10-2006

Island Times, Oct 2006

Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

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The three candidates are all concerned about the issues facing the city and the district taxes, affordable housing, parking, water, and developments that exist so far, but they have different perspectives on these matters.

In September, the Council re-elected the same County Near chef and an adjacent, city-owned parcel to allow private development of the city-owned pier. Although a proposal to allow boating development on the pier itself was defeated, the final zoning would allow a hotel to be built nearby, by the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Commercial Street.

Three vie for District 1 City Council seat

The City of Portland’s recent decision to rezone the Falmouth State Pier generated considerable controversy. So it is no surprise that the three candidates for the District 1 City Council seat, who were decided on Sept. 7, incumbent councillor Will Corbin, who owns a real estate company, is being challenged by Kari Goodhue, who owns Port Island Realty, on the Casco Bay Lines Transit District (CBITD), which operates the ferry company. When asked if that could include a rate hike, Davis said: "Yes."

The budget deficit was reported at the Sept. 21 meeting of the Finance Committee. In July, Casco Bay Lines management projected a 2006 deficit of $100,000, according to a memo presented by the meeting by Elyea Mutterock, a CBITD board member representing Peaks Island, who said the projections have changed dramatically since July, she wrote in the memo.

In addition, a preliminary budget for 2007 prepared by management forecasts a deficit. Please see DEFICIT, page 1.

Chebeague islanders vote for a transition committee.

Chebeague islanders begin building town

The process of creating a new town is underway on Chebeague Island.

On Sept. 10, 175 registered voters elected the nine-member Transition Committee at a town meeting held in the gym of the Chebeague Recreation Center.

The Transition Committee has met every Wednesday night since then at the Parish House of the Chebeague Methodist Church to start working out the details of how Chebeague Island will separate from the town of Cumberland. The meetings start at 7:15 p.m. and are open to the public. Chebeague becomes its own town on July 1, 2007. "To be in on the creation of a town is something that very few people will have a chance to do in their lifetimes," said David Hill, a Transition Committee member. "It is exciting — there is a lot of energy around it."

Many island residents will help create the new Town of Chebeague. In the last week of September, 16 subcommittees were formed to tackle specific municipal issues. Over 100 island residents signed up to volunteer for those committees. Please see TRANSITION, page 10.

Inside

Bay Lines deficit nearly $300,000

BY DAVID TYLER

A projected 2006 budget deficit for Casco Bay Lines means a rate hike will likely have to be considered, according to the president of the ferry company’s board.

"We’re going to have to do something," said Arthur Davis, who owns Peaks Island and Kevin Donoghue, who owns Undersea, which will be decided on Nov. 7.

Many Island residents are concerned with the Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD), which operates the ferry company. When asked if that could include a rate hike, Davis said: "Yes."

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In addition, a preliminary budget for 2007 prepared by management forecasts a deficit. Please see DEFICIT, page 11.

The outpouring of artwork from kids on Peaks Island for the recent art show, "Art with Heart: Peaks Kids Create," was so enormous, the show’s creator, Doug Smith, had to work throughout the opening reception to finish identifying all the artists. Sales from the show, which was also a fundraiser, brought in roughly $3,600. Photo by Mary Lou Wendell

Island kids' creative talent explodes in year show and fundraiser

BY DAVID TAYLOR

"There’s more art than you see in a lot of other galleries," remarked photographer Diane Byam, of the recent show, "Art with Heart: Peaks Kids Create."

The brainchild of award-winning artist/illustrator Doug Smith, the exhibit featured diverse and colorful creations blanketing the walls, glittering in the windows, and dangling from the ceilings of the Gem Gallery on Peaks Island. The show was held from Fri., Sept. 7 through Sun., Oct. 1.

The opening night reception, complete with heaps of kid-friendly food, celebrated the young artists (ranging in age from 2½ through fifth grade), and welcomed their many admirers. After viewing the collection, islander Cathy Shaw reported that there were "obviously as many talented kids as adults on Peaks Island."

Up for display, and for bid, were clay items and metal sculptures, stained glass and ceramics, wood and fabric inventions, mixed media and computer graphics, and, of course, watercolors, Pastels, acrylics, pencils, and good old crayons. Subjects included: fish, vehicles, hearts, hands, and structures, pets, trains, boats, enemy spiders, and marvellous masks. There were also works reminiscent of Picasso and Matisse; and pointillism; and abstract pieces that could have been done by an adult abstractionist.

Smith first conceived the show when he visited last year’s City Hall exhibition of the art of local school kids. Noticing some Peaks children being represented in this show, he thought, "We have a gallery, and there must be more children who might want their work to be seen. Why not celebrate all our children’s creativity?"

Only later did the concept of the show as a silent auction fundraiser come into view, with 50 percent of the sales going to the artists, and 50 percent to P.B.A. The final gala on Sunday afternoon found one of Liam Fox’s brightly painted wood planes at ART SHOW, page 10.

Dumont pulls out of Bay Lines director’s race

BY DAVID TAYLOR

Martha Dumont has decided to withdraw from the race for a three-year seat representing Chebeague Island on the Casco Bay Lines board because she is afraid her eligibility for the seat could be challenged.

Dumont said she was first told she might not be eligible for the seat because she is not an island resident, although she owns property on the island. Then in late September, she said she could run. "It’s a shame," Radis said about Dumont’s decision not to run. "My impression was she was eligible to run.

Dumont submitted proper nomination papers by the Sept. 4 deadline to run for the Chebeague seat, challenging island resident Jim Phillips, who currently holds the position. She said she was asked by someone, whom she would not name, to run for the seat.

Dumont lives in Cumberland Foreside, but is the owner of the Chebeague Island Inn. When her nomination papers were taken out in the summer, the issue of her residency was not raised.

She said she was called by John Lighthbody, managing director of the Portland law firm, Murray Plumb & Murray, who told her that the statute governing the Casco Bay Lines Island Transit District (CBITD) specifically said that only residents of Chebeague Island could run for the board. For the other islands in the district, the law does allow property owners to run for the board. Lighthbody said he would not comment on the Dumont case.

"This was news to me, and I’m sure news to anyone who signed my papers," she said, about the residency requirement.

Dumont also added her questions about how much time she spent on Chebeague. Dumont said she is on the island almost every day when the inn is open, from the end of April through Columbus Day, but that she does not spend a lot of nights on Chebeague.

Chebeague Island is the only island where property owners are not mentioned as eligible board members, according to the law that created the Casco Bay Island.

Please see CBITO RACE, page 11.

As for the show, "I think we’ve done a good job," said photographer Diane Byam. "It’s a shame," Radis said about Dumont’s decision not to run.
In Brief

Schneller withdraws

Peaks Island resident Walter Schneller withdrew from the race for the At-Large seat on the Board of Directors of the Casco Bay Island Transit District. "I regret that I have to withdraw my candidacy for health reasons," Schneller told the Island Times on Oct. 6.

This is one of two contested seats for the CBITD board that will be decided on Election Day, Nov. 7. There are still two other candidates for this, three-year seat: Sidney Gerard, of Peaks Island and Oonmc Walden, who chose not to run.

The first session using this "two-track" approach was held on Sept. 19. Another negotiating session was held on Sept. 27 between the city team and the IIC team. The group Solutions, Not Secession (SNS), which is opposed to leaving Portland.

The next negotiating session is scheduled for Wed., Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Peaks Island Community Center.

- David Tyler

Islanders join senior games

Five Peaks Island residents took part in the Twentieth Annual Maine Senior Games, held in August and September. Islanders Ed Hoppin and Daniel Doane faced off for the race, which is now held by Elana Murdock, currently held by Peaks Island resident Law­rence Wulfe, who also decided not to run again.

The other contested race is for a three­year seat representing Peaks Island, which is now held by Elana Murdock, who also decided not to run again. Chris Heppin and Daniel Duane face off for this seat.

In addition, incumbent Linda Pappke is unopposed for a three-seat representing Long Island. Incumbent Jim Phipps, who represents Chebeague Island, is also unopposed. Cumberland resident Mar­tha Dumont submitted papers for this seat, and was eventually declared an eligible candidate, but decided not to run because of concerns over her status as a non-resident (see cover story, "Concerns about her status, Dumont pulls out of race").

Negotiations underway

After negotiations over the succession of Peaks Island were stalled for much of the summer, the parties involved finally came to terms and have had two meet­ings.

At the start, there was disagreement about who would negotiate, whether the sessions would be public and what would be discussed. In August, it was agreed that the talks would be public.

Early September it was determined that the City negotiating team would meet separately with the Island Independence Committee, which is working toward secession, and the group Solutions, Not Secession (SNS), which is opposed to leaving Portland.

The first session using this "two-track" approach was held on Sept. 19. Another negotiating session was held on Sept 27 between the city team and the IIC team. The group Solutions, Not Secession decided to sit out this session to avoid being involved in a previously scheduled Island Institution event, according to the September issue of the SNS newsletter.

The next negotiating session is scheduled for Wed., Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Peaks Island Community Center.

- David Tyler

Portland Parks and Recreation and USM Lifeletics.

- David Tyler

Contract close to resolution

The Board of Directors of the Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD) approved in September a three­year contract between Casco Bay Lines and union work­ers who are represented by the United Maine Division, Local 123 of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO. The contract was approved at the September Board of Directors meeting, according to Allen Davis, president of the board. The contract has not yet been signed, and as there are still details to be worked out.

It is a three-year contract, effective March of 2006. Davis said the contract made a big step in addressing a concern raised in the report by consultant Patricia Peard, which was presented to the board.

In March, employees presented a petition to the board expressing no confidence in management and asking that the board investigate several charges against General Manager Pat Chris­tian. Peard's report cleared Casco Bay Lines, which led to safety problems.

The Maine Senior Games is open to anyone 50 years of age or older. Events for the 2006 games were held in August and September. Events included: shuffleboard, team softball, 5- and 10-Kilometer road race, swimming, tennis, badminton, basketball, cycling, golf, con­quistador bowling, racquetball, and horse­shoes. This year's games were sponsored by時間, Home Insurance, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Southern Maine Agency on Aging, The Racquet and Fitness Center, Portland Parks and Recreation and USM Lifeletics.

- David Tyler

Peaks Island resident Mick Hocker lights the flame to start the Twentieth Annual Maine Senior Games.

Photo courtesy of Denise Macaroni

One of the major complaints of em­ployees in the petition was that manage­ment failed to adequately staff both shore­side and marine units of the bay lines, forcing employees to work extra over­time, which led to safety problems. Davis said the new contract creates a system where the union would bid for future shifts to avoid people being forced to work. "One thing I am pleased about the contract is we were able to solve one of the biggest issues in the Peard report, which was the forcing issue," said Davis. "We're not going to solve the problem entirely, but we probably solve about 80 percent of it," said Davis.

This pilot program works by having the full-time employees sign up ahead of time for regular routes, charter work and vacations, based on seniority, said Chris Larsen, secretary-treasurer of the United Marine Division, Local 333 of the International Longshoremen's Association. Please see NEWS BRIEFS, page 6.
Re-Elect WILL GORHAM
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A Proven Leader For Our Community

- Committed to Protecting the Working Waterfront
- Promoted Investment in Our Schools
- Demonstrated Commitment to Public Safety
- Dedicated Volunteer in Our Community

"It has been an honor to serve on the council as your representative. With your support I will continue to work hard for the people of District 1. I would appreciate your vote on November 7th." - Thank you, Will Gorham
Peaks Island Fund makes awards for 2006

BY BILL ZIMMERMAN

Do you want to be like Buffett, Gates, or Kellogg? Leaving a lasting positive impression on your community? Even if you aren’t a genius investor, a technical whiz, or an experienced philanthropist, with the Peaks Island Fund the Maine Community Foundation as your partner, you too can have a tremendous effect on the future of Peaks Island. Millions of savvy donors throughout the country have entrusted their charitable funds to community foundations, making philanthropy possible for virtually everyone.

The Maine Community Foundation, of which the Peaks Island Fund is a member, currently stewards hundreds of funds, established by individuals, families, companies, and non-profits. These funds are designed to meet the desires of the donors whether those goals target world affairs or the issues of a community like Peaks. Through the Peaks Island Fund and the Maine Community Foundation, you can establish a legacy that works during your lifetime and continues working in your name after you are gone. Funds support favorite charities, help to address a community need, or inspire a response to a personal passion such as your family or your island. At the Peaks Island Fund and the Maine Community Foundation, we are available anytime to help you with your philanthropic goals for today and into the future.

Continued growth in pass-through gifts for 2006 has allowed the committee to expand its grants to $15,000 for the coming year. The PIF is pleased to announce the grant awards to the following organizations:

The Peaks Island Tax Assistance Committee

The Peaks Island Land Preserve will receive $3,000 to help defray the cost of the Island Institute Fellow for Peaks in 2006. The Island Fellow program has had an enormous benefit for Casco Bay Island communities and PIF is proud to be able to lend a hand in its continuation.

Perhaps most interesting of all the grants this year are two that fall into a new category for the PIF. Since part of our effort is to respond to the emerging needs of the island, it is exciting to announce the $5,000 challenge awards that attempt to provide aid to all island charities and residents.

The Island Fellows’ ‘Emerging Needs’ grant will be a $5,000 award directed to all interested charitable organizations and coordinated by the Island Fellow.

The purpose will be to secure the services of fund development expertise that can assist island charities or committees to improve their fund raising capabilities in the future. By sharing the benefits of this consultation, PIF seeks to provide a valuable resource to all agencies that might not otherwise be affordable if paid for by individual organizations.

The second emerging ‘need’ grant will be coordinated by PILP and involve numerous island agencies and individuals. This $1,500 challenge will provide funding to underwrite the cost of an anti-litter campaign for the island. This is a direct response to appeals PILP has heard regarding the growing issue of vandalism and litter at some of the island’s most treasured, scenic spots. It is the sincere hope of PIF that these grants – the promise of future benefits – for the cost of emerging needs of our home will inspire more year round and summer residents to continue to view the Peaks Island Fund as a most effective way to contribute to the worthy charitable efforts on Peaks.

Whoever donates create permanent gifts to the endowment through estate plans or make annual gifts to our grant program, or both, the Peaks Island Fund is grateful for the ongoing support of the community.

The Peaks Island Fund connects people who care with causes that matter. There are many ways the PIF might help you help Peaks. Let us know how we can better serve you and the island. Contact Pat Murnell, Jim Lussier, Perry Sutherland, Michelle Thresher, Kathy Hurley, Brenda Buchanan, Nancy Flynn or Bill Zimmerman with questions or ideas. You can also learn more about estate gifts and financial philanthropy by contacting Jen Sorensen at southard@maineog.org or at the Maine Community Foundation at 761-2440 or online at www.maineog.org.

Long Island has enjoyed more than 10 years of successful separation from Portland, and Chebeague will be free of Cumberland by July 2007. These examples show what can be accomplished against great odds.

Can Peaks Island go it alone financially? The cost of self-governance has been examined by the IIC in great detail for over a year with input from Portland sources. Results show that Peaks Island possesses the financial capacity to meet community needs. The Constitution of the State of Maine guarantees that any community has the immutable and inalienable right to govern itself if so chooses. Peaks Island, the last of Maine’s large island communities not to govern itself, so chooses.

Howard Pollack, Chair, Communications Subcommittee, Peak Island Independence Committee

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The Island Times is a community newspaper covering the island of Peaks Bay. Our welcome birth, engagement and wedding announcements; birthdays; notices of community events; and letters to the editor. Please try to keep letters to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit all letters. The newspaper is available by mail for 10 days. Address checks to Island Times. Our mailing address is 146 Longwood Rd., Peaks Island, Maine. 04108. To reach Mary Lou Wendell, call 766-0551 or reach David Tyler, call 273-3408. Our e-mail address is times@mainenews.com. For advertising, call 766-0551.

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"This island life"

BY GEORGE BOSO

Second only to the question of the meaning of life, is "what's it like to live on an island?" Even one close to metropolitan Portland, Maine. Peaks Island, with the distant hum of city traffic, sirens, Harleys, and aircraft coming and going, is still to many, a mystical place.

Every even-numbered year, a team of researchers from some ungodly place surrounded by land, pokes around our island in search of answers. I saw them with a growl of excitement they were looking at and looking for. "Lifestyle changes" was the heading on one clipboard, I asked what the two most frequently discarded items were. Mowers, and both charcoal and gas grills. And what did that mean? Folks were better off financially and hiring others to cut their lawns. And those they hired to cut the grass were now richer than cook out. With that data in hand, our investigators departed. And we were wealthier, reported, but for one reason only. In less than a week, the mowers and grills found new owners. Whatever remained became art. No money changed hands, just stuff. Nothing useful ever leaves Peaks Island. Or northern New England for that matter.

"We are in the gap. The period between summer bliss and blisters and the gathering clouds. The period between the horns of the great while cold. For me it's a time of possibility and meaninglessness, of thoughts. So let's make a big deal about our thoughts. So let's make a big deal about our thoughts."

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Chebeague Chronicles

BY D.J. COLETH

Boat stories, part 1: Building the "Maybe"

On an island time is often marked by the tides, and the seasons by the launching and hauling of boats: small boats, big boats, pleasure boats, working boats. No island can be without them. And each is a story.

Necessity is not only the mother of invention, it can also be the mother of pretty fine boat building. After commuting three years to his mainland job in a 1937 Chris Craft, Bob Dyer finally declared that he was sick of being wet and that he wasn't ever going to get wet again. He was going to build a boat. He decided to build a boat in his garage. He saw the boat he was going to build had to be one of which form definitely followed function: a height of 11 feet, 6 inches to enable him to sail under bridges, a width of 18 feet to allow easy turning, a length of 62 feet to give them the capability to carry the fuel they would need. "The Barbara," he says, "was designed so as not to limit the places we might choose to go." For long crossings comfort, he chose a double-cabin bottom and a bow rise high enough to minimize his dealings with wave crashing over the bow.

At the time, he says, "I was living from check to check and I couldn't waste money on a boat I didn't even know would float." But then a gift of grey oak from his neighbor, Jim Rich, provided just the right stock for her keel and the frame. Later, he would barter for an engine: a valve job for "Brother" and "Poochie" Ross's engine for their big block Chevy.

Finally, in 1977, she was ready to launch. But first she needed a name. All through her construction, family and friends stopped by to watch and listen to Bob as he worried aloud: "Will she work?" he would ask and then say, "Maybe she will, maybe she won't. Will she float? Maybe she will, maybe she won't." The local preacher, a man of great faith, was observing one day and made Bob an offer he couldn't refuse: "You name her and I'll buy the letter s, and so she was named and launched.

And so on a spring night in 1974, he headed out to his garage. He saw the boat he wanted to build only in his mind as he unrolled big strips of black tarpaper onto the floor and then with carpel knifed in hand, cut out a pattern for the starboard side of his boat. Flipped it over and cut out the port side. And then for the next three years he worked on her day and night, never sleeping more than four or five hours.

Michael explains that in order to do so, he needed a boat big enough to both live and work on and one that would provide space to house separate offices so that he and Barbara could continue working on their personal projects.

As the design progressed, it continued to be one of which form definitely followed function: a height of 11 feet, 6 inches to enable them to sail under bridges, a width of 18 feet to allow easy turning, a length of 62 feet to give them the capability to carry the fuel they would need. "The Barbara," he says, "was designed so as not to limit the places we might choose to go." For long crossings comfort, he chose a double-cabin bottom and a bow rise high enough to minimize his dealings with wave crashing over the bow.

In 2004, his idea turned into a finished plan, a plan of a 62 foot aluminum sheathed monohull boat that would be both a main cabin, guest cabin, library, galley, two pipe berths, two heads and a workshop. And an engine room where he and Barbara would be able to stand and view the pieces which would make it both simple and comfortable at the same time. With no engine removed, one level of operation was removed but in exchange, he would have to learn to go below to troubleshoot and maintain his boat.

For the next two years, the "Barbara" belonged to the builders, systems people, mechanics and mechanics at Lyman Morse Boatbuilding in Thomaston, the team that gave Michael's design a thumbs up by Chebeague boat builder, Horrie Rich. And when he showed her to Carol Lowell, also a master boat builder, Carol looked her over and offered to buy her right on the spot. No sale. Not then, not ever.

For the next six years, Bob raced her in both Lang Island and Harpswell competitions. "I've got boat racing in my blood," he says, "I've got boat racing in my blood," he declared. And before she was finally retired in 2003, she and Bob had captured 19 trophies for best wooden boat topping them all.

And so a spring night in 1974, he headed out to his garage. He saw the boat he wanted to build only in his mind as he unrolled big strips of black tarpaper onto the floor and then with carpel knifed in hand, cut out a pattern for the starboard side of his boat. Flipped it over and cut out the port side. And then for the next three years he worked on her day and night, never sleeping more than four or five hours.

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Cliff Island News

BY LEO CARTER

September on Cliff Island brings a sense of quietude that permeates much of life on this water bound space. The ferries drop to four a day, many summer cottages become empty.

The school children are busily learning their numbers and letters although they had time recently to build "fairy houses", and to invite the public to come and share in their mystical experiences. Everyone enjoyed a movie about fairy houses on Monhegan Island and a viewing of the students "fairy houses". Nearly 20 adults and siblings joined teachers Judy MacVane and Diane Little and their six students for the event.

It is good to see that the Athletic, Conservation and Education group (ACE) are commemorating Olympic gold medalist Joan Benoit Samuelson and acknowledging outstanding students has been refurbished with a very tasteful and permanent circular stone area and bench. Thanks are due to Sally Howard and Earl MacVane.

The Cliff Island Association (CIA) is currently occupied by two matters. First, they continue to support Portland's efforts to restore barge service to the island. The city planning board held a workshop attended by three islanders who spoke for the project and one who spoke in opposition. The other CIA project is an effort to survey islanders opinions about the idea of reducing allowable heights for structures on the island.

Workers from the Dyer family have been improving the roof of a cottage on Cliff's north shore, and also have added quite a few white locust plantings along the road. Three young workers were brought here by Mark Lombard after they had finished their jobs at summer businesses. Recently I headed through the woods behind the schoolhouse and over the low backbone of the island to reach the tidy and still island organized workshop belonging to Bruce Dyer. Bruce is a life long resident of Cliff Island who married an island girl (our current postmistress Ann Dyer) and has spent his life on Cliff working as a fisherman, a lobsterman and a carpenter.

I knew that Bruce Dyer could point out and explain the many ledges, coves and landmarks that lie hidden along the shores of less accessible places or beneath the water surface during all but low tide. I was not disappointed, and in fact during our three walks around the island I felt that I had a chance to learn from a master observer of the natural beauties of Cliff.

It did not hurt that on each of our walks there were monarch butterflies feasting on goldenrod in the light breezes and bright sunshine. There were hundreds of the orange and black beauties in some locations, and Bruce, who belongs to a butterfly association and has watched them carefully for many years, had never seen so many! Will they leave for Mexico in time? Is this related to global warming or to the reduction in our deer population?

As we worked our way around the shores of the island Bruce often stopped to tell me about the lives of men who fished by stop-seining. Four or five men would work through the night placing their net across the entrance to a cove like the one off Kennedy's Beach. Bruce participated in anchoring the net to a shore near "canip point" close to "eagle rock" in the dark of night.

Then Bruce and others like Bob Anderson, Jim Seymour, Bud Vorisch and I would take the net which was 40 fathoms (a bit more than a half-mile) to "middle ledge" in order to close off the escape route of the herring. Of course the nets had to reach all the way to the bottom, and he shaped just so to help concentrate the fish. By morning the nets could be closed into smaller and smaller pens until dip nets or vacuum houses could be used to harvest the fish into large ships for transport to canneries. Men could make several thousand dollars in a good night during the peak 1970s.

We scrambled over the often-slippery rocks and kelp near the north point where two small coves ("northeast cove" and "southwest cove") stranded the rocky point. Bruce mentioned that in the distant past a Harpswell ferry had a Cliff Island stop at a wharf nearby. In those days several steam-powered vessels gave independent service to different parts of the bay, and a wharf just west of "Griffin's cove" also served steamboats.

We found colorful names all around the island such as "diamond rock", "crater hole", "sacred rock", "pond ledge", "harrow ledge" and many others with names like "boat cove", "Griffin's cove", "Becky's point", "Cliff island ledge" and "wood rock". There are numerous others, but it is certain that everyone education about Cliff Island places and lore is only beginning.

My guide and teacher, Bruce Dyer, knows how to live on Cliff Island. He is adapted to what is here, and knows how to enjoy, protect and enjoy it. He knows Cliff Island's history and its people well, and he appreciates them. Brexit is curious about the relics of the past; current day, though, he spends a good deal of time and effort with his grandchildren.

Even so he isn't the one who found the gold coin at "Jamie's cove" in recent times. Who found it, and why? That's a Cliff Island secret—we'll never tell. Bruce enjoys circling the island with Anna, or clipping brown tail moths, or building a clam basket. He used to enjoy baseball as a fine pitcher, and still supports the Seadogs and Portland. Sox. Many could learn important lessons from Bruce Dyer, who is a well-erained man in a diversified world.

"Honest, careful, and reasonable. A really good group."

- David M. Portland, Maine

At Cumberland Ave. Garage, we have pages of customer comments like the one above that describe the integrity, honesty, and value people experienced when bringing their vehicles for maintenance and repair.

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"middle ledge" in order to close off the escape route of the herring. Of course the nets had to reach all the way to the bottom, and he shaped just so to help concentrate the fish. By morning the nets could be closed into smaller and smaller pens until dip nets or vacuum houses could be used to harvest the fish into large ships for transport to canneries. Men could make several thousand dollars in a good night during the peak 1970s.

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Little Diamond Dispatches

BY LINDA TYLE AND PETER WALCH

Weddings galore beginning, on Sept. 2, with the marriage of Lucina Allen, niece of Marilyn Murphy's extraordinary planning skills with the lovely afternoon wedding of Vince and Marilyn's daughter Elizabeth to James Spacy on the lawn of Dodo and Paul Stevens' cottage overlooking the Diamond Roads. Paul Stevens even officiated (as he did for the Kerns wedding—he's getting very good at this but we hope he doesn't retire from his day job). James imported an impressive number of his British family and friends to experience coastal Maine at its best: fog for the rehearsal dinner at House Island, brilliant sun for the ceremony, a late-afternoon squall that sent caretakers trawling a fly-in, and the unbeatable fall weather that from our perspective puts a golden glow on the buildings and boats of Peaks.

Kate Tierney and Gabe Gordon, who became ski buddies at Sunday River when Kate was in the seventh grade and Gabe in the eighth, married on the Tierney's seaside lawn Sept. 16—another brilliant day. Kate and Gabe clinched their attractions for each other when each went to school at the University of Oregon. We're glad they moved back here; Kate is assistant district attorney in Portland, and Gabe teaches third graders in the York Public School system (as well, we must add, as neophyte kayakers, and if he's as good as he's been at teaching the 3 Rs, York has some lucky kids). Colleen and Mark Tierney emphatically thank Jim Hackett, Janet Imran, and Dodo Stevens for flowers and arrangements.

We saw the last of a favorite fall Little Diamond Island tradition this year that has warmed our hearts and made us giggle for many years. Joe Feeley, superintendent of the Portland school system, annually brings a class, usually fourth graders, to the island for a day of sea, sun, fun, and exploration. I don't know why we think that everyone in Maine, even if they live only an hour or so away, knows about our coast. If we were up to loo ... happily the weather was gorgeous and the kids were unanimous in their delight and I imagine slept pretty well that night. It's a day we islanders have loved as much as the kids, and we're happy that we still get Joe even though his retirement will take him away from the school. Ah, to have been one of Mr. Feeley kids.

We recently planted five white oak trees in our newly designated conservation land, compliments of Jim Lauster, of Lauster's Family Gardens on Peaks Island. Jim came with his silent, powerful, and silent, powerfulextractors to raise funds for the Portland nonprofit Cultivating Community, events raising funds for worthy causes has become an annual tradition on the island. We strongly support Cultivating Community, which thus far has created school and community gardens in which to teach more than 1,000 students how to grow food, has provided 85,000 pounds of locally grown food to families and elders with low incomes, and has created paid work experience for more than 20 young people.

There are far too many nice summer memories to report in this, our last column until next spring, so we depend upon this list compiled by Little Diamond Island President-extraordinaire Terry Ings for inspiration:

Top ten ways you know you are an islander
1. You use "up" to mean to town or in town and "down" to mean to the island or at the island; e.g., Have you been down long?
2. You're at your supper committee meeting and you're looking around the room wondering who is expected to feed those greedy kids.
3. People refer to your cottage with your name, not the previous owner or the one before that.
4. You're just as happy your cottage isn't right on the water.
5. You get up on Saturday morning and reflectively put on your cut-offs with the paint stains.
6. You haven't made it to the beach yet, and it's Labor Day.
7. Your spouse no longer meets your standards.
8. You're buying your plants at Peaks.
9. You know where the cover to your septic tank is.
10. Editor's note: You give up counting.
Gorham voted for the rezoning, but said he worked to slow down the process to allow more public input. "We extended that process and we gave people an opportunity to speak on it—and we ended up with a better proposal," Gorham said. Those who came in and criticized us when it first came up sat through the process, came back, and were in favor of it," Gorham also said it would be an enormous pro-}

**SARAH JORDAN THOMPSON**

School Committee, At-Large

Please Vote for Sarah Jordan Thompson for School Committee Nov. 7th

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October 2006

**ISLAND TIMES**

PAGE 9
Art with Heart: Peaks Kids Create

The kids exhibited a charming, prouder humility about seeing their work in this setting, being observed, and praised, by many. One promising young lad said, "I just feel kind of cool and good."

"There's something very special and wonderful about the art that kids do," Smith says. "They are fearless. Undaunted by the conventions of what most adults judge to be "good" art, kids will draw and paint without abandon, using colors without any reference to what's "real," using free strokes with big brushes, or fingers, willing to make a mess without criticizing what they're doing. Fun and self-expression are all that matters to young artists, and it shows in their work.

"Children's art is just more honest than skilled adult art that is striving for acclaim, hipness, or salesability," he said.

Kids haven't been exposed to enough art yet to be too influenced by "better" art. What is "better," anyway? Realistic anatomy? Proper perspective? Natural lighting? Fueled by a medium? Kids Art doesn't need any of that to be "good," and it's a pity when, inevitably, kid artists start to look at art that has those properties, and judge it to be much better than their own, because it looks more "real." That's often the time when some kids stop doing art, while others continue, but with a different perspective that will evolve them into fine artists in an adult sense. But for the kids, their art is "all of mine." This show is to celebrate the time in our Peaks Kids' lives when boldness, enthusiasm, fun, and innocence come together with unfettered creativity to describe a world all of us are blessed to have but for a time. These are unique visions that could not be more heartfelt, more beautiful.

The weekend show brought with it the excitement of other children looking at the art, loving the art; and of folks from off-island, who don't know our kids, responding very enthusiastically to their work. To watch adults vying for someone else's child's art speaks volumes about its true value. For sure, here was art worthy of the walls in their homes, who do not know our kids, responding to this show. Photos by Mary Lou Wendell
Scheduled for Oct. 12 at 7:40 a.m. at the Casco Bay Lines terminal.

The shortfalls were in the repairs and charter sector of the budget.

In July, projected revenues from charters and catering were expected to be down $45,000 but were now expected to be down $124,000. Vessel repairs, which were expected to be even, are projected to exceed the budget’s amount by $65,000, according to the memo.

Murdock did report good news for Casco Bay Lines. The fuel budget is only over by $4,150. Personnel costs are actually expected to be under budget by $35,000.

Davis said it was a tough year for Casco Bay Lines. “The result of the shortfall is because of a number of things,” he said. “It’s a whole lot of little things that have created this problem.”

A major expense in property expenses, Davis said. In March, Casco Bay Lines employees presented a petition to the Board of Directors expressing a no-confidence vote in management and asking that the board investigate several charges against General Manager Pat Christian Davis.

Davis said the board’s legal counsel advised them to investigate the charges. Patricia A. Peabody of the law firm Bernstein Shur conducted the investigation, which was presented to the board in June. Although it cleared Casco Bay Lines management of charges by employees of harassment and fraud, the report did find the company suffers from a lack of leadership from the top, poor communications and little accountability.

In addition, the board had to pay legal expenses for Christian Davis. Davis said, “All of those things added together has set us back,” he said.

CBITD is $100,000 over its budget for legal fees, according to Murdock. At the September board meeting, directors were told the Pearl report cost $86,000, that fees from the law firm Drummond, Woodson & McMahon totaled $94,000, and that $9,972 went to the law firm Mitchell Asen LLC for Christian’s legal fees, according to Murdock. There was an additional legal fee of $8,497 for the firm Murray, Plum & Murray.

Davis said that Casco Bay Lines operates so close to the line that he has advocated the district keep a cash reserve account on hand. “There was some resistance to that,” he said.

He also said that the lower-than-expected revenues for charters and catering were because Shirley Richards, the ferry company’s long-time sales director retired, and the position was open for a brief period. The new sales director is Cathy Baker and “she’s doing a wonderful job,” Davis said.

He also praised Murdock, who is not running for re-election. “She’s been the best treasurer that we’ve ever had,” he said. Murdock started a line item review of the budget and now has the Finance Committee meeting every month. “She’s put a lot of time into it—it’s been a long, strenuous year for people on the board,” Davis said. “We’re trying to solve problems and move forward and create a better work environment with more safety at the best possible cost.”

This is not the first time Casco Bay Lines has faced budget deficits. In December 2004, the board approved rates increases of 25 cents per round-trip ticket and $1.25 per commuter book to cover a possible deficit of between $100,000 and $130,000 due to higher fuel costs.

In February, 2002 CBITD had to cope with a $86,000 operating shortfall.

CBITD, from page 1

Transit District, approved in April 1981.

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1. Looking like a ghost
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4. Protein complex that sounds like ghosts
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our side of Earth has its back to the sun, those we can usually see without binoculars are near the east and west horizons. Of course, planets give no light of their own — they just reflect the sunlight that hits the moon, and binoculars are fairly inexpensive and easy to pack, so you may as well bring them. The magnitude scale was invented for stars, and I was the first to write about a "star of the first magnitude," but when applied to planets that are brighter than stars, we have to go to negative numbers.

Thus, at magnitude -3.8, Venus is still the brightest planet but it's very near the eastern horizon at dawn early this month, and it will slip behind the sun and reach inferior conjunction (directly behind the sun) on Oct. 23. Jupiter is next brightest at magnitude -1.8 and is low on the western horizon at dusk.

Next to mighty Jupiter is tiny Mercury at magnitude -0.3 but it dims rapidly as it rises around the sun and its illuminated surface decreases. At mid-month, Mercury reaches its greatest elongation from the sun and is just below Jupiter at dusk on the western horizon. Next is Saturn at magnitude +0.8, fairly high above the eastern horizon at dawn.

Mars is next at magnitude +1.7, but it reaches superior conjunction on Oct. 29, so the best view of the red planet is at Mars' opposition on Nov. 6, as the mechanical explorers Spirit and Opportunity keep on sending photos to Earth long after they were expected to fail. Uranus and Neptune are in prime position for viewing in the evening early, especially toward the end of October, when the moon is down. Thanks to observers among astronomers worldwide, Pluto is still on the books as a planet, "minor" though it is.

Cygnsus is the Swan is the constellation flying directly overhead at about 9 p.m. Within it is the asterism called The Northern Cross. Just to the west is the constellation Lyra, with brilliant Vega catching your eye first. To the east is Peg­sus, with the Great Square in the middle forming the body of the winged horse.

Oct. 6: Sunrise is at 6:36 a.m. and sunset is at 6:22 p.m., so we have less than 12 hours of sunlight now. But there's a bright side to darkness — we can see more stars! Neptune today runs just 6 feet between high around dawn and dusk and low around noon and midnight.

Oct. 7: Full moon tonight is the Harvest Moon, it is usually in September, but this year it's in October, because this month's full moon occurs on the Fall Equinox (September 22) than September's full moon was. For those on the early boat to town this morning, the moon will appear bigger than normal as it hangs over Portland. For those on the 5:35 a.m. boat back to Peaks tonight, it will sit big and yellow out over the bay.

Oct. 8: Spring tide is at mid-month, highest at 12:21 a.m. and lowest at 6:40 p.m., dropping 13.2 feet in between. If you look at the lobster buoys in the bay at mid-tide this afternoon, you can see that currents are "astronomically fast," especially in the middle of the channels.

Oct. 9: The waning gibbous moon will occult "Chiron," or pass in front of the Pleiades star cluster around midnight. The leading edge of the moon will be bright — it'll be out of focus — but the trailing edge will be dark, and (more it not Monday) you might stay up to watch the stars pop back up from behind the moon: Electra, Neptune at 12:12 a.m. and Caelus around 12:19 a.m.

Oct. 13: Last quarter moon is high at 2 a.m., but it's still visible up to 6 a.m.

Oct. 16: If you're out at 5 a.m., look eastward for a fantastic crescent moon sitting just above Saturn.

Oct. 20: The Orionid meteor shower peaks this weekend, as Earth passes through the dust left by Halley's Comet. The best viewing is in the wee hours of the morning: between Orion's club and Gemini's feet. You don't need binoculars for this, but you'll want to bundle up. The meteors will be small and fast, but the moon is down, so you should see about one every 3 minutes.

Oct. 22: New moon means no moonlight to fill the sky. Tonight is the perfect chance to hunt for the Ring Nebula overhead in Lyra or for the Andromeda galaxy to the north.

Oct. 26: Daylight-saving time ends at 2 a.m., so our clocks and watches "fall back" an hour, bringing more light to our mornings and more dark to our evenings — just in time for Halloween. The first quarter moon will be high at sunset. The past few days, the crescent moon has graced our nights, looking east between Orion's club and Gemini's feet. But the next few days are best for seeing the moon up close with a telescope, especially the moon in twilight showing more detail on the dusty lunar surface.

Oct. 31: Sunrise is now at 6:15 a.m. and sunset is at 4:53 p.m., giving us almost 14 hours of darkness, the better to see the stars and gain some celestial perspective.
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New gallery picks Casco Bay artists for premier show

By David Tyler

One artist has been connected to Chebeague Island since birth, the other artist has a more recent connection to Peaks Island, but both view these places as crucial to their art.

"If this is where I belong," said Jeanne O'Toole Hayman, who moved to Peaks Island five years ago, "I was born and raised in England, but I feel a sort of ancestral connection to the coast and the sea." Her work allows me to come back fresh to the work of both Casco Bay artists to inaugurate its new art gallery, Archipelago Fine Arts, adjacent to its retail store in Rockland. Hayman's bronze and glass sculptures are part of the show, "Views from the Island Studio: Influence & Inspiration," which runs through Feb. 28, 2007.

The idea of an art gallery has been discussed on the island for some time, according to Amy Putansu, store manager for Archipelago, the institute's retail store. Island art has always been part of the store's mix of products.

"Peaks Island is a place where artists always expressed that they wanted their art to be presented in a way that wasn't competing with the store's other crafts and gift items in the store," Putansu said.

The initial goal is to hold long-running shows that rotate during the course of the exhibit. "It's a creative solution to an artist's work not being on display from month to month," Putansu said.

Retail store influences the work of both artists. Hayman, who moved to Peaks Island with her husband, Jim Hayman, from Ridgewood, N.J., said the change in the store, "Putansu said."

Peaks Pumpkin path

Bring your carved pumpkins to Liana Club pumpkin path on Halloween night before the party at 4 p.m. The pumpkin lady will keep them till 6 p.m. Sun. Prizes will be awarded again this year! The kids will enjoy looking at this event. -The Pumpkin lady.

Fifth Maine Harvest Supper

For over 30 years the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum has celebrated the end of the summer season with a Harvest Supper on Columbus Day weekend. This longstanding tradition is focused on young and old alike. While the volunteers preparing the meal have changed over time, the menu remains basically the same - roasted squash, corn on the cob, potatoes, and vegetables, along with a dessert. Reservations are suggested as the supper usually sells out. Please call Mary Ann at 766-0588 to make a reservation.

Fire truck housing ceremony

There was a ceremony to christen the fire engine housing ceremony at the Chebeague Station, on Sat., Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The event will be held at the 100-year-old station and it will be attended by over 100 people. The ceremony will include the celebration of the new fire engine and the unveiling of the new truck. The event will be open to the public and will feature a musical performance by the Chebeague Island Band. There will be a ribbon cutting and a group photo with the new truck. The event will be held on the historic and picturesque Chebeague Island, and it will be a great opportunity to celebrate the new fire engine and the longstanding tradition of the Chebeague Island Fire Department.

Children's workshop benefit

On Sat., Oct. 14, 16 percent of all sales from 3 to 7 p.m. at O'Naturals, the organic fast-food restaurant at 93 Exchange St. in Portland, will benefit the Peaks Island Children's Workshop. Supporters of the workshop are urged to come out at that time to contribute to the island children's center.