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Jenny Yasi

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This is an interview with Norm Proulx who was elected to the PINA Steering Committee last February and subsequently become President. When elected to PINA, Norm resigned his position on the Steering Committee of the Peaks Island Research Committee.

Norm has referred me several times to Article 2 of the PINA by-laws, so I would like to quote that here:

**Article 2:**

*Purpose*

The purpose of PINA is to strengthen the vital and diverse community of Peaks Island, and enhance the quality of life for all its residents. As a broad based representative organization, the PINA will develop an ongoing agenda of Peaks Island concerns and act as a voice of leadership in the expression of the opinions of its membership on issues affecting Peaks Island.

**Norm:** First, I would like to point out that the responses to these questions are my opinion and do not imply agreement or disagreement of any of the other board members.

**What do you view as the role of PINA?**

The role of PINA is clearly stated in its bylaws. PINA's role is to be a voice for opinions on issues of concern to Peaks Islanders. And I
Peaks Island Opinion...

A place where we can agree to disagree: this is the intellectually open environment we value in our community, and hope to nourish in this forum.

We depend upon our sponsors for funding. Thank them for making this forum financially possible (see note in Bulletin Board Section).

Staff:
Editor/Publisher: Jenny Yasi
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Deadline: By the first of each month please send material or hand deliver to Jenny at 7 Central Ave. Ext, or Susanna at 131 New Island Ave. Submissions must be signed; please include your phone number.

Sponsorship: $5 per issue, going up to $20 after Jan 1, or $15 per year now and $200 per year after Jan 1.

Upcoming themes: Note—no December issue!

January/February: The Spirit. Those suggestions are intentionally broad, to inspire, not limit your writing and cartoons. All written comments, cartoons, news bites and opinions etc., are the views of the stated author and not necessarily those of the Peaks Island Opinion, its sponsors, Board of Advisors, staff members, editor, or publisher.

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NORM ON PINA

continued from page 1
believe this means all issues of concern as directed by the majority of the membership; not those of a vocal few and not limited to those labeled as non-divisive.

I would like to address the issue of divisiveness, for, in this context, it is difficult to establish a definition of what issues are or are not divisive.

There are differences of opinion on all issues, so might every issue be labeled divisive when discordant opinions are proffered? Where do we cross the threshold from divisive to non-divisive and who is responsible for making the decision? These are difficult questions to answer.

In my opinion, it is not the issue but the process that invokes divisiveness, which, in turn, factors into mistrust and anger between individuals of opposing views. Clearly, not addressing concerns, ducking the issue so to speak, is a position that must be avoided. Only with an open and frank dialogue can we begin to understand our differences, to avoid feelings of mistrust and anger, and keep us from "fighting windmills."

What is the role of board members: Who do they represent?

Board members represent the membership and it is necessary for us to follow the direction of the membership's majority vote. This is especially important when the majority vote differs from our own.

All board members have points of view on issues and these need to be expressed, especially during discussions that precede a membership vote. The membership has the right to know where we stand on issues, which, also, is part of their information gathering process.

We need to express ourselves in a positive understandable manner, without being haughty or didactic.

Do you think PINA could represent Peaks Island to the City?

In part, it does today. With no other broad-based organization on the island, who else can the City turn to for input? Bear in mind that we have only 174 members and this includes both year-rounders and summer residents. This is a significant minority of our population.

I am an advocate of PINA and believe that the organization should represent the island. To this end, expanded membership and participation are essential. (As a point of information, our membership is open to all individuals eighteen years of age or older who support the purpose of the organization and pay a $2 membership fee. There is no stipulation in the by-laws for services, its powers to restrict membership, or the way in which it alters the relationship between government and governed.

We all have certain rights and responsibilities with respect to our more-or-less representational governments; we also suffer certain limitations to our freedom imposed by those same governments. For us on Peaks Island, the government we know most intimately is that of Portland, the city of which we are a part. It is the City government that we know most intimately in terms of its taxing authority, its provision of municipal services, its powers to restrict our actions. It is the government that we are most likely to petition for relief or for change, and the government to which we are best able to approach. Anyone who can approach the City accompanied by a group of like-minded persons can raise a loud voice, and occasionally stimulate a responsive change. This is one of the great advantages of living in a moderate-sized city, and it is especially important for us on Peaks, a well-defined area of the City with a very limited representation on the City Council.

Completely independent of the various island-secession movements through the years, Peaks residents have always treated their island as the insular neighborhood it is. We
This means that Peaks Islanders' grievances are taken directly to the City without any governmental interlay. This means that though we are residents of Peaks Island, we do not suffer any additional government-mandated restrictions, obligations, or tax burdens. Indeed, to the extent that the State and City tend to treat the islands with benign neglect, we on Peaks tend to escape certain limitations that our fellow City residents on the mainland suffer. The role assumed by PINA during the few years of its existence has threatened to change this situation in two distinct ways. 1) The association has begun to interpose itself—or to allow itself to be interposed—between Peaks residents and the City government. The fact that when Mayor Pringle sought Peaks Islanders for the new Island Advisory Board she wrote to the Association rather than addressing the Island with a general announcement is just one of many manifestations of this role of the Association as intermediary. 2) The Association has, through its role as Peaks "representative" to the City, sought affirmatively to impose restrictions of action on Peaks Islanders. With the Association asserting this control, the issue to be addressed is not whether the restrictions voted by its membership are good or bad; it is rather that of the right these people have—through being the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association—to impose their ideas of "the good" on the majority who choose not to belong to their organization.

It should not be necessary to belong to a private organization in order to have an effective voice with one's government as one had before that organization existed. The acts of a private organization should not affect the lives of those who choose not to be members of that organization, whether it is a church, a men's club, a neighborhood improvement association, or a debate forum. This is true whether that organization represents 10% of the population or 90% and regardless of whether the cost of belonging is $2.00 or $2,000.

Those are my criticisms of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association, an organization which in many ways has played a beneficial role on the Island. It has served as a forum before which conflicting opinions of Islanders can be heard and addressed. It has served as an organizer of discussion groups and Island clean-up groups. In all of its activities in which it has not directly affected non-members against their wills, it has been and continues to be a benign force on the Island. To the degree to which its activities stray over the line it should be criticized.

Tom Bohan

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### Long Islanders Not Paying Taxes? — Says Who?

I am writing to address a piece of misinformation that has reached us from several sources and several other islands, but most frequently from Peaks Island. That "rumor" is that the Town of Long Island is floundering, people are not paying their taxes, everything is costing more than planned, etc. Nothing could be further from the truth than these types of rumors, and it perplexes me as to why they persist. A simple phone call or visit to the island and/or Town hall will convince you that our former "problems"—dump, year round float, lack of parking, poor police protection, school maintenance, lack of access to government, medical evacuation, job opportunities, removal of derelict buildings, and increasing taxes, to name a few, are all being dealt with or have already been solved. Not too bad for a town that was just 100 days old this past October 8th!

Is everything perfect? Of course not! But I am hard put to think of any serious shortcomings of our new town at this time. There is a pride and spirit of accomplishment here on Long Island that outweighs the many difficulties that do go into starting any new venture, even a brand new town. Some items have cost more than planned, but we are talking a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. Hardly budget busters with the conservative planning that has gone into the budgeting process. Some things have cost less. Our rate of tax collections as of October 16, just five weeks after the tax payment deadline, is an admirable 92%. That is probably the envy of most surrounding cities and towns. Does that mean that Peaks Island becoming an independent town is a good idea? My opinion is of no value here. That is an issue that only Peaks Islanders can and should decide.

There is no place, however, for misinformation and ungrounded rumors in the democratic debate in which your community is engaged. I would like to offer to answer or get answers to any and all questions you might have pertaining to the Town of Long Island in future issues of the Opinion. Call me at 766-4440 or write Eastern Ave., Box 125, Long Island ME 04050.

Mark Greene

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### RESPECT

Secession is a BIG topic—personally, emotionally and politically! We need all the information we can get and can.

In the future, let's all behave in a courteous and respectful manner. Respect, according to the dictionary, is to feel or show honor or esteem for, to show consideration for, to concern, relate to, and courteously regard (respect for feelings of others).

And it all starts with ourselves!

Marjorie Erico
SEWER ALTERNATIVES DISCOVERED

The meeting held on November 2, "Exploring Wastewater Solutions," was a great success, and was attended by some 50 people—both Islanders and City and Water District officials—engineers, trustees, and board members. It was clearly demonstrated that there are more economically feasible and environmentally viable solutions to island wastewater needs than the recently proposed urban "sewer solution."

A major portion of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Guy Marchessault of Applied Wastewater Technologies illustrating on-site advanced systems that are appropriate for the small lots and geologic and topographic constraints we are faced with on the island. The effluent wastewater leaving these on-site systems, which include a filtered septic tank and a sand filter, is so clean—as illustrated on one of Guy's slides—that with minimal further purification it could easily be made drinkable. Obviously, this wastewater would benefit and recharge our aquifer and could be put to good use in watering gardens rather than directly discharging it into the bay as the sewage treatment plant does. The cost for these types of on-site waste systems is very reasonable—Mr. Marchessault's colleague Bill Perkins stated that they have typically cost around $7,500, exclusive of engineering costs. He emphasized that these systems have been extensively used for many years with proven success.

Although this presentation was somewhat technical for the laypeople present, the engineers present were clearly impressed. For those of you unable to attend, a videotape of the meeting, as well as printed information, will be available at the library by 11/22.

Victoria Dyer with the Island Institute, stated that a sand filtration system was in use in Isleboro. We are very grateful to have the resources of the Island Institute available to us and we appreciate their presence and support.

Discussion then turned to the history and future of the current sewer expansion effort. According to Mark Jordan, a Water District engineer, the District had been asked by a few individuals to study the feasibility of extending the sewer system to Torrington Point, and a few others expressed interest in sewer ing the entire south side of the island. Jay Hewitt, director of Operations for the Portland Water District, stated that the District had never seriously looked at any alternatives to the sewer solution for the Torrington Point area, although they had rejected as infeasible the possibility of on-site systems using conventional technology, some 15 years old.

To even begin the process of sewer expansion without thoroughly analyzing the situation on the entire island, as well as evaluating the consequences of sewer expansion is wrong. First we need to identify the real problems and needs; then we need to make use of the best resources available to us so that we can make educated and responsible decisions concerning the island's wastewater needs.

For example, Arthur Addado, recently retired City building inspector, and the DEP counted 36 discharge pipes around the island three years ago, several in the Evergreen/Trefethen areas and beyond Pumpkin Knob, as well as those in Torrington Point. All of these properties, plus an unknown number of those with failed or near failed systems, have wastewater needs that should be addressed comprehensively.

A sewer solution to this problem, I feel, is driven by the existence of the recently built treatment plant, which, along with the sewer line upgrades, has cost approximately $8 million for 190 users, or roughly $40,000 per user, and I am told that the plant will probably have to be retrofitted at high costs to conform to future environmental regulations of point source emissions. With the on-site technology available to us now, this magnitude of expenditure appears to be grossly out of scale. To spend $1.5 million to solve a problem resulting from only a few households is wrong and financially irresponsible. To spend nearly $5 million to sewer the entire south end of the island to solve the problems of a few is a gross misuse of funds.

Obviously, a key component to solving our wastewater needs is funding. At present, Federal and state money can only be used through municipally chartered district projects. Through my researches I have learned, and this was confirmed by Jay Hewitt at the meeting, that a group of neighbors, or an island group could constitute themselves into a partnership or corporation which, after it...
became municipally chartered, could become a Wastewater District and be eligible for federal, state and local funding. Mere Point Colony in Brunswick, with about 30 residences, opted to form its own wastewater district and obtained federal funding, instead of incurring the tremendous costs and impact of extending the Brunswick sewer.

We already have established one district on the island—the South Gate Water District on the back shore—that was formed to obtain water services that the property owners could not obtain individually.

From my recent mailing to island property owners, I have received many cards supporting the position asking for education on alternatives. This meeting was the first in a series exploring different aspects of this issue; Bob Gerber, a soils scientist, Mike Cenci, a geologist, and Annette Naegel of the Island Institute, as well as Brunswick planners and legal counsel have agreed to speak to us. I will post the next meeting.

In conclusion, the objectives are clear. First, we need to prevent a thoughtless and costly expansion of the sewer system. Second, we need to acknowledge that there are more appropriate solutions to our wastewater needs. Third, we must accurately identify the acute problems and study the wastewater needs of the entire island. Fourth, we should assure our neighbors with acute wastewater needs that they are not going to be abandoned—that the resources are available to help them. Fifth, we should get on with the business of setting up an Island Wastewater District.

Ralph Ashmore

MORE ON SELF GOVERNMENT

Over the years the relationship between the islands and the city has been contentious. The reason for this has less to do with faulting either side and more to do with the distinct differences in the value systems existing on the islands and on the mainland. That is not to say that one is better than the other; they are just uniquely and simply different. Therein lies the crux of the problem.

To begin to solve this problem we need to meditate on financial and technical matters and more on the intrinsic values of the mainland and the islands and how to preserve and enhance each of them. To begin with, we must admit that Peaks can exist and function as a separate entity without jeopardizing or degrading the everyday needs of its citizens.

To argue differently flies in the face of overwhelming empirical data. Likewise it is obvious that Portland would not be damaged were Peaks to become a separate entity. There are many examples of cultural and inherent values of cities like Portland. There are far fewer examples of value systems (state of mind values) such as exist on Peaks Island.

These values immeasurably transcend any and all materialistic values. It is in the best interest of everyone that these values be preserved. The best way to do that seems to be to explore in an objective, fair and conscientious manner the technical problems regarding secession while reflecting on philosophical ideas and then put it to the vote.

I for one have no doubt that the citizens of Peaks have not only the right and duty to vote intelligently but will do so if they proceed expeditiously and with respect for one another. Perhaps the openness of public discussion, and the wide participation in it will clear the air of festering animosities.

The City of Portland should reflect on the fact that the value system existing on Peaks is unique and rare and is important to the City in aspects that are above and beyond its value as a tax base. That value to the City is more likely to be preserved if Peaks were a separate entity.

The citizens of Peaks, the leaders of Portland, and our State legislators have a moral obligation to proceed as described above. Let's get on with it. We more than likely will determine that the City of Portland and Peaks would be better served if they were separate and distinct.

Recently, I read an essay by Stephen Hawking, a prominent and respected physicist. The ideas expressed seemed to apply to our problem regarding self-government for Peaks Island. The following is an excerpt from that essay:

One cannot base one's conduct on the idea that everything is determined. Instead one has to adopt the effective theory that one has free will and that one is responsible for one's actions. A society in which the individual feels responsible for his or her actions is more likely to survive to spread its values. A collection of free individuals who share certain mutual aims can collaborate on their common objectives and yet have flexibility to make innovations. Thus, such a society is more likely to prosper.

I believe that Peaks Island is such a society. All we need to do is establish a system where we are directly responsible for our actions, i.e. self-government. Maybe a symbiotic relationship would be best for Peaks and Portland. While our values are not mutually exclusive, they are different in significant ways.

The people opposing separation remind me of Colonel Nicholson (played by Alex Guiness) in The Bridge on the River Kwai who forgot his underlying mission and built a marvelous bridge for his Japanese jailers. The Colonel finally woke up and said "What have I done!?" just before falling on the detonator and blowing up the bridge. It is a conundrum that some of the people who have worked very hard for improvements on Peaks seem to be most opposed to self-government. I maintain that these improvements came about through their hard work in spite of Portland.

I trust that our newly formed Advisory Committee will focus on the philosophical rather than the mundane.

Pat Gardner

NOTICE

In honor of the holidays, we will not be printing a December issue. Next deadline is January 1, 1994. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice, and Happy New Year!
TRUST: WHY I'M GRATEFUL

Peaks Island is a community like no other. The ferryboats are a part of it. This is where we meet one another daily or weekly—touch base with hundreds of neighbors in the cozy confines of ship cabins, share news, make plans, and in the 90's, even ‘network’!

We trust one another on Peaks Island. Most of the time, we don’t bother to lock our houses. We leave wallets on the seat in the car, backpacks on the seat in the ferry. We offer one another deepest secrets, most treasured toys, back rubs, and old guitars. We pass along intimate details of our lives along with handing down clothes, and old sports equipment.

We share pride, and hard times. We give selflessly to one another. We trade childcare and lifejackets, lawn mowers and automobiles, boat tickets and sing-a-longs, runny noses and baby gerbils. This is what makes Peaks Island life the wonderful life it is! I remember laughing to see the same maternity dress passed through four different island women!

Community is precious. As my friend Mark Mencher remarked recently (I think in exasperation with the people who like to tell people they disagree with, to just “move to Matinicus”), “If you get fired from a job, you just find another job, but if you get fired from community...where can you go? It’s like getting fired from home.” When you have a community that you love, it is irreplaceable.

The term ‘community’ is romantic but clearly, it’s hard work, too. We find we need to listen to one another, especially when we disagree. We need to take responsibility for our actions, sweep the dog poop off the sidewalk, attend the meetings, be considerate of the needs of community, even when it means setting aside our own desires of the moment; even when it involves sacrifice. Our reward is the ongoing creation of a place where we are supported on many levels, a place which holds open the door to growth and fulfillment. Author M. Scott Peck describes community as “...a safe place precisely because no one is trying to heal or convert you, to fix you, to change you. Instead, the members accept you as you are. And being so free, you are free to discard defenses, masks, disguises: free to seek your own psychological and spiritual health; free to become your whole and holy self.” On the island, we can commend ourselves, because community doesn’t just happen. We have made it happen. We work in synchrony with other islanders who share our visions of, as Scott Peck describes it,”a group that can fight gracefully.” Together, we make it so.

But it was difficult, perplexing to me, even painful, to listen to the arguments that opposed study circles (they did pass by the way—see newsbites). Many of the same words used to oppose voting on town government for Peaks Island were restated to oppose the Maine Council of Churches facilitated dialog: "We can't talk because we mistrust one another. " We have moral reasons for opposing secession, and these are inarguable.” Why bother if only one side will participate?”

Obviously, people can live on the same island, and experience very different perceptions of their community. On the Peaks Island that I know, people are smart, accomplished in all kinds of ways. We trust one another, we participate. And we do argue moral differences—the Gulf war, vegetarian diets, sexual mores, religious differences, parenting styles: I can list dozens of hot topics and no injuries. We even take on, with heat and passion, and differences of opinion, (just stick a beer in their hands, and put them on the boat home) the question of Island government.

Let’s admit it, the awkward meetings of the past few years have not always demonstrated our stong points. And a PINA meeting is never as much fun as a bubble bath. So wouldn’t it be nice if we could max out our schedule efficiency, and hold neighborhood meetings on the commuter boats. We could get O'B to hold up a card with a question, work it out among ourselves during the ride, and cast votes as we unload. Last one off counts votes. “Anyone that doesn’t make it to meetings,” to quote a speaker at the last PINA meeting, “it’s their own fault.” (Not.)

Those who find islanders to be ‘untrustworthy’ have an obligation to look within their own hearts, and accept responsibility for their own lack of trust, and for their share in the creation of the community they experience. We build trust through listening. We nurture mutual respect through dialog. As Buddhist teacher and author, Thich Nhat Hanh says in Touching Peace,"Deep listening is the basis for reconciliation...After listening to both sides, we can then tell each side of the suffering of the other.” When we make the sacrifice, the commitment, and do the listening work every healthy community requires, even the most cynical among us finds a community worthy of trust here. And this is why we stay. So I’d like to offer this Thanksgiving prayer.

Oh beautiful divine Spirit, we give thanks for all of our island community, it’s beauty and abundance, and especially give thanks and support to all, who by their daily words and actions, work to make mutual cooperation and trust continue as a way of life on Peaks Island.

Jenny Yasi

Look to the Star

Unlike the Opinion, which declines to publish materials unless signed by individuals, the Peaks Island Star is the newsletter of Island agencies, where you can regularly get the news and views from the CDC, the School, the Island parishes, Friends of the Library, Health Center, Portland Recreation, the dance studios, etc. Lorraine Spear explains that the Star will not publish viewpoints from individuals, but is primarily a service to the various Island agencies. It is paid for by proceeds from the library copier and receives contributions. It is available at Feeneys and the Library. Thank you Lorraine! 

Jenny Yasi
A MODEST PROPOSAL

As civilizations evolve, it becomes necessary on occasion to reexamine the political ties that bind people together. Those ties now are rapidly changing, as more parts of the world become enlightened to democracy, including areas once though unreachable. Peaks Island's struggle towards self-government is a part of that movement. For many years, Peaks has been dependent on the City of Portland for protection, sustenance, and management. With the shifting tides of residents, the character of the island has changed. Some of those residents current are exploring whether the greater good on the island might be advanced by adoption of a town council form of government, the most democratic model yet devised by man.

To answer that question, we first ask simply: Do we want local control over local issues? Those for whom this question threatens, should answer this: Who's afraid of democracy here? Who's afraid of a majority vote?

Traditionally, democracy threatens the ruling minority, those who have enjoyed privilege under the shield of the status quo. Financial security is often at the heart of this privilege. Thus, local democratic control exposes the privileged minority to the bright light of open discussion and free balloting, where decisions about roads, schools, police, firefighters are made by the collective wisdom of the majority of island residents. For this reason, the minority can be expected to take steps designed to impede discussion of self-government, and to avoid a referendum on island residents' views.

Fortunately for the majority of islanders, we are guaranteed freedom of assembly. Where people assemble, they can discuss mutual interests, frame issues of concern, and vote their desires. PINA is the largest such body on the island. Even though it does not "represent" all islanders, it is treated by the City as though it does. This treatment demonstrates the power of group action, however, imperfect, in a political framework. If our entire island were organized whole, imagine what we then might accomplish in our relationships with the City, the State, and Nation.

There is no need to wait to organize. We can unite into a whole whenever we choose. We do not need the city or state to tell us we can vote for our future, we can do that now, and we should. Presently, we are perfectly divided, working at cross-purposes, with no consensus clear and we thereby expose our weakness. Recently, the Mayor established an Island Advisory Committee, and encouraged the islanders to submit a "wish list" regarding local concerns. While some view this as "appeasement," it does provide Peaks Islanders a golden opportunity to join together for the common good and to begin to build our own future. We should take advantage of this chance to flex our democratic muscles. Democracy is not a mandatory process. You don't have to vote—it's your choice. But remember, if decisions are made against your interests, because your views weren't expressed, you've only yourself to blame. Maybe PINA's not perfect, but we can change it to allow growth, if we want: If we agreed to accept PINA as representing "the island" or otherwise organized into a single unit, we would immediately increase our bargaining power with the City. Our local committees could instruct the City as to our decisions regarding projects on the island. Should the City decline to abide by our decisions here, we would have the knowledge and provisional government in place to begin self-rule, if that is the will of the majority at referendum.

Currently, we invest heavily in Portland. Even if we self-govern, we may decide continued investment is in our interest. Those who call for self-government may be surprised at the direction the new town takes. But at least the island's future will be determined by the majority of island residents, not the vocal minority or the privileged few. Let's organize ourselves, discuss and vote on self-government, and chart our own course, not away from Portland but beside her, on our own terms. If we do this, the City, State and Nation will accept our decisions, recognize our independence, and respect our sovereignty.

Michael Richards

We Tried

I cannot linger any longer
Just off shore
The wind grows stronger
By the minute
And carries in it
The seed of waves

The breakers roll in
On shrugged shoulders
Rise up from lovers past
Crash down
Like oak doors slamming
Spray out in sparkling fury
Stop
Then hiss begrudged retreat
Cursing with indifference
Into rock
So I retreat into my shell
Of pristine poetry
Content to know that
No love lyric
Could capture
All the savagery of us.

M. Richards 1974

November/December 1993
HELP!

WE’VE CREATED A MONSTER! Not including writing articles and drawing cartoons, or handling of subscriptions, putting out the Opinion represents 90 hours of unpaid labor per month, with most of the time put in represented by one person.

Can you help share the load? With your support, Peaks Island can look forward to a lively journal with continued focus on island affairs. Themes predicted for 1994 include: love and sexuality, island businesses, cottages of note, our many religions, volunteers, aging on an island, parenting, island artists, and more. Help us keep this line of communication open.

We really need you! Call 766-2607

HOW’RE WE DOING?

As of this our eighth issue, we are proud to have published 42 different authors, representing a range of island views. Since April 1993, we’ve published submissions from: Susanna Adams, Nate Ashmore, Ralph Ashmore, Janet Anderson, Dick Baker, Jane Banquer, Janine Blatt, Tom Bohan, Steve Brackett, Marty Burnette, Kathy Caron, John Carroll, Tom Cox, Julie Cherubini, Cynthia Cole, Gerard Delaney, Dick Dougherty, Russ Edwards, Marge Erico, David Foss, Pat Gardner, Fay Garman, Gerry Garman, Paula Suttle-Gagne, Julie Goell, Mark Greene, Gretchen Hall, Betty Heller, Liz Irwin, M. Johnston, Rita Kissen, Carolyn Ladd, Kim MacIsaac, Ellie Palais, Sophia Presgraves, Norm Proulx, Mike Richards, Annie Romanysyn, Gene Taylor, Kay Taylor, Robert Tiffany, Jenny Yasi.

Our goal in April was simply to provide an outlet for many voices to speak out. It seems that we have made good headway. Thank you to one and all, who have made the Opinion such a lively journal, and who continue to take the time to share voices, spirits, thoughts, and creativity with the community. Also we applaud our thoughtful readers, whose interest and attention to island affairs has made this project so fulfilling. And of course, thank you to our sponsors, representing more than 40 different businesses and individuals. You have made this possible.

News Bites

Rev. Gretchen Hall was named Historian Emeritus of the New England Women’s Ministry Association. The Halls served parishes in Strong, Swan’s Island and Dead River Plantation before they retired to Peaks Island.

A warm welcome home to Mr. Bud Perry, who has been gone from the island for ten weeks too long, and we’re glad to have him back.

In the island-wide election for two representatives to the Mayors’ new Committee on the Islands, six citizens quickly responded to the call with only about ten days’ notice between release of nomination papers and election. John Feeney won by a significant margin with 190 votes. Jon Kelso had 111, David Parker 88, Tom Bohan 71, Kathy Caron 65, Jenny Garman 64. Congratulations to one and all! Islanders should be honored and proud that such a highly qualified group was willing to serve the island. As PINA President Norm Proulx noted, “It’s too bad we don’t have six slots to fill on the committee, instead of just two and an alternate.”

Peaks Island School has gotten a jump on its landscaping. The City has just installed a half basketball court in the corner of the playground. During the winter and spring, the School, through a grant from Portland Partnership, will be formulating a master landscape plan with the help of landscape architect Susanna Adams.

Kay Taylor, through PINA’s Environmental
committee, is coordinating those who want leaves with those who have bagged leaves for disposal. If you are one or the other, sign the list at Feeney's, or at the Senior Citizen Center. She also says there is a compost pile behind the trailers at the old dump. Please dump the leaves out of the plastic bags if you leaf them there.

A reminder: The Last Chance Garage will accept your used motor oil. Please package it securely, and deliver it to the shop (next to the lumber store).

The general membership of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association voted to use the study circle format to study the issue of self-government, in the face of strong opposition from Union! The PINA general membership also approved the use of this educational format to study the role of PINA. For more information on Study Circles, see Opinion issue #7. PINA President Norm Proulx also holds the Opinion's fat folder of information on this process, which has been used nationally, internationally, and across the State to provide unbiased information, and opportunities for broad ranging community dialog, on controversial issues. People interested in helping this process to get underway before the legislature reconvenes in January can contact PINA steering committee members. According to Mayor Ann Pringle, "I see the Study Circles process on the Island as a pilot program, which, if it tests well there, would help justify applying it in other City issues." She said the City will participate in the Study Circles, though she would prefer to wait until the committees developing response to her letter have finished their task.

PINA has set up committees to provide the City with a list of management suggestions from the island. The committees are Public Safety (contact Charlie Hale 766-5013), Oversight (contact Norm Proulx 766-2246), Public Transportation Committee (contact Kay Taylor 766-2811), Public Works (contact John Flynn 766-2525), Environment and Land Use (contact Betty Heller 766-3340 or John Carroll 766-2163) Social Services and Recreation (contact Bob Baker 766-2864 or Janine Blatt 766-2615), Tax Issues Committee (contact Loretta Voyeer 766-2523 or Claire Filliettaz 766-2220). This process is on a breakneck schedule, with committee meetings almost every night of some weeks. PINA committees intend to report findings in January—so if you want to get your two cents in, you'll have to postpone holidays till 1994! 😊

The Halloween Haunted House was a terrifying success at the school, with terror addicts begging to feel those slimy eyes just one more time. Tenured suds face O'B O'Brien accepted neophyte pie catcher Chuck Radis' offer to catch shaving cream pies in the face for several vigorous rounds; "there but for the grace of God go I," thought the rest of us.

Covey Johnson reports sighting at least two wild fishers (a weasel relative), racoons and a fox on this island. Another neighbor has had eight deer grazing in her yard and saw two bucks in rut clacking horns. Does this mean another generation is on its way? In another vein, feral (wild) cats are being removed from the island by Portland's Animal Control Officer to the Animal Refuge League, where they are euthanized if too sick or kept 40 days (new policy) and trained to cohabit with people. More on this in next issue of the Opinion.

You can save us many hours of volunteer labor simply by committing to a year sponsorship. By sharing our commitment to the paper now, you will get a reduced block rate, payable in up to three installments. After January 1, sponsors will contribute $20 per month or $200 per year in exchange for their notice. Before January 1, individuals or businesses who commit to a year sponsorship can join at the rate of only $150 for 12 months.

For more information, call Jenny at 766-2604.

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ISLAND HOME

BULLETIN BOARD

Don't forget a meeting with City representatives who are distributing HCD funds to Peaks Island on Thursday November 18 at 7:30 at the Community Center. We need to ensure that the daycare and health center continue to be funded. A new item may be money for an open space master plan as part of Portland's city-wide master plan. If you are a proponent of better using city, state and private foundation land for trails, picnic areas, etc. come and be heard.

The Community Enrichment Program under the direction of Jennifer Hicks will hold four courses this fall at the School: Awesome Aerobics with Connie Cooley; Creative Writing for grades 5 & 6 with Paula Gagne; Balancing your Life (for adults) with Marsha Greenberg, and Exploring Honduras with Cynthia Cole (grade 9-adult). Call the School for more info. 766-2528

The Christmas shows are coming. Doreen's dancers and actors are busy practicing for "The Toys Take Over Christmas," to be presented on Sunday December 5 at St. Christopher's Parish Hall. Peaks Island Music Association's Annual Holiday Concert just expanded to two shows—at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday December 12 at Brackett Memorial Church. Anyone who wants to be in the reconstituted orchestra should contact Nancy Hoffman at 766-4496. Mandolins, accordions, klezmers (what's that) and choristers will be on hand to entertain everyone.

Recipe

Rosehip Cider

Use 1 quart fresh rosehips (remove the stem and fuzzy part) or 1 cup dried hips to about two quarts of water. Add a tablespoon of mulling spices (cinnamon, fenugreek, allspice, star anise, orange peel) and one cup apple cider. You can float cranberries and orange slices in there as well. Allow to steam (not boil) slowly on the back of the wood stove. It will fill the house with fragrance. Mash with a potato masher, and strain into a teapot when the brew becomes juice. Add honey if you like. You can add more water to the mash (sweeten with orange juice this time if you want it a little different) and let it stew again.

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