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Gary Chapman

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OUR ISLAND SCHOOL

PEAKS ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
EDITORIAL

On our small island here in Casco Bay, we find that a great number of our year-round neighbors were born and raised in many different parts of the country. Very wisely, they decided to settle down and raise their own children in a place that is peaceful yet exciting.

We exchange glances with a few familiar faces in our neighborhood or on the boats, but have never been formally introduced. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself: my name is Gary Chapman. Although I have been living on the island for only two short years (it seems like so many more), I have resided in the Portland area most of my life. I have found a very worthwhile project concerning communication for the island - The Peaks Island Times - which I enjoy not only for its current events but very interesting reading material as well.

Advancing to the position of Editor, I will claim responsibility for the satisfaction of our readers and advertisers, and hope that we can keep you all smiling through the cold winter months ahead.

Depending on the response from our many welcome writers, the size of the paper may decrease slightly for the winter months, but the quality can only increase with time.

In closing, I would just like to say that with all of our combined support we can make this, not only the first newspaper ever produced and printed on Peaks Island, but one of the many things on the island of which we all can be proud, whether just visiting or spending all four seasons here.

UNTIL WE MEET,
SINCERELY,
GARY CHAPMAN, ED.

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Thank you, Ed.
Pho to by ROYCE TREMBLAY / NEWS-PH O TOGRAPHIC

PEAKS ISLAND TIMES

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Letters to the Editor should be submitted to the Editor, 766-5525, 766-5004.

Letter's To The Editor

Since earliest recorded history islands have inspired poets to beautiful verse and writers to stories of exciting adventure and romance; great battles were fought for them.

From the South Pacific, east around the world to the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. For centuries beautiful and magnificent islands have been a source of mystery, intrigue and pleasure to the sailor and traveler. But what of the islands and the people who live on them?

For a few moments now let your attention and mind wander to the Northeast coast of the United States to Casco Bay on the coast of Maine, where there exists an archipelago created during the last ice age recession; of the many islands scattered throughout Casco Bay, Peaks Island is the one to which you are asked to focus your attention, it being no less and no more unique than the many other islands. Islands on the coast of Maine are valuable pieces of real estate, and unique in that there is limited access to them from the mainland. On one island, Monhegan, its citizens have wisely limited the number and type of vehicles permitted on its roads. This is not very likely to happen on any of the larger islands in the foreseeable future. Many of the smaller islands, due to lack of facilities and the topographical nature of the island will not permit the use of vehicles.

Another very unique aspect of the inhabited islands are deep family roots reaching back to the bay's early settlers. The aesthetic character is slowly being eroded away on the larger islands in the name of progress and development; old family roots are being thinned and left to wilt and die, with the younger generation unwilling or unable to take up occupations of the parents and grandparents, they leave the island home to improve their lifestyle and become a part of progress elsewhere. There are those who would greatly increase access to certain islands; who want to develop islands into their harbored visions of grandeur and leisure living; more construction, more asphalt, more people, more cars and more pollution. Some islands are having their uniqueness seriously abraded by the encroachment of this questionable progress and the decay of family ties from long ago. Once an island's character has eroded and its beauty lost, it is lost and gone for all time, and can never be recaptured. I am one who wants to prolong the matchless beauty of the Coast of Maine islands and especially in Casco Bay.

cont. p. 6
"All aboard! Peaks Island!"

The boat whistle blows at 7:55 a.m. and the Casco Bay Lines ferry pulls away from Custom House Wharf into Casco Bay.

For those people who teach and provide support services at the Peaks Island Elementary School, each day begins with the "water taxi" ride.

There are seventy seven students enrolled at the Peaks Island School this fall in grades Kindergarten through sixth grade. Mr. Clyde Bartlett, the Assistant Superintendent for Portland's elementary schools, serves as Principal for all of the island schools this year (Peaks, Long, Cliff). Mrs. Anne Clemons is the Acting Assistant Principal, as well as the K-6 Resource Room teacher. There are three other full-time teaching staff members: Miss Mary Purvis, Kindergarten and first grade; Miss Andrea Lo Piccolo, grades two and three; and Mr. Charles Miranda, grades four five and six. The two full-time Aides are Mrs. Barbara Roberts (K-3) and Mrs. Judith McDermott (4-6). Mr. John Coyne is the lead Custodian, assisted part-time by Mrs. Susan Benner.

The school offers a daily breakfast program of juice, cereal and milk in our gymnasium which doubles as a cafeteria. There is a hot lunch program as well, supervised by Mrs. Reta Morrill. Lunches are pre-packaged at the Nathan Clifford School cafeteria each day and are shipped to Peaks Island on the ten o'clock boat. Once at school the lunches are heated in warming ovens for the twelve o'clock lunch period.

In addition to the regular curriculum of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies, many support services are available to the students and teachers by sharing personnel with other schools.

Mrs. Bernice Toppi, Reading Consultant and Miss Maureen Turner, Math Consultant, each spend a half day each week at the school with the balance of their time divided between Adams, Shailer and Emerson Schools on Munjoy Hill. Mrs. Sherman Kendall from North School serves as Art teacher every Tuesday and Mr. Bruce Koharian, also from North School, comes down every Wednesday for Principal Education and after school intermurals. Miss Patricia Scanlon is the Speech Therapist for the three island schools, spending one day and one hour of another day each week at Peaks. A psychological examiner is also available at the school to assist in Pupil Evaluation Team activities. Dental Health and Sex Education are two of the supplementary health education programs offered during the school year.

The school bustles with activities throughout the day and often long after the last bell. Our Chess Club is active again this year under the enthusiastic direction of Mr. Bud Lester. Teaching French to the grades 1-6 students is the ambitious undertaking of Mr. Don Foster one afternoon a week. A school Safety Patrol has been started for those in Grades four through six who are interested in others getting to and from school safely, with stations before and after school at Snake Alley, the bicycle rack, the front gate and at various places in the school yard. Coach Miranda has also begun readying the Gulls for another promising basketball season.

The staff is most enthused and encouraged by the interest and concern that parents and other island people show in the school and its activities.

The staff at the school is interested in providing a wide variety of opportunities and experiences for the school children. The island community represents a vast reservoir of talent and human resources which could be utilized by a volunteer in the school. School volunteers may be parents, retired persons, college and high school students, members of church and civic groups and the community at large who are motivated by a desire to help and have time to give regularly or on a request basis.

School volunteers do not take the place of paid staff but they can provide a greater opportunity for individual instruction, lighten the load by performing non-instructional tasks, give teachers more time for teaching, help motivate students by one-to-one personal contact, help enrich curriculum, develop citizen awareness and strengthen school-community relationships.

Some specific ideas for use of volunteers at the school include - using the duplicating machine; instrumental music; vocal music; arts and crafts; needlework-sewing-knitting; woodworking; cooking; typing; making instructional learning games; physical education; holiday helpers; field trip chaperones; plays; tutors; "Read A Story"; small groups for learning games; science and/or social studies projects; Peaks Island study and exchange groups for grades 4-5-6; sharing Island talents; knowledge; interests and experiences.

If you feel that you could volunteer in the school, please call Mrs. Anne Clemons, Acting Assistant Principal, at the school 766-2528.

Mrs. Anne Clemons
P.I. Elem. School
P.I. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MISS MARY PURVIS
KINDERGARTEN AND GRD. 1, 2, 3, 5 AND 6

MR. CHARLES MIRANDA
GRDES 1, 5 AND 6

THE DAY'S END!

MISS ANDREA LO PIGCOLO
GRDES 2 AND 3

ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
MRS. ANNE CLEMONS

PHOTOS - GARY CHAPMAN
PEAKS ISLAND TIMES
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
cont. from p. 4

In recent and past years the islands in Casco Bay captured the attention of the aggressive, greedy developers and speculators much to the detriment of, and threatening to ruin forever, true beauty of the islands.

An island's character can be made to last for many generations if proper guidance and strict controls are adhered to, but if development and society as a whole, everyone loses including the ones who achieve materialistic and financial profit in the process of any development. Yes, unscrupulous, self-serving individuals with grand plans of development and construction with ill advised financial backing, in time could possibly create on a small scale, images of Manhattan Island or a Coney Island atmosphere in the name of progress and economy. Do we need it? Do our vacationing summer residents want it? Any island land mass can withstand just so much exploitation and development, it can house and maintain a given number of people and no more. Just how much progress can an island absorb to its own benefit and wellbeing?

I want to be numbered among those many people who firmly believe Peaks Island has reached its saturation point. Each and every island has its own very delicate ecologic system, the Peaks Island system is being threatened very seriously. It's your responsibility to give very close attention to this and protect it from being destroyed for all time.

One ingredient that enhances an island's unicity are the people who elected to make their homes on the island and participate in guiding it's social wellbeing.

I bring your attention to Dr. Irene V. Schensted and her outstanding effort of bringing to the attention of Portland's City Planning Board, "Suggestions for a more constructive approach to the water quality problems of Peaks Island", "A critical view of the C.O.O. 201 Facilities Plan". I believe I would be quite correct in saying it was her initiative and hard work which brought about the greatest people response to a public hearing ever recorded in the memory of those senior citizens who attended.

I would be totally amiss if I did not mention the most talented efforts put forth to the D.E.P. by Mr. Jonathan Hubbard to have something done about the obnoxious odors escaping from the Pine State By-Products Co. of South Portland.

There are presently two civic organizations serving the Peaks Island and Casco Bay Communities, the Island Citizens Association (ICA) is the watch-dog on Peaks Island along with the Casco Bay Island Development Association (CBIDA), the latter being primarily a bay wide oriented organization. Both of these organizations have put forth sincere and dedicated effort to care for and tend to community problems and correct inadequacies. Both have met with abuse, been maligned and ridiculed. Neither can claim to be the spokesperson for the community of Peaks or the Bay. They do carry their banners high and speak with conviction. Elements of antagonism have consistently dissolved any hopes or plans of the two organizations ever consolidating and going forward to speak as one voice during critical public meetings.

How might we best serve the Peaks Island Community??

Several years ago an idea, a hope was given birth. The island citizens were approached with the plan, a goal was set. A tenacious committee and exhausting, difficult work brought an idea and a hope to reality. Peaks Island has a Health Center, Marge Erich says, "because the people love their island", she is the one who should know; I believe her. Here we have a fine example, should we not learn from it?

Now, if I may direct your attention to two issues of the Peaks Island Times, Vol.1, numbers one and three, June and August respectively. In issue # 1, Rev. Michael E. Davis' "Reflections on three years", he made reference to an "Island Council", I assume he had in mind a Town Hall meeting to give islanders an opportunity to air grievances before a legitimate body. In issue # 3, Mr. Peter Deane's letter to the editor, in the second paragraph, "What to do is the next question", and goes on to suggest, "setting a date for a meeting of all the residents to air their problems and complaints". Here are two men with basically the same idea, I too am in full agreement with the concept. If a Community Health Center can be a reality "because the people love their island", why not an "Island Council", to represent the people before Portland's City Council or State Committees.

I am strongly convinced that the time has arrived when the island's citizen must stand up, be counted and take account of what is happening and could happen to their island; take the responsibility of controlling the island's destiny.

Doug McVane

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Many people look all their lives for their "thing", and never find it. Fortunately, thanks to a very close friend, I have found mine.

A few years ago, Virginia Kennedy, (an island resident for many years) suggested that for something to do one evening a week we gather in her home to do ceramics. My first answer to her was, "I don't have the patience my hands are too shaky." Needless to say she talked me into trying, and for that I'll be thankful the rest of my life. I gathered up a couple of friends so I wouldn't feel alone in this venture and headed for Kennedy's in standish.

Gin had aquired the greenware for everyone from the studio she had previously attended. If memory serves me right there were about eight of us around her kitchen table. Would you believe that with eight women gathered together you could hear a pin drop? Well it's a fact! Everyone was so involved in their work it was as if there were no problems in the world. We all felt it. As the weeks passed Gin became impatient because our firing wasn't being done on time for the next week's meeting. Gin decided that we should have our own kiln so we wouldn't have to be disappointed if our work wasn't returned in time. We discussed the possibility, and decided that we would pool our money and become partners and buy our own kiln. We did this and became VAL ceramics Club. The V for Virginia, A, her middle initial and my first, L for louise. Thus VAL. At this point I started classes at my home on Concord Street, Monday and Tuesday nights. As time passed we became curious about pouring molds. We made a trip to Mass. and aquired some colds and slip. I remember our first experience, looking back it's funny, however at the time it was very serious business. Pouring involves molds, slip and timing periods. We were all gathered around, the first molds were poured, the timing period was now, and we were almost afraid to open the molds to see what we have created. When the mold was separated we all screamed with pleasure and danced up and down. Needless to say the first pouring was the most beautiful piece of greenware in the history of ceramics.

I found my thoughts returning to the island. Would the women on Peaks Island like to join in ceramics? Where would I locate for classes? How would I transport supplies? All these questions and many more went through my head. I approached my daughter and son in law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Finley who were renting my home on the island, and with her help, put the word out that we would start classes on Wednesday nights at her home. I transported a supply of greenware and tools to Tina's place to get ready for class on Wednesday. My first class consisted of Cindy Kirby, Bonnie O'Gaine, Vicki Bemis and Tina Finley. Their excitement and questions just made my own enthusiasm fly. All the girls cleaned the greenware of their choice which was then carefully created.

CONT. P. 8
CERAMICS CLUB CONT.
wrapped and boxed to return to Standish for firing. We had a regular routine set up for transporting our pieces. Now a problem was intruding, with Gin's classes growing and mine growing we needed another kiln. Then is when we decided to split our partnership and do our own thing yet still work closely together. Today Gin is Kennedy's Ceramic Club and I am BooLu Ceramic Club (my husband Bruce's nickname is Boo and I am Lu). Well, classes were growing, and it got to a point where every week I would have at least one or two new members, so I decided to have day classes...A morning class for housewives that didn't want to go out in the evening, an afternoon class for young women still in school and an evening class for working women.

Well, things were going fine until I was hired for full time work. Now what do I do? My daughter Janice had been attending classes and seminars with me to keep updated on all of the new techniques, so I had her teach all of my day classes and I still continued with night classes. I was afraid that because of her age people would not want to continue. However Janice loves this work as I do, her enthusiasm is as mine is and soon everyone discovered she knew what she was talking about and respected her teaching. My classes at this time had grown to thirty people.

Classes continued through winter, now summer was approaching, school would be out and people on vacation. I decided to close class for the summer as on the island there is just so much to do in the summer. However, I couldn't leave stranded the people that wished to continue so I invited them to attend my home classes on either Mon. or Tue. nights. Many are doing this now. My husband and I attended a Ceramics Show in Foxborough Mass. Our completed Pieces were displayed at different levels: Children, Student, Senior Citizens and Professional. Ribbons were awarded in recognition of talent. Many island pieces are to be submitted. I have pieces now in France. John Winn's sister-in-law created some beautiful pieces to bring back to France with her.

I would like to thank the residents of the island for their terrific support last winter and I'm looking forward to seeing you this year.

Louise Weatherington

VET CLINIC
THERE WILL BE ANOTHER VETERINARY CLINIC ON THE ISLAND, THIS TIME IT WILL BE AT THE P.I. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, FROM 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

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The ocean is deliberately knocking at my door
Crashingly saying farewell,
Good By.
Can you appreciate my being
Not around, any more?
Willingly separating the spell
I die.
The birth of fatalism may bring us
Sharing again some day,
Though we'll not live in that same special way.
Good By.
The ocean astonishingly understanding the aura
Forgetfully, communicating, its hell.
I die.

Leaving
Slipping away,
Is there anything I can do
Or words that I can say?
Thoughts are all that linger
For feelings always stay.

Anyone wishing to submit their own original
poetry to the Poets Corner, please see that
we receive it by the 20th of the month. - Ed.

The Quest
Escaping from the teeming
heat and intense pressure of
city dwelling is the main
objective of millions of
people the world over. Summer
vacations draw worn and frazzled pilgrims to the haunts
of beaches, lakes and resorts.
Some escape to island retreats,
away from their everyday
treadmills, for what the military would quaintly call
R and R, Rest and Recreation.
Withdrawing temporarily from
the intensity of combat is
good for the spirit, soul and
body; as most of mankind would
confess. Fortunately, leaving your "grind" behind can also
prove to be exhilarating,
uplifting and deeply fulfilling since it gives one
the chance to stop and think.

Emerging through the mists
are the scattered island lights
diffused through the fog and
the depths of night. A few
familiar faces accompany you
as you "walk the plank" and
others look vaguely back as
they await their turn to
board the island couriers.
Some arriving passengers will
be met and relieved of their
heavy parcels. Others will
trudge off into the foggy
night to awaiting homes.
A few minutes after docking and
unloading the courier streaks
for Portland to be swallowed
up by the foggy dragon and
abandoned stillness cloaking
the dock.

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THE QUEST CONT.
Too many find their spiritual quest just as shrouded as a foggy night landing. They attempt to escape the crushing crucible of daily life through retreats and "R and R." Once one stops to think, the quest for "the truth" has begun. You can look at the murky fog surrounding you, or the couriers you must use to make the crossing; you can scan the waters you must cross before arriving, and even ponder the unknown docking on the other side; but once you have stopped to think you have only four options available.

Your first option is to refuse to go on, and many do. They would rather stay where they are and give up the quest than risk the trip. In the second option you can decide to go on but you find your courage lasts only as long as the shore lights are visible. Once the lights are obscured you lose your bearings and jump overboard, short of your goal and attempt to get back where you were. The third option begins once your crossing is completed. In the screening fog and depths of night first appearances might be deceiving or foreboding. You decide you were better off where you were before, than here in this uncertain phantom... and so you refuse to disembark choosing instead to return to your crucible. The fourth option, by far the most difficult, is to cross and stay and see it through.

As the courier streaks away, the cloak of abandoned stillness might weigh heavy upon you and make you wonder if the quest for the truth is worth all the risks involved. At any point distractions can interrupt your beach head and ample reasons can be assembled to dissuade you from going on. Discouragement, fear, uncertainty, apprehension, all can whip up gales of resistance to frenzy the weary pilgrim and you might justifiably ask, "Why risk the hassle?

Jesus' words blaze the answer in John 8:31,32. There he states three reasons for enduring the hassle of the quest for spiritual truth. "If you remain in my word then you are my disciples; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." For this freedom men search in ever widening circles with ever increasing desperation. They substitute anything imaginable and everything conceivable for the truth that truly frees. The whole answer is summarized four verses later. "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." That freedom is worth any quest.

Rev. G. David Rivers

PEAKS ISLAND IS UNIQUE IN MANY WAYS. THERE ARE MANY PLUSES AS WELL AS DRAWBACKS TO LIFE HERE. THE FACT THAT WE ARE ISOLATED AND CUT OFF FROM THE MAINLAND IS ONE OF THE DRAWBACKS. MANY OF THE HOUSES ON THE ISLAND ARE OLD AND HAVE BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR YEARS, THERE ARE MANY VALUABLE PIECES OF FURNITURE AND BRIC-A-BRAC IN THESE HOUSES WHICH TO THE OWNERS HAVE BEEN THERE UNAWARE FOR YEARS.

IF ANYONE SHOULD COME TO YOUR HOME AND OFFER YOU MONEY FOR THESE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, THE BEST DIRECTION TO TAKE WOULD BE TO CONTACT A WELL-KNOWN NEIGHBOR ON PEAKS ISLAND AND GET A SECOND ESTIMATE. IT IS A WIDELY PUBLICIZED FACT THAT PEOPLE IN THE PAST HAVE VICTIMIZED AND TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE ELDER RESIDENTS OF PEAKS ISLAND AND THEIR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY WORTH. REMEMBER: CAUTION IS THE BEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROTECTION. DON'T BE SORRY LATER FOR A FAST TALKER, SMOOTH OPERATOR, AND FRIENDLY SMILE TODAY.
ICA News

The weight limit on the Portland Pier has been reduced to three tons. The action was taken as a result of a study done by a local engineering firm. According to Mr. John Chesebro, who work for the City of Portland, the limit was reduced the day after Labor Day; though the results of the study had been available for one month prior to the actual reduction.

The Island Citizens Assoc. first learned of the action and the related problems it brings to the islanders, from Susan Scandlen. The Scandlens had arranged for firewood to be brought to the island, but when the driver of the truck saw the new limit posted, he refused to transport the wood over the dangerous pier. I wrote a letter in behalf of the I.C.A. to A.J. Wilson, Portland City Manager and all of the Portland City Councillors. In the letter I expressed outrage that the City had conveniently allowed our summer residents to transport all of their belongings to and from the island with no hint of danger, and that the City now has an obligation and a responsibility to the islanders to provide means for transporting firewood as well as necessary building materials to the island.

Although I have not personally heard anything, there has been much discussion on the boats about the City actually contracting with someone to provide this service. I would suggest that anyone with a problem relating to the reduction, contact Mr. Chesebro at City Hall, 775-5451.

Irene Murray
President ICA
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