9-2007

Island Times, Sep 2007

Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

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Peaks housing group busy with new projects

By David Tyler

The Peaks Island affordable housing group has had a busy summer.

After laying the groundwork for three years, HOME-START now has two projects underway: new grant money and the help of an island fellow.

On Aug. 8, the Peaks Island Fund awarded $30,000 to HOME-START, a community loan fund.

On July 16, the Portland City Council voted 7 to 0 to donate a piece of land on 143 Pleasant Avenue on Peaks Island to HOME-START.

This month, Brooke Brewer, the new island fellow, starts work on Peaks Island. Her main role will be to work with the island's affordable housing group. Money to help pay for the island fellow came from a $5,000 grant from the Casco Bay Island Development Association.

On Aug. 18, the Peaks Island Fund also awarded HOME-START $5,000 in support of the grant from the Genesis Community Loan Fund, which is in challenge.

Finally, HOME-START is in negotiations to purchase a single-family home on Peaks Island that it plans to rent for this fall.

Barbara Hopkins, HOME-START's president, said the group is excited now that these projects are underway. The group had been a little peak, she said, before PEAKS page 8

Chebeague housing group to rent home

By David Tyler

The Chebeague Island housing group has begun its first affordable housing project, purchasing a home in August that it plans to rent.

The three-bedroom home, on 226 South Road, was bought for $244,000 on Aug. 9 by the Housing Committee of the Chebeague Island Community Association (CICA).

The property is a first step for a group to rent homes for young families on island, hosted by Cliff families, and to help his family. They brought flowers, set up the grounds, bought and arranged the food and provided housing for those from away. Family members and friends spoke about Evans. They described his kindness, his intelligence, his wit, his carefree spirit, his zest for life and his sense of adventure.

Bill Zimmerman presided over the ceremony. As part of the remembrance of Evans Huber, the island has included many of the emotions from those who took part in the Aug. 30 ceremony.

His friends have set up a Web site where people can post thoughts, photos, memories and other tributes to Evans. The site is where Evans Huber.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to: The Evans Huber Memorial Fund of the Peaks Island Fund c/o the Maine Community Foundation, Suite 200, 1 Monument Square, Portland ME 04101. The Peaks Island Fund will be made to Peaks Island Fund causes due to Evans' heart.

A memorial service was held on Peaks Island with Evans Huber, 24, who died after being struck by lightning. Photo courtesy of Huber's family.

make people happy.

Lindsay and Emmett have indicated that the real time this usually unappreciated, self-confident young man really showed signs of stress were on those occasions when he thought his friends and family around him were angry or unhappy.

After Pacific voyage, Holloway settles down to teach at Cliff school

By David Tyler

New Cliff Island teacher Joshua Holloway has always been attracted small, tight-knit communities in rural locations.

Since graduating from Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania in 1999, Holloway, 32, has taught at elementary schools in Mammoth Lakes, California; Biscayne Bay, Florida; and Las Vegas, Nevada. He is a Great Diamond Island resident.

They met while both taught at King Kamehameha III Elementary School in Lahaina, located on Maui, Hawaii. Heidi taught special education and reading and had lived in Hawaii for seven years. Joshua had been at the school for two years, teaching first grade, then becoming a reading specialist in his second year.

The couple married in 2004, bought a 25-foot-long sailboat, and began a voyage in the Pacific Ocean.

Their trip took them from Hawaii, through the Polynesian islands, all the way to Australia. By today's yachting standards, their equipment was basic: a GPS system and a VHF radio. Holloway said they also bought a sextant in case of an emergency.

Their itinerary was partially dictated by their boat. It was small for the type of cruising they were doing, and could not hold enough supplies for many of the remote islands they visited.

"We were fishing morning, noon and night," he said. They also stayed for extended periods at certain islands to wait out the Pacific ebb tides.

They budgeted enough money for food, for travel, and for personal expenses. They stayed for a total of 14 months. The crew included: Jessica Burton, Melissa Crowl, Lance Kilkenny, Lisa Garlow, Robert Hurley, Michael Langella, Kathryne Munday, Howard Petlulis, Lynne Richard, Elizabeth Sout, Robert Tiffany and Jeremy Yasi.

The Portland City Council approved the Peaks Island Council at its July 16 meeting.

Inside

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In Brief

New island/neighborhood administrator starts work

The new Portland Islands/Neighborhood Administrator, Michael Murray, started his job on Aug. 21; the day city officials went on their annual island tour.

It follows a tradition of island/neighborhood administrators hitting the ground running. Tom Fortier, who held the post from August 1999 through January 2007, began his first day on the job at a deer control hearing on Peaks Island. The position has been vacant since Fortier left to become the new town manager of Richmond.

Murray, 47, has worked for funeral homes for much of the past 20 years. Most recently, he was the general manager at Conney-Tully Crawford Funeral Homes & Cremation Services of Portland. He was picked from a pool of 170 applicants.

From 1999-2002 he was the division manager of the Portland Downtown District and also oversees city cemeteries for the Parks and Recreation Department.

When asked how he became interested in the islands post, he said, "to be honest, I missed the interaction of working with people on a day-to-day basis in the municipal capacity."

Murray also said he believes his skills will be useful, following the attempt by Peaks Island to secede from Portland. "I think it would be a good fit for me, to try to deal with people, some of who are in a crisis mode," he said. Some "people had a lot of mixed feelings about their relationship with the city."

"I'm just able to listen to people's needs...and feel I can communicate them effectively," Murray said.

Chebeague Island resident check the variety of items at the annual Island Commons yard sale.

Chebeague Island resident checks the variety of items at the annual Island Commons yard sale.

Tax exemptions changed

After the Town of Chebeague sent out its tax bills, officials discovered that the Town of Cumberland Tax Assessor had changed the reimbursement rules for the homestead and veterans' exemptions from last year's figure of 100 percent to 75 percent.

Cumberland officials did not tell members of the Chebeague Transition Committee that this change had been made, according to Ron Grenier, Chebeague's Town Administrator. The assessor made the recommendation and the Cumberland Town Council approved the new ratio in May. "The Town of Cumberland dropped this ratio to 75 percent without telling us," said Grenier.

The exemption ratio governs the figure residents can use to reduce their taxes under the homestead and veteran's exemptions. Grenier said 106 residents on Chebeague Island have homestead exemptions and 23 have veteran's exemptions. It results in a tax increase of $65 for each homestead exemption and $25 for each veteran exemption.

The town would be short $7,500 in the current fiscal budget. However, the town underestimated the money it would get from the Maine Department of Revenue to cover exemptions. The town will receive almost $8,000 for exemptions instead of the $4,800 budgeted, said Grenier. So the change means the town will be short $750.

The Board of Selectmen does not have the power to reimburse residents for this mistake. A Special Town Meeting would have to be called to address the issue, Grenier said. "We can absorb it in the budget," Grenier said. "But it's not a budget issue. It's a legal issue. Because the assessment has been certified and the tax bills have gone out, reimbursing residents could set a legal precedent, the town's lawyer has advised, Grenier said.

Peter Lowe has said the town should not reimburse residents because it could expose the town to tax claims from other residents who did not receive homestead or veteran's exemptions. A taxpayer could claim that the town decided to reimburse some residents, even though the proper procedures were followed to set the tax rate, so why not reimburse other residents?

The issue is likely to be discussed at the Sept. 15 Selectmen's meeting.

Residents tapped for Chebeague boards

The Chebeague Island Board of Selectmen made appointments to several town boards on Aug. 1.

The appointments were discussed in executive session, but the board voted on the appointments in open session.

Picked for the Chebeague Planning Board are: Thomas Adams, Sandra Birkett, Ernie Burgess, Mabel Doughty, Jane Frazelle, Beth Howe and Ted Ringe.

Named to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals are: Donna Colbeth, Milo Marrazo, Peter Ives, Dave Stevens and John Wilson.

Named to the Coastal Waters Commission are: Paul Belesca, Ken Hamilton, Whitnapper Boughton Jr., Jon Millinger and Jeff Patnaude.

Chosen for the Shellfish Conservation Committee are: Marianne Bremtm, Cecil Doughty, Bob Earnest, David Miller and Gary Boss.

Island Commons yard sale a success

The annual yard sale to benefit the Chebeague Island Commons assisted living home was a tremendous success. Almost $20,000 was raised for the Island Commons in just four boxes. By the 10 a.m. opening of the yard sale, held Aug. 4, the line of residents wanting to get into the Chebeague Island Hall and Community Center.
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loving fr iend.
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artistic and opinionated.
...
Peaks Island Fund awards $20,000 in grants

By BILL ZIMMERMANN

As a result of the modest generosity of the Peaks Island Community, the island endorsement fund made grants of nearly $20,000 during its annual meeting on August 9. The Island Council has prioritized these grants, which are designed to improve communications, educational opportunities, and ease of living for islanders. In total, the fund awarded grants to 14 different projects, with a focus on supporting island charities and the emerging movement of Peaks Island School. The fund is excited to see how these grants will be used and is looking forward to the next opportunity to introduce itself to the community.

Island Views
Letters to the editor

Wants what is best for Peaks Island

As a candidate for the new Peaks Island Council, I write to clarify my position regarding secession with the town of Portland. My goal is to work for the benefit of all island residents and to support their desire to maintain a separate identity. I believe that a unified island government would be the best approach to achieving this goal.

I want to instill a strong sense of independence because I truly believe that Peaks Island can thrive without the support of Portland. Our island is unique, with a history and culture that sets it apart from the mainland. Our island has a rich tradition of self-sufficiency and we should continue to build on this legacy.

I respect the democratic system in the State of Maine, but I believe that a separate island government would be in the best interest of all islanders. We have our own unique values and traditions that set us apart from other communities in Maine. Our island government is more likely to be responsive to our needs and concerns.

I believe that a separate island government would allow us to make decisions that are best for our island. We can focus on maintaining our own resources and developing our own economy. We can also work to improve our schools and other public services.

I am committed to working for the benefit of all island residents and I believe that a separate island government is the best way to achieve this goal. I hope that you will vote for me in the upcoming election.

Rob Tiffany, Peaks Island

Will listen to the needs of islanders

Hello. My name is Mike Langella and I am a candidate for the new Island Council. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

My wife, Sandy, and I have lived full-time on Peaks since 1999. Prior to becoming residents, we regularly visited Peaks. We have two sons, Max and Andrew.

I am a retired educator, having worked for 28 years in Yarmouth and Portland. When I worked in Portland, I was a member of the Portland School Committee and the Peaks Island School. I also previously served on the Portland School Committee when Sandy and I lived in Windham. Presently, I operate carpentry and painting business on the island.

I have two principal reasons for running for the Island Council: to listen to all the people of Peaks, and to improve communications between Portland and Peaks Island.

I believe the effectiveness of the Island Council will be primarily measured by how well islanders articulate our island needs to the Portland Island Council. I believe that the Island Council will be primarily measured by how well islanders articulate our island needs to the Portland Island Council.

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¹Please see LETTERS, page 16.
This island life

By George Romal.

My friend from Peaks is walking the streets of Nantucket. He spies what looks like a summertime dress in yellow and green. He comes right up and tells my friend that he should just turn around and take the next boat out. Friend ignores that advice and tells him that by thelooks of the grumpiness he just isn’t a local and that by his walk he didn’t grow up on Nantucket. Then he asks why he seems to be so unhappy in paradise.

The next thing you know my bud and the swell are sitting at the Reputed Albatross bar having a pint. So what’s brewing in Nantucket? Friends ask, that’s got you turning visitors back. Overcrowding, too much traffic, Folks coming in and stirring up trouble—want lower taxes, affordable housing, jumbers on the streets, fewer high-end businesses. Tear up the Macadam and go back to gravel streets. All the good things that keep out the riffraff, going down the tubes, says guy. Then he says, to my friend’s surprise, “They want this to be another Peaks Island.” Peaksier, unhipping his Bean windbreaker, shows his T-shirt with the message, “Peaks Island—not an island, and never will be, Nantucket.” They laugh and order another round.

The little green card on the bulletin board reads, “Found on the path near the 7th Maine, one jar of Hi Creamy Peanut Butter. Call...” When a bulletin board matures to the point of having a sense of humor, it’s time to pay closer attention to the postings. I did just that and came up with a sampling.

Needy Shorn Sheepdog hair, stuff a pit-loose knitting “art” scarf.

Island Car, prestigious heritage. Hauled three Maine Governors on Peaks tours. Call for price.


Will care for your little darlings in my child-safe home. Children of smoking parents preferred.

Spatula-free painter for hire. $20 per hour with radio. $30 per hour without radio.

No-touch soul cleansing. No sins too scarlet. All guilts exorcised. Ask for Thelma.

Seminar—Let me tell you about tax-free living on Peaks Island. Refreshments. Bring the kids. No Pets.

Zither, jaw-harp and washboard for your next Down-Home party. Have a “spit in the fire” good time with Zeke. As seen on Youtube.

Never-too-Soon Studios taking applications for Ballet instructions for weaned infants. Moscow (Mc.) Ballet trained professional. Olga.

Firewood—your trees are ours—call B T Hughes... We have never owned a dog. But if I did, you can be sure that it would be of some earthly use to me. Most dogs are pets, unfortunately. This entitles them to welfare and health care benefits for doing absolutely nothing but pant and beg and lick faces, Oh, and bark. Domesticated dogs have abilities superior to those of their keepers. And those benefits go untapped. I would think that they (the dogs) are bored beyond tears. Why own a sheep dog if it isn’t used to round up sheep? Or why have a rabbit dog in a place that doesn’t have rabbits? And heaven forbid if a retriever, golden, lab, chocolate, vanilla, or whatever, should have to go out and retrieve the newspaper. Or drag in the trashcans. Or find a garden tool in the weeds. Or help pull the grocery cart up Weclh. Pity the poor Dachshund who doesn’t hunt ducks. A dog’s sense of smell is remarkable. Anyone ever consider having their Basenji find the car in the parking garage? Or be taught to find and dig for truffles. Pigs can do it. Why can’t a dog? There could be more to a dog’s life than just being peratable and cute. More would be expected of my canine. That is, if I owned one.

Medical alert. The ailment of the age is allergies. And it seems that the only people who suffer from this scourge are those who get tested. I don’t know anyone who undertook this procedure and came away “cleafree.” It is amazing that so many are still on their feet. It is amazing that so many survive without foods that even the smell of, can wreak havoc. My research in this matter, though limited, blames the irritating microscopic particles that ride on the prevailing winds from mainland Meto for a good deal of island discomfort. Baked beans from B&M, oats, barley and hops from a couple of breweries. Pizza dust, airborne caffeine from pollens, clouds of tobacco smoke from folks driven into the streets to blow tars and nicotine into the Peaks-bound air. If it weren’t for the refreshing and neutralizing counter-odor of bait fish, we’d all be doomed. This is nothing to sneeze at.

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  * Jay Soule
  * Marty Mulken
Little Diamond Dispatches

BY LINDA TYLER AND PETER WALCH

Where did the summer go? Salmon and peas and the Fourth of July seem only a couple of weeks ago.

Yet, as we write this column, we're gearing up for Labor Day weekend and the 24th Annual Little Diamond Island Yacht Club Regatta (a.k.a. the Ted Rand Memorial Race) on Sept. 1 followed by the 60th- or-so annual Labor Day lobster bake on Sunday. And then it's fall.

Notable visitors during the past month included Baron Wormser, a former poet laureate of the State of Maine, who read to an enthralled "throng" (Baron explained that to any poet, an audience of more than six constitutes a throng) from his recent book, "The Road Washes Out in Spring," a memoir of life off-the-grid in rural Maine; many scenes and characters of which seemed very familiar to islanders.

Wormser was Islander Patty Hagg's mentor while she studied at USM's Stone Coast writing program. Since she graduated last year, Patty, along with writing poetry, has volunteered her skills to Portland's "Tell-It-Room" project, in which she teaches young immigrants to write by recounting their memories and experiences.

Wing Gundale, from the Biodiversity Research Institute in Gorham, was also an honored island guest during August and gave a great talk on the ecology of the Maine islands, many of which he has extensively mapped as to their bird populations. He was surprised and delighted to learn that we on Little Diamond have resident eiders that are successfully raising their young. Evidently, elsewhere along the coast islands, predators (especially the black-backed gulls) are gobbling up most eider chicks. Here, we seem to have just enough foot traffic (human and canine) to keep the predators at bay but not so much as to scare away the ducks.

Wing (a great name for an ornithologist) is a fabulously engaging speaker whom we heartily recommend to any and all other island organizations looking for a guest lecturer. He's deeply involved in the famous Eaglecam project: a live, on-line record of a nesting pair of Maine bald eagles. It is for this project, avidly watched by tens of thousands of people, including school children, that this year's Little Diamond Island benefit auction and potluck dinner will be held Saturday, Sept. 15.

Little Diamond was first in line for the annual island visit of City of Portland government employees, and this year happened on Aug. 21. Mayor Nick Mavodones and just about every police, fire and public works employee (from police and fire to forestry and public works) came via the Cavallero and came by to personally confer with 90 minutes with islanders.

It was the first day of the job for our new Island/Neighborhood Administrator, Mike Murray, who got to hear (and see) all about our concerns, which are mostly pretty proactive: trash pickup, tree trimming, road and ramp repair, and, oh, yes—parking on the mainland.

Our news beat supposedly ends somewhere on the sandbar, but this year, at low tide, connects Little and Great Diamond islands. It was exactly there—at low tide, of course, that several dozen residents of both islands gathered to socialize over nibbles and beverages Sunday afternoon, Aug. 26.

The inspiration (and an awning) came from Great Diamond Islander Beth Weber. Patti Ingraham-Thompson (also from Great Diamond) made the paper plates and cups the pink hogs that festooned the awning. These were, of course, a nod to earlier days, pre-cottages and cottagers, when our two islands were known as Great and Little Hog. In honor of the pigs that were raised here.

Many an expression of 'we-should-do-this-more-often' prompted lingering memories to come up with the last similar occasion. It was probably an inter-island softball match sometime in the 1980s, held on a makeshift field at Walter's Park in the center of Great Diamond.

Bob Norige captained the Great Diamond side, Thad Horton that from Little. We LDLIers (because of the time and tide) traveled via the Abenaki, bringing both a half-keg of beer and our own umbrella, John Mickles. John wore a complete umpire's outfit, including, one of those old-fashioned, outside 'balloon' chest-protectors. And he carried his white cane, being as he was completely blind.

Bob, Thad, and John have, alas, all passed away. But what a grand time they, and we, had that wonder- ful day. Where did all those summers go?

As to current-day athletics, congratulations to the islands women! Three of the Lees—Barbara, Zoe, and Abigail—have joined, along with Nancy Ansheles, two Tijernos—Colleen, her daughter Kate Gordon, and their friend Jants Cohen, Nancy Ansheles, Thad Horton, and John and Abi. At the time in the 1910s, held on a make-shift field at Walter's Park in the center of Great Diamond.

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Cliff Island News

BY LEO CARTER

August is a month to reckon with on Cliff Island.

Monday night Athletic, Conservation and Education (ACE) entertainment is hosted by its annual memorial service.

The island's community church holds its annual memorial service.

People are trading in the bicycles or on foot or in their insulated swimwear in preparation for triathlons.

The tennis court is in constant use.

Small boats are plying the waters.

Lobster boats are starting their engines and returning with their treasures in the afternoon.

Lobster shells are found on many beaches after the supreme pleasure of the consumption of their contents.

Gulls keep watch as the sightseers whiz down the dusty dirt roads.

Portland's leaders show up for a public give and take about island needs.

As if these things were not enough, there has been a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the island's Stone Library!

Like so many facets of Cliff Island life, the Stone Library is the result of the efforts and generosity of island people, who saw a need, and did what was needed to provide for the needs of the community. The celebration this year has included a "high ten," a night with children's books author Joanna Cole as well as a story hour at Griffin's Cove and lawn croquet.

One way to appreciate the impact of the Stone library on Cliff Island is to understand the contribution of one person who has provided a service of inestimable value to the community.

Maura Gallagher comes to the Stone Library on Cliff Island every Monday from the fourth of July until Labor Day. She reads stories to the children, and then listens to the children recite poems from memory.

She has always offered rewards of ice cream cones for those who can recite enough verses to equal their ages. Larger groups go to those who can last more than a couple of minutes, and a banana split has been awarded on occasion when someone gets up to 5 minutes. Hope MacVane's Taylor and David Sharp were two banana split winners in the past.

The Monday children's library event has been going on for more than 25 years. Maura had read poetry to the children for several years, when Norman and Mary Seagraves gave a party to celebrate the completion of their island house.

There was no power, but Norman lit up the place by reciting "The Creation of Sam McGee." By Robert W. Service, from memory. Then Maura added the children's poetry recitation to her Monday library sessions. She has also featured Norman's recitation annually to inspire everyone. Like many long lasting and worthwhile traditions, this one is starting to serve the children of the children. What a superb gift has been given to us all.

The library is ready for the next hundred years thanks to the new roof, rebuit and screened from the fresh interior painting. This year's president, Diane Lattie, has led the efforts of many island volunteers following in the footsteps of the forward looking Mrs. Stone, who donated the property, and all those who have followed.

The events to celebrate the hundred-year anniversary also included a Scottish fiddle concert given by the incomparable Bonnie Rideout. There was also a high tea complete with a silver service and cucumber sandwiches.

At the Cliff Island Association annual meeting Jim Coull accepted the position of president for the coming year with Jeff March as vice president. Cindy Gildard and Heather McDonand agreed to serve another term as treasurer and secretary respectively. The board will include: Bob Howard, Bob Kramer, Gary MacLouse, Mac McKone, Sean Lent, Will Lent and Mark Lombard.

The meeting included a visit from Shaka Robish, who is one of our three Maine Public Utilities Commissioners, and Herb Adams, a Maine state legislator to commemorate the first Public Interest Phone. This accomplishment will provide us with other remote locations with free public local phone service as well as credit card long distance capability. Adams indicated that he first started legislative action on this matter in 2005. We offer thanks to all.

Every summer officials from the City of Portland come to the islands for a dialogue with the residents. This year the heads of many departments as well as Mayne Nick Morris and Councilman Kevin Donahue attracted a substantial group of Cliff residents. There was praise for recent accomplishments as well as requests for actions relating to items like forest fire hazard reduction, public facilities on the wharves. This meeting was brief, but productive under Donahue's leadership. This summer marked a change in the Friday evening song service at the Seventh Day Adventist church. First, Mark Lombard stepped in to help lead the service after many years of leadership by Paul MacVane. The music, as always, was from a Christian hymnal, but the attendence included a very diverse spectrum including other religious backgrounds and even some non-believers.

Nevertheless, the spirit seemed to infect everyone there, and people demanded a third Friday night sing. The singing was led by the wonderful music provided by Allen Carter, Bonnie Rideout and Chester Pottengill. Another highlight of the last service was the inclusion of the song, "Let There Be Peace on Earth," to Amen to that!
PEAKS ISLANDS, from page 2

stretched from the community center door to the parking lot of Douglas Island Market.

Over 700 households donated over 2,000 items for the sale, ranging from uniquely designed antiques, furniture, appliances, sporting equipment, jewelry and an upright piano. Attendance was so great that the post office on the island was temporarily closed, but staff is still present. Grenier said the staff would appreciate it if residents do not come to the house at night or on weekends.

Lobstermen tie up to protest low prices

During the month of August lobstermen passed by the Peaks Island Boat Sale on August 11 at 7 p.m. to protest the low price being paid for lobsters this summer. The protest began down east where 70 boats in Casco and 30 boats in Cutler tied up on Aug. 20. On Aug. 22, Casco Bay lobstermen, with John Hopper, Harbor and Great Island tied up. Lobstermen from Boothbay Harbor, Portland, Saco and York tied up, protesting the market on Aug. 22.

While the boat price in August was about the same as last year in many areas, between $3 and $4 per pound, bait and fuel costs have grown 20 to 30 percent from last year.

Lobstermen said the rising cost of fuel and bait are making it difficult to find a home to get this first project going. They spoke with several other market prices, but that idea did not work.

Hoppin and the committee members met with the General Community Loan Foundation, the nonprofit group that helps to provide affordable housing and other economic and social opportunities for underserved communities.

The two nonprofits, Island Institute and Genesis Community Loan Foundation, awarded their first grants this summer to Casco Bay Islands; to help the communities along the coast build affordable housing for residents. The two groups awarded $10,000 in affordable housing grants in August to six island communities.

In addition to Peaks Island, groups on Chebeague and Long received grants. The Long Island Community Foundation, awarded $45,000 and a group working on Long Island received $5,000. The Long Island grant will help the year-round housing group site their first homes.

On some Maine islands there are families with strong ties to the community who want to return affordable housing, linen, fishing and other activities to the islands. These groups are working on an affordable housing program for people on Maine islands.

The Islands Challenge Fund was started in 2000 with a grant from Janus Trust, a Bonita-based trust created in 2002.

The two grants will help the committee pay the extra costs to provide a rent subsidy for low-income families.

The grants encourage local groups to be the community housing partners with the Peaks Island Board of Town

Cardholders on the plan can be seen at www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotlines/whales.

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### Across
1. Mr. Hunk
2. Clerk
3. Eponymous scale
4. Prime minister
5. Peter Lorre's Mr.
6. Biblical witch's hometown
8. Mr. in Mr. Magoo's "The Cradle Will Rock"
10. Peter Ustinov's Mr.
12. Singular gume
13. A (and that's ironic-istic)
14. Sera
15. Queen Topper
16. Miss Piggy for one
17. Singular legume
18. Miss Piggy
19. Columbia
20. Galloons ol' Joe
21. Fleming's Dr.
22. Miss Piggy's
23. Monsieur D's
24. Mr. Colombo's
25. September 18, 1945
26. Miss Piggy
27. Converts
28. Miss Piggy
29. Ms. Piggy
30. SWarm
31. Mr. Hurok
32. Mr. Blatz
33. Shyn'Y Spring Flower
34. Bubbles
35. Chemical endings
36. This Mr. went to CMU
37. No more Mr.
38. Acme (and that's ironic-istic)
39. Swara
40. High mast
41. Queen tupper
42. Weasly followers
43. Daughter of Cedrus (Greek myth)
44. Jack in the pulpit, for example
45. Mr. sewing
46. Awards for sports
47. Belonging to the first son
48. Not a miner
49. Morris
50. Mister
51. McO'Neill
52. OK, Joe
53. Clifford Sam
54. Simple legume
55. Kids' favorite
56. Goosebumps
57. Distinguished characteristic of a group
58. This Mr. went to town
59. Goodbye Mr.
60. Without a doubt
61. Comprehensive reverse
62. Forty winks
63. The bald Abe
64. Robert Louis
65. Fill-in

### Down
1. Mr. Walton
2. Takohata band
3. Family
4. Dog
5. Maxwell Anderson's "High"
6. Addams family cousin
7. Henry Fonda's Mr.
8. Japanese dogs
9. Premier number
10. Mr. S.N., e.g.
11. Movie news bug, house for the elderly
12. Black Bears hang out here
13. "November"
14. Chemical endings
15. Four letters
16. Miss Piggy
17. Minuet
18. Mr. Blatz's
19. Mr. Colombo's
20. Mr. Colombo's
21. Queen Topper
22. Miss Piggy
23. Mr. Colombo's
24. Miss Piggy
25. September 18, 1945
26. Miss Piggy
27. Converts
28. Mr. Bear
29. Mister
30. Mr. Salmendyke's
31. Single legume
32. Simple legume
33. Leaves
34. Was apprehensive about
35. Combining form for people
36. Nuts
37. One name (and that's ironic-istic)
38. Goodbye Mr.
39. This Mr. went to CMU
40. This Mr. went to CMU
41. Chemical endings
42. Mr. Colombo's
43. Queen Topper
44. Chemical endings
45. This Mr. went to CMU
46. Swara
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### The Island Times

The Island Times is looking for a writer to cover community news on Peaks Island. Please call 272-2886.

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September means "seventh month," its place ancient Rome's 10-month calendar, which started in March and simply ignored the last two winter months. In 713 BC, King Numa Pompilius added January and February to bring the calendar in line with astronomical reality.

This month includes the equinox on Sept. 23, and begins auspiciously with Earth passing through the dust-trail of Comet Kiess. Comets are the likeliest origin of serious meteor hunters are headed over Portland just after dusk. Venus will rise and shine higher and brighter throughout the month. It starts September only one fist above the horizon but ends the month three full fists above it.

LETTERS, from page 3
I look forward to meeting and listening to you during the fall campaign. I want you to know that I will be actively involved during the campaign except during our late September-Octoberv early October vacation, which we've planned months ago. If you have questions or comments you would like to make, please call me at 766-3067 or 622-3229, or email me at MLange@Maine.rr.com. Thank you.

-Michael Langellia, Peaks Island

Working together for the betterment of Peaks and Portland

I am a candidate for the Peaks Island Council because of my belief that together Peaks Islanders can bring Earth to the City of Portland. There are many fine ideas for the betterment of Peaks and Portland.

My business experience is in project management, from Super Fund site cleanup to Air Force procurement of electronic systems, to large civil engineering projects. I have worked on several non-profit organizations in Massachusetts and Maine. All of these involve resource (people and finances) management, budget creation and management and control, and the completion of technical and administrative issues.

There are many issues of concern to Peaks citizens. I believe that the Island Council must first listen to the ideas of islanders, and then prioritize them, so that we work on the most important ones first. I would listen carefully and then work with others to ensure thorough and quick action in order to move forward with possible and positive solutions. This would involve talking with and listening to many islanders for their thoughts, wisdom, and analysis.

The citizens of Peaks and Portland can solve problems with viable solutions. The Peaks Island Council can be a means to this end.

Let's work together to show the City Council that Peaks Islanders know what they want and how to achieve it. Our reports to the City must be thorough, efficient and cost effective. Together we can do it, and I want to be part of this effort.

-Howard Pedlikin, Peaks Island
Novel set on Peaks Island explores the healing power of dogs

BY ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

Rocky follows her new landlord into the backshore winter rental and the stench of garbage and old seafood promptly knocks her back down the steps. "Don't take this as a bad omen, just look at it as the best introduction you could have to summer people."

And so begins chapter three of Jacqueline Sheehan's second novel, "Lost & Found," a story of a woman who lives her life in Western Massachusetts after the sudden death of her husband, to seek the solace and anonymity of Peaks Island. Like the main character, Sheehan is from Portland.

In real life Jacqueline Sheehan was drawn to Peaks after renting a colleague's cottage for three or four summers in a row. She wrote part of my first book about Sojourner Truth on Peaks Island and over the years I observed the love/hate relationship that islanders have with tourists. I imagined how I'd feel if I lived here year-round -- I imagine summer people, and I was one of the summer people.

While the book is a work of fiction, Peaks is a real place. The island that appears in "Lost & Found" however, is quite different from the actual one. Sheehan said she considered mapping up an imaginary island but decided against it.

"It's a choice writers make," she said. "Peaks was a great setting, but I didn't want it to be exact. I didn't want to use the accurate names for the coffee shop or the grocery store. What was important was that Rocky was working on an island to disappear on, and yet she had no idea what she was getting into, that she was not going to make a move without someone having their eye on her.

The story is about loss and the connections that people make with animals in their lives. Rocky secures a job as the animal control warden on the island and rescues a black Labrador retriever named Lloyd. While Rocky initially saves Lloyd, it is the dog that does most of the rescuing throughout the book.

Rocky left her job and identity as a psychotherapist behind only to encounter and a litany of people struggling in their lives. We meet characters dealing with ammonia, sexual identity, familial estrangement, grief, addiction and mental illness.

Like her main character, Sheehan is a psychotherapist, and she believes that this work greatly informs her writing. "It's just part of who I am, it's the air that I breathe," she said. "I am fascinated by people's stories and how that makes us who we are, how some people are resilient and some of us are drawn to death. Death is a major character in this book and it has been a major character in my life. I have been slapped by grief only when I was nine years old and my father died. I am fascinated by grief and it surprises me every time. Rocky and Lloyd were grieving through a similar process and Lloyd was the more aware."

Sheehan has also seen and experienced the healing connection of dogs in peoples lives. In "Lost & Found," Lloyd the dog has a highly colored and insightful view of things. Lloyd's voice, "developed from my relationship with several dogs," said. "When I stopped looking at them as fuzzy four-legged creatures and really saw them, what mattered to them, what they would lay down their life for and (they will), their nobility, their joy. Taking my golden retriever to the ocean, it was like he was on drugs -- he was euphoric, the gulls, the fish. Dogs have such a spectacular love of life."

The response to the book, which was published in April by Avon, has been amazing. Sheehan receives 10 to 15 e-mails a week from people who are grieving and who have dogs.

"I received an e-mail from a woman whose husband was killed in the twin towers on 9/11. She said that her two boys have been begging her for two years to get a dog and that since reading the book she wants to have a dog in their lives so they can have a deep, soulful connection with an animal.

Another woman e-mailed about her beagle/lab mix who was teaching her husband to be more affectionate with her son; another woman spoke about the Shepherd that had helped her mother get through cancer and said, "It has been over a year and it is horrible and it goes on forever and you come to crave that connection to the simple love of our dog. Those are the magical healing things a dog can do--the tilt of the head, the floppy ear, the waggy-tail, the joy in seeing us."

At a recent reading at Borders in South Portland Sheehan listened as much as she spoke. She was flanked by people wanting to tell about the "Lloyds" in their lives.

One young mother talked about her beagle/lab mix who was teaching her husband to be more affectionate with her son; another woman spoke about the Shepherd that had helped her mother get through cancer and said, "It has been over a year and it is horrible and it goes on forever and you come to crave that connection to the simple love of our dog. Those are the magical healing things a dog can do--the tilt of the head, the floppy ear, the waggy-tail, the joy in seeing us."


Jacqueline Sheehan

"Lost & Found," published recently by Avon, is set on Peaks Island.

Looking forward from the flying bridge of the Liberty Ship John W. Brown, which visited Portland from Aug. 17 through Aug. 19. Over 700 people went on a living history cruise on Aug. 18 from the Maine State Pier out beyond Halfway Rock. In 1941, the United States began building Liberty Ships to bring food and supplies to Europe in response to the German naval blockade of the Atlantic. The United States built over 2,700 ships, with 235 constructed in the South Portland shipyards. Over 2,430,000 merchant mariners served during the war. It is estimated that 9,500 merchant mariners died as a result of the war. In fact mariners suffered the highest rate of casualties of any service during WWII, according to the Web site American Merchant Marine at war. Photo by David Tyler

Joshua Holloway, the new Cliff Island teacher, and his wife, Heidi Lee Holloway, on the wharf at Diamond Cove. Heidi is expecting the couple's first child in late September.

TEACHER, from page 1

to start a school, but they were so forward that the voyage extended to three years.

Their first stop was Kanmon Atoll, part of the Republic of Kiribati. The atoll is part of the Phoenix Islands, located 1,650 miles southwest of Hawaii, and has a population of just over 40.

Joshua and Heidi spent eight months on Kanmon Atoll, teaching English volunteers at the school during their stay.

"It was a blast, because everyone was family. It was a house party with kids. We were using the school and we were fishing with them—we did everything together. It was a nice community."

Next they sailed to Western Samoa, where they spent two months and were visited by their parents. Then they spent a month in the Tonga archipelago and then visited several islands in Fiji.

After Fiji, they visited 25 islands in the Vanuatu Island group. Then they sailed through the uninhabited Chesterfield Islands, which are part of New Caledonia.

They volunteered as teachers at two other stops in their journey. They taught at a school on the island of NanaEOrule in Tonga (near Samoa), which has a population of about 1,200. They also taught in the Banks Islands, part of Vanuatu, with a population of 4,000.

Sheehan said the couple learned more than they taught from their experiences volunteering at Pacific island schools. "What we learned from these people is how to live with what we have," she said. "Everything we needed was already there."

For example, on Kanmon, which was used by the U.S. Navy in World War II and NIMA in the 1960s, has many abandoned buildings and supplies.

Islanders use corrugated tin for roofs and mattress springs to create books with which to teach children. "They really take advantage of the things they have," Joshua said. "Nothing gets thrown away and nothing gets wasted." By the time they reached Blandenburg, in northeastern Australia, they discovered that Heidi was pregnant. So in March 2007 they sold their sailboat and returned to Hawaii. Family members persuaded the couple to return to the west coast for the birth of their baby, which is due in September.

They moved to Great Diamond Island, where Heidi's mother, Judy lives. Heidi is going to stay home to take care of their baby, but Joshua needed a new job. Joshua said he is excited about the community involvement in the school. And he strongly believes in involving kids with their surroundings as part of their education.

"I try to have a lot of learning activities outside of the classroom," he said. And he wants to make sure his students respond and enjoy his teaching.

"If they are actively engaged, they have to be happy. They have to be enjoying it," he said. "If they are not enjoying it, they are tuned out and you are just wasting time."

Joshua Holloway