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CBITD employee contract negotiations go into arbitration

BY KEVIN ATTRA
The first outward sign of trouble between the Casco Bay Island Transit District and its employees came in mid-April when deckhands circualated a two-page letter asking islanders for support in getting higher wages and better working conditions.

In the employees' eyes, that the offers made by CBITD in negotiations for a new contract amounted to pay cuts and benefit reductions, while at the same time the company had earned the largest surplus in its history, allegedly $231,000 as of March.

"At the same time, your board has increased management wages, continues to mount unnecessary legal expenses, plans to increase the advertising budget by 33 percent and to build a ferry they admit is probably the wrong vessel for the needs of the operation," one of the employees wrote.

The ferry crews and shore side personnel are members of the United Marine Division Local 333, a branch of the International Longshoreman's Association, and have been without a contract with the Bay Lines for over a year.

Last March they agreed to suspend talks while the Bay Lines weathered a period of high costs and low ridership related to the economic downturn, allowing the contract to lapse.

The new contract will apply to wages and benefits from 2009 through 2011. This year talks resumed in March but quickly stalled and on Friday, April 9 both sides allegedly agreed to go to arbitration.

A week after the employees letter came out, many people were still unaware of the conflict, but when asked about it tended to side with the employees. "There's always something going on there and it tells me one thing: bad management," said Peaks Island resident John Winters.

"The issue is about wages, overtime," said William Harrigan, president and general manager of the union. "Two years' worth of overtime, and a continuation of their current level for new employees.

New position created to replace principal at Peaks Island School

BY DIANE ECACET
"I think I have good news," Superintendent James Morse told a somber crowd of some 50 parents, school staff and community leaders assembled at Peaks Island Elementary School on Thursday, April 29.

The announced resignation in March of a new and popular principal of the Peaks and Cliff Island Schools, effective the end of June, combined with the de-funding of that position in the Portland Public Schools budget for fiscal year 2010-2011, had swept the community with the force of the late winter windstorm it closely followed.

Calling the Peaks community his toughest audience, "You're the only ones that make me nervous," the superintendent proposed "a different leadership model": a teacher-leader, with fulltime classroom responsibilities, rather than a principal.

"This is the model that we should be moving toward as professionals," Morse said. "You actually may be the ground-breaking in changing the teacher-supervisor relationship."

Morse explained that he would connect the teacher-leader to a principal on the mainland or someone in the district central office. "I may have the connection to Cliff," he said.

He also said that the Peaks teacher-leader would probably be linked to Hall School.

School Principal Tim Devaney (left) speaking with Superintendent James Morse during the school meeting. Devaney will be leaving at the end of the school year.

Photo by Diane Ecacet

School Principal Tim Devaney (left) speaking with Superintendent James Morse during the school meeting. Devaney will be leaving at the end of the school year.

Photo by Diane Ecacet

Peaks and Cliff Island Schools from 2005 to 2007.

Enough with the suspense. Morse gave the floor to

Jill Blackwood, Assistant Superintendent, who introduced Peaks' new
Indigo

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Indigo is a 35-foot Vindo 50 ketch with a world-voyaging pedigree. She has a rugged, solid fibreglass hull that lies almost 28 feet along the water. Her 10-foot beam and full keel (draft 5.25 feet) make her roomy and comfortable, and she has proven herself to be safe and reliable on the world’s biggest oceans.

Built in 1974 in Sweden, she was sailed down the Baltic, through the North Sea and the Mediterranean, across the Indian and Pacific Oceans. She voyaged in Alaska for several years, and then was trucked across the United States to Maine.

In the winter of 1998 and 1999, owner Curtis Rindlaub sailed her down the Atlantic coast and explored the Bahamas with his wife, Carol Cartier, and their two children. They currently live on Peaks Island.

Curtis is a co-author and publisher of A Cruising Guide to the Maine Coast, and has cruised extensively in Maine and New Brunswick, Canada aboard the Indigo while researching the book. His writing and photographs have appeared in Nautical Quarterly, Wooden Boat, Fine Homebuilding, Metropolitan Homes, Yankee and Maine Boats and Harbors among others.

The Indigo has excellent headroom, beautiful joinery with stunning laminated deck beams. The cabin trunks are beautifully paneled in solid mahogany with teak decks over balsa cored fibreglass and maple flooring throughout the cabins.

The main cabin has a v-berth, a full settee which converts into a double berth, a navigation table and galley. The port bench opens into a great sea-settee which converts into a double berth with lee cloths. The aft cabin has two large quarter berths with sitting headroom.

Vindoos have been called “The Hinckleys of Sweden.” They are featured in The World’s Best Sailboats, Ferenc Mate, where a sister ship to Indigo is seen on pages 212 and 213.

Bay Lines captains argue that new boat comes at a high price

BY KEVIN ATTRA

One of Catherine Debo’s last projects at the Bay Lines before leaving last summer was to obtain a stimulus grant through the Federal Highway Administration to build a new boat for the ferry line. The Bay Lines was awarded $5.5 million for the project, the third-largest in the country from that fund.

In order to qualify, the boat had to be “shovel-ready,” a catch phrase in the lingo of stimulus funding that seems absurd when applied to construction of a boat, but may in fact be perfectly suited for this one.

Many of the crew members who work on the Bay Lines boats say the project should be buried because the boat is the wrong one for the job.

It was already late in the game when Debo found out about the grant, so in consultation with Operations Manager Nick Mavrodinos she decided to use the plans for the 5-year-old Aucocisco III, still fresh in a drawer somewhere.

The design was later adjusted by Scaworthys Systems, which drafted the original plans, in order to address known problems with the Aucocisco III. Ultimate changes reportedly cost around $160,000, but the actual figure isn’t being discussed.

“They reverse-engineered this project,” said a senior captain with the Bay Lines, who watched it unfold in senior captain meetings. “They didn’t have a boat designed, ready to go. They hadn’t done any of the things they’d typically done in the past to build a boat.”

One of the disturbing aspects of this project has been the silence surrounding it.

The captain said that when the Bay Lines built a new boat in the past (for instance, when it built the Aucocisco III) it was a public process with input from boat crews and riders about the capabilities and design features it should have.

“You know, right to the naming of the boat, the whole way it’s a huge public thing. Out in the lobby of the Bay Lines there’s pictures, the plans for the boat: ‘Here’s what’s coming.’

In this case, he said, “You’ll find nothing.”

Apparently there wasn’t enough time to do all that, although there was time to alter the existing design. “We built it. We know where its flaws are. That’s the advantage, I guess, of building another one,” said the captain.

“But, the flaws aren’t really getting worked out.” Several captains have agreed that, if the intended purpose is to serve customers down the bay, it is the wrong boat.

Apparently down the bay captains would like to have a boat that can handle a high volume of freight with a boom for loading cargo, as well as vehicles and passengers.
POLICE LOG
April 2010
Provided by Lisa Perrone
Planning & Research Coordinator, PPD

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<td>Check Well Being</td>
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Deck hands Torin Holtz (left) and Sam Spalding confer during a demonstration outside the Casco Bay Lines ferry terminal April 16.

Nilsen, from page 2

teacher-leader.

In fact, "She really wanted to come here before we even thought about it," Blackwood said, announcing that the teacher-leader designate for Peaks Island is Cindy Nilsen.

Nilsen, who grew up on Chebeague Island, is currently a teacher-leader at East End community school. She has four years' training in experiential learning, the acclaimed curriculum model which engages students directly in their community. She said, Blackwood, is "tapped up in the tech area."

Longtime Peaks teacher Robin Walden led a chorus acclaiming the choice: "She's great at technology!"

Former principal Barbara Hoppen, rose to say, "I just want to cheer a very dynamic teacher, a very dynamic leader." School secretary Diane Price commented, "This is a really lucky thing for us."

Those present conceded in their approval or else raised no objection. School Committee member Jean Vendl and City Councilman Kevin Dochugow got thanks for their roles in protecting the interests of Peaks Island.

The superintendent, assistant superintendent and pair of elected officials took off to catch the ferry, but not before Beau Boyle extracted a promise from Morse that Peaks "will have the same number of teachers and same number of support staff" next year as this year.

CAPTAINS, from page 2

Aucootcsco is essentially a passenger transport.

"One biggest issue as operators is the safety," said the captain. "He said deck hands almost exclusively use the boom on the Maquoit II for freight loading and unloading down the bay. "The reason why it's safe. There's no back injuries."

In spite of that, the board of directors authorized construction of the boat at 7:3 vote on March 25, and the project went out to bid in April. Their rationale was that, although not an ideal design, it's free.

In the Daily Sun, Nick Mavodones reportedly described it as a more reliable, more comfortable boat than the Island Romance, adding that "most of all, it won't have to be paid for by fire increases."

"I think part of it is that management has married themselves to this boat because they spent $160,000," said the captain. "You know, you're going to be stuck with this boat for 40 years. You're going to be limited in abilities for 40 years. So, it's a mess."
Peaks Island’s community garden digs in

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Perseverance is the key to success, so we’re told. Since its conception by Justin Palmer, who presented the idea to the Peaks Island Council in 2008, the community garden project on Peaks Island has snagged on the horns of several dilemmas, but now appears to be clearly off and running.

Lost in spring it stalled while the city and the PIC waited for each other to endorse the garden list before making their approach. Everything from membership and financing to design and especially location has been an issue.

The site Justin initially selected in Trott Littlejohn Park was apparently mentioned in the 2003 neighborhood plan as having particularly poor drainage. When a wind testing tower was later planned in the same vicinity, the layout of the garden had to be readjusted again.

Then there was the troublesome nature of gardening work itself. After getting most of the paperwork squared away in November, volunteers went to enrich the soil with mulch but were delayed several times by the weather. (They were also told they could use seaweed and wood chips, then informed at the last minute that the city would only allow wood chips.)

"After three attempts to coordinate weather and Joe from the transfer station (unempowered with the front loader) we short-snatched the whole space," wrote Justin in an email last fall. "In a nutshell, it was about 500 pounds of cardboard and many tons of well decomposed woodchips (read: soil, or freaking mad). Probably about 25 pick-up truck trips, with Joe’s help, covered the approximately 4,000 sq. ft. site."

The community garden appears to be moving on its own now, and in mid-April the group started construction of the site. Wrote Justin, "Posts have been set, fence is nearly hanging, site has been limed, 40 bales of pear moss are ready to be spread, all 20 plots are spoken for and there’s a waiting list!"

On April 24, community garden volunteers began laying out the plots and building a fence around the site. Shown (left to right) are Jenny Yasi, Justin Palmer and Sandra Lucas.

Corrections

Regarding last month’s front page article about the Children’s Workshop, Interim Director Lori Fried Moses wrote, “First of all, there were a couple of inquiries asking whether our story was an April Fools story, and of course, yes, we lost this funding (last month’s April FOOLs jokes are enclosed on p.15).

“The minimum grant requests were $20,000, not $32,000, according to this year’s application guidelines.

“And finally, CDBG funding provides scholarships for a 50-week period, not a 15-week period, as a unit cost of $72.64/week of service. A week equals 30 hours of child care."

From Sam Salzustand on wind testing (p.4). “There is no assumption on PEGAT’s part that there will be a wind turbine. Undertaking such a project would require broad consensus and lots more work.”

On April 24, community garden volunteers began laying out the plots and building a fence around the site. Shown (left to right) are Jenny Yasi, Justin Palmer and Sandra Lucas. (photo by Jennifer McLeod)

Umbrella Cover Museum featured on the Weather Channel

"If you want a photo of me watching myself on TV last weekend, here it is," wrote curator Nancy 3. Hoffman in early April. Her Umbrella Cover Museum was on Cantery Stories, a regular program on the Weather Channel, in a segment called Maine Characters. "I’m proud to be one!" she wrote. "It will rerun again, I just don’t know when." The segment premiered Saturday, March 27.

Other Peaks Islanders in the show were Chris Hoppin, Rita Kissen and Vinnie Demo, as well as some children from the Peaks Island Children’s Workshop escorted by Jon Kelso and Kristen Chalmers.

The Umbrella Cover Museum is located at 62-B Island Avenue on Peaks Island, and will open in mid June for its 14th season. People of all ages can volunteer at the museum, said Ms. 3. Call 939-0301 for more information. (photo from Nancy J. Hoffman)

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May 2010

For the love of Peaks!

Janice Minott - part 1

BY FRAN HOUSTON

My father was born on Cumberland Avenue and my mother was born down on Deer Isle; she was a real island person. When they met, he was a purse salesman and she was working at the Casco Bay Lines. He was going to candy store on Casco Bay wharf to keep it secret during his last year at college.

He didn't have much money so she sold it to him for $600 dollars. Every payday he would go to her house and give her a check; we didn't have to have a real estate agent, or lawyer, it was just an agreement between them that she sold it to him for the $600. Then the empty lot in between, in the back, he bought for $200.

This house, from the beam outward [points to it] I call the Chapman wing because his second marriage, after my mother died, he married a Chapman. She was a mover and a shaker. I say a little prayer all the time, “Thank you Bea, thank you Bea”, because she made this room. Otherwise you'd be sitting half inside and half outside, it was kind of narrow.

Yes, the activities of the clubhouse were high points of my growing up, particularly the masquerade ball. I loved the masquerade ball because my grandmother—my father's mother—was very handy with the needle, and she made my costumes ... The first thing their idea of what I should do was an old-fashioned girl with a hoop skirt and a little purse and the bonnet.

Later I always loved the dances; I've always loved to dance. I had dancing classes, but somehow or other I saw Hawaiian dancing. I wanted to be a hula girl and she actually made me a hula skirt, a raffia skirt, and I had these little rights underneath. Then there was a gypsy, a gypsy outfit. I had that for the longest time, because I loved it. The swirly skirt was bright, with a little black velvet vest and a tambourine, so that was the big thing for me.

And I loved to dance and I'd drag my father out onto the dance floor from the time I could walk, and he said by the time I was old enough to be comfortable I wouldn't be dancing with him anymore and would be dancing with the boys. Of course, dances of that time had the whole families participating, and they'd have the grand right and left in a large circle.

Have you lived on Peaks for a long time? Do you have a Peaks Island story to tell of memories from childhood or that illustrates why you love living here? Please email or call Fran Houston. She has already heard some great stories and she wants to hear yours. [email address] or call 766.2206.

For the love of Peaks!

Janice Minott - part 1

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**Letters**

**Peaks Island's unofficial mayor turns 40**

Finally, after weeks of telling everyone he met that it was coming, David's birthday finally got here, and on Saturday afternoon April 3 at the Inn on Peaks we celebrated (his actual DOB was Wednesday, April 7).

Peaks Island's unofficial mayor turned the big four-O. David (and Mom) had a great time. David was beaming with a non stop smile and of course talking with everyone in the Inn. His favorite person this year was Elvis.

David's family would like to thank the staff and management at the Inn for their patience and great service with all the birthday activities.

Also we would like to thank the people from Casco Bay Lines who went out of their way to make a special trip by water taxi to wish David a happy birthday and deliver their gifts.

We also want to thank the people that stopped by to wish David a happy 40th. You can see by the picture that this was David's Day! He will remember and talk about this for a long time to come. We Thank You All.

The McCann Family

---

**Discovering Valhalla**

When we bought our house 30 years ago, we found two house signs in the attic, Gladheim and Drondhagat. I decided Gladheim meant "happy house" in German. I was wrong - more about this later.

Drondhagat was a mystery. Was it Finnish because of the double a's? How about something Latin? derived: Deo=god, steh=stays, gaa=here? Nope, creative, but wrong.

Then we guessed that the family who made the sign were named David, Edith, Oliver, Susannah, Tom, Eliza, Helen, Gordon and the twins - Annabelle and Audrey. There was no evidence to suggest that this was true.

I Googled the word from time to time---nothing. It wasn’t Dutch; it wasn’t Welsh. What was it?

Then I Googled it again. Bingo. Drondhagat means Rocky Coast in the language of a New York State Indian tribe. The sign’s meaning is nicely descriptive, but not particularly poetic or even cute. But some former owner knew enough of the Seneca(?) language to come up with a fine name.

The other sign said Gladheim.

Boothing. Well, no. It turns out that Gladheim is the Norse word for Valhalla, a kind of heaven ruled over by the god Odin.

Now I want to know about the people who gave this house such interesting names. They had 13 towel racks in the bathroom, a clothesline that stretched across the cramped kitchen and they built the wooden Japanese arch that leads from the house to the beach.

And the people who lived here for 29 years before us have carefully maintained the house as they left it. Heaven on a rocky shore - good names, I think.

Jane Barowitz

---

**A cleaner drive**

A misty rain fell this afternoon as I walked around the backshore. Everywhere along the route melt water puddles of iridescent oil were running off the road into the ditch, the marsh, vernal pools and onto the beach. Everywhere.

Many of us, including me, take pleasure in driving older island cars. When I got home, I pulled the biggest piece of cardboard out of the basement I could find and set it under the engine compartment where I park. If I am part of the problem, I resolved to do something about it. Please join me!

Sam Saltonstall

---

**Island Views**

**Discovering Valhalla**

from Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

If I needed any reminders why I voted to support health-care reform it was the stories a group of local parents told me earlier this month about struggling with insurance companies to secure health coverage for their diabetic children.

One mother said her monthly premiums for catastrophic coverage were so high she couldn’t even look at the bills. Another was on the phone for weeks trying to get the company to cover a needed insulin pump. And all were worried that these children’s diabetes would prevent them from getting coverage when they become adults.

Their stories, sadly, are not uncommon. Neither are those of seniors cutting their pills because of a Medicare plan that doesn’t adequately cover prescription costs. Nor are those of small business owners who want to retain their employees by offering health benefits but can’t afford to.

Amid the politics, misinformation and distractions, the health-care debate in Washington came down to a simple choice: around the problems of these Mainers. Should we shrug and accept them as today’s inevitable reality? Or do we do our best to face the problem and take concrete steps to address it?

I think we made the right choice. The health-care reform bill just passed by Congress will make real progress in offering these parents, seniors and small businesses security. These reforms will improve health care for seniors, crack down on insurance companies, let more people get insurance coverage and improve coverage for those who already have it.

People will see many of these benefits this year, including:

- Closing the Medicare "doughnut hole". In 2010 seniors caught in the prescription drug doughnut hole will get a $250 rebate check, with significant discounts on prescriptions until the gap is closed completely over the next 10 years.

- Tax credits for small businesses: Tens of thousands of Maine small businesses will be eligible for tax rebates up to 35 percent of the cost of the insurance they provide for themselves and their employees.

Security for families: Reforms will allow children to stay on their parents’ policies until age 26.

Other reforms will be put in place over the next few years, including:

- Cracking down on insurance companies: Some of the worst practices these
Lines from Casco Bay Lines
BY CHRIS HOPPIN

Here's the second in a series of columns about the Casco Bay Island Transit District. The first column focused on operations and freight agents who operate our island ferries and the challenges they face. We continue this column with a focus on the human element of our business. Our employees are the lifeblood of our service and are critical to the success of our company. We are fortunate to have a team of dedicated individuals who are passionate about what they do. This commitment is evident in the high level of service we provide to our customers.

The Casco Bay Island Transit District operates six islands: Peaks Island, Long Island, Great Cranberry Island, Great Wass Island, Great Diamond Island, and Rabbit Island. Our islands are located in Casco Bay, off the coast of Portland, Maine. Our ferry service connects these islands to the mainland, providing a vital connection for residents, businesses, and visitors.

One of the primary functions of our company is to operate the ferry service. We are responsible for maintaining the ships, ensuring they are seaworthy, and providing a safe and comfortable ride for our passengers. Our employees operate the ships and work tirelessly to ensure that our service is reliable and efficient.

Another important aspect of our business is to support the communities on the islands. We work closely with local officials and businesses to ensure that our service meets their needs. This includes everything from supporting local events to providing transportation for emergency services.

We also have a strong commitment to sustainability. We are constantly looking for ways to reduce our impact on the environment. This includes using energy-efficient systems on our ships, reducing our carbon footprint, and promoting sustainable practices throughout our organization.

Overall, the Casco Bay Island Transit District is dedicated to providing a safe, reliable, and enjoyable ferry service for our customers. We are committed to investing in our employees and the communities we serve, and we are always looking for ways to improve our service and meet the needs of our passengers.

View from the Chair
BY MIKE RICHARDS, PIC CHAIR

This month the Peaks Island Council was forced to focus primarily on the ferry police staffing issue. Peaks Island has historically had two-trip police service on island at all times, but officers are often absent for court appearances, vacations or sickness. The PIC was working on a comprehensive plan with the City Council to get funding that would ensure two police officers are on island 24/7/365, when City Manager Joe Gray, Walsh Engineering; Bill Floyd, Walsh Engineering; Jen Gillies, Carl Haase, and Casey Legeer.

In early April, the HomeStart board asked the Portland Planning Board to table the hearing of the proposed plan to close the Peaks Island Ferry to allow three residential, single-family dwelling units. The request was made by the Peaks Island Community Authority program designed for Maine’s year-round island communities to provide affordable housing on the islands. The program is now under development and final details should be available soon. The board held an initial conversation with MSHA that the money would likely be available for rehabilitation of island rental housing. The standard of rehabilitation has not been announced; it is likely to require work that would need to be included in the HomeStart proposal. HomeStart held a public meeting on April 26 to discuss the MSHA island affordable housing program. Bill Walsh, Walsh Engineering, Bill Floyd, General Community Loan Fund, and Jane Broadhurst, Kaplan-Thomas Architects, discussed the possibilities this program presents.

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather. I know as the temperature gets warmer, we will be seeing more golf carts on the islands. It is important for everyone to operate their golf carts with care and respect for others on the islands. Please be considerate and follow the island rules. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Mike Richards
Peaks Island Council
YOGA FOR LIFE
A yogic perspective on health and simple living

BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stephans teaches weekly yoga classes and private yoga lessons on Puah Island and in Portland. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or column ideas to 766-3017 or ppysoga@gwi.net.

How much is enough? This is a provocative question to ask in a capitalist economy. The popular response to every occasion from boredom to heartache to national crisis is to go shopping. However, as stewards of the islands, Casco Bay, and our planet, we must ask this question - how much is enough?

Yoga is a carefully designed holistic practice that promotes vitality and well-being. Yoga is also a way of living that involves surrendering ego-driven desires for the good of the community. Those of you who have raised children or joined the military know all about giving up our own wants and needs in order to serve something greater. With yoga, the greater community that we serve is the whole web of life in which we live.

In the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, ego attachment is described as one of the symptoms of a cluttered mind and is one of the root causes of suffering. When the mind is free of obstructions, we are more available to enjoy true pleasure and no longer plant seeds for our own future suffering. The path to liberation from suffering includes a series of restraints and observances, called yama and niyama in Sanskrit.

In Mukaunda Stiles' translation of the Yoga Sutras, the author defines the yama as "self-control for social harmony". These five practices are: non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, moderation, and freedom from greed. The five niyama "precepts for personal discipline", are purity, contentment, self-discipline, self-study, and surrender. In this column I will focus on the yama.

At first the yama may seem boring and rather restrictive, but they are actually guidelines for joyful living. Indeed, once any initial resistance passes, practicing kindness, truthfulness, integrity, simplicity, and sharing feels good. It reminds one of when I stopped salt ing my food. At first everything tasted bland, but over time the natural flavors reached my taste buds, and now even the simplest foods are quite delicious.

Being a steward of the earth and all living beings means that we pause and consider the consequences of our choices. Being able to pause requires patience and self-control. Practicing patience and self-control requires maturity and the ability to surrender our individual agendas. One of my favorite "getting-to-know-you" questions is this: What do you care about so passionately that you are willing to inconvenience yourself on its behalf? I am hoping that care of the earth is on your list.

Living more simply brings us fully present in such a way that we are wide awake both to life's blessings and to our impact on the planet. Paying close attention to each experience and choosing an ethical response places the burden of responsibility and consequence directly on the shoulders of the practitioner in a way that promotes keen awareness and deep integrity.

For example, imagine that you are contemplating a purchase. Keeping the yama in mind, you would ask yourself a series of questions: Do I really need this now? What sort of materials is it made of? How and where was it manufactured? How are the workers treated? Does the price reflect the actual cost of materials, production, environmental impact and shipping? How will I dispose of it when I am finished with it? Pausing to ask even a couple of these questions will alter your spending habits.

Education on environment and health issues has inspired many folks to unpug, unplug, sit still, listen and care. As I write this, we are celebrating Earth Day. Why only one day? Please do pause and consider this question: How much is enough?

This month, I offer a set of yoga postures named after animals.

Intention: Begin your practice with a moment of stillness in which you affirm your intention to practice with compassion and mindfulness.

---

Rebecca Johanna Stephans, Kripalu Certified Yoga Teacher since 1994, has 22 years experience in the healing arts.

---

1. Cobra
2. Locust
3. Frog
4. Camel
5. Rabbit
6. Puppy
7. Crane
8. Eagle
9. Dolphin
The $20 red lobster

BY JERRY GARMAN

After two years, the Peaks Island Council - created to act as an elected advisory board for the island - had finally exhausted its advice to the city. The island was quiet. With no property revaluations in the near future the PIC agenda was blank. Meetings lasted only five minutes. They needed a project...a cause.

They are not sure what the “eureka” moment was but an idea brought smiles to the councilor’s faces and unanimous approval: What Peaks Island needed was its own currency. This would finally prove to the world (well, at least to the city) the financial importance of our little island.

Three committees were formed: the Denomination Committee for deciding which values the bills should have, the Shape, Size and Color Committee (self explanatory) and the Design and Portrait Committee with the most difficult task of selecting island scenes and portraits to use on the bills.

The DC voted to have the standard $1, $5, $10 and $20 values, although there were 3 votes for a $3 bill. The SSS&CC wrestled with an island-shaped bill, but in paper tests Torrington Point kept tearing off so they settled on a large rectangle, sized to fill the average wallet. The colors were based on a seafood theme and required an island vote: $1 - green crab, $5 - white cod, $10 - purple mussel and $20 - red lobster.

Because space was limited on the new currency, the D&PC decided to merge the churches into a single collage (something islanders have been attempting for years). Civil War buildings were represented as the Fifth-Eighth Maines. Senior citizens and preschooers were represented with the Children’s Senior Health Center Workshop, and the library was represented by a small book.

The American Legion Post 225, the Lions Club and the TEIA were blended together like batter into an image of the world’s largest pancake breakfast, but the committee decided there wasn’t enough space for Hannigan’s, the transfer station, Peaks Island Fuel, Planters or the restaurants.

Three councilors claimed privilege by longevity on the council. The president, vice-president, and treasurer thought their positions deserved special consideration. The remaining councilor could not decide.

Even if they could choose five candidates, they still had to decide which portrait got assigned to which denomination. An attempt to prioritize based on the number of votes they received when they were elected failed. While they were debating this, an island petition circulated calling for their recall if any of their portraits appeared on the new bills.

Fortunately, the global warming issue heated up and the possible threat of the sea level rising to 15 feet shocked the council into a new direction. A motion was passed declaring that Peaks Island should consider building an ark. Three committees were formed: the Design-Build Committee, the Provisions and Launch Committee, and the Passenger and Cargo Committee.

The bad news was the devaluation of island money even before it was issued. The old axiom that we should only take money at face value is still valid. The good news was that for almost six months no advice was given to the city by the PIC.

Design and Portrait Committee with the most difficult task of selecting island scenes and portraits to use on the bills.

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8 Regulations for seamen in Minsk?
15 Narcissistic rules in southern Africa?
16 Kind of soup
18 Where the virgins are
19 It can be bitter
20 Practical
21 Ingress
24 And others (Lat.)
25 Popular candy
29 Buddhist riddle
30 Unit of asexual reproduction
32 Subject taught by expats
33 Small cube
34 Poet whose first name was Wystan
35 An effect of LSD, and the key to this puzzle
40 Supped at home
41 Drone pilots
42 Extreme (sl.)
44 Slender, twisted piece
45 E-mail command
49 Rents
50 Maniac of sorts
51 Elks' milieu
52 Game maker
54 Title for judge or wife (abbr.)
55 Avoid Yankee star in Tallinn?
58 Like a death rattle in Luanda?
62 Swarthy fellows in

DOWN
1 Whole
2 Ward prefix
3 Charged particle
4 Opposite of ahead
5 Radiant
6 Shape
7 Half of Bible (abbr.)
8 Incarnation of a deity
9 Southern Italian city
10 Money in Iran
11 Sell at a lower price
12 Transitory necklace
13 Type widths
14 Marie
18 Mexican slang for traitor
21 out; supplement
22 French composer, never heard in Tallinn?
23 World Trade Center was, once
24 Olympic sport
26 Chose entrees
27 Peggy warbled in Dakar?
28 Belonging to oneself?
29 Elton John, for one
33 Retreat
34 Bond rating
36 Poor decal in Lahore?
38 I know (Latin)
39 Element whose symbol is Sn
40 Cobbler's tool
43 Presidential initials
45 Tires, for example
46 Power, for one

Atlas Shrugged - by Anna Tierney

47 Like 48 Down
48 Second largest Mexican state
49 Computer forte
50 Pack dirt into a hole
54 Famous painter of Dutch golden age
55 Radical campus group in '60s
56 Prefix for -wire or -seed

Ferry Convenient
Island-baked pizza, great food to travel, and only steps away from the terminal.

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE
May 2010 Sky

BY MIKE RICHARDS

May is named for the Greek goddess Maia, oldest, shrewdest and prettiest of the seven Pleiades sisters. In later Roman mythology, Maia was the goddess of spring, though Roman poet Ovid also suggested May was really named for maiores or elders.

For modern mariners, this May is perfect for hour longings, as the first, third and fifth weekends have high tides just after noon. For those who prefer to sleep in, May brings unwelcome light earlier each day, as twilight starts around 3 a.m.

PLANETS

This month the planets parade across our skies. Venus is closest to Earth and shines the brightest, a yellow-white beacon hanging over the city after sunset. Venus's clouds are unusually reflective and are so thick they trap the heat like a blanket, giving Venus the highest average surface temperature of any planet (around 700°). It's the 'first star' we see at night, and it looks like the headlights of a plane landing at the airport — except it never lands.

Following eastward along the ecliptic, ruddy Mars is next in line, just in front of Leo the Lion. By the end of the month Mars snuggles up next to Regulus, the alpha-star in Leo that sits right on the ecliptic.

Next is pale yellow Saturn, which is now passing in front of Virgo the Virgin. In fact, Saturn is right in the middle of the stars that form her head. The bright white star directly to the east of Saturn is the Spica, the alpha-star in Virgo. Saturn is still going retrograde but that ends the end of the month. Saturn's rings are nearly edge-on to Earth now, more spires on either side, reducing its overall brightness considerably.

Distant: Pluto is next in line, sitting just above the reaper that forms the Sagittarius constellation. With most telescopes it is small and dim, indistinguishable from the starry background, but the Hubble space telescope combined with powerful computing reveals a distinct, bluish black and yellow surface.

Jupiter is now a 'morning star' in Pisces to the east. It rises a bit earlier each day, just as Saturn is setting in the west. Jupiter is also drawing further from Neptune and closer to Uranus on our line of sight, so this may be a good time to find Uranus in the scope.

Last and least, tiny Mercury, the closest planet to the sun, pops up in the morning now but it is low on the horizon and hard to see even with binoculars.

STARS

The brightest stars from west to east begin with Procyon in Canis Minor, south of Venus and close to the western horizon. Almost directly south and also low in the early evening sky is Spica in Virgo. Above that and almost directly overhead is the red giant star, Arcturus.
Learning Patriotism

BY JO ISRAELSON

I learned about patriotism late in life. As a child, I equated Memorial Weekend with opening our cottage, visiting with "Uncle" Doug MacVane and viewing the Peaks Island Memorial Day parade.

My mother and her friends would often tag onto the end of the parade as it proceeded to the cemetery where a wreath was placed (was this true back then or is it a faulty memory?). Other mothers pushing baby carriages and their children on bicycles would join the march. With much clapping, it seemed everyone on the island turned out to honor those who had served and to pay homage to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

As a child of the 1960s, I questioned authority. I believed protest and peace went hand in hand. I argued vehemently with my dad—a WWII veteran—against the Vietnam War. My date to the prom believed in his responsibility to defend his country and volunteered for the Army after graduation. I sent brownies and wrote letters and witnessed his war through stark images on the nightly news.

The war ended. Like many returning Vietnam vets, my mom dated experienced the domain of the American public, never thanked or honored for his service. Today, as the soldiers of the "Greatest Generation" pass on, others assume the responsibility to honor those who answered the call to defend their country. Forty years after serving in Vietnam, each Memorial Day my high school friends places American flags on the graves of those who served, honoring those who came before. He is a patriot.

During the 1970s and 1980s I traveled the world. I worked in our nation's capitol and attended larger, longer and louder Memorial Day parades. One weekend I took the Circle Boat tour of the New York Harbor with a friend who grew up in Communist Romania. She was an avid bird who spent many hours observing the many species of birds that inhabited her island. Upon her death in 1986, Mabel bequeathed her Peaks Island property to the Maine Audubon Society. She stipulated that the property be forever preserved for the enjoyment of the community by providing summer recreation facilities for children and adults. The Davies Bird Sanctuary is one of the largest open spaces on the island, and is protected from development.

The dedication of the Davies sisters to improving the quality of life on the island and their recognition of the need to preserve open space and unique buildings set an example for island residents who established other organizations including the Maine Island Land Preserve, the Eighth Maine Regiment Association, and the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum.

As I grew older, I admired patriotism and was fast disappearing. I argued that the intent of her bequest "is the preservation and development of the wildlife of the estate and the attraction, preservation and presentation of song birds."

The legacy of the Davies sisters is very much in evidence today on Peaks Island. The TEIA led the successful effort to protect and is protected from development. The TEIA plays an important role in the community by providing summer recreation facilities for children and adults.

May 2010

P.S. This column is produced by the Peaks Island Land Preserve Committee and the Peaks Island Museum. It is made possible by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.
New state grant may change the Luther Street project

BY KEVIN ATTRA

On Monday, April 26 members of HomeStart's project team in charge of developing the property at 18 Luther Street presented a new Maine State Housing grant that could change the face of the community. According to William Floyd, executive director of the Genesis Community Loan Fund which will supply a low-interest mortgage for the project, said the total amount available in the grant is $2 million. The state is expected to have the guidelines in place within 6 weeks and it will be administered on a first-come-first-serve basis. The grant is only available to the 14 year round islands in Maine, and provides up to $400,000 for each island, with a limit of $750,000 per unit house. He said it allows for higher income guidelines and is not necessarily low-income housing. The cost of rent can be up to 25 percent of the median household income in the area, according to Mary Terry is $57,900 for a family of four. The house would qualify for Section 8 housing, but she said the waiting list has been closed and is extremely long right now. Rob Tiffany said the rental is attractive but the fund makes the project more complex with one rental and two for sale. Currently, the house is on sale and that was before the new fund, he said, "we're using slightly changed thinking." If the fund is approved it would provide a $175,000 grant towards renovating or rebuilding the existing home on the site.

The State of the Union - part 3

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Philosopher Allen Buchanan has written that there are six types of arguments typically used against secession. These are Routinely used in the case against Peaks Island independence. "The first he calls "protecting legitimate expectations"; Those who are invested in a territory, even if it was stolen, would be hurt. This is used by Irene Schensted for example, a 50-year resident of the island who opposed secession. She said, "If secession were achieved, Portland would be wounded and weakened, and the wider region which depends on its centrality would eventually be hurt." Her argument seems to be that, although independence wouldn’t preclude islanders from visiting and working in Portland, the city would deteriorate culturally and economically to the point where they may not want to be part of anymore. Both parties would suffer from the lack of exchange with each other. Portland has incorporated Peaks Island into its identity. The city depends heavily on tax revenue from the island and makes use of its exotic appeal to attract tourists and businesses to the area.

"For mainlanders, Peaks is the grandest peak of the City of Portland, the crown jewel of its fine park system," said Ms. Schensted. When lawmakers rejected the island's bid to secede in June 1995, Portland's chief attorney, Gary Wood, reportedly said, "If Peaks Island had been allowed to secede, the losers would have been Portland property owners and schoolchildren. Without the taxes from the valuable property on Peaks Island, other property owners would have to pay more for city services." This leads to another type of argument described by Buchanan, "distributive justice," which states that wealthier areas cannot secede from poorer ones.

"Portland is where all the services happen," said Peaks Island resident Carol Ellenberg. "There are a lot of poor people - look at our school population. It's not an affluent community and we've got all these services to support.

In a 2002 survey of Peaks Island, conducted as part of the development of a new plan, according to Ms. Taylor, the 56th of people who responded owned their house and two cars. There were also 256 pleasure boats scattered among them as well, not to mention "in various states of disrepair." This represented about 55 percent of the population at the time, equally distributed between men and women, and 60 percent were retired.

That's hardly an affluent community, but on the hand the survey found that their biggest concern was about parking space. However, that was before the revival in 2004. The third argument Buchanan calls "soft paternalism"; secession will be bad for secessionists. Arguments in this category are hard to refute because essentially they concern a hypothetical future. In 2006 during negotiations with the city, if you can call them that, the Island Independence Committee tried to develop a hypothetical budget that could sustain the island on about $2 million less than it was paying to Portland in property taxes.

Many people thought the figures the ICC came up with were unrealistic. They argued that the costs of maintaining a police force and fire department, transfer station, water treatment plant and elementary school would actually cost more than what the island was paying to Portland.

"That's crazy," said Mark Greene in an interview last fall. "The facts of the matter don't support the statement that Peaks needs to be part of Portland to survive. "Look at the roughly 400 to 500 small towns in Maine and see how much it costs to run them. I doubt you'll come close to the services in taxes Peaks has to pay."

On the other hand Gene Taylor wrote a compelling analysis of sewer costs showing that in all likelihood they would increase significantly if the island seceded.

Others argued that the school would lose quality teaching staff, not only because they could earn better wages, but also because the Portland school system has more career opportunities. "I want to have a say in the Portland School system," said Ms. Ellenberg, "I've spent a lot of time working with small town governments. I decided I didn't like it. I being part of the city. I don't want to be a visitor. I don't want to run a town. I don't want to run a movement. I'm busy."

In fact, as Irene Schensted pointed out, secession would exclude Islanders from having a say in many areas of city government that affect their daily lives. However, the islanders have shown they can get together and make healthy community decisions for themselves. According to Jerry Gazman, almost 500 people were involved in developing a community plan. In February 2006, a requirement for all Maine communities made the state legislature the year before. "It was a lovely thing," he said. The overriding principle is self-determination," said Russ Edwards. "As long as people on Peaks Island want to build it themselves and run it themselves, we can expect a better result than the city."

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A good First Friday Art Walk in April

Jeanne O'Toole-Hayman (center) talks with Casco Bay Lines board member Erno Banebaker of Chebeague Island in her studio during First Friday Art Walk, April 2. Her son, Ben, (left) helped out.

BY KEVIN ATTRA

April 2 was Good Friday, which aptly described the First Friday Art Walk that day in Portland: good weather, good food, good art, a good and crowded good time.

One of her preferred art mediums, and for which she is well known, is Walnut ink on vellum paper. Before we left she demonstrated the technique for us, dashing off a moody little flower in a few quick strokes and then letting it run slightly down the page (left). "I just love that," she said.

In the Bakery Building, Jeanne O'Toole-Hayman gave her first show under her name in Portland, and the real treat was just being in her studio where you could experience the development where she explored everywhere, showing the various stages of her latest oil paintings, but I just love that," she said.

The most popular piece – at least, the one everyone felt compelled to mention in conversation – was a giant mural by Darnell Taylor called Police Americanus, which occupied most of one wall in the gallery.

The 8-foot by 2-foot panorama was composed of distorted street scenes of Portland seamlessly blended into parts of New York City and London to form a satirical vision of life in America as theme park.

"We decided it's April Fools, let's do something fun," said Ms. Porter.

The montage included an explicit pornographic Paris Hilton Garden Inn on Commercial Street and a grimly bureaucratic City Hall where Mussolini, Hitler and the Pope lurked in windows while George W. Bush strutted around outside in N.avel flying gear.

The artist said it took two months to assemble the images, working five days a week for a couple of hours each day, and he's made several photocollages, which he calls "surreallegories" using images he finds online as well as his own photographs.

Taylor built his first darkroom in 1946. He earned a PhD in Philosophy in 1966 and taught for 25 years in New York City. You can explore his work in detail at http://www.hightandnarrow.com/.

Fran Houston's new book, For the Love of Peaks, is a collection of photographs and interviews with 33 life-long residents of Peaks Island, and will be in Portland book stores this month.

It's her first published book and she is very excited. For Fran, it's not just an artistic achievement, but also a kind of victory in her decades-long struggle with chronic fatigue syndrome, a poorly understood disease that causes excruciating pain in muscles and joints, and can render a person bedridden for days at a time.

Fran was born and raised in New Jersey next to a horse farm where she said she loved to draw the horses. "I have been admiring and making art ever since." She has a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee, and was a control design engineer for 10 years. She traveled through Europe and lived in various states across the country before falling in love with Maine and moving here in 1994. She came to Peaks Island in 2003.

Her first island home was the generator shack for a Ferris wheel that was in operation around the turn of the last century. Though tiny, the shack had a great view of the bay and inspired her to begin writing and taking photographs.

In the preface to her new book Fran writes, "I first conceived of the idea of For the Love of Peaks when encountering the rich history of Peaks Island and hearing the stories of the old timers."

The format of the book was inspired by photographer Jerry Robison's Love of Maine exhibition, which included an autobiographical sketch from each of his subjects. After seeing the show she said, "I was on fire."

In June 2008, Fran's work went on exhibit in a show at the Gem Gallery, and the Island Times began publishing her stories and photographs around the same time.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with each and every 'Lover,' as I call them," she concludes in the preface. "To be welcomed into your homes and hear your stories and memories and to be trusted with your words has been a joy and reward. Thank you."

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A book launching party will be held at the Addison-Woolley Gallery in the Bakery Building in Portland on Saturday, June 12 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Peaks Island resident Tom Bohan is a pioneer in the field of forensic investigation, having first developed and applied some of the theory in 1972 when he figured out how a Norwegian tanker spilled 100,000 gallons of oil in Casco Bay.

In his latest book, Crashes and Collapses, Bohan takes us down the rabbit hole into the odd-logic world of forensic science where time bends in a straight line and natural objects don't always belong where you find them. On March 11 he was signing copies of the book at Longfellow Books in Portland where it is currently available.

This 336-page manual for the forensic student and layman alike, Bohan outlines the history of forensic engineering science and explains how Newton's laws of motion are applied to accident reconstruction, with a demonstration of the "critical-speed-scuff" method for determining a car's speed. He then discusses specific cases involving disasters like bridge collapses, train crashes and even a possible double murder disguised as an accident.

A review of Crashes and Collapses in the Journal of Forensic Sciences called it interesting, and said it was "an ideal primer for teachers, aspiring forensic scientists and engineers, as well as members of the general public."

Patricia Erikson provides a thoroughly well-written discussion of the book on her blogspot in the article TotT Bohm: A Blow with a Word Strikes Deeper, including interviews with the author (http://peaksislandpress.com).

Bohan received his degree in physics from the University of Illinois-Urbana. He is president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and currently directs MTC Forensics in Portland. He also serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Forensic Sciences.

Earth Day celebrants clean up their act according to PEAT member Vinnie Demos, who helped organized this year's Earth Day activities, the annual island clean-up went smoothly and attracted many participants, notably an increased number of enthusiastic children who scoured streets and bushes.

"On a sadder note, we collected over four bags of trash and bottles in the parking lot alone (above). Since visitors rarely use the lot, this means we islanders are responsible for selling our own nest." - photo by Vinnie Demos

April Fools...just kidding

Well, apparently we do our job a little too well and confused some people in last month's paper, the April Fools edition (Hint: if the story was in a box, we made it up).

To set the record straight, there are only three foolish items we invented:

First, local restaurants are not collaborating on a food program for the homeless, called "An Tomato Laid That.

Second, do you really think banks could be encouraged to make low-interest loans on ultra-high risk property?

Well anyway, there is no such thing as the Land Development Accounting Office, and if you switched the first letters of spokesman Buch Maloney's name you'd know that.

Finally, if you look carefully at the cover picture (below) you'll realize it is completely backwards, a little Photoshop maps.

We only know of two people who got that one: a Casco Bay Lines worker who saw it as soon as we pointed it out, and a subscriber in Virginia who's never even seen the island. How she figured it out is beyond us.

Everything else in last month's edition was truly foolish.

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A sweet Peaks Island keepsake.

Seven Days of Daisy

Story and pictures by Jamie Hogan,
Peaks Island illustrator.

Take a colorful summer romp through the week as a young girl awaits a visit from her Nana.

Available at The Peaks Cafe and GEM Gallery, Peaks Island and Casco Bay Lines. Or contact Jamie at 766-9726.
Homelessness among teenagers is on the rise in Portland

BY KEVIN ATTRA

By 11 o’clock head chef Steve Quatrucci has already spent several hours organizing lunch for the 30 to 40 homeless children and teenagers who will come through the doors of the Preble Street Teen Center at noon. In the course of a day he will have served more than 100 kids.

The Teen Center, located on Cumberland Avenue near the old public market building, was established in 1996 through a collaborative effort by United Way with the Preble Street Resource Center after a previous organization floundered, said Elena Schmidt, director of development for the Teen Center.

"This is their home," she said, "It’s the one place they can come to that’s safe." The center serves teens from 13 to 21 years old who come from all over the state.

With an hour to go before lunch, Steve and the staff of four volunteers, including a former homeless teen in a community service program, are dancing around each other in the highly chaotic stage of getting the food from the ovens to service line.

This is Steve’s third year at the center. His career is in food, having served as a high-end restaurant executive. "We talk the same language," said Bill. "They’re unprepared for young adulthood." He has been a volunteer at the center for six or eight months, he said. "After 40 years of working in kitchens at high-end restaurants serving people who have it all I prefer this. Believe me, they have it all compared to people on Preble Street.”

Many of the kids coming into the Teen Center for lunch are escaping homes that have fallen apart as a result of a parent losing a job, or from drugs and alcohol, sexual abuse or any number of other factors.

The volume of homeless teens in Portland, though it is still a problem in other parts of the country, "They’re struggling with no job skills, no money, no education," said Bicknell. "They’re unprepared for young adulthood.”

Coming in for lunch at the Preble Street Teen Center, teenagers pass through a dilapidated courtyard that leads to the large dining room, but the center offers more than a free meal. Beyond the dining room is a maze of offices with services for mental health and substance abuse counseling, an employment program, a classroom for continuing education, a psychiatric facility and a health clinic.

"Most of the kids are fine," said Ms. Schmidt, "they just need someplace safe. The first thing they want is home.” However, she said most of them will eventually use at least one of the services.

"Some use it as a pressure release for short-term escape from a crisis situation at home," she said. "For some it is simply that they could have a meal with people they could trust.”

Preble Street operates three shelters that can house children as well as adults. The Lighthouse Shelter has 16 beds strictly for youth, and "every night we’re turning people away," said Ms. Schmidt.

The Oxford Shelter for men and the Women’s Shelter (being merged into the Florence House this year) are expandable facilities that can take as many people as necessary.

The Preble Street organization (www.preblestreet.org) is funded by a combination of public and private donations, split roughly 50 - 50 between state and federal grants, and from individuals and private charities like the United Way. The organization’s total budget is around $5 million.
As a year-round resident of Peaks Island, I was interested to read both the article and the April 23 editorial in the Press Herald regarding the new boat for the Casco Bay Island Transit District. Several facts which were incorrect in the editorial will be dealt with later.

There was, however, one tidbit of news which was not contained in either the article or editorial but is truly the most fascinating. In the application to the federal government, whoever wrote it stated that passenger ridership was off 5 percent, and expected to continue to rise during the exact same time frame, in order to justify a proposed rate hike, islanders were told that ridership was down by 5 percent and expected to continue to decrease. Obviously, since only one of three statements can be correct, somebody was not telling the truth, and either the federal government or the islanders were lied to.

The next item is rather convoluted and requires a suspension of logic. The Island Romance is reaching the end of its useful life, is unsafe, and remains tied up at the dock most of the year. On the plus side, however, having only one engine, it uses less fuel. It will be sold.

That all sounds reasonable. However, the new boat will not replace the Romance but will be used to replace the Mayquit, a newer boat which is now operating, is presumably safe, but is, unfortunately, a gas guzzler. On the plus side, it has a crane for lifting heavy freight and can carry several small cars. Now for the logic. Why is it necessary to add another boat if one that we already own is not used? If we presently operate with four boats, why do we need a fifth?

It should be noted that the Romance is still used during the summers for charters. CBL puts people on a boat it considers unsafe because the benches are not bolted down and can be moved to provide dance or party space. The Romance's benches are bolted down and arranged in such a manner as to preclude open party space.

Additionally, passengers can ride on the top deck of the Romance whereas, passengers are forbidden on the top deck of the Mayquit for safety reasons. It should also be noted the new Mayquit's double screw engine design will wreck havoc with lobstermen's lines if it is sent to Bailey Island or on meandering cruises around the inner bay islands.

And finally, the present Austin is already used far more than the Mayquit simply because it is more fuel efficient. So, with another newer Austin, do we simply tie the Mayquit up to the dock? Rarely, used boats still require maintenance.

Next, Peaks already has a car ferry (the Madison) and we are not greedy. It carries passengers, freight, and heavy vehicles six days a week in the winter and seven in the summer. It also consistently makes money.

At present, Casco Bay Lines does not have a boat capable of transporting cars and heavy freight to the down the bay islands (Little Diamond, Great Diamond, Diamond Cove, Long, Chebeague and Cliff). Over the past few years CBL has lost the majority of that portion of the business to several private companies.

On Peaks during the summer the revenue brought in by transporting one car is equivalent to approximately 11 adult passengers or 20 senior passengers. Therefore, if logic prevails, it is an extremely lucrative aspect of the business that needs to be recaptured for all the islands.

Several weeks ago, with only 2 days notice, the Madison hauled 12 cars sign up to be transported down the bay. That single trip brought in more revenue than 132 adults and was, obviously, popular.

Last, the new boat while "free," will be expensive to operate. It has four engines (not two) which will consume a lot of fuel; maintenance costs will be enormous, and it will take up more space at the dock than is presently available. Equate this purchase with the "cash for clunkers" program. While you get rid of an old vehicle, you gain monthly car payments that you didn't have before.

CBL makes money four ways: passengers, freight, vehicles and charters. Thus "freebie" passenger boat takes advantage of only one of those areas.

Patrick Flynn, the Casco Bay Line board chairman, was correct in one aspect: We need a pick-up truck of a boat. Whether it is a Chevy or a Ford is irrelevant. What we're getting, however, is a stretch limousine.
The Gem Gallery is an artist/craftsperson cooperative of over 25 individuals in media of painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, printmaking, assemblage, fiber arts and writing. Solo and small group exhibitions change weekly and bi-weekly from June through October with larger themed member shows off season and a holiday sale each year. Please call the gallery at 766-3660 for more information.

At the Dowdwell South Portland artist Serena Waskelin continues her first solo exhibit of 31 floral still life paintings in water color and oil of local scenes in vivid color. Each Monsoon will transform you of what you thought your own garden will become. Show runs thru Memorial Day.

Next month our annual student exhibit takes place. Submissions are now being accepted for our summer exhibit, Beaches, artwork based on the sea and shore. Limit two pieces per artist.
The Long House Dowdwell Gallery is located at the Long Island Learning Center on Gorham Ave and open according to the library schedule. Please call 766-2530 or visit online at http://library.longisland.lib.me.us for times. Curator Marielle Carle arget@juno.com 766-2940.

Addison-Woolley at Studio 203A New Eyes for Nature's Work, by photographer Dave Wade (explorations of abstract patterns and compositions in nature) and Fauci-Vella-Taylor (large-scale still life image of natural objects with fragments of pottery and other, often surprising elements). Opening reception Friday, May 7 at 5:00 p.m. Show runs through May 23.

Gallery hours are 11:15 am to 5 pm each day, including Saturday and Sunday. Addison Woolley at Studio 203A, located in the Bakery building at 61 Pleasant Street, Portland, curator Susan Parter. Phone 450-8499, website www.addisownoolley.com.

The Fifth Maine Teaching & Interpreting the Civil War Saturday May 22: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Fifth Maine Museum, Peaks Island. Workshop for teachers and heritage resource volunteers and others interested in enriching their knowledge of the Civil War and Maine's involvement as we approach the Sesquicentennial Commemoration in 2011. Topics range from Reenacting the Civil War in a Throwaway Society to Hands-On and Minds-On: Using Primary Sources to Teach the Civil War. Fee: $45 per person.

The Eighth Maine is a living museum and lodge built in 1891, providing accommodation for individuals and families. Currently closed for the season. For reservations or more information call 766-5088.

Brackett Church 9 Church Street, Peaks Island, Maine. Pastor: Rev. Dori Larson; (207) 766-5013; www.brackettchurch.org Sunday Worship Services begin at 10 am, with Sunday School and Childcare. Peace, Ethics, Action, Community, Excellence (PEACE) youth group Sundays during the Sunday School hour. For info contact Antonia Winter, 766-2428. Children's Choir: Mondays 2:45-3:15. For info contact Mavisenter Thompson 899-0189. Thursday Morning Study: 9:10 am at the Parsonage, 9 Church Ave. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thursdays 1 pm to 5 pm at the Parsonage. All are welcome. For info contact Ann 766-2456 or Rebecca 766-1075.

Peaks Island full-time resident who is a high school graduate. Students interested in the program must apply in writing to the Ladies Auxiliary. The letter must state the student's educational plans or goals and must be post marked no later than May 31, 2010. Please address your letter to: Bertha Child, Scholarship Chairman, 845 Seashore Avenue, Peaks Island, ME 04109.

Moneys will be disbursed after completion of your first semester.

Baptist Church Services
Sunday Service: 10 a.m. Bible Study, 11 a.m. Worship, Wednesday Services: 7 p.m. Tear Nights Thursdays at Peaks Island School gym 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Children's Workshop
Friday infant-toddler group is from 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. while the older preschoolers go to the library for story time. For more information about the program, visit our website: www.portlandmaine.org or call 766-2854.

The Workshop would like to thank its volunteers on the board of directors and subcommittees, and also those who work directly with the children: Virginia House, our foster grandparent, Sue Ellen Robert, who volunteers time with the children a morning or two a week, Norm Waldus, our "Born to Read" volunteer. The volunteers add a depth to the program and we love them!

Peaks Island Library
Nursery-Rhyme Time - Wednesdays at 11 a.m. If you are the parent or caregiver of a child 0-3, or if you have visitors that age, please join us. Story Time for Preschoolers - Friday at 10:15am.

The Peaks Island library is located at 129 Island Ave in the Community Center building. Hours are Tuesday 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday 10 am to 4 pm, Friday 10 am to 2 pm and Saturday 8 am to NOON. For more information call 766-1540 or visit www.portlandlibrary.com or locations.tom.

Peaks Island Health Center
Open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Phone 766-2925 for appointment.

Community Food Pantry
At the Children's Workshop, open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. during the Workshop's hours. No Saturday hours through March. For more information, please contact Susan Hanley at susan@gecom.com.

Annual Blood Drive
The Peaks Island's Annual Blood Drive, co-sponsored by the American Red Cross, will be held Tuesday, July 6 from 12:00-5:00 p.m., at Greenwood Garden.

Portland Recreation
Walk Program - Monday and Thursday mornings at 8:15 (meet at community building). Indooe stretching when weather doesn't cooperate. Low-Impact Aerobics with Weights - Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. Ping Pong Tuesdays - Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00. Adult Basketball - Tuesday evenings, 6:00 to 7:00 at Peaks Island School gym. No program on Dec. 29 or on snow days. No program during school vacations, holidays, school snow days. For more information, contact Denise Macaronas, Recreation Programmer, at 766-2790, or e-mail dlim@portlandmaine.gov. Additional activities and updates can be found on island bulletin board.

Patty's Old Books
Free delivery to Peaks Island residents. Contact by email at pattybooks@gmail.com or call 733-9137.

Recycling Electronics
To recycle your old cell phones or music players, drop them in the collection box by the bulletin board at the library. They will be reconditioned and distributed to those who need them.

Friends of the TEA
Registrations for "Championship" begin in May for Peaks Island children who want to attend the club's sailing, tennis, and kids' camp programs. All fees are paid by Friends of the TEA. Registration forms will be available at the Peaks Island School. Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavor either by volunteering or contributing financially should call Stephanie Castle at nettysgold99@sk @mail.com or Barbara Hoppin at babyspint@aol.com.

Summer Programs
Peaks Island Fiber Arts Camp will be offering one-week workshops from June 7 through August 13. Camp sessions include: Wildlife Crafts, Drawing & Painting on Peaks, Introduction to Fiber Arts, Creative Felting, Colonial Camp, Medieval Camp and French Camp. Please contact Susan Hanley, 632-3434, maccanns@juno.com or Laura Glendening, 766-7503, light@yaho.com for more information.

Furniture & Building Materials Exchange
If you are discarding reusable furniture, cabinetry or building materials, please don't leave them at the transfer station to go into the landfill. Contact one of the two island environmental groups (Glen Denning @yahoo.com or chopping@aol.com) and describe what it is and where to pick it up. It is free, but free to say so. These folks provide a wonderful opportunity to recycle and reuse. If you have items that you can donate them to the rummage sale held at the Brackett Church on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month from 7 pm to 8 pm. And if all else fails, wait for a sunny day and put things in front of your house with a free sign. Nearly everyone's trash is somebody's treasure!

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Notice to High School Students
The Ladies Auxiliary Unit, Randall McVane Post #142, Peaks Island, has established a Past President's Scholarship Fund, available to high school graduates furthering their education through college, vocational or trades school, career courses or other programs. Students must apply annually for assistance in continuing their studies.

First consideration will be given to Junior Auxiliary members of the Auxiliary, American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, or any 200. Adult Basketball - Tuesday evenings, 6:00 to 7:00 at Peaks Island School gym 87m, $2 per night. No program on Dec. 29 or on snow days. No program during school vacations, holidays, school snow days. For more information, contact Denise Macaronas, Recreation Programmer, at 766-2790, or e-mail dlim@portlandmaine.gov. Additional activities and updates can be found on island bulletin board.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, May 3
Portland Recreation First Monday Fun: Preschoolers/Adults from 11 am to 12 pm in the community room (children must be accompanied by an adult). Mother’s Day gifts with lots of creativity. Drop in anytime, no pre-registration.

Tuesday, May 4
Peaks Island Library First Tuesday Book Discussion - at 7 pm in the library, 129 Island Avenue, on Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, moderated by Patrick Erikson. For June, moderator Mary Douglas has selected Book Love by Monica Ali. To reserve call (766-5540) or email peakslib@portland.lib.me.us, and include your library card number. Please contact the library if you have a copy to share.

Thursday, May 6
King, Middle School principal Mike McCarthy, recently named Maine’s 2010 Middle Level Principal of the Year, will speak about the expeditionary-style curriculum at his school from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at Peaks Island Elementary School. Free and open to the public, RSVP to Diane Bacetter, Partnership Developer, 207-766-2528 school, 207-450-8723 mobile.

Saturday, May 8
Renaissance Voices, (pictured below) directed by Earl Studer, will sing works by Thomas Weelkes, Robert Schumann, Paul Hindemith, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, and Richard Rodgers; 8 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Portland. Advance tickets $12 (www.renaissancevoices.org, Starbird Music and Books, Etc.) $15 at the door; $5 with a valid student ID. For further information, call 207-729-4958 or visit the group’s website.

Thursday May 13
Bingo Fun with summertime prizes. 10:45 am to 11:45 am in the community room.

March into May Beach walk (meet at community room); adults 1 pm to 2:30 pm, school age children 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm.

Saturday, May 15
Songwriters by the Sea concert series, with host Phil Dalgren, starts the season with Vermont-based trio Bread & Bones and singer/songwriter Meg Braun. Starts promptly at 7:30 pm. Admission is $10 per person, $5 for seniors.

Women in Harmony choral concert titled Circle of Life at 7 pm and May 16 at 3 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland, featuring a guest appearance by the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus. Tickets are: $12 in advance, $15 at the door and $10 for seniors and students. Available at Longfellow Books and Starbird Music in Portland and at Nonesuch Books in South Portland. For more information, please visit www.islandtimes.org or e-mail islandtimes@mainet.com.

Monday May 17
Afternoon at the MOVIES Policy & Johns (123 minutes) at 1 pm in the community room.

End and Lade Dinner. Barbecued beef, barbecued chicken and fried chicken with side dishes appropriate for this tribute to southern cooking. Join us at the Peaks Island Baptist Church Hall from 5 pm to 7 pm. Adults $6 and children $2.50. Proceeds benefit Tax Assistance.

Thursday May 20
March into May all sorts of dancing (in community room), adults 1 pm to 2:30 pm, school age children 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm.

Thrift Shop at Brackett Memorial Church 8 am to 2 pm.

Friday, May 21
Open House - National Smile and Photo Month! Drop in anytime from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (community room). Bring a photo that makes you smile (or one in which you are smiling). Denise will share lots of photos of island activities.

Open Mic Night - 7:30 pm at the Brackett Memorial Church. Stories, music, poetry, maybe dessert to share, and enjoy a fun-filled evening. For more info contact Sam Salomon, 899-0922.

Saturday, May 22
“Teaching and Interpreting the Civil War,” a professional development workshop for teachers, museum staff and anyone eager to learn more about the Civil War. Cost is $15 per person. For details about the workshop contact Tricia Erikson at perkson@army.md.edu.

Wind Turbine Presentation by Will Heyminger; 6:30 pm in the Brackett Church fellowship Hall, with slides explaining vertical axis wind turbines which can generate electricity on rooftops and near inhabited spots, sponsored by the PEAT wind group. Refreshments will be served.

“The Mud Season Recovery Act of 2010,” a concert of original music by Faith York, Kevin Attra, Ronda Dale and Nina Schmit, 8 pm to 9:30 pm at the Brackett Church. Donations to benefit Brackett Church.

Sunday, May 23
At the Fifth Maine, 2 pm, authors Anne Chandonnet and Roberta Peerse will discuss their new book, War Quick Change and a Woman: Life 1845-1867, based on the letters exchanged during the Civil War between Andrew Jackson Bean, who served in Company I of the Fifth Maine, and his wife, sister and brother-in-law. A book signing will follow their talk.

Monday May 24
Travelogue – Canadian Rockies 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (community room). See the beautiful sights of Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper National Park and more.

Thursday May 27
March into May ping pong (in community room) adults 1 pm to 2:30 pm, school age children 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm.

Friday, May 28
Special “March Into May” Walk Friday, May 28 Meet at community building at 10:00 am and/or 2:45 pm. Distance of the walk will be determined by the group. All ages and all abilities are welcome.

Saturday, May 29
Runnemede Sale, 9 am to 2 pm at Brackett Memorial Church, $1 per bag from 1-2 pm. To donate good usable items please drop them off at the fellowship hall Tuesday, May 25- Friday, May 28.

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