Peaks Island Norway maple in competition for largest in Maine

By Benjamin Sandler

Measurred at 80 feet tall with a circumference of 162 inches and a crown spread of 84 feet, a Norway maple tree (Acer platanoides) owned by Peaks Island resident Philip Munu, is expected to be named the largest in Maine.

The tree, which dates back to before 1926, was planted by the late Peaks Island resident Margaret Randall in front of Winchester Cottage, now owned by Mr. Munu. It has been entered as a contestant in Maine’s Register of Big Trees, which is sponsored by the Maine Forest Service, and the national organization American Foresters.

According to Jan Santerre, coordinator for the Maine register, three measurements are taken to select the largest tree height, crown spread, and the circumference of the trunk measured at 4.5 feet from the ground. “The nominations for the competition,” she explained, “are taken and verified by licensed professional foresters and/or licensed Maine arborists, who are most often maine Forest Service district foresters.”

Mr. Munu first got the idea to enter his Norway maple into the competition from a friend, arborist Edward A. Richardson, who has many of his own trees listed in the register. On June 30, 2007, landscape Stanwood Newell, who has taken care of the tree for over 25 years, measured it for the competition. A licensed forester, Becky Tavani, was sent to verify these measurements ten days later.

According to Mr. Tavani’s figures, Mr. Munu’s tree has a total of 263 points, calculated as the circumference plus the height plus one-fourth of the crown spread of 84 feet. A Norway maple tree is considered to be “uncultivated” and has not been tended in any manner.

Douglas MacVane was home that early morning. He was having an episode as he called after-hours rescue for help. Two members of the Peaks Patrol quickly arrived. At the same time the in-town crew was dispatched, which consisted of two paramedics from Medco No. 5 and three members of the boat crew, who proceeded on the Cavallo (fire boat). They arrived just as the ambulance arrived at Forte City Landing.

At that point Mr. MacVane was in a very serious condition. We quickly transferred him onto the Cavallo for the trip back to Portland. Paramedics did some very difficult and advanced procedures on him on the way. They arrived at the State Pier and transferred him to an ambulance waiting there. Unfortunately all the efforts made at the medical center were not successful.

A memorial service was held on Peaks Island Sunday, Aug. 31 at noon at the Lions Club. For coverage of the service, please see page 10.

Peaks Island Council addressing need for zoning improvement

By Kevin Attra

In a 90 minute presentation on Friday, Aug. 8, at the community center, using wall maps and slide show images, Peaks Island Council Members Rob Tiffany and Lynne Richard described four zoning systems used throughout the country and illustrated ways in which these systems could be applied to zoning on Peaks Island.

The seminar, titled “Zoning 101,” was essentially an interim report on a study being conducted by the council in order to develop accurate property maps and bring current zoning codes on the island up to date, which was last done in 1985.

A significant problem found in the current system was the fact that lines drawn on the 1985 map are too thick to amount to an area effectively 30 feet wide, cutting through people’s property and leading to confusion about where the boundaries actually lie in real space.

A draft version of a new zoning map, produced by Art Arata in using contemporary computer imaging techniques and displayed at the meeting, illustrated another quick in the system the PIC will have to resolve; there are plots of land scattered around the island that have no record of ever being owned by anyone. In discussing the new map Mr. Arata and other problems have also cropped up, including maps showing the location of certain rights-of-way that don’t correspond to images in aerial photographs. “You may want to correct this,” he suggested.

By Kevin Attra

Peaks Island Council addressing need for zoning improvement

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BAGHEERA
The 72-foot wooden schooner, Bagheera, was built in 1924 at Rice Brothers Shipyard in East Boothbay, Maine. She was designed by one of the world's premier classic yacht designers, John G. Alden, and built as a pleasure yacht for Marion Eppley of Newport, Rhode Island.

Originally named Beacon Rock, she was sold to a Chicago businessman and renamed Bagheera in 1928. In the 1930s, the Bagheera sailed in the Bermuda Race at least once before being delivered to the Great Lakes, where she spent many years building her reputation as one of the most formidable schooners on the racing circuit, winning the annual Chicago-Mackinac Race several years running.

Later she was passed around among various owners who used to sail the world’s oceans. She crossed the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, cruised areas of the Pacific including the Galapagos Islands, and spent many years in the Caribbean Sea, winning races there as well.

In the 1980s, Bagheera was fitted out in San Diego for the passenger trade, chartering passengers on whale watches and pleasure sails. She was transported back home to Maine in the spring of 2002 to serve the Portland Schooner Company.

Bagheera was originally designed as a gaff rigged schooner for cruising and racing. In the late 1940s the rig was changed to a staysail schooner with a Marconi mainsail. In 2005, as part of Portland Schooner Company’s ongoing restoration efforts, the rig was changed back to a gaff rig with a new suite of sails as originally designed.

Bagheera is a unique Alden, featuring long overhangs, a sweet and graceful sheer line, and a long bowsprit. For construction, Alden turned to the rich shipbuilding heritage of Maine and found able craftsmen at Rice Brothers Shipyard in East Boothbay. Long leaf yellow pine is planked on double sawn white oak frames. The trim below and on deck is mahogany. The years are Sirk’s venue and the masts are Douglas fir. Her dimensions are: Length 72'; Beam (width) 14'; Draft (depth) 7'.

Bagheera has sailed hard and seen some changes but much about her remains original. There is something very romantic about sailing on this classic Maine windjammer, and besides its use for day excursions, the schooner is often used for wedding ceremonies, rehearsal dinner parties, and sometimes even overnight honeymooners.

Some couples have exchanged vows off Portland Head Light, others drop anchor in a quiet cove, sail adrift to an island, or just sail into the sunset. The ship’s captain can officiate weddings, and a wedding aboard the Bagheera was featured in Modern Bride.

Editor’s Note: This is the first in an on-going series of stories about local ships. Each issue will feature a different ship to the cover, and on this page you can learn more about her, including some basic statistics for the data-lover in you, but mainly the story behind each of the many ships we around us everyday.
PILP elects new directors and honors White Oak Award recipients at annual meeting

More than 50 people braved torrential rains, thunder and lightning to attend the Peaks Island Land Preserve (PILP) annual meeting Thursday, July 31 at The Fifth Maine. The meeting, which was open to the public, also featured island historian and Fifth Maine Curator Kim MacIacie as a guest speaker, whose talk on "Fish! The Plague of Peaks Island" had special relevance since this year PILP is pushing increased emphasis on land management, including fire mitigation practices, according to president Gary Fox. The organization also is working to improve land stewardship through new educational opportunities, best practices and communications programs.

Two islanders were nominated and elected to fill vacancies on the PILP Board of Directors, created during the past several months when Lynne Richardson was elected to serve on the Peaks Island Council and Ed Daranyi took on greater and more time-consuming challenges in his job. Filling one spot is Johan Erikson, an Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences at St. Joseph's College, whose specialty is surficial geology, and who teaches courses in geology and chemistry. He has also developed a deep knowledge base of coastal Maine environments and ecosystems, which he has used in teaching courses such as "Golf of Maine Environment" for UMaine's "City Peak" for Boston University. Also elected to the Board is Anne Whitman, an island resident for 24 years who is a botanist. Whitman has served as a vice president and president of the board of The Friends of Peaks Island Library, and has been co-chaired of a PILP property.

Lines from Casco Bay Lines

As the summer sailing season moves into its final weeks, your Casco Bay Island Transit District that operates our ferry service continues to work hard to provide reliable service at an affordable price. Despite rising fuel costs, CBITD was able to conserve all revenues through a series of economic actions, including a ticket surcharge, belt tightening and slower sailing operations to conserve fuel. All employees have been very cooperative and helpful in trying to eat costs. More than 50 islanders attended two public meetings, which were held consecutively on Peaks Island on Saturday, Aug. 16, to address concerns about the ferry service. Many were drawn to the meetings by the suggestion to discontinue the 11:30 pm ferry to Peaks Island. Residents of the island expressed their view that the last ferry of the night should remain as it is during all sailing seasons.

At the Aug. 21 board of directors meeting, the directors decided against making any changes to the winter sailing schedule. Spring and summer sailing schedules will be discussed by the Operations Committee in future meetings. All meetings are posted in the terminal and on the website at www.cascobaylines.com.

Several Directors said that information from the Independent Cost Allocation and Rate Structure Study, being conducted as part of the 50 cent fuel surcharge approved in April, should be considered before any future changes to the rate and service structure are approved. Members of the public share the frustration of the board and CBITD General Manager Catherine Debo at the delay in completing the study, which was conducted by a consulting firm. All hope to resolve results of this study soon.

At the first of the Aug. 16 meetings, Committee Chair Chris Hopkin asked residents to share their views concerning the structure of our rates. Islanders asked about possibly lowering bicycle rates and creating new multiple passenger and multiple car ticket books. They presented conflicting arguments for and against higher rates for cars. They asked about ticket expiration policies and rates in summer and other seasons. Several islanders indicated that administrative and overhead costs should be reviewed before rates are increased.

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A dozen girls earn Red Cross babysitter certification

BY CYNTHIA MOLLIE Photos by SARAH MACLEOD

Caring for babies and young children is a serious responsibility, and many of us learn these skills by a catch-as-catch-can method, hoping we'd never be put to the test with a real emergency or tough situation. Twelve girls now have the advantage of being Red Cross-certified babysitters through a six-week program offered by the Friends of TEIA last month.

"Each participant has been taught basic first aid, choking/CPR issues, baby care, infant and toddler care and feeding skills, and the 'don't-shake-Jake' program as part of the all-day course held at the Grace MacLeod and Calee Lee learn back throtius to stop choking.

Instructor Ron Vire shows Annika Erikson CPR chest compressions.

The fourth annual meeting of the Peaks Island Fund was held on Thursday, Aug. 21, at the Zimmerman home with approximately 100 people in attendance. Those in attendance enjoyed a beautiful evening and the good news of another successful year of grant awards to island charities.

The PIF committee reported continuing growth of the permanent endowment for the island and another record year of awards. The annual report is available online at www.peaksislandfund.org, and at various island venues.

A growing number of island residents are making arrangements to include the fund in estate planning with the hopes that PIF will become a significant source of charitable dollars into the future.

Reta Merrill presented the following grants to island organizations for 2008:

• Brackets Memorial Church Weatherization Project has been awarded $2,500 to support energy conservation and weatherization efforts in their building.

• The Fifth Maine Regiment Museum will receive two grants totaling $2,900. The first is for $1,900 to expand their Collections to Classroom education initiative designed to create a stronger bond between island history and our island residents, especially among schools on the mainland and at the Peaks Island School. The second $1,000 will allow the museum to engage a summer intern who has been doing advanced research into the members of the original regiment.

The Peaks Island Music Association plans to purchase a baby grand piano for its programs. They have been awarded $3,000 to help secure the piano and equipment for moving to various island venues.

Home Start, the Peaks Island affordable housing program has been awarded $3,000 to conduct a needs assessment survey. The hope of PIF is that this survey will help unify island residents in their discussions on the best way to address the issue of affordable home ownership on the island.

The Peaks Island Children's Workshop submitted three proposals. It has been granted $6,544 for a year-long Wednesday afternoon enrichment program for island children. This program will engage 60 volunteers who are willing to share their talents with the children.

The Workshop will also receive $3,000 to expand its After School Program and $100 toward its capital campaign to retire its mortgage, build a reserve fund and defray tuition costs for island families.

The Peaks Island Elementary School has been awarded $1,383 for an experimental classroom program called Kids on the Ball-$2,400 to support costs related to a school-wide, daylong trip to Boston's Freedom Trail and the Aquarium; and $1,000 to cover costs for a French Club trip to Quebec, the culmination of a year-long French culture and language program.

The Peaks Island Tax Assistance - Grants Assistance division has been awarded $2,000 for energy audits in eligible homes on Peaks Island.

Volunteers of America - Faye Garman House will receive $2,855 to create raised beds to cultivate community gardens for its residents, and to enhance landscaping and install a flag pole at the Serrett Center.

The Peaks Environmental Action Team has been awarded $5,000 for the purchase of a solar powered composting container to be located at the Peaks Island Ferry terminal area. Indications of savings in trash volume and number of pick ups required make a compelling argument for this sound conservation/recycling effort.

Total Grants Awarded: $35,618

New Members of the PIF Committee

New members elected to the Peaks Island Fund Committee class of 2012 are Brad Burkholder, Stephanie Castle, Bob Haagensen and Tom Snyder. They join current members Nancy Flynn, Johann Oliver, Kathy Hurley, Jim Laszlo, Phyllis Wooten, Reta Merrill, Perry Sutherland and Bill Zimmerman in encouraging all island residents to ask about getting involved with the long term development of the island endowment fund.

Additional information about making a contribution to the fund or including the Peaks Island Fund in your will can be obtained by calling Pam Cleghorn or Jen Southard at the Maine Community Foundation, 207-761-2440 or mailing your check to The Peaks Island Fund, c/o Maine Community Foundation, One Monument Way, Suite 200, Portland, Maine 04101. Visit the Peaks Island Fund website at www.peaksislandfund.org.

Thanks again to the more than 200 donors who supported the Peaks Island Fund in 2007-08.
Kim Maclsaac presents "Fire! The Plague of Peaks Island"

BY CYNTHIA MOLLUS

PILP asked island historian and fifth Maine Curator Kim Maclsaac to talk about the history of fires on Peaks Island, including the Great Fire of 1921 that ravaged a good part of the island.

The newly elected officers are committed to increasing membership, improving communication with members of the legion, and developing a strong presence on Peaks Island through community involvement.

Energy Assistance programs continue for fall

BY CYNTHIA PEDLIN

The Peaks Island Fund awarded PITA-EA a grant for $2,000 this year to help islanders get energy audits for their homes, and we began our Audit and Weatherproofing Program at the end of August with funds set aside to help qualified homeowners with energy audits and simple weatherproofing.

American Legion Post 142 elects new officers

FROM AUGUST NEWSLETTER

In the August edition of its quarterly newsletter, the American Legion Post No. 142 announced that Jim Thurold was elected June 1 to serve as Commander of the post. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard, and has been a resident of Peaks Island for six years. The post commander serves for one year.

New Customer Service Rep for Peaks Island bank branch

Maclsaac concluded, "with some areas having only shallow or summer water, and many cottages are old and dry."
I am writing in support and gratitude to the members of the Homeowners Committee. I understand things got off to a somewhat rocky start and fears and misgivings were voiced. I am convinced that the work of this dedicated group is to be applauded. Like many others on this island, I was working parallel to the fire department, the sheriff's department, and the other members of the community, not in service of their own economic advancement or personal gain. At the recent meeting, I heard concerns about those people who need affordable housing, as being more or less depleting slackers. Most of the folks I know who are struggling to stay on this island are decent people, and a real father is on his way to a full recovery. I would also like to say how fortunate the people of Peaks Island are to have these brave and caring professionals at their disposal in the event of an emergency. You are truly lucky, sincerely, The Kenworthy Family, Sacramento, CA

TWO POINTS OF VIEW ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

I appreciate your invitation to express my concerns about the particular homeless initiative. I strongly believe in working to provide and preserve affordable housing and jobs so that we as a community can not only live and afford a home, and be a part of their community. While I am generally in favor of the initiative on Peaks, I am no longer supportive of this particular group that sprang up from the first (and only) support. I believe the following concerns are shared by many others (though I speak only for myself in the following):

1. The people leading Homestart do not seem to understand that the people would be inclined to support an effort led by native islanders, many of whom own homes, to buy many years ago by their families and many of whom have concerns about their children and grand children's ability to afford a house on Peaks Island their family has long called home. If this initiative isn't of interest or doesn't meet their needs, it isn't right to me.

Affordable housing and other forms of assistance are for those in need and view for elderly people on fixed incomes. Their taxes go up whether or not they are able to stay in their homes, and their incomes do not. Yet, for all the efforts to maintain their housing, the new building reportedly isn't full. Why is that? Is there no need or does the project not meet the needs of people who are interested in it to serve.

The neighbors of the proposed housing seem mostly to be opposed to it and to view it as a negative for the value of the houses they work hard to acquire—what is it about the project that causes that perception? These are not fancy houses people are looking to flip, but those neighbors views and homes deserve respect.

I share with many islanders the desire to help those who work hard and need help. I want to retain a vibrant, mixed island community with all sorts of different people and ages and ideas—that is what makes Peaks a real community. The economic reality is that it's difficult to fight a market, and overall more housing needs to be provided for people who succeed economically who are here, not for Peaks a real commodity.

Other than for elderly people where, for me, the need and value of assistance is clear, I think the issue is around the questions of economics and what is it about the project that causes that perception? These are not fancy houses people are looking to flip, but those neighbors views and homes deserve respect.

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YOGA FOR LIFE

A yogic perspective on health and simple living

BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANIS

[Ed. Note: This is the fourth in an ongoing series of instructional essays. Ms. Stephanis has designed a series of instructional poses. These exercises are for people at all levels of proficiency.]

Author note. If you want to build a yoga practice, please start with the suggestions in the June issue and add as you go along.

Last month, I started a conversation about healthy digestion with a focus on the benefits of effective and efficient elimination of waste materials from the body. This month I invite you to consider eating and digestion. Moving out of unconscious patterns into mindful choices is an empowering step towards health and well being. Our relationship with food is primal, ritualistic, and deeply ingrained in tradition.

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

Half Moon:
Stand with your feet about hip width apart, legs and abdomen gently engaged, heart lifting and shoulders relaxed. Put your right hand on your hip and raise your left arm. Press your pelvis to the left as your raised arm reaches up and over to the right. This is a pure side stretch without twisting or bending forward or backward. If your breath becomes short or labored or you find yourself contracting, please come out of the posture a few inches. Hold the posture for at least five slow breaths and then repeat on the other side. You may find it helpful to practice in front of a mirror at first.

Eagle:
Stand with your feet about hip width apart, legs and abdomen gently engaged, heart lifting and shoulders relaxed. Stretch your arms out wide, sweep your right arm under your left arm and intertwine your forearms and hands. Bend your knees, and shift your weight into your left leg. Lift your right leg and wrap it over and around your standing leg, if possible hooking your toes behind your calf. Squeeze your upper thigh firmly over the standing leg. Focus your gaze to help keep your balance. Hold the posture for at least five slow breaths and then repeat on the other side.

Sphinx:
Lie down on your belly and stretch out to your full length. Rest your hands under your shoulders with your elbows tucked in close to your rib cage. Press your pubic bone, thighs and feet firmly to the mat and lift your upper torso. Slide one hand at a time forward until you are resting on your forearms with your elbows directly under your shoulders. Continue to press your arms, belly and legs down towards the earth as your heart lifts. Do not lift high enough to compress your low back. Hold for at least five slow breaths, and then lower back down to your belly and rest for a few breaths.

Arm Balance Prep:
Press up to your hands and knees and then ease down onto your forearms with fingers interlaced and elbows no wider than your shoulders. Tuck your toes under and lift your knees off the mat. Don't let your head touch your arms or the floor. Press your forearms down and back until your body is raised and balanced. Lift your pelvis and look forward. For more challenge, walk your toes towards your elbows while preventing your spine from rounding by a strong lift at the hips. Hold for at least five slow breaths, and then lower back down to your belly and rest for a few breaths.

To complete your practice, either roll onto your back and hug your legs in towards your belly, or curl up in child pose and rest. Close your eyes, breathe slowly, and feel the effects of your movements. Give thanks for your practice and ask that it enhance your well-being.

Rebecca Johanna Stephanis, Kripalu Certified Yoga Teacher since 1994, has 21 years experience in the healing arts.
O.B. back from Obamafest

The Democratic National Convention in Denver was historic, in every meaningful sense. The choice of Senator Barack Obama as the party’s presidential candidate was a tangible measure of how far the nation had come in the civil rights battles of the late 1950s and 60s.

It is altogether appropriate for the city of Denver, which hadn’t seen a Democratic convention for 48 years. The timing for the event was massive and thorough, encompassing everything from how to cope with a media presence that was a Site A, a staging area, to the placement of trains in protective positions around the arena to provide blast protection.

Just getting delegates, media, and guests to and from the venues was a massive undertaking. For delegates who didn’t know Denver, it could have been a daunting task. But the people of Denver, especially the able-bodied volunteers and guides, could not have been more helpful, cheerful, and just downright welcoming. Except for some traffic snarls that, for many cities, would have been a typical workday commotion, the whole enterprise worked flawlessly.

The Maine delegation was lucky, in that our host downtown, a suite from the Pepsi Center, and within easy walking distance of many of the premier venues. Other delegations had to cope with longer commutes from outlying hotels, which made attendance at early morning or late-night events a bit of a logjam, and no amount of extra description or the inevitable snags.

Some examples from a typical day: a forum on foreign policy, a press on issues for a growing Latino-Jewish coalition, a First Americans caucus, a Wildcatters society panel discussion on Oil Drilling, a solar energy festival and concert, a film screening about the homeless, a panel on infrastructure, the Hooping for Peace, Hula Hooping Event, dozens of every conceivable ethnic group, and a Rage Against the Machine concert in sugar-bowl Patriot Veteran Against the War - that roughly 20% of the events happening between 9 and 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

Those events are just a lot of the real work of the convention happens. It’s an incredibly rich resource for networking and education on all sorts of issues, from a variety of perspectives. So, despite the repetition at just one big party, a lot of work goes on.

That is not to say that there are not other groups at different types of activities that vary in size and generosity. Some are very exclusive, where the light and media and political elites, and celebrities of every kind mingle. Many more are for union members, caucuses, and other affinity groups. Some are great for food and open bars, some have cheese and crackers and sodas or bottled water. The closest I got to any celebrity event was a tribute to Civil Rights Organizations, where Davey Jones happened to be in the same room I was in the minute.

The idea that the convention delegates are an elite bunch is misleading. By far, the majority of delegates are people who are working stiffs, in blue or white collar jobs. Some are retired. Many belong to unions, whether trade unionists, service unions or teacher unions. Virtually all pay their own expenses for the trip. The only tangible benefit provided by being a delegate by the national party was a party suite on the shuttle between hotels and the airport. Travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses are the responsibility of the delegates.

But it’s worth every penny. To be a small cog in the American Political process, and be able to represent Peak Island, Maine as an historic occasion in such a historic event, has been truly a privilege and an honor.

COUNCIL, from page 1
The City of Portland uses a zoning system developed in 1918, currently the most widely used system in the U.S. To divide the island into zones according to land use and lot size, a commercial zone (C1), a density residential district (R2) and a more rural district (R1). Restrictions on the use and overall size of buildings (percent coverage) as well as the distance from the property lines (setback) are characteristics of each zone. The main difference between the two residential districts is their access to public sewer and water services.

Cencently, Tiffany said that a new residential zone concept is "bubbleing in town right now," which will let more people live within the city limits but still maintain Portland’s compact size. "It does some interesting things," he said. The new zone, which would be designated RS, reduces minimum lot sizes and parking requirements, and encourages accessory dwellings in order to increase housing. For instance, the minimum lot size for a multi-family housing complexes would be reduced from 1,000 square feet to 3,000 square feet, effectively doubling the number of people who can live in a given area.

Mr. Tiffany said the zoning concept would appeal to people on tight budgets. Like young families, because “smaller lots, smaller homes means affordable.” He says that, on the brighter side, this would increase revenue for the city because an increase in the number of families is also an increase in the number of taxpayers. "When you bring the concept into neighborhoods," he concludes, "it means denser.

In comparison, he made reference to a television documentary he'd seen recently about the transformation of Austin, Texas in the 1980's from a progressive, small-town community into a sprawling, polluted metropolis, which he said was called "The City That God Loved to Death". One of the main impetuses for the zoning study has been a conflict that has been brewing since last January over a proposal made by Hometrust, a non-profit housing organization, to develop two parcels of land on Congress Street for use as affordable housing. The proposed project would require a zoning variance in order to build two multi-family housing units on the two parcels of land in the single-family zone. "This issue is not about a couple of houses being built in one neighborhood," and one resident, "it’s a

For the love of Peaks!

I made several trips up to Prince Edward Island. This is where my ancestors first landed, up there on Prince Edward Island, and I think it was what they refer to as lost that were owned by different, Scottish owners. So I went up there and did a tour around and I met a couple of MacKenzie families up there, very interesting, and I promised I’ll be back. After I finished you know, around on Prince Edward Island, I returned to Peaks Island.

My family has always resided on islands. My great-grandparents came down from Prince Edward Island. They were on Long Island, and while they resided there, they generated a large family. And it is certain, my grandfather left Long Island and moved to Maine, and they were taking me to town, and my mother, Noreen, then. They took me and put me in a clam basket, washed me off, and then they took

Dong MacVane on Centennial Beach

the one out on Cliff Island out there, but I have no recollection of that.

Eastport: But he has a lot of fond memories of clam baskets.

So in 1929, we arrived here on Peaks Island.

How old were you?

About five, five and a half, something like that. I was born in 1924. My earliest memory of Peaks Island was the island as I reflect back on it now - it appears as if Peaks Island was Portland's Coney Island, this place. Was in the summertime they had those heating house down here. They had, of course, the Gem Theatre. They had a shooting gallery, see, a bunch of places: the bowling alley, the shooting gallery, they had a skating rink and they had Jim Brownie Frost, the grocery stand, and there was a hot dog stand right now where - what do they call it? The Peaks Island House, yes, and there was the Greenwood Gardens. I've got it somewhere in the house here. I have a picture of the Gem Theatre when it was going down.

How were you?

Yes, I was down front. My father was a fishermen, and he told me to go home, get home. Will be a youngster, I didn't know how to behave, so I ran up over the hill and watched the fire from the Gem Theatre. Then, of course, we had another fire that started in a cottage down in back of Greenwood Gardens, and that spread right down to the water.

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O'Connor

an interview with dong macke

This work was originally displayed at the 6th Annual Art Space Gallery Invitational June 1-30. The interview was conducted with Mr. MacVane at his home on Feb. 20, 2008. His wife and friends and his daughter, Karen, were there.

"I didn't want us to do the same thing from the interview, because previously I had had an experience with the past, "But when I told him what we will do, it was kind of exciting," he said.

"Do you feel you will feel comfortable doing something? I do feel a bit." Your family started out in Scotland. Where in Scotland?

Well, I can't remember now, I'd have to go into my genealogy books, but it was over in Scotland and I was raised in a cemetery where my ancestor's were residing and then, eventually, after my mother in Scotland, I returned to Peaks Island. From Peaks Island.
This island life
by George Rosol

Ed. Note – George and his wife Croria are relocating off-island, and as a result this will be his last column for the newspaper. It was, for him, a very hard piece to write, although he said he wishes he had had a chance to write it before moving, as some of the things he writes about here are lifelong passions.

Aside from that, the good news is that Peaks Island is not going to stop being Peaks Island. We’re just shrinking a bit. It sounds like a lot of people are going to move away this summer, but the island community is still going strong.

And this is the mind set that I have adopted as we prepare to move on. Circumstances arise that spoil the fondest dreams. It was a great ten-year ride. It is flattering that there are those who don’t wish to see us go.

The last thing we need is for people to be sad about the departure of a favorite. We don’t want to create a sense of loss and nostalgia. We want people to juste see the good in what we leave behind.

The good news is that Peaks Island will remain the same. It will always be Peaks Island. The people who live there will continue to enjoy the same lifestyle.

The bad news is that we are leaving. This is a difficult decision, one that we have been considering for some time. We have decided that it is time to move on.

We have made many wonderful memories on Peaks Island. We have enjoyed the beauty of the island, the serenity of the ocean, and the beauty of the people who live there.

We will miss the island, but we are looking forward to the new adventures that lie ahead.

George Rosol
September 2008
In the tradition of the American Legion, a black memorial tie was draped across a photograph of Doug MacVane upon his death. The American Legion Post 142 is named in part for his cousin, Arthur Leslie MacVane, who is pictured in the lower of the two small photographs on the right.

Memories of Doug MacVane

A collection of remembrances by his friends and family

**BY KEVIN AFFRA**

"Another legation has been called to the high command, and has gone to report to the commander of us all," So said Jim Shull, the newly appointed commander of the American Legion, as the memorial service began for Doug MacVane on Peaks Island on Sunday, Aug. 31. More than 150 people attended the one-hour ceremony held on the lawn at the Lions Club under clear sky and fierce winds. Cond: Thunderblls, Rev. Dois Larsson of the Brackett Memorial Church, and Charlie Shull, representing the Peaks Island Baptist Church, offered prayers and rememberances of Mr. MacVane, who also was given a military gun salute. In the following silence, a lone Scottish bagpipe played "Amazing Grace."

Ronda Dale, Sally MacVane, and Nancy 3 Hoffman also gave powerful performances of original, traditional, and popular music for the service, choosing songs with deeply personal messages.

The ceremony was sponsored and produced by the American Legion. Members Barry Shaw, Jimi Thunderbll, Bob Willerbe, and Steve Nissen were key organizers of the event, with assistance from other volunteers in the community.

"A bunch of people did this," said Lynne Richard, who was one of Doug's closest friends and served as master of ceremonies for the proceedings. The way it came together was "great work," she added.

Lisa Lynch and Leslie Davis coordinated efforts with members of the Women's Auxiliary to provide food and drinks after the ceremony, which were served inside the Lions Club where a video montage of photographs and film clips of Mr. MacVane also was played. Jo Israeli, who grew up in his house as a child, designed the video to accompany an audio recording of this interview Fran Houston had conducted with him as part of the "Jamie Semons" series. The video will be aired on Public Access TV (Channel 4) later this fall.

The formal service was followed by an informal open mic period, where members of the audience got to speak about their experiences with Mr. MacVane during his lifetime. The following is a transcript of those stories.

**ANN SNIDER (READ BY LYNN RICHARD)**

Our family got to know Doug 11 years ago when we moved in across from him down by City Point. He was a wonderful neighbor to us, kind, thoughtful, and always ready for a friendly conversation. When we first met, Tom asked Doug if he had lived on Peaks Island his entire life, and he said, "Oh, golly, no. I was born on Cliff, and spent the first few weeks there. Then my family moved to Peaks." The man would never dream of exaggerating the facts, even a tiny bit.

Doug was a Peaks Islander through and through. He claimed to have no use for big cities, since he didn't like the pace, or the noise, or the traffic at all. He said of going over to Portland, "Mr., I never like to go much west of Commercial Street." And really, he had little need to. He loved everything about this island and was content to be here.

The image of Doug I will carry forward is of him leaning on his staff, taking in the sunset. He never missed a sea. He was sure to go outside when the sky began to get interesting, and he savored the entire glorious show until dusk. There's a lesson in that for every single one of us.

**WILLIAM IRVIN (READ BY LYNN RICHARD)**

I expect we'll notice some changes in island housekeeping now that Doug is gone. We'd watch him take his early morning walk on Centennial beach, always with a plastic bag, to remove the detritus of last night's party, or the jetts of some passing boat. He wasn't proud of us.

We plan to continue Doug's "legacy of the plastic bag" and hope you will too, and keep island beautiful and trash free. Thanks Doug, for the reminder. We'll miss you.

**ARTHUR FINK**

I don't think I've ever known a younger old man than Doug MacVane. That's a big compliment from Mr. MacVane [pointing to a large tree]: a very solid tree, standing tall with lots of room for growth. There's a question I pose people who I think are older than I am: "Do you get old and your body gets brittle, but some people, their mind gets brittle and they get judgmental and tight? Others get loose and soft, and I ask them why, and I never understood to ask Doug that question. He wasn't a blogger. He didn't embrace the internet. He didn't walk around with a roll-phone, but he embraced all of us who do. And he knew where his values were and his head was strong in them, but, wow, did he talk.

About a decade ago the Press Herald called the MacVane's. They wanted to do an article about what's changed on Peaks Island, and they asked me if I was the person to interview, and I told them that that was totally off. I might be a symbol of what's new, but what's changed? Talk to Doug MacVane. And so they did. They wrote an article about the two of us in comparison to the two of us, and that was the beginning of my friendship with this wonderful man.

And so, I rehearse my memories of Doug MacVane, I can remember many pronouncements, many outrageous questions that were real questions, but only one tiny bit of complaining, cause I almost never heard him complain, except once in one of the annual meetings of the Casco Bay Yacht Club. He got up in the very back of the room, and in a very strong voice as only Doug MacVane could muster without a PA system, he said, "I've been watching these kids who you hired on the boats, and the way they work with the ropes and lines. What are you gonna do to teach them proper seamanship?" He didn't forget where he came from.

I love that man. And I have a feeling that he's gonna stay here teaching us something about the way we live by and the agility with which we can live. Thank you Doug.

**WAYNE MACVANE**

I guess I'm the senior nephew and on behalf of all of the MacVanes I want to thank you for such a beautiful tribute. I've got too many experiences that I've sent with which we would like to share them with you, but I don't think I got a more incredible setting for a service than Peaks Island. There's a question I ask people who I think are older than I am: "Are you gonna do to teach them proper seamanship?" He didn't forget where he came from.

I love that man. And I have a feeling that he's gonna stay here teaching us something about the way we live by and the agility with which we can live. Thank you Doug.

**JERRY GARMA**

I'd like to share some things you probably don't know about Doug. We all know about his beachcombing and you've seen [him] every day down the beach. I always thought that he was on sort of a patrol that he went down there and he saw something on the beach that didn't belong there, and he'd stop down and pick up that piece of plastic, that bottle or that piece of rope. He would call it in to the Trifecta Club and have strangers pick it up and put them in the trash can. That's what you know. And here's probably what you don't know.

He continued his patrols, and he went behind the tennis courts and he started collecting tennis balls. Four years ago he contacted me and he said, "Jerry, how many tennis balls I have?"

So the following spring he said, "Jerry, guess how many I have," and it kept creeping up and up, and eventually he came to me and told me, "Jerry, you know how many I have?"

He said, "No."

He said, "I have 425 balls."

I said, "Lord! That's a lot for your enlightenment to pick those up, and some very bad tennis down there." That was going very well. Then, about two weeks later he came up and he was very disturbed. He had put those tennis balls in the back of his house and somebody had taken them. He were gone! I can't imagine what anything would do with them or why they would hide them. But two weeks later, he was down at the club, and he saw Joey Kilmartin teaching tennis with a little basket of balls and he felt sure those balls were the same balls. He said, "No, they weren't. The balls you have were all dead." And he was still disturbed, and I said, "Doug, I have a theory."

"I think that what happened to your balls," I said, "was the fact that there was a moonless night and we put them on the island down to 45 Centennial, and they indeed took each ball, and they left them."

He said, "If I were Doug, I'd ask the chief if there'd be any interest would be true."

I said, "I know that's true because when you walk through the island and pass through, they never back at you. They just smile and wag their tails."

"When you leave town today, two things you can do to remember Doug. One of them is where you're walking around the trails and the beaches and you look down, you see that foreign object there. Pick it up. Put it in a trash can. And the other thing, when you see a dog with a yellow ball in its mouth think of Doug and the gift he gave to them."

**BARBARA HOPPIN**

For six years I was the principal of the Peaks Island elementary school. I had to follow Jerry because some of those tennis balls wound up at the school. Doug would come to the door - he'd have a whole box of washed tennis balls - and I'm sure some of them are still at the school.

But when I thought about Doug the other day, I thought I should share that he was very connected to the school. He came to every production. He came to every production that went on, and was always there. Every once in a while he'd stop in my office and say "the kids must need something" and he'd leave me a little check on my desk so we could have a little breakfast or a little lunch or something that they wanted.

I was there immediately when I heard about Doug - one day he came to the door and I went to answer it and he was standing at the door and he had a dream catchers, a pretty large one - I don't know if you know what they are - but he had
Doug, why don't you come back and give to them - because if they think I did it - so come back on? So Doug came back to the first and second grade with me, and he did a wonderful 10 minutes, with first and second graders, right at their level. They were right in the palm of his hand, and he gave them the dream catcher, and I thought, "Wow! There aren't many people who can do that with a first and second grade class!" But I want you to know that he loved the children of Peaks Island also.

TOM BOHAN
Well after that story it seems appropriate to talk about my wife, Richelle. She and Doug were Doug's neighbors for six years during which time we would see on the street in town a young man, tall, neighbor. And then, for five years after we moved to a different neighborhood, it was "Hi, evening bath." What brings this to mind is he was building a shed near his house and just shortly before I arrived, he was trying to make a neighbor feel possible. He loved you immensely, and I can't thank you enough. A day like this, held be, he, gave it, won the snow out of the north-northwest.

CHUCK RAINS
One of the things that Doug did, in addition to his art, some of his other activities, was that he would make a lot of the lectures. He was always a man who wanted to share his knowledge. He was always surprised when he came to the Fifth Maine a couple of years ago for one of the Sunday activities. It was all about this wonderful piece of our history, where the ice pond was active ice-making, and he and Hal Gay were right behind us, and there was a man giving a talk on something else, and they were making behind us, after a few minutes, it was pretty clear that Hal and he were kind of disagreeing. I couldn't quite figure. They were going, "Oh, that's not what they did."' You know, that's not what they did.

Well, [Hal and Doug] actually talked at the ice barn, and they were involved in various stories about how they would deliver ice in the summer. People would have tickets on their windows that would either say a five cent piece of ice, or a ten cent, or a 25 cent piece of ice, and they would travel around with their ice trucks. So he was very, very familiar with that. But whatever this fellow was saying, you didn't know what he was throwing back to the back of us, and the two of them finally couldn't stand it anymore. They just raised his hand, and he gently corrected the man about some piece of equipment or other that they had down there; but the man just kind of went right through it, and he couldn't stand it, quite well or what - but he didn't answer Hal's question.

Behind us there was more grumbling. The two of them were talking it over, and finally Doug turned around to Hal and he says, "Well, no, it was exactly that way! You know, this gentleman and I, as posties, we delivered the ice, and we were very, very upset about this way but not that way." For the second time the man kind of walked away, and he looked at Hal and me, and he said, "Well, that may have been true maybe the day or two you were there, but usually... Well, basically we were grumbling more and more, and it ended in an unsatisfactory way for them. The man never acknowledged that they had, in fact, been correct in their memories.

But afterward - I thought it was so typical for Doug - he turned around to Hal and he says, "Hal, I'm sorry to say that I took up your position on this, and I hope I won't make in answering your question." I stood up, and the two of them were shaking hands. He was just so, just so valuable that we no longer see any way in which he could help. He just shared so much money he could do. And also the willingness he had to let me direct him was just indicative of his personality. He would jump into a situation with people and really be cooperative right generous and give to others, so Doug, thanks for that great beginning of our relationship.

RUS EDDWARD
My wife, Shirley, and I have lived on the island for a while. There was a meeting of the CRIBA of which we were members. It was an annual meeting held out on Cliff Island. I had an old, open utility boat, you know, they call them speed boats, and I packed on some速度快. The compass wasn't too accurate. And I asked Doug, "Do you want a ride down to Cliff Island?"

He said, "Sure," and I said, "Oh, great!" So we arranged a leaving time, and I name in thick fog, and I mean thick. But I felt pretty good because I had Doug with me, and I said he was pretty steady. The compass wasn't too accurate. And I asked Doug, "Do you think I'd go due south from here."" Say, "OK," so we headed due south. We also had Doug at the Cliff Island Development Association, which is, you know, the charter boat, the lunch boat, the dinner boat, the dinner boat. The name, the name is the Cockeyed Gull. He would come in every summer, and he was a quick memory. I've lived here for 100 years now, and I know. Doug since I moved to the island because I worked at the Cockeys Cove. He would come in every afternoon and have his bowl of soup - no, no, no; tall; he was very healthy, very as. And then when I worked at the Peaks Cafe, it was a lot of fun to just persuade him to get some sweets. It didn't take a lot. He liked sweets, macaroons actually. I met Doug; very much, I'm sure you all do.

LISA LYNN
I feel very fortunate to be here today. This has been a man who has taken such a great past in the American Legion, in his island, and everything else that we all hold dear living here. But Doug really brought a special part to that. Ada and me, we're always wondering, wondering when things were happening, how he could help, how much money he could give. I wanted to know the kids had a chance to go on for a higher education. It was so important.

We also had Doug at the cafe, as Leslie said. We also had Lerreur, Lerreur, you know, would come with Doug, and would want to spend Doug's money. And Doug would always say, "You don't really need that restaurants. She would convince him that she needed to take a gift home, or, she would have her money returned. I would hold on to her so she wouldn't lose it. We loved having the two of them. You know, if the weather was bright, he needed a beef, he needed a cup of coffee, if even if he didn't need to have another cup of coffee because he wouldn't make it, well you know.

We will miss Doug at the cafe, for a great deal, coming in and spending time with us. It was a very important part of our day, and I'm sure it was an important part of everybody's day, to see Doug, a daily basis, out and about, doing his things and always saying hello, and a friendly word.

SO we got back to the dock, having found, having met the people we are... We got out of the boat and we had the meeting had been called because the charter boat they'd had couldn't find the island, and I said, "Doug! Boy, I'm sure glad we have you on with us this year." And then we got down to the dock... He said, "Me show the way. I didn't know the way. I thought you did, Russ."
The Final Solution  By Cevia Rosol

SLAP      RCPM     BARNS
LOCERO   OLEUT     OWEN     SAMSMELBA
WATERON   BRAIN    IRA     ARKDISTAL
NETITS     ENE     GAELO       UNEPASSE
COMESFROM
FOODNICK   OPART    ENVNOSHTETEA
MEESES     ATLHAL     ACRICKINTHENECK
LEDTOCAEN    ANTI     ENRONEBROSATE
$TYROS      SSSSTSOS

Here is the solution to last month's puzzle; however, we are sad to announce that there will not be a new one this month because Cevia has decided to retire from crossword publication. She has been creating puzzles for this paper since 2002, and they will be missed.

As a result, we are looking for someone to fill her shoes, and invite anyone interested in constructing the puzzle to contact us at kattr@islandtimes.org

WINTER RENTAL: 2 bedroom condo; extremely well-insulated; convenient to store and ferry; $750/month. References Required.

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ISLAND TIMES

This Month’s Contributors

Thanks to the following people who volunteered their time and talent to produce this issue: George & Cevia Rosol, Mike Richardson, James Palmer, Chris Hopkin, Chris Houston, Art Antonin, Rebecca Stephens, Cynthia Molho, O B O'Brien, R D Wingfield, J B Katz, Craig Davis, and Mary Lou Wendell. Special thanks go to Jack Shallow for production software, and our summer intern Ben Snyder.

The Island Times is now on-line, thanks solely to the work of Pat Kelly. Please check us out at stemtimes.org.

aisle to isle

Tuesdays: shop for groceries before 11:30am and they will be delivered by Casco Bay Lines to Peaks Island that afternoon!

For more information inquire at Forest Ave. Hannaford or call 761-5965. Normal boat fee applies.
Star Gazing
BY MIKE RICHARDS

September means "seventh month," in place of the ancient Roman calendar until they added January and February. The autumn equinox is on the 22nd of this month, when the sun crosses the equator heading south, and days and nights are of equal length. On the equinox, the sun rises directly in the east and sets directly in the west, and you can see the sunlight hitting a bit more each day.

Is the North Star the brightest star? No, it's actually thirty dim. In fact, it's solely in its location; it's almost directly over the North Pole. As the world turns counterclockwise (i.e. Earnhardt), the Sun, Moon, planets, and stars all appear to rise in the east and set in the west, but the North Star ("Polaris") is constantly in one position. The stars nearby it (the Big Dipper and Cassiopeia) simply rotate around.

You can find the North Star easily; find the Big Dipper in the northwest sky over Palisades around 9 p.m. Trace a line extending from the front edge of the dipper's bracket—the first star you notice along that line is Polaris! Now that you know where north is, you can figure out where south, east, and west are, and you'll never be lost at night.

Venus still sits low over the city just after sunset, so low you can't believe it's a planet. On a clear evening, take your binoculars, find Venus, and see if you can find Mercury just below it, and perhaps Mars off to the side. The "wearing" (oxygen) of the view changes from minute to minute, so be patient and enjoy the shows along the way.

Astronomers with good sized scopes can see the outer planets of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, all at visible now. You may need to use a finder chart, like those in Sky and Telescope magazine, to find them.

Saturn is rising now just before dawn, but it's not worth getting up for, as it will come into a better view in a few months when Earth catches up with it a bit more and puts it in opposition.

The bright red star you see in the western evening is the red giant Arcturus in the constellation Boötes (also known as Orion). As the Herdsman, just to the south of it is one of my favorite little constellations, Corona Borealis, shaped like a diamond star or glittering smile. The bright white star overhead is Vega, in the constellation Lyra, and next to it is Lyra the Swan, flying along the Milky Way, itself the path of stars formed by looking through our sun-shaped galaxy, the Milky Way.

Rising out of the east now is Pegasus, the Flying Horse, with its great square in the middle. Pegasus is flying upside down, but if you can find its rear leg, follow your binoculars and go two stars out and two stars up. The dim cloud with the bright center that you'll find there is our twin-sister galaxy, Andromeda, which is headed towards us and is destined to combine with our galaxy someday.

Sept. 1 - Sunrise is at 6:04 a.m. and sunset is at 7:17 p.m., still more than 12 hours of sunlight, but that won't last long. The next couple of weeks, Venus, Mercury, and Mars are bunched together on the western horizon just after sunset. Down around 8:45 p.m. is just right - and tonight is best, as a thin crescent Moon hangs below the planets.

Sept. 7 - First-quarter Moon is highest in the sky at sunset, and the next couple of weeks is best for telescopic study of the craters, rills and mountain ranges on our nearest celestial neighbor, except it's at apogee, about 2,200 miles further away than it will be in a fortnight. While you're at it, check out Jupiter around 8:30 p.m. and see if you can find the two moon-shadows on its surface.

Sept. 8 - The Moon away, so the tides will lay, running barely 5 feet between high and low this month.

Sept. 9 - The waning gibbous Moon is just below Jupiter tonight.

Sept. 11 - Mary Watson Whitney was born this day in 1847 in Walhamb, Massachusetts. After excelling in astronomy and mathematics at Vassar, Harvard and Zurich, she taught astronomy at Vassar and ran the observatory there. She helped found the American Astronomical Society and actively demonstrated that women can match men in scientific pursuits and independent thinking.

Sept. 12 - John Dobson was born on this day in 1915. He invented the Dobsonian telescope, a big reflector on a simple alt-azimuth mount. They've been called "light buckets," because of their size, and although they are relatively inexpensive, they have their positions changing from night to night, like clockwork, occasionally casting shadows on the surface of the clouds below.

Sept. 13 - Full "Harvest" Moon tonight, setting over the city at 6:33 a.m. and rising out of the ocean at 6:43 p.m. The Moon is known as the "Moonday," but let's enjoy it anyway.

Sept. 14 - The Wailing gibbous Moon occults (covers) the stars in Pisces from 9:41 to 10:30 tonight.

Sept. 15 - The Moon draws near, so tides are high, building up to 31.4 feet between high and low.

Sept. 16 - The Moon's at perigee today, as close as it gets this time around.

Sept. 17 - Last Quarter-moon is highest in the sky at sunset. Today is the equinox, as the Sun crosses into the southern hemisphere at 11:44 a.m., the official beginning of Autumn.

Sept. 18 - New Moon tonight means no Moon to fill the sky with light. Now's the time to hunt for the Andromeda Galaxy - and just think - some creature on a planet circling one of those billions of stars may be looking back at our galaxy and seeing exactly what you're seeing now.

Illustration by Jamie Hogan

It's not too early to book your holiday party or special event! Contact our exclusive event coordinator: cityside EVENTS info@citysidedevents.com (207) 774-4527

Join us for a special happy hour! Maine Women's Lobby Wednesday, September 24 from 5-7 p.m.

FMI: Contact the Maine Women's Lobby at 622-0651 or info@mainewomens.org

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Deer tick season is still upon us

BY KEVIN ATTARR

Blacklegged (or deer) ticks (Ixodes scapularis in the northeastern region of the country) can transmit several tick-borne diseases including anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Lyme disease. An adult tick is pictured above, though ticks in the smaller nymph stage are the ones that most often bite humans.

If you don’t know the symptoms of Lyme disease, you’re not alone. The illness, caused by the bacterium Borrelia burgdorferi, is transmitted to humans by the bite of blacklegged (or deer) ticks infected with the disease. It is currently the most prevalent vector-borne illness in the United States, and is most prevalent in the Northeast. According to the CDC, it has to do with the children starting having symptoms that had nothing to do with arthritis, including neurological problems and fever.

Lyme disease has been slowly migrating throughout New England since its discovery, but many people don’t realize that it is now well established in Maine (see map, right). "I was surprised by the number of people (on Peaks Island) that, when I told them I had the disease, they said ‘There have been no confirmed cases of Lyme disease here.’" In 2007, in an area that is known for high incidence, you’ve got the classic rash and the flu-like symptoms, says Sean. According to information on the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, laboratory tests are only reliable in detecting the disease in the later stages of the illness.

If a deer tick is found on your body, then you’re generally assumed to be infected and are treated for the disease without further question. The tick itself isn’t tested, but some health centers will make sure that it is in fact a deer tick. According to the CDC, it has to stay attached for 24 hours before the disease can develop. The characteristic rash, which usually appears in three to 30 days, is a red, circular patch that gradually expands to as much as 12 inches in diameter. Often the rash is in the center clear as the rash grows, giving it a bullseye appearance.

Mary, an associate of Sean’s whose 10-year-old daughter contracted the disease last summer, says diagnosis is very difficult when it is not present. In her daughter’s case, the doctors scratched their heads for several days, then began treating her for a kidney infection, but her condition only got worse until a rash finally appeared.

"I noticed a little smudge on her stomach, I was thinking maybe the post office. It’s a lot in the area, says Scan.

"I wasn’t feeling very good. The next day, same thing: really hot, then freezing cold. Eventually morning I had a headache, and was not feeling too great, maybe even a little worse, but also noticed a hot sensation on my leg, so I pulled up my pants leg and I found this huge rash. "I didn’t know what it was the night before, I hadn’t been doing research online, comparing his symptoms with possible illnesses," he said, explaining that the symptoms of Lyme disease are nearly identical to any of a number of other diseases, except that patients also get a particular kind of rash.

Unfortunately between 20 percent and 30 percent of victims never get the rash and end up being treated for other things while the disease continues to wreak havoc in their bodies.

Named for the small coastal town of Lyme, CT, where, in 1975, an unusual number of children (over 50 cases) were diagnosed with what was first called Lyme arthritis, it was eventually termed a disease because, after a while, the children started having symptoms that had nothing to do with arthritis, including neurological problems and fever.

Lyme disease is transmitted to humans by the bite of blacklegged (or deer) ticks infected with the disease. It is currently the most prevalent vector-borne illness in the United States, and is most prevalent in the Northeast.

According to the CDC, studies show that most patients can be cured with a four-week treatment of antibiotics, usually doxycycline, but his doctors switched him to amoxicillin when he developed very painful rash similar to poison ivy.

Blacklegged (or deer) ticks (Ixodes scapularis in the northeast region of the country) can transmit severe neurological problems and severe fatigue. The disease, treated with antibiotics, and two days later she was off to camp and hoping for a complete recovery. Unfortunately between 20 percent and 30 percent of victims never get the rash and end up being treated for other things while the disease continues to wreak havoc in their bodies.

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Creative Share creates a digital dialogue
An international conversation on world issues

by Kevin Attra

Participants were from as far away as Nicaragua. The event, held at Alice & Harris Kennedy's cottage on Torrington Point Aug. 9 to Aug 15, was the third in a series of conferences organized by Bob Baranick and his wife Amy Blake, to bring people together who wouldn't ordinarily meet in order to kick-start a dialogue about contemporary issues. Over 26 people came to share information, debate issues, or just hang out, to watch, listen, and think.

Aside from these warm bodies, several experts from around the world were also involved, via telephone, in much the same way as a radio call-in show would work. In fact, members of radio station WMGP were brought in to set up and operate the equipment.

Pleaded at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday Aug 12, a dialogue on Lebanese and State Sponsored Terror in the New Millennium began. It was moderated by Dr. Abe Peck, former director of the Honolulu Museum and current director of the Academic Council for Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Studies at the International University of Southern Maine.

The timing of the dialogue had to be precisely regulated because it included four persons who were not on Maine at the same time, and who were each brought into the conversation at pre-arranged intervals via telephone.

"The 20th Century is defined by two images," said Baranick by way of introduction, "the freeing of prisoners from the Nazi concentration camps, and the atomic bomb blast at Hiroshima."

The 90-minute dialogue explored the American experience and understanding of the Armenian and Jewish holocausts, that took place in the last century, and the influence those events have had on how we live today.

On the eve of his attack on Poland, Hitler’s aides were told, "Who remembers Armenia?" and then proceeded to annihilate millions of Polish Jews. But before that, the Turkish army, in 1915 and 1922, murdered millions of Armenians in an ethnic purge. It was the first time modern weapons of mass destruction were used against a civilian population, and gave rise to the term genocide, but very few people in this country know about it, according to Dr. Peck. Until recently, the Turkish government has brought no trade with any country whose government acknowledged the atrocity, and even now, it is risky to discuss it inside the country.

"The lack of recognition on our part of the Armenian genocide by our political leaders," said Dr. Peck, "is a continuing stain on the conscience of this country.

The dialogue involved Tampa Bay programmer Mark Leb, who said "whenever a group is demonized, that's when genocide can happen," Polish socialist Arthur Shostak, "we must damn the interest adults have in perpetuating hate - children are taught to hate," Apo Tomasian, film maker and descendant of the Armenian genocide, and Erin Blankenship, Senior Curator at the Florida Holocaust Museum who grew up in rural Maine and hated every minute of it.

This was probably the last Creative Share conference that Baranick will hold. He hopes that, by this example, the dialogue will continue and expand on its own.

WMGP programmer Chris Darling (standing at right) sets up camera equipment as participants in the conference, hosted by Bob Baranick (center) and Abe Peck (above), assemble to explore the issue of genocide in the modern world. Segments of the conference can be viewed at: www.creativeivelde.com

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How to mail your car to Portland

The rather large "parcel" arrives in Portland on the back of the Maquoit mail boat.

According to Meghan Busby, who works at the ticket office in the ferry terminal, if you want to ship your car down the bay you have to make a reservation, not only because space is limited, but also because cars can only be loaded on and off during certain times. The Maquoit was specifically designed to carry at least two cars on its lower deck, and in a pinch, it can transport one or two on the upper deck as well. Meghan said she thinks there was a shipment of four cars once, but Captain Larry Legere, who actually does the coordinating of car travel down the bay, only remembers three cars ever, and that was on a recent trip.

Shipping a car on the mail boat is not simple, nor is it cheap. In winter it'll cost you $86; in summer $120, and that's just one-way. Of the 50 to 70 cars that get sent down the bay each year, well over half go to Chebeague Island. "They love to book (a reservation) and go out for a week," says Capt. Legere, who thinks it's because Chebeague is so big that apparently people want to get insulated from the down the bay. Neither did anyone else who happened to be with me at the time, mention that I should act like a reporter and find out how it's done. Here is my report.

"You gotta read the restrictions or we're just wasting time," he says, emphasizing that the follow-up phone call is very important to make sure the times and conditions of the appointment are understood. He remembers one customer who arrived late for his boat because he had called the ticket office to verify the time, thinking it would be "the next boat to Chebeague," and of course, they gave him the time based on passenger service instead of the scheduled mail boat service.

Besides shipping on the Maquoit, cars on rare occasions travel down the bay on the Machigonne II ferry, or more often on one of the Lionell Plante barges. When there are a lot of cars spending the summer on Long Island, the captain will arrange a barge trip. The barge is also handy because it lands at the Boston Sand & Gravel boat ramp instead of at the passenger wharf where transferring cars is difficult at best. The barge is also used to transport vehicles that weigh more than 5,000 lbs, which includes some sport utility vehicles and pickups, because the aluminum ramps used to take cars off seasonally, the Maquoit can't withstand that much force.

A crew member guides the car as it is driven off the boat. Rough weather or boat swells make this phase of the job more exciting than it should be.

Free at last, the car is delivered to its owner, who only got to drive a few hundred feet before facing the first traffic light he'd seen most likely in weeks.
COMMUNITY NOTES

AT THE GEM GALLERY
Small and solo group exhibitions change weekly through October, with larger themed member shows off-season and a holiday sale every year. 

The following weekly shows will be featured this month.

Sept. 4 to Sept. 9; Kathie Schneider - "Floral Tributes"; Opening reception Thursday, Sept. 4, 5 pm to 8 pm; photographs taken of real flowers, shot on the Island earlier this spring, with photographs of carved flowers found on the memorials at Evergreen Cemetery. The Evergreen photos are part of an ongoing project, illustrating a paper she is preparing for American Graveyard Studies in 2009 - one of her weird hobbies.

Sept. 12 to Sept. 16; Cole Caswell

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DANCE EXHIBIT
Saturday, Sept. 14; Dance performance and photography exhibit: 2 pm to 4 pm, at the Hereford School Community Center, 202 US Route 1 in Falmouth, Maine (the Frogs Island Building) Arthur Ping, whose exhibit of dance photography continues through September, will speak about his process in creating the images. Danceh Jessamyn Schridt and friends will present a short introductory piece at 2:30 pm. Also on display, for the one afternoon, will be 20 framed prints previously shown at the Bayes Dance Festival, which are part of a new traveling exhibition. Autographed copies of Fink's new book of dance photographs, Dance, will be available for sale, along with all the framed prints.

COMMUNITY NOTES

AT THE FIFTH MAINE SONGWRITERS BY THE SEA - Saturday, Sept. 20, at 7 pm The Fifth Maine will be hosting the fifth and final concert of the Songwriters by the Sea series for this season. Please join host Phil Daigle in welcoming singer/songwriters Bob McKibby and Doug Kolmar along with Alan Dickson from Glasgow, Scotland. A $8 per person donation is requested.

HARVEST SUPPER - Saturday, Oct. 11, two seatings at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Bring the whole family to our traditional end of the season celebration. Menu: roast meats, roasted veggies, breads, desserts, beverages prepared by chef Bill Hindner. Tickets $12/adult, $7/under 10. Reservations STRONGLY suggested, as the supper usually sells out ahead of time. To make reservations, please call 766-5934.

Museum hours at the Fifth Maine from Labor Day through Columbus Day will be Saturday and Sunday, 11 am - 4 pm. FMI call 766-3330; website: www.fifthmainemuseum.org.

LOAF & LADLE DINNER
The Loaf and Ladle Dinner for September 9th will feature chicken recipes, side dishes, and surprise desserts. Come and celebrate the beginning of the school year. If you have been before you know how delicious the food is. Dinner is served from 5 pm to 7 pm, at the Peaks Island Baptist Church on Pleasant Avenue. $3/adults, $2.50/child. All proceeds go to PITA Energy Assistance. For more information, call Cynthia at 766-0067.

FRIENDS OF CASCO BAY FILMFESTIVAL
Saturday, Oct. 4, 5-9 pm, Friends of Casco Bay will host the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival in Abromson Auditorium on University of Southern Maine's Portland campus. This friendly-familiar event features a collection of films, from humorous animated shorts to inspiring full-length documentaries, two receptions with food provided by Whole Foods, a cash bar, and celebrity presenters. The film program, and sponsorship information can be found at www.cascofilm.org. Tickets are $15 in advance, $20 at the door. The price includes food, beverages, and admission to all films.

GREEN PEAKS
Islanders have long known the best ways to recycle items we no longer want - just put it out in front of your house with a free sign on it. Let's all agree that FREE needs to be on the item so no one picks up a bed frame or table, for example, meant for some other purpose.

Go to Gaia.com/Composting for an inexpensive bucket with a charcoal filter to keep in your kitchen for all fruit and vegetable trimmings, coffee and tea grounds, egg shells and nutshells. With no room to compost, empty your bucket once a week in a far corner of your yard. Do not add any more green than you are going to bring back to the earth some of what you take away from it. It will also help to add a small amount of dry soil to the bucket, which helps balance the metabolism. A folder sheet of newspapers at the bottom of the bucket helps make the emptying easier when your paper will compost nicely and scrap will not get stuck to the bottom of the bucket.

Island Survey
The Best & Worst Things About Summer’s End

BY J.F. KATZ & R.K. WINGFIELD

Very few places change as drastically at the end of summer as Peaks Island. The passing of Labor Day not only signals the mass exodus of Peaks summer residents and tourists, but also a huge mental and physical gear shift that we must accommodate, no matter what we do, where we live, or how old we are. At, as the saying goes, one man’s meat is another man’s poison. Here’s how autumn’s arrival is affecting your fellow islanders — from the good to the bad.

Elliott Barlowitz - Artist & Professor
Best: There’s nothing really good about summer ending, you know except that sometimes I like the fall, but unfortunately I can’t stay up here. I like it when it gets cool and crisp but not cold.
Worst: Having to go back to my so-called day job. I’ve taken the whole summer off since ’76.

Fanta Bridges - 4th Grade Student
Best: I’m looking forward to going to school. I like to learn.
Worst: You won’t get that much free time again like when there’s no school.

Hutch Brown - Bartender
Best: It means we’re one step closer to getting rid of George W. Bush.
Worst: (No response)

Maximilian Eaton - 1st Grade Student
Best: The leaves fall off.
Worst: The leaves fall off.

Holly Hurst-Forsyth - Museums Collection Manager
Best: Having more room on the boat.
Worst: It means we’re one step closer to getting rid of George W. Bush.

John Jennings - Software Developer
Worst: Shorter days - that’s a bad thing. And less daylight.
[Best: No response]

John Larson - Retired Porn Star (so he says)
“Summer suck...”

Faith York - Musician Extraordinaire & Corporate Trainer
Best: Fall is my favorite season and is a good time for change. I love the cool weather and the leaves. Also, my church choir comes back from the summer, which I love.
Worst: A lot of the creative, music projects I’ve been involved in, like the Music Association’s Summer Series, is over. I also have good friends who are leaving Peaks Island, ending up in the winter.

Patty Latham - Public Works Employee
Best: Less blue bugs. Less litter. Less traffic.
Worst: The freaking snow’s coming.

Jeff Lopez - Time Warner Cable Guy
Best: I don’t feel like I’m driving an ice cream truck when I get off the boat anymore. Everyone was swarming to my truck when they see the ‘Time Warner’, especially in the spring time.
Worst: There’s usually not enough work to keep me out here when it’s the end of summer.

Lisa Lynch - Proprietor, Peak’s Island Spaghetti House
Best: Catching up on rest and seeing the islanders again - we’ll get folks coming back in who can’t get through the door in the summer.
Worst: Saying goodbye to good, summer friends. Also, the winter is so hard, you don’t want to look forward to winter.

Jeanne Martin - Cafe Curie
Best: That summer had ended.
[Best: No response]

Evan Michalski - High School Sophomore
Best: Everything slows down and all the tourist and people leave so it chilling.
Worst: All the friends you’ve made over the summer leave.

Sam Weiser - 7th Grade Student
Best: I get to go back [home to Lebanon] and my family gets to calm down after all the excitement and my relatives coming up all summer long.
Worst: All the friends we’ve made have to go home.

Next Month
The kindness of strangers
Artist Jo Israelson spent this past summer working on a memorial sculpture in honor of her father, whose ashes were scattered on Pumpkin Knob upon his death in 1967. She grew up on the Island and lived here for many years as a child, but has lived in Union Bridge, MD now for the past 21 years, and didn’t know a soul when she started the oversized project. With the help of a local wood turner and the Island’s strong community, she built the sculpture on their property, and overcome some very formidable obstacles, such as the wait for electricity, only available under a tent at the end of Knickerbocker Lane, near the home of Dave and Mary Lee Israelson. She had them construct a platform to thank islanders for their help in building a monument to her father. By the time she completed the sculpture, and a video for the MacVane service as well, she was “out of money, out of everyone.” She even had someone lease her a house with a full refrigerator, and she had herself a well-earned vacation. Shown with Katherine Carter a culinary arts student at SMCC who made the cake.

Jo Israelson (center) passed our apple folder sheet of newspaper at the bottom to the right.

John Israelson

* "F火力 Tributes"; Opening reception Thursday, Sept. 4, 5 pm to 8 pm; photographs taken of real flowers, shot on the Island earlier this spring, with photographs of carved flowers found on the memorials at Evergreen Cemetery. The Evergreen photos are part of an ongoing project, illustrating a paper she is preparing for American Graveyard Studies in 2009 - one of her weird hobbies.

Oct. 10 to Oct. 19; Suzanne Parrott

“The GEM Gallery is a cooperative of 26 artists living and working on Peaks Island in the varied media of painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, printmaking, assemblage, fiber arts and writing. The gallery makes it to "share and sell fine art and contemporary crafts and to reach out and create an inviting, professional, friendly space that shares, educates, and celebrates art."

Hours are Thursdays 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Fridays through Tuesdays 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm, with additional hours at the discretion of each weekly artist. Please call the gallery at 207-766-3600 for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DANCE EXHIBIT
Saturday, Sept. 14; Dance performance and photography exhibit: 5 pm to 4 pm, at the Hereford School Community Center, 202 US Route 1 in Falmouth, Maine (the Frogs Island Building) Arthur Ping, whose exhibit of dance photography continues through September, will speak about his process in creating the images. Danceh Jessamyn Schridt and friends will present a short introductory piece at 2:30 pm. Also on display, for the one afternoon, will be 20 framed prints previously shown at the Bayes Dance Festival, which are part of a new traveling exhibition. Autographed copies of Fink’s new book of dance photographs, Dance, will be available for sale, along with all the framed prints.
Source Water Protection and Septic Systems

BY ART ASTARITA

Before I begin another article, I would like to apologize to our Lonx, Cliff and, possibly, all the Diamond, Long Cliff and Chebeague drinking water consumers in the area. Our Lonx, Cliff wasn't allowed to obtain their drinking water. Unlike Portland, Maine, the islands have this exclusive thing, such as Maine, Virginia, North Haven and H posing. This situation should increase awareness and vigilance to protect the nature and value of the local groundwater resources.

If you have the majority of households on Casco Bay, your home is a septic system. Fewer than 200 houses are connected to the wastewater treatment plant on Peaks Island. If a common plot of ground is available to several houses and can be connected together in a clustered, on-site system, but as a rule, private wastewater not piped to a treatment plant, such as a home with a septic system, falls into the category of decentralized wastewater treatment.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, decentralized wastewater treatment systems are used on about four billion gallons of effluent per day from an estimated 26 million homes. Nationwide, approximately 40 percent of the new homes built will rely on some kind of on-site system to treat wastewater (Maine State Legislature: "The waste system.")

Being off the "water grid" is nice for the homeowner. Many of us moved from cities where sewer water was recycled, (i.e., daily). But keeping a septic system in top working order can save you money, add value of your property and protect the groundwater and marine water quality. Ensuring safe drinking water from a septic system is essential for a healthy and stable island community. The town of Peaks Island, Portland, Maine, Your septic system takes in wastewater from your home and discharges it back into the ground water system. The care you take maintaining your system and using it properly can reduce its effect on the quality of ground water (Maine DEP).

Septic systems must be installed correctly, and the proper septic design, or the appropriate indicative septic system, must be used. All states have a legal mandate to protect their drinking water. Unlike Portland, Maine islands have this exclusive thing, such as Mesa, Virginia, North Haven and Hosing. This situation should increase awareness and vigilance to protect the nature and value of the local groundwater resources.

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spread. This method is further explained on the American Forests website, www.
Americanforests.org.
Mr. Munn's tree has a five point lead on the last registered Norway maple, which is in South Berwick. That tree, maintained by Rick Coughlin, had a total of 258 points. Mr. Santero says that "this tree will be re-
measured for the greatest accuracy in the new register...but, unless damaged, will likely be larger since it was last measured in 2002."
If the two trees are within five points of each other, even according to the nearest measurements, they will be listed as co-
champions. Mr. Munn says that if this happens it would be an "honor to be listed as a co-champion." He does, however, confess of the article's writing, "I'm excited since it would be an honor to be listed as a co-champion. He does, however, confess of the article's writing, "I'm excited since it would be an honor to be listed as a co-champion."
Mr. Munn holds a picture from 1908 depicting the Norway maple when it was just a sapling of about two or three years of age. photo by Becky Tacone

In Memory

Douglas MacVane, 84

Douglas MacVane passed away suddenly on Wednesday August 20, 2008. He was born April 10, 1924 in Portland, ME the son of the late Jess and Ethel May (McNicol) MacVane. Upon graduation from Portland High School Douglas enlisted in the US Navy and served on the USS Baltimore during WWII. Following assignments through several vessels he completed his career after serving many years in the submarine service. Upon completion of his years of military service he retired to Peaks Island.

Often considered a fixture on Peaks Island, he was known by many and always had a kind word for visitors and residents alike. He considered the people of the island his family, and was known for keeping past values but was open minded for new ideas. For his lifetime dedication to the community he was presented the key to the City of Portland on his 80th birthday, this was one of many awards he received by the people and organizations of Maine.

He tirelessly advocated for the improvement of quality of life on Peaks Island by participating on many committees and groups of the island as well as Casco Bay. His involvement included the Casco Bay Basin District, American Legion Post #412, and 5th Maine Regiment Museum. He compiled an unoffcial manual of the MacVane family in New England including the Fauntleroy Islands and traced his lineage to the Lin 2nd Century.

Douglas was predeceased by his parents Mcnicas and wife Malcolm Murrar. He is also survived by his wife Vivian and their two grandchildren.

Hugh T. Barker, 90

Hugh T. Barker, Jr. of Peaks Island and Amherst, NH, passed away on Friday, July 22, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 87 years old.

Born in Winchester, MA on Oct. 28, 1917, one of two sons of Hugh T., Sr. and Mary M. Harper Barker, he graduated from Medford Miss High School and furthered his education at Tufts University and Wentworth Technical Institute. He was employed by New England Telephone Co. for 42 years and retired as a network manager in 1979.

During WWII he was captain of the 1977th Signal Company in England and Mainland Europe and was later recalled for the Korean Conflict. He began his love of Peaks Island as a child and, except for the war years, spent every summer here.

He was predeceased by a brother, Bruce A. Barker. He is survived by his wife Lois, Donald and Walter Barker, and also his sister Donna and her husband Ted Lauritzen. He is survived by his sisters Vivian and her husband Gerald Olson and Beverly and her husband Malcolm Murray and two sisters-in-law Alan and Paul MacVane. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews who loved him.

He was interred at Riverside Cemetery in Yarmouth ME on Monday August 25. A celebration of his life was held on Peaks Island on Saturday August 30th. For all those who knew him understand that a brief obituary can never fully describe his life. In lieu of flowers donations in his honor can be sent to The Peaks Island Fund, C/O The Maine Community Foundation, 1 Monument Street, Suite 205, Portland, Maine 04101. And also to Hospice of York County, 465 Main St, York, ME 03903, c/o Kim Macisaac, PO Box 41, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

A member of the audience immediately responded that Ms. Hoppin seemed to be describing service in a class system based on occupational status, as if we are the owners of the plantation and need housing for our help. Another woman agreed, adding that Homestead does not seem to address the need to preserve affordability for someone like herself, who is a married professional and long-time island resident struggling to keep the home she has. She described the assumptions made by Homestead in its design of affordable housing as "dangerous and absolutely offensive."

Despite the gasp, Homestead board member Dick Reed was glad the meeting met and said after the heated debate on the Luster Street controversy "has been going on for about a year. It has been very exciting — and we've been able to hear suggestions" from the community. He expected that the next step would be for Homestead to post some sketches on the wall, and reach a consensus. The suggestions he heard most clearly at the meeting were to put one additional single-family house on the property and keep the trees, to put two additional single-family homes on the property and keep the trees; or build a townhouse, which he felt was probably the most affordable design.
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Lions Club’s 59th Annual Variety Show

Ted Haykal (in hat) and Annie O’Brian (far right) performed with an improvised cast of all kinds culled from the audience. They said their act was listed as a “Song Duet” in the program because neither of them knew just what they were going to do until they got on stage.

It was two days of crowd-pleasing, good time fun when the 59th annual Variety Show took to the stage at the Lions Club on Aug. 4 and 5, a venue that has featured over a century of music, dance and drama on the island. Two clear days of summer in the weeks of non-stop rain, and the theater filled up each night with a high-energy crowd.

Doreen McCann has organized the event for more than 40 years, and Chris Hoppin, who hosted the event, felt that this show, in particular, had a great balance of music, dance and storytelling. Looking cool in a full tuxedo, he told the audience he’d decided to keep the number of jokes to a minimum, so he only told two each night.

The acts ranged from the outstanding to the courageous to the just plain fun. Among the outstanding acts were Rick Gronholt, who sang an original work about an island gypsy with a kind of warble reminiscent of yodeling; the Irish dancers Thomas (9) and Cristin (10) McDonough; Eileen Hanley whose voice is an island phenomenon; and the dazzling jitter-bug newcomers Liz and Kevin Rollins.

This year’s True Grit award was presented by Chuck Radis to George and Cevia Rosol Aug. 4 for their selfless contribution to the quality of life on Peaks Island. The couple seemed genuinely surprised that they had been chosen to receive the award.

During intermission special guest, Rip Tide, played some classic rock from the 60’s and 70’s. The band members are (left to right) Dennis Look, lead & rhythm guitar; Kevin Parr, bass & lead vocal; Ernie Look, drums & backing vocal; and Pete McCann, lead & rhythm guitar.

Thomas McDonough watches one of the acts from back stage before going on himself. Both he and his sister, Cristin, wowed the audience with Irish dance in individual and combined performances during the show.

Belle of the Ball - Doreen McCann cues her son David during one of his tap dance numbers. Although stricken with MS, she continues to teach dance, and has organized and directed the variety show for over 40 years.

At the end of his dance number, David ran off stage and gave his mom a big kiss, then clasped his hands over his head like a prize fighter to revel in the applause.