Islanders focus on new elected council after secession defeat

By David Tyler
Of the three resolutions made by the Portland City Council in 1975 to recognize Peaks Island as a separate town, the greatest chance to help islanders, according to those for and against secession.

"It is now our obligation to try and make this Island Council work and to give it our best shot," said Mike Richards, co-chair of the Island Independence Committee (ICC), the group that led the drive for Peaks Island to secede from Portland.

Chris Hepplin, of the group opposed to secession, Solutions Not Seccession, agreed. "We all islanders need to work together and use this vehicle, this elected forum of Peaks Island citizens to express what we want today," he said.

The creation of a Peaks Island Council is one of three actions that the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government required the City of Portland to take as conditions for the secession bill.

On May 15, the local government committee voted 7 to 5 against the secession bill. On May 28, the Senate accepted the vote of the committee against the bill. On May 30, the House of Representatives also accepted the committee’s report, which means the bill is essentially dead for this legislative session. Rep. Glen Cummings (D-Portland), speaker of the house, testified against the bill.

In hearings before the bill was killed, many legislators opposed to secession said they would change their vote if Portland officials failed to take immediate action about island governance, mainland parking and assuring Peaks Islanders that the school would remain open.

On May 21, the City Council unanimously passed a resolution to create a five-person Peaks Island Council please see SECESSION, page 8

Healing the wounds after bruising secession debate

By David Tyler
Now that the State Legislature has defeated the attempt by Peaks Island to create a new town, Portland, island residents will move on to other issues.

Although debates on Peaks Island are often passionate, the scars never heal, with close friends often on opposite sides of the issue. The debate is heated and those on both sides use strong language to make their case. But islanders on both sides of the debate believe that the divisions of secession will be bridged by work on common island causes.

In the May issue of The Island Times, Richard Richards, chair of the Island Independence Committee (ICC), wrote in a letter to the editor that if opposed bills are secession deprives islanders of the right to vote on the issue, "I will have stabbed islanders in the back, and opened a wound that will never heal—least of all by the subsequent state ministrations of the City of Portland and its insular advocates.

Richards was told that remark hurt many on the Island, and wrote an apology, which appears in this issue (see "Richards apologizes for remarks," Letters to the Editor, page 4). He said he regrets using a violent term like "stabbed in the back."

He wrote that secession is an issue on which reasonable people could disagree. "It is perfectly appropriate for islanders to oppose Peaks’ secession, and even to oppose another vote on the issue, given the anxiety it engenders in our friends and neighbors on the island," Richards wrote in his letter.

But Richards feels the divisions over secession are not insurmountable. "I’m not sure that I really subscribed to the view that the differences were so great that people couldn’t talk to one another," Richards said.

He talked about performing at the holiday tree lighting ceremony with Chris Hepplin, of the group Solutions Not Seccession (SNS). "We have different views on this particular issue, but it doesn’t mean that we can’t do community things together," Richards said.

According to Hepplin, "Throughout this debate we’ve remained respectful of each other please see HEALING, page 7

Chebeague gets ready to celebrate independence

By David Tyler
Chebeague Island students from Mahoney Middle School in South Portland play during the Memorial Day festivities on Peaks Island.

Summer begins on the island’s Students From Mahoney Middle School in South Portland play during the Memorial Day festivities on Peaks Island.

Photo by Arthur Fink

PeakFest festivities will begin June 22 File photo.

PeakFest marks true start of summer

By Faith Wark
Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and Chebeague (held together with bungee cords and duct tape). Oh, yeah—and PeakFest.

Now it’s summer.

Our annual celebration of the extraordinary community of Peaks Island has arrived, and just in the nick of time. Save your energy for a full weekend of merriment and frivolity, and save the dates of June 22-24 now—you don’t want to miss out on all the fun.

Kicking off this session will be the annual Snowmobieltest at TEA, which will feature a special musical guest, and The Uncalled Fear with some of its island-specific favors. After this commemorative party, get ready for the popular Peaks Island Idol Contest, complete with a panel of judges, audience voting, and coronation ceremony. This event was such a hit last year with over 300 people in attendance; we can’t wait to do it again. This is your chance to be the next Jordan or Blake (or Sanjay) Masked into this evening’s program will be the cookie bake-off to benefit Peaks Island Tax Assistance, and, since joining us this year, our very own world-famous clown, Airon the Eccentric.

Among other regular events, there will be the Morning Breakfast by the Sea, the pancake breakfast, BBQ, and strawberry shortcake at the American Legion, the Brackett Craft Fair, a cookout at the Inn, numerous open houses and tours. Face painting, bake sales, kite races, halloons, fish story-telling, pie contests, an art walk, the chalk-off, cook-off, bird watching, schooner cruises, church services, our detectable, delicious DVAs in concert, and, back by popular demand, the always fabulous and fun-filled, Fifth Annual Common Sound Fair.

Also appearing on the agenda is the usual, Amongst Things Goes So Fast, with John, Scooter, Swed- er, Skateboard, Golf Cart, Grocery Cart, Pick-Up Truck, or Rotary-Suit Case Fire Parade, accompanied by the return of the Peaks Island Kazoo Ensemble (Peaks PKE), with its pot-pourri potential peakfest please see PEAKFEST, page 8

Chebeague ready to celebrate independence

By David Tyler
Chebeague’s first Town Meeting, to be held on July 1 at the Chebeague Recreation Center.

In addition, the Transition Committee, chair of the town administrative director, a superintendent designee, a town clerk designate, and a deputy town clerk designate. All these appointments will have to be voted on by the first Town Meeting.

Finally, The Town Council of Chebeague’s five election will be held at 7 p.m. on June 24, also at the recreation center. Island voters will elect people to the five-member Board of Selectmen and the five-member School Committee.

"For me, personally, we’re really just reaching the starting line," said John Martin, Transition Committee chair "I think folks are a little antsy about it, as we will. I think everything is in a good place and that is important," Martin said.

"The challenge for us is to communicate everything we’ve done in the last six months or so," Martin said. A guide to the election process is being printed and should be in the mail to island voters by June 15. Martin also said the warrant articles for the Town Meeting will be printed up well beforehand.

The Town Administrator designate is Ron Grenier, of Damariscotta. The Superintendent of Schools designate is Alan Haddy, who is already serving in the part-time superintendent of the Arundel school system.

Chebeague Island residents Susan Campbell and Karen Hamilton were named town clerk and deputy town clerk, respectively. Grenier was picked at the end of April. He donated half of his time between April 25 and July 1 and remains please see CHEBEAGUE, page 6

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In Brief

Chebeague Island Inn closed

The Chebeague Island Inn is closed. “The inn is not open for the season,” said Martha Dunmont, the inn’s owner. When asked if the inn is for sale, she said, “That is under discussion.” She would not comment as to why the inn is closed.

Dumont has only been running the inn since the summer of 2004. She purchased the inn from Russell and Helen Brown, who owned it since 1964. The Brows used the inn mainly as a site for weddings.

Dumont did extensive renovations to the inn, which was built in 1925. She put in a new septic system, refurbished the basement, replaced the outside, replaced the inn kitchen and installed a furnace to heat the first floor. She also divided the inn to hold weddings at the inn, which was built in 1925. She purchased the inn from Russell and Helen Brown, who owned it since 1964. The Brows used the inn mainly as a site for weddings.

Dumont did extensive renovations to the inn, which was built in 1925. She put in a new septic system, refurbished the basement, replaced the outside, replaced the inn kitchen and installed a furnace to heat the first floor. She also divided the inn to hold weddings at the inn, since she fell weddings would monopolize the inn on weekends and prevent regular customers from staying.

-David Tyler

State referendum includes ferry funds

On June 12, voters across the state will decide the fate of two bond issues: a transportation bond issue for $112.38 million and a second, $18.3 million bond for water and sewer treatment projects.

The transportation bond makes the state eligible for $290.5 million in federal aid and other matching funds. If approved, the money would be used for improvements in roads, bridges, airports, public transportation facilities, bicycle and pedestrian trails and ferry and port facilities.

Included in the transportation bond is $1.775 million for ferry and port improvements. This figure includes $500,000 for the Casco Bay Island Transit District for a replacement vessel and safety and environmental improvements for existing vessels and dock facilities.

The transportation bond that voters decide on June 12 includes money for Casco Bay Lines.

Chebeague restaurant gets permits—for one month

In one of its final acts before Chebeague Island becomes its own town, the Cumberland Town Council unanimously approved a victualler’s license and a liquor license for Jonathan Komlosy, who plans to operate the Slow Bell Cafe, a 40-seat restaurant, on Chebeague Island. He plans to serve beer, wine and alcohol. The

However, Komlosy will have to re-apply for all permits to the Town of Chebeague after July 1. The licenses granted by the Cumberland Town Council are only good for the month of June.

Komlosy was also seeking a permit for outdoor, live music at the Slow Bell Cafe from 1 p.m. through 10 p.m. three nights a week. Town Manager Bill Shanks said Cumberland does not have an ordinance that deals with live entertainment and recommended the council table this request until July 1 so that Chebeague could address the issue on its own, according to the official minutes for the May 14 meeting.

Several island residents spoke in support, saying there is no place on the island for live music and liquor. However, islander Jane Fritz said the fact that the restaurant is in a residential area should be considered. Town Councilor Donna Danton, of Chebeague Island, said that residents complained about the Chebeague Island Inn. “With this proposal ... the outside music and live frame is a concern,” said Danton, according to the

Portland budget up 3.3 percent

The Portland City Council unanimously passed a $208.3 million budget for the 2008 fiscal year. That budget will result in a tax rate of $17.24 per $1,000 assessed valuation, according to the City of Portland’s Web site. That is an increase on the current tax rate of 17.9 cents per $1,000 of assessed value.

The council approved a budget for municipal services, including police, fire and public works, of $102.1 million, an increase of $8 million, or 8.6 percent, from this year’s spending.

The School Committee requested a budget of $66.4 million, but the City Council’s Finance Committee reduced that department’s budget by $701,000 to $59.5 million, according to the Portland City Council’s Finance Committee.

Cynthia T. Sheketoff, 80

Cynthia T. Sheketoff, 80, died on Sat., May 12, 2007 of complications of lung cancer, according to an obit that appeared in the Web site www.cheguegan.org. She was at home, surrounded by friends and family, and had the support of a dedicated home care team and Hospice of Southern Maine.

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Maura Chappell mA • Deborah Ketcho manager

Group urges new fish management system
A group of fishermen, researchers and conservationists is urging a new approach to the management of commercial fishing in the Gulf of Maine. Members of the coalition are asking federal regulators to abandon the current method, which regulates commercial fishing based on the number of days at sea, and switch to a vessel system of regulation.

The effort, called the Downeast Initiative, began on May 29 and is led by the Penobscot East Resource Center. It seeks to replace the regional approach to fisheries management, which severely limits the days fishermen spend on the water.

Not only has that system failed to protect fish species, it has also eliminated the independent Maine fisherman.

Between 1996 and 2006 the number of federal groundfishing permits in Maine went from 475 to 16.

Under this group’s proposal, catch limits for cod, haddock, fluke and other species would vary from region to region and would be based on local biological and economic factors. Supporters argue that this system would allow for more targeted management and would also involve the local fishing community in protecting fish stocks.

In June, the New England Fisheries Management Council will consider whether to continue area management as an alternative to the days-at-sea system.

-David Tyler

Meeting on Bay Mist
The annual summer island meeting of the Casco Bay Island Transit District will this year be held on board the Bay Mist. The Casco Bay Lines charter vessel will leave Portland on Tues., July 17 at 5:30 p.m. It will stop at each island to pick up those interested in attending, then dock at Cliff Island for the meeting. After the meeting is held, the Bay Mist will return to each island to drop off those who attended. Details of pick up times at the islands will be forthcoming.

-David Tyler

Maine State Pier plans to be discussed
There will be two public hearings in June to talk about the new plans for city-owned land on the Maine State Pier. The two meetings will both be held in the conference room of the city’s waterfront division on the Maine State Pier from 5-7:30 p.m. The meetings will be held on June 13 and June 27.

The city is reviewing plans to develop a seven-acre parcel of land, which includes part of the Maine State Pier, which used to house the Bath Iron Works ship repair facility. The city council rezoned the city-owned property for non-marine use because it said it could not afford the millions of dollars necessary to repair the pier. Two developers have submitted plans for mixed-use development of the pier.

Ocean Properties Ltd. plans to spend $90 million on its proposal, building a complex that includes ferry service to other Maine communities, an office building, a parking garage, restaurants, an art gallery and a new public fishing area. The Olympia Companies’ proposal includes a village at the end of the pier and a two-acre park. It also includes a hotel.

-David Tyler

Overlook candidate for Long Island seat
There is just one candidate seeking the Board of Directors seat representing Long Island for the Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD), which operates Casco Bay Lines.

-Bill Overlook, a Long Island resident and a community member on CBITD’s Finance Committee, has applied for the post. The CBITD Executive Committee will appoint a representative who will serve for the remainder of the term, which ends with the November election.

The seat had been held by Long Island resident Linda Papuke, who died on April 18 of this year. "Linda volunteered her time and energy to the residents of not only Long Island but to all islands in Casco Bay, and served on the Board of Directors for several years," according to a statement from the board. "Her dedication will be missed."

The Executive Committee will make the official appointment at its meetings on Friday, June 1 at 7:45 a.m. at the ferry terminal.

-David Tyler

Damon receives honor
Donna Damon, Chebeague Island resident and Cumberland Town Councilor, was honored at the Town Council’s last meeting on Chebeague Island on May 21. On July 1 Chebeague Island was to be part of Cumberland and become its own town.

Damon was presented with an engraved wooden chair engraved as a token of the council’s esteem. "There’s no one who knows more about the town, it’s history," said Council Chair Stephen Moriarty, according to the minutes from the meeting. "Her service has been exemplary ... she’s a tenacious representative of this community." Moriarty said. "She’s a founder and director of the Cumberland Island and Island Trust, a community member on Cumberland Community Resources, which runs the Cumberland Community Center, an assisted living center.

The daughter of the late William and Martha Tomlinson, she was predeceased by her husband, Merwin A. Shacketoff, and her eldest son, Tom Holt. She is survived by her son, Roger Holt of Melbourne, Fla., son and daughter-in-law John and Mary Holt of Granby, Conn., and grandchildren J. Holt and her partner, Jenny Goff and Christian Holt.

A celebration of her life will be held at the Chebeague Methodist Church on Sat., June 2 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, a donation to an organization that supports the island community would be appreciated. Organizations important to Shacketoff were: Island Community Grants Fund, 122 Littlefield Rd., Chebeague Island ME 04017; Samaritan Fund, c/o Gail Miller, treasurer; 36 Fender Rd., Chebeague Island, ME 04017; and the Cumberland Island and Island Trust (formerly: Second Wind Farm) c/o the Chebeague Recreation Center, Chebeague Island, ME 04017.

-David Tyler

BREIFS, from page 2
Many Islanders will remember visiting Cynthia during the storm that began on Patriots Day this year. The Community Center was opened as an emergency shelter and Cynthia lived there for the week, when the power was out on the island.

Born and raised in West Hartford, Conn., she was a graduate of Oxford School and Bradford Junior College.

Shacketoff summered on Chebeague Island until she moved to the island year-round in 1974. While raising her, and director for seven years, of the Cumberland Grange 576 and she was past president and director for seven years, of the Cumberland Mainland and Island Trust and a contributing author of the town’s history. She’s done more for this community ... then you can shake a stick at. It’s an easily going-away present but it doesn’t mean you’re done. Just because you’re leaving does not mean you’re not going to still see the people who are here. This is just a beginning.

-David Tyler

Many Islanders out on the island lived during the storm that began on Patriots Day in 1959 and 1960. For 13 years she until she moved to the island year-round in 1974. While raising son, Roger Holt of Melbourne, Fla.; son and daughter, Jenny Goff and Christian Holt. She is survived husband, Merwin A. Shacketoff, and partner, Jenny Goff and Christian Holt.
**Little Diamond Dispatches**

**BY LINDA TYLER AND PETER WALCH**

June marks the return of our column focusing on Peaks Island and, of course, the蔡馨 truly on the diamond and, the hub of our community life.

The Casino—the big brown building just off the ferry landing—is the most prominent structure on Little Diamond, and the hub of our community life.

Site of Saturday Night Suppers, island weddings, lectures, fund-raisers, concerts, and other events, the building was built in 1895 and is owned and maintained by the Little Diamond Island Association. Maintenance is a labor-intensive job, and while it is impossible to provide the level of detail that would be necessary to describe the building in full, we can give a general overview of its current state.

The Casino has a large, open room that can accommodate hundreds of people. It has a stage for performances and a separate area for food service. The building is surrounded by gardens and a parking lot.

**Letters to the editor**

**Independent group proud of secession work**

The State and Local Government Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives has been working on legislation that would allow for the secession of Peaks Island from the state of Maine.

In a letter to the editor, the independent group notes that it is proud of the work that has been done to prepare for the possibility of secession. They state that the group has worked hard to ensure that the people of Peaks Island have a say in their own future.

**Richards apologizes for remark**

Last month, I wrote a letter to the paper containing a certain remark which I have come to regret. I apologize for any offense that my words may have caused.

**A reminder of new parking rules on Peaks**

**BY ROAN KANE**

The parking and traffic rules in the ferry landing area that went into effect January 1, 2007, are now even more important to motorists who have just dropped off or are heading to Peaks Island. Memorial Day Weekend clean-up-the-Casino campaign.

A few years back, one president sadly forgot this obligation. This omission was made in error to the office roughly the equivalent of the Vietnam War to Lyndon Johnson's presidency: the dark days when the country was in turmoil and the nation was divided. The Casino was open during this time.

The Casino is a public space, and it is the responsibility of all who use it to keep it clean and safe. We encourage all visitors to help us maintain this beautiful facility for future generations.

**Tax relief funding continues**

Peaks Island has seen an increase in property values, which has led to a rise in property taxes. To help offset this increase, the island has received a one-time tax relief package from the state.

The state has allocated $20,000 to Peaks Island to help with the tax relief. This money will be used to help property owners who are facing higher taxes.

**In other news**

- The annual Peaks Island Art Festival will take place on June 2nd. The festival features local artists and is a great opportunity to support local talent.
- The annual Peaks Island Community Garden is open for business. The garden provides fresh produce to the community and is a great place to volunteer.

**Contact us**

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Peaks Island Community Center at 766-0067.
June 2007

The choice of restaurants to be Wednesday dinner was also five dollars. The charge of the ticket for five dollars and the half-and-half drawings are the same. Then there are the little darlings, crumpled five in hand, at the cash register and cream company buying a cone and, with the change, finishing off with jellybeans and gumdrops. The dollar bill is fast following the fate of the copper penny. It is no longer a big deal to part with a buck. Stand at the ticket counter at Casco Bay Lines a dollar short, and someone will likely advance you or just give you the money. But the new starting point for things costing real money is, in this day and age, five dollars and nickels.

And speaking of real money, getting caught on Peaks Island far what seems to be $28, enjoy stories of the adventures brought to us by our returning seasonal friends. About hallucinations, atolls, abstractions, boats, branches and bicycles, captions, catamarans and crabs. Dinnes, dalisgrins, and Disney. Elves, nets and egrets, festivals, feasts and fairs. Gelato, gardens, Galapagos, husk, hideaways, and hemp. The islands, interiors and icebergs; the jalapenos, jewelry and jade, kelp and killer and kimono. The leeks, lunis and les. Maoris, Madura and monasteries. The night-life, nudes and Neapolitan. Orcas, orchids and opera. Palaces, piazzas and prawns. Quilts, quartz and quilts, restaurants, ruffles and roadsters. Sombreros, senoritas, and siestas, the theaters, traffic and tours. The Offiz, the Underground and Uruguay. Villages, vineyards, whales, windmills and waltztrills. The exotic places: Xanthus, Xuna, and Xon. The Yangtze, Yellowstone and Yareus. Zebras, 7.anzibar and Zabar's. ... This from our public utilities. Following the April 16 blizzard.

"In the interest of public safety should a storm of the magnitude of the recent Patriots Day event re-occur, the following directive is issued. (Music comes up.) Rock-a-bye power line in the treetop, when the wind blows the tree-top will rock. When the bough breaks the treetop will fall, and down will come.

Happy Father's Day!

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* Guy Fradette
* Jay Soule
* Marty Mulken

98 Island Avenue Peaks Island Maine 04108 Phone: (207) 766-2508 Fax: (207) 766-2507 Email: lplante@maine.rr.com
The 11th hour

I had a plan for this particular column, a bold laid plan that in the end you guessed it went astray. It was to be more about the nuts and bolts of our ascension and the birth of Maine's newest town-to-be.

But then, at the eleventh hour, I overheard a conversation between two folks standing by the "free newspapers" in a mainland grocery store; two folks who thought that the local newspapers had made just about as much hay out of Chebeague's ascension as was humanly possible. Why don't they just get on with it," one of them said.

I suppose looking from the outside in, it might seem that our David and Goliath story should have played itself out by now. I couldn't include but not necessarily be limited to a discussion of out-s and bolts of our succession and the birth dance, lecture, house decorating contest, didn't. I knew they'd be reading all about it anyway.

Two Sundays ago, Reverend Glenn Coombs preached his last Chebeague sermon. As the parishioners entered the church, he approached Donna Damon and asked her if she would end the service by calling out all the community organizations that voluntarily contribute to the upkeep and well being of the island. And then he cautioned her not to leave anyone out. So Donna rustled up a pencil and scratched out her list on the back of a few offering envelopes. Folks to the right and those to the front and back of her knew her charge and the rest of the hour she wasn't out of the room. Committees and subcommittees and no end of meetings have established many islanders' lives for the past few years. It began with the Chebeague Island Community Association and the subset "Gauging of Flow" working together with the Town of Cumberland and them with the state senators and representatives who, on April 5, 2006, gave us our year to separate from the mainland and then their blessings. Five months later nine transition representatives were elected to begin the daunting task of building our new town of restructuring the government, organizing the school, and recommending persons to fill all the jobs needed to maintain our community.

But the idea of service is not new to any of us.

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But the idea of service is not new to any of us.

"Never has the future of Chebeague been more challenged than it has during the past two years," Damon said. "When the island faced the school crisis not everyone envisioned the same solution to the problem, but despite that the continued to talk to each other. As we move forward to create a town, we are on a firmer footing, because no matter what our thoughts, we are all committed to Chebeague's survival as a community. We are all in the same boat, and we each have an oar in the water to keep us on a steady course. Throughout it all, Chebeague has continued to maintain a complex network of volunteerism that continues to be the foundation of the community.

From the oldest island institution, the Methodist Church, to the new Second Wind Fitness, the people of Chebeague have stood over and over again how they can work together to strengthen the community." Damon said. "The community of Chebeague," Damon said. "Has sustained itself for more than 250 years, because of the generations of people who have lived on the island and committed themselves to this place. Life is not the same on Chebeague Island as it was when it was first settled in the late 1700s. Over and over again the island has reinvented itself as circumstances changed and in doing so has preserved its viability as a year-round community.

"I think that we refer to so often as the foundation of any town is both tangible and intangible assets make up our island's infrastructure. And the intangible? For us, that would be our fellow islanders' random acts of kindness. And those would be made up as a list that would fit on no amount of envelopes. This bodes well for a small island very soon to become its own town.

CHESERAGE, from page 2

that he won't get paid for the other half until the new town has money.

Greener is retired but his last job was as chief auditor of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. He was born and raised in Beldedford, where his 80-year old father still lives.

He said that the biggest challenge for the new town will be charting an independent course from Cumberland and getting used to having more local government representatives.

As part of Cumberland, Chebeague had one town councilor. "And now, they face the challenge of having five representatives—there is a shift there," Greener said.

"I think also the other major challenge will be beginning to think independently and to have less of a reliance on Cumberland," he said. There are agreements between the two towns to continue to work together. But in policy areas, in terms of planning, it is time to begin to define themselves and decide, what is their vision? It is eventually changing taking these visions into the governmental structure, and having some set of tangible assets make up our island's infrastructure.

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Perry, 57, retired but his last job was as chief auditor of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. He was born and raised in Beldedford, where his 80-year old father still lives.

He has the biggest challenge for the new town will be charting an independent course from Cumberland and getting used to having more local town managers.

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"I think that we refer to so often as the foundation of any town is both tangible and intangible assets make up our island's infrastructure. And the intangible? For us, that would be our fellow islanders' random acts of kindness. And those would be made up as a list that would fit on no amount of envelopes. This bodes well for a small island very soon to become its own town.

CHESERAGE, from page 2

that he won't get paid for the other half until the new town has money.

Greener, 57, is retired but his last job was as chief auditor of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. He was born and raised in Beldedford, where his 80-year old father still lives.

He said that the biggest challenge for the new town will be charting an independent course from Cumberland and getting used to having more local government representatives.

As part of Cumberland, Chebeague had one town councilor. "And now, they face the challenge of having five representatives—there is a shift there," Greener said.

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Cliff Island News

BY LEO CARTER

May on Cliff Island has brought both sun and storms, calling to mind the dramatic weather changes in our past. Paul Miller has mowed the ball field after being so long in the sun to start, while Paul Seavey is using a large septic tank as a source of light bubbles on the islands.

The list of lawn mowers is heard as the island community prepares for another summer, with many people busy in their gardens and fields. The island is a popular place for visitors, and the island community is eager to welcome them.

PHYSICAL, environmental, and economic factors influence the island community. Our island is a place of beauty, but it is also a place of challenges, and the island community works hard to maintain the island's natural beauty.

The island is a place of diversity, and we must work together to ensure that all islanders have the opportunity to enjoy the island. We must protect the island's natural beauty and maintain the island's unique character.

The island is a place of tradition, and we must work to preserve our traditions while also embracing new ideas and innovations. We must work together to ensure that the island remains a place of beauty and diversity for generations to come.

VETERINARY CARE: Cliff Island is home to a few very special animals, and we must work together to ensure that they are well cared for. The island is a place of beauty, and we must work together to ensure that all islanders have the opportunity to enjoy the island.

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FREE Delivery to Casco Bay Lines and Select Marinas

Delivery Schedule, Monday - Friday
Casco Bay Lines 1:30 pm
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Phone: 207-774-7711 Fax: 207-828-0201
Memorial Day on Peaks  

PEAKSFEST, from page 1  

section, along with the very trendy formed "Bubble Brigade" and "The Humdinger." Of course, the groovy new Marit Braum custom designed 2007 version of our renowned Peaksfest T-shirts will be available for sale—on the Web site and on the corner.  

As if that's not enough, exciting peaks opportunities for entertainment and edification will also present themselves. There will be an Island author's showcase and book sale, and a prose and poetry reading event from Peaks wordsmiths, called "Peaks Radio." There will be a Captain Eli's Root Beer Truck offering free cold, locally brewed Shipyard root beer; organized volleyball and softball games; a college workshop, a Peaks Fireman's Muster and Community Water Fight (yes, with the fire hoses), and, after a several year hiatus, the long-awaited return of the much-loved Great Peaksfest Scavenger Hunt—a 24-hour island-wide, team-oriented wicked good competition.  

"Truly, this year's Peaksfest will be one to remember. There are still a number of other events in the works—but we can't spill the beans just yet. To get your own copy of the official schedule, and information about participating in any of the events, keep checking www.peaksfest.com. The 2007 schedule should be up soon. Take a nap now, and see you there, neighbor!"

SECSSION, from page 1  

passed a joint resolution, with the School Committee, committee the city to maintain and operate the island schools and passed a resolution to continue to help islanders with mainland parking, which included $300,000 annually to help islanders with parking or transportation issues.  

When city officials returned to the local government committee on May 23, Sen. Elizabeth M. Schneider (D-Penobscot) said that Portland's response satisfied her, but she asked for an update in January and warned that she did not want to have to institute emergency legislation at that point to address issues that came up in the secession debate. The committee did not change its opposition to the bill on May 23.  

The deadline to come up with the rules for this new Peaks Island Council is July 31, according to Co-Counsel Jen Cohen, who was in charge of secession negotiations for the city. The new body has been proposed because of "concerns expressed by some islanders that the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association is not a formal representative of the island," according to the resolution.  

City officials will work with islanders to come up with the final terms for this council. A draft ordinance from May 2006 called for five voting members from Peaks Island along with the council and School Committee member that represent Peaks Island, as nonvoting members.  

The city will hold and pay for elections. City officials expect that the first election will be held this November. In addition, the council approved $50,000 for administrative costs for the Peaks Island Council.  

The new Peaks Island Council will be in addition to the current Island Advisory Committee, which includes residents from all of the city islands, and meets monthly with representatives from city departments.  

At the May 21 meeting, the City Council also committed to include representatives from the Peaks Island Council and other island representatives in the process for hiring the island/neighborhood liaison position. That post has been vacant since January when Tom Fortier left to become Richmond's town manager. As part of the current hiring process, the City Council plans to look into using members of the Island Advisory Committee for input.  

However, at a May 24 meeting of the IRC, that group decided to ask Portland officials that the election for the Peaks Island Council be held before the island/neighborhood liaison position is hired. The IRC is asking that the election be held on Aug. 1.  

Cohen said he looks forward to working with the Peaks Island Council. "Having an elected council to me really ensures a sense of confidence, both on the council level, and hopefully on the island, that policy directives taken will be more likely representative of the views of Peaks Island," Cohen said.  

Richards said he is optimistic about the new council, depending on how much authority is given. "I don't know how much power the City of Portland is really willing to cede to islanders on island issues," he said.  

"If it gathers some strength and authority, then maybe secession in the future is not necessary," Richards said. "It remains powerless and not able to provide meaningful input on the issues that are important to the island. It will proven to be relatively ineffective and the push for secession will rise again."

Hoppin said what is important about the Peaks Island Council is that it will be a formal place, with democratically-elected representatives, that will focus attention on key island issues. Islanders do not always agree on all issues, but with this council, "at least we will have a formal forum with an organization that should be able to identify and propose islanders' wishes—and I think that is very important."  

Hoppin said he hopes that islanders from all sides of the secession debate take part in this new body. "I hope all islanders recognize the value of this," he said.  

The parking plan approved on May 21 by the City Council included: surface parking at Ocean Gateway through April, 2016; the continuation of $10 per month for the 151 island spaces at the Casco Bay Garage, near the ferry terminal; the commitment of 150 spaces for islanders, at market rates, at the Ocean Gateway Garage (now under construction).  

Cohen also said that in the off-season, the city will allow islanders to park in the motor vehicle staging area for the Nova Scotia ferry for $100 for the winter.  

In addition, the council approved 25 on-street parking spaces near the ferry terminal, which will be distributed by the Peaks Island Council and other island representatives. Finally, the council is requesting a $50,000 annual fund to go to year-round residents to help with parking or transportation.  

The off-street spaces and money could go to those with disabilities, or the elderly, or to those with limited incomes, Cohen said. "This is earnest money—this is not chump change," said Hoppin.  

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Vocabulary Builder By Cevia Rosol copyright 2007

Across
1. Drag
3. Sharp weapon
4. A deadly sin
14. Spanish stewpot
15. Indian princess
16. Trophy leader
17. Causes of food poisoning
18. June wedding or graduation, for instance
20. Irtars and Meerschaum
21. Landing place
22. They’re out of this world
24. Unit of current
25. One who makes meaningless sounds
26. Verisimilarise
31. Solidified waste matter
35. Avant-garde
37. White
38. Kind of doctor in PR
40. How the preceding month
41. Somethings
43. To the preceding month
44. 80s
46. Exclusionary part of the city, maybe
47. What turns Buenos Aires blue?
50. Ship’s cargo
52. Judges wrongly
54. Corresponds to omega
57. Uneven
60. Give off
61. Holy Cow
63. Make like Frank Sinatra
65. Muscular rigidity
66. Positive pole
68. Hectic verse
70. Film that’s not highly rated
71. Talk out of
72. Siberian broo-hoo
73. Iron-based pigment
80. Sea eagle
82. Bingo
86. Well, fancy that
88. Price work
90. Put up
91. Set of scenes

Down
1. Daddies or granddads
2. In the preceding month
3. Something good to have as a backup
4. 80s film turned Broadway musical
5. What you might call the husband of 15 across
6. Member of the principal ethnic group of China
7. Equity
8. Copied from
9. On the other hand
10. Floor it
11. Away from the wind
12. Cover the gray, perhaps
13. Red ___, common candy
14. Gum, used for sore throats
15. Brownie
16. Small wailing bird
17. Paleodonic name
18. Synonym of 4 down
19. Chicken Little!
20. Ken
21. Punch
22. Soil
23. Fast running African herbivore
24. Popular vacation venue
25. Side kick
26. Semi-circular room
27. Particular
28. More exotic, like 23 across
29. Surprise attack
30. Philosophy
31. Ennis
32. Seedy street
33. Cut into small pieces
34. Public storehouse or Russian stockade
35. Relative of the amberjack or compass
36. Swiss eagle
37. Reflection
38. Make like Frank Sinatra
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82. More exotic, like 23 across
83. Surprise attack

Solution to last month’s puzzle

Peaks Island Police Log

May 2: Motor vehicle theft, Island Avenue; animal complaint, no address listed in report.
May 6: Parking complaint, no address listed.
May 10: Check well being, Welch Street; EMS call, Island Avenue.
May 11: Animal complaint, Central Avenue.
May 12: Motor vehicle theft, no address listed in report; burglary, Reservoir Road; check well being, Upper A Street, along with EMS; criminal mischief, Whitehead Road.
May 14: Parking complaint, Island Avenue.
May 18: Burglary reported and arrest made, Upper A Street.
May 19: Suspicious activity, no address listed.
May 26: Fight, Woods Road; EMS call, traumatic injury, no address listed.
May 27: Parking complaint, Epps Street.
May 28: Motor vehicle stop, Welch Street; theft reported, Upper A Street; motor vehicle stop, Elizabeth Street; fight, City Point Road.
May 28: Animal bite, no address listed; parking complaint, Greenwood Street; motor vehicle theft, Luther Street; intoxicated person, no address listed; EMS call, stroke, Island Avenue.
May 29: Fight, Welch Street; general disturbance, no address listed; loud music, Adams Street; alarm burglary, Seashore Avenue; bonfire reported, no address listed, fire reported, Whitehead Avenue.

We need writers.
Please call 272-2896.

Island Delivery...
Making life easier Shaw’s Westgate will deliver your order all boxed up and ready to go.

When: Every Tuesday morning
Where: Here at Shaw’s Westgate
Time: 7:00 am to 11:00 AM
Cost: $1.00 per box
Details: You must do your own shopping between 7:00 am and 11:00 am. We will have an extra terminal open for boaters only.
Jupiter's al opposition this month so is as close as it gets and in good position for viewing, last but not least, the sun's rotation is visible as it cuts a curved path through the stars.

Support Peaks Island Little League!

Baseball BBQ Comedy Extravaganza

Wednesday, June 6  6:00pm

Comedy hosted by Michael Sylvester. BBQ. Special movie just for the kids! Live music and entertainment. Come help us raise money for this great cause!

New Summer Hours:

Open 7 days a week

Serving lunch & dinner

11:30am - 10:00pm

Pub open until last boat

New Summer Menu coming soon!

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Come for a great stay or tour.

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eightmaine@me.com

On the National Register of Historic Places.

Illustration by Jamie Hogan

Star Gazing

BY MIKE RICHARDS

Juno brings so much sunlight, the others are out of sight unless you're out late, so we focus our attention on our own star, let's explore our three bright neighboring stars stretched out across the evening sky.

To the west over Portland is Regulus (reg-u-lus), the big heart of Leo. If it's relatively bright stars only a few hundred million years old, it's 77.5 light years away from the sun. It's the most distant, but it's at 127 light years, and it's a red giant—five times the sun's diameter, and its innermost planet is probably circling Vesta, our sun (or Mars, where there are moons), an opening through which we could see Mercury, Venus, and Saturn, all in the same telescope.

In the early evening Venus in the west still shines brightly, including Pollux and Castor to its right. As Venus approaches Earth it reflects sunlight at a shallower angle, so it increases in brightness through late May and becomes crescent. Throughout the month Venus will drop 10 degrees toward the horizon—about three-quarters of the way down. In late June you may be able to see the crescent moon to line up Venus and Saturn to their upper right.

Saturn will lose altitude faster in June as it progresses and seems to sit right on top of Venus at the end of June. You should be able to get both planets in a single telescope field of view.

LITTLE DIAMOND, from page 4

to letters, journals, and even Native American artifacts unearthed on the island.

The plan is to compile and collate all this material, and to publish it in some limited-edition format during 2008. A splendid project, and a wonderful excuse to go ransacking around in the farthest, darkest, dustiest reaches of closets and attics.

Earlier, mention was made of the big Patriots Day storm. The morning after, our house was at last, it must be pointed out, not just Deering High School graduates; coincidence—even we didn't think so—walked the island and surveyed the damage done most mercifully, quite little, at least to the buildings. The odd patch of shingles was all.

The shoreline was, however, deeply eroded at numerous spots, with banks so undercut as to topple trees onto the beach. But we can thank those tree roots (and current obstacles preventing clear near-water's edge) for preventing even worse erosion.

And speaking of trees toppled, we Little Diamond Islanders apparently must issue a collective apology to those of our neighboring islanders who spent several days with compromised (or no) water, Sorry. Our bad. Nostis culpa. One of the few interior trees to come down (in front of the Sisters of Mercy dwelling) pushed over a fire hydrant and ruptured the main line that supplies Portland Water District water to Peaks and Cushing.

Our thanks and congratulations to the Portland Water District and Maine Central Power crews who got those essential services back up and running in what was remarkably short time. As always, we appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

Two happy milestones: Zoe Lee (a Portland High School student who will spend her junior year in Germany, courtesy of the American Field Service program) celebrated her 16th birthday on May 24. Cara Marie Inman (daughter of Cecilia and Jeff, granddaughter of David and Jane) was celebrated on her birth date, May 25.

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New guidebook conveys beauty of Casco Bay islands

Island Times co-publisher David Tyler and Portland-based photographer Nancy Trueworthy are the authors of a new guidebook, "Maine's Casco Bay Islands: A Guide," published by Down East Books. The book provides photos and information about how to explore fourteen islands in Casco Bay, as well as Tide Lights, Portland Head Light, Portland's Old Port and Cape Small. The book is in stores now and can also be ordered online at www.downeast.com. The following is an excerpt from the introduction.

By David Tyler

I first came to Casco Bay when I was three months old. My grandparents owned a summer camp—purchased in 1937—on Chebeague Island. In July 1963 I took my baptismal heat ride to Chebeague. I have no memory of my first trip, of course, but soon began to look forward to family vacations in Casco Bay.

Each year, we drove to Maine where my grandparents lived in Portland in the U.K., a twenty-eight-foot wooden boat built by Charles Comins of Sebasco Estates in eastern Casco Bay. It’s been thirty-three years since I last read in the Vega, but she will always be my favorite boat. I still remember the thunderumbly of the engine as my grandfather started her up; my excitement when he asked me for the first time to cast off the stern line; the rusted metal exhaust stack, which I was never allowed to touch, next to the steering wheel.

My grandfather set up a wooden crate inside the boat that he placed behind me with his hands guiding mine. There were benches along either side of the cockpit where we had turned blonding in our hair, my mother hanging on to us so we wouldn’t fall overboard.

As we came around Deer Point, my three siblings and I would stare intently ahead for the first view of our camp, which was visible against the gray ledges. Even now, on summer days when a southeast wind blows in from the bay, the scene still brings me back to those times on the Vega. As I grew older, I became friends with other islanders, both year-round residents and summer people. My brother, sister, and I took swimming lessons at Division Point and sailing lessons at the boathouse. We rowed a John Small punt into every cove and cranny around Deer Point, as well as Hope and Sands islands.

Afternoons, my dad sailed us in our thirteen-foot boat to picnics on Sands Island. Evenings, we toasted marshmallows over a campfire built on the rocks in front of the camp, then snuggled under blankets as the cinders glowed as Mom and Dad pointed out the constellations.

Growing up often means losing reverence for the places and people that were special during childhood, but that has not happened to me with Casco Bay. My knowledge of the bay moved beyond a place of idyllic childhood summers to learning about the remarkable people who live here year-round, and my passion for this place only deepened.

In 1999 I finally moved to Maine to be with Laura Tresk, who is now my wife. We were married in 2000 at my grandparents’ home in Bennett’s Cove on Chebeague Island, where we first met.

I can’t tell you how many times I have heard people say that the communities on these islands are unlike any place else. People talk about the need to get to know one another on the islands. The rhythms of island life are connected, connected to working the land and the sea. The rootedness of island life stands in stark contrast to life in the mainland suburbs, which has become more frenetic and disconnected.

The intimacy of island life is the very thing that makes Peaks Island, for example, has eight hundred and fifty-year-round residents. That means everyone knows everyone else, an intimacy that can lead to the kind of gossip and quarrels that occur in any small community. It also means that islanders look out for each other, that when someone is in trouble, islanders drop everything to help out. When there is a problem, islanders get together to solve it.

The cooperativeness of island life is also evident in part, bow you reach an island. On the mainland, everyone gets into a car and drives to work separately. On an island, everyone gets on the same ferry. They can sit and chat and catch up on the lives of their neighbors in a daily ritual that has no parallel on the mainland.

If you really want to learn about an island, hang around the ferry wharf. As it has been since the nineteenth century, meeting the ferry is the focal point of an island day. In the summer, kids swim near the wharf and people fish from it, store owners drive down to pick up supplies, islanders meet guests, and commuters return home from work.

Island life isn’t perfect. There’s no such thing as convenience; bad weather occasionally means canceled boating. And the winters can get very long; by March islanders get a little stir-crazy if they haven’t been able to take an off-island vacation. Yet the inconveniences are worth it. After just one visit, you’ll be forever imbued with the spirit of the people and these islands. The friends you make will last a lifetime.

It would certainly take a lifetime to explore all the coves, harbors, peninsulas, and islands between Cape Elizabeth and Cape Small. After forty-three years of coming to the bay, I was amazed at how many new places I discovered while doing research for this book.

Volunteers needed to plant roses

Last year a small group got together and replanted roses around the parking lot on Peaks Island. This year there are at least forty bushes to plant and some need to be weeded. Do Jean Girard and Jim Lasier lead the work? We plan to do so again, starting at 8 a.m. on Sat., June 2. Please plan on joining us with your gloves and shears. The more help we get the less time it will take.

Artists invited to meeting

Artists, poets, writers, dancers and musicians are invited to a meeting on Mon., June 18, at 7 p.m. at the conference room of the Casco Bay Lines ferry terminal to talk about creating a Casco Bay artists association. For more information, contact Maggie Carl at www.maggiecarle.com.

Celebrate Chebeague’s independence

There are numerous events scheduled to celebrate Chebeague Island’s becoming its own town.

On Thurs., June 28 and Fri., June 29, at 7:30 p.m., the play “Chebeague in Fact, Fiction and Folklore,” will be presented at the Chebeague Island Hall and Community Center. On Sat., June 30 there will be an all-age baseball game at the ball field at 3 p.m., and a family movie night, also at the ball field, at 8:30 p.m. On Sun., July 1 there will be a Sunrise Service at the last fire at 5 a.m., and an appearance for the first Town Meeting at 7 a.m., meeting starting at 8 a.m., at the Chebeague Rec-reation Center. On Mon., July 2 Jerry Wiles will present the talk, “The Magic Year 1787,” at 7:30 p.m. at the island ball. On Tues., July 3 there will be a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. and a contra dance at 7:30 p.m., both at the hall.

Fifth Maine to host chill cook-off

Think you make a great chill? Then enter a cook-off of your best chill in the Fifth Maine’s first (and hopefully annual) chill cook-off. The competition is on Sunday, July 2. The community is invited to come, taste, and vote for their favorite in three categories: meat, vegetarian, and hot. Prizes will be awarded to the winning entries. There is no entry fee but you must be asked for a donation of $1. Cornbread, corn chips, and beverages are included. Please call 766-3390 or email cfs@mainecookoff.com to enter. Proceeds benefit the Fifth Maine Kitchen Fund.

Classifieds

Year-round two-bedroom home on Peaks available Sept., 1, $11,000 monthly plus utilities. Lease, no dog, no smoking. Call 272-2888.