Island Times, Nov 2004

Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

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City may be forced to scale back Ocean Gateway plans, again

BY ARNIE PEARSON

An Woods announced it would pull the District is meeting to talk about making over 50 percent a committee of cruise ship lumped term it will meet committee, which starts at 7:45 a.m. on Nov. 12 at 8:30 a.m. at the Casco managerial Larr)' Mead agrees. "It is very doubtful that there is enough money at this juncture," Mead said.

Ocean Gateway plans include, two berths, one for the Scotia Prince and one for cruise ships. It is accurate for the state to question the city’s ability to pay for the new dedicated cruise ship berth, called Berth Two on Pier Two," said Mead.

Port said that cruise ships could go on using the Maine State Pier. But that Pier is old and has already needed repairs due to cruise ships, Mead said. It’s not clear how much that would affect the potential for more such vessels, such as building oil rigs or tankers. Current Ocean Gateway plans require the State Pier for industrial projects and locate passenger ships at a revitalized eastern terminal.

An island Halloween

There were strange goings on at Scott and Nancy Nash’s house on Halloween night.

Fuel costs could lead to ferry rate hike

BY MARIE ALVES

With the price of diesel fuel up over 8 percent, a committee of the Casco Bay Lines Island Trans-Committee will meet to discuss a potential fare increase to cover the unexpected increase.

CBITD’s Rate Structure Committee will meet after the Operations Committee, which starts at 7:45 a.m. at the Casco Bay Lines terminal. The committee will meet after the Operations Committee, which starts at 7:45 a.m. at the Casco Bay Lines terminal. The committee will meet after the Operations Committee, which starts at 7:45 a.m. at the Casco Bay Lines terminal. The committee will meet after the Operations Committee, which starts at 7:45 a.m. at the Casco Bay Lines terminal. The committee will meet after the Operations Committee, which starts at 7:45 a.m. at the Casco Bay Lines terminal.
In Brief

New signs
About 20 new street signs were put up during the last week of October. Most of the signs were installed on streets leading off from Island Avenue, according to Tom Fortier, the city's Island/Neighborhood Administrator. Some of the streets that now have new signs include: Brackett and Central avenues and Adams, Epps, Luther and Sterling streets. Peaks Island residents told city officials that the lack of signs was a problem at the annual island meeting of the City Council, held on Aug. 20. About 10 years ago, the city spent $5,000 on new street signs on the island, only to see them disappear, Fortier said. At the time, Fortier thought it may have had to do with the feeling of some islanders that street signs were not keeping with the island's character. He hopes that this time it will be different. "We're assuming that they will stay in place," he said. "Hopefully they won't end up in some kid's bedroom or somewhere in Casco Bay," said City Councilor Will Gorham, who represents the islands. If there are residents who would like additional signs to be put up, they should contact Fortier with that request at 755-6288. -David Tyler

Bathroom design
A final design for the new downtown bathroom has been completed and can be viewed at the Peaks Island Community Center. A meeting was held on Oct. 26 to get community input, with about 14 people attending. The original proposal for a year-round bathroom would have cost between $100,000 to $250,000, according to Tom Fortier, the city's Island/Neighborhood Administrator. "We felt that was too extravagant," he said. So the proposal was scaled down so that it will cost between $50,000 and $80,000. One limitation of the reduced cost is that it will be a seasonal bathroom at this point, open from April 1 through November, according to Fortier. It will be a unisex bathroom with one toilet and one urinal. It will be built so that it can be winterized at some point in the future, Fortier said.

This sign at the corner of Central and Island Avenue is one of 20 new street signs on the island.

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Smoked Seafood, Custom Gift Baskets, Wines for Every Occasion
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Weed of the Down Front Parking Lot, near the intersection of Island Avenue and Welch Street. "It's a well-designed facility that fits discreetly into the landscape of Peaks Island," Fortier said. "It will not block anybody's view." Winkelmann's design shows the structure built below street level, at the side of the parking lot. There are plans for a water fountain and benches. On the roof of the bathroom, facing the sidewalk on Welch Street, there will be a community bulletin board. According to Winkelmann, the city has its own construction company that could do the project as a way to save money. The bathroom will be ready by next summer, he said.

CBITD results
There were no contested races for seats on the board of directors of the Casco Bay Lines Island Transit District, which runs the ferry company. Patrick Flynn, appointed to fill out the remainder of the term left vacant by the death of his father, John Flynn, was elected to the one-year interim seat representing Peaks Island with 76 votes. Incumbent Gene Taylor, a Peaks Island resident, was re-elected to his Island-at-Large seat with 649 votes. Peaks Island resident Chuck Rodia received 732 votes and was re-elected to his three-year seat representing Peaks Island. Incumbent Leo Carter, who represents Cliff Island, received 536 votes.

Art classes
It was a cold, gray afternoon on Peaks Island last Monday, the day before the election. But inside Lane Williamson's art studio, bright white light filled the room. Lights above bounced off the stark white walls, highlighting the colors of the many paintings in various stages of completion. Three art students, Marianne Thomas, Emily Sherwood and Mere Roberts, were busy painting or looking at pictures and listening to Williamson's comments about their work.

This was a session of one of Williamson's month-long classes for adults that she teaches on the island. Students meet once a week and classes are taught in both painting and drawing. Williamson has been teaching adults on the island for four years now, she says. She also teaches children over the summer.

In her adult classes, students range in experience from those who paint professionally to beginners. She also keeps classes small with no more than 7 students attending.

The group of three students in Williamson's studio recently all worked on landscapes. In other classes, students will work on still lifes and figure drawings.

Thompson, who is new at painting, has been coming to the classes for about a year. "I just had a desire to try to create things with color," Thompson said. "And we live in such a beautiful spot." -Mary Lou Wendell

Mail delivered
Well, they say nothing will stop your mail from being delivered. Not rain. Not snow. Not sleet. And not whatever else Mother Nature can think of to send our way. However, on Peaks Island, a broken spring in the mail truck can certainly pose a problem and threaten to bring delivery service to a grinding halt. That's what happened on Wednesday.

Accepting Visa, Master Card & American Express.

Specialty sauces, marinades, pates, truffles, jams jellies, pastas and spices, not to mention books and glassware.
mail delivery was going to have to be postponed. But then Bob Swett, the mail clerk, showed up in the morning when the call came in. Lisa Lynch, the café owner, answered the phone. It was Bob. “Anybody want to drive the mailman around?” Lisa yelled out loud enough for people at the café to hear, according to Rosol.

After negotiating an hourly rate, which Rosol did not want to reveal, Rosol accepted Bob’s offer. He drove off in his 1990 Nissan Pathfinder to pick up the mail and Mike Peard, the mail carrier. The two spent the next four hours delivering the mail together.

“From the beginning of the route to the end of the route, I saw every mail box, every post office and everything that Mike encounters,” Rosol said. “It was breathtaking in places. Afterwards, Mike said, ‘Now you know what it’s all about.’

The experience did have its disappointments for Rosol. “They wouldn’t give me a uniform. I was really upset about that. Mike said he had a hat, but it was too small. Nevertheless, Rosol was glad to be of help.”

“I would suggest that anybody who gets a chance to go around with the mailman,” Rosol said, “One other source of disappointment was at roughly ten days after his short tenure with the post office, still hasn’t gotten paid for his services.”

—Mary Lou Wendell

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Proulx journeys from computers to art

**BY DAVID TYLER**

For Norm Proulx, having his company close down its Portland office turned out to be exactly what he needed for his second career as an artist.

It is Proulx’s work “Orange Coast,” that the Island Times picked for its first subscription-appreciation button, which will go to the first 100 subscribers. Proulx worked on a systems engine for IBM for 30 years. He worked in Providence, R.I., and Bedford, N.H., before coming to Maine. Then, in 2003, IBM closed down the office he was working in. Since he was 62 at the time, he decided to take early retirement and devote his time to art.

Last year there was a very significant improvement in my work,” he said. “Maybe getting out of the business world helped.”

Proulx’s wife, Jane Banquer, has been a printmaker since the 1960s. They joined households in 1986 and were married in 1989. They’ve lived on Peaks Island for 15 years. His wife influenced his decision to try art. “I thought, ‘Maybe I could do this, too.’”

He took his first art class 10 years ago. The class was based on the well-known art book, “Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain,” and was taught by Bobbie Spiegel. He started out working in pastels. About four years ago, he began working in acrylics, then tried working in oils. The learning process has had its challenges. One time, three years ago, a thief stole all his art supplies, paints and four paintings out of his car, which was parked in one of the island lots on the main street. “They are tough art critics in this city,” Proulx said, joking about the theft.

But it was leaving IBM that really jumped-started his art. Before that, he had painted about once a week. After retiring, he was able to paint every day. “We were also working in a very small studio in the house, which wasn’t working,” he said. So they renovated a garage on their property into a studio. Jane’s printmaking equipment is on the first floor and he paints on the second floor.

He paints seascapes and still lifes. Right now he works mainly in acrylics and oils. His inspiration for the seascapes, not surprisingly, is the island. In fact, Peaks is very inspiring for an artist, Proulx said, since there are so many on the island.

The advice he gets from other artists is mostly informal. Now that the Gem Gallery is open, Proulx said his work has become a gathering place for island artists, especially on Friday nights when curator Jane Nevirk holds one-night shows.

“Inspiration also requires encouragement, and all those other artists are very encouraging,” he said.
**Island Views**

**T’s the season for giving**

*BY BILL ZIMMERMANN*

Aside from the approach of cold weather, the loss of color in flowers and trees, and the shorter period of daylight, November is a great time of the year for several reasons. Having danced around political confrontations for the last year or four, we finally have the chance to put politics aside by casting our ballots. With those essential presidential exercises finished, we can get back to concentrating on the issues that directly affect people on a personal level.

Since it is unlikely that national politics will be determined based solely on the pulse of the American voter, we must consider other options for realizing our will. This leads me to another reason for feeling good about this time of year. Starting with Thanksgiving and building on numerous holiday celebrations that culminate with the New Year, we are entering the time when we are most generous to others. It is probably good that this season follows the elections and allows greens, donkeys and elephants to regain our warm feelings for one another. We are all touched by acts of kindness that we see and hear about during the holiday season. As we remember family and friends every year, the value is in the giving more than the receiving, and that is an essential tradition that we should strive to teach our children as well.

**Letters to the editor**

**Soccer Camp**

August 23-27 was the most perfect week of weather to run our second annual Peaks Island Soccer Camp. Jake Schuit (a former PHS player who is headed to Western Washington University this month) and Erica Morgenstern (also a former PHS player who graduated and has been the assistant softball coach there this past year) made the camp exciting and fun. Twenty-six players ages 6 to 13 attended.

The skill level of the players (most of whom play for Portland Cow Pecs Soccer teams) continued to improve this year. Many of our 10-13 year olds have tried out for, and made, travel teams this fall. Peaks will still have its’ own u-8 and u-10 teams. Congratulations to all the players. We hope you have a fun season!

Big thanks go to the Lions Club for awarding 5 scholarships. Thank you also to Carol Eisenberg for organizing, Denise M., for coordinating field use, the Public Works crew for mowing fields, and Carl Ivers for going out of his way to get the water on for us. Only on Peaks Island would we get such great support.

Looking forward to next year...  

Janet Dye

**A Thanksgiving thank you**

A cornucopia of praise, flowers and fruites of knowledge from Pat Libby, Web­

The Island Times newsmroom. Writers David Tyler and Mario Alves concentrate while on deadline despite the slightly distracting working conditions.

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So next time you’re in one of our advertiser’s shops, mention you saw their ad in the Island Times. We’ll appreciate it and so will they.
Island life allows for much introspection. The fact that I don’t really know it all has been a blessing, like for example, astrology. There was a time that I would not even think of looking up the name of the system, a zodiac sign. That cause of it is science. There was a time that I thought of thinking of something more science than astrology. There was a time that I thought of capital. That day, I was told I looked like a seaport. I was shades as a disguise. This week, because an island friend, looked at the mask, told me to get back to New Jersey where I belonged. Everybody in the small crowd laughed at my beak. He had a great delivery, so I gave him a dollar. I sold my friends and told a few hilarious island stories which nobody seemed to dig. An earlier contributor took his fifty cents back and, seeing the violin case, suggested I bring the violin the next time. There was no next time. I took early retirement. But the magnetic draw of show business is powerful. So I am thinking of enrolling in the AARP Sit-Down Comedy course this fall and taking the show, with back-up violinists, to local retirement homes. I’ll show them. New Jersey, indeed!

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Gorham looks to postpone revaluation

CAPE, from page 1

taxes will go up no matter what the city does.

That’s what happened on Chebeague Island.

In 2002, after the town of Cumberland

did a revaluation of property, some homes

tripled in value, and taxes for many went

two or three times higher than they had been.

Of course, Gorham’s proposal just holds off

higher values and only helps Portland islanders; it’s up to the Legislature to tackle tax reform.

Donna Damon, a Chebeague Island resident

and member of the Cumberland Town Council, said that the pressure should still be on state legislators to solve this problem, even though the Paleskis tax cap failed. “It’s time for the people who are elected to office to take this seriously,” she said. “We need to have, not just tax relief, but we need tax reform.”

Property values are increasing so quickly on Chebeague that residents fear another revaluation. The issue will be discussed at the Cumberland Town Council’s Nov. 22 meeting, she said. Cumberland Assessor Bill Healey said he is aware of these sales, but said the town has no plans to do a revaluation for the upcoming tax year starting April 1. “There are sales out there that are considerably more than assessed value, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that we will do a revaluation,” Healey said.

For tax reform, Damon said, the solution is not to just cut revenue without generating new sources of income. There needs to be fiscal responsibility, a reduction in spending, and another method to generate revenue, she said. An increase in the sales tax would be one way to make up for revenue lost from tax reform, she said. Damon said Chebeague residents have also proposed a land bank, that would operate like the tree growth program, so that residents could reduce the property tax burden.

Many local officials are backing a proposal called the Maine Plan, put forth by the Maine Chamber of Commerce. A group called the Coalition to Lower Maine Taxes sought signatures on Nov. 2 to put this plan onto the state ballot. This plan caps state government spending at 2.75 percent annually and the growth of municipal tax levies at 2.75 percent. It calls for using additional state funds for education to provide property tax relief on a dollar-for-dollar basis. And it provides direct property tax relief through a program called the Maine Home Tax Cap. In this program, if a homeowner’s tax bill became more than 6 percent of their income, they would receive tax relief for up to $3,000.

The Portland City Council has already endorsed this plan, according to Gorham.

State Rep. Boyd Marley (D-Portland) also wants the state to drop the constitutional requirement that property tax cap be revised every 15 years. “I think that should be done at the local level,” he said.

Another statewide ballot initiative seeking signatures is called the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The measure would limit the growth of government spending at the state, county and local level to the annual rate of inflation plus population growth and would require a vote by taxpayers to increase taxes. If government revenue comes in at higher than expected levels, 20 percent of that extra money would go to a rainy-day fund and 80 percent would be set aside for tax relief.

And Carol Palesky said that she will seek a new tax cap referendum.

State Sen. Ethan Strimling (D-Portland) has also proposed setting up a low-interest loan program to help people pay their taxes. If the home is sold, the loans would be paid off. Strimling expressed the need for additional revenue to the state sales tax could be eliminated, to increase revenue from that source.

Marley said the issue of tax reform has been studied enough. “We know what needs to be done, we just need the political will to make those decisions.”

Whatever happens, legislators need to cooperate, said Damon. “People have got to stop being political in Augusta,” she said. “Everybody needs to work together.”

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Community Center

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<table>
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*99 percent of precincts reporting.

**State Referendum Question 1:** Do you want to limit property tax to 1 percent of the assessed value of the property?

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*96 percent of precincts reporting.

**State Referendum Question 2:** Do you want to make it a crime to hunt bears with bait, traps, dogs, except to protect property, public safety, or for research?

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*96 percent of precincts reporting.

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**30-YEAR FIXED**

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The 15 year rate requires 180 payments of $7.91 per $1,000. The 30 year rate requires payments of $8.33 per $1,000. Above rates are based on 20% down payment up to $333,700. Loan requires mortgage insurance if more than 80% of value. Rates subject to change daily.

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- Coley Mulkern

**Licensed Journeymen:**

- Guy Fradette

**Licensed Delivery & Tank Setter Technicians:**

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- Coley Mulkern
- Guy Prud'homme
- Jay Soule
- Marty Mulkern
Marley agreed with other state leaders that the top issue facing the Legislature is tax reform. During the campaign, Marley said it was irresponsible for the Legislature to fail to addressed the issue of tax reform before the Plemey Tax Cap ballot question came up.

"That has to be the top order of business," Marley said. He said that the plan put forth by the Maine Chamber of Commerce is a good starting point. That proposal known as the Maine Plan seeks to restrain state and spending and municipal tax collection at 2.75 percent annually. It would also create a program to provide up to $3,000 in relief to residents who pay more than 6 percent of their income on property taxes.

Marley agrees that spending needs to be controlled. "We do have to have some sort of check and balance," he said. "Having some sort of control on spending is a way to address this, because our incomes are not growing fast enough to cover costs." He said he was pleasantly surprised to see John Baldacci state that tax reform is his top priority, as well. Lamontagne said it is unfortunate that Baldacci didn't make that kind of move a year ago. Lamontagne is also worried that tax reform won't be accomplished since "we're putting the same group back in office."

The key for successful tax reform is "for people to drop their political stance," Lamontagne said. "Forget who you are—if you're a Democrat or Republican or a Green—stay focused on what needs to be done. I don't know if they will be able to do that. I have my reservations."

Although he lost, Lamontagne said that it was worth running. "I met so many nice people and heard so many things," As he pulled up his signs after the election, he was thanked by many people for running.

Lamontagne praised his opponent for the style of campaign he ran. "I was fortunate to run against an opponent who was always gracious and he and I never had any personal clashes at all. When all was said and done, we shook hands and agreed to help each other out for the good of the state."

Marley returned the compliments. Some good people.

Strimling sees it as "a definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over, expecting a different result. For example: Portland voters sending Democrats to Augusta, not seeing that Maine is in this pitiful condition due to the fact that they have had control of the Legislature for 50 years."

Babin is not optimistic that tax reform will happen. "We had the promises two years ago," he said. "We'll see if they come through."

Babino praised his opponent's conduct during the campaign. "Ethan was cordial, respectful and a gentleman throughout the campaign and it was a pleasure to get to know him," he said.

Strimling said Babin was very gracious. "I appreciate the tone of the race," he said. "I think he is a good guy." Strimling said one of the problems with the state's tax situation is that 45 percent of government spending comes from the property tax. "Any economist would say that you need to receive one-third of your revenue from sales tax, one-third from income tax and one-third from property tax. It becomes very difficult when you look at that, to see where the problem is."

Locally, Strimling wants to make sure tax reform is targeted to those who need it most, "the working families of Cliff and Peaks and Portland who really need property tax relief."

Other issues that Strimling says are important are bringing down the cost of health insurance so that small businesses can survive and making sure that young people in the area have access to education and opportunities that will keep them in Maine.
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November 2004

The first option is to see how the fuel market has two engines compared to the status quo of three options to make up for the shortfall. Christian believes it will come down to one of these options to make up for the shortfall. Originally the proceeds were to be used towards the purchase of the new vessel.

The final option may be a fare increase. "We have been paying as high as $1.77 and are now to $1.56, but unless the market adjusts dramatically we are going to have to look at some sort of surcharge or rate increase to cover just the difference," said Christian.

Green, a Peaks Island resident and CBITD board member agrees. "I would like to say the rate increase would come as a last resort," said Taylor. "None of us want to pay a higher rate and perhaps most pressing would be the overall demand being disregarded. Once you establish an increase it’s hard to get it back." Taylor is a member of the Rate Structure Committee.

Once the rate structure committee meets and makes recommendations, it will be up to the CBITD board to decide on how to proceed. "The decision will have to be made in either November or December," said Christian.

"While a dramatic adjustment would be just what the doctor ordered, Christian doesn’t want to see that happening anytime soon. "I don’t see the oil market dropping off and getting below a dollar again," said Christian. "We were in winter mode, usually we lock prices in the summer before the high fuel demand of the heating season.""

The second option is to use the proceeds from the sale of the Island Holiday to help make up the difference. Originally the proceeds were to be used towards the purchase of the new vessel.

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Suporn Banjong, from Thailand, was one of the teachers who attended a potluck dinner at the Peaks Island School Oct. 23. She teaches Japanese and English in her home country.

"I got hungry looks from my host family when I told them how I wash my feet with 'soap,'" said Shanghai's Lautberg who is teaching her culture to elementary students in Vermont. "Of course she meant 'soap.'"

Luizheng teaches 10th- and 12th-grade English at the No. 1 Senior High School in Shanghai, China. She has been introducing her culture and traditions to elementary school children in Oakhurst, Maine, one of seven AFS exchange teachers in Maine. "Maine has always represented well," said AFS volunteer Larry Banjong, "we have among the most exchange teachers in the country."

At dinner, the teachers shared some of their respective countries' traditional dances, music and language. Highlights included: Thai dancing, a Chinese playground game, a chorus of 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina' and a new dance style from the Philippines that got everyone up on their feet. Many of those in attendance tried their hand at some of these new traditions and joined in all of the festivities. "The food, music and dance are always a good way for people to relate to one another," said Leslie Kaynor, AFS volunteer and organizer of the conference.

Kaynor's husband first suggested Peaks Island as a good site for the conference. "We're all very pleased with how the weekend went," said Kaynor who will be suggesting a return to the island for next year's conference. The size of the island made it very easy to keep tabs on everyone and get them all where they needed to go.

The teachers did spend a day sightseeing in Portland, where they visited Portland Head Light and the Portland Museum of Art. They got some time to explore on their own while the rest of us did the grocery shopping for the potluck," said Kaynor.

Although they all have been in American classrooms since September, the teachers attended a day long series of workshops at the Peaks Island School, designed to further ease the transition into English. The language barrier was discussed despite the fact that all teachers speak very good English. "I got funny looks from my host family when I told them how I wash my feet with 'soap,'" said Shanghai's Lautberg who is teaching her culture to elementary students in Vermont. "Of course she meant 'soap.'"

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