Long Island rejects proposed wind power ordinance

BY KEVIN ATTRA

After debating the issue for about half an hour at its 2009 town meeting on Saturday, May 9, the Long Island community rejected a proposed set of rules that would govern the construction of small, private, free-standing wind turbines on the island. “My take,” said Moderator Mark Greene: “As soon as people see something really complicated — and it was — they get really uneasy on it.”

“Lots of people like the idea of wind power until it goes up next year,” he laughed.

In all, members of the community spent eight hours working their way through 69 articles on the warrant, including the election of a new selectman and two school committee members, approval of the 2009-2010 school and town budgets, and amendments to building and zoning codes.

Selectman Mike Floyd, whose term expired July 1, said he proposed the wind turbine policy, Article 59 — a 2,652 word document written in federal code format with seven subsections — was drafted by the town’s planning board based on a similar ordinance in Oregon. Like Greene, he felt it was too lengthy and complex as written.

“There was so much to it,” he said, “and there were questions about how it applied to the island, whether the height allowance was enough.” The article mandated a maximum tower height of 70 feet, with a minimum blade clearance of 20 feet from the ground.

“Maybe too involved for the people to take it,” Floyd concluded. The community seems to be interested in exploring alternative energy on the island, and Greene said the committee will no doubt bring something new to the table next year.

In other business, Thomas Holm was elected to replace Floyd on the board of selectmen, and new school committee member Melissa Cleaves, for a 2-year term, and Amy Tierney, 3-year, were also chosen. All three positions were crowded with candidates, which resulted in runoff elections in each contest.

In addition, one hour was spent debating the boundaries of a Town Administrator, a debate that Greene called one of the best he’d ever heard. He said, “People gave a lot of thought to their government and how it should work.” The measure was approved in a 74-17 vote.

As a result, it took three hours to get through the elections for new town officials – an unusual length of time according to Town Treasurer Nancy Jordan.

Possibly due to hunger or exhaustion, therefore, voters were still milling about the hour on the next 48 articles, approving an earned $1,125 million town budget in rapid succession by noon. Even a 1 percent increase in the mill rate, which had previously remained unchanged for 10 years, slid through with hardly a whimper. The final four hours of the meeting were spent on land use.

Although the total budget only increased by three percent, Jordan said revenues from town were down significantly from last year, adding that there was no cash surplus as in prior years mainly due to the market crash and depressed interest rates.

She offered that people may have seen the property tax increase as a necessary way to offset those losses.

The school budget also went up, rising nearly six percent to $472,396, although the burden to the town was offset somewhat by an increase, which is roughly doubled this year, according to Jordan.

CBITD general manager, two island councilors resign

By Kevin Attra

Within a 24-hour period, the resignations of three prominent public figures were tendered with two island institutions.

Peaks Island Council members Mike Langella and Bob Harley resigned Wednesday night, June 24, in a regular session of the PIC, effective Dec. 1. Both men complete the second year of their three-year term.

The following morning CBITD General Manager Catherine Debo resigned after spending months in closed executive sessions with the Casco Bay Lines board of directors. She will have been with the company three years in January.

Connecticut Mike Langella announced his resignation at the end of the June 24 meeting, under “other business”, citing personal and real estate reasons. He said he will fulfill his duties as a councilor through the November elections, where a billion of replacement candidates can be put before the community, and will follow through with work he’s begun on public safety.

In a letter to City Clerk Linda Cohen informing her of his decision, he wrote, “I do this with regret, knowing that because of personal and business changes in my life occurring after that date, I will be unable to devote the necessary time required to be an effective member of the council.”

The immediate following Langella’s announcement, Councillor Bob Harley declared the same intention, also for personal reasons. He said that, being in the “fourth quarter” of his life, he would like to spend as much time as possible with his considerable, extended family.

City Councilor Kevin Donoghue, who was at the meeting, said afterwards that he knew both men planned to resign, but was surprised when they did it at once.

Island Councilor Tom Bohan said in an email letter that he was worried about the November elections, when both he and Betsy Stout will also be up for re-election, because it means four seats will be open on the council.

“If neither she nor I run again, there could be a large change in the make-up of the PIC,” he wrote. “Not to mention that it was the last election, at least, there did not seem to be a lot of people rushing forward to sit on the Council.”

The change in management at the Bay Lines on Thursday, June 25 was not as surprising, given that the board had been meeting in closed, executive sessions for the past two months with no public orders not to say anything about the discussions.

According to a letter published immediately after the announcement, Debo said, “Family commitments have led me to conclude that giving notice and resigning my position is the best course of action.”

She said she will be in the office through July 10, and continue to work with the district periodically by phone and emails to see some projects through.

Her statements echoed similar ones she made when she left the Madison, Wisconsin bus line, Metro Transit, in 2006 after months of closed meetings with the mayor, whose spokesman would only say “inamicable.”

“The end result is that Catherine is leaving,” he was quoted as saying.

According to company President Donna Rockett, Debo is currently working on three new projects, including the possible sale of the city’s interest in the parking garage.

Debo said she told the board that, under the original grant agreement with the Federal Transit Administration, excess revenue (after operating and maintenance costs) of the garage must be returned to the district by the city, having accumulated since operation of the garage began in 1990.
New queuing pattern for traffic down front

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Due to safety concerns about traffic congestion down front, new rules were agreed upon by representatives of the Peaks Island Community Council, the Portland Police Department, city staff, Public Services personnel, Casco Bay Lines, and the City Manager's office in June to expand the number of parking spaces on lower Welch and Island Avenue and extend the queue as far as the post office, rather than redirecct cars straight up Welch to Adams Street.

The new rules, which took effect this month as soon as the new signs were installed, double the number of spaces for cars waiting for the ferry from 12 to 24, and prohibit double parking, effective on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Welch Street to the post office for ferry waiting (see photo). Non-ferry parking is not allowed there on weekends and holidays, and double parking is prohibited. At the PIC’s monthly workshop meeting Wednesday, June 10, the new plan was described as a last ditch effort to keep traffic from being rerouted by Welch Street past the American Legion to Adams Street, allegedly a solution that police and Public Services personnel prefer.

“If this doesn’t work, they’re going up Welch Street,” said Councilor Lynne Richard at the meeting.

Public opinion has been mixed on the queuing issue since it was first discussed in March. Island residents have had to weigh the need for traffic safety down front against the impact of increased congestion down front against the impact of increased

Public Services personnel prefer.

Councilor Richard said in an email that the council “did a good job representing islands’ needs” in the negotiations with Casco Bay Lines and city personnel, who, she added, had the only real authority to make any changes. “The other parties licensed to us.”

The question now is, will it work?

In discussing Councilor Mike Langella road maintenance crews and police are poised and ready to go up Welch Street if they see no improvement and traffic continues to congeal whenever a boat arrives. The new rules rely heavily on cooperation from drivers, and increased enforcement by the police. Langella hopes residents will also help.

“We expect a period of transition,” wrote Councilor Richard, “and police are ready to assist with education and traffic management. We hope this plan is a success, so that we can avoid further, more dramatic changes.”

In another business, the PIC approved $4,150 from the 50k fund and another $1,200 from the operating budget to fund the initial startup cost of a new fare service, ITS, over the initial $12,000 awarded in April, which was spent to buy the vehicle, an $8,300 Erodge van, make an additional $1,500 to $1,600 in repairs and modifications, and pay $5,000 in insurance costs.

The community garden was given $3,200 from the operating budget to fund the workshop after a somewhat lengthy debate about access, site closure in case people lose interest and other contingencies.

Jubal Kessler, as de facto speaker for the community garden project, said, “The worse thing that can happen is it will have made the soil richer.”

In an email from Councilor Mike Langella explaining the new rules, he wrote, “Often, the street is very crowded which impedes safety for all. Sometimes, emergency vehicles can’t, or couldn’t pass through the congested street intersection. All too often, double parking at the turn-around and at the front of the ice cream store further impede safe conditions.”

To address these problems, space on lower Welch Street was increased from nine to 12 by moving the police, taxi and 15-minute spots to the turnaround at the parking lot entrance (the handicap parking space was left alone). A similar increase was effected along Island Avenue by appropriating all the parking space from Welch Street to the post office for ferry waiting (see photo). Non-ferry parking is not allowed there on weekends and holidays, and double parking is prohibited.

The Bagheera is featured on the cover of this issue because it is expected to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places this month, an honor already bestowed on the Wendameenc, her sister ship at Portland Schooner, owned and operated by Scott Reischmann.

Both ships make regular day trips and overnight excursions west throughout Casco Bay. For more information call 766-2500 or visit www.portlandshooner.com.

Bay Lines toys with electronic ticketing

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Following an executive session that lasted only 10 minutes, CBITD’s Rate Structure Committee met Thursday, June 11, to discuss the possibility of implementing electronic ticketing using scanners on each boat to swipe magnetic and monthly and annual passes in order to do away with the implied round trip currently built into the ticket price.

Chair Chris Hoppin, who has advocated electronic ticketing for over a year, said it would increase revenue for the ferry service without raising ticket prices. Board President Donna Rockett said the district could recoup as much as $70,000 in revenue lost through current loopholes in the fare structure, such as when commuters use a water taxi service to get to the islands and then ride free on the ferry back to Portland.

Recently Maine DOT finalized the paperwork for a federal grant of $150,000 to the district towards the purchase of an updated fare collection system and related software and equipment, though not necessarily for electronic ticketing. The existing computer and telephonic equipment are obsolete and expected to be replaced with the grant, according to several members of the CBITD staff.

But instead of upgrading the existing paper ticket system, the committee considered converting to an electronic system based on a model developed by Gateway Ticketing Systems that would work much like the EZ Pass system used for toll ways. Ferry passengers would purchase a block of credit towards one-way passage in any amount they choose or can afford, and the cost of a ticket would be deducted each time their magnetic card is swiped when they board a boat.

Discount packages – commuter books, and monthly and annual passes – would be discontinued in favor of bulk discounts. The price per ticket would go down the more a person spends, theoretically shifting the highest costs to the casual user and giving island residents the biggest discount because they would presumably buy more tickets at any one time.

The committee also proposed scaling ticket prices according to destination based on four zones: Peaks Island, Long Island, the Diamonds, and Chebeague and Cliff together, which would cause prices to change for rides down the bay (excluding Long), in some cases raising the price and in others lowering it.

According to a written proposal outlined in the June 11 agenda, electronic ticketing would be phased in, starting with a pilot study as soon as July 1 at a discount rate based on four zones. Island residents would be informed of the changes.

In other business, an issue over the use of non-commercial pick up trucks by contractors traveling to Peaks Island was raised, because it put those vehicles in a less expensive freight and auto category than trucks having commercial plates, however, General Manager Catherine Debo was able to report that no one or two contractors do that, and for the most part the service is used honestly. She said creating new safeguards “may be like a solution in search of a problem.”

On the cover:
Bagheera

Due to an unusually high volume of news, we have had to appropriately orient this page in order to cover issues we thought were important or in the public interest. The cover story series will return next month in this space, barring another flood of news.

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Jubal Kessler, as de facto speaker for the community garden project, said, "The worse thing that can happen is it will have made the soil richer."
Plante awarded for service

BY CAROL COULTAS

Three Portland-area companies took top honors at the 10th annual Maine Family Business Awards dinner Thursday, May 21, at the Marriott Sable Oaks, hosted by the Institute for Family-Owned Business. Among those honored at the ceremony was Lionel Plante Associates, the family behind the barge service that has served Casco Bay islanders for 50 years, cited for its community service. The company provides marine transportation, site work excavation and fuel, but its volunteer service in transporting fire equipment, assisting with Coast Guard rescues and oil spill cleanup earned special mention.

Portland's Eide W. Noyes & Sons moving company, formed in 1923, and in the small company category, The Lobster Shack at Two Lights, Cape Elizabeth also won awards.

The presentations were made by former Guy Gannett Communications Chairman Maddy Conson, L.L. Bean Chairman Leon Gorman and former CEO of Lee Auto Mall's Shap Lee, all members and supporters of the institute. The Institute for Family-Owned Business is a nonprofit organization that supports and assists family businesses to reach their full potential. The group, formerly operated as a program under the University of Southern Maine, but struck out on its own last year. Family owned businesses account for 35% of Fortune 500 companies, 79% of new jobs, 56% of the nation's employment and 35% of its GDP, according to the institute.

Recycling focus of island communities

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Two new recycling efforts were launched last month on Great Diamond and Peaks Island aimed at reducing the number of cans and bottles that get thrown in the trash because there's nowhere else to put them.

On Peaks Island, six new recycling bins were debuted during the annual PearlFest celebration, and placed around the island in high traffic locations so that people partying on the back shore or walking onto the boat have a place to drop their cans and bottles. The containers are each uniquely decorated by island artists so that even a 4-year-old will know what they're for," said the project's creator, Mary Ann Mitchell of the Peaks Island Environmental Action Team.

She spent the last year and a half collecting funds, acquiring the barrels, and arranging for them to be maintained. Her plan is for each non-profit organization on the island to get a turn at collecting the glass and plastic for an allotted period of time, and then keep the proceeds for their own use.

On Great Diamond, the Hannaford recycling operator, CLYNK, announced in a press release from Senior Vice President Julie Turner, that it had begun a pilot recycling program in conjunction with Casco Bay Lines on Tuesday, June 23, that allows residents to deliver bagged materials to two landings on the island. Casco Bay Lines has agreed to collect them and return them to the mainland where CLYNK staff will then redeem the contents and credit the island residents who sent them.

According to Turner's email, CRITD Operations Manager Nick Maravides agreed to participate in the pilot study because "we understand the challenges our residents face in trying to get cans and bottles back to the mainland," he was quoted as saying, adding, "We will analyze the results over the next five to six weeks and decide if it makes sense to expand the service to the other islands as well."

Gone with the wind

Jamie Feeny's cruiser went fishing without him sometime during the new moon Monday morning, June 22, narrowly missing a pile of rocks before beaching on Cushing Island (right). He propped it up until it could be recovered during the next high tide, which came in one foot higher that night.

Wind and unusually strong currents had been pummeling the area for a week, making work next to impossible for many folks in the fishing and lobstering industries, said one, "I'm freaking out. I can't stand not working, especially this time of year."
Lines from Casco Bay Lines

The Casco Bay Island Transit District that runs Casco Bay Lines is owned and operated by islanders. There are 10 elected board members and two appointed ones who try to operate the ferry line as a break-even enterprise. That’s not easy at any time, of course, but very difficult during these days of financial turmoil.

The CBITD was established more than two decades ago to operate with very little government support. Our predecessors on the board of directors agreed to run the Casco Bay ferries in that independent manner. Although government funds have increased slightly, they now account for less than 20 percent of the District’s $3 million annual budget.

What does that mean to all of us as riders? Those numbers translate to a system that leads to Casco Bay Lines passengers paying more than four-fifths of costs. Passengers on other transit districts, including the state-owned ferries of Penobscot Bay, pay around half of their costs.

Even though they have considerably fewer daily ferry trips and therefore less costs, that is still a significant difference by any measure.

Peaks Islander Steve MacIsaac, who has spent nearly 30 years helping transit systems across the country, reports that far too many are used nationwide to offset transit operating costs. “Most bus, rail and ferry lines lose money in their day-to-day operations,” he explained. “This happens because public transit providers are required to operate low volume routes that ‘for profit’ carriers would immediately eliminate because they do not generate enough income and are bad for business.”

As a result, virtually all transit systems obtain supplemental funds or subsidies from city, county, state and federal government sources.

“Many transit operations have additional sources for income,” he continued, “like bridge tolls, or they are financed by state sales or gas taxes, for example. They are also helped by the anticipated losses or deficits that are part of City budgets. The rationale for transit subsidies is that highways are typically built by income tax dollars and maintained by gas tax dollars so transit systems should receive a similar subsidy.”

Many of us believe that the ferries are simply buses on water and should be supported by taxes and subsidized in a similar manner. One could easily suggest that Peaks is a neighborhood of Portland that is very similar to North Deering, for example, when it comes to subsidized temporary until the construction projects began, and is subject to annual review by the council.

Vehicles with an IR sticker are exempt from the two-hour time limit on those streets; however, they must be moved Mondays and Tuesdays in accordance with the standard posted street maintenance signs, and are also subject to snow bans and emergency no parking restrictions.

End of the Road

BY KEVIN ATTRA

PILP land steward and President Garry Fox said this Saab 900 was set on fire inside Battery Steele probably some time Thursday night, June 11. It was the second time this year a car was burned inside the former World War II gun battery, now owned and maintained by PILP as one of several properties in its land trust.

According to a police spokesperson, ownership of the vehicle is being traced through its identification number, which is usually stamped on an aluminum plate that melts beyond recognition in fires of this severity. But in this case the VIN was recovered.

IR parking zone renewed another year

BY KEVIN ATTRA

On June 1 the Portland City Council unanimously approved an extension, sponsored by the Transportation Committee, chaired by Kevin Donoghue, to renew the island parking zone for an additional year because neither the proposed condo development at the corner of Thames and Hancock Streets nor another project appeared to be scheduled to start in the upcoming year.

The establishment of the 55-space off-street parking zone last June, designated IR for island residents, on Thames and Hancock streets was only

2009 Round-trip Fare Comparisons for Maine ferry services

Inspired by conversations with CBITD General Manager Catherine Debo, boat staff and island residents, we decided to list a comparison of ferry prices throughout the state. Fare rates were provided by Ms. Debo in an email sent June 12, and confirmed from ferry line websites and telephone interviews with staff.

Figures based on 2009 round trip adult fares and approximate travel distances in miles one way.

1. Casco Bay Lines (CBITD, seasonal rates)
   - Portland to Peaks Island, 2.1 miles: $8.20 peak/$4.10 off-peak
   - Portland to Little Diamond, 1.7 miles: $8.70/$5.20
   - Portland to Great Diamond, 2.3 miles: $9.35/$5.45
   - Portland to Diamond Cove, 3.6 miles: $10.50/$6.25
   - Portland to Long Island, 4.4 miles: $10.50/$6.25
   - Portland to Chebeague Island, 6.4 miles: $11.55/$6.75
   - Portland to Cliff Island, 7.4 miles: $12.05/$7.45

2. Chebeague Island Ferry (passenger only)
   - Cousins Island to Chebeague, (a “guess”): 1.5 miles: $15/$13

3. Maine State Ferry (year-round rates)
   - Lincolnville to Islesboro, 3 miles: $8.50
   - Bass Harbor to Swans, 6 miles: $16
   - Bass Harbor to Frenchboro, 8.25 miles: $10
   - Rockland to North Haven, 12.5 miles: $16
   - Rockland to Vinalhaven, 15 miles: $16
   - Rockland to Matinicus, 23 miles: $33

4. Bar Harbor Ferry (June thru Aug.)
   - Bar Harbor to Winter Harbor, 8 miles: $29.50

5. Cranberry Cove Ferry (May to Sept.)
   - Southwest Harbor’s upper town dock to Great Cranberry, 2.5 miles: $24 (same price to Indianport and Little Cranberry, ½ mile or so farther on).

6. Hardy Boat Cruises (year-round)
   - New Harbor to Monhegan Island, 10 miles: $32

7. Monhegan Boat Line (year-round)
   - Port Clyde to Monhegan Island, 14 miles: $32

8. Isle au Haut Boat Services (year-round)
   - Stonington to Isle au Haut, 6 miles: $35

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Buy Fresh - Buy Local - Buy Fresh - Buy local
Long Island launches fundraising for comm. center renovation

BY KEVIN ATTRE

Members of the Long Island Recreation Department are painstakingly researching grants and planning fundraisers in order to renovate the 67-year-old cinderblock building (bottom right photo) that serves as the town’s community center into a year-round modern facility, and hopes to incorporate as much green technology as possible into the new structure.

“We’re bringing it from its current industrial space – it was an old, WWII garage – to a modern, efficient, greener facility,” said the department’s Facility Director Alanna Rich.

The renovation, designed by Yarmouth architect, Frank Oliva, who characterized the plans as “ambitious”, calls for gutting the interior of the building and redistributing space to create a new teen center and senior lounge, expand the historical society museum and the pottery center, and create a new kitchen. A small addition will be built as well (see plan above).

The most significant improvements, however, are focused on upgrading the safety and comfort of the building so that it can be used throughout the year, something Rich is particularly happy about.

Oliva said he will “replace aged systems beyond a level of safety”, which include structural components and outdated electrical systems, as well as creating handicap access to the building to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act with improvements such as entry ramps, wider doorways and the use of special hardware. The main entry will also receive an airlock to keep indoor temperatures stable.

Oliva said the cost of gutting and rebuilding the facility as planned will probably consume the total budget, expected to be around $500,000, and that alternative energy heating and power systems will have to be phased in at a later date. “I’m excited to incorporate green energy technology and efficiency,” said Rich. “We’ll definitely incorporate solar power. I don’t know about wind power.”

According to Oliva, the only affordable green efforts at this point are insulating the entire building – it has none – and providing as much sunlight as possible by replacing the existing windows with larger ones and installing skylights where possible. “I think we’re going to be up against it to do the renovations,” he said.

The department started fundraising efforts April 5 with an event at Andy’s on Commercial Street that featured live music from local bands and raised about $1,700. It received another $31,000 in a community development block grant with matching funds from the town, and a few hundred in rental fees for tables at the flea market last month. The community approved an additional $5,000 at the May 9 town meeting to pay architect’s fees.

Currently, Rich said the department has applied for money from the Stephen King Fund ($20,000), the Libra Foundation ($25,000) and the Maine Community Building Fund ($7,500). “We don’t qualify for a lot of grants,” she said, “because per capita income for the town is about $2,000 over the limit for USDA grants (based on the 2000 census).”

Rich said the department is also raising funds through Shaw’s Supermarkets’ Community Rewards program, which allows shoppers to donate 10 percent of their purchases towards the project using their Rewards Card (www.shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards). Enrollment is under the recreation department’s ID: 49001018720.

Summer fundraising events begin Friday, July 3, with a wine tasting at Joseph and Karen Oldfield’s home on Long Island. A community dance, “Lido’s Beach”, will be held at the VFW building Saturday, July 11, with music by local favorites Jonathan and Katie Norton, and there is an open house from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. the day before so you can see what’s all about.

The department is also hosting a masquerade ball on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the community center, and the “Grisham Cottage” on Long Island is donating its summer rental fees for tables at the flea market last month. The community approved an additional $5,000 at the May 9 town meeting to pay architect’s fees.

Rich said the department will spend the next two to three years raising money so that the bulk of the renovation can be done all at once, which she said must take place during the off-season because the 6-week summer program provides virtually all of the operating budget of the department for the year.

More information on the rehabilitation can be found at the Long Island town website: www.townoflongisland.us. You can also write to the project coordinator at: Long.Island.Recreation@gmail.com.

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Starting July 5th
we will be open on
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come in and enjoy
15% off
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Call ahead, we will have
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up in time for the boat!

Also enjoy local produce from organic
farms, & cheeses from local creameries!
HELP US SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!
Community Letters

Letter to the Editor

All of the generous donations that we've received at the Peaks Island Children's Workshop these past couple of months are truly representative of the wonderful, supportive community we're a part of! We've received support in the form of Financial donations, volunteers, and even window washing! Special thanks go out to: KeyBank volunteers for doing just about everything to spruce up the place; All the folks who made the new playground woodchips a possibility, including Skilling's Nurseries, Lionel Plante's large service, and Charles Ramsey Landscaping; United Way Day of Caring Volunteers for all the yardwork; Kamp Masonry and Landscaping for ramping the sandbox; Dave Waszekelowicz for our supportive community we're a part of!

Meg Springer Holdridge
Executive Director
Peaks Island Children's Workshop

Who owns this buoy?

I wanted to pass on an experience I had last summer on the beach with the hopes of educating some that may not be as aware or understand the importance of this subject.

My friends and I were sitting on the beach on a beautiful afternoon when an adult walked by after having pulled up on a bike. He proceeded to walk over to a lobster buoy that was fairly shallow in the water due to it being a very low tide. He untied the buoy from the line of traps, took it and left to rejoin his family of bikers. I knew obviously this was not right, and so proceeded to call the authorities, and was told someone would get right back to us. The 10 minute wait for the return call was long enough for the man to come back to return the buoy, probably encouraged a little from seeing me call the authorities, as I was watching him. He did retie the buoy, to his credit, and mentioned something to the effect that his kids encouraged him to do so. Who is playing the adult here?

Two days later a second situation - same buoy - and once again I was there to see it unfold. A woman pulled up along the beach in a golf cart. She proceeded to walk across the beach to the same buoy, untie it and start to walk away with it. This time I decided to approach it from a friendly, educational point of view. I explained to her that the buoy was attached to five traps, and that the lobsterman would need the buoy to locate his traps when the tide was high. The woman said she was just unangling the line and thought the trap was crushed. I assured her it was not, and she returned it.

Now, we all know the excitement of finding a stray, washed up buoy on shore - a true treasure. But when the buoy is still attached to a line of traps, not only is it costly for the lobstermen who are working so hard for a living, but it is against the law to touch them.

My hope is, in the future if you see a buoy in the water and it is attached to a line, let it stay where it belongs. The lobsterman is able to do his job, and work with the gear that is ultimately his.

Cathy Buxton
North Yarmouth

Community Gardening

Community gardening has gained significant popularity in recent years. Although kitchen gardens were the status quo only a few generations ago, in recent decades, most people chose to forgo food of the home-grown variety in lieu of more convenient alternatives such as fast food and supermarkets. In response to the interest in green living, there has been a resurgence of gardening through the "slosh" movement.

Books such as the 100-Mile Diet, in which the authors commit to only eating food grown within a 100-mile radius of their home, are part of a growing literary movement entailing the benefits of knowing where and how our food is grown. If it is grown and eaten locally, our ecological footprint is reduced by cutting food miles, and nutrient levels are improved from a reduction in transport and storage. Because of organic practices inherent with most community gardens, the quality of the soil is improved. Some of the symbiotic health benefits of local produce include fewer processed, affordable food, a reduction of potential risk from food additives like pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and less alienation from food production creating a greater sense of choice, understanding and responsibility for diet.

Additionally, the community garden ensures a permanent, sustainable and economical food supply while bringing people together and fostering a greater sense of community and stewardship of green spaces. These interests in addition to the healthy, organic vegetables that the garden produces. Consciously savoring the nourishment and healing that nature provides leads us back to a sense of sacredness of food and appreciation of its essential and ecological principles.

by Justin Palmer

An Open Letter to the Peaks Island Community

I'm writing this open letter to members of the Peaks Island Community to highlight an ongoing concern for the Peaks Island Land Preserve. As you know we have the mission of protecting the parcels of land on Peaks Island. Access to these parcels is not restricted except in ways that violate the covenants placed on particular parcels.

The Peaks Island Land Preserve benefits everyone who sits on the backshore, walks through Battery Steele, or bikes on one of the many trails through Parker woods, the city parcel, or spends an evening enjoying the quiet of Davie's Sanctuary. Whatever your use or uses, PILP land I want to ask for the community's support in our ongoing effort to protect these properties for the continued enjoyment of all.

Recently, a distressing incident at Battery Steele underscored the delicate balance between license and liberty that we walk with a common resource.

The incident was the second time in just over a year that someone thought the Battery would be a great place to haul a car and set it on fire. In both instances the cars were not just burned, but ignited and burned completely. Knowing the post-war history of the Battery and the long, memories of some I can see this as a continuation of another time. Both of these incidents were criminal, irresponsible, toxic, and show a complete disregard for the safety of others and the commons we all benefit from. I realize for those responsible for these incidents they were "just having fun" but at whose expense? We are all fortunate that no one was trapped in the Battery and overcome by the toxic smoke and killed by the irresponsible actions of one or a few.

This brings me to an appeal to all islanders and most especially those who are responsible for this most recent incident. We all benefit from those commons and like most common things we may take a privilege for granted. Remember, "you never miss the silence until it is gone", so please help us protect those properties, and if you, or someone you know, is anxious to have "some fun" at our collective expense, perhaps you might remember that a commons belongs to no "ONE" but to ALL, and you're responsible to all of us for how you choose to use the commons.

Sincerely, Garry Fox
President, PILP
Siegward, Battery Steele

ISLAND TIMES

Publisher: Kevin Attra
Member of the Society of Professional Journalists

Arts Editor - Jamie Hogan
Comm. Notes - Rhonda Berg
Research - Irene Schenstedt
Proof Reader - R Wingfield

Feature Writers:
Jerrey Garman
Mike Richards
Fran Houston
Rebecca Stephens

Special Contributors: Justin Palmer
Cynthia Mellon
Nicole Evans
Joyce Cassidy O'Reilly
Bill Zimmerman

Production Assistance:
Craig Davis
Mark Shiao
Jack Shallow

Internships:
Edison Hanley
Sofi Praia

The Island Times is a community newspaper covering the islands in Casco Bay. We welcome birth, engagement and wedding announcements; obituaries; notices of community events; and letters to the editor. Please try to keep letters to 300 words or less; We reserve the right to edit all letters. The newspaper is available by mail for $25 a year. Address checks to Island Times. Our mailing address is 120 Bradbury Ave., Peaks Island, Maine, 04131. To reach Kevin Attra, call (207) 650-3016 or e-mail kattrice@tdislandtimes.org. For ads rates visit our website at: www.islandtimes.org

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A yogic perspective on health and simple living

BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stepahns teaches weekly yoga classes and private yoga lessons at Peaks Island. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or column ideas to 765-3017 or ryoga@ivic.net.

One evening early in June, I was on my way to Peaks Island Chorale rehearsal when I realized that I had forgotten the headlamp for my bicycle. I live in a section of the island without street lights, which I love because it makes the star gazing and the moon rises particularly vivid. Cycling after dark, however, can be a bit treacherous. Not wanting to be pleasantly surprised to be greeted by a bicycle. I live in a section of the island without street lights, which I love because it makes the star gazing and the moon rises particularly vivid. Cycling after dark, however, can be a bit treacherous. Not wanting to be pleasantly surprised to be greeted by a

Many of us live in Maine to experience the rhythmic cycle of seasons and light, which after all these years still feels magical to me. The first time I wake up at 5:00 in the morning and notice a bit of light in the sky, I feel the same particular burst of joy as when I receive an unexpected gift. The Buddha said it this way, "Those who are awake live in a state of constant amazement." Just as the long, quiet nights of winter invite us inward, the birdsong of these high summer days is like trumpeters playing every day long. "Wake up! Wake up!" The light will not last forever. Just now, the farmer's market is bursting with greens and seedlings, asparagus and rhubarb, tiny beets and turnips. By the time you read this the market will have transitioned into full, abundant summer mode. This moment is precious and brief. Soak it up now!

In Kripalu yoga, there are three distinct developmental phases of practice. The first is willful yoga, in which we learn the basic alignment and technique of each posture. The second is a surrender practice, in which we begin to explore holding the postures longer and feeling the effects of generating more intense heat and sensation with the practice. In these two phases of practice, we generally offer postures in complete sets of paired pairs to keep the body in balance. For example, a back arch will be followed by a forward bend.

For advanced practitioners, the third phase - meditation in motion - is a formless, flowing improvisational expression based on, but not restricted to, a series of yoga postures. One step in moving towards meditation in motion is to string familiar postures together and practice until they become second nature. One particularly lovely and popular posture flow is called Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation), or Sun Salutation.

Sun Salutation is a category of yoga practices commonly known as Vinyasa Yoga. Literally translated, vinyasa means process or progress, indicating movement from one state of being to another state of being. Here in the west, the term has come to refer to a particular style of yoga that focuses primarily on moving from one posture to the next in smooth, dance-like transitions. Several of these styles have students begin with the basic sun salutation and then progress into more complex and challenging sequences.

There are as many versions of Sun Salutation as there are yoga teachers. My favorite basic sequence is shown below. Once students become familiar with the individual postures and the transitions from one posture to the next, we move through the whole series with the rhythm of the breath. The breath pattern is indicated for each photo. Generally, the body expands on the inhale, and contracts on the exhale.

If you look at these postures and feel intimidated, do not despair. In beginner classes, I start with just the first four postures (ending with the second forward fold), and then return to the standing pose. Performing five repetitions or so of that simple sequence will deepen your breath, massage your spine, strengthen your core muscles, and help to stretch out your hamstrings. When you are ready to move on, take your time, honor your strengths and limitations, and modify the flow to suit your needs.

Rather than describing each posture in detail as I usually do in this column, I will let the photos stand alone with the intention of inviting you to let go of the precise instructions and receive instead the essence of the sequence. I think of the sun salutation as a moving prayer in gratitude for the life giving energy of the sun, or as an embodiment of the cycles of sunrise and sunset. Perhaps you will find me on the back shore some early morning and we will practice together.

May the light of these long summer days renew your spirit and infuse your heart with joy, hope, and inspiration. Happy Solstice.

**Yoga for Life**

**Intention:** Begin your practice with a moment of stillness in which you affirm your intention to practice with compassion and mindfulness.
For the love of Peaks!

Dick Adams
Part II

As told to Fran Houston

One of the good things was there was lots to do on the Island if you could entertain yourself. One of the biggest things I remember doing here ... not being bored ... was gathering driftwood. This place [Eighth Maine] was run on driftwood most of its life. I can remember back in 1932 or '33, they told me they only bought wood here maybe twice because someone was always bringing in some driftwood or donating wood, so they haven't made much money yet selling the Eighth Maine any wood!

What we really enjoyed doing, right up through 1942, was building rafts. We'd take some of that driftwood that came in and build rafts out of it. We didn't have these blow up rafts and all that kind of stuff, so we had to build our own. That's one of the things that kept us preoccupied, you see.

Other things, of course, were going to all the fairs that they had here for every organization that exist, not only with the people that live on the island most all of the year, but the summer people, too. And the diversity of life here, it's a good diversity exists on this island. I think the support of the people is tremendous, with all of the different organizations, particularly helping people that are in trouble.

I can remember, for example, when Kathleen's Mercantile store got broken into and she lost several thousand dollars. By gosh the next weekend the island was having a big yard sale down front to make up for the money that was taken. I remember them doing the same thing for Hurricane Relief in New Orleans. They had a big deal here to raise money for those people. There's an awful lot of that kind of thing that goes on in a community like this.

The beauty of the island is unsurpassed. Like when the sun is just right on the Whitehead cliffs over here, why, you'd think it was the White Cliffs of Dover. Do you know one of the things that a lot of people miss on this island, because of their location? If you're in the right place, you can see both sunsets and sunrises. They're just terrific here, and they last quite awhile. You get down front and look up so you can even see the White Mountains on a good clear day, especially at sunset.

The antiquity of our memorial building [the Eighth Maine] and its rustic qualities may make it tough on a few people. I have notes back to '82, when my late wife started looking after the place, and I've been here since early '90s. Quite a lot of people like our rustic place because they are getting away from their everyday things. They are surprised when I tell them that we only have one TV in the building. Between '82 and now, there have only been about two or three people who didn't like it, took off without even unpacking their things. But out of thousands, that's not too bad!

Some more aspects of the place: I'm sitting in a chair, and you are, that the veterans of this regiment sat in. You can sleep in their room. When they started, they didn't have rooms, because they might get 150 people at a reunion or annual meeting. About 1910 they started putting in rooms. This was when they heard city water was coming, and they also could get their own gas on the island. I can even show you out here where they scratched their matches to light the gas lamps and their smokers. You can still use it today, if you want!

The comradery is a special thing we have here. The interesting thing - whether you're just a guest coming for a few days or for most of the summer - is that you meet so many people from different places and with different outlooks on life, a real diverse bunch. A lot of them want to come at the same time every year because of the people that they've met here. Makes it a little tough at times trying to get them booked-in at the right time!
Looking for my Parachute
Part 2

BY JO ISRAELSON

Unemployment will probably hit 10 percent by the end of the summer in some parts of the country. As everyone retrenches and rethink how they spend their money, I am looking at how I want to spend my time, energy and skills to find my mission in life, not just a job.

Keeping focused while on the hunt for work is hard, but one of my friends said that, of the employed, some will retire or change careers, move or even die, thereby freeing up jobs. Some opportunities haven't even been invented yet as the world evolves, especially in the green area. But then I ask: What about right now?

The Stopgap Job

Because I was self employed, I am not eligible for unemployment. As I watched my savings account dwindle, I followed another caveat of Richard Bolles, author of "What Color is Your Parachute": Find a stopgap job.

A stopgap job can be anything, a patchwork quilt of work cobbled together to keep the roof over my head. Bolles defines it as a "short term job that you would hate if it were anything but short term. Its only requirement is that it be honest work and that it brings in some money."

Post flyers about yourself on community bulletin boards, use temp agencies, work for friends and neighbors to do ANYTHING they might need. There are also ways to find jobs on-line, such as www.elance.com, that allow you to bid for a variety of jobs.

While "unemployed," I've been a substitute teacher, dog sitter, sommelier, landscaper, "sanitary engineer," data entry person, window washer, care giver, junk hauler, marketer and census worker. Bolles writes, "Any honest, hard work neither demeanes you nor makes you less important as a person."

However, it does make you tired. Juggling multiple jobs and still trying to stay focused on finding meaningful work is exhausting.

Planting Seeds

I am a baby boomer and am saddled with a sagging body, flagging energy and a flower child philosophy. There has been a great deal written about "re-careering" since 40khs have been decreasing and life expectancy increasing. Bolles maintains that instead of looking for what the market can offer us, we should look at what we can offer the market.

(24 pages from Bolles', "What Color is Your Parachute", Ten Speed Press.)

STEP 1: PLANT A SEED. Take 10 sheets of blank paper and write at the top of each "Who am I?" Record only one answer for each sheet, and below that explain why you gave that answer and what you like about it (this may take hours or days).

When done, arrange all 10 sheets in order based on how important the answers are to you. Review what you like about them and look for common denominators. The information helps define the most fulfilling and rewarding career choices for you.

STEP 2: GROW A FLOWER. On a blank piece of paper, draw an outline of a flower with six petals and a very large center. Label each petal with one of these topics (leave the center blank for now): favorite field of knowledge or expertise; desired salary and level of responsibility; favorite working conditions; where you most want to live; most important values and goals; favorite people to work with or for.

Put everything you know about yourself onto this one piece of paper. This may take weeks to finish. I posted mine in the kitchen and added to it while cooking, doing dishes, etc. When you're done you will know enough about your talents, skills, gifts and dreams to answer the next question: What do you want to do now with your life?

Next installment: Finding the Center and Finding the Career.
ACROSS
1. Worth 16 annas
6. Five-time Wimbledon winner
10. Baden, Bath, and beyond
14. Toothpaste brand
15. On a Dream Team with Kareem?
17. DiFranco
18. Beginning of quotation from Declaration of Independence
19. Intention
20. Gov’t agency
21. Wines
22. Sequenced timing
26. Certain pre-1776 Americans
27. Second part of quotation, regarding a grievance against the King
31. What Charlotte did
32. Numbers, briefly
33. Repar lawn
37. Equus
38. Implore
39. Leg
41. Before
42. Mr. ________, site of 20 monasteries
44. What Elton John and Paul McCartney have in common
45. Measured in hectares
46. Third part of eerily prescient quotation
50. Very large
53. The beach in San Juan
54. Man’s name
55. Piece; rod
56. William to Charles
59. Fourth part of quote
63. One or another
64. Juan and Eva
65. Boundary between Asia and Europe
66. Pie crust ingredient
67. Auld lang
68. Seventh largest city in world

DOWN
1. Abundant
2. Newcastle _____ Tyne
3. Follows Leo
4. Tolkien creature
5. Not ethereal
6. Prohibit
7. Approvals
8. Fastens again
9. With 29 Down, the father of extraordinary resolution
11. Part of basketball court
12. Famous orphan
13. Portents
16. “Me and ____ Jones,’ 1972 hit song
22. Home of the cons
23. Acx; acme
24. Make out, in the UK
25. Passports, for example
26. Function
27. Gov’t agency
28. Place
29. See 9 Down
30. Doctors call it an upper extremity
32. Giant who hit 511 home runs
33. Andy Granatelli’s claim to fame
35. Popular sandwich
36. “Prudence,” Beatles song
38. Renowned musical group (abbr.)
39. “Georgey ____,” 1966 hit song
40. Song of sorts
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45. Nabokov novel
47. Skates on wheels
48. Restaurant
49. Halle Berry, for example
50. Like swine flu
51. Coliseum
52. Honky guy
55. Former econ. metric
56. Underwater branch
57. City once called Christiania
58. Infamous lake
60. Opposite of dolt
61. Last word of U.S.A.’s motto
62. Epoch, or baseball star.

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Star Gazing
BY MIKE RICHARDS

July 2009 Sky

July is named for Julius Caesar (100 BC - 44 BC), the Roman emperor who named himself "dictator for life." That upset the Senate, of course, and prompted a group of senators to assassinate him. In 46 BC Julius ordered his astronomer Sosigenes to devise a more accurate calendar than the lunar calendar they'd been using, so he devised one based on 365.25 days in the year. They would use 365 days per year, but add a day to February every fourth year, to make it come out right. The Julian calendar was fairly accurate and was used widely for the next 1,600 years.

By 525, however, an 11-minute per-year difference between the calendar and the Earth's orbital time around the sun had made the equinoxes and solstices fall too early, so Pope Gregory XIII ordered his astronomer Clavius to refine the calendar further. He suggested taking 10 days off the calendar immediately and not taking leap years on the century marks unless the year was evenly divisible by 400 (e.g., 2000). This Gregorian calendar was gradually adopted, even by the non-Catholic countries (e.g., Britain and its American colonies in 1752), and is the one most people in the world use today.

As with all celestial satellites, Earth's orbit around the sun is slightly elliptical: it's only 3.3 percent out of round, but that's over 3 million miles. We currently reach our farthest point from the sun in summer (July 3 this year), when our north pole is tipped toward the sun. But that has changed, and will change again, over many millennia. Eventually, we will reach our farthest point from the sun in winter and our closest point to the sun in summer, producing even wilder temperature swings (and thus weather) than we have now. In addition, our 23.5° tilt angle is changing over thousands of years, but that's another story.

The sun's 11-year activity cycle is currently in its quiet or "solar minimum" phase, but astrophysicists tell us the sun is unusually dormant now - putting out less energy than it has been in decades, with very few sun spots or flares. Meanwhile, we have increasing problems with global warming, of which skeptics say the sun is the sole cause. It's clearly the primary cause, but that doesn't mean that our pollution isn't contributing and shouldn't be reduced, especially since the next solar maximum is only five years away.

The moon's orbit around Earth is also a bit eccentric, coming 22,000 miles closer at perigee than it is 2 weeks later at apogee. Because magnetic attraction between two heavenly bodies is mostly a function of their proximity (Attraction = Mass x Mass/Distance^3), we know that tides rise higher at and just after perigee. When the moon is full, of course, it is on the opposite side of the Earth as the sun, but when the moon is new, it is on the same side of the Earth as the sun, and the sun and moon combine their magnetic pull and create a higher tide. When the new moon coincides with perigee, the tides are "astronomically high," and that occurs on the 21st of this month, when tides build to 13 feet between high and low.

Stars and Planets

On July evenings the stars we notice first will be blue-white Vega in Lyra overhead, red-giants Arcturus in Boötes to the west, Antares in Scorpio to the south, and Altair in Aquila to the east. In the first half of July, Mercury pops up in the dawn sky to the east over the ocean; it will then whip around the backside of the sun, and the last half of the month, it will be an evening star low on the horizon over the city (Binoculars will help you find it).

By contrast, Venus is a brilliant "Morning Star," the dawn comes so early now you have to be up before 5 a.m. to see it. Mars also arises in the dawn, above and to the right of Venus, but is not worth getting up for, as it doesn't reach opposition until January. Don't believe the Mars House going around the internet again: it will not be "closer than ever in history" or "look as big as the full moon." If you want to see a real close-up of Mars, go to your computer (nasa.gov) and download the Mars Rover images.

On July evenings you can see the summer constellations of the zodiacal belt, with Jupiter these two nights, first on the left, then on the right. Tonight the star Regulus sits just after the sun and is also best viewed on the Internet (solar-system.nasa.gov).

The Calendar

July 1 - Sunrise is at 5:02 a.m. and sunset is at 8:26 p.m., giving us 15 hours and 24 minutes of sunshine and precious little darkness to see the stars and planets.

July 3 - That red dot to the left of the moon tonight is Antares, the giant star that is the heart of Scorpio. Earth is at aphelion today, and that's a good thing.

July 4 - The nearly-full moon rises at 6:42 tonight and will help light the earth and sky during the Independence Day fireworks.

July 7 - Full "Buck" moon tonight will be the largest, richest, most beautiful, most perfect full moon of the year, and will help light the earth and sky during the Independence Day fireworks.

July 23 - The highest tide this month is 5:02 a.m. and the lowest tide this month is at 8:26 a.m., with 13.1 feet between them, so the ramp to the first floor of the Peaks Island Bridge will be really steep tonight. The star Regulus sits above the crescent moon on the horizon over the mainland, and Mercury is off to the right.

July 28 - First-quarter moon is high at sunset, and the next few days are best for telescopic viewing of the lunar surface.

July 31 - Sunrise is at 5:28 a.m. and sunset is at 8:55 p.m. We've lost 47 minutes of daylight this month alone, so get outside and enjoy the summer while you can!
Perhaps the most moving moment during the 2009 Peaks Island School graduation ceremony Wednesday, June 17, was when Kathryn Moxhay presented an original framed illustration by Jamie Hogan to retiring librarian and ed. tech. Gayl Vall who broke down in tears.

Throughout the proceedings, the fifth-graders - James Mitchell, Grace Byrne, Johnny Stange, Imogen Moxhay and the Mokeme - played it cool for the most part, but did manage to crack up the audience on occasion, like when James gave advice to underclass mates: "Get stuff done early, cause stuff builds up, and believe me, it's not fun."

The ceremony followed a fairly prescribed routine, with some variation based on the talents and interests of the graduating students. Starting with the Pledge of Allegiance, it included the traditional gifting and advising of the remaining underclassmates by the graduating class (who also made predictions for their own futures), awarding the three best American Legion essays, a presentation of dictionaries by the Friends of the Peaks Island Library, giving the President’s Education Awards, and the teacher and principal presentations, which happen near the end.

The guest speaker this year was James' grandmother, State Senator Libby Mitchell, whose topic was personal courage. In fact, the theme of the graduation was "hold fast to your dreams", and teacher Kara St. Germain gave the children Brad's Island Bike Rental

and full service shop!

Bike accessories & fishing tackle
115 Island Avenue • Peaks
• 766-5631
"Hold Fast to Your Dreams"

ABOVE Left: Kathryn Moxhay presented an original illustration by artist Jamie Hogan to Gayl Vail, who retired after 30 years as the weekly school librarian and educational technician. The graduating class later gave her a gift bag as well. ABOVE Right: Robin Walden filmed the entire graduation from the back of the room.

GRADUATION from page 12 necklaces with the motto etched on a charm and an additional bird pendant to symbolize the soaring of their aspirations.

Principal Gwen Smith gave each child a silver pen and alarm clock desk set, which she said meant there would be no excuse for being late to class in the future.

Before she gave out certificates of completion - the elementary school's equivalent of diplomas - Ms. Smith said, "You are going to see magic." And, Poof!, when she handed them their certificates the fifth-graders turned into sixth-graders.

ABOVE Left: Imogen Moxhay reads two original poems to the crowd. ABOVE Right: The Mokens are congratulated warmly after the ceremony. BELOW: After singing its farewell Lennon ballad the fifth-grade class bowed out, each in their own way. At that point they were actually sixth-graders according to Principal Smith (left).

Veterinary care to the islands all year long.

Island Veterinary Service
Serving the islands of Casco Bay Monday through Saturday by appointment 772-3385 www.portvet.net

Island Veterinary Service is a division of the Baxton Street Veterinary Clinic
The Uncalled Four schmooze again

BY GEORGE ROSOL

Old quartets never die, they just keep returning to the annual PeaksFest Schmooze-in. Such is the fate of "The Uncalled Four" whose people, Faith York, Larry Ducharme, and Cevia Rosol and myself, once a nuisance, now approach tradition. And our brand of music is aimed at the heart of island life. Cevia shows no shame in borrowing tunes, mostly "oldies," and substituting original lyrics with her own rhymes aimed at Peaks Islander habits and things and funny bones. For example,

Three cars are in the lot, the rest are clunkers, in various states of rot. Peaks Island Junkers ... No matter what the cost, we must go slowly, for all of our exhausts are hanging low.

And this.

I needed a plumber. I called him last summer. "I've company coming," I said with a sigh. My father is looking, and help.

I am seeing. I still will be waiting the day that die.

Then there are songs dedicated more lovingly to Lisa and her Cafe', Nancy's Umbrella Cover Museum, the Gem Gallery, Hannigan's, the weather and grocery carts.

The Uncalled Four's appearance at the Schmooze-fest is special. New cars get to hear the old chestnuts for the first time, and repeat nothings seem to get a fresh laugh or two between lines.

What is new every year is the PeaksFest song. Usually, just hours before the party, an updated version is written.

Since it is a tune for five voices, it is customary to pick an unwilling audience member to help out. This year's 30-second music lesson winner, David Steed, was surprised by the fact that he was expected to sing.

He did well.

The Uncalled Four, sporting several generations of PeaksFest T-shirts, posed quickly for this shot after their performance at the TEIA Friday night, June 19. From LEFT to RIGHT: George Rosol, Larry Ducharme, Cevia Rosol and Director Faith York.

PIMA inaugurates new grand piano

BY FAITH YORK

Called "one of the best solo and chamber musicians of his generation," George Sebastian Lopez recently returned from a concert tour in Switzerland, and will honor the Peaks Island Music Association on July 8 with an inaugural concert on the organization's new grand piano.

The program will include Ginastera, Beethoven, and Chopin.

The rebuilt 1924 Steinert S111 piano has been lovingly played and cared for by islander Nancy Johnson for many years. During a casual celebration at the home of Shep and Nancy Johnson, June 23, this superb instrument became the property of the association, to be welcomed into its new home at the Fifth Maine with Mr. Lopez's concert.

Steinert & Sons was founded in 1869, beginning as a Steinway dealer in Connecticut. Many stores sprang up around New England in the 1880s, and Steinert Hall was built in 1896 on Boylston Street in Boston; it still exists today. The Steinert piano of the early 1900s was in every way comparable to a Steinway, the piano universally acknowledged as the world's finest.

In addition to Mr. Lopez's performance, the annual Island Musicians concert will be held Wednesday, July 22, featuring a diverse ensemble of local musicians in an evening of classical music and art song repertoire, celebrating the talent all around us.

The music association is currently accepting applications for this year's Barbara Goelman Scholarship, offered annually to a Peaks Islander between the ages of 8 and 22 who is studying music. The $500 award is open to any island music student who can demonstrate significant ability and a real commitment to pursuing and working towards musical excellence.

The scholarship is named for the former islander, founding member, and past president of PIMA, Barbara Goelman, a Broadway performer who taught dance in Portland and on Peaks Island for many years. She had answering artistic goals, great creativity and energy, and was an inspiration to all who knew her. Barbara held high expectations for her students and lovingly demanded that they do their best and give their all. In that spirit, the music association seeks to continually promote the study of music.

Star of the Sea presents the Legend of Tumbleweed County

STORY & PHOTOS BY KEVIN ATTRA

Crime didn't pay for the desperate bandit, played by Peter McCann, who was nabbed in the ninth act of Doreen McCann's summer dance revue, "The Legend of Tumbleweed County", by the Sheriff (and brother) David, and deputies Max Carollo and Nathan Dejardins. The one-hour show took place on a warm, clear Sunday, June 7, on stage at the Lions Club, and included tap solos by the McCann brothers, Celtic dancing by Thomas and Cristin McDonough, a "Silver Fantasy" ballet and a Can-Can dance performed by girls from the notorious "Last Chance Cafe".

Also dancing in her twenty-third year with the company was Elizabeth Babidge who is in the late stages of pregnancy, expecting a daughter in August. She had a name chosen already, Robyn Vera, and said she plans to continue dancing next year, no doubt with her new child in tow.

Watching her jounce up and down during her routine I was afraid the birth might be premature, but she danced quite easily and won spontaneous applause for some fancy maneuvers which I happened to miss (I was distracted at the time, wondering where I might find sheets and hot water).

The show was produced and directed by Doreen McCann, with assistance from Elizabeth Babidge and Claudia Apon, costumes by Carolyn Parker. A second performance took place on Wednesday, June 10, at Riverton Elementary School in Portland.

All proceeds benefited the Maine Children's Cancer Program and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

ABOVE: David McCann proudly displays the pair of six-guns he used to bring in a notorious bank robber, played by his brother. LEFT: Doreen McCann conducts the children's ballet interlude.
**Art Roamings**

**Summer's here: Art is everywhere**

BY JAMIE HOGAN

PeaksFest is billed as a celebration of community yet I say so much more. Creative inspiration in the routine act of recycling, for instance. Mary Anne Mitchell launched her idea to promote recycling by commissioning six Peaks Island artists to resurface recycling bins, funded with a grant from the Peaks Island Fund. Proceeds from the effort will benefit Island non-profit organizations.

Nancy Gibson Nash used rope pieces found washed ashore. She said, "My intent was to create a design that was eye-catching on the street, able to withstand the elements, that reinforced the idea of recycling in a unique way, and that related specifically to our island." Alfred Wood’s bin features an iconic bird in a silhouette that proclaims, "Live to Recycle, Recycle to Live." Rob Lieber’s bin is light green perforated with wavy lines of holes, like celadon kelp swaying in the tides. Colorful silhouettes of figure recycling surround Paul Brahms’s bin. Jessica George employed graphic signage, with pointers above the bin directed towards island destinations such as Big Daddy Road Extension shared by Norm Proulx and Susan Porte.

Jessica said, "Our belief is that the act of trying to save ourselves by surrounding our recycling bins’ designs – observations, curious conversations, engagements with locals etc. – are ones that truly help a person to locate themselves, and move within a landscape filled with infinite discovery."

Tim Nihoff’s whimsical bin features cut shapes of bottle and can packaging that form silhouettes of birds and flowers. He said "My idea was to make the most direct relationship between image, and that related specifically to our island." He explained, "I sensitized and shot the smallest metal plate while it is wet and dripping chemistry. Once a picture is made, that plate is developed and processed right away producing a final result in a few minutes. I have been exploring the process in order to use it on a variety of projects that look at the landscape."

I met another artist walker there who announced a new gallery on Great Diamond Island. A group show called "Art at the Cove" featuring drawing, painting, and sculpture will run through July 20 at the Gallery at Diamond Cove. (Contact pat.hormaker@gmail.com for more information.)

There’s plenty of art on view all over the bay. The Dowdell Gallery on Long Island opens its sixth season with "Go Fish" which runs July 1 through Labor Day, 2009. The gallery welcomes four new artists to their roster: Anna Popowsk of Portland, Laurie de Paula of Cape Elizabeth, May Cranick of Peaks Island, and Suzanne Williams-Lindgren of Freeport. Long Island artists include Carolyn Gaudet, Jennifer Wood, Laurie Bracey, Laurie Wood, Nancy Noble, and Maggie Carie. Peaks Islander Susan Porter announced that her Addison-Woolley Gallery has a new home in Studio 203A in the Bakery Building on Pleasant Street in Portland. Each month, with an opening reception during the First Friday Art Walk, she will mount a new exhibit that will run for one week. The exhibits will be complemented by a virtual gallery at www.addisonwoolley.com. The first exhibit in the new space will be a group show featuring work by Bruce Brown, David Wade, Rith Sylmor, Andrea van Voorst van Beest, Ian Pieter van Voorst van Beest, Rene Braun, Jim Kelly, Karen Bushold, Arthur Fink, Arunas Bukauskas, Dan Dow, Fran Vita-Taylor, and Susan Porter.

The Gem Gallery on Peaks Island begins weekly summer shows with photographs by Victor Romanovsky, June 25 to July 2, then Dustin Price and Chris Harper-Fahey share an exhibit of mixed media through July 8. Showing July 16 through July 22, painter Paul Brahms with recent works, and Diane Wiendeke’s artwork July 23 to July 29. Multimedia artist, Carol Cartier, follows July 30 to Aug 5. For more information, visit peaksislandart.blogspot.com.

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**COMING SOON!**

**ITS**

**A TAXI FOR PEAKS**

8 AM – 8 PM

Tuesday – Sunday

518-0000

Island Transportation System
Our guide, Marissa MacIsaac, said she was excited because she doesn't usually get islanders. In fact, in the past she's been heckled by locals who don't think highly of tourists no matter which way you slice it.

Marissa started with a hand-out giving a short history of Peaks, along with Island Tour rules. "Since you're islanders, you're excitable and rowdy," she said. "Rule number one may be hard for you!" Please remain seated at all times and keep hands and feet inside the golf cart. No smoking, no alcohol, they are not responsible if you fall out and roll down into the bay. We all promised to hold on and behave.

We chose the "Spirit of Peaks" option, which focuses on island history. Other tours are "Architecture", "Walking Ghost", "Art Walk", "World War II", "Cony Island of Maine" and "Sunset". The following are some highlights. Any inaccuracies are due to my faulty memory, not to my very informed guide.

Brackett and Trott were the first two families on Peaks; they sold land to the next four families: the Sterlings, Skillings, Parsons and Trefethans.

To give you an idea of what it might have sounded like to fire a gun from the fort, the captain set off a string of firecrackers inside the main battery. I was off somewhere taking pictures at the time, and had no idea what was about to happen. The explosion literally shook the room and I thought we were under some kind of attack with machine guns; it was absolutely terrifying.

According to the captain, the hourglass shaped island was originally given to the king's forester, Christopher Levett, in 1623, who built a house on it, whence the name. The only three remaining buildings were all built in 1807 by the U.S. Department of Public Health as an immigration quarantine station. In 1920, a large brick barracks station was also operated nearby, but was eventually relocated to Little Diamond after the war. The island was then effectively abandoned when the War Assets Administration closed the fort for good after World War II. The Cashings bought it all in 1955. "In all the buildings on the island," the captain said, "there was only one window pane still intact."

The island is now used for weddings and other private functions. For more information, visit: beastislomaine.com.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16


Captain Hal Cushing and his sister, Captain Karen Lomman, standing next to a series of historical photos of the island dating back to the late-1800s inside the former immigration detention center.
Peaks Island Norway Maple finally listed in Big Tree Register

BY KEVIN ATRA

According to Phillip Munn, the Norway maple in his front yard earned five points more than another one in South Berwick, based on a scoring system of the Maine Department of Conservation, making it technically the largest tree of its kind in the state. However, 10 points are needed to win, so he is now listed as a co-champion in the 2009–2010 Maine Register of Big Trees.

It has been a three-year struggle for Munn, who kept the case alive as it was passed to three different workers at the conservation department in the intervening years. Munn diligently monitored the progress, from the day in June 2006, when Arborist Stan Newell helped him apply, to the day he got the letter this April congratulating him on the victory. It’s in his nature — at one time Munn oversaw 1,400 people in Sikorsky’s experimental jet engine division.

Initial measurements made by Newell were verified almost immediately by a representative of the conservation department, but then the got married and moved out of the country. In the following years, the case was passed along to two more conservation staff members, each having to continue the process, including making new measurements of the one in South Berwick, owned by Rick Coughlin.

Among other qualifications, like general health and overall condition, a tree is qualified for entry in the Big Tree Register based on three measurements: total height, average crown width, and the circumference of the trunk, measured 1.37 meters above ground. Traditionally, Newell said they’ll get a few observations about the event.

By Dianne: Our ride to Quebec was really fun. It was six hours long. We listened to some music and watched some movies. When we entered Quebec I realized the signs were different because they were in French. So that was our ride from Maine to Quebec.

By James: We stayed in a Canadian hostel. Each room had two bunk beds; they were squeaky. In the morning, we got up and the hostel provided breakfast. One of my favorite things at breakfast was the "pain," or bread. The hostel also had a foos-ball table, at which we spent half of our Canadian money playing foos-ball. They also had a pool table.

The bathrooms at the hostel were nice because they had showers. I learned something the hard way; in the Quebec bathrooms, the "C" on the faucet is not for "cold" but for "chaud" which means hot in French.

By Danny: In Quebec, on the first night, we went to see a movie about Quebec’s history. The movie was very cool. It was 3D and we all got to wear 3D glasses. I really liked it when the muskets came out of the wall and shot at you when it was talking about the battles. When England had control of Quebec, Benedict Arnold led some American troops up to Quebec and the wall kept out the Americans. The buildings are made out of stone and some have gargoyles on them. There are a lot of statues and monuments. The Chateau Frontenac is inside the wall and has cannons in front of it. Quebec hasn’t changed very much since it was built 400 years ago.

Schools out for summer

Noah Chalfant, 9, (left) and his brother Nat, 13, went down on the public dock Saturday, June 20, trying to catch minnows with little guppy nets, or even with their hands. They actually did, too.

Peaks Island French Club Says Bon Voyage

BY SUSAN HANLEY

On the sunny morning of June 5, the Peaks Island French Club traveled to Quebec City for a chance to immerse themselves in the French language. The intent was to show the children that French is a living language, not a novelty or a party trick. The children used their French to greet people, order meals (crepes were a favorite) and ask for the time.

Our stroll through the old city were a combination of learning history, watching street performers, and window shopping. A great big MERCI goes out to the Peaks Island Fund, who helped fund the trip. Here are a few observations about the event.

By Anna: When we got to Quebec, there was so much to do but one thing everyone wanted to do was peek in gift shops and go to art stands. There were so many little shops in Quebec. There were art galleries and junk shops and Christmas stores and candy shops. Sometimes when people asked you things in French it was hard to understand but we tried to remember our s’il vous plaît and merci. All the art in Quebec was beautiful and handmade. I liked watching the artists working on their art work. Apparently, a lot of us enjoyed caricatures, so most of us got them done.

By Rowan: The plains of Abraham are very big and a great place to play. There were many battles on the Plains of Abraham during Quebec City’s history. We went there to play with the swords that we bought in the Old City of Quebec and we played some other games. We saw a family of muskrats in the woods near the bottom part of the wall. The battles were different because they were in English.

Providing Green Home Solutions

BY LISA ANN KENNERLY

If you’re thinking of adding a little green to your home, you’ve come to the right place! Thompson Johnson Woodworks in Peaks Island is now offering environmentally-friendly cabinetry, as well as green Metro play structures. We’re proud to offer non-toxic, low-VOC products that not only add to the comfort of your family, but are an investment in your future. Give us a call and we’ll be happy to help you add a little green to your home.

The French built a wall around it. The British built it to keep out the French in 1760, and later when England had control of Quebec. Benedict Arnold led some American troops up to Quebec and the wall kept out the Americans. The buildings are made out of stone and some have gargoyles on them. There are thousands of statues and monuments. The Chateau Frontenac is inside the wall and has cannons in front of it. Quebec hasn’t changed very much since it was built 400 years ago.
Current Financial Tides

GOT CASH?

BY JOYCE CASSIDY O’REILLY

Nine months after what many call the “seismic shift” in the financial markets, individuals are wondering what to do with excess cash. Interest rates are at unprecedented lows. There are record numbers of bank foreclosures, with over 300 banks on the current FDIC watch list. While depositors have not yet suffered losses, having peace of mind is a key element in obtaining financial security.

Where do you go and what do you do with short term funds? Before you invest, investigate.

Consequently, choosing the right institution to do business with is an important first step in the process. Assess the entity’s reputation, its financial strength and stability (as measured by various capital ratios for banks and Savings & Loans), and then evaluate its products and services.

Let’s assume you have some savings - $300,000 in total. Unless you do not need this for at least five years, and preferably 10 or more, choose short-term options instead of equities (the ‘market’ - subject for another article).

The length of time under the five years, and six months is a guideline that need at various points during that period, determine your options.

Step One: Calculate how much cash you need to keep on hand (immediate cash). Most financial advisors recommend this be the amount required to support your household needs for three to six months.

Under current economic conditions, many experts encourage increasing this, up to a full year’s worth of expenditures. When reviewing your budget, remember some needs for cash may decline - for example, transportation to and from work if you were unemployed - while others, such as medical insurance, may increase.

This cash is the minimum amount for which you seek a safe haven. You should earn some interest, while ensuring accessibility to the funds should you need them. Options that generally provide nearly unrestricted access include checking, savings, and money market accounts. The primary differences for deciding which to use, and the rate earned, are the amount of access you need, and the balances (either minimum or average) you maintain.

A checking account is generally used to hold enough cash to cover one month of expenses, with access to these funds through cash withdrawals at the bank, check, debit card and ATM withdrawals. Because access is essentially unrestricted, these accounts typically pay little or no interest. Assume your cash cushion or ‘rainy day’ cash - enough for 12 months of expenses - is $60,000. One month’s need, or $5,000, should be kept in a checking account.

Step Two: Find a home for the remaining $55,000, and a way to move funds as needed into the checking account. A good option for these funds, with limited restrictions on access, is either a money market or a savings account. Saving accounts, with essentially full access, usually earn a slightly lower rate of interest than money market funds. To gain the higher rates offered by money market funds, you must abide by the regulations governing the number of withdrawals during any one month, or more than six withdrawals or transfers to another bank account of yours, or to a third party by means of pre-authorized or automatic transfer, or online banking. No more than three of the six may be made by writing checks.

For the remaining $240,000: With a longer time horizon - up to five years in this example - and this larger dollar amount, options increase. One is investing in a Certificate of Deposit.

In general, the longer you can invest your funds, the greater the rate of interest earned. CDs can be obtained for specific time periods - three months, six months - and then typically ‘mature’ on a specified date. In choosing from six months to one year, one to two years, two to three years, and so on, with terms set by the specific institution you choose. Interest is paid at the time of maturity. Penalties, generally between 30 and 90 days of interest, would be incurred if you ‘break’ the CD prior to its maturity.

While it may be enticing to invest in a longer term CD with a higher rate, a better strategy may be to split funds and ‘ladder’ your CDs, so they mature at different times. Why? Interest rate risk.

Rates a year or two from now may exceed the five-year rate offered today. For these longer horizons, purchasing bonds may be more appropriate. We’ll address these in our next article.

For short or longer term investments, a qualified financial advisor can help you determine what options are best for you, given your individual circumstances and goals, by analyzing your tax rate, other assets, cash flow needs and other considerations.

Remember: Before investing, investigate.

*All rates quoted are examples only. Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Peaks Island Fund accepting grant applications

BY BILL ZIMMERMAN

Thanks again to contributions from residents and friends of the community, the Peaks Island Fund Summer 2009 Awards may exceed $35,000. The PIF is now accepting electronic applications for its 2009 grant cycle. Applicants must have 501(c)(3) charitable status or a charitable sponsor. To apply go to our website at www.peaksislandfund.org, click Fund and Grant Applications.

Applications should be submitted by July 15 and any questions should be e-mailed to Pam Cleghorn at peclehorn@mainecf.org. PIF committee members (Reta Morrill, Bob Hannigan, Brad Burkholder, Stephanie Castle, Kate Radis, Aaron Schutt, Nancy Flynn, Phyllis Weintraub, Perry Sutherland, Jim Lauster, Kathy Hurley and Bill Zimmerman) are also willing to answer questions.

Grants will be reviewed at the Aug. 3 meeting of PIF and awards will be announced at the annual meeting Aug. 13, at 6:15 p.m. in the Zimmermann’s home, 14 Centennial Street. The community is invited to attend.

Any community residents and visitors interested in contributing to the fund may consult our website or send checks to: Peaks Island Fund c/o Mainie Community Foundation, One Monument Way, Northport, ME 04849. The PIF is always anxious to have your opinions on emerging needs of the island that might be considered for grants in the future.

Gifts of Green

BY NICOLE EVANS

Are you interested in an incentive to save money to purchase a home, send your child or yourself to school, or start or expand a small business? Do you qualify to have your savings matched up to $2,000 by participating in a Family Development Account (FDA)?

Household income limits are: $21,660 for one person; $29,140 for two; $35,620 for three; and $42,100 for four. Contact Women, Work & Community at 799-5025 or visit www. womenworkandcommunity.org. They also offer free workshops at their South Portland office on money management, building or re-evaluating a career or business.

If you’re looking to find ways to save money, consider reducing the amount you pay on credit card bills and interest rates. Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Maine offers free telephone credit counseling. For more information, call 866-889-9347 or visit www.cccsm.org.

Once you have established some savings, get up to $5,000 to purchase a home. If you haven’t owned a home in the past three years, you may qualify for a Maine Housing’s "Gift of Green" grant. Eligible borrowers who use a Maine Housing mortgage can qualify for a grant of four percent of the mortgage amount, up to $5,000, to help with the cash needed for closing. Add the "Gift of Green" grant to the federal First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit worth up to $8,000 and receive a total financial incentive of $15,000 to purchase a home.

The Maine Housing promotion also includes a $500 coupon for a two-part home energy audit. Qualifying households include a minimum contribution equal to one percent of the mortgage loan, and a maximum household income of $83,260. For more information and a list of participating lenders, call Maine Housing at 800-452-6688 or visit www.mainehousing.org.

Nicole Evans is a Project Director with CASI Greater Portland, a partnership of community leaders and industry experts managed by United Way that enables families and individuals in Cumberland County to achieve financial stability. She can be contacted at nevans@unitedway.org.
About Those Beavers

Expert to speak July 14 at PILP meeting

BY CYNTHIA MOLLUS

Love 'em or hate 'em — the beavers on Peaks have emerged as a hot topic of conversation. Typical comments:

"They're doing a lot of damage, especially on Brackett Avenue. Can't we call them like we do the deer?" "All that standing water is going to cause an explosion of mosquitoes. They're killing all the trees. It's especially along Brackett Avenue."

Here on Peaks there are now three beaver lodges — the easiest one to see is right off Brackett a little way past the transfer station (right) — and numerous dams. The lifespan of a beaver in the wild averages 14 years. A female beaver gives birth in the spring to two to four babies, called "kits," and the kits will typically stay with the parents until they are two years old before they go off to set up housekeeping on their own. The current population could be as many as 12 to 15 individuals, Fox said. The beavers aren't often seen, since they are mainly active at night, but one hefty individual was recently spotted waddling down Great Pond Road early in the morning.

Beavers are part of the natural environment, but they are notorious for their ability to engineer that environment to suit them. On an evening tour of the areas around Battery Steele and straddling Brackett Avenue favored by the beaver, a handy group of walkers led by Fox braved the soggy ground and hungry mosquitoes to see the evidence of beaver activity, though we spotted no beavers. They have felled many trees, and other trees will die because they can't tolerate the standing water created by the beaver dams. The water level has been raised nearly a foot and a half in some areas. Most of the property currently affected by their activity is owned by or under conservation easement to PILP, but some private property has been impacted as well. That has people concerned that the beaver population — and the changes to our landscape — will continue to grow.

And we're not alone in our concerns. A recent article in The New York Times detailed the woes of several towns in Massachusetts where an expanding beaver population has flooded property, clogged culverts and overwhelmed septic systems. It seems that beavers have been very busy everywhere.

HELP PRESERVE WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT PEAKS.

Each island is a trade special place, with its rocky shores, in woodlands and its wetlands. Your membership (only $15 individual/XXS families and your donations are crucial is helping to counter 100 years.

July 14, John DePue of Maine's Department of Island Fisheries and Wildlife will give a special talk at 6:30 p.m. at the Fifth Maine, as part of the Peaks Island Land Preserve's annual meeting. The meeting is open to the public, and PILP president Garry Fox said it would also be a good opportunity to take a stroll out to see if there is a consensus on how people feel about the beavers.

Forest City Landing has always reflected the name of the family that lived nearby. Originally a wooden dock, it has been rebuilt numerous times and has sported a variety of structures on it including an ice cream stand, a fish market, and Ma Watson's Restaurant. Orangeade and French fries were two of her more popular menu items.

Adjacent to Forest City Landing sits Jones Landing, now the site of the marina. A few of the Landing's supports put in place by William T. Jones about 1850 still remain as supports for the marina. Jones's cooper (barrel & hoop) shop was located on the Landing. Later on C. Way & Company Apothecary and Hathaway's art studio were located there. Towards the end of its life a freight shed and waiting room warmed by a pot belly stove sat at the end of the Landing. Sadly, Jones Landing met its end in the 1970s due to lack of maintenance — part of the Landing collapsed into the sea.

The northeast end of the island was also served by two landings — Trefethen's and Evergreen. Captain Trefethen, like all islanders of his time, wasted nothing. When he was unable to find grates for his fireplaces, he used the load of coal he had brought to the island to bed his first wharf. According to the late Jessie Trefethen, the Captain's granddaughter, Trefethen Landing was once called the longest wharf on the Maine coast. It was damaged by several nor'easters and blizzards, making it unusable by the early 1960s. The smaller Evergreen Landing, built by the Sterling family at Evergreen Point, also met its demise about the same time due to storm damage.

Many long-time islanders rue the day that Trefethen's and Evergreen disappeared. What a pleasure it would be to dock the ferry there and walk to our homes and cottages in that part of the island.

AIFTH MAINEMUSEUM CURATOR

All refer to that all important place where the ferry — our only lifeline to the city — brings islanders, visitors, mail and freight. At one time Peaks had 14 wharves. Four fed the steamboat and, later, the ferry lines that connected Peaks with Portland and the islands down the bay. One was built specifically to serve the coastal schooners that transported ice from the island's ponds to points further south. The rest served Greenwood Garden or were owned by individuals.

Forest City Landing has always been the main landing. In earlier years it was known as Mansfield's Landing, Brackett's Landing and Trot's Landing, reflecting the name of the family that lived nearby. Originally a wooden dock, it has been rebuilt numerous times and has sported a variety of structures on it including an ice cream stand, a fish market, and Ma Watson's Restaurant. Orangeade and French fries were two of her more popular menu items.

Mega-Project Vision Vaporizes as Pier Survey, Debunks Project's Rationale

By Henry Meyers

In its Feb. 22, 2007 announcement of two competing plans to build an office building and hotel at the Maine State Pier, city officials said the driving force behind the $90 million project was the need for an estimated $18 million to cover costs of fixing pier defects, which were purportedly rendering the pier unsafe. The idea was that the city would lease, for many years, much of the pier and its environs to a developer who would, in return, pay the $18 million repair bill. In addition, the hotel and office building were viewed as the source of significant tax revenues.

In putting forth the $18 million estimate, the city never addressed the question of the extent to which repairs were necessary in order to accommodate the docking of cruise ships on pier sections previously used by Bath Iron Works.

Following that announcement, City Council spent some 22 months wrangling and making charges and counter-charges among themselves, and with the two competing developers, Ocean Properties Ltd. and The Olympia Companies. The path from then to now is convoluted, but the bottom line is that the city was unable to reach consensus with either developer, and by February this year, both were out of the picture and the city was back at square one.

On June 8, the City Council convened to decide on a new course. The Portland Press Herald reported that a new consensus had been reached on a plan to spend only $500,000 in repairs and maintenance on the pier. 'Counselors also appear to have lined up behind a development plan that would require an additional city investment in the pier totaling about $2.5 million,' said the article.

Missing from the discussion was an examination of the change from requiring $18 million to rebuild the pier to one requiring only $500,000 for maintenance. Part of the answer lies in a May 22 report, produced by TEC Associates, on a survey of the pier structure that depicts a picture whose disparity to the city's longstanding position, the Maine State Pier is not in serious disrepair.

City Planning staff said the survey "found the pier to be in good condition for its intended use as a deep-water port." Wayne W. Duffett, the report's author, wrote: "In general the structural elements of the eastern side of Maine State Pier are still adequate for their design capacity." He went on to say, "If the pier is to be maintained in good condition, I would estimate a budget of about $400,000 per year."

To date there has been no rationalization for the difference between the previous engineering assessments that prescribed $18 million in repairs and the considerably more modest TEC assessment. Left dangling is the question of whether the specter of an unsafe pier was but a prop, fabricated to justify a grand vision that has since vaporized.

A proposal for Casco Bay Lines

Instead of just bemoaning the recent ferry rate increase, I'd like to suggest some core values that should guide us in setting ferry rates, and a plan that I believe reflects these values. The phone company offers "lifeline" service—a basic phone line. Casco Bay Lines needs to offer a basic ticket price, the lowest price, to those who reside on the islands, who need to travel often (perhaps not daily) and from and to Portland. This is my starting point.

Most of us don't need to take cars back and forth, and we don't want or need more cars on the islands. There's no reason to hold down car rates. I'm appalled that car ferry ticket prices were held almost constant when passenger rates just went up. All should pay their fair share, and there's no reason to automatically charge seniors half fare. Many seniors can pay full fares, while many below 65 have to commute daily and are much more financially stretched. I'd suggest a 20 percent senior discount, which is more appropriate when not based upon need.

Monthly passes may work for some who commute daily, but not for the rest of us. My proposal is to replace competitor books with a "punch pass," good for 30 round trips within 90 days. Each pass would have the rider's name printed on it, thus it would not be possible for a group of four or five to get a discount for their one (or occasional) trip. A person using their punch pass could take with them either a dog or a bicycle without an extra ticket. Punch pass rates would not go up in the summer.

The ferry line should make available one way tickets, and one-way punch passes to those an island board, by people who had not paid for a ticket going out. It's hard to verify this, but how many islanders would board without knowing when their neighbors know that they came by water taxi? I still have big questions about the Casco Bay Lines finances, and why total costs are so high. Do "boon cruise" operations really make money and subsidize our operations? Why can't we own our own mechanics? Why is the ferry financially viable only by operating only part of the year? Expect that costs can and should be reduced.

But along with any cost reductions — and a corresponding cut in total fare collections — we need to come up with a more progressive and fair allocation of those costs among island residents, occasional travelers, and summer people. I hope that the above proposal will encourage discussion about our core values in setting prices, and about when they should be perceived and charged.

I'd like to hear from you. Contact me at afp@ArthurFinkPhoto.com

The artist/craftsperson cooperative includes over 25 year-round and seasonal island artists in the spaces where they produce work. This year we are expanding the experience to 8 visual artists and 3 Island artists to include books as well as framed, flat, freestanding and wearable stuff. In July the Art Walk will be held on the last Saturday of the month, July 25, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The final art walk is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8. Information can be viewed and reviewed on postcards, flyers and monthly changing maps at www.portlandmaine.com.

Dining is also available at sponsor restaurants, The Cockeyed Gull and the Inn on Peaks Island. 2009 Participating Artists: Peg Astarte: potter; Jane Banquer; stitcher; Christina Beest: painter; Carol Cartier: fibre and multimedia artist; Cole Casswell: photographer; Andrew Dicus: digital artist; Jessica George: painter; Lavender-Myers: painter; Martha Morris-Gibson: basket maker; Rachel Mullen: dancer; Tim Nihoff: multimedia artist; Norm Proulx: painter; Kathie Schneider: photographer; Victoria Rosnowsky: painter; Richard Romano: printmaker; Michael Smith, painter; Betty Sturgis: bead; Celia Strickler: jeweler; John Mansoor-Wetterau, texter; Claudia Whitman: multimedia artist.

The Dodgell GO FISH - Wednesday, July 1 thru Labor Day; Greater Casco Bay Islands Area community is exploring community library, food and cultural media on the subject of fish in the annual Summer Exhibit, now in its sixth season. On display are works representing new artists to our gallery's roster: photographers AnnaPeklewski of Portland, Laurie de Charms and Jeff Duck of New York and the art of Crasnick of Peaks Island, with artist Susanne Williams-Lindgren of Freeport. In July the Art Walk will feature Carolyn Gaudet, Jennifer Wood, Laurie Brayle, Laurie Wood, Nancy Nobles, Maggie Curtin, Jessica George, Roberta Sjodin, printmaker; Julie Taylor: bookbinder; Claudia Whitman: multimedia artist.

The Dodgell Gallery is located on Gorham Avenue, Long Island, between the community library and the elementary school and has featured over 100 Maine artists from the Casco Bay islands and other areas. Host of the annual Long Island Art & Soul Exhibit and special events during the Wharf Festival every October, the gallery is open during library hours, http://library long-island.lib.me.us Phone 2530.

Addison-Wooley Redux The gallery is re-opening in a new space under the name: Addison-Wooley at Studio 203a, in the Bakery Building at 6 Pleasant Street in the Old Port. The re-opened gallery will host its first show, a group photography exhibit, on Friday, July 3, as part of the First Friday Art Walk, with a reception from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Each month a new show will open during the First Friday Art Walk and remain on view for one week, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. each day until the following Saturday. The exhibits will be presented in our virtual gallery on our website, www.addisonwooley.com, and can be viewed through the entire month.

The exhibition or exhibit feature books by Bruce Brown, David Wade, Ruth Silinsky, Andrea and Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest, and colors. It will follow the same format as in the Market Street gallery, with approximately 80 percent photography punctuated by other art, as it turns a theme. The gallery director, Susan Porter is delighted to be able to remain active in Portland's art community and is looking forward to the possibilities this new venture may bring. For more information, contact her at 404-8499.

Art and Soul Fair The Long Island Community Library will be holding its annual summer fundraiser on Saturday, July 18, at the Long Island Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. "Art and Soul" is the library's only fundraiser and provides the funds needed for operating expenses, including programming, books and supplies. LICL is one of only a few Maine libraries staffed entirely by volunteers. Local artists and craftspeople will be displaying and selling their unique and beautiful creations. Long Island's best chefs and bakers will provide a great selection of delicious baked goods and homemade treats. Fresh flowers from one of the island's many gardeners will also be for sale as well as a huge assortment of used books for all ages. In small island of volunteers will be cooking and picking pounds of cranberry sauce during the days to be sold in bulk and in delicious cranberry rolls.

Finally, there will be a raffle drawing, with several chances to enter. Prizes donated by local businesses, which, to date, include an overnight package at the Inn on Peaks Island, certificates to Andy's Pub and DILLIO's floating Restaurant in Portland. Portland Sea Dogs tickets and a black pearl necklace. More are expected! For more information, call 2530 to visit their site: http://library long-island.lib.me.us.

The Eighth Maine is a living museum and lodge built in 1891, providing accommodations for individuals and families. Cook your own meals in the spacious meeting room. Come see what life was like in the 1890s. Tours available on request. To make reservations or for more information call 5086.

The Fifth Maine Civil War Kids Camp July 16 from 8:30 to 2:30 P.M. Four hour history camp - trips, chalk board, campfire beakfast and write letters with homemade ink and sing the old Civil War songs. The kids will also do crafts and activities and learn about the Civil War. Be sure to bring your own snacks with you. From 8:30 to 11 P.M. Saturday evening at the Fifth Maine Museum. Each month features a new set of local and regional artists from throughout New England. All shows 7:50 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free.

July 25: Peaks Island's own Ronda Dale & Kevin Atta; and Sweet Potatoes, New York female duo celebrating their string CD release. Aug. 9: Judi Casswell, native Maine artist who continues to gather awards and praise for her unique work; her Strings and song; reading and Rebecca Katz, lifelong student of language and songwriting and proof that a Master's in English Literature is no hindrance to art; Sept. 13: Lars Hersch, who is named Connecticut State Troubadour 2009-2010; and the Joe Iadanza Band (Jive Tone, '60s) 8:00-10:00. No program during school vacations, holidays, snow days. For more info, contact Denise Macaroun, Recreation Programmer, at 2970, or e-mail: dlm@portlandmaine.gov. Additional events and activities can be found on island bulletinboards.

The Library First Tuesdays Book Discussion moves to its new colorful summer setting, the TEA CHQUBHE, for July and August, 7 p.m. July 7: "In Sunlight in a Beautiful Garden" by Kathleen Cambor, Aug 4: "Loving Frank", a novel about Frank Lloyd Wright by Nancy Horan. Call 3540 or email: peaks@portland.lib.me.us to reserve a spot. Please include your library card number. Book discussions are jointly sponsored by the Peaks Island Branch Library and the Trefethen-Evergreen Improvement Group (TEIA). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Story and Craft Fair For children ages 3-8 years, will continue in July on Thursday at 7 p.m sharp! This program, given by Mrs. Crowley-Kockwell, makes a nice complement to the Summer Reading Program. Come early and sign up before the end of July.

Continued next page
Community Food Pantry: At the Children’s Workshop, open to the island community Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 6pm, and the first Saturday of each month. For assistance and delivery contact the Workshop, 2854 St. Christopher’s Parish, 2585; Rev. Desi Leonard, 207-766-0131. Pastor Beau Brown, 207-766-0537. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!!

Brackett Church: Worship, Sunday 10 a.m., includes children and Sunday School. Children’s Choir - Most Tuesdays, 7:40-8:15 p.m., call Macomber for more information, 207-590-6108. Lent Study Group, Thursdays 6 p.m. Wednesday Thrift Boutique 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the church fellowship hall, Scripture Study, Wednesdays, 10 am and 7 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service - Thursday Evenings - 7 p.m. Compassion, low key worship with candlelight, silence, prayers, gentle music and ecumenical readings. Prayer Shawl Ministry - Thursdays, 11 a.m. at the Church Office/Parsenage, 9 Church Street, call Ann 766-2616 or Rebecca 766-3017 for more information. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church - first service July 5 at Brackett Church, and each succeeding Sunday thereafter through the end of August, 10:15 a.m. Open Mic and Dessert Nite, Friday July 17, 7:30 p.m. Contact Bill Hinders for more information, 766-2616.

Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church, 9 Church Street, Peaks Island, Mainetoast - Rev. Desi Leonard, 207 766-3013, www.brackettmemca.org

PITA-EA: Lute & Ladi Dinner - Tuesday, July 14, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Peaks Island Baptist Church. "Cool Sails, Savory" featuring selection of appetizers, cold salads, rolls, olives and pickles, beverages, and very special desserts. Adults $6, children $2.50. All proceeds benefit PITA-EA.

Raffle - drawing Tuesday, Aug. 18, includes: energy audit by Thompson, Johnson, an overnight stay at the Inn with dinner, and 22 other goods and services from local businesses and the community. Judith McAllister has photos of the prizes and is selling tickets at the new cafe. Call her at 899-9096 or Cynthia, 766-0067 to purchase tickets - $2 per ticket, three for $5, 10 for $13. All profits go to providing energy assistance for homes on Peaks Island.

Weight Training: Mondays and Thursdays from 5 pm to 6 pm in the Community Room, with simple古城和hand weights for strength training and to encourage strong bones. Call Rhonda at 766-0483 for more information.

TEIA Summer: Color of Peaks Art Show and Sale: Saturday, July 11 from 10 am to 2 pm, with preview July 10 at 6 pm, serving wine, hors d'oeuvres and music in the clubhouse. Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, July 11 from 8 am to 11 am. $6 adults/ $4 kids. Croquet Tournament: July 12 from 2 pm to 6 pm. Sign up by Friday, July 10, at TEIA or contact Judy Hasson, 5054. Victorian Tea: July 16, at Carrabassett Lodge, tea at 4 p.m. with a striped basset hunt. Schooner Fare: July 18, an evening of local folk music. Tickets $20/$25. Call Stephanie 766-2649, Sponsor Luncheon, July 21 at NOON at TEIA. Contact Mary Sore (577-242). House Tour and Lobster Luncheon: July 25 - Lunch $30, from NOON to 1 pm, tour $15, 1 pm to 4 pm, tickets opposite Hannah's, or call Kelly, 860-655-8377, reservations (2255).

Annual Fair and Dinner: Aug 1, open 10 am to 5:30 pm, dinner at 6 pm. Tickets $15 each, call Stephanie at 2254.

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Fire Extinguisher Inspection: The Portland Fire Department has arranged for the AAA Fire Extinguisher Company to inspect fire extinguishers for all Peaks Island residents and businesses in July. People wishing to use the service should deliver their fire extinguishers and an envelope with their name, address and phone number plus a check to AAA Fire Extinguisher for $4.50 per unit. They should be brought to the Peaks Fire Station by 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14. If the extinguisher needs additional service, AAA will call the owners for additional instructions.

Extinguishers leaving the island for repair will be returned to the Peaks Fire Station on Friday, July 17. Additional information is available from Captain David Pendleton of the Portland Fire Department at 468-3417.

Peaks Check-in Line: The check-in line, 766-0067, is available to ensure that people who live alone or who are house-bound for any reason have regular contact with someone. If you would like to enroll, or if you have questions about the program please call Howard and Cynthia Pedlikin at 766-0067.

Annual Peaks Island Clamshell Relay Race: Saturday, July 4 at 10:00 a.m. The Clamshell relay race for two-person teams: Leg 1 from Lions Club to the Fifth Maine to get clams, Leg 2 from Island Avenue to Centennial Beach to get it wet. Strange and unusual prizes for teams with the youngest total age, greatest total age (centurians take note), first girls team, first boys team, overall winners, over-all slow-o-e-e-e team, best bikes and family with the most relay teams. Be there and be a pair.

Regional:

2009 Summer Youth Bus Pass: $80 for children and teens (under 18) to ride MTRG and South Portland City Bus anywhere they go, through August. Info at: www.gtomtrose.com or 207-305-0351.

2009 Maine Beach Conference: Friday, July 10, at University of Maine Community College, in Portland. The conference provides exchange of current information on beach resources, and presents findings from the state’s beach monitoring programs. For more information, please contact beachmaine.org.


Next Issue: Art on the Porch

Art Editor Jamie Hogan gets the history behind "Art on the Porch" the Fifth Main’s annual local arts and crafts fair. Museum curator Kim MacIsaac says it’s a great way to get your holiday shopping done early.

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**ISLAND TIMES**

July 2009
PeaksFest 2009: June 19, 20 & 21

BY KEVIN ATTIX

Weather was the story of the eighth annual PeaksFest 2009. Rain fell most of the day Friday, June 19, the opening day, although it had tapered off by evening, and people had a couple of choices for food and entertainment that night.

There was the traditional 6 p.m. Schmoozfest at the TEIA with fancy hors d'oeurves, cocktails and music by the Uncalled Four, followed by Bingo at 7:30 p.m., or simultaneously, there was a barbecue feast at Brackett Memorial Church to celebrate Juneteenth followed by an open mic, all prepared, organized and hosted by the incredibly talented Hinderers. Either way you couldn't lose, you just had to decide if you were feeling thirsty or hungry, creative or lucky.

Rain fell again on Sunday, dampening the ball game and Common Hound dog show. Only Saturday saw any sun, occasionally even blue skies, and the giant yard sale and cookoff at the American Legion were crowded (aerial view, center right).

David Nowers, co-manager of the sale with his wife, Jen, said sales totalled nearly $2,360, which was split equally between the Children's Workshop and PITA-EA. "The whole island did awesome for us," said David.

Although it earned less money than last year, he said they sold "a lot more stuff" because it was all at much lower prices. Last year, a table sold for $500. This year the highest priced item cost $10.

Tours were a big part of the festival. The nature tours of a backshore tide pool and Battery Steele, and tours at the Public Services facility, the water treatment plant and House Island were guided. The Saturday Art Walk was self-guided, and there were open houses at the island’s Police and Fire departments, the Portland fireboat, the TEIA and the Whole Dog Camp.

More than 40 kids and bigger kids enjoyed the special chocolate pies prepared by Mike Beebe, John Freeman and Dean Eastman in the All-American Baking Contest. Alice Kennedy’s Blueberry Lemon pie won first place, and Aidan Weeks won the first ever cupcake competition. Peaks Island Councilors Bob Hurley, Lynn Richard and Rob Tiffany judged the entries, each and every one of them.

Left over cupcakes helped feed the crowd of 50 or so lucky people who, by all reports, witnessed a sensational performance by New York’s "Gathering Time" and the soulful Teresa Storch on Saturday at the "By the Sea Concert" at the Fifth Maine, organized for its second year by Phil Daligan. He was proud that so many people came to the show, and felt that he'd really given them their money’s worth. At the end, with the audience ecstatic, he said, "Sure I told you."

Later he thought maybe credit for the large turnout should at least in part be given to the rain. But then, weather was the story of this year’s PeaksFest.

TOP Left: Rig Trimbey snapped this shot of little Dillon Lynch riding his fire truck in the parade. BELOW: Bingo, hosted by PeaksFest coordinator David C., was serious business, in a fun way.

ABOVE Left: Fun and mishaps at PITA’s fishing pool down front, manned by Sandy Lucas who “loves being with the kids,” said Cynthia Pedlikin, “She knows most of them anyway.” ABOVE Right: Firefighter Tim Flynn’s son, TJ, at the wheel of the fireboat, tied up at the public landing for an open house.

ABOVE: Sorry Shaw (left) worked the grill at the American Legion cookout on Saturday. BELOW: Although these guys couldn’t compete in the rain on Sunday, they managed to get in a few moves for demonstration purposes. The skateboard expo, organized by Ellis Ducharme (left), included Peter Higgins, Dexter Morse and Adrian Willing (catching air, right). They explained that the rain made it too slick to get traction on the board, as well as being too slippery for the wheels to catch on the road. Needless to say, Ellis was NOT HAPPY about it.