Island Times, Aug 2011

Kevin Attra

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Late Summer Edition: Acorns Productions' Naked Shakespeare troupe performed selected scenes from the bard's tragedy Cymbeline at Battery Street Beach on June 25. A crowd gathered outside Keith Ivers' home on July 1 to meet with city zoning officials who were inspecting the site.

Neighbours protest relocation of Peaks Island Fuel

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Last November, Keith Ivers of the Peaks Island Co-op began planning a fully landscaped gravel parking area for his business near to the home that he rents with his family on Island Avenue, an area that is commercially zoned. The project is apparently in compliance with all requirements, including EDRA's Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure guidelines. But on June 28, when a letter from the city went out to neighborhood residents informing them that Keith Ivers, who owns Peaks Island Fuel, had applied for a permit to construct a 4,200 square foot parking lot for his trucks on a portion of his property near the TID, club members and abutting property owners rallied in protest. Ivers had been told that Keith never came into town, said Ted Haykal, whose property adjoins Ivers'. "My dream is to have it all nature, and now it's my worst nightmare." Haykal said that for 30 years he has negotiated with various owners of Keith's property to buy the portion that extends behind his house, which was originally operated as a grocery store, the Welsh's Country Store. He said that although the previous owners were willing to sell it to him, they told him to maintain a certain size for their own purposes. When Ivers moved to Haykal undertook negotiations with Keith. He said he thought he had reached an understanding last fall. The news of Ivers' plans was a shock. "He never told me anything about his change of plans and I feel like he's been deceived by that," said Haykal, who's known Ivers and his partner, Danielle Callan, since they were children. "You know, I think of him as a friend and I feel like he's one of my kids, so I feel hurt by the fact that he's being a bit selfish in how he's executing his plans." Haykal's been trying to talk to people on the island right now, Haykal said, "to tell them about the problem." It appears that the public in greater and greater numbers are disregarding simple courtesies like picking up after their dogs. Small boats have been left on the beach for extended periods of time, in some cases. Haykal said, "It's always been private and people always respected that," said one neighbor. "Only in the last few years have people started to treat it as a public beach." He said stickers have been placed on the boats warning owners that they will be confiscated if they're not removed. "Hopelessly, people who care about their boats will get them out of there," said Haykal. The idea of entitlement runs both ways. Public behavior on the beaches is becoming more callous towards people living on the beach and owners are becoming more indifferent to the public. Bill Zimmerman said, "If we can get people to respect our property I suspect we'll see a change in the attitude from these owners." No one seems to know how to do that, however, former PSC member Bob Tiffany said the council tried to address that issue during his term, but couldn't find a practical solution. "I hope people appreciate that the beach is there and they have access," said Carrol. "All we ask is that people respect our property."
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PROTEST, from page 1

Asa body chemistry, "It wasn't a lynch mob."

According to one witness, "The group blocked the road, questioned the two eggs sent from the city and scared Danielle, who was afraid they would knock on the door and become confrontational."

Ivers said that a few weeks later he began receiving emails and letters objecting to the project and threatening to file a string of law suits in order to financially ruin his company. "Many were nasty, while some were written sincerely."

Zimmerman said, "This is a classic example of an issue where people wish it was black and white but it's not. That's a lot of guy!"

If he is forced out of business that leaves us with just one supplier," said resident Jane Geraci, who is also one of Ivers' customers. "Years ago when Jackson's Service Center went under, prices doubled the next day. Peaks Island Fuel Coop started to keep prices reasonable."

Board President Jean Gulliver wrote to the community on July 7, "We are not in any way in opposition to Peaks Island Fuel, in fact many of us are satisfied customers... A process of discussion and problem solving would help resolve what is an island wide challenge, where on the businesses we all rely on park their large vehicles..."

In a meeting held on July 15 between Ivers and members of the TEBA board, Ivers felt that the TEBA's concerns about the proposed parking area were largely unfounded. "Hopefully a year from now everyone will see how silly it is to make such a big deal out of such a small issue," Ivers said. He believes the impact on surrounding properties is trivial. As a rule, residential neighborhoods and private enterprises like the TBA can coexist and in fact even enhance some areas, whereas industrial operations like Peaks Island Fuel that actually fulfill an essential need in the community are relegated to the outskirts of town because the po poes smells or because truck traffic is involved. "If I have to weigh benefits of an island family with an island business who will create jobs, who will put their kids in the school, that outweighs any argument of aesthetics or property values," said Zimmerman. "This is a plant that makes sewer."

Meanwhile Harkel has been trying to find a solution to his dilemma. He has met with Gulliver and Jill Keete of Port Island Realty to try to identify other properties on the island that Ivers might use. "We all talked about the fact that we've been focusing on affordable housing, but not looking at the possibilities and problems that have come up about advancing the development of business on Peaks Island," he said. "So, this needs to have some attention."

According to Harkel, the struggle is aggravated by its immediate problem: Ivers is seeking a commercial loan to purchase the property, which is contingent on the city's approval of the plan. "He didn't tell anyone what he was doing, so he's forcing us to work on his timelines, which isn't fair," said Harkel. "If these people manage to succeed in stopping me, in financially ruining me," said Ivers, "they'll drive us off the island. This is not just about the business; it's about my family. It hurts everybody out here."

Zimmerman said, "We have to find a way to have businesses on the island without having to fight over."

No smoking gun found in Peaks Island sewer tests

Crew member Trevor Henry monitors the smoke injection into the sewer line on Brackett Avenue. Behind him, smoke pours out of the vent stack of a house attached to the line. "That's good," said foreman Andy Bryant. "That's what should happen."

BY KEVIN ATTRA

A crew from the Ted Berry Co., a typical sewer line testing and replacement company contracted by Portland Water District, came out to Peaks Island at the end of June to conduct smoke tests on sewer lines. The tests are designed to locate sources of infiltration and infiltration into the sewer system. Inflow occurs from direct connections such as roof drains and catch basins.

Infiltration is water coming into the system from non-point sources like sewer line cracks and root breaks, and the company typically finds a lot of little ones. "In 10 miles of inspected line we may find 10 to 20 points per mile," said Matt Tehla, vice president of the Berry Company, "A whole bunch of 1 or 2 gallon-per-minute leaks add up."

According to Peaks Island Councilor Rob Meharg, this is exactly what the district found. He said that, based on the test results, the District thinks repairs will stay within the original estimated cost of $300,000.

The leaks were found in a number of manhole covers and the risers that lead to the surface from the sewer line. A number of houses also appeared to have faulty lines.

Meharg said the District will make arrangements with homeowners to inspect the lines in order to determine where the leaks are, which can be anything from a broken pipe to a sump pump or roof drain pipe.

However, he added that if the repairs don't fix the leaks, a 65,000-gallon storage pipe will have to be brought near the treatment plant at the commuter parking lot. He said the company has no estimate for what that would cost.
At Casco Bay Lines
A rough ride on the Bay Mist
Weather and conflict rock the boat during annual board meeting

BY KEVIN ATTRA

There were 55 people aboard the Bay Mist for the annual Casco Bay Island Transit District board meeting, held at sunset at sea off Cliff Island on July 21, but only around 30 persons attended the meeting.

A heavy rain came to enjoy the ride down the bay on a beautiful Thursday night, but as blues grew lower cooler as the boat continued to House Island and actually getting chilly as it neared Cliff Island. A plentiful selection of food and drinks was provided by the Bay Lines.

Berg reported from an offshore storm created 4-foot swells and the waves bucked the little ship severely, splashing passengers in the bow who had made their way to CLIFF. One passenger from Peaks Island wore a patch, which he said made the ride tolerable — without it he would have been sick for hours.

But that was only the weather outside. Inside the boat tensions simmered among members of the CBID board of directors during the meeting until President Patrick Flynn of Peaks Island ended it skeptically at nine o'clock.

That left unanswered several issues raised by board members Frank Peretti and Charles Berg of Peaks Island. According to Berg, Flynn had no authority to end the meeting without a vote, but no one on the board objected.

The most heated part of the meeting came during public comment when people seemed to vent long-held frustrations about the ferry service.

"I've been living on Peaks for 20 years and I've heard these questions from people year after year," said Peaks Island resident Norm Ranavis, who went on to meet with Board Vice President Matt Hoffner over the allocation of cost and revenue for each boat. "We never get any answers," Ranavis complained.

"You know, it's interesting that you mention that," Overlock responded. "because, how long have you been working on a cost allocation report? It's not an easy thing to do."

At one point Long Island resident Emil Berg opposed the meeting to stand up and say the boat is "let me tell you that true islanders appreciate what you're doing and we're not going to snub you." The audience applauded him.

The spotlight also turned on Operations Manager Nicholas Mavodones Jr. whose role as Casco's mayor has been criticized as being in conflict with his duties as the Bay Lines. His current bid to be his first elected mayor since the position was abolished in 1929 has only fueled that complaint.

A letter read by Frank Peretti from a constituent stated, "How much time is really being spent at the Bay Lines?"

President Flynn ended the meeting at that point. He said later that the comments were inappropriate.

The meeting started amicably enough with a presentation by General Manager Hank Berg on current operations at the Bay Lines, including plans to renovate the terminal, which have been lingering for roughly three years.

Berg was able to salvage a Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Survey grant that had been awarded for the work but was about to lapse due to inactivity on the project.

The renovations include upgrading the waiting area as gates 4 and 5, repairing some of the dolphins, which is top priority.

Berg also discussed the new operational electronic ticketing kiosk and Wi-Fi service aboard the boats. Electronic ticket sales increased exponentially in July.

He had a Wi-Fi device temporarily installed on the Bay Mist that evening, and with his laptop connected to a projection screen to the audience could watch, he went online and demonstrated how the Wi-Fi operated and various features of the Bay Lines' website as well.

The company retrofitted the site to increase its visibility to search engines, and Berg said that visits to the site have increased by 30 percent.

Berg specifically pointed out incident reports and feedback forms that people can use to lodge a complaint, report a problem or commend a deck hand. He said almost half the incidents reported this year involved freight.

Board Vice President Matt Hoffner discussed the new ferry, Wabanaki, being built by Blount Marine of Rhode Island. He said the shipyard has spent $500,000 on materials and equipment, including purchasing the elevators and engines.

Construction is expected to begin in August and should take approximately eight months, Hoffner said. People can follow the Wabanaki's progress on the Bay Lines website, www.baylinesme.com.

Mavodones discussed the company's response to a number of recent complaints about the condition of the restrooms and a scarcity of shipping carts this summer due to the volume of visitors. In response to that issue he said the Bay Lines is purchasing 10 more carts.

Concerning the restrooms in the terminal, he said that the plan is to upgrade them as part of the terminal renovation project.

In the meantime office personnel will check them more frequently. "We are trying to make an extra-outstanding effort in checking the restrooms just to see the condition," he said.

The company also arranged to have the restrooms cleaned at 12:15 p.m. instead of at noon in response to a complaint from Buzz that passengers serving for the 12:15 to Peaks couldn't use the facilities before boarding.

According to Overlock, "the company is in the best financial condition it's been in over 10 years, with a 3 percent increase in revenue over last year. "I see no need for ticket increases in the near future," he said.

The Bay Lines has been paying down its accrued debt, which was $779,000 in 2009. It is now around $460,000 said Overlock.

"We earn 50 percent of our revenue in July, August and September. Every other month we're losing money."

Questions?
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Peak Island resident Norman Ranavis (standing with back to camera) politely but pointedly criticizes board Treasurer Bill Overlock (also standing left) on his accounting methods. (staff photo)
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*Modified text is applied. **Note:** The text provided is a summary of the image content, which includes a police log and a statement thanking Cumberland County for its participation in the National Children's Study. The text discusses the importance of the study and how it will provide healthier lives for future generations in Maine.
Stephen Rowed His Boat Ashore  

By Jerry Garman

The early inhabitants of Portland and the islands were Anglican. They came from England to America for trade and adventure and, unlike the settlers around Massachusetts Bay, they were not dissenters from the Church of England.

While there is no record of a church service on Peaks Island before the 19th century, this growing community developed a spiritual appetite. In 1826 Methodist Minister Stephen "Pater" Bennett rowed three nautical miles from Chebeague Island each Sunday to preach to eight families in what was then Peaks Island community; each Sunday to preach to eight families in the old 1832 schoolhouse on Peaks Island.

By 1850, Henry Brackett and Henry Trefethen thought the 30 families on the island could support a church. They pooled their resources and built the Brackett Episcopal Church on Meeting House Hill overlooking the new school, built in 1850.

The church was dedicated on July 25, 1860, three months after the start of the Civil War. A Vestry was added in 1903, followed by Fellowship Hall in 1958. The third and present parsonage was dedicated in 1972. This "white church on the hill" has served Peak Islanders for 150 years.

Sunday Vesper services were held in the second floor of Webb's store from 1910 to 1922, and then in the Trefethen-Evergreen Improvement Association Clubhouse from 1922 to 1952. By 1925 St Christopher Parish was established followed by the Holy Trinity Episcopal Chapel in 1953.

Oak Cottage on Pleasant Avenue has served as a Catholic retreat, the Good Shepherd Monastery, and now the Peaks Island Baptist Church. Quaker services and Jewish Holidays are observed in private homes.

Religion is a very important part of the Peaks Island community; each denomination supports missions vital to the island and their faith. These structures, which are the religious homes for Methodists, Catholic, Episcopalians and Baptists, also host island meetings, dinners and social events.

Thanks to the vision of our pioneer families we have this religious fabric woven into our wonderful community.

ABOVE: Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church. BELOW: Oak Cottage, now the Peaks Island Baptist Church.

For the love of Peaks! Profiles by Fran Houston

Serving the Peaks Island community for the love of Peaks since 2008. For more great stories from some of Peaks Island's finest, thank you Fran.
Island Views

from Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

Don't touch Medicare

As I write this, the phones in my office are ringing off the hook – and they have been for weeks. The message from constituents is clear: please do not touch Medicare or Social Security. Some are angry and some are fearful. All are sick with worry over the threat of losing benefits they have earned and depend on. Sadly, these effective programs have become targets for those who would balance the federal budget by taking the backs of seniors and the middle class rather than restoring tax rates for millionaires and billionaires. I find these misplaced priorities unthinkable and unworkable. I plan to do everything I can to protect these critical programs. Because they work.

When Medicare started 45 years ago, a third of our seniors lived in poverty. Half had no health coverage. Today, the poverty rate has been slashed and nearly all our seniors have access to affordable care.

What alternative have Republicans proposed? Instead of guaranteed care, seniors would receive a voucher to buy private insurance, and the eligibility age would rise from 65 to 67. The proposal would also undo much of the progress of the Affordable Care Act, which covers the uninsured drug donut hole, cuts down on fraud, and makes Medicare even more efficient than it already is.

Seniors will be asked to buy private insurance costing 10 percent more than Medicare. They’ll have to pay a much larger share, too. In fact, the vouchers will only cover a third of the cost. In 20 years, seniors would each pay $9,000 out of pocket a year for their health care – more than double the figure for Medicare.

What happens to the many who won’t be able to afford that amount?

It’s hard to think about these days. Maine seniors certainly don’t have a lot left over at the end of the month. Most can count on even enough to cover the bare essentials and the health care they need. But after supporting their families and working hard their entire lives, they deserve that and more. Retirees should not have to anticipate haggling with insurance companies and taking bus trips to Canada for affordable prescriptions.

What makes me so mad is the fact that seniors didn’t get us into budget problems – they’ve paid for their way. For 10 years, though, we put two unfunded wars on the credit card. For 10 years, we’ve given millionaires a tax discount just for being millionaires. We’ve given huge corporations so many tax credits and loopholes that some pay nothing in taxes. We’ve supported oil companies with subsidies while they’ve had record profits.

Now, when the bill is due we expect...
YOGA FOR LIFE
A yogic perspective on health and simple living
BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stephens teaches private yoga lessons on Peaks Island and in Portland and weekly yoga classes on Peaks Island. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or lesson ideas to 207-776-5547 or rebecca.stephans@gmail.com.

There are as many ways to begin a new day as there are stars in the sky. Here are a few examples that come to mind:

Drink a big glass of fresh water or sip a steaming cup of coffee, read the newspaper or study a sacred text, make love or jog solo on the beach, walk the dog or brush the cat, write morning pages or play piano, take a hot shower or plunge into the icy ocean.

Perhaps you start the day in gratitude or in despair, cheerfully chatty or quietly contemplative, with a hangover or a cup of coffee, read the newspaper or study, morning pages or play piano. Take a deep breath or plunge into the icy ocean.

In yoga practice, we take that idea even deeper by noticing that each breath presents an opportunity to wake up, literally and figuratively. We do our best to let go of judgments and criticisms and simply notice the results of our actions, learn from them and adjust accordingly, one breath at a time.

From this perspective we understand that there is no one right way to wake up and that how we do start the day will have an effect, whether it be momentary or life changing.

When you let go of labeling yourself as bad or good and accept responsibility for your choices and their outcomes you will profoundly alter the quality of your life toward contentment, empowerment and awakening. This practice requires courage, fortitude and patience as you witness your own daily stumbles and triumphs.

Turning from judgment to attentiveness also frees you from the burden of managing anyone else's process of waking up. When others make different choices the temptation is to deem their way as being wrong. Can you imagine the potential grace in truly letting go of how everyone else is awakening - even your closest family members - and focusing on your own choices for or against well-being?

If you think someone loves you truly making poor choices, you can feel the sadness of that, you can ask if they want feedback. You may be able to instigate an intervention but ultimately the choice is theirs. Trying to change anyone except your own self is futile as arguing with the weather.

Rather than offering proscriptions, yoga practice invites exploration. If I am deep in a seated twist and I adjust the angle of my head, does that affect my vision, my spine, my connection to the earth? If I eat a huge whoopee pie in one sitting, does that affect my mood, my energy, my sleep? This objective witnessing provides valuable information that I may use to make more intelligent choices for myself.

The best, or perhaps most maddening aspect of living life as an experiment, is that the same exact action yields different results on different days! That's why the intention is to be present to this one moment, this one choice you are facing, and listen for your deepest truth on this day. That is also why we watch for patterns over time and learn from those as well.

Perhaps yesterday you woke up to a brisk walk and 20 minutes of yoga, and tomorrow morning you will curl up with a cup of tea and watch the birds. Perhaps you listen to music for inspiration and your partner goes to church. Perhaps you have a lifelong meditation practice and your daughter dances to find her center. Can you relax and allow enough space to embrace these differences?

I invite you to listen for your own unique rhythm of awakening, both to each day and to your soul journey, whether that is consistency and ritual, choosing from a menu of options or making it up in the moment as you go along. Meanwhile, doing several repetitions of the crescent moon posture flow is one sweet option for beginning your day. Crescent Moon Posture Flow (with optional breathing pattern)

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

Crescent Moon Posture Flow (with optional breathing pattern)

1. Begin in Mountain posture (not shown) with your palms together in front of your heart.

2. Raise your arms overhead (inhale).

3. (Left) Bring your right hand to your hip and elongate into a side stretch (exhale).

4. Return to center with arms overhead (inhale).

5. Bring your left hand to your hip and elongate into a side stretch on the second side (exhale).

6. Return to center (inhale).

7. (Left) Bend your knees slightly as you lower your arms to reach for the horizon (exhale).

8. Return to center (inhale).

9. (Right) Wrap your arms behind your back and interlace your fingers (exhale).

10. Lift your heart and gaze forward from your hips as you stretch your arms away from your back (exhale).

11. Fold forward from your hips to stretch your arms away from your back (exhale).

12. (Right) Release your hands, bend your knees and sweep your arms toward the earth, then up overhead for a gentle back arch (inhale).

13. (Left) Fold forward from your hips as you stretch your arms away from your back (exhale).

14. Engage your core muscles and lengthen your spine into a flat back position (inhale).

15. (Left) Bend your knees and sit back into a deep squat with your arms alongside your ears, or repeat the higher squat (#7) if that is better for your knees and shoulders (exhale).

16. (Not shown) Press your feet into the earth and rise up, returning to center (inhale).

17. Bring your palms together in front of your heart (exhale).

18. Repeat as many times as you like and create your own variations.

Rebecca Johanna Stephens has been a Kripalu-Certified Yoga Teacher since 1994. She has 24 years experience in the healing arts.
ACROSS
1. Gorge
6. Tree found in Maine
10. Alternative to fight
14. Major artery
15. Women's magazine
16. Famous Ethiopian princess
17. Author of "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"
20. Fresh and salt water fish
21. Alcohol withdrawal symptom (abbr.)
22. Drums along the Mohawk?
23. Soffit's partner
25. Article found in Tijuana
26. Best-selling author of all time
32. Dwarf
33. Belonging to 28 Across
34. Masculine principle
35. Tune
36. One who hatchets plots
40. Beginning of a cone?
41. Entry in list
43. It goes in an env.
44. Found at east end of naves
46. 1991 Nobel laureate in literature
50. Largest U.S. labor union
51. 1 and 2 Across, for example
52. Plant variants
56. Powerful psychedelic
57. Deciduous tree
60. 19th C. novelist
63. Impel
64. Bator
65. Sea eagles
66. Mold
67. Battery or conversion, for two
68. Pulmonary problem

DOWN
1. French roast
2. Courtney Love's hand
3. Shrinking lake
4. RR depot
5. Gay hook-ups?
6. Marathon loser
7. English cathedral town
8. Beaucoup
9. Type of loan
10. Daydream
11. Type type
12. Biblical kingdom
13. Pitchers have them
14. Cut with acid
19. Prefix with science
23. The 'ents (sl.)
24. River in Flades
26. Santa
27. What happens to oen., proverbially
28. See 33 Across
29. Vessel for 1 Down
30. Mongolia
31. Donald Trump and Howard Stern?
32. Profit
37. Plumbing fixture
38. Hinge &
39. Liz Taylor Film, County
42. Istanbul sight
45. Female complaint (abbr.)
47. Young, for one
49. Speckless
52. Nasty film
53. Contracted preposition
54. Glad
55. June 1944 battle
57. Bradstreet, first American poet
58. "The 'ents" (sl.)
59. Rebel (#1 hit in 1962)
61. Feathers' partner
62. Fort __, U.S. Army base
63. Impel
64. Bator
65. Sea eagles
66. Mold
67. Battery or conversion, for two
68. Pulmonary problem

Chick Lit - by Anna Tierney

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

WINNING CAPTIONS for July (See page 19 for this month's cartoon) Send caption ideas to kattra@islandtimes.org

Our school's still working out the kinks in its student exchange program - Anon., Peaks Island
Let's stop arguing. There's plenty for everyone - Betsy M. Garham
August was called Sextilis, "sixth month," in the ancient Roman calendar. It was renamed for Caesar Augustus, the first emperor of Rome, who lived from 63 BC to 14 AD. He was 19 when a group of Senators killed his adoptive father, Julius, in 44 BC, and after a few wars inside and outside the far-flung Roman Empire, Augustus ushered in 200 years of relative peace, setting the stage for an empire that lasted until the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

This month Earth loses 1 hour 18 minutes of sunlight, as the axis of Earth's 23.5° tilt points farther away from the sun. At the start of August, the sun rises at 5:30 a.m. and sets just after 8 p.m., but by the end of the month, it rises just after 6 a.m. and sets at 7:20 p.m. This added darkness lets us better see the worlds around us—or at least the stars around which the countless other worlds revolve. Astronomers now think 80 planets of the stars we see have planetary systems, and those exoplanets we've discovered thus far are just the largest and the closest to their host stars.

Still, I challenge all those planets to produce a place as beautiful as the Casco Bay islands in late summer.

Early this month, NASA will launch Juno, a solar-powered satellite which will eventually explore Jupiter, our solar system's largest planet. Scientists hope to discover what lies underneath the gas giant's thick atmosphere, what comprises its core, and how the solar system evolved over the last 4 billion years. When Juno finally reaches Jupiter in 2016, we'll get incredible photos of the gigantic storms that whirl the colorful cloud-tops, including the Great Red Spot, a centuries-old tornado three times the size of Earth.

Pluto has a fourth moon! Astronomers already knew about its largest moon, Charon, about half the size of diminutive Pluto, and they discovered two more moons, Nix and Hydra, in 2005. But the Hubble Space Telescope recently found an even smaller moon only 15 miles wide, circling the distant planet about once a month, just like our moon. The New Horizons satellite will pass by Pluto and its moons in July 2015, so we'll have to wait until then to get a bird's-eye view of these mysterious deep-sky denizens.

Closer to home, we've just discovered that Earth has its very own Trojan asteroid, caught in the gravitational equilibrium between Earth and sun called a Lagrangian point. We know other planets had Trojans (Jupiter has 4000 of them), but this one is only about 12 million miles from Earth and will fortunately stay there, orbiting the Lagrangian point slowly and giving Earthlings an opportunity to explore it more closely in the future.

August 2011 Sky

BY MIKE RICHARDS

August was called Sextilis, "sixth month," in the ancient Roman calendar. It was renamed for Caesar Augustus, the first emperor of Rome, who lived from 63 BC to 14 AD. He was 19 when a group of Senators killed his adoptive father, Julius, in 44 BC, and after a few wars inside and outside the far-flung Roman Empire, Augustus ushered in 200 years of relative peace, setting the stage for an empire that lasted until the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

This month Earth loses 1 hour 18 minutes of sunlight, as the axis of Earth's 23.5° tilt points farther away from the sun. At the start of August, the sun rises at 5:30 a.m. and sets just after 8 p.m., but by the end of the month, it rises just after 6 a.m. and sets at 7:20 p.m. This added darkness lets us better see the worlds around us—or at least the stars around which the countless other worlds revolve. Astronomers now think 80 planets of the stars we see have planetary systems, and those exoplanets we've discovered thus far are just the largest and the closest to their host stars.

Still, I challenge all those planets to produce a place as beautiful as the Casco Bay islands in late summer.

Early this month, NASA will launch Juno, a solar-powered satellite which will eventually explore Jupiter, our solar system's largest planet. Scientists hope to discover what lies underneath the gas giant's thick atmosphere, what comprises its core, and how the solar system evolved over the last 4 billion years. When Juno finally reaches Jupiter in 2016, we'll get incredible photos of the gigantic storms that whirl the colorful cloud-tops, including the Great Red Spot, a centuries-old tornado three times the size of Earth.

Pluto has a fourth moon! Astronomers already knew about its largest moon, Charon, about half the size of diminutive Pluto, and they discovered two more moons, Nix and Hydra, in 2005. But the Hubble Space Telescope recently found an even smaller moon only 15 miles wide, circling the distant planet about once a month, just like our moon. The New Horizons satellite will pass by Pluto and its moons in July 2015, so we'll have to wait until then to get a bird's-eye view of these mysterious deep-sky denizens.

Closer to home, we've just discovered that Earth has its very own Trojan asteroid, caught in the gravitational equilibrium between Earth and sun called a Lagrangian point. We knew other planets had Trojans (Jupiter has 4000 of them), but this one is only about 12 million miles from Earth and will fortunately stay there, orbiting the Lagrangian point slowly and giving Earthlings an opportunity to explore it more closely in the future.

PLANETS (from inside out)

Speedy Mercury reaches inferior conjunction (between Earth and sun) on the 17th and then pops up as a "morning star" on the horizon by month's end. Hothouse Venus reaches superior conjunction (on the far side of the sun) on Aug. 16 and is lost to view all month. Ruddy Mars is between the Gemini twins and is about three fists up in east at dawn. Golden Saturn is pinned to Virgo's shoulder like a brooch,
Now in its second year, J-Club is the journalism club of students in grades one through five at the red brick schoolhouse, Peaks Island Elementary School, established in 1832. Members: Madison Alves, Nick Boyle, Audrey Byrne, Jameson Childs, Griffin Conly, Calder Davis, Maisy Davis, Deanne Davis, Gadi Dumas, Dudley Holdridge, Ilo Holdridge, Eleanor Johnson, Isabella Levine, Ellis Membrides, Anna Mitchell, Eddie Sylvestre, Isaiah Sylvestre, East Underwood, Phineas Underwood, Karthe Marie Wilson, Maisie Winter. Advisors: Diane Escott, Editor; Lisa Petitboeuf, Art Director; Sandra Lucas. Contact: peaksjclub@gmail.com.

Days in Maine
By Sofia Muro, grade 2

Maine your skies
So blue, I love you too!
And your lobsters
So tasty and
So red. You make a good feeling
Inside my head.
Maine your flowers
So sweet, each and every one I meet.
Maine your lighthouse
So loud, it makes me
Proud, ferry boat
Gliding against the sun
Riding you is always fun.
Foggy days are so nice
Making cookies, cakes and ice.
I love my days in Maine.

Sofia Muro lives in California and visits Maine whenever she can. She is the granddaughter of Peaks Island resident Tony Mum.
Doctor, doctor

An interview with Family Nurse Practitioner Kitty Gilbert of the Peaks Island Health Center

Kitty Gilbert in her office at the Health Center, staff photo

INTERVIEW BY KEVIN ATTRA

We came seven years ago from California, but I was raised on the East Coast and my family comes from Long Island, so we've been coming out here since I was a little kid. We always came out for vacations.

I'm part of InterMed service. I've been with InterMed for seven years, and I still work in OB/GYN in town one day a week and then I'm three days out here.

It was funny. When they first offered me the position on Peaks Island I was really busy with my other practices and I was like, "Nah." And now I can't imagine not having this gig. I think it's the best kept secret. It's just such a wonderful place.

We were seven years old. When I first offered me the position on Peaks Island I was really busy with my other practices and I was like, "Nah." And now I can't imagine not having this gig. I think it's the best kept secret. It's just such a wonderful place.

It's almost like I'm practicing in the 1950s. There's a collegiality with other providers. There's a community that's so strong that when we need to make things happen, when we need to get transportation, I have a list of people I can call. When someone's hurt, people go in and see them. We have a large number of seniors who don't travel regularly to the mainland, who see me for their routine care and their regular preventative services. And also their acute visits. I also tend to see the very young under 5 who aren't in school, who are on the island with their parents. It also becomes one of those things where they don't travel so much into town. We do a lot of camp physicals. I see a lot of that, because we're convenient. We're right here.

We're mid-level providers. We work under physicians. You can sign up to be part of InterMed if you want to be with us, or you can sign up to be with someone else and still come here.

The big push now is to establish everybody with a primary care physician. If you're a regular patient we want you to have a physician backup. [The Health Center] becomes a resource, but it is not a good place to get your primary care.

If I can't see you today?

What are we lacking? The physician coverage. I mean, InterMed is really about having a primary physician.

In InterMed, mid-level providers don't what we call "panel", we don't have our own patients. We take everyone's patient. We take overflow from patients. And we do a lot of the additional kind of educational appointments and routine appointments, that kind of thing. But we don't panel our own patients. So, I don't become a primary care provider.

You guys have quite a bunch of doctors now. Yes we do. We probably have 60 physician providers. I work with all the other physicians who are working in the group. That's what makes us kind of unique. We are working with the people who are InterMed patients, the people who are summer visitors with doctors in Massachusetts and Philadelphia, and all of those people.

We have a lot of seniors who have their primary care elsewhere and summer here. When the summer comes I end up having a lot of conversations with providers in Massachusetts and in North Carolina and in Florida.

Some people come to us with an incident. They'll be acutely ill. We've had all sorts of things. We've had a couple of heart attacks. We've had a G.I. bleed, internal bleeding.

We call the police department. They send over the EMS. The fire boat meets them. It's a really pretty smooth arrangement. We've been really happy with that. If I had to average it out I'd say we use them probably six to eight times a year.

We're not a walk-in clinic. While we're open you can call and make an appointment the same day. We're open 10:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. One Tuesday a month we have an early day for labs, and that we start at 8:30 a.m.

On the days when we're not here, folks call from the office appointment in town and try to get people scheduled in. The goal is obviously to try to make it work for the island. I mean, we want to be responsive to the need. The appointments help us better see people and kind of stage things out.

For urgent care that's not the case, though. On those days when we're off we certainly don't want anyone leaving a message saying, "I'm short of breath," you know. We really want them to be taken care of.

So how does insurance coverage work with InterMed? It seems like anything unique about this?

We accept many insurances, as InterMed. The unique thing about the island is that we take Maine Care on the island only. InterMed isn't taking it, and many of the physician groups in town are not taking new Maine Care patients, but we do on the island because a lot of our patients are already Maine Care, or can become Maine Care.

Just to clarify, because this gets really confusing very quickly, we're in a unique position out here for another reason, which is that we also have a fund for folks who are uninsured. There is this money available so nobody is prevented from having health care on the island. We don't want it to be abused, but so far it's really not been an issue. It's been very helpful to folks.

It's a very unique working situation, to be working out here and be able to provide care kind of regardless of people's insurance status. For me it's lovely.

And you think about the cost savings where you see somebody and it's going to cost you a hundred bucks to be seen as opposed to, you know, a thousand or

please see GILBERT, page 18
Year-long Study Abroad for Two Peaks Students

Camille Hanley is spending her junior year of high school in Crespo, Argentina as an AFS (American Field Service) exchange student. Olwyn Moxhay will spend her junior year as an AFS exchange student in Yzeures-Sur-Creuse, France. In mid-July I chatted with them about their upcoming adventures.

Camille says she got the idea for going to Argentina from her older sister Eileen who spent her junior year as an exchange student in France. “She was going to take a gap year,” Camille said, “and then go to Argentina. One of her friends went and said it was a really good experience.”

In the end it didn’t work out for Eileen to go, so Camille thought that since she wanted to learn to speak Spanish better, she might apply for a stint in Argentina.

“I was going to do a week - this summer actually, I was just going to go volunteer in a program called Rustic Pathways. But I was looking at it and it was much more than just one week, so my mom was like, ‘Why don’t you just go a year?’ So I just decided that day.”

“It is costly to go this program?”

“Yes, it’s a lot of money. I had to fundraise a lot. And I’m working two jobs right now to help pay.”

“What kind of fundraising did you do?”

“I did a yard sale. I thought about doing another one but I’m pretty busy with work right now, my mom’s really busy with camps, so I don’t think we can get anything together. I got a couple scholarships from the program.”

Camille’s two jobs are at the ice cream store downtown and the Peaks Island marina, a part of Planters. Crespo is a small city about 210 miles from Buenos Aires, to the north and a bit west, population approximately 15,300.

“Do you know anybody else that’s going on the program?”

“Nope. There’s other people in Maine, I just don’t know them. I don’t think there’s anyone else in my school. I know that Olwyn Moxhay is going to France. What are you taking with you?”

“I have a 44-pound limit, so it would be like clothes, my electronics, Spanish-speaking books, that’s about it. I can’t really take a lot.”

Do you speak Spanish?

“No really. I’ve taken Spanish in school, but I’m just hoping to learn it over there.”

Did Eileen give you any advice as far as going to school in a foreign country?

“She gave me a couple books about Argentina, the language and the differences between Argentinian Spanish. She has talked to me about what to bring, what to expect when I get there, like culture shock.”

“Do you know anything about the family you’ll be staying with?”

“I know that there’s two parents, a sister my age, and two brothers - one’s like four or five and one’s around my brother’s age, 10 or 11.”

“Have you been away from home much?”

“No really; it’s a new experience.”

Upon arrival she’ll have a couple days of orientation, “then I go off to the host family or any other aspect of her experience.”

“Are you worried about anything?”

“Well, I won’t know what anyone’s saying. That’s about it. But I’m also really excited.”

Camille gets to see how it feels being among the eldest in a family lineage for a year (she is third of four in her own family on Peaks) while Olwyn Moxhay, the oldest of three, gets to experience being the youngest.

“There’s a daughter that’s a year older than me,” Olwyn said of the family she’ll be living with in France, “and there’s a son who’s in college nearby. I’ll have older siblings, which will be interesting.”

She will be living in the small town of Yzeures-Sur-Creuse, located in the Laire Valley of northwestern France. I asked if when you apply to study with AFS you can choose where you go. Olwyn’s mother Kathryn said APS places students.

“They make it clear that you should not expect to go to Paris,” Kathryn said. “They use small towns and countryside. Like kids that come here from abroad don’t get to go to New York and Boston. They go to somewhere in the middle of Indiana or something, places that they might look at on the map and say, ‘Oh! Not what I was thinking the U.S. was going to be like.’ But the idea is that, you know, in fact that is the U.S.”

Top photo: Olwyn Moxhay, headed to France Sept 1. Bottom photo: Camille Hanley, serving up ice cream to help with costs for study in Argentina. Her trip begins mid-August.

The Island Micro Farm Developing an Edible and Abundant Ecosystem on One Acre

Permaculture principles focus on thoughtful designs for small-scale intensive systems which are labor efficient and which use biological resources instead of fossil fuels. Designs stress ecological connections and closed energy and material loops. The core of permaculture is design and the working relationships and connections between all things. Key to efficient design is observation and manipulation of natural ecosystems, where designers mimic diversity with polycultures, stress efficient energy utilization for houses and settlement, using and accelerating natural plant succession, and increasing the highly productive "adjacencies" within the system.

Paraphrase of the founder of Permaculture, Bill Mollison.

FMU Contact Mark Shain 207-365-5798 ext 261 - 207-332-5995
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THE ISLAND MICRO FARM - PERMACULTURE IN PRACTICE - PEAKS ISLAND - MAINE USA

Preview: Coming in the fall...

A chat with Rick Caron, living completely off-the-grid on Peaks since 1995.

"Now it's payback time. In other words, everything I spent is coming back to me now in profit." The bank of batteries in Rick's basement store up to 27,000 Watts, or 27 kilowatt hours worth of electricity generated from the solar panels on his roof. How far will 27 kilowatt hours get the average householder, assuming efficient appliances?

"The average household would suck the heat, only an incandescent bulb gives off. Stay tuned ... Moreover, if you're living off the grid contact me: rondydale@islandtimes.org, or call 766-5561.

Generate energy from the solar panels on his roof, using and accelerating natural plant succession, and increasing the highly productive "adjacencies" within the system.

Paraphrase of the founder of Permaculture, Bill Mollison.

alternative healing...creative pursuits...common ground...choices...distilling information...not in nature...sustainable energy...renewable resources...diversity...non-mainstream lifestyles...independent media
Olwyn added, "Also it's not just the traveling and being on vacation and, like, having a fun time. It's about really getting into the language and the community."

Do you know anything about the area where you'll be?

"The area's really beautiful. The house I'm staying in is outside the town, kind of in the countryside. They emailed me pictures. The house is really cool, it's really old and it has vines growing out and stuff. They showed me where my bedrooms' going to be.

"It was really nice. They made me feel a lot more confident about going, to know the people a little."

Olwyn says she knew about AFS and about going abroad as an option through other kids on the island who had gone on the program, and specifically because when she was younger, a favorite babysitter had spent a year in Ecuador.

"I was in high school and it was okay," Olwyn said, "but I was like, I kind of want to do something more exciting for at least one year of high school. And I really wanted to learn another language.

She has been taking French since middle school.

"I speak a little French, like I can say some basic phrases. I'm not super-confident with my French. Hopefully it'll just come pretty quickly once I go there."

I asked Kathryn if she had been on board with Olwyn's idea to go on the program from the beginning.

"Oh yes, absolutely. I mean, I wish I could go myself," Kathryn said. "I think it's a great thing to do.

Is the financial aspect a worry, or were you just like, "Let's make it work?"

"Absolutely. Make it work", because it's a great experience.

"It's funny, AFS advertises the financial thing as, they tell you how much it costs for you to have a teenager in your house just normally. I'm not sure how they calculate that out but I'm like, 'Oh really? It's that much?' You know, thousands of dollars ... but they try to stress that you can't think if your kid stayed home, it would be free. It was an interesting perspective."

In fact the AFS website is chock-full of information and can-do ideas for making the experience possible for kids no matter their financial situation. Both Olwyn and Camille set up a blog which allowed family, friends and anyone else to donate to them.

"Family would have contributed outside of the blog," Kathryn said, "but if you did it through the blog, AFS would match some of the funds.

"Some kids are making T-shirts and selling them. Kids are pretty creative when they need to do it."

Both Camille and Olwyn will spend the year in a regular high school, taking the same classes as the local kids.

A year without your eldest, Kathryn.

"I know ... I'll have nobody to drink coffee with.

"It's such a big thing to let go, but it's this amazing experience. We're handing her over to another family and that family will be her family, and we will be on the sidelines for a year. And that's how it's supposed to be."
From the FIFTH MAINE
A Bridge to Where?

BY KIM MACISAAC
FIFTH MAINE MUSEUM CURATOR

You wake up in the morning, get ready for the day ahead, then jump in your car and head down front, grabbing a cup of hot coffee at Lisa's as you head uptown to work, go to school, shop, etc. Sound familiar? It's what islanders have done for decades.

But in the 1930s you might have been able to jump back in your car and drive across the harbor to your mainland destination had a proposed project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) gone forward. Much like today's federal stimulus program, the WPA created all sorts of projects designed to put people back to work and help revitalize the economy that had all but collapsed following the stock market crash of 1929.

The proposed suspension bridge was to have linked the area near the Circle Monument on the Eastern Promenade in Portland to Little Diamond Island, continue across Diamond Island roads to Peaks, and then across Hussey Sound to Long Island. A major proponent of the bridge, Portland civil engineer George King, insisted that "Thousands will buy house lots and gradually build on the three islands. It would make another Florida land boom."

Much opposition to the project was voiced, including fears it would disrupt boat traffic in the harbor and take away from the natural beauty of the area. The Navy was particularly opposed as its policies were not in favor of bridges over waters used by its ships. To the relief of islanders, the bridge was not built.

In the 1960s a local candidate for political office tried to revive the proposal in the form of a high level aerial cable carrying 20-passenger gondolas between Portland and Peaks with a stop at Fort Gorges - estimated cost, $10 million. The candidate lost the election and the proposal died alongside his unsuccessful campaign.

The WPA did, however, build a bridge on Peaks Island. It's a small stone bridge that carries Tolman Road over the stream that flows from the Ice Pond to the shore facing Great Diamond. The plaque on it indicates that it was dedicated in 1935.

Proposals like these give pause and make many islanders appreciate the three miles of water that separate Peaks from the mainland.

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A musical month at the Fifth Maine

The MSA company, from left to right: Stephanie Eliot, Nancy 3. Hoffman, Julie Goell - director, Annie O'Brien and Ronda Dale. Not shown are Heather Thompson, Sam Saltonstall, Kevin Attea and special guest Barnabas Johnson. photo courtesy of Nancy 3. Hoffman

A tribute to songwriter Kermit Goell

BY KEVIN ATTRA

The Maine Singers' Atelier (MSA), directed by Julie Goell, presented a tribute to the director's father, Kermit Goell, in a show called My Love Serenade at the Fifth Maine Museum on Saturday, July 23. Between 1940 and 1980, Kermit Goell wrote the lyrics to over 200 songs, including his biggest hit, "Near You", which launched the Nashville Country Music scene.

His songs have been recorded by a range of artists including Johnny Cash, Andy Williams, Frank Sinatra, the Andrews Sisters, Sarah Vaughan and Barbara Streisand. Some have appeared in the soundtracks of movies, including "Mask" and "Practical Magic," and on TV shows, including "Six Feet Under" and "The Sopranos."

The performance included a guest appearance by Barnabas Johnson who whistled on the number "Shepherd's Serenade", made famous by Bing Crosby. As a child Barnabas cared for sheep in Britain and came to be an extraordinary whistler as a result because the sheep dogs are controlled by whistles.

The event raised $150 for the Fifth Maine. Maine Singers Atelier is a lab-style workshop in Portland for singers in any genre of music who want to hone their skills in performance, presentation and expressive power. Ms. Goell has extensive experience as a performer, singer and director. Please visit www.juliegoell.com/singing.html for more information about the Atelier.

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Children’s Workshop cruises ahead

BY KEVIN ATTARA

Around 140 people attended the second annual benefit cruise for the Peaks Island Children’s Workshop on Sunday, June 19 aboard the Bay Mist.

According to PICW board President Gull Kelley, the PICW needed 158 ticket sales to break even, and they definitely did that and then some. Besides tickets, volunteers sold raffle tickets with a variety of prizes from different sponsors.

With its potential as a live band (Dave Gagne & friends) and food catered by Lisa Lynch of Peaks Café the cruise cost almost $4,000, but the Workshop still cleared around $1,500.

The Workshop has been in financial crisis according to the board of directors, and is undergoing a radical change in its accreditation and scope of service, shrinking from a childcare “center,” to a “small facility” to replace its accreditation and administrative costs.

As part of the restructuring, the current PICW staff are being dismissed. When Kelley announced that decision in an email to the community last month, it caused an uproar. The decision in an email to the administrative costs.

The existence of the Children’s Workshop was a critical factor in her decision to move to the island. “It’s been a big part of my sanity, moving to a totally new place in the middle of the winter. You, [her son, Aas] was able to go three months after we moved here, so it was a big help.”

Because she has been a nursery school and early elementary school teacher, Winters was asked to be on the Workshop’s board of directors. “I really feel like it’s critical work,” she said.

“So many people are afraid of moving to an island, and I just don’t understand that. It’s not just a great place for children, it’s a great place for parents. I feel like it’s a healthy place to be a parent. I think people just need to kind of be walked through it.”

“Before we moved here I went and visited the Peaks Island elementary school. That’s what sealed the deal for me. This is perfect. This is fabulous.”

PILP annual meeting features Battery Steele

BY KEVIN ATTARA

Thursday, July 14 Ann Whitman greeted me at the door of the Eighth Maine, not the usual venue for the Peaks Island Lands Preserve’s annual board meeting. “We were so far behind the eight-ball we didn’t get our reservations in time for the Fifth Maine, so we’re here,” she said.

Folks enjoyed drinks and appetizers for a while. Then the meeting got going and the board members briefly undertook some business, unanimously electing Curtis Rindlaub president and Ann Whitman vice president. That was followed by a presentation on the History of Battery Steele by historian Joel Eastman.

The World War II gun emplacement is part of a 14-acre preserve acquired by PILP in 1995. It housed two 16-inch Navy guns, which had been salvaged from battlefields. They each fired a 2,200-pound shell up to 26 miles.

Battery Steele is particularly special to former President Garry Fox, who stepped down last October but is continuing his 12-year stewardship of the battery. He’s currently on a mission to keep people from dumping their trash there.

The list of junk includes household trash, fixtures, appliances, furniture and building materials. “I recently found the better part of a house out there,” he said.

For that he called in the police and fire departments, who burned it. “No sooner was that done than someone else dumped planters and furniture in another part of the property,” he said.

Most often, he ends up collecting the trash and hauling it to the landfill by himself.

Newly-elected President Rindlaub said PILP has had four projects going this year: replacing all the bridges on the trails, being done by Steve Rosby; cleaning up storm damage which was completed in mid-June by FFLMA logging crews; looking into acquiring Brackett Pond now that there’s a slump in the real-estate market; and creating an orienteering class to teach kids about navigation.

Historian Joel Eastman’s history of Battery Steele was interesting for his personal insight into daily life during World War II—he’s been a longtime fan of the site.

(Contrary to common lore, Eastman said he didn’t think the Army imported the invasive hibiscus plant that has wreaked havoc with native plants along the backshore.)

The guns at Battery Steele were reported to have been fired once in a text, which Eastman said would have felt like a small earthquake on the island.

“The Army generally gave warning, when they were conducting tests,” he said. “Lower your windows, take china off the shelves… I suspect people saved up their broken china, because the Army would reimburse you for any damage.”

Soon after Eastman began his talk, Jay Desmond took me aside and told me about the first time he went to Battery Steele: “It was probably about 10, 11, 12 years old. We used to sneak out of our house and meet the neighbors, like Eileen’s brother, Shippy Barber, and a few other guys that may not be alive any longer. And we’d meet at the Fifth Maine rock for different adventures, you know?”

“We made torches out of birch bark to light our way around at night, cause none of us had flashlights,” he said.

“And then we’d light our torches around 200 or 300 in the morning and walk through Battery Steele hunting and hollering. Idiotic things you did when you’re a kid.”

One thing led to another and pretty soon he was telling me about pranks he used to play on boaters with dry ice from the ice cream store.

“We’d take it out in my boat, called the Leaky Rocky, because it leaked and it reeked. And we used to put all the dry ice in the Leaky Rocky and take it out to Hudlock Cove and throw it under the boat so people would see their boats smoking.

“You know, there’s not much to do here when you’re a kid, but you had a lot of fun.”

staf photo

_HISTORIC Sites_ of Peaks Island

PEAKS ISLAND TIMES

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HISTORIC Sites of Peaks Island

In August 2011
Outside the Box: the story of MRI for pets
Part 1 of a two-part interview with project pioneer Tony DeAngelo

BY KEVIN ATTRA

In early 2000 radiologist Stephen Pompeuzi approached the president of Iams with an idea for a new business venture. The idea was to establish a new MRI center for pets in Cincinnati. The pet food company had been bought the previous year by Proctor & Gamble, and the new CEO was looking to diversify the company, so he approached Tony DeAngelo, a project manager with P&G's New Corporate Ventures division at the time. Using MRI to diagnose illness in animals was a new idea that caught the new CEO's attention, and he suggested that Tony research the idea further. Tony came up with the business plan for IAMS MRI, which was presented to the CEO and the rest of the board. The CEO was impressed and approved the project. Tony DeAngelo, who was now the president of IAMS MRI, was tasked with setting up the center in Cincinnati.

The president gave it to me on a platter, a guy I'd worked for for six years. He said, 'Hey, you can take a look at this! Don't spend a lot of time on it, but take a look and let me know.'

It was one of those things when, to me, at first, I went, 'I'm not interested in pets!' (laughs) And I ended up, I got into it, I did focus groups with veterinarians at five different cities in the country, did focus groups with consumers, visited vet schools. And the technology was new. I think one of the first vet schools had an MRI. The technology, MRI for pets?

Yeah, nobody was doing it, because it was expensive. So one school had it, it was Perdue — had one of the original MRIs developed in the '70s, like one of the original ones that was produced. That was it.

And there wasn't a lot of knowledge, like the difference between MRIs or CTs, or even X-rays. Vets, pretty much all of them, thought that it was diagnosis. So I got really interested, and got a really good response. I decided, you know I'm going to do business with pets.

But one of the things the research turned out was: probably not in Cincinnati, because it didn't have the demographics nor the income to support a high-end diagnostic for pets. Pet owners are funny. Their income has nothing to do with how much they spend on their dog, but you need to have a base.

So we decided to do a pilot. I went to Siemens, which Siemens and GE, Philips and Toshiba are the major producers. And what I wanted was: it was the pilot and MRI magnets are, I mean the list price on them in those days (this was 2000) was $2.5 million — I said I want a deal where you can get the magnet and pay to have it installed and then have it for a year and then if it didn't work out pay to have it installed, but I didn't want to buy.

And Siemens, they had a president for North America. I met with him. That was the way business is. It was just like he goes, 'That's pretty cool. I can do this.' So why do you think he did that? Because when he goes to his monthly meeting in Stuttgart, he sits around with his peers from around the world, he can say, 'Hey, you know what I'm doing? I mean it's that simple.'

We had a list of 25 cities based on demographics, income, number of veterinary specialists. We went to San Francisco. Now, this was in the middle of the dotcom boom. Couldn't find a place for rent. There was nothing for rent in the greater San Francisco area because of all the dotcoms.

So, we went to Washington, D.C., found a place to rent, a building. Jeff Ansell (no longer with P&G) was the president of IAMS. His idea was, 'Hey, I want these to be showcases for IAMS.' We put a lot of money into it. It was beautiful. It was probably — having in my days of research traveled to a lot of human centers — it was probably the most beautiful MRI center to the United States. Spared no expense on it. I mean it was a beautiful place.

And it was kind of interesting, we built in viewing windows. The room is sealed, not because, an MRI magnet doesn't give off any radiation or anything, it's just a magnet. But metal from the outside can interact with it, so you have to shield the room.

And we put, at a lot of expense, we put these observation windows in because we had to do continuing education with vets to educate them on it. They were set up so that 20 people could actually watch the thing happen through the window. In D.C., in the first two years we probably had 1,100 vets go through continuing ed at the center.

We were the majority partner with ProScan. The way we set these things up is we would, to be part of the community, we would sell a certain percentage of the proceeds to veterinarians so they were owners too.

It kind of had a lot of stops-starts. The pilot was going OK, then it was going really well. And then we decided to do a second one.

How long a period in between?

Two years. And then a vet school at North Carolina State had approached me on putting a center in there, which initially we thought was a bad idea. But they leased a space at the school and it was a freestanding center, so we decided to do that one.

In the meantime we had been on CNN three times. When we opened in D.C. we were on the news all over the country. We were in USA Today twice.

Were you being laughed at?

No, it was so innovative because nobody was doing it. I mean nobody was doing it. We had this one old magnet at Perdue that was ancient technology. The magnets we put in, when we put that one in D.C. it was state-of-the-art. In fact it was the most state-of-the-art magnet installed in D.C.

We used to joke around about the way the primary user of MRI for pets — the number one user is neurosurgeons. When you put an MRI done (on a pet) is they have human places (it is against the law in most places) and they steel the dogs in at night, they know, pay the owner. So we used to joke about that ours was so, if Bob, who was President at the time, needs an MRI they'll have to sneak him into our place at night.

Home Start to sell Luther Street property

FROM NICOLE EVANS

Home Start is pleased to announce that its 18 Luther Street property will get new windows and a furnace, thanks to the continued generosity of the Peaks Island Fund.

Home Start is to be sold, listing at $710,000, and is the first homeownership opportunity on Peaks that is permanently affordable via deeded covenants.

Applications will be accepted during the month of August, and are available at www.peakislandhomestart.org and the Peaks Island branch library.

In addition to meeting Home Start's eligibility requirements, applicants should quality for HOMEPORT, which provides a 0 percent interest down payment loan of up to $30,000. Applications for HOMEPORT are at the City of Portland's (www.portlandgov.org), or 874-5089 (Mary Davis).

The following are combined Home Start and HOMEPORT income guidelines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Max.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
<td>$40,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
<td>$62,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a qualified candidate is not found, the home will be offered to eligible tenants as a rent-to-own or year-round unit.

Home Start is working with Genesis Community Loan Fund and Volunteers of America Northern New England to build two energy-efficient rental homes next to 18 Luther St.

The Home Start board of directors meets the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., in the Pay Guzman House kitchen. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 25.

For more information, contact Ellen Mahoney at 776-0327 or emahoney@maine.rr.com. HomeStart offers quality, affordable housing to Peaks Islanders.
I return home to Peaks Island on the 7:15 p.m. ferry. How will I spend this clear summer Saturday night? I wonder.

As I disembark, I spot my husband, Ron. Ron leans against the stone wall at Jones Landing, near a palette of beer earmarked for Reggae Sunday. He smiles at me and I blush, flattered that he has walked down from his ice cream and T-shirt store to meet me. I wrap my arms around his middle and receive a soft kiss.

Aw, you missed me.

Ron leans over and whispers an invitation for a date. On perfect summer nights like this, middle aged couples like us walk around the island to admire the view of the Portland skyline, eat barbecue at friends’ cottages and attend concerts at the Fifth Maine Regiment House. What will my Saturday night be?

"Wanna go to the dump?" Ron says as we walk up the Welch Street hill.

Ron’s ice cream and T-shirt store generates tons of garbage—too much to let pile up for Monday trash pick-up, so he hauls it to the dump himself. He has already crammed the Ice Cream Mobile, his turquoise Suburban, with trash in preparation.

The Suburban is huge and wide with bench seats that accommodate four across, plus a rear-facing “back-back” seat. Fully loaded, it resembles Santa’s sleigh. Except that the hooping sacks contain empty candy cartons and sticky used ice cream dishes, not toys and candy.

I slide in through the driver’s side, the passenger side door, which won’t open from the outside, is held shut from the inside by a bungee cord. The window next to me is rolled down, as usual, because rolling it up requires a Wrestling match.

Ron drives, which is a good thing. When I drive, the Suburban floats around the road entirely on its own volition, illustrating where the saying, “handles like a boat” comes from. I am really glad it’s an Island-only car. The thought of driving that monster somewhere with highways, traffic lights, or speed limits over 20 miles per hour makes me shudder. Nonetheless, it is a piece of Americana. I hear it channel the voices of the ’70s Detroit automakers who created it. “Damn it, if we have a whole lane, we’re going to fill a whole lane,” they say. As we near the dump, I take a deep breath.

Clean sea air mingles with wafts of sour milk as remnants of melted ice cream in the trash bags curl into cottage cheese.

At the dump, Ron lowers the back door of the car into the horizontal position, then swings the rear window up and locks it into place. He hoists a full bag of trash out of the back, then launches it into the air. The bag spins twice, then lands square in the middle of the dumpster. I am married not only to the Ice Cream Man, but to the Michael Jordan of the Dump.

As Ron grabs a second bag and then a third, I slowly drag my first.

“You really aren’t much help,” he teases.

“Would you prefer I stay home next time?”

“Absolutely not,” he says. Ron knows why I loathe it: I worry I am afraid of the car’s rear hatch. “Call Paul”, our island jack-of-all-trades, has replaced the hinges and lock, but I’m not convinced. To me, the rear window is a guillotine in standby mode. If the car ever goes nuts like Steven King’s car, my neck as far away as possible.

Meanwhile, Ron hauls his sixth bag. He really amazes me. At 61 he has a job that requires mopping floors, scrubbing counters and touching other people’s trash. And he does it willingly, “for the benefits.” Not health insurance, retirement savings or paid vacation which, being self-employed, he doesn’t get. The benefit Ron receives is time with his family—me and our daughter, Lindsey.

Before we moved to Peaks Island 11 years ago, Ron worked in corporate marketing. He traveled an average of one week a month for business. So he missed Lindsey’s dance recital, the school carnival and the Halloween costume contest. Then we moved to Peaks Island and he became The Ice Cream Man. Now he eats dinner with us every night.

Ron tosses the last bag of trash into the dumpster and we climb back into the car.

“Would you like to take the long way home?” he asks.

I said yes. We held hands as he turns right down Brackett Street toward the rocky back shore of the island. We are off to admire the view. Not a bad date, I think. Not bad at all.
Chaos abounds in the opening act of Acorn Productions Cymbeline Underground, an adaptation of the Shakespearean tragedy directed by Michael Levine and performed June 25 and June 26 at Battery Steele on Peaks Island.

BY KEVIN ATTIN

In typical Shakespearean fashion, the story of Cymbeline is about corrupted power and the forces that conspire to foil the course of true love: murder, cruelty, deceit and war. It's a descent into Hell, and director Michael Levine aptly chose the former World War II gun battery to represent it.

There were drawbacks. The battery was flooded. Water dripped from ceilings and voices echoed everywhere making it hard to understand what was being said. The cast spent days building walkways for the audience, and in some cases had to wade through water to perform their scenes.

On the other hand, it was a thrilling theatrical experience. You were not just viewing a play, you were in it. Between scenes, the actors wandered the halls or hung out in one of the sets, ignoring the audience but staying in character. They inhabited the battery as if it was their Elizabethan castle.

The one-hour play ran consecutively three times a day on Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26. It was performed piecemeal in various parts of the battery, and also not in its entirety. As a result the audience never saw many of the calamities that befell the characters in Shakespeare's play.

The production had its powerful moments, too. When Julia Reddy, as Imogen, left one of her scenes in tears, the audience stood in awkward silence while she ran sobbing down the entire length of the main corridor. The fading echoes of her sobs haunted the entire building.

ABOVE: April Singley as the maid, Pisania, awaits her cue in the doorway of this scene. BELOW from Left: Imogen (Julia Reddy) and her lover Posthumus (Keith Anctil) embrace after pledging eternal love but will soon be deceived into believing the other has forsaken them; Imogen studies a portrait by Paul Brahms in a room while waiting for her next scene late in the play the foreordained Imogen enters disguised as a soldier.
“Secrets Camp,” ranging in age from 8 to 11, modeled the outfits.

“The defining garment of that time period was the corset with steel ribs,” said Ms. Lawson. “Once made with whalebone, by 1860 the whales were gone. Several garments were worn over others to protect the fabric from rust.”

Grace Byrne patiently stood while Ms. Lawson dressed her, piece by piece from the undergarments to the plaid skirt and matching jacket, and kept up a running dialogue on each piece’s function.

“Back then, cotton was expensive. It cost about $4.50 a yard, about what it costs today. Keep in mind that a Civil War soldier’s pay was about $13 a month,” she noted.

The young girls were excited to dress in the vintage clothing despite the heat. The fashion finale was the topper to three days of intense sewing. Girls embroidered handkerchiefs and sewed vintage camisoles while chatting and learning about customs of the Victorian era.

In other news, off Island Avenue at the Richard Boyd Art Gallery sits a cast of ceramic characters with bold features in his latest show, “Creatures and Critters,” a stunning departure from his elegant pottery. Boyd’s new works are inspired by his perception of extra terrestrial and whimsical creatures. They are startling and spirited,

hanging and others draped over bones or popping from bottles like treasures from the sea.

Her daughter, Hannah Rindlah, showed multi-colored block prints of juxtaposed figures with flowing hair, Hannah heads to college in Los Angeles in the fall.

Cole Caswell’s evocative pin-type photographs also hang along a single wall. The subjects are contemporary,
but the ethereal nature of the photographic process gives their faces a haunting pallor, calling from dreams long past.

Peaks Island artist Jane Banquer recently showed drawings, prints, and paintings in her show, "Vanishing Act", also at the Gem Gallery. Her work varies the focus on landscape, still life and the figure, while her methods range from solar prints to etching to paint. She has organized anew a long dormant life-drawing group on Peaks Island. Jane finds that drawing from the figure invigorates her work, as it does for many artists. The human figure, familiar to us all, remains a constant but engaging challenge for artists who seek a deep connection to the self and the universal.

Our bodies, our selves, our sweat. Summer brings out the creative energy that now shines in island galleries and art camps, and we are grateful.

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CLOCKWISE from lower left: Grace Byrne and Daisy Braun model during the Fifth Maines fashion show in July; Peaks Island Fiber Arts Camper Eleanor Cox models Victorian-era clothing at the Fifth Maines; Carol Cartier's sculpture at the Gem Gallery show, Wilderness; Hannah Rindlaub's block prints in the Wilderness show; Jane Banquer's painting "Vanishing Act" from her show at the Gem Gallery.

photos by Jamie Hogan

Dowdwell Pottery by Maxine Harmon, a floor to wall exhibition of shapes and glazes by Maxine Harmon, the Maine's oldest list of island views of rocks, paintings, photographs and printed on show runs through Labor Day. The Dowdwell Gallery is located in the Long Island Learning Center on Grand Avenue, Long Island, hours follow the library schedule. (766-2530, www.adaminylouise.com)

Addison Woolley Gallery ON COTTLE, an exploration of coffee in still life photography by Victor Romasansky, with written monograph by Regina Janata. Also NEW WORK by artist Jeanette O'Toole Hayman whose thick brushstrokes and creamy colors exude folkish charm. The exhibit runs through Aug 27 with opening reception Friday, Aug 7, 5-7 pm. In the spirit of the art of photography, the Addison Woolley Gallery features works by local artists as well as nationally, using a wide variety of techniques. Addison Woolley Gallery is located at 132 Washington Avenue (at the corner of Fox St.), Portland (207) 450-6899, www.adaminylouise.com. Open Thursdays thru Saturday 10 to 5 pm.

Richard Boyd Gallery CRAFTS AND TERROIR exhibit of extra terrestrial and whimsical creatures for all ages, and a departure from Boyd's usual nature based theme, boiled fiber arts and creatures and critters are reminiscent of his work from the 1970s. Show runs through August. Richard Boyd Art Gallery is located on Peaks Island at the corner of Island Avenue and Eyep Street. The gallery exhibits a wide variety of varied art and artistry. A new space for adults, Peaks Island Library is located on the second floor. Gallery hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information please call the gallery by phone at 207-212-1097. Email william@55s.com or visit www.richardboyd.com.

The Fifth Maine The Fifth Maine is a non-profit museum and cultural center, home to the Fifth Maine Museum and Memorial Hall, dedicated to the preservation of Civil War and local history. Offering a wide variety of lectures, concerts, tours, youth education programs, and community activities. Membership is open to the public. For more information please contact Kimberly MacRae at jffil@mainemail.com or call 207-766-3310.

The Eighth Maine The Eighth Maine is a living museum and lodge hall in the 1884 Fifth Maine Field Artillery Memorial Hall, dedicated to the preservation of Civil War and local history. A wide variety of lectures, concerts, tours, youth education programs, and community activities. Membership is open to the public. For more information please contact Kimberly MacRae at jffil@mainemail.com or call 207-766-3310.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Chapel at St Christopher’s Church at 8:15 am, Sunday Aug 14 and 21 at 8:16 am in the Reverend Robert Hooper III from West Harpswell, CT, Aug 21 and Aug 28 with the Reverend Hooper III from Cape Elizabeth, ME. All are welcome.

Peaks Island Library First Tuesdays Book Discussions at 7 pm at the TWA Chapel. Aug 2 Book Discussion of Jerome David Salinger’s 1951 novel, Catcher in the Rye. Sept 6 will be a planning meeting for you to suggest books you’d like to discuss in the upcoming year, Oct 4 Freedom by Jonathan Franzen, so you can get a head start on that one. Final Summer Reading Program for all children with Jamie Hogen, author and illustrator of Seven Days of Summer, on Tuesdays, Aug 7, at 7 pm. Those who did not complete the programs are still welcome at this special event, where the author will share jellyfish sandwiches and other delectables to go with the theme. A huge THANK YOU to Patricia Crowley, Rockwell for her Tuesday night story and craft programs for our summer readers throughout the month of July. The Peaks Island Branch Library is located in the MacVeane-Caven, 766-3340, email peaks@mainlibrary.org. Hours: Open Tues 5-9; Wed 10-4; Thurs 10-2; Sat 8-12.

Friends of the Library THIS ISLAND LIFE by George Roselli. Tuesday, Aug 9, Reading and signing by the author at 7 pm in the Peaks Island Library. Please contact the library for room info and to make reservations.

Portland Recreation Denise Macarone, Recreation Programmer. Contact denise@portlandmaine.gov for more info or to make reservations.

ACE Monday Night Concerts On Cliff Island Aug 4 & 11; Harbormaster’s birthday, Aug 15; The String Affair; Harbormaster’s three piece band.

Portland Island Music Festival 2011 SUMMER CONCERT CALENDAR Aug 3: A Night at Mystic Mt., Peaks Island. Aug 17: The Peaks Island Chorale. All performances Wednesday evenings, 6:00 pm at the Fifth Maine Museum.

Peach Island Art Walks 2011 Peaks Island Art Walks: Last Saturday of the month at 7 pm to 9 pm. For more info, contact the Peaks Island Art Walks, 766-5548 or 766-5837.
PEAKS ISLAND VARIETY SHOW 7:00 pm at the Lions Club. A number of acts by local talent including music, dance and other performances.

FRIDAY, AUG 11 BYO PICNIC at the COMMUNITY GARDEN 11:15 am to 12:15 pm Enjoy the beauty of the community garden at Trellis Littlejohn Park FM! Call Denise at 766-2970. PEAKS ISLAND FUND ANNUAL MEETING 12:30 pm in the Lauren Room Longfellow House. Community is invited to attend and share in celebration of our Peaks Island community charitable organizations as the 2011 Peaks Island Fund grant awards are announced. Light refreshments will be served.

MONDAY, AUG 13 LAUGHER T YOGA CLUB (community room) Drop in between 11:00 am and 12:30 pm. Learn the benefits of laughter and then laugh for no reason at all. Everyone needs at least 10 minutes of belly laughing a day. FM! Call Denise at 766-2970 or dt@portlandmaine.gov. Sponsored by Portland Recreation.
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