, which could acquire properties and then determine income, price and rental targets for affordable housing.

In 2005, a housing survey was compiled. About 78 percent of island residents said they preferred to own a home, when the choices included renting, renting a house, owning a condominium, buying a new home or living in a townhouse or more attached units, according to the survey.

The median household income of residents who are not elderly on the island is about $50,000 for a family of three, which is between 60 and 100 percent of the area’s median family income, according to the survey. A mid-point price for this buyer for a home, with a 10 percent down payment, would be between $133,000 and $147,000. The median price of non-waterfront homes on Chebeague is close to $300,000, according to the report.

One of the challenges that Chebeague faces, along with most other islands, is that the bulk of island homes are seasonal. On Chebeague, 63 percent of island housing is occupied only in the summer.

But those summer homes, and summer visitor, should be used as a resource to help preserve this year-round challenge, Abrams said. "Summer people, like myself, often come with expertise," said Howe, who retired to Chebeague Island after being a summer person. "She was a professor of urban planning at the University of Maine, which you live on an island year-round, summer people are part of the community," she said.
who
do not vote against secession. Indeed, who could? We will again be at the mercy of the city councilors, subject to their schedules and their priorities. Our vote on June 13 is the first time in history that we Peaks Islanders will decide our own future. If we vote yes, it will be the first of many votes. If we vote no, it may well be our last vote. Your vote matters. Please vote! Michael Richards is the moderator of the Island Independence Committee.

HOPPEN, from page 4

more effective ways to give voice to the will of the island.

agree to state law, June 13 is Peaks Island's vote, yes or no, on secession. Despite the IDC's claims, there is no provision in state law for a second vote. Those in favor of secession are painting as rosy a picture of independence as they can to gain your support. They claim that they can provide the same or better services while lowering your taxes. This is extremely doubtful. They cannot know what an independent town would do or who would do it or how much it would cost. In separation from Portland we stand to lose three islands. We urge all Peaks Islanders to vote "no" on secession on June 13. Let's work together on practical solutions to make our community even better than it is today.

Chris Hoppin is a member of the Solutions, No Secession Committee.

RIGHARDS, from page 6

Who has the ability, energy and responsibility to govern this island? Who cares most about the island? Who do, and nobody else.

Some islanders fear government by the people, some enjoy their special relationships with the City, some think we cannot succeed, as the challenges are too great. However, the IDC's research, however, has demonstrated clearly that we can succeed, that we can control our taxes and spending and provide better services for the Island than the City ever could. We can finance our sewer system without over-burdening its users, as other towns do. We can hire the best professionals for our schools, and for our public works, police, fire and emergency services. We have the resources to match or exceed the salaries Portlaid now provides. and to encourage our current city workers to stay on as Peaks employees. We can also contract for library and other services, combining our resources with those of our neighboring islands to create regional solutions to regional problems. We can assume our rightful place among the other communities of this state as the Town of Peaks Island. We can do this, if we want.

Unless we govern ourselves, our endangers, diverse Island ways will disappear forever. If we miss this opportunity, we vote against secession, who will take responsibility for making the City keep its recent promises? Indeed, who could? We will again be at the mercy of the city councilors, subject to their schedules and their priorities. Our vote on June 13 is the first time in history that we Peaks Islanders will decide our own future. If we vote yes, it will be the first of many votes. If we vote no, it may well be our last vote. Your vote matters. Please vote!

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DEANE, from page 1
happy that it is Friday afternoon and that they are about to begin the weekend.

She has a seat at a small round table in the back of the room to talk about her decision to retire from teaching. She's going to miss it, she says, but she really loves teaching.

"I just really love teaching," Deane said. "I love the passion for learning they have now, the independence they have now. They have more control they now have.

When Long Island seceded there were 10 students in the Long Island School. Until two years ago, school had between 16 and 25 children attending. Once the school was independent, the biggest advantage was making our own decisions and not being held hostage by a school governing body that had other things that were more important to do," Jordan said.

When Jordan seceded there were two teachers responsible for students from kindergarten through fifth grade, and the school was run by Portland. A part-time superintendent was hired from 36 applicants.

The new superintendent and the School Committee received applications for the two teaching positions. Jordan said. The school's former teachers were in that pool and it was decided to re-hire one of them, Paula Johnson, who is now the lead teacher at the Long Island School.

Johnson, an island resident, began as a teacher's assistant at the Long Island School in 1974 and became a full-time teacher in 1980. Along with Jordan, she was a member of the secession education committee. "I have very much appreciated the process of secession," she said. Yet she was unsure about staying on as teacher at the independent school.

"For myself, it was a tough decision," she said. "I was a long-time Portland teacher and enjoyed working for Portland. She had tenure, sick days and union representation. "I had to consider what I would be giving up," she said.

Deane decided to stay. Her children went to the school, and she always enjoyed working there. "I was emotionally invested in the school," she said.

That investment is one of the reasons the Long Island School is successful, said Marti Train, the school's second teacher, also an Island resident. "I firmly believe the reason it has worked so well on Long Island is there was a core group of people who put their heart and soul into it," said Train. Without the extra work and the passion of these people, especially Johnson, the school would not have worked out, she said.

Train was hired in 1993 by the new town. It was her first job out of college. She enjoys the job and says the small school is good for the children. "We can focus upon the children individually needs no matter what grade they are in," Train said. "It is the most ideal setting to raise a child, not only having the one-on-one attention for the children at school, but just the environment of the island itself." She said Train is married island lobsterman Stephen Train and they have two children.

But there are many challenges, as well. The two teachers have no union representation, so negotiating contracts is hard. "It's more than one that difficult things," Johnson said, which she did not have to worry about before. "Sitting down with your friends and neighbors trying to negotiate a reasonable salary—it's just difficult," Johnson said. The teachers also have to a great deal of administrative work. They had to establish their own salary scale and benefits. Some in town didn't think the teachers should receive health insurance, since other town employees did not get it at the independent school, that is something that usually goes along with it.

There is also uncertainty about her job. Because the number of students has increased, Train was reduced to three-quarters time last year. This year she only teaches half-time because there are not first- and second-grade students. Nothing is permanent, nothing is set in stone and that's what difficult," Train said.

For Jordan, secession is still worth it. "It's a wonderful town now and overall the school is doing great," she said. Last year, 12 of the 13 Island students attending Portland schools made the honor roll. All four graduating high school students went to college, with one going to Brown University.

"We are able to cater to community needs as well, we're not dictated to by a big district," said Carol Dougherty, current School Committee chair, about being independent.

"We have control over what we do. We can make choices based on our community."
May is named for the Greek earth goddess Maia, a star in the middle of the Pleiades cluster, which is now low in the western sky at sunset but hidden from us by the glare of city lights in Portland. Astronomers’ organized efforts to reduce ambient light worldwide have had little effect, so they have developed telescope filters which block all but a narrow band for the hydrogen-beta and ionized oxygen light emitted by stars, galaxies and nebulae.

Fortunately for us island-dwellers, the light-pollution is less here, allowing us a largely unobstructed view above, and especially eastward over the ocean. Of course, with the earth’s north pole tipping ever more toward the sun as we approach the summer solstice in June, day now lasts longer than night, so stargazing is restricted to early in the morning or later in the evening.

With the sun safely tucked away below the horizon, the next brightest objects appear first to our eyes, in the order outlined below:

Mars: The red planet is west of Saturn and fading steadily.

Uranus: In the Aquarius, and faint Neptune is in Capricorn, and both are as easy to find as they get this year. The brightest stars in this month are (from west to east) white Procyon in Canis Minor and Spica in Virgo, and red giant Antares in Scorpio. Later in the evening, blue-white Vega in Lyra appears, burning hot and fast, and spinning madly.

May 1: The crescent moon’s lower horns point to Mars in Gemini tonight.

May 2: The fat crescent moon’s lower horns point to Saturn nearby.

May 3: First quarter moon is high in the sky at sunset, dividing the gravitational pull of the sun and moon, so tides will barely 6 feet between high and low the next few days, especially since...

May 7: The moon is at apogee tonight, furthest away from earth this month, reducing the moon’s tidal pull even more.

May 8: Comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 5 flies right through the Ring Nebula in Lyra late tonight. If it’s clear, I’ll have my 10 inch Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain set up in the cemetery behind my house, probably with a 17 millimeter Tele-View Radian in the eyepiece-holder, and maybe a 2x Barlow thrown in just for fun. For a good time, call 796-2989.

May 11: A fat waxing gibbous moon is to the right of Jupiter later tonight. By tomorrow, the moon will rise below...

BY MICHAEL RICHARDS

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Anderson takes an indirect route to making furniture on Long Island

BY DAVID TYLER
Furniture maker Robert Anderson was 13 when he first came to Long Island.

His older brother, David, had moved to Portland and when Robert came to visit, he would take "Cape Bay Lines' mail boat around the island, we'd go fishing on the island and they both lived in Portland, but found a much stronger sense of community on Long Island, and the two brothers often went to the island and try to make those connections.

Anderson creates custom-designed furniture and builds wooden sculptures through his company, Maine Island Furniture. These steps are simple and lively, with Joie de vivre and stunning pieces painted bright, primary colors.

His workshop is in one of the old U.S. Navy buildings owned by the town, along Wharf Street on Long Island. Before he lived on the island, he asked town officials if it would be possible to use the space. They replied that if at least 20 percent of his work was marine-related, he could move into the building. They worked out an agreement, and he's been in the space for the past five years. Part of the agreement is that Anderson will also maintain and improve the space he's in.

He took an indirect route to furniture making. Anderson is from Pennsylvania. He got a business degree from Robert Morris University, near Pittsburgh and moved to Portland in 1987. He worked for Faulthild Seminaries, where he maintained a supervisor's position. His brother already had a job. In 1990, Dave bought a house on Long Island and moved there.

Although he worked at Faulthild for eight years, Robert was interested in art. He took classes in painting at the Maine College of Art (MECA) in the early 1990s. He quit his position at Faulthild, and was looking for work. In 1995, he took on the job of intern for Joie de vivre, an associate professor of woodworking and furniture design at MECA. It was Joie de vivre who suggested Anderson pursue furniture making as a career.

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