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Island Times, Aug 2005

Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

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**Untested waters**

**BY ANNE PEARSON**
Maine's beachgoers have suffered from a record number of closures this summer due to mysteriously high levels of bacterial contamination. But no one knows how or if the problem affects the Casco Bay islands.

The only testing in the bay area is at Portland's East End Beach and South Portland's Willard Beach. Willard Beach has been closed four times so far this summer.

"Only two municipalities out of the 12 that ring Casco Bay do beach testing," said Casco Bay keeper Joe Payne. And what testing there is is limited to beaches not the "tours of swimming areas in Casco Bay," Payne said. Payne believes all of Casco's towns should be monitoring swimming areas. "It's not a hugely expensive deal," Payne said, "and the benefits clearly outweigh the costs."

The organization, Friends of Casco Bay, monitors water quality at 80 locations, said associate director Mary Cerullo, but these tests do not include bacterial counts.

Experts are puzzled by this summer's unusual pollution problems, which have popped up in other states as well. There is typically a correlation between heavy rainfall and high bacterial counts, but that's not the case this year. No one knows the answer yet, although suspected culprits ran the gamut.

*please see WATERs, page 4*.

**We all scream for ice cream!**

When Casco Bay Line's Casco Bay Line saved the day for Downfront ice cream shop owner Ron Sinicki and bringing wad tubes of ice cream to Peaks using the down-bay boat and a crane. Above, vacationers enjoy ice cream on the most popular corner on the island. From left to right: Mollie Edwards from England, Jenai Lewis from Alaska, Carrie Payne and her brother Luke, also of England, and Naomi and Ryan Sprague, who were just married and are from Texas.

*Photo by Mary Lou Wendell*

**The low-down on Downfront**

**BY KAREN HOPPENST**
For vacationers and islanders alike, an ice cream cone from Downfront is one of summer's simple pleasures. But this "simple" pleasure, brought to you by Downfront owner Ron Sinicki, requires a complex dance executed with military precision. As he heads into his fourth season as owner of the ice-cream parlor cum sandy-stone cum vegetable shop, 55-year-old Sinicki says he is finally getting it down.

"Our distributors get the ice cream to the boat 15 minutes before it's scheduled to depart on the 9:15 and 10:15 rides," he says. Then it is packed into 4-foot by 4-foot insulated boxes, sent by the police ferry. Ice could be packed into the full 14-foot of the boat's cabin, but Sinicki keeps the freezer at 30 degrees, he says. "It's not a real cold freezer," he says. "It's hot in here."

When the boat pulls over at Peaks Island, Sinicki begins loading the ice cream. It's "like loading a war against the ice cream," he says. The ice cream is therefore, for a small fee, packed in insulated crates, the ice cream can withstand some minor delays. But when the car ferry breaks down entirely, as it did the last week of July, things get complicated. "I had to start using a cooler and it took a lot longer," he says. "People are used to their ice cream in a minute." But the police ferry, which is used to transport fish, and freight, all has changed. Newer boats, however, mean less delays. Sinicki says he "runs" the ferry now.

*please see DOWNTOWN, page 13*

**Long Island library opens**

**BY SEAN WEBSTER**
Saturday, July 16, forecast, perfect for a day on the water, a ferry adventure from Peaks to Long Island. And back again. Newcomer to this area may not know that these Casco Bay Islands were once connected by the same route. Travel between islands to visit family and friends used to be easy. Not so these days. Due to swelling loads of people and freight, all has changed. Newer ferries, however, mean less delays. Sinicki says he "runs" the ferry now.

*please see-DOWNTOWN, page 13*

**Chebeague wants you, maybe**

**BY REBECCA HOW**
Chebeague Island has been getting lots of media attention because it considering seceding from the Town of Cumberland. But the issue that is driving the secession effort -- things like dramatically increasing tax assessments and the survival of the island elementary school -- will be up to us whether we leave or stay with Cumberland.

One of these ongoing issues is the need to make sure that, as land and house values rise, there continues to be housing available for people of all incomes. Chebeague has so far succeeded in maintaining a diverse year-round population of fishermen, island business people, workers who commute to the mainland and both full-time resident and new resident retirees.

But it is getting more and more difficult for young people who have grown up on the island, or people of modest means who want to move to Chebeague year-round, to live and work, to afford to do so. And others from stemmen to the elderly have few housing choices on the island.

Three years ago when Chebeague developed a long-range plan for the island, the need for affordable housing was identified as an important issue. When the Cumberland Town Council appointed a new Islands Committee in 2001, affordable housing was one of the first issues it began to work on. Since then we have been offered a parcel of land by the town and the Cumberland Mained and Islands Trust.

We have had help from students and faculty at the Muskie School at USM, and have gotten a community grants committee to help.

*please see CHEBEAGUE, page 11*
Scession update
July was a busy month on the secession front. Peaks Island secession advocates are closing in on their goal of 600 signatures on a petition to require a public hearing on secession. And Cliff Island residents recently joined those on Chebeague and Peaks in seeking secession.

As of their August 4th meeting, the Peaks Island Independence Committee had collected 400 signatures from registered island voters. Another petition is being circulated for seasonal taxpayers; about 200 seasonal folks have signed on to that petition. Committee volunteers have become a common sight in front of Hannigan's Island Market during the July weekends.

The Committee is now shifting its focus to door-to-door efforts to gather signatures, and has now divided up the island voter list between its volunteers.

The island secession movement has also been making news, with features on WCSH Channel 6's six o'clock news and in the Portland Press Herald. Michael Richards, one of the members spearheading the committee, also appeared on Maine Public Broadcasting's public affairs program MaineWatch to debate the issue with Portland City Councilor Will Gorham.

Peaks volunteers acknowledge that they have run into occasional resistance while collecting signatures, but say that most people are interested.

"It's not a divisive process," said committee member Russ Edwards. "It's democracy.

"I think we've acknowledged that there is some trepidation about secession from full-time residents whose livelihoods are connected to Portland. Part of this has to do with a perceived fear of what has been referred to as the city's "status quo tendencies."

Richards suggested that people should be reassured that the relationship between Peaks and Portland is not going to simply disappear, should the island decide to secede.

"I see it as a partnership," he said, adding that the situation between the two entities might actually improve.

"I think of Portland as the dad and Peaks Island as the older kid that needs to move out," he said. "The kid might need a dad even more once he's out of the house." - Arne Pearson

Dog days on the bay
Peaks Island felt a little like Manhattan last month, as breakdowns, heat and summer crowds strained Casco Bay Lines and the patience of many islanders.

As luck would have it, the car ferry, the Machigonne II, broke down twice in July during our secession debate.

The first problem developed during afternoon rush hour on Thursday, July 21, at the dock on Peaks when the ferry lost reverse power on one side due to a fractured coupling. Passengers heading into town had to wait for another boat to come get them, and the Machigonne II limped home on one engine.

The same machine shop that could fabricate a new part and had the car ferry back in service by Saturday morning.

One week later, Murphy's Law struck again on a busy Thursday afternoon when the Machigonne II started blowing fuses on her port engine controls. CEO Operations Manager Nick Mavodones and his crew spent the better part of Frida and Saturday - including a steamy four hours in the engine room - on the cell phone with the boat's west-coast landlord trying to solve the problem.

Once they located the offending wire, they still had to deal with two other computer malfunctions caused by trying to fix the first problem.

"It's not like you can go out and check a cable or tighten a nut," Mavodones said. "Everything is computer driven..."

Saturday, July 30 brought it all to a climax. CBL faced its biggest day of the season so far without a car ferry. The Peaks Island Five-Mile Road Race, a wedding and family gatherings drew hundreds of visitors to Peaks.

Boats ran 30 to 40 minutes late for much of the day on both the Peaks and down-the-bay routes.

"We back-up boat, the Bay Mist, could not handle the crowds, leaving scores of passengers waiting on the docks for the next ferry. Finally, CBL started using multiple vessels to catch up. The 2:15 run took 300 passengers to Peaks, and another 120 boarded the Macquinet. On the return trip, CBL took about 620 people off Peaks, Mavodones said.

The Bay Mist picked up 300; the Aucocisco II detoured from its inner bay route to get 200 more; and the Island Romance detoured from its Bailey Passage run to rescue another 120.

Meanwhile, Lisle Plante Associates pitched in and ran its smaller car ferry back and forth between Peaks and Portland nonstop.

At one point on Saturday, the line of cars trying to get off Peaks stretched from Plante's to turn on Island Avenue toward the island school, said Keith Halus.

Sandwich board signs scrutinized
You've seen them lined up all neatly in a row in front of the Downfront Ice cream shop. It's a multitude of sandwich board signs. They tell you everything from where you can go for a day sail to when the next spaghetti supper will be.

But some people have been complaining about them, saying that they are causing clutter and are blocking access to the sidewalk, according to island resident Tom Fortier. And now the city is poised to do something about it. The issue is up for discussion at the city's annual island tour meeting on Peaks Island Aug. 5.

"They need to be permitted," Fortier said. There is a city ordinance that governs the use of these signs and the city is getting ready to enforce that ordinance, Fortier said.

No one from the city was available to discuss the details of the ordinance by deadline, but the sidewalk sign application reveals a few details. According to that application, in order to receive a permit for a sidewalk sign, you have to have a store with street frontage.

That would eliminate virtually all the signs currently on Peaks. The minimum distance allowed between signs is 20 feet. Again, that would rule out current practices on the island.

At least one person would be sorry to see them go. Ron Smicki, owner of Downfront Ice cream said, if they were removed, "it would be a shame. They're part of the island."

Smicki said he would suggest that people take better care of them, because sometimes they are left out in winter and they get plowed in. But for the most part, he said, "they are all up in a nice row."

-Mary Lou Wendell

PILP hits home run
The Peaks Island Land Preserve had a lot to celebrate at its annual meeting at the 5th Maine on July 29. Just three days earlier, PILP please see BRIEFS, page 3

The many sandwich boards down front on Peaks and what to do about them will be discussed by city officials at the annual island tour meeting on Peaks on August 5.

Photo by Mary Lou Wendell

The INN on PEAKS ISLAND

Check out the new Pub!

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Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Brunch: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch and dinner: 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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BRIEFS, from page 2

closed on the final purchase in its four-year campaign to preserve the Ballfield Woods.

PLP bought the last half acre of woods on the right-field side from Scott Brown for $33,000. The total cost of PLP's three-acre Ballfield Woods preserve was $83,000. The protected area runs from Park Avenue to just behind Ledgewood Road, and includes both the Park Street and Luther Street paths.

"The parcel contains a big section of the Luther Street path, which is why it was so important," said Brenda Buchanan. "That area will always be woods now. It is one of the most culturally significant parcels on the island - a place where people interact with nature," Buchanan said.

Getting the Brown parcel was no easy matter. "We had to really scramble to get the money to close on the property," said Valerie Kelly, PLP's treasurer.

Buchanan gave much of the credit to the neighbors surrounding the Ballfield Woods for stepping up to the plate and making the purchase possible. "We've had tremendous support from the abutters throughout the four-year campaign," she said.

PLP used its annual meeting to launch a new $50,000 capital campaign to replenish its treasury and leave some cash on hand so that it can move quickly on any new opportunities that arise. As part of that effort, the group will be organizing a ballgame fundraiser this fall.

-Arne Pearson

New security in place

Riders of Casco Bay Lines might have noticed personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard riding the vessels in July. The Coast Guard presence is a result of an increased security level on all mass transportation nationwide following the July 7 London terrorist bombings.

Shortly after the bombings, the U.S. Coast Guard announced that the nation's Maritime Security Level raised from Level 1, to Level 2 (on a three-level scale). The nation has been on a maritime Level 2 several times before. However, this time Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thomas H. Collins ordered additional security measures for ferry vessels which carry more than 150 passengers. That new order meant that Coast Guard personnel are now required to ride ferry vessels, according to Nick Marrodes, Casco Bay Lines' operating manager.

Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary have been riding ferry vessels for years, he said. But the new measures mean active duty personnel will also ride the boats. In addition, a Coast Guard vessel will be nearby, a fact that an active-duty Coast Guard member is riding so they can get off the boat quickly, if they need to. Marrodes said.

Casco Bay Lines was notified at about 11 p.m. on July 7 of the new order, he said. He cannot say how frequently the personnel are riding boats or give any other details of the increased security that goes into place at Level 2. The captain of the port told Casco Bay Lines that the Coast Guard personnel are there "to reassure the public and not to alarm the public," Marrodes said.

-Ferry seats open

Nomination papers are now available for those interested in running for three seats on the Board of Directors of the Casco Bay Island Transit District. The seats up for election are: one, three-year seat representing Peaks Island; one, three-year seat representing Little Diamond Island; and one three-year seat representing Great Diamond Island.

Papers can be picked up at the Casco Bay Lines terminal or can be requested by calling Susan Williams at 771-7871, ext. 102 or by sending an e-mail to: susanm@cascobaylines.com.

These interested in running for a seat need the signatures of at least 20 registered voters from the district they are going to represent. Nomination papers are due at the ferry office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 2.

The Peaks Island seat is now held by Patrick Flynn, who was elected to fill the three-year seat that had been held by his father, John Flynn, who died on June 7, 2004. The Great Diamond Island seat is held by Elizabeth Weber. The Little Diamond Island seat is held by Allen Davis.

-David Tyler

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Island Views

If at first you don't secede...

By Michael Richards

As you may know, I have tried to stay both moderate and neutral regarding Peaks Island's secession and self-governance, but from the evidence I have seen thus far, I can no longer remain neutral. I am writing this in an attempt to increase gifts this summer. Nearly $6,000 has been awarded to this year's secession efforts. Let's encourage all Peaks Islanders to donate to any community. If they are willing to take a chance on the government, we must be willing to take a chance on the government. They argued that secession would deprive them of necessary funding; we said, "They're robbing us blind," and the city said, "Yes, but we need the money." The Legislature wanted us to wait until it enacted a new statute setting forth a framework for a new government. We did not think we could wait, so we asked the Congress to pass a new statute. Even the most distant defeated by only one vote.

Six years later, in 1999, the Legislature finally passed the new statute governing secession. It requires that we first prepare a petition identifying our land, our population, and our leaders. We must then have the petition signed by at least 50% of Peaks Island's registered voters. We can then present this petition to the city and get a public hearing on whether we should secede and why we are requesting it.

The city then must hold a vote on Peaks Island and in the city if they want. Please see SECEDE, page 10

Tim Nihoff's View.

Peaks Island Fund grant awards

By Bill Zimmerman

The Peaks Island Fund is pleased to announce the grant awards for 2005. Thanks to the generosity of island donors we have been able to increase gifts this year. Nearly $6,000 has been awarded to this year's secession efforts. Let's encourage all Peaks Islanders to contact any community. If they are willing to take a chance on the government, we must be willing to take a chance on the government. They argued that secession would deprive them of necessary funding; we said, "They're robbing us blind," and the city said, "Yes, but we need the money." The Legislature wanted us to wait until it enacted a new statute setting forth a framework for a new government. We did not think we could wait, so we asked the Congress to pass a new statute. Even the most distant defeated by only one vote.

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There are many ways the Peaks Island Fund might help you help Peaks. Let us know how we can better serve you and the island. Contact Petra Merrill, Jim Laurier, Peri Sutherland, Michelle Thresher, Brenda Buchanan, Nancy Flynn or Bill Zimmerman with questions or ideas. You can also learn more about estate gifts and family philanthropy by contacting Jen Southard of the Maine Community Foundation at 207-781-2440 or online at www.mainecf.org.

Peaks Island Fund

Congratulations to all of the recipients of grants in 2005.

Once again, by your gift of annual support or by establishing a family fund to benefit Peaks Island, you can help assure the preservation of this island community. Thanks to our ties with the Maine Community Foundation, the Peaks Island Fund has known to take shape and promises to become a significant permanent endowment to provide funding to keep Peaks vibrant. Creating a fund is simple and providing for it during your lifetime is as easy as directing the use of the funds to the organizations you cherish the most. There is no greater satisfaction.

Property tax assistance is available on Peaks

The Peaks Island Tax Assistance Committee is an independent group of concerned islanders formed to aid property owners with tax issues. Our mission is to assist island residents to remain in their homes despite extraordinary tax increases. We will be running fundraisers, sponsoring fact finding meetings and disseminating information about our committee and a financial appeal to households on Peaks Island.

Shep Johnson, retired Methodist Minister; Casey Collins, Minister of Brackett Church; Ruth Wilkinson, retired United Methodist Minister; and Sam McCain, retired Episcopal Bishop, will be helping with the application process. You can contact one of them to file the request. The clergy will determine eligibility based only on need, and, oh homeowners will be given equal consideration and treatment. Only the clergy will know the names of the applicants. All payments for tax assistance will be made directly to the City of Portland.

If you need our assistance, please pick up a form at the Peaks Island Library, Peaks Island Health Center, or from one of the bulletin boards down front. All applications must be received before Aug. 30, so that taxes may be paid to the City of Portland on time.

Cynthia Peddoit (766-0067) for The Peaks Island Tax Assistance Committee

Letters to the Editor

A note to say how much I enjoy the Island Times and appreciate your time and effort in putting it together. It packs a lot of news and entertainment for $20.00 a year. I especially enjoy "This island Life," written by George Gorman. George has a wonderfully dry and very sense of humor. Keep up the great work.

Marylou Cramm, Peaks Island, Maine

In response

In response to the letter "Tea in the Harbor," by Mr. Jerry Garman. Islanders seeking their "old" Indian cornbread were disappointed. There happens to be Native Americans every day on Peaks Island. It might be more appropriate if that comment wouldn't have been entered. I've grown up listening to comments like that while growing up in our own neighborhood.

On the other hand, maybe we should put on our costumes and retrace the land your in-law's girl Carol was raised on, so we can all face the whole story before we were chased off the island. Think before you comment on other peoples races.

Margie Lodge Seven Oaks, Peaks Island

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August 2005

Publishers: Mary Lou Wendell/David Tyler
Member of the New England Press Association

The Island Times is a community newspaper covering the islands in Casco Bay. We welcome birth, engagement and wedding announcements; obituaries; notices of community events; and letters to the editor. Letters must be submitted as hard-copy letters. The newspaper is available by mail for $20.00 a year. Address change to Island Times. Your mailing address is 146 Ledgewood Rd., Peaks Island, Maine, 04108. To reach Mary Lou Wendell, call 766-0051, or email mcowell@tdt.net. Our e-mail address is islandtimes@islandtimes.org. For ad rates, call 766-0951.

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The island life

BY GEORGE ROSOL

Aug u st 2005

Ah, summer. Ah, summer in Maine. Ah, summer on Peaks Island. The birds anawater, the joyful chatter of children at play, the clatter of empties hitting the pavement in the stillness of the night. And that infernal number game we must play each year at this time. The dialogue goes something like this:

I dream of this all winter in Florida.

What's that? A party of three-scoop cone while standing on this corner in the heat of the day. It is great. I'm George, by the way.

The Bracketts and Trotts.

Familiar names.

You know the Smittsons? No, the Bracketts and Trotts. I was practically born on the island. It's the only way to get a free ride on the ferry.

Been coming to Peaks about 60 years. You don't talk familiar How long you been coming?

Once. And stayed. OK. That's good too. But I gotta tell you, we old timers don't see too many of the year-rounders, Must've died off. A lot of new faces.

We lay low in the summer. Some rent out their places in order to meet the tax and fuel oil bills that come as regular as the long winters.

We gave a thought to retiring here, but Mary Ann couldn't stand the cold.

Peaks vixens do pretty well in the winter. I'd say our Dachshund. How many years have you lived here?

Coming up on the 8th winter. Am I kid on the block, eh? Ready to dive in and change things around?

I'd say most changes seem to take place in the winter. I've seen the rule of Sit.

Can't say that I have.

The Wheel of Wh. I have lived here a respectable 42 years. That is 7 winters times 6. It kind of ties in to the old saying that if you won't endure the Peaks winters, you don't deserve the summers.

By that rule, then, I've been here 10 years. That's still 3 more than you. Nya, nya, nya.

There's just no way of winning this silly game.

Life is a hunt down front in the summer. Some urban ideas have jumped the pond to liven things up a bit. Saw a teen with a cardboard sign that read Will Direct Traffic for Ice Cream at the top of Whitch. Saw kids in oversized shorts wiping windshield shields for change from helpless drivers trapped in the ferry line. Heard a sparkly bucket drummer, with much gusto and little talent, beating out unfamiliar tunes. Dodged satisfied motorized wheeled things of every description puffing and whining and weaving between street and sidewalk, not knowing exactly where they belonged. Had a breakfast burri-

to followed by a hot dog with the devil's own spicy onions which was dooked by a home-made brew with fire extinguishing capabilities and all making peace with a generous scoop of Rutting Moose Ice cream. Island life is the best.

... Having paid more for a gallon of gas than I did for my latest island car, I began a search for a solution to ease the crunch. The situation happens to be gas and water. Water and gas in the winter is trouble. But come summer, enough water can be added to thicken the mixture to gasoline to bring the price to mainland numbers.

First, be aware that there is some water in all the gasoline that we buy. Some cheaper brands were once notorious for containing enough water to noticeably reduce performance. On high-speed roads, this could be bad.

On Peaks Island this could be good, if the proper amount of water per gallon of gasoline could be tailored to the speed we drive, it could be a significant advancement in the search for an alternative fuel. By my calculation, about a pint and a half of water per gallon of gas would reduce the cost about 20%.

There are, as in all curative treatments, some unpleasant side effects. Exhaust gase are an evil, black, sooty, and harmless emission. Mostly carbon and water. I think. No worse than public works vehicles on the car ferry, I think. The engine, accustomed to the finest cuisine, may not be able to digest the fuel at first. Hard starting and rough running can be expected.

But at 30mph it is not a problem. I have tested the idea and found that it helps to give the car a vigorous shake before starting, to improve the mix. This is an idea whose time has come. Our Island supplier may be willing and able to provide a cheaper, less desirable fuel for Peaks cars which have, in many ways, demonstrated a tolerance for abuse.

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Chebeague Chronicles

BY GORDON MURPHY

The Cumberland town council approved an $800,000 bond issue that assured the purchase of the island’s first new fire engine since 1972. After considerable input by mainland and island firefighters, and some spirited debate by the council in light of the island’s secession efforts, the measure passed by a vote of 6-1, with Councilor Jeff Porter dissenting. The town also approved funds for the purchase of a backup float used by the CTC ferry, and for the engineering costs of improvements to the Stone Wharf wavebreak and the CTC bus turnaround on Cousins Island in Yarmouth. Additional funds were approved for paving, gravel pit, and cemetery improvements.

But Town Manager Bill Shanes was instructed by the council not to spend these funds until the secession effort by Chebeague is resolved. As of publication, no secession petition and signatures had been presented to the Town Council. The go-ahead for the purchase of the fire engine and float were considered to be justified as these assets were movable in the case of secession, while pavement and the other construction efforts would involve monies that may be more difficult to recoup.

In addition, Councilor Stephen Moriarty pointed out that if the town did not approve the Cousins Island improvements, it would stand to lose state matching funds.

“I’ve been awaiting 24 years for this,” said Engine 4 Captain Ralph Munroe after the vote. “I can’t believe it’s finally happening.”

Compared to the assignment on bare land, this will really blow the [Chebeague firefighters’] minds!”

The engine will have at least a 1,000-gallon tank with a 1,000-gallon-per-minute pump, as well as an in-line foam system and an on-board generator and hydraulic extraction device. Munroe, who recently completed Portland Fire Department’s 16-week training course in West Cumberland, to the island. But when it was revealed that the turning radius of the truck was barely sufficient to turn around on the Maine Turnpike, this idea was quickly scuttled.

Taxes

Cumberland Tax Assessor Bill Healy had good news and bad news for Cumberland residents—tax rates will go down by forty cents per $1,000 of assessed value in the coming year, but Cumberland assessed values have increased 18% in the past year and assessed values are currently at 76% of market value. If this trend continues, Healy said, the assessed values will be under 75% in 2017, which by state law will require a tax reassessment. It should be noted that this looming tax reassessment is one of the planks that David Stevens and Herb Maine have used to push for Chebeague secession.

Moose tracks

A moose visiting Chebeague and the surrounding islands was the talk of the store this past month. The female moose and her calf were seen at numerous locations around the island and inspired a story by Mary Cushman’s 9-year-old granddaughter, Emily Calahan. (See sidebar story on page 8.)

On the very foggy morning of July 10, John Jordan came onto the lobsterman’s VHF radio channel 72 to report he saw a very strange sight in the water, which ended up being the moose calf swimming in the fog near Stockman Island. The Patricia B and the Alysa joined with Jordan’s boat, the Captiva, to herd the moose onto Rugged Island. The very tired moose went ashore on the east end of Rugged, taking a breather prior to disappearing into the undergrowth.

The moose is believed to be the first to visit the island since 2011, when a male moose made the rounds of the Casco Bay Islands, a trip highlighted by the bull moose’s charge at Tom Candler near the Cranger Hole which, according to Tom, ended up with him taking cover under a nearby truck.

Junk car removal

The effort by Kim Boehm and Wayne Dyer to rid the island of junk cars was a huge success, with an unexpected side benefit. In order to break even on the effort to get the car crusher onto the island, Boehm and Dyer had to commit to providing 100 cars. When contacted last month, Wayne thought this was a tall order, but residents were more than willing to point out locations of abandoned GTO’s, an old pickup, and undocumented trash piles all over the island, resulting in a 20-page spreadsheet. In addition to beautification of the island, Dyer indicated the effort helped protect the island’s ground-water. “We took out ten 55-gallon tanks of gas,” explained Dyer, the proprietor of Chebeague Sand and Gravel. “Can you imagine if those tanks went and that went into people’s wells?”

Angela Douglass

For the second time in nearly a month, the sudden death of a parent of Chebeague Island school children rocked the island. On July 3, Angela Douglass, 34, known to all as Angel and daughter of Florence Rich and stepdaughter of Herbie Rich, died unexpectedly in her home. She leaves three daughters, Kayte, Morgan, and Savannah. She is missed very much by the island.

Road race

The 25th annual July 4 Road Race produced an unprecedented finish of women taking first and second place in a very close finish. Diana Putnam of Cliff Island was the first place winner of the unsanctioned race distance of 4.6 miles. This is the third year of the new race course. Paul Toohey took the early lead with Ed Manion and this reporter (the defending race champ) in hot pursuit at turn. At the half mile mark, Jennie Hackert of Peaks Island took the lead which she held until the final few meters. Toohey moved into second at the mile and a half mark on the second loop. Potter had a late charge to pass Hackert near the race in winning time of 30:58, with Hackert, a Maine Track Club member who organizes the Dan Cadillac 5k race in Falmouth, finishing a second behind at 30:59. Toohey finished at 31:15. Will Poel 11, successfully defended his victory in the kids mile fun run from last year, finishing first in 8:42.

Joe Johnstone was the top girl in 15:57.

Cliff Islanders Mike Beaudoin and Bob Kramer joined Potter on the ferry trip over to the race and mixed well with the Chebeagues. Afterwards the possibility of setting up an island race series involving Cliff, Chebeague, Long, Great Diamond, and Peaks Island was discussed. It should be noted that the island victory should come as no surprise as during last year’s island school track meet between Cliff, Long, and Chebeague, Cliff’s co-ed team ran away with the mile cross country race, beating the second place finisher by a minute.

Odds and ends

The Trail System within Parkerwood needs some serious trail maintenance. There are numerous trees that have fallen from May’s storms across the paths, impeding foot and bike traffic. These trails, which are also used in the winter, will be impassable to unshoed and cross-country ski traffic unless cleared. Perhaps more concerning is the effort by a resident to block access to the trailhead. A huge pile of debris has been placed in front of the trailhead, with large plans to MORPH, page 9
Little Diamond Dispatches

BY LINDA TYLER AND PETER WALCH
Martha Mickle, we do so heartily apolo-

gize for misspelling your name as "Mickles"
in last month's column. Our carelessness is
regrettable but in no way diminishes our
considerable appreciation of your skills as a
photographer.

Summer Solstice

LDIers officially welcomed summer on
June 19 during Neta and Allen Barker's an-
nual Summer Solstice party. The Barker's ex-
travagant front porch served as an apt stage
for this year's Shakespearean theme. Allen
and Neta had selected scenes from A Mid-
summer Night's Dream that were read by the
"auditioning" guests, all in creative costume.

Truly, the evening was as memorable as
are the Barkers. It seems fitting that Allen, a
classical pianist, and Neta, a teacher of classical
ballet, continue the theatrical tradition of
their cottage, where the painted canvas that
covers their living room floor once pro-
vided the stage for a performance by Sarah Bern-
hardt.

Celebrations

There is nothing quite like the joy and en-
thusiasm LDI-ers put into making island oc-
casions special, pitching in with the plan-
nings, food, flowers, whatever. It is so quintes-
sentially typical of the idea of community,
and our two most recent celebrations were
fine examples.

Ellie Mickle

Ellie is the daughter of islander Sharon
Mickle and niece of Sharon's sister, Martha
Mickle. Sharon and Martha's father, Robert
Smith, bought the family cottage on LDI in
1924. We recently heard an interesting sto-
ry about that cottage: apparently, its stucco
finish—unique to the island—was added to
the clapboard exterior after the house was
moved down the hill to its present, water-
front location.

Warm sun was especially welcome when
Abigail Lee married Andre Couture July 19
on the lawn of the Lee cottage—the wedding
day followed a week of grey skies and soak-
ing rains. Barbara Hotchkiss helped the Lee
family with wedding and reception plans and
details, down to the seaweed-topped hors-d'oeuvre picks, Jane Homan and Jim-
my Hackett worked their usual flower magic,
and all islanders lent enthusiastic hands in
one way or another.

Abbie is the daughter of Barbara Mathais-
al Lee, originally a Bolshevik, and Philip Lee,
a life-long Portland/LDI'er whose parents
spent summers on Little Chebeague, until the
Navy took over that island in 1943. It was
nice to see at the wedding Dick and Rachel
Innes. Dick is the retired curatorial caretaker
at Little Chebeague who wrote the splendidly
researched book, Little Chebeague Island:
Its History from 1874 to 2002; Rachel, his
wife, is a Bailey (and a relative of Phil Lee),
and she and Dick met on Little Chebeague in
the late-1930s.

Another Boat Disaster

What oh what happened to Randall Hobbs'boat? Apparently, the day after he
put it in at Spring Point Marina for the sea-
son, all the boats were moved to allow for
painting, and next thing Randall knew, he
had a call that his lovingly maintained, 40-
year-old, family houseboat had sunk. Huh?

The Fourth

How could we ignore it? Dodo and Paul
Stevens preceded the annual holiday itself
with an island-wide party at their house
where it was good to see the Stevens's sons,
Nate and John, home from Arizona. Na-
t and John you might remember from the
years in which they dominated the Peaks-to-
Portland swim. John has just taken a job as
assistant coach for the women's swim team
at Florida International University in Mi-
nami, and Nate, who hung up his competitive
trunks after last year's Olympic trials, will
spend his last year at the University of Ari-
zona concentrating on academics. Good to see
them both, as well as Nate's guest, June Fest
from Tucson, who demonstrated true "is-
land worthiness" by jumping off the dock on
her last day here.

Annual Meeting

The weekend of the Fourth also, follow-
ing long custom, sees the first of two annu-
al meetings of the Little Diamond Island
Association. Grumbles about taxes, the heady
whiff of secession in the air, resolve to fix our
own potholes rather than allow the roads to
be too-heavily gravely— all familiar and
predictable. What was brand new and most
welcome was the announcement of the success-
f ul effort to raise $175,000 to pur-
chase, and permanently reserve for conserv-
ation purposes, eight parcels of land (tot-
ally about three acres— or 3 percent of the
island) that had recently come on the market.

Little Diamond has long been the most densely populated of the six islands served
by Casco Bay Lines. But, as Great and Peaks
(and Cushings, too) were once "protected"
by the military (with vast tracts set aside for
coastal artillery), we enjoyed the buffer zone
of our eastern end, owned for decades (and
mostly left vacant) by church (the Sisters of
Mercy) and state (the Coast Guard). The old
buoy-tending station, passed in the 1950s to

Ted Rand, narrowly avoided a condominium-
style development in the 1980s, and it
remains in private ownership. The Sisters of
Mercy got out of the summer-camp-for-kids
business some time ago and sold off rough-
ly a dozen house lots; now, most of their re-
mainder land (roughly 16 acres—or one-
fourth of the entire island) is advertised for
sale. Scary; our island could be completely
circled by cottages.

In the meantime, building continues on
the relatively few remaining "over end" lots.
A few individuals have taken steps to keep
some open space. A popular option has
been to purchase adjacent land, then place
a conservation easement on it, to keep down
the tax burden, while assuring that it re-
 mains forever unbuilt-upon. Now, through
the LDI Association and the Oceanside Con-
servation Trust, this preservation of open
space has moved into the collective sphere.

For forty homeowners, constituting well
over half of our islanders, contributed to this
wonderful achievement. Congratulations to all
involved, and especially to Cyrus Haggie
who initiated the effort.

Finally, once again, with great sadness...

We note the passing of a beloved island
figure, Anna Fenney's mother, Glenda Ab-
bie Gabbous, born 1926 in Sherman Mill,
Maine, died June 12 in the Houlton Hospital.
Blinkers still remember fondly her twenty-
seven years of visits to Anna and Joe: notable,
says Anna, because of her Horribles Parade
everywhere. Anna characterizes her mother as
having been "wicked spunky" and recalls her
delight in dressing up to look as ugly as
she possibly could. She would be happy, we
think, to know that her island legacy lives on
through the pot roast and raspberry pie she
taught her daughter to make and to, like her
mother, so generously share.

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**Cliff Island News**

By Leo Carter

What time is Eleanor coming? As the lobster cookers are boiling and the smell of grilling hamburgers and hot dogs begins to reach the senses of the hundreds of people attending the 28th annual ACE-sponsored July 4th–weekend picnic and game fest, this question ripples through the gathering.

It is Sunday, July 3, and the ritual is under way. At last! Eleanor Cushion arrives with her magical chocolate sauce for the ice cream, and instantly a line of hundreds anxiously forms. Do we really see Bob Howard go through the line four times? But wait a minute; many things happen both before and after the food is served and enjoyed. This day is lifted from a Norman Rockwell slice of Americana. You see large tents protecting people from the glooming July sun. The extended Cliff Island community gathers on the green grass of the ball field, and John draws just beyond the knots of conversation the scene is filled by the serene and embedding ocean background. I suspect that many will savor these moments when snow flakes are resting on their shoulders.

As always there are many children at the picnic. There is no lack of enthusiasm for the games; all generations are uninhibitedly enjoying the fun. There are sack races and three-legged races where we see many grandmother–child teams. A "fishing" contest with prizes mysteriously chomping on "hooks" is a hit.

Day after day draws members of all ages and sexes to repeated tests of strength and will. A bike parade is led around and through the area by Maur Chaubourne, and the imaginative rooster decoration of Julian Bernard is judged the best of a fine lot. A sponge toss allows children of all ages to soak some good natured faces. Volleyball and Frisbee entertain many folks too.

These activities are under the able direction of Justin Lombard, who is the current ACE intern on Cliff. ACE is a Cliff Island organization that supports athletics, conservation and education. Until this year the ACE interns were jointly held by Justin, the high school's new "ACE GIRL," T-shirt, and keeps the day rolling. He is a graduate of the Cliff Island High School.

Some events at this Island gathering have come and gone, but the 3-mile run and walk and the children's one-miler have become fixtures. Heath MacVane was the men's winner of the 3-mile run and Dina Potter won the women's race this year. Mike Dennis won the men's, 3-mile walk and Kris Saunders won the women's walk. Ian Coulth won the children's race.

A musical group called The Desperate Avocados played on the ferry wharf to a backdrop of a setting sun as thethird nevers relaxe the on the wharf and in the square. Roger Berle and Dale Dyer coordinated the event with their usual efficiency. MacVane was the driving force behind the food for this Island treat, and all are grateful to him for his talents. Thanks to them and to all the volunteers, this did it enjoy this event get started? In 1977 Earl and Judy MacVane got the idea for a 4th of July picnic. Judy was expecting a baby, who turns out to be the men's race winner this year. Now that's family planning! They used a field belonging to Ned and Carol Bainer near a part of Kennedy beach known as the middle ledge, and many islanders including Bob and Sally Howard and Gordon Griffin helped make it happen. The food was hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill. There were events like volleyball, crab racing, tug rol ing and a treasure hunt. They called it the Cliff Island Olympics. Earl estimates that more than fifty people attended. The picnic has become the largest event of the year on Cliff Island. ACE stepped up and took responsibility for organizing the annual 4th of July picnic in the '80s.

Upcoming ACE events

The ACE organization is planning and facilitating a wide range of activities for the island this summer. Their will be three field trips in Roger Berle's boat (including Diamond's Edge Restaurant, Eagle Island and a geological tour around Cliff Island). Tuesday evening and this is one of the highlights of the ACE program. It is led by Dale Dyer and Justin Lombard, and appeals to a wide range of ages and abilities. The ice cream stop at the store afterward is a big drawing card too. The best part is watching Dale make sure that the little ones come and gone, but the 3-mile run and walk and the children's one-miler have become fixtures. Heath MacVane was the men's winner of the 3-mile run and Dina Potter won the women's race. Mike Dennis won the men's, 3-mile walk and Kris Saunders won the women's walk. Ian Coulth won the children's race.

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Nana, me, and the moose on the loose

BY EMILY CALLAHAN
(Age 9, granddaughter of Mary Cashman, Chebeague Island)

We were having a lobster party. After that we went to drop off Nana's sisters (Maggie and Norah). It was 6:30 p.m. We came home and got out of the car. My Nana yelled "Emmy! Emmy!" like a batman. I turned around and I saw a moose! Nana was freaking out because she had never seen a moose on Chebeague. She was three feet behind our car. So close and, "wicked exciting!" Nana thought. The moose was seven feet tall. I thought it was nine! We thought it swam from another island! It galloped across the lawn and took the path to go to Bennett's Cove.

Nana said, "Get in the car," and we jumped back in the car. We drove down to Bennett's Cove. We were waiting for it to come out. We were careful to watch out not to hit her. Finally she came out. She went on someone else's lawn, and we thought she went to Deer Point last night! It was a most amazing end to a most amazing day!

PS. This is a true story.

MURPHY, from page 6
trees being dragged across the right of way in an apparent effort to block public access to the woods.
The storm of July 27 resulted in a tree being struck by lightning on Old Cart Road. The strike knocked down several flaring branches and caused the center of a large pine tree to go on fire. Groves used a thermal imaging camera and master stream device, as well as approximately 5,000 gallons of water and Class A foam to extinguish the stubborn blaze, which at 40 feet high presented an interesting extinguishing problem given the island's lack of a ladder truck. Currently Peaks Island is the only Casco Bay Island with an aerial ladder truck. Currently Chebeague has the largest structure in the Chebeague Island Inn.

Calder's Clam Shack opened to brisk business the weekend of July 23, and the food is delicious.

The answer to last month's trivia question: Warren Bogie, summer resident of Chebeague Is-

land, pitched 23 innings for the Oakland A's in 1968, striking out 26 hitters in 23 innings, pitching mainly in relief. This month's trivia question: Which Chebeague lobsterman (who can't swim) once jumped out of his boat and ran up and down the back of a whale?

Tom Calder and Virginia Tatakis-Calder in front of the recently opened Clam Shack on Chebeague.

Photo by Gordon Murphy

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HEAVY ITEM PICK-UP ON THE ISLANDS - 2005

Peaks Island-Week of Sept. 12

There will not be a hazardous waste pick-up during H.I.P. Guidelines for disposal of material will be posted on the islands in a couple of weeks.

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"Maine – the way life should be"

SECEDE, from page 4
whether we want to secede. If we vote to secede, the matter then goes to the Legislature, where we present, for their final approval, our plans for self-government. Although we were denied the right to vote last time, they cannot deny us that fundamental right this time.

When we suggest that secession has become necessary for us, we should identify the causes that require it, for example:

1. The city has raised our taxes to insubstantial amounts, forcing us from our homes;
2. The city has ignored our entreaties to modify their demands;
3. The city has spent our tax dollars on Peaks Island and in the City on projects we have not endorsed and have actively opposed;
4. The city has built an expensive and unnecessary Waterfront Transfer Station;
5. The city has imposed unwanted and unnecessary granite curbs along our streets;
6. The city has erected a Wastewater Treatment Plant down front, in spite of our demands to locate it elsewhere;
7. The city has ordered us out of the Peaks Island School gymnasium, except during such times as the city shall expressly allow us in;
8. The city has made decisions affecting the education of our children without our consent and concurrence;
9. The city has increased its police presence on Peaks Island beyond what is necessary for our safety, and have withheld our control of the police activities;
10. The city has denied our request to have an emergency vessel kept on Peaks Island in order to increase our health security;
11. The city has denied our request to govern the Public Works on Peaks Island;
12. The city has failed to govern and control land and property only on Peaks Island;
13. The city has declined to fully fund the parking garage or ferry and lower the costs of living on Peaks Island;
14. The city has ignored our requests for fair taxation and has arrogantly refused to reconsider.

We have learned that Portland City Councilor Jim Cloutier was playing solitaire during our last public hearing on taxes; Coun-
cilor Karen Geraghty has said, "To Hell with Peaks Island!" Mayor Bill Dayson has said, "If they can't pay the taxes, let them move." We can no longer allow ourselves to be governed by people such as these. Who view Peaks Island as a cash cow to be milked for all it's worth. It is time for Peaks Islanders to stand up, to voice our concerns, and to be counted.

We on Peaks Island are entirely capable of surviving ourselves. We have an amazing abundance of local talent and energy.

When we see our neighbors forced by the city to put their houses on the market, and when we realize that we can separate from the city and to form our own town and set our own taxes, we are inspired by a moral imperative; we must, because we can. While secession and self-government may not provide immediate tax relief, it is virtually certain to reduce our taxes in the long run, and it thus provides the best hope for our future security and happiness.

Those who truly love Peaks Island have nothing to fear by exercising some self-control. There are 330 towns in Maine smaller than Peaks Island would be. We can establish the arrangements necessary for self-government, including a Town Council, School Board, and Planning Board. We can purchase the land, buildings and equipment on the island for our use — indeed, we have already paid for them over the years with our taxes. We can make contracts and other arrangements with and other towns and businesses to provide local services.

This is the time to act. Let's be the people who really love Peaks Island and are being affected now by the high taxes and lack of local control. Something must be done immediately, and we are the only ones who can do it. It's entirely up to us. Let's join together and take control of our community, and when they finish writing the history of Peaks Island, they will say that we only did what we had to do to save our island homes, and to secure the blessings of self-government for ourselves and our posterity.

The Island Times welcomes columns of differing points of view.

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CHEBEAGUE, from page 1

Maine Development Block Grant Planning Grant from the state. Rather than rush into a specific project, we are doing a detailed market study of the demand for affordable housing on the island. The experience of some other islands further down east has convinced us that in a small island housing market it is easy to misjudge what kind of housing is needed and exactly what "affordable" means in the island context where living costs are considerably higher than on the mainland.

This is where the readers of the Island Times come in. Much of our market study involves sending questionnaires to existing year-round residents and property owners on Chebeague to find out their needs and housing plans. But we also are trying to find out what demand there may be for housing on Chebeague among people off the island who might be interested in coming to live here year-round.

So if you have thought about living year-round on Chebeague, let us know your name and address and we will send you a questionnaire about your housing needs. Also if you know someone else who has reason to want to live on Chebeague, have them contact us. Write to Beth Howe, 168 South Road, Chebeague Island ME 04017; or call 946-7829. The Chebeague Dispersal is also available on the Chebeague web site: www.chebeague.org.

But before you conjure up an image of how wonderful it would be to live on a Maine island, think about what that actually involves. We assume that readers of the Island Times have a good idea of this, but in case you don’t … Much of your life is governed by the discipline of the non-car ferry. Think about how question, nor can anyone,” Payne said, “and that’s a problem.”

Whatever the water quality at Peaks Island’s popular swimming spots, the island’s wastewater treatment plant is not a likely source of contamination. The Portland Water District and the Maine DEP confirm that there have been no violations detected from monitoring of the plant’s effluent this summer, and bacteria levels have been well below the limits set for the plant.

WATERS, from page 1

Ferry trip is 56 round trip. You have to lug all your stuff, winter or summer, rain or shine, onto the ferry and off again.

Your kids can go to school on the island till 6th grade when they start taking the ferry to the mainland as well. If you want to see them play basketball or perform in the school play, it means spending the night on the mainland. The schedule is convenient from Chebeague to Varnmouth — about every two hours; and the Casco Bay Lines goes into Portland less frequently. Even so, it is a discipline.

Commuters often take the 6:40 a.m. ferry to work and return home on the 6:30 p.m.

There are, of course, many wonderful things about living on Chebeague. The island is a beautiful place. It also has an active, independent community where people know each other and work together on all kinds of community events and projects. We want to sustain that community and keep it diverse. At this point we see this as requiring help with the cost of housing and reaching out to people who may be interested in casting their lot with us.

At this point what we need is information and we hope Island Times readers who might think of joining us will provide it.

Beth Howe is a year-round but not life-long resident of Chebeague. She is the chairperson of the Cumberland Islands Committee, which is undertaking the housing demand study.

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LIBRARY: from page 1

by others, ready to board, we watch as a generator, 7 bicycles, 2 canoes, living room chairs and tables, 2 wheeled loads of camping gear, one of suitcases, a washer/dryer, assorted building materials, 2 kayaks and an SUV are crammed onto the tight decks of the Maquoit. A man next to me prays there will be room for people. Finally 20 minutes later, twenty minutes less time until the return boat at 5:00, we head into the busy harbor. The 2-15 doubles as a tour boat. Lights, houses, windmills, and a huge tanker off-loading oil conjure up layers of maritime history. A man next to Roger takes a video of Fort Gorges. Roger takes a panaramtic shot of the farm of oil storage tanks off to the south. "They have more fuel here than any other port on the east coast," he says. The woman next to us points to the Coast Guard raft escorting us out of the harbor. A manned gun is mounted on its bow: MARTEC levels are not discreetly displayed; pristine views cannot be taken for granted. A complex world, seemingly disconnected, but ponder though each ship is a library that did not go by barge (forgotten items, small items), architect, construction workers from CCM Constructors, inches from Cumberland County's work program was transported from distant places, morning and night, writers and summers, on this ferry. An island library cannot escape the vast global web, some good, some bad, of which is a part.

After stops in the yacht-and-yards-lined harbor of Diamond Cove, the Maquoit arrives a half-hour late. On Long, we and several other passengers are greeted by Bob Jordan, my brother-in-law, who has volunteered to drive people in his crane up from the dock to the event. Once at the site, I ascend a flight of broad stairs and walk through an elegant double door into the community room. There, next to an open window, the Sparman family blows up balloons. Visitors mingle under rows of large, low-hanging lights, reminiscent of those in classrooms during the fifties. Other finishing touches such as mahogany interior shutters make the space uniquely inviting.

The school that inspired so many has, in turn, inspired Frank Oliver, the architect. The height of the ceilings, the woodwork, the raised roofs and cedar shakes form a visual connection one to another. The windows, their scale and craftsmanship, are key to the inviting nature of the whole complex. Each is encased in poplar and pickled white, as are all the door frames. The red oak and fir ceilings were installed by the inmates from Cumberland County. Frank himself sometimes made weekend trips with his mother, father, kids and nephew to install the tile floors in the gallery and entryway. He admits the experience of building a space that gives form to the breath of an island has changed him. My sister, Nancy Jordan, also the library fundraising chairperson, tells me she steered the islanders through the whole process, all decisions were met with consensus, not one argument she can recall.

Time for the ribbon cutting. Time to honor all islanders who contributed to the building. Long lists of gifts shared. Steve McDuffy offers names. Nancy Tanne offers stories. Nancy Jordan introduces several children who symbolize the extent to which the entire community, old, young, retired, new, summer, year-round, made this building happen. A man on the East End donated a dollar for each piece of trash children picked up. Twenty-six children raised 1,000 dollars. From the West End, Lily Spearman and Isabella Callandro contributed all the money from sales at their lemonade stand. Calum Hare, a summer resident from London, donated funds from collected recycled bottles.

Finally, "their architect" is summoned to the microphone. The building he crafted out of what was and what might be, is architecture at its best. Reverent of what is. The architect stands back and takes notice of what is, intersecting planes of context the place refers to him.

Ribbon cut, food devoured, balloons bursting. The crisp clock says it's time to make a mad dash for the ferry. Roger and I grab a few treats for the ride. The return boat is nearly empty. Overhead, a Delta MD-88's captain tips a wing down, a hate up to the day's clarity.

Today we experience the power of goodness. We see criss-crossing gifts, bread cast upon water.
other islands that they would be making a quick, unexpected trip to Peaks. They took the ice cream off the boat by crane and left it on the pier," says Sinicki, thankful but ultimately not too anxious about the threatened sales.

He seems to have a laissez-faire attitude toward potential disasters. As he heads home on these summer evenings, he often tells his young employees not to stress out if the lines get too long and those jones-ing for a sugar fix grow rusty, "just tell them you're closed, turn out the lights, lock the door and go home," he says with a shrug. "No big deal.

Sinicki, who moved here from the Chicago area five years ago, says his family was looking for a more low-key lifestyle than the one they were living—which required him and his wife to travel regularly. Having worked in marketing for a company that sold exercise equipment, he had knowledge of sales and was looking to become a small business owner. Both he and his wife liked the east coast, but had never actually been to Peaks Island until a friend alerted them to an island house that was for sale here. They came to Peaks to see the house in December, liked it, and bought it. A year later, they had wrapped things up in Chicago and were setting into island life.

When the ice cream store went on the market, Sinicki made his move. "I've never done retail before," he says, "but it wasn't too much of a stretch." The learning curve was painless. "Mostly it was learning how to control inventory—and figuring out what would sell," he says. And this is where his eleven-year-old daughter, Lindsey, comes in. Not only does she work in the store several hours a week—"She'll work the cash-register and even process credit cards—checking the signatures and all," he says proudly—she also makes a fine buyer. When trying to sell out what will appeal to the younger set, he often seeks her advice. "I'll say, 'Really? You really think kids will like that?'" Taking a leap of faith, he'll order the item. And apparently, she has her finger on the pulse. "They're all sold great," he says. For the most part, Sinicki says his business plan for the store remains unchanged. "The store is what it is. No matter what happens, what we do differently, the numbers stay basically the same," he explains. "But then again, we're very content with the way it is."

The only truly significant difference between his store and the one the previous owner ran, he says, is that he has really tried to make it more "island friendly." The painted "no bikes" zone on the sidewalk in front of the store and a cranky attitude toward kids that characterized the previous owners' business practices strike him as wrong-headed. "They're good kids here," he says, acknowledging that many are also his core customers. True, they hang out in front of his store as if with no proper mall alternative, this is the closest they can edge to a proper pose for disaffected youth. But Sinicki doesn't sweat it. "They're just bored sometimes," he says.

For his part, Sinicki seems to yearn for a little more boredom in his life. Acknowledging that he owes his livelihood to this season of crowds that push him to work back-to-back 60-hour weeks, he still looks forward to Halloween—that delightful day when all the island children are invited in to pick out whatever candy he has left from the season and he shuts the doors of Downtown for a peaceful winter. "I still probably work 30 to 40 hours a week in the off-season, between cleaning, ordering, doing inventory and taxes, but these are things I can do when it's snowing outside and I'm watching a movie," he says, smiling ruefully as visitors lounge in the chairs in front of his shop, bike by in swimsuits, and punctuate our conversation with the squeak-and-bang of the store's screen door. "It's hard working while everyone is on vacation."

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TOOLEY, from page 14

The critique that the facility is not seasonals—it was created specifically for use in the summer season and is not heated or insulated—doesn’t really bother Fortier. “I’m not sure there’s a need to make it year-round,” he says. “But it can be made into a year-round facility—you just have to add a heating element.” In any case, he believes that it will stay open for most of the year, perhaps as much as April through November.

Finally, Fortier is not too concerned about the prospect of the expanded sidewalk becoming a haunt for bored teens. “That’s a safety issue,” he says, “and it’s up to the police to look after it. Not everyone is happy about the new public toilet.”

“I’ve let a lot of rain in whether the city listens to a normal citizen—which I am. Island residents are not very happy with the sidewalks. A couple is sitting on Island Avenue. A bulldozer at the bathroom site—which is in direct view from her porch—beaches smoke into the air. The construction crew mumches on holdouts across the street.

But noise is not the really the issue for residents like Crowley-Brockwell. “I’m astounding,” she says. The intersection of Welch Street and Island Avenue has become “a very dangerous spot,” she says. “There’s a lot of cars, a lot of pedestrians. People congregate on this corner. At night time, it’s busy. So, you really want to encourage more people and create more pedestrian traffic?”

“I just don’t know whether much thought has gone into this,” she adds, shaking her head.

Crowley-Brockwell never officially made her views known to the city because she felt they wouldn’t listen. “I mean, how was going to listen to us?” she continues. “They’re just going to say, ‘You’re not complaining because your view is obstructed. This is for the greater good.’” Whatever I say or do, my voice will not be listened to. That’s what my interaction with the city has taught me.” She sighs. “It used to be a lot more nice and helpful.”

Winkelman acknowledges that both the bathroom and the bulletin board have recently become lightning rods for criticism from some islanders. And as he talks about this, he suddenly looks tired. “I want to paint—interfere with people’s sites,” he says. “Up until the moment we poured concrete, we could have moved it. Really, if someone had said something, we could have addressed it.

“I feel terrible,” he continues. “But we had two public meetings, and the plans went up at the café and at the library for over a year. I mean, how much process do you need?”

If you stand in the parking lot and look at the structure now, it’s hard to believe that this little grey box with two doors has caused as much anxiety as it has. In fact, it’s hard to believe that it really is—or ever will be—a bathroom. Half buried (or, to be more precise, three-quarters buried) in the dirt of the embankment, the bunker-like cement edifice looks like it belongs over by Battery Street. What kind of privy encounter will this ultimately turn out to be?

The curious—or impatient—can get a sense of what the experience will be like by simply heading to the public toilets beside the parking lot at Font and Dana Streets in the Old Port. According to both Fortier and Winkelman, the inside of the Peaks Island facility will have much the same kind of fixtures. Fortier refers to them as “low maintenance.” Winkelman refers to them as “pennitary quality.”

If the Old Port bathroom are any gauge, the experience will be a pretty utilitarian one. At a recent tour of the facilities it was clear that the bathrooms were easy to clean since the concrete floors can be hosed off. And it’s almost completely a hands-free event, with wash stations found in the urinals and sinks in head-air dryers to dry hands with. Judging by these facilties, the Peaks Island public bathroom won’t be a place people will want to linger in.

But taste is subjective. On the same day, a reporter approached a female patron exiting the Old Port facilities, she asked her to describe her experience. “Outstanding,” she said.

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ISLAND TIMES PAGE 15
The army eventually allowed us access to the island for marines, the PX, and the chapel. One of the islanders had a large moving van which would be parked down front for anyone who wanted a ride to the show. For the second and third weeks we would see first rate movies months before they came to Portland. Several army personnel brought their families here. Many shipyard workers came also as there was a housing shortage in the Portland area. A few remained after the war but most returned to their roots.

The island has also been a draw for those who march to a different drummer. The most colorful were probably the actors who came each summer to the Greenwood Gardens Playhouse. They rented cottages or stayed at the Avenue House, our island hotel, and would be seen walking the streets studying their lines. Some chose to ignore us, while others befriended us. Most of us ended up ushering or taking tickets or sweeping up. There were several big names such as Steve Cochran, Miriam Hopkins, Guy Klibbe, Rod Steiger, Jean Stapleton and Efrem Zimbalist. We had two churches, several grocery stores, a doctor, policeman, firemen and a taxi service, thanks to Ret's dad and her uncle. Several city firefighters and policemen lived here. The island had a great baseball team.

Our collaborative efforts for this article have been so much fun. We all agree that one of the most memorable events of our lives was an on a clear, spectacular full day in September 1978 when the Peaks Island Grammar School and Community Reunion of the 20's, 30's and 40's was held at Greenwood Gardens. For all who came and took the walk down Memory Lane - A true family reunion. It was an unforgettable, memorable experience. Graduates and former residents came from all over the country.

In reflection, our childhood was certainly happy and unique and we are thankful for our mothers and fathers and for the wonderful people who made us feel so cared for and secure. We have seen many changes on the island over the years, but the beauty of it and our love for it has never changed.

Alice Boyce was born on Peaks in Dr. Black's hospital and has lived here all her life. She still lives in the family home where she and her four brothers and sister grew up. The island had a fifth generation islander. She married an islander, raised three sons, and traveled extensively before Tom served in the Air Force. She now resides in the family home.

Joyce O'Brien and her sister, Ellen grew up on Peaks, Joyce spent summers here after her marriage and returned 14 years ago. Ellen Gallant lived in California for many years but returned here every summer. She and her husband, Frank, now live here year round in the family home.

Barbara Carman was born on Luther Street and has lived on Peaks all of her life. She retired as Deputy City Clerk of the City of Portland.

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Star Gazing

Illustration by Jamie Hogan

August, the eighth month in the Gregorian calendar, was named for Augustus Caesar, Emperor of Rome after Julius. Augustus was born GaiusOctavius in 63 BC, nephew ofJulius. As a child he impressed everyone with his thoughtfulness and maturity. Julius wanted him always near and finally adopted him as his son and heir. After Julius was murdered in 44 BC, Augustus took control of Rome and later expanded the Empire by attracting other groups to him through his reputation for fairness, ultimately producing both Roman and the Golden Age of Rome. His sister marriedMarcAntony, who later left her for Cleopatra, but that marriage was snake-bit. Augustus’s “tax everything” edict required Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. Augustus died when Jesus was 14 but left a lasting impression. The August sky presents old friends: earth faster inside orbit around the sun has brought rud·
dy Mars closer to the earth than it rises in April at 10:30 p.m. by month’s end. Mars reaches its summer solution on Aug. 16, challenging the astronomers to see in its shrinking white southern polar cap. In the evening sky to the southeast, Jupiter descends throughout the month until it finally conjunctsVe· nus in Vega. Distant and blue, Neptune and Uranus reach opposition this month and can be found in Capricorn and Aquarius respectively. For Alaskans, a crescent moon will eclipse Venus on the evening of Aug. 7: for Mayne, it will be a striking conjunction at sunset over Portland. Later in the evening, beautiful Vega, the brightest star in Lyra, will be directly overhead. Most stars are unimpressive in telescopes, but Venus is a stellar exception.

On Aug. 11 and 12, the Perseid meteor shower peaks in a masked sky, with best viewing between midnight and dawn in the northeastern skies. Each meteor is a single grain of sand, remnant of the comet TNO which left a path of debris through which the earth must plow each summer. On Aug. 21, the moon is full and antenna bringing a 13-foot swing in trails. The Georges Bank deflects the warm Gulf Stream waters away from Maine, and the high tides here churn the water and pump the cold lower layers up the bottom and onto our beaches. Swimmers may shiver, but the sea life loves it, so fishing here is the best in the world. Next time you eat seafood, thank the moon, too.

Aug. 7: Take a look westward around 8:30 tonight. The waning crescent moon hangs with Venus over the mainland. It’s an impressive sight—no wonder the Muslims adopted it as their symbol.

Aug. 9: The moon’s crescent has thickened now and sits below Jupiter over South Portland around 4:15 tonight.

Aug. 11: Up late tonight (or early tomorrow)? Grab a lawnchair, sleeping bag and bug dope, and go out to the back shelf for the Perseid meteor shower.

Aug. 12: First quarter moon will be high in the sky at sunset. Perseid meteorics peak before dawn this morning. For the next few days, the moon is best for viewing this month. It’s conveniently sized (after supper), easy to find, and the terminator line (between dark and light) shows the craters in 3-D, if not living color.

Aug. 18: Mercury has jumped up and sits just below Saturn before dawn this morning, with the Beehive star cluster just below. Coffee and bisoucaden are all you need.

Aug. 18: Full “Barley” moon rises at 8:02. It’s also at perigee (“close to earth”), so it will be big and yellow as it rises above the islands for those on the 8:15 boat home tonight.

Aug. 21: The moon and sun have joined forces, their combined gravities building the tides to 13 feet today, highest this month at 12:38 a.m. lowest this month at 4:46 a.m. It will be a steep walk down the gangplank for those coming to the islands on the 8:45 boat this evening.

Aug. 23: A waning gibbous moon sits above and left of Mars, when it rises late tonight.

Aug. 26: Last quarter moon is high in the sky at dawn, creating a 90 degree angle between sun, earth and moon, dividing the gravitational effects and moderating tides and currents over the next few days.

20th century’s first full moon tides this afternoon, less than half of the spring tide just days ago.

Aug. 31: Sunrise at 6:03 a.m. and sunset at 7:18 p.m., so we have only 13:25 hours of sunlight now, having lost more than an hour this month alone. For solstice, take a look westward about 8 tonight. Venus sits just below Jupiter on the horizon—heck, they’re so close your pinkie at arm’s length could cover them both. In a telescope, Jupiter appears twice as wide at Venus, but it’s a lot further away from us (about 500 million miles now), so Venus outshines Jupi
ter. Together they make a beautiful pair and a heavenly way to end the month.
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- Tuesdays: 8:30-10:00 AM Gentle, Mixed Levels Wednesdays: 6:30-8:00 PM Beginner, 8:30-10:00 AM Mixed
- $10 per class Drop-in welcome or $45 for 5 classes
- For more information call Elizabeth Beld @ 207-223-8777

The Peaks Coffee
- COFFEE & PASTRIES
- GIFT ITEMS
- CATERING
- FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENT
- 50 Island Ave, Peaks Island, ME 04108
- 207-766-2600
- Lisa Lynch
- e-mail: lilylynch@aol.com
Choral singing: community building at its finest

BY FAITH YORK

Twenty-eight and a half million people宫颈 carcinoma in the United States, and many sets of human vocal chords are vibrating every week in choral groups across the U.S., according to a new study by Chorus America (www.ChorusAmerica.org). More Americans regularly participate in cho­rals than in any other art form. The study showed that 15% of all U.S. house­holds with members 12 years and older belong to a choir, and the impact is far broader, especially for those who sing as a hobby. The study also showed that a greater percentage of women than men participate in cho­ral groups. The study was conducted for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and the National Association of Music Cen­ters (NAMC).

Another study, conducted by the American Musicological Society and the American Choral Directors Association, showed that cho­ral singing is a form of therapy for many people. The study found that cho­ral singing can help people with a variety of conditions, including depression, anxiety, and stress. The study showed that cho­ral singing can also improve physical health, including blood pressure and heart rate.

Community Notes

Park opening on Peaks Island: The Peaks Island Park is now open to the public. The park is located on the eastern end of Peaks Island and features a beach, playground, and picnic areas. The park is open daily from dawn to dusk.

TEA Events

Come join in the fun. Book Group, Aug. 2 at 7 p.m. Annual Fair and Dinner on Aug. 6: donations are needed for the Silent Auction and White Elephant sale. Please note that the club will be closed at noon on Fri. Aug. 5 and Sat. Aug. 6. The club will reopen at 2 p.m. on Sun. Aug. 7. For more information, contact Michele Many.

Craft show: The Fifth Maine Regiment Museum’s annual Art and Craft Show will take place on Saturday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show will feature local artists and craftspeople, including paintings, photography, jewelry, and more. The show is free to the public, but donations are appreciated.

Living history: On Wed., Aug. 18, at 7:30 p.m., the col­

Aug. 5-11: Paul Brauns; contemporary representa­tional paintings in oil. Reception Aug. 12: 3-5 p.m. Aug. 13: Tim Nilhoff; found objects, encaustic, and mixed media paintings. Reception Aug. 12: 3-5 p.m.

Condo for sale: Peaks Island. 3 min walk to ferry, 1 br condo overlooking bay; pool, private parking. $215,000. Please call the front desk for details.

Help wanted: The Inn on Peaks is currently hiring for housekeepers. Apply in person at 33 Island Ave. Call 766-0300 or fax resume to 766-5137.

Mother’s helper wanted: We are looking for someone who loves children and has an outgoing personality to help with meals and clean-up. $10/hour. Call 766-0951.


This is community building at its simplest. This is community building at its finest. In a world where we are becoming more and more isolated, there is a need for people to interact with each other and share in the same activities. This is especially true in the case of cho­ral singing. It is a way of bringing people together and creating a sense of community. When people sing together, they create a special bond that is unique to cho­ral singing. It is a way of connecting with others and creating a sense of belonging.

Faith York is director of Peaks Island’s cho­ral group.