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Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

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Changes requested in Island Council law

BY DAVID TYLE
Peaks Island residents are seeking changes to the proposed Island Council ordinance.

The major changes are to increase the size of the council to seven members, from five, and to hold elections for the body earlier than November, which is the proposed date.

A June 29 memo from Gary Wood, corporation counsel for the City of Portland said the City Council would consider the Island Council ordinance at the July 16 meeting. Wood recommended that the ordinance could be amended at any time.

"Whatever is passed by the council on July 16 is not set in stone," wrote Wood in the memo.

The new Island Council specifically represents Peaks Island, which was one of the conditions set forth by the Joint Standing Committee of State and Local Government when that body defeated the Peaks Island secession bill by a vote of 7 to 5.

After that vote, the State House of Representatives and the State Senate accepted the local government committee's report, killing Peaks Island's late secession effort.

On June 26, over 100 Islanders came to a meeting on Peaks with Mayor Nick Mavodones, District Attorney Kevin Donovan, City Clerk Linda Cohen and City Manager Jon Gray to talk about the new Island Council.

Mavodones said he would make the amendment to hold the election earlier, but that he wants to hear from the other council members, Cohen and the public before making his decision.

Moving the election up reduces concern from the community for Domonkos, he said, "I think it's important to have adequate time to gather signatures." He said, "Ballot access is an important detail that I hold as a third-party politician." Domonkos belongs to the Democratic party.

 Islanders also felt strongly on the first Town Meeting, which began after 8 a.m. in the gym of the Chebeague Recreation Center. Red, white and blue balloons hung off the check-in tables at the front door, and from the Town Clerk's desk at the front of the room. Many Islanders wore new T-shirts with the Town of Chebeague seal emblazoned on the front.

When John Martin, chair of the Transition Committee, said, "Welcome to July 1, 2001", the gym erupted in cheers and applause.

Yankee magazine article gives Eighth Maine a boost

BY DAVID TYLE
Richard Adams has been coming to the Eighth Maine Regiment Hall on Peaks Island since he was six years old.

His family is descended from Lt. George Cappers who fought in the Civil War and was one of the founders of the hall in 1872. And his great-grandfather was president of the hall's memorial association.

Now 29, Adams is the main volunteer host at the hall, which also functions as a guest house. Rooms are available from Memorial Day through September.

This year, Adams has seen resurgence in interest in guest house, thanks to being featured as one of the 12 best places in Maine to stay by the water in the July issue of Yankee magazine.

In the article, "A Dream Comes True," Adams said that the Eight Maine regiment Hall is a place where guests can stay, eat and enjoy the beauty of the island.

"It's a unique place—and it's a time piece," said Adams. "It's a place where you can see and feel real people like the communal style of living.

The enormous main room is quiet and cool, despite a hot sun beating down on people. And the air is clear and fresh.

There's also an old grand piano in the room. Dozens of photos of war veterans lined the walls.

Downstairs, there is a corner dining room, with tables for each group that stays at the hall.

Guests can cook at their tables on stoves from 1908. "You have to get a ticket to everyone as they are making their food," said Adams. The hall's huge ballroom now serves as the recreation center with ping-pong and air hockey.

A woman staying with her family in late June said she loved the rustic atmosphere of the hall and the fact that there are no televisions or phones in the rooms.
In Brief

Island liaison post down to four candidates

There are four candidates being interviewed for the job of Portland's island neighborhood administrator. The interviews will be held on Thurs., July 12.

The post has been vacant since Jan. 19 when Tom Fortier, who previously held the job, left to become the town manager of Richmond.

When the application period closed at the end of March, the city had about 80 applicants, according to Pat Finnigan, the new assistant city manager.

The candidates were from New England states, she said.

In June, a hiring committee was appointed, which includes representatives from the city's police, fire and public works departments. The island representatives are Gerry Garman and Rob Tiffany.

"It was very hard to whittle the list down—there are a lot of qualified candidates," said Finnigan.

The hiring process was delayed, said Finnigan, "because of everything going on, between legislative issues and the budget—just people being pressed for other things that needed to get done."

In addition, City Manager Joe Gray wanted to wait until the assistant city manager post has been filled.

Finnigan said that "people are looking first and foremost for somebody who can get things done, who is a good listener and who can follow through on things."

After the advisory committee interviews the four candidates, that group will recommend one or two candidates for Gray to consider. He will do his own interviews, then send the name to the City Council.

She hopes the city will be able make the job offer to the final candidates in late July. When that person starts depends on how much notice they have to give at their current job.

Island Institute scholarships awarded

The annual Island Institute scholarships have been announced with more than 57 island residents receiving over $65,000 in grants.

Winners of the 2007 higher education scholarships, awarded by the Island Institute.

Photo by Nancy Griffin

 Winners of the 2007 higher education scholarships, awarded by the Island Institute.

Island Institute scholarships have been announced with more than 57 island residents receiving over $65,000 in grants.

Awards range from $250 to $5,000 and go to students from unbridged islands who are attending a two-year or four-year college, university or vocational institute.

Those who received this year's awards were honored with a lunch at the Balsam Resort in Rockport.

The scholarship winners from Peaks Island are: Charles Friedman, Wesley Norton, Ella Shaw, Katherine Radis, Molly Radis, Oceanic Schiff-Buxton, Sophie Presgraves, Michael Whitman, James Walsh, Robert Walsh, Jackman Wood and Alexander Kinner.

Norton also received the Academic and Community Leadership Scholarship, a one-time award of $5,000. This scholarship goes to the top graduating senior who partners in civic leadership with academic achievement; an outstanding scholar and member of the community who serves as a leader for his peers, according to the press release from the Island Institute.

The scholarship winner from Great Diamond is Brenda Myers. Myers was also awarded the Seth Jordan Memorial Fund, an additional $1,000 award to the high school senior with the highest grade point average from Casco Bay.

The scholarship winners from Long Island are: Lauren MacVane, Gabriel Hott and Zachary Whitmore.

The scholarship winners from Chebeague Island are: Katie Philips, Loretta Hamilton and Victoria Johnson.

Cliff teacher candidates interviewed

Final candidates for the teacher at the one-room schoolhouse on Cliff Island are being interviewed this week.

The post was open after Cliff Island resident Judy MacVane, who was the island teacher for five years, took a job teaching fifth grade at the Hall Elementary School in Portland. MacVane had taught at Hall for 12 years, earlier in her career, according to Kelly Hassan, who was principal of the island school until May of this year when she got the job of principal of the Hall Elementary School in Portland.

There were eight applicants for the job and they were narrowed down to four candidates, according Hassan.

One candidate withdrew; so three people are being interviewed. "We have a good batch," said Hassan.

She expects that a final candidate will be recommended to Superintendent Mary O'Connor by mid-July.

PeaksFest events help PITA

PeaksFest proved to be a great success for Peaks Island Tax Assistance (PITA). The very entertaining opening festivities with the Peaks Island Idol Contest and CookieFest were wonderful. All of the cookies were outstanding but our judges, Casey Collins, Matt Barros, and Sarah Curran selected the contest winners: Janice Grenier, best place for her cookies.

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The annual stockholders meeting for the Chebeague Transportation Company (CTC) will be held on 9 a.m., Sat., July 14 at the Chebeague Island Hall Community Center. Guest tickets will only be available for stockholders attending the annual meeting, starting at 8:45 a.m.

There are five candidates for positions on the CTC Board of Directors. Nancy Lynch is a candidate for a one-year term, Martha Hamilton Chapin, Karen Hamilton and Catherine "Gina" Ross are candidates for a three-year term. Board member John Wilson is a candidate for clerk. Nominations can also be made at the annual meeting, provided the nominee is present or has submitted a signed letter to the Board of Directors indicating his or her willingness to be nominated.

-David Tyler

Town of Chebeague office hours posted

The Town of Chebeague will be posting office hours every two weeks until they find out what the community needs. The town office is in the Chebeague Island Fire Station.

The hours are: Fri., July 6, 8 a.m.-noon; Mon., July 9, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tues., July 10, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wed., July 11, 8 a.m.-noon; Thurs., July 12, noon-8 p.m.; Fri., July 13, 8 a.m.-noon. 8:45 a.m.

- Cynthia Pedlikin

CTC stockholder meeting to be held

State’s working waterfront in jeopardy

A report on the state of Maine’s working waterfront reached a sobering conclusion. Only 20 miles of the state’s 5,300 miles of coastline retains access as a working waterfront. The figure is less than the 25 miles of working waterfront cited in the past.

Of those 20 miles, half are privately owned and require owner permission to use.

These conclusions are part of the report “Mapping Maine’s Working Waterfront,” a report released by the Island Institute.

The report was unveiled after two years of research in 142 coastal towns. It is also the first time the Maine coast has been mapped with the specific intention of identifying working waterfront as a land use, according to a press release from the Island Institute.

"This report should add a sense of urgency throughout Maine to protect what little remains of the working waterfront that contributes 1.74 billion per year to the state’s economy and supports more than 39,000 jobs," said Philip Conkling, president of the Island Institute.

"With more than half of the remaining working waterfront vulnerable to development that is not compatible with commercial fishing, we need to act decisively—and soon—to fund programs that help fishermen and coastal communities secure working waterfront access in the future," Conkling said. "We hope the report will provide communities, land trusts and other interested groups with a powerful planning tool they can use to design local and regional protection strategies for Maine’s remaining working waterfront.

The report concluded that in the 5,300 miles of coastal access, 1,144 points provide access to saltwater.

The access includes public boat landings, municipal right-of-ways, boatyards, marinas and private fishing docks.

Of these access points, 696 points (45 percent of the total number identified) provide public water access and 831 points (65 percent) are private or restricted in some way.

Commercial fishing activities are supported at 888 points (57 percent of the state’s total).

Only 446 waterfront access points had water-dependent zoning in place. Zoning protects only 130 miles (5 percent) of the total coastline.

Finally, only 81 of 1,144 access points are considered “prime working waterfront” with adequate parking, access at all tides and fuel available at the access point.

Several organizations worked with the Island Institute on this project: the Sunrise County Economic Council, Cobscook Bay Resource Center, Coastal Enterprises Inc., Mitchell Geographics, Maine State Planning Office Coastal Program, the Town of St. George, Maine Department of Marine Resources, and NOAA Coastal Services Center.

To download the full report, go to www.IslandInstitute.org.

-David Tyler

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Letter to the Editor

Subjective congratulations on being so objective on covering issues (you don't have personal opinions that you can't control. Awesome journalism. - Anne Hoyt, Lexington, Mass. and Peaks Island

Preserving our island community

The Island Independent Committee is alive, well and functioning. IC members and supporters are committed to our mission: the preservation and protection of a diverse, year-round community that involves islanders in meaningful decision-making. Many Peaks Islanders have indicated, by their input at recent IC public meetings and other communications, that they want the IC to continue until our mission is complete.

Such a mission deserves our attention so that Peaks Island will remain a community where young families can afford to stay and raise their children, our seniors can afford to stay as long as they wish, and businesses can continue to thrive. Related seasonal workers will continue to return each spring to a vibrant, self-reliant community. As for the future, it seems that every community will signal that our community is ready to pass on our dreams to another generation.

We wish to create an Island Peaks Island Council representing all the voices of the Island on those issues that will help shape a strong, unified, and vibrant community. We will work to help all islanders feel that their voices can be heard, that their concerns will be reported to the State and Local Government Committee in Augusta regarding the progress of developing and implementing the strategies outlined by the new city ordinance. We will work to preserve our island community and we at last hope that the city will join us in this effort.

-Lynne Richardson and the entire Island Independent Committee

Island Vibes

The Peaks Island Land Preserve (PILP) began in 1993 as a community effort to preserve Battery Steels. PILP mission is "the acquisition, preservation, and stewardship in perpetuity of Peaks Island lands for the use and enjoyment of all islanders. Recently, the board has received questions about our mission and the work we do. This newsletter will attempt to answer these questions.

Can PILP change the goals for properties under easement or owned by PILP? PILP owns some properties, and holds conservation easements on others. We partner with Oceanside Conservation Trust (OCT) to give and hold easements on each others' properties. For instance, PILP owns Battery Steels, and OCT holds the easement. These easements will continue to provide long-term protection for the property.

Conservation easements generally spell out what can and cannot be done on a property and are permanent. Where there aren't easements on a property there could be flexibility about future uses, any actions must align with PILP's mission and would be subject to approval by the state Attorney General. However, PILP is committed to pursuing easement protection for every PILP property, in no case will PILP sell or lease property which bears any connection with the original donor of the property.

What does PILP do with the properties we maintain? The amount of work to manage each property. Management plans must be produced and implemented for each property and involve al boosting, monitoring, and maintenance. Plans may include clean-ups, invasive species control, trail maintenance, and other activities that preserve natural places for the public's use and enjoyment.

Does PILP intend to own or control the whole island? No, we've never even heard about 150 acres of island. PILP is interested in properties that were suited to be preserved for public enjoyment. These might include properties with existing trails, water access, or species of special significance. Because of the work involved, PILP does not need to own properties that are not threatened by development because they are wetlands, too. PILP does not need to be the property's only owner.

Any time a property is offered to us, board members will use the criteria for an assessment to determine whether or not to add the property to conserved acreage on the island. Properties earn points for natural features, existing public access or trails, habitat value, and other characteristics. Properties can also lose points if they are inaccessible, otherwise protected, or better suited for another use.

Is PILP in competition with Homestead (the affordable housing group) for properties on Peaks Island? No, we believe that every inch of the island should be undeveloped. The PILP board recognizes that maintaining the diversity of our island population is central to our community, and therefore to the future of PILP. It is especially important for board members to recognize the benefits of affordable housing by children and families. Our Land Acquisition Criteria recognizes that vulnerable islanders who are eligible for affordable housing opportunities on Peaks Island. PILP's annual membership meeting will be held on July 18. For information or to RSVP, please contact us at 766-9595. For more information, visit our website at preservepeaks.com.

Editor's note: Homestay is an organization that works to identify the low barriers that prevent non-profit status for the purpose of developing affordable housing on Peaks. The organization is working toward developing a first project.

Summer music series starts with "mopera"

By Faith York

With a stretch of 90-degree days already behind us, we know well that summer, in all its glory, has arrived. For certain, it must be time for music at the Fifth Maine.

Every other Wednesday evening at 8 pm, the Peaks Island Music Association presents something new and exciting for island music lovers.

The first concert of the season, July 11, will feature a special celebration of opera. Our very own wildly-nominated Julie Goell will appear in a new version of her uproariously funny woman-

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BEHIND ROSSOL

What's the difference between a man's suit and a dog? A man's suit has a vest and a dog, just pants.

Well, there was many a painting dog in the recent wave of if-peaks. We islands can usually cope with climate change. But extreme heat seems to go a bit beyond our ability to adapt. One stray dog came to our door with an empty water dish clamped between its teeth. A lemonade stand offered a water for drink for 25 cents a cup plus a quarter more for each ice cube. The grocery store sold out of bagged ice and under-arm deodorant. An island society in such close quarters can live without the one but not without the other. Road tar turned to molten licorice, and softened eclair-draw stripes up the spines of buck road bikers.

While visiting a friend, I saw an AC unit in his front room window. He invited me to sit near it in order to cool off. The only problem was that the thing was blowing hot outside air into the room. My friend informed me that the machine hadn't worked since 1988, but he had left it there and turned on a collection of his own cooling. He claims that comfort is a product of mental attitude. I complimented him on his Zen Physics and returned to the world of mere sweating mortals with such things as thermostats, mental and mechanical.

The wait for a parking space at the CBL garage is now several generations long. It seems the same when getting construction projects started and completed on Peaks.

But when it comes to getting a lawn cut, it is a different story. The island is no longer populated by shirtless kids with push mowers. It is awash with fogged crews equipped with sit-down, stand-up, and sit-down mowing machines that could compete at weekend monster rallies. These turbo-charged beauties are graceful as ballet dancers as they slide through and around bushes and trees and rocks, where not a single blade of grass has a chance to grow to maturity.

Spotters roam the island and report high grass to mow central, where teams, like trained fire-fighters, slide down poles and leap into their trucks, trailers, and trains and race to the blackest spots. Peaks is the new gardens at Versailles. The island is now kempt, maybe too kempt. Our image, once beautifully ragged, is changing before our eyes.

Must we weedwack with abandon? Can't we allow some tufts of crabgrass to spring up here and there? Can't we have golf carts without the golf course? Island grass is not Kentucky Blue. It is Maine Green in going and Maine Yellow in August. It is accustomed to a cutting two or three times a summer and maybe once more during a winter warm front. Needled among the dandelions, our grass thrives when it stands tall enough to catch the cool ocean breeze. Bumper stickiers arise! Give crabgrass a chance. Rescure the escarce.

It is a fact that show business celebrities vacation on remote islands on search of privacy. This has been verified by scouts hired to ferret them out for reputable magazines like Vanity and People.

This island life

"Grand Uphar," "Abs and Pees," etc. A high percentage of day visitors come for the thrill of the star hunt. It is impossible to completely protect our island residents. We all know and recognize our noted "eccentric." And our Nicholson look-alike, although there are some who believe he is the real article disguised as a stand-in. I have been mistaken for a string of long-dead actors. When the light and distance and stance are just right, I have been mistaken for Spencer Tracy, Wallace Beery, Tom Mix, Elmer Fudd and a living Philadelphia TV weatherman. I carry and hand out autographed headshots of these personalites to satisfy fans, who would rather shake my hand or tear away a swath of shirt. Or I tell them to be quiet because, "I'm hunting, wobbit. Huh huhuhu."

At a recent dinner out with friends, I widened through who knew what. A young man, sitting at the next table and watching that noisy exercise, figured that I came as close to being a Neil Losavito in economics as he'd find on Peaks.

He introduced himself as a student whose summer project is in study Maine islander money and how it is spent. Our researcher said it is difficult to figure rich from poor peaks from appearances alone. House outside Plumbers cars that wouldn't be considered safe at a demolition derby, mongrels, forals, hand-me-downs, hand-me-ups. I tell him that we all have some money. Some more, but none, less. And that we carry precious little in our pockets. That only about 3 of the 899 islanders have ever carried a 50-dollar bill, and that an exhibition of 100-, 500-, and 1,000-dollar bills was brought to Peaks for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see and touch that kind of money. That kids still look for pennies and nickels in the streets. I then erased his rising doubt when I saw that I paid my dinner check with newly minted Peaks Island scrap.

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Chebeague Chronicles

By D.J. Colbeth

Everything old is new again

On June 24th, Chebeague Island residents gathered together at the recreation center to elect the first selectmen and school board of their new town and to begin a new chapter of the history of Chebeague.

In the weeks and even days preceding this election, it was unclear who all would make up the leadership of the Town of Chebeague Island as the preliminary nominating process had begun informally with neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend and family to family conversations about who should run for election and why.

There was no candidates night nor posting of candidates. And so the slate of nominees evolved in typical island fashion: slowly and deliberately.

Creating the town had required the efforts of nine transition representatives and over 100 volunteers. Running it would be no different. On this day, we were to choose five selectman to conduct the municipal business of our town and five school board members to be the stewards of our educational system.

After the necessary procedural formalities, nominations from the floor were taken for the position of selectman. Chris Rich was the first to be nominated for the position of selectman and subsequently, if the first to speak as each candidate was invited to share their reasons for seeking office, their vision for the island’s future or any other personal comments.

Chris approached the microphone, shared a few words he said he had just downed at breakfast just this morning and in doing so, set the tone for Chebeague’s first election.

“In my mind, the whole reason for serving was to allow islanders to decide the future of Chebeague. Obviously, children are the future of any place. Thus, the school must be protected and nurtured. It’s my hope that our children will feel a sense of place in this place, both in its history and the varied interests and abilities of today’s inhabitants. This sense of pride in and love for the island will assure its future.

Many say that Chebeague has no future as a year-round community. They say that economics rule everything and it will become an exclusive resort. But love and pride are not ruled by economics. This island is in our blood, a very part of us, and we of it. We must maintain a resolute determination to succeed. Will it be easy? Definitely not. Preservation is not one of mankind’s attributes.

“I feel that we should maintain the current political status quo and let the long-term betterment of the community prevail out of necessity. I don’t think I’m the first to think that we need blemish-free roads or a grandiose town hall. For anything frivolous and just for show.

“Because a dog’s mind is too good to waste.

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Because a dog’s mind is too good to waste.

766-2390
Cliff Island News

By Liesl Carter

June is the month when Cliff Island’s flowers provide everyone a reason to rejoicing. One of the events that summer starts all the natural wonders of our ocean bound place fill our lives with the sounds, sights and smells we all love.

Mariel Anderson was an island girl, who knew and enjoyed life here. Her death on June 2 a came after a life focused on Cliff Island. She was well known and respected by many for her work at the kindergarten and at the library, and her kind and friendly personality were an example for anyone who knew her. Her funeral service was conducted by Sharon Marr of Long Island, a good friend of the Anderson family.

The school on Cliff Island will be expanding its offerings and opening an opening for hand-out vehicles. Most of all is that he has carefully preserved the three beach rose bushes that are so fragrant and beautiful right now. Gary tells me that these are the first Cliff Island rocks used for this purpose. The last major effort involved the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers providing rocks brought here on barges from away.

Hopefully, the new barge landing will operate even more smoothly than the old one did, and the reinforced road across “stinks beach” will be secure for a long time. The new location should reduce the travel time and fuel use for a barge such as that, as Bob Howard points out, Cliff Island’s “Carbon footprint” will be reduced. Thanks are due to all who patiently worked through the many issues that this project involved.

Men’s group seeks name

We see that the tennis court is ready for another season of use thanks to the leadership of Kris Saunders and a number of stalwart volunteers. Rumor has it that one day the only “lawyers” were a pair of public spirited octogenarians. Thanks Moby and Anne.

It takes about 6,000 nautical miles to hold the lines in place. For our friends in the group, Kris got help with this task from a group of island children.

Congratulations to Robby O’Reilly, who has meticulously restored his new island vehicle. He has taken off the top for the summer and now can “give my girls a ride around the island.” It is quite a sight, sort of like seeing a jeep on stilts.

Finally, it would be remiss not to mention the ongoing debate and hoop-de-doo about the naming of our island men’s group, which meets on an ad hoc basis at the store. I suspect that the group wants a dignified name in keeping with the serene and high level discussions they want everyone to believe they are having. Friends, relatives and others continue to seek just the right words to describe these good men who include lobster catchers, doctors, bricklayers, diplomats, roofer constables and more. Some of the print-able possibilities: The Gentlemen, The Lookers, The Leprechauns. Suggestions are welcome.

Barge landing under construction

One day early this month I heard the rumble of a tank-tracked vehicle going by my house, and looked out through our kitchen window to see a mammoth backhoe headed for the low-end of the new long-term barge landing.

Local firm from Silverton Landscaping and Paving had landed, and was rumbling the length of the island dirt roads from the old landing site at the northeast facing beach all the way (one-to-two miles) to the new location which will cut through ledge to provide a gentle facing roughly west.

It is estimated that sometime in July this new island asset provided by the city of Portland will be available so that services to the island like recycling, heavy equipment transfers, major construction deliveries, snow plowing and others can return to normal.

The cut through the ledge has involved breaking rock into modest sized pieces using a giant jackhammer attachment for the backhoe. It involves a strange pogo stick like action the whole machine pieces on its thin nose until the rock yields and the monster contraption falls to earth.

After many repetitions we are opening up the end of the ledge and a pile of broken stones. Some are providing a part of the road bed at the site. Others have been trucked to the low roadway at the head of the boat area where Gary MacVan has been positioning them to protect the road from winter’s ocean storm washouts.

He has constructed a barrier three-to-four feet higher than the road while leaving an opening for hand-out vehicles. Most of all is that he has carefully preserved the three beach rose bushes that are so fragrant and beautiful right now. Gary tells me that these are the first Cliff Island rocks used for this purpose. The last major effort involved the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers providing rocks brought here on barges from away.

The new barge landing will operate even more smoothly than the old one did, and the reinforced road across “stinks beach” will be secure for a long time. The new location should reduce the travel time and fuel use for a barge such as that, as Bob Howard points out, Cliff Island’s “Carbon footprint” will be reduced. Thanks are due to all who patiently worked through the many issues that this project involved.

Vet care to the islands all year long

Thoughtful planning of the boat dock when Cliff Island’s MacVan dock was built included a full sized workshop with the most modern tools, as well as spacious handles for visibility. The MacVan dockers are loyal to the island.

One day earlier this month I heard the rumble of a tank-tracked vehicle going by my house, and looked out through our kitchen window to see a mammoth backhoe headed for the new long-term barge landing.

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Men’s group seeks name

We see that the tennis court is ready for another season of use thanks to the leadership of Kris Saunders and a number of stalwart volunteers. Rumor has it that one day the only “lawyers” were a pair of public spirited octogenarians. Thanks Moby and Anne.

It takes about 6,000 nautical miles to hold the lines in place. For our friends in the group, Kris got help with this task from a group of island children.

Congratulations to Robby O’Reilly, who has meticulously restored his new island vehicle. He has taken off the top for the summer and now can “give my girls a ride around the island.” It is quite a sight, sort of like seeing a jeep on stilts.

Finally, it would be remiss not to mention the ongoing debate and hoop-de-doo about the naming of our island men’s group, which meets on an ad hoc basis at the store. I suspect that the group wants a dignified name in keeping with the serene and high level discussions they want everyone to believe they are having. Friends, relatives and others continue to seek just the right words to describe these good men who include lobster catchers, doctors, bricklayers, diplomats, roofers, constables and more. Some of the printable possibilities: The Gentlemen, The Lookers, The Leprechauns. Suggestions are welcome.
PeaksFest 2007 draws big crowds
Photos by David Cohan

EIGHTH MAIN from page 1

The Eighth Maine harks back to the time along the Maine coast when visitors came to stay at one place for the entire summer, in simple, unadorned cabins or guest houses. Adams said as recently as five years ago there were guests who spent the whole season at the Eighth Maine. One reason was the price. Back in the 1990s, Adams said, you could rent one room for the entire summer for $1,000. "Now it's all shorter stays," he said.

When he was a boy coming to the house with his family in the 1930s, rooms cost $1.25 per week. Today, rooms are priced at $80 a night during the week and $100 a night weekends (there is a two-night minimum on weekends).

Adams grew up in Auburn, but his family came to Peaks every summer to stay for two or three weeks at the Eighth Maine. "There are very few summers that I have not been here for at least part of a summer," he said.

He went on to a career as a professor of veterinary medicine. From 1954 through 1991 Adams taught in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science at Penn State University. He retired once, in 1993, and then returned to the university as a consultant, and mentor setting for a second time in 1998.

Adams' wife, Marilyn, started taking care of the guest house in 1982. The previous host died when she was 94, and there was no obvious replacement. So Marilyn gave up her job as director of therapy at a rehabilitation hospital in Pennsylvania to take care of the Eighth Maine. In 1998, his wife began to have health problems and Adams began helping her out. She died in 2003 and Adams continues her work at the hall.

Although guests no longer stay for the summer, many visitors still come to the hall. Last summer, about 600 people stayed during the summer, Adams said.

Each year new people discover the guest house and enjoy its uniqueness, simplicity, and location right next to the ocean.

"They like to come back the same time every year with the new friends they made the first time," Adams said.

Mary Lou Wendell contributed to this article.

For more information about the Eighth Maine Regiment Hall, go to www.8thmaine.com.
Each Puns and Anagram definition is a self-contained word game in miniature. In most cases, the clue contains an anagram, a pun or a combination of both, of the answer word. (Example: "Must have is really wild" - UNTRIED. (Must have is an anagram of UNTRIED - wild is the straight clue. There are also tricks of spelling, hidden word clues, word-building, word-breaking, and an assortment of other devices. Find more directions at www.doublecoincidence.com/howto/2lum.htm.

Across
1. SIC for a wildcard breaker
2. "PA! I'll find the bucket!"
3. Self-pailer in Devland
4. Crossing opens word like carried a hatchet
5. Front found in iglu
6. Back camp away from Captain
7. Valuable violin found in exclamation center
8. Gut medical treatment of stress in USSR Centre

Solution to last month’s puzzle

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53. S. Z. waltzed without Obne)
35. W. at my changes diaper
18. GI’s medic-due in surplus for smalls
47. I Jmure Japanese
26. Cl/ym, linste a water tank
39. Draw out of this hot iron
41. Denote Japanese
42. "Ko. pa. I broke the instrument!
27. Write down the number
28. NURSE user rest 57
52. Looking for ano
33. Writer T.icsri, fossils
50. Hailed ads for ties
61. Su rE“ user rest 57
39. Whynotat is wild-typed
2. Shy somone
60. Erin’s modifier
46. Sounds like I let a cord
63. Showoff - waves
19. Macecock-a-leek-y soup (without
64. Balloons made of material that’s easily SAS
65. Discipline by no deadline

Down
1. Sharp divide in a colorless pipe
2. Screen composer
3. SIsus is endlessly sick
4. Could be left in print reader
5. Broken kingdom of Africa
6. Station on a side of GM
7. A 24-hour period sounds like a bag
8. Mine out of wild eye
9. President of Cool Dads books
10. Member of the team
11. Germans and others in Munster
12. Sharp device in a bottomless purse
13. Rendless’ Van hugs ja, z
14. Seafood converted, becoming king
15. Godfand spg. I’ve
16. Knowing Supplies
17. Demure Japanese
18. Why pig is constantly complaining
19. End psychic area, said the fortune-teller
20. Heated ads for tires
21. Ship captian moves camps get genus of fruit injurers to fruit trees
22. Grass brother used name for sometime
23. To fromplits change for old Italian money
24. Forme modification keeps in control
25. Sure user regrets rate
26. Aler ide going out
27. Showoff - waves
28. From atrium
29. Left (or not confident
30. Colored, graceful young woman
31. Fish in sound
32. One-eyed dalies send secrets messages
33. Silverware holds dry deposit
34. Sound like set a cord through here
35. Left (or not confident
36. Left sister in some diets
37. Copied time ends of taper
38. Not that, get dizzy-colvable
39. Tend to ille health, left	
40. Pinstripes like a opera too
41. Cut back by removing gold from a stream
42. That appetizer from sub-fi led cute
43. Without MAM
13. Endlessly fun bags jazz
14. Class form underlying foundation
15. Make a cocky sorry soup with out a book to keep overly self confidant
23. Healthy company gave it a top
42. Screwed up seven and ish, with it made more sense
24. NCS pack broke the instrument
25. My pet, a mixed breed, needing medical attention
26. Sear ever has going
27. Draw it out a cube
28. Interior of marine maple has new design
29. Crushed herb is foul
30. Removing up with finger turns a black
31. Older fairies is fat and brightly colored
32. Eligibly hunting bug, Panic
33. Crazy fish is not a marine, graceful young woman
34. Formed out of unfinished
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Island Delivery...
Making life easier Shaw’s Westgate will deliver your order all boxed up and ready to go.

When: Every Tuesday morning
Where: Here at Shaw’s Westgate
Time: 7:00 am to 11:00 AM
Cost: $1.00 per box
Details: You must do your own shopping between 7:00 am and 11:00 am. We will have an extra terminal open for boaters only.

Shaw’s Westgate
1364 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04102
207.774.7661
Interview with outgoing island principal Kelly Hasson

You've been at the Cliff Island and Peaks Island Schools as principal for two years, and now you're leaving. Why and what will you be doing?

I have been selected as the new principal of Hall Elementary School, the second largest elementary school within Portland Public Schools. Hall has about 400 K-5 students, including a large multicultural population and diverse educational programming structures. It was an extraordinary professional opportunity. I had intended to remain the principal of both Cliff and Peaks Island Schools for a long time so it was a very difficult decision to leave and makes my move bittersweet.

What do you think of the two years you've spent on Cliff and Peaks, both personally and professionally? What have you learned?

I've learned that both island communities care deeply about their schools and will do anything to support them. Support through islanders and island organizations has helped sustain and enrich the programs we've offered. To have packed houses for every full school performance has been a testament to how much the schools remain the heart of both island communities. Working with two different schools, with both similar and differing needs, has taught me a lot. It's so important to truly listen, no matter how far apart some views can be at times. Communicating well and seeking common ground can go a long way. Most importantly, I've found that collaborating with others to keep the best interests of students' needs at the forefront of goals and decision making has been among the most essential things I can do as a school leader.

On a personal note, returning to Peaks Island, where I spent the first nine years of my life, has been a dream come true. As a adult, I'll always consider the island to be my true home. It has changed in more ways than I could ever have imagined, but places remain that bring me immediately back to my childhood. Getting to know the Cliff Island community has been a gift. As with Peaks, they have come to feel like family and are among the warmest folks I've ever met. I've loved walking into the Cliff schools' doors, and have every one coming to sharing news about the latest lost shoes, their pets, or their latest project they've done using state-of-the-art technology thanks to Judy MacVane and the community's support.

Of course, these two years also brought another change for me personally as I also met my husband, Casco Bay Lines operations manager Nick Mavrodine. The first time I met him I was trying to secure a dog log (detergent) twice a month to Peaks Island for the 2-35 mail boat down the bay to pick up Cliff Island students and their teachers who spent the day on Peaks. Ever patient and articulate, Nick explained that the dog log would lead to a delay in getting passengers home and also a delay in the boat's return to Portland for its next run. I didn't really understand his reasoning at the time so I was polite, but pretty insistent. In the end, I still didn't get my way, but I did meet my future husband.

Where do you think the Peaks and Cliff Island Schools are headed both educationally and as a part of their island communities? In other words, what do you foresee for the future as far as enrollment and whatever else may affect the schools' long-term stability?

I am very confident that both Cliff and Peaks Island Schools will continue to offer outstanding educational programming to the islands' children. Enrollment at both schools has remained stable and both the Portland School Committee and City Council have signed a resolution to keep them open. We just celebrated Peaks Island School's 175th anniversary so that's a City record for the longest running elementary school still in operation. School and City officials recognize that both schools provide year-round livability to island families. In terms of quality of education, many factors continue to indicate that both schools are on a progressive path — continually seeking accreditation standards, outstanding staff, district resources, and services, as well as extremely supportive communities that partner with the schools.

What will you miss from the islands?

Most of all, I'll miss the comforting feeling of really knowing everyone. To be able to know every child in your school so well is what most school principals can only long for. I'll miss greeting folks getting on and off the boats, the amazing sunrises and sunsets I got to see on my daily commute, the opportunity to voyage down the bay all year round, and, of course, the daily interactions with every student in the schools. I'll miss my extremely dedicated colleagues who have become great friends and have taught me so much, as well as the supportive families and community members who give so much of their time and energy to both schools and islands.

What won't you miss?

I won't miss that "I'm gonna miss the boat!" feeling when look at the clock each morning and evening. Racing to the boat on both ends has always been a way of life for me so I've finally accepted that it's necessary. I have incredible memories of my mother grabbing my hand as we raced down the old cobblestones on Welling Street as the horn on the boat blew.

Peaks Island Solid Waste and Recycling

On July 9 we will introduce exciting changes to our Peaks Island solid waste program. On that day, crews will begin collecting trash and recycling every Monday. (Collection will occur on Tuesday in the event of a Monday holiday.) Please set your items out no later than 7:00 AM. We will also begin Single Sort Recycling, which means you can put all of your recyclables in the same bin with no additional sorting. Also, you will be able to recycle all plastics labeled 1—7.

- **Recycle**
  - Paper products such as newspapers, junk mail, corrugated cardboard, milk and juice cartons, books, cereal boxes, envelopes, paper bags and file folders. **All plastics labeled 1—7.** Any colored Glass jars or bottles.
  - Metal cans. All types can be mixed in the same bin.

- **Trash**
  - Must be in a City of Portland trash bag.
  - Bring TVs and computer monitors, fluorescent lights, thermostats and batteries to the Peaks Island Transfer Station during regular operating hours.

- **U-Waste**
  - Annual Hazardous Waste Collection: 9:00—1:00 August 25, 2007 at Peaks Island Public Works. Bring oil based paints, stains, thinners, chemicals, pesticides, petroleum products. No explosives or medical waste.

For more information call 756-8189 or visit www.portlandpublicworks.com
Remembering another era at the Peaks Island School

This is a transcript of the speech given by Peaks Island resident Matt Morris to the graduating class of the Peaks Island Elementary School on June 14.

BY RITA MORRIS

Good Morning,

Miss Hasson, honored guests, parents and students. When I was asked to speak, I must have said, "Yes, I'll do it," because I don't know if I think the assignment might have been easier if I said, "I'll do it, but I can think of at least ten people it should be." I did say, however, that I would do it, and I have this piece of advice -- to read it for you, because it's a wonderful piece of advice.

It's advice if it was a notebook and baked in that kitchen in the Manhood House. The Simski family resides there now.

There was a fire building by island people on the spot where the fire truck stalls are. The city paid $400 for the land because it was a problem. In 1869 the four-room brick able 120 days before the election. The Maine Green Independent party. The ordinance would be available 120 days before the election.

At the graduation, the new principal for two years and just married to our mayor, Nick. Our school needs to buy an ambulance, transportation, parking, consolidation and education. According to the ordinance, the Island Council has the power to make any law or ordinance that is necessary for the political process to be formalized in a way that would allow islanders to express their views on issues of importance. Hoppin said.

Although segregation was defeated, the IIC has not been able to work with the new body.

When asked about the status of SNS, Hoppin said, "We all desire to work together toward the development of the Peaks Island Council."

Although Richard pointed out that the council is advisory only and has no authority and no power, "we're trying to get it going," and the new council is "trying to keep up with the system and make it work."

The council has not been able to work with the new body.

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The council has not been able to work with the new body.
Chebeague celebrates its newfound independence

Photos by David Tyler
The Island Times is turning 5!

Help us celebrate by sending in your subscription today! If you are already a subscriber, send in your renewal to make sure you don’t miss a single issue.

With the July 2007 issue, the Island Times turns five years old. Don’t wait any longer. Subscribe now. For just $20, you will receive a year’s worth of news and features about life on the islands in Casco Bay by mail. Better yet, subscribe for two years for $40 and avoid the nuisance of having to renew. Subscribing to the Island Times is a perfect way to keep up with what’s happening on all of the islands. It’s also a great way to show your support for your community newspaper. We’re counting on you!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mary Lou Wendell
David Tyler

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Please tell us what you like about the Island Times (or don’t like):
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Send this form, along with your check for $20 made payable to Island Times, to:
Island Times, 146 Ledgewood Road, Peaks Island, Maine, 04108.
Star Gazing

BY MIKE RICHARDS

The sun already rises later and sets earlier than it did a couple weeks ago, providing less overall sunshine in the northern hemisphere, and yet the temperature continues to rise here. Why is that? The surface of the Earth is mostly water-covered, so let’s look there for answers. If you heat a pot of water until it boils, and then reduce the heat by half, it continues to boil, as it takes less energy to keep it hot than it does to get it hot. The sun is just ending one of its 11-year cycles of activity, so it’s relatively quiet on the sun’s surface now, but scientists predict the next cycle could be a whisper, with solar storms throwing out coronal mass ejections of plasma that can reach the Earth in hours and flares of x-rays and ultraviolet rays that can reach Earth in minutes, disrupting satellite communications and causing massive electrical blackouts as Quebec had in 1989.

Fortunately, Earth’s strong magnetic field deflects most of the sun’s nuclear energy, and those particles that make it here are redirected to the poles. Astronauts in outer space will need to check https://spaceweather.com before going on their space-walks and dark back inside the space station if a solar storm approaches, to reduce the risk of radiation sickness as deadly as that produced by Chernobyl and Hiroshima. On Earth, humans’ eyes and skin need protection from the sun’s rays to prevent cataracts and skin cancer.

The Earth’s north pole is tilted toward the sun, so at night the Earth is leaning backward, leaving the eclipse season lower than the celestial equator. That’s why Jupiter sits so low in the southern sky, its setting this month.

Jupiter always makes a great target for backyard telescopes, with its four largest moons splashed out to the side in ever-changing patterns. Jupiter’s two dark bands are undergoing changes now, with streaks and dots appearing and expanding over the last year. That star below Jupiter is the red giant Antares, the heart of Scorpio.

Venus will separate from distant Saturn this month and fall toward the western horizon, its crescent growing longer and thinner each evening. It peaks in brightness near mid-month as Venus nears Earth, the angle of reflected sunlight gets shallower, and the surface area of light grows larger.

In the pre-dawn sky, tiny Mercury pops up for a quick visit, changing shape from a thin crescent at the start of July to a small, fat gibbous by month’s end. Ruddy Mars is also up in the morning but will be better viewed at the end of the year.

Venus is a blue dot going retrograde in Aquarius. Neptune is retrograde in Capricorn, and Pluto is retrograde in Sagittarius, as Earth’s faster orbit makes them seem as though they’re moving backward against the distant stellar background.

Here’s the constellation now directly overhead at 9 p.m. It’s composed of dim stars and takes some hunting with a star chart, but it’s also full of deep sky objects and worth a long look with binoculars. The bright star to the east of it is Lying, and farther east is the Northern Cross of Cygnus the Swan, flying along the Milky Way.

Want to get away? Put on long sleeves and long pants, set up a lawn chair on a dark deck away from ambient light, and adjust your binoculars to your eyes (and your eyes to the dark), and take a relaxing stroll in outer-space.

All those stars are suns like ours, and many of them have planets not unlike those within our own solar system. Surely several are situated perfectly as Earth is and have life, albeit not necessarily, perhaps including someone looking back at you.

July 1: Venus sets below and left of Saturn, separating more each night throughout the month.

July 6: The Earth is at aphelion; it’s farther from the Sun in its slightly elliptical orbit. Good thing for us the Earth’s northern half is now tipped toward the sun. If aphelion occurred in winter and perihelion in summer, the temperature extremes would be even more severe than they currently are.

July 7: Last quarter moon is high at sunset.

July 8: This afternoon the moon’s at perigee, 30,000 miles closer to earth than two weeks ago, so tides and currents are building.

July 12: Venus is as bright as it gets tonight. If you can find a dark spot in this city of light, you might even see Venus cast a shadow behind you. This morning the moon will be a thin crescent just past the ocean in the pre-dawn sky.

July 14: New moon this morning, pulling with the Sun at the Earth’s ocean waters, so spring tide is July 11.5 feet between high and low.

July 16: Best conjunction this month! At 9 p.m. tonight a crescent moon sits over Portland with brilliant Venus to its left and Saturn to its right. Tomorrow night the moon moves to Venus’ left.

July 20: Mercury is at greatest elongation from the Sun this morning, so if the sky is clear, get up before dawn, grab the binoculars, head backshore, and try to snare this elusive speck.

July 22: First quarter Moon is high in the sky at sunset, but it’ll be little, as it’s at apogee today. The next few nights it wanes gibbous, the phase that’s best for terrestrial travel along the terminator line between light and dark, when shadows are long and craters show themselves in 3-D splendor.

July 25: Tonight the gibbous moon hangs behind Jupiter in the southern sky. The next few nights a minor meteor shower will provide a few shooting stars, but moonshine will mellow them out. Neap tide today is just 5.2 feet between high and low.

July 28: Tonight the Full Thunder Moon rises just after the 7:15 p.m. boat leaves the mainland, providing a path of moonlight on the bay for those heading home to the island.
Lobstermen build wooden boat and continue a Maine tradition

BY DAVID TYLER
At a time when most lobster boats in Maine are fiberglass, the tradition of lobstermen who build their own wooden boats is being kept alive on Chebeague Island.

Chebeague lobstermen Chris and Sherman Rich have both built their own wooden boats, following their father, Herb Rich, who built numerous wooden boats on the island. Mike Olsen and Todd build wooden punts.

Chebeague lobstermen Mike Robinson, 50 and Mark Olsen, 37, started a new, 48-foot wooden lobster boat over the winter. It is Robinson’s eighth boat and Olsen’s second.

Robinson has been building boats since 1986. “It’s the answer to it,” he said. “I like doing it—it keeps me busy. And it sure can fill up a winter.”

Robinson and Olsen began building a 41-foot boat together in 1995. Olsen was Robinson’s sternman at the time and he knew it would be cheaper to build his own boat, then buy one. They finished it in two winters, launched it in 1997, and it is now Olsen’s lobster boat, Woodcutter’s Daughter.

“The boat that I have now is one of the first in Casco Bay,” said Olsen. Wooden boats, when they soak up the water, take the boat better, he said. “When they get older they do get more comfortable,” Olsen said.

In another of last year, Robinson and Olsen were talking about boat-building. Olsen said he was watching the video that was made documenting the building of Woodcutter’s Daughter. “It just popped in my head—I wouldn’t be interested to do another,” Olsen said.

Robinson said he got a call from Olsen who said, “Let’s build anotherboat!” said Robinson. “I wonder now that you’re lazy.”

When asked why he likes to build wooden boats, Olsen said, “It just seems like something you can say did—and you only have one shot to learn in life.” said Olsen.

The two lobstermen began work in February and kept going until May, when they had to get ready for the lobster season.

The new boat is 48-feet long and is designed by Peter Kassi of John’s Bay Boat Company in South Bristol. The plans call for a 1,000 horsepower Cummins engine.

Robinson drove the loft lines, the plans for the boat’s shape, on the floor of the shed where the boat is being built; Robinson and Olsen drew the plans for the keel and the shaft on Olsen’s ping-pong table.

This winter, the two were able to lay the keel and finish the boat’s ribbing. The skeleton of the boat sits in a temporary plastic and wood shed near the island’s store and community center, so islanders can watch their progress.

Olsen said he’s in no hurry, expecting this boat to take three to five years to finish. Olsen wants to build it methodically so he can pay for it with his income from lobstering and not have to take out loans. “It’s something I can pay back.”

Building a boat is a deliberate process. “On a lobster boat, particularly one that’s full in the bow, there’s an awful lot of sweep,” said Robinson. “Every single plank is individually made. Every single plank has a different shape. It’s quite a lot of figuring.”

Robinson was eight years old when he started lobstering with his brother, Gene, out of a small wooden punt. They had 11 traps up and down the shore along the center of the island. Robinson was 29 when he built his first boat. The boat he had was getting old, and he knew he had to replace it. At that time, it would have cost $80,800 to buy a new boat.

Robinson had always been interested in wooden boats. Herb Rich, Robinson’s father, had always asked, “I always wanted to build a boat.”

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Robinson said that this might be his last boat he builds. “At this stage of the game, if I can finish this one, that might be it,” he said.

His current lobster boat is fiberglass. So there might be one more boat in him.

Chebeague celebration events conclude

The 11-day celebration of the new Town of Chebeague Island concluded this weekend. At 7 p.m. on Fri., July 6, the game show “So You Think You Know Chebeague” will be held at the Chebeague Island Community Center. A sing-a-long with Tom Adams and Linda Ewing follows the game.

Saturday at 8:30 p.m. on July 7 is the first ever Chebeague Island Quodchashon at the Chebeague Island School Commons. Chebeague Island Quods Chapmanson is held in this event in the new year to have a Rob Dyer punt for one-eighth of a mile, over the ocean of a collar of a mile, run for two-and-a-half miles and cycle for four-and-a-half miles. At noon at the boatyard will be the blessing of the fleet.

Summer events at the Fifth Maine

Come to the Cabaret at the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum on Saturday July 14 for an evening of fun, food, and great entertainment provided by many of our talented island musicians, singers and storytellers. Our host will be Peaks Island’s own Jack Nicholas (aka Ed Ezzard). The fun starts at 8 p.m. Sharp. Tickets are $15 per person. Appetizers, soft drinks, and ice provided. You may even win a door prize! Bring your family and friends and those ever-present summer houseguests for a night on the town! Proceeds from this special night will benefit community history enrichment programs at the Peaks Island School.

On Sat., July 21, comrades from the 3rd Maine Infantry and the 3rd Maine Fife & Drum will be on hand to celebrate Civil War Day with the 5th Maine and 6th Maine.

There will be a variety of military and civilian presentations along with a guest speaker from the Joshua Chamberlain Civil War Roundtable at the 5th. The 8th Maine will offer tours of their hall all afternoon and a talk about the restoration of their photograph collection. The festivities will conclude with an old fashioned bean supper at the 5th Maine followed by a contra dance at the 8th Maine. Look for details posted around the island.

Party held to thank secession supporter

There will be a thank you party for secession supporter on Sat., July 14 from 1-4 p.m. at the Peaks Island Lions Club. The Food is potluck and the Uncalled Four and the Cool Ices Band will provide entertainment.

Annual PILP meeting held

PILP’s annual membership meeting will be held at the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum on July 26, beginning at 6 p.m. Entertainment post-meeting will be provided by Ron Dale Wingfield & Kevin Attra. For membership or additional information, visit our website at www.preservepeaks.org.

Community Notes

Yard sale to benefit Island Commons

The annual Island Commons yard sale starts at 10 a.m. on Sat., Aug. 4 at the Chebeague Island Hall Community Center. Call Penny Haffner at 846-3262 for information on donating items or volunteering at this popular annual Chebeague Island event. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Island Commons.

Classifieds

Winter rental: Two bedroom house available September through May, private location, short walk to ferry, new kitchen, nicely furnished, $800 plus utilities. Please call 706-6951.