12-2006

Island Times, Dec 2006 - Jan 2007

Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/itn_2006

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.portlandlibrary.com/itn_2006/10

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Island Times Newspaper, 2002-2013 at Portland Public Library Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Island Times Newspaper, 2006 by an authorized administrator of Portland Public Library Digital Commons. For more information, please contact campbell@portland.lib.me.us.
Casco Bay Lines proposes 15 percent rate hike

BY DAVID TYLER

A 15 percent rate hike for passengers, vehicles and freight has been proposed for Casco Bay Lines.

The rate hike is needed to meet budget deficits of $100,000 for fiscal 2007 and more recently $30,000 for fiscal 2007, according to Paul Christian, Casco Bay Lines general manager.

There will be a public hearing on the rate hike on Wed., Dec. 13 at 7:45 a.m. in the conference room of the Casco Bay Lines ferry terminal. The Rate Structure Committee of the Casco Bay Islands Transit District will hold the hearing, which will be followed by a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the proposed rate hike.

The public can also respond to the rate hike proposal at the monthly board meeting on Monday, Dec. 15 at 7:45 a.m.

"While a 15 percent increase is a lot to ask the public to bear, we think it is the minimum amount necessary to address the financial issues," said Jim Phillips, who was elected board president for the next year.

The rate structure committee will vote on the proposed budget for fiscal 2008 in January, and the board would vote on the rate hike at its February meeting. If approved, the rate hike would go into effect in April 2007.

"If the rate increase is adopted, the details would be worked out in January and February," said Phillips.

Board members said they have been discussing the rate hike for cost savings.

"We went through it with a fine-toothed comb and we didn't come up with anything," said Lio Carter, the board's treasurer. "Any major cuts would mean cuts in service. As long as there are no cuts on the board it's been hard to eliminate service," Carter said.

Rising fuel costs combined with a decrease in riders has put pressure on RATE Hike, page 1

Peakssecession sent to mediation

BY DAVID TYLER

After months of unproductive negotiations, the Peaks Island Transportation Committee has decided to call a mediator to resolve the dispute.

"The problem is that the parties in a secession dispute fail to reach agreement after negotiating for six months," will scribe Kenneth Cole, an attorney with Jenness, director of Court Services and Programs for the Maine Judicial Branch.

"After exchanging names, neither party could agree to a mediator. So Kenneth will make the pick. On Dec. 6, Kenneth said he expected to choose the mediator within two weeks.

Michael Richards, chair of the IIC said he is optimistic that mediation can resolve the secession issue in a way that will allow Peaks to proceed. "I think a mediator can bring both parties to the middle," he said. Overall, I think that mediation has a reasonable chance of success."

Negotiations with the City began after Peaks Island residents voted in June 13 in favor of secession from Portland, 393 to 290. Following that vote, the City Council voted against secession. The IIC and the City of Portland disagreed over whether the islanders had the power to secede, a point that would be involved and what would be taken about.

Although the IIC requested private mediation, the sessions were public. An island group opposed to secession, Solutions, Not Secession (SNS), also asked to be part of the talks, which the IIC opposed. That was resolved by having the IIC and SNS engage in parallel talks with the City.

"Mediation does not guarantee a particular outcome for the secession process. The state secession law requires the parties to go through mediation. "But it does require them to reach an agreement," said Kenneth Cole, an attorney with Jenness, director of Court Services and Programs for the Maine Judicial Branch.

"The mediation, and an agreement that might come out of it, is not binding on the State Legislature," Cole said. "In the Cumberland matter, we came to a comprehensive agreement with Chebeague, but that was not binding on the Legislature—they could have substituted their own judgment," for the agreement, Cole said.

Just before the two parties asked for mediation, the IIC, in response to a request from the City of Portland negotiating team, submitted a comprehensive proposal for secession. The plan, released on Nov. 16, predicted that the City would gain $1,000,000 if Peaks Island seceded. The IIC calculated that the City would save in expenses and gain in revenue $6,700,115 if secession occurred compared to losing $5,048,569 in taxes and fees. The revenue gained includes $1,980,656 in additional state aid for education funds and $350,229 in tuition payments, if island students went to private school, page 8

Enforcement of Peaks new parking rules begins

BY DAVID TYLER

Starting Jan. 1, you'd better watch where you park down front on Peaks Island.

On that date, the Peaks Island Police will begin enforcing traffic rules for Welch Street adopted during the summer.

Street signs detailing the new rules were installed in November.

The new rules include a 72-hour limit on parking in the lot near the ferry landing and on the water side of Island Avenue from Welch Street to the entrance to the Lions Club. The one-way driving only on the turn-around on Lower Welch Street; no parking in front of Jonas Landing except for specific needs; and no vehicles allowed to drive below the white line on Lower Welch Street while the ferry is docked.

Starting the New Year, police will begin issuing tickets for those who violate the new rules.

Beginning early this past summer, Island police were already educating drivers about traffic safety on Welch Street. And the new traffic rules were actually agreed to after several public meetings held by the Peaks Island Transportation Committee this summer to talk about ways to improve traffic congestion at the ferry landing (for the full text of the new rules, go to the Web site http://www.interferry.org/ or click on the banner "Aug. 18, 2006, Welch Street Public Safety Plan.

"What's new is that the rules will now be enforced. But Officer Dan Rose of the Island police said they would be reasonable. "We will talk to people—we will not be going easy on this," Rose said.

"The goal of this law is self-compliance," he said.

Most drivers are already obeying the new signs. "Everyone has really been self-compliant—there are very few people who have not noticed the new signs," Rose said.

Joseph Kane, who helped run the transportation committee, pointed to the new PARKING page 8

Settled in for winter on Peaks Island.

Photo by George Rosal

Army Specialist and Peaks Island resident Beau Blanchard is pictured with a driver for the Iraq Transportation Company.

Six candidates seek Casco Bay Lines seats

BY DAVID TYLER

Army Specialist Beau Blanchard already served his country, spending four years in the Army as a young man, including taking part in Operation Desert Storm. Now the 34-year-old veteran believes so strongly in the Island Way, he volunteered for duty again in 2005, and is now serving as a gun-truck driver in Baghdad.

"So even though I was 34 years old and out of the Army 14 years with a VA disability, I decided that if I could re-enlist, and could be an asset, that I should back my words with my actions," he said, in an e-mail interview. "Need I am glad that I did." When Blanchard left the military the first time, he had a disability that affected his knees.

"In March 2006, Blanchard has done one of the most difficult and dangerous jobs in the war, driving convoys of trucks transporting supplies from the Baghdad international Airport to bases as far as 62 miles away.

Blanchard serves with B Company, 3rd Battalion of the 172nd Infantry Regiment, Maine Army National Guard. His unit is stationed at Camp Liberty near the airport.

"Being a gun-truck driver definitely has its tense moments," he said. "You have to be on the lookout for anything that could prove to be in the IED [Improvised Explosive Device] or a car bomb. It is in my job to make sure that I keep my team away from all those dangers.

"I drive a M1115 up-armored HUMVEE. "The problem is that most roads in Iraq are littered with debris and trash," he said. "So it is the Driver's job, along with the gunner on top to try and steer clear of these items.

"His biggest concern is protecting the drivers of the delivery vehicles in the convoys. "It is a lot of responsibility, but we were trained well and have picked up a lot of skills along the way," Blanchard said.

"Blanchard embarked for the National Guard in 2005. He went to Fort Dix, New Jersey for training in January and February before being sent to Iraq in March.

This is his second time serving in the Middle East. Blanchard was part of the 21st Military Police unit please see BLANCHARD, page 8

"Most drivers are already obeying the new signs. "Someone has really been self-compliant—there are very few people who have not noticed the new signs," Rose said.

Joseph Kane, who helped run the transportation committee, pointed to the new PARKING page 8

Star Gazing page 9

Inside

Briefs

This Island Life

Crossword puzzle

p. 2

p. 5

p. 9

p. 10
In Brief

Fifth Maine receives award

The Fifth Maine Regiment Museum on Peaks Island has been selected to receive the Grace Rogers Cooper Flag Preservation Award from the North American Vexillological Association for our “Save the Flag Project.” (Vexillology is the study of flags.) This is the fourth such award given by NAVA and the first to a northern museum. Previous awards went to museums in Virginia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Speaking for NAVA, chairman Richard T. Clark stated, “We believe this 35-star silk national flag, which was carried for three years by the Regiment (1861-1865), during the Civil War without capture was not only a source of great pride for the 5th Maine but of historical significance for Maine and the nation as well. We applaud your efforts to ensure that the flag will be on public display. It is indispensable that scholars and the public-at-large have access to a real icon of the conflict, which can help us visualize the sacrifices men on both sides made over and over again.”

Fifth Maine Director, Kim MacIsaac, said the museum is thrilled to receive national recognition for its efforts and is most grateful to the museum’s friends, neighbors, and members who made the project possible.

Islanders defeated

While islanders voted differently than those on the mainland in local races, most Casco Bay Islanders voted for Democrat-National candidates.

Glen Burnier defeated challenger William Slavick for the open seat on the island.

Denise Bresson defeated two opponents for the House District 108, easily won Chebeague, with 202 votes compared to opponent Meredith Burgess’ 22 votes.

Chebeague Island, Democrat Denisa Bresson, island resident and candidate for House District 108, easily won Chebeague, with 202 votes compared to opponent Meredith Burgess’ 22 votes.

Damon also won Long Island, 129 to 47. But the Republican Burgess won the mainland vote, 2,252 to Damon’s 1,609 and took the seat with 54 percent of the vote to Damon’s 44 percent. Turnout in Cumberland was 72 percent of registered voters, according to the Town Clerk’s office.

Peaks Island resident Mavrouneen Thompson outpolled mainland opponent Rebecca Minnick for the District 1 School Committee seat by 577 to 111 votes on Peaks. But Thompson lost the race to Minnick by about 59 to 41 percent of the total vote. Minnick also beat her in Cliff, 13 to 11 and on Great Diamond Island, 14 to 10.

Kirk Goodhue, who owns Port Island Realty on Peaks Island, did quite well on Peaks in his race for the District 1 City Council seat. Goodhue received 276 votes on Peaks compared to 149 for Kevin Donohue and 84 for incumbent Councilor Bill Gorham. Goodhue also won Great Diamond Island with 17 votes to 12 for Donohue and 11 for Gorham. On Cliff, the results were: Gorham 19, Donohue 10 and Goodhue 3.

But Goodhue lost the seat to Donohue, getting just 21 percent of the total vote. Gorham received 32 percent of the vote and Donohue won the seat with 47 percent of the vote.

Breaking down the island vote

While islanders voted differently than those on the mainland in local races, most Casco Bay Islanders voted for Democrat-National candidates.

When it came to the Taxpayers Bill of Rights, Great Diamond Island and Cliff islanders supported the measure to control spending. Great Diamond approved TA-BOR 26 to 12 votes and Cliff was in favor 22 to 15. On Peaks Island, TA-BOR was defeated 28 to 21. On Long Island it was voted down 111 to 55 and Chebeague Island residents opposed it 148 to 102. Statewide, TA-BOR was defeated 54 to 46 percent, according to the Bangor Daily News.

Question 2 passed on all islands except Long. It was approved on these islands: Peaks, 247 to 204, Great Diamond, 27 to 15, Cliff, 72 to 9 and Chebeague 140 to 98. Long voted 45 to 32 against Question 2.

Statewide, Question 2 passed 54 to 46 percent. Rep. Paul O’Halleren (D) of Peaks Island has been selected to represent the islands on the budget committee, which is expected to be dominated by the Republicans.

Rep. Paul O’Halleren (D) of Peaks Island has been selected to represent the islands on the budget committee, which is expected to be dominated by the Republicans.
Casco Bay friend recognized

Few local people do as much for the well-being of Casco Bay as Diane Gould of Brookline, Massachusetts. Dr. Gould is a marine environmental scientist for the US Environmental Protection Agency. As the EPA’s Casco Bay Regional Coordinator for the past eight years, she travels, on average, twice a week from Boston to the Casco Bay watershed. In recognition of her commitment to preserving and protecting the resources of the bay, Friends of Casco Bay gave her its 2006 Friend of Casco Bay Award on November 28. Citing her “effective and quiet determination,” Casco Baykeeper Joe Payne noted that all the groups she has been working closely with here, including Maine state agencies and non-profits like Friends of Casco Bay, heed her reasoned, insightful advice. In accepting the award, Dr. Gould said, “While my residence is in Massachusetts, my heart is here in Casco Bay.”

Dr. Gould served as the Editor of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnerships State of the Bay 2005 report and is the chief author of Toxic Pollution in Casco Bay: Sources and Impacts, which will be published this winter. Friends of Casco Bay works to improve and protect the environmental health of Casco Bay through advocacy, education, water quality monitoring, and collaborative partnerships. The award presentation was made at its Annual Meeting and Casco Baykeeper Address to the Community.

GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND TIMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Islanders invited to open mikes night

JYANN HINDRER

Imagine throngs of thousands waving hundred dollar bills to get in to hear world-renowned artists perform 18-minute gigs! Well, you are not imagining—the Peaks Island Source Open Mic-Poet Societyexists. The next event will be on Jan. 20, from 7:30-9 PM at the Brackett Methodist Church Hall. Imagine your friends and neighbors and folks you don’t even know singing and playing music with skill you may or may not have known they possessed. Imagine your neighbors reading heartfelt poetry of their own composition. Imagine readings of great drama or sets of intriguing comedy. Imagine stories that take you from Peaks Island all the way to once upon a time. Imagine four upstanding and otherwise mature island residents getting up and performing as “The Old Crusty Musicians.” Finally imagine an enthusiastic and appreciative audience enjoying the performances. You are not imagining at all; you are attending the Peaks Island Open Mic the second Friday of the month from 6:30-9 p.m. at Brackett Methodist Church Hall. For two years islanders have been gathering every evening each month to share and enjoy the many talents found here on Peaks. This type of evening is a Maine tradition. Talent nights have been held in churches, grange halls, and schools as a staple of the community and this tradition has been carried into the 21st century. Of course we also have the tradition of homemade cakes and pies served with steaming cups of coffee or tea throughout the evening. At the Peaks Island Open Mic anyone who wishes is invited to give their best for approximately 10 minutes. There is flexibility in the time because some performers may share one song or poem and others may a slightly longer performance. This time is an opportunity to be in front of a supportive and appreciative audience which is especially helpful for first-time performers. There is only one rule: everyone is invited whether they wish to share their artistic talents or be a member of the audience.

So please dust off your guitar, find that harmonica hidden in the back of your sock drawer, get out those poems or the prose you have been wanting to read and share with your neighbors. For further information call Bill or Ann Hindrider at 766-2616.

Give a gift subscription of the Island Times for the holidays!
Letters to the editor

Thanks for warm send-off.

My family and I want to thank all of the islanders for the display of affection that I showed the day I left Peaks Island to come back to the mainland.

I was in complete shock as I pulled up to catch the 9 p.m. boat on the evening of October 31. With wind blowing, yellow balloons and everyone showing up to wish me well. After living on the island for 12 years, my neighbors never cease to amaze me.

Here I was leaving home to come back to family, friends, acquaintances and yes some strangers were holding balloons, hugging me and wishing me well. A number of you thanked me for what I am doing. I won’t say it’s my pleasure but it is my duty and one that I am proud to do.

I was told things along the lines of “hurry home,” “kiss their tails,” and the on and on. Most, “Thank you for doing this so my son doesn’t have to.” That struck me deeper than I would have thought because in the back of my mind I said I serve so that my children won’t have to. I serve so that my neighbor’s children won’t have to. I serve so that my neighbors can go about their normal life.”

I am proud to do something for a soldier leaving for war, or to go for a homecoming (by the way mine is in March) or to go for a loved one’s funeral.

I serve in the National Guard so that I can be available for national and local emergencies, to ensure that my family and neighbors are safe and secure. I do this knowing it will never be enough.

We respectfully and strongly disagree. We will continue in respect to the type of government we seek. It is not a question of a smaller government, it is the type of government of our choosing for us. We want to be a little happier with island independence.

We espectfully request that you please consider what we have said. Thanks.

Howard Peddicord, Peaks Island Independence Committee

Response to mayor

On November 27, after the Island Independence Committee (ICC) presented its proposal on how an independent Peaks Island could be set up, Jim Cohon held a workshop with City Hall and commented negatively about the proposal. He indicated a need to hear a different perspective on the public forum, it is only fair that we be allowed to respond in kind.

The mayor reviewed the history of the secession movement, but he failed to put it in perspective: this is the third time the issue has come up in the last 25 years. Secession is a legitimate option, but it is an option that should be considered with a clear head that does not play on emotions.

The ICC presented a comprehensive proposal that would ensure fairness. We assume that Portland fire/ emergency services, the police crime rate, the cemeteries, the Portland School Department is overdue this addition funding, and the transfer of $1.9 million will not be a burden on districts that are regressing in the future.

The mayor said, “The $1.9 million of additional state subsidy for education is illusory”, but the Maine Department of Education provided this figure to the ICC based on the state formula for education funding. This and all other proposals will not provide $1 million of additional funding statewide. The Portland School Department is now due this additional funding, and the transfer of $1.9 million will not be a burden on districts that are regressing in the future.

The mayor said, “Peaks Island residents will have less say in government as a Town because of how we vote with the City Council”. This is comprehensible. The vote of residents of the Town of Peaks Island at an annual town meeting will carry far more weight than a vote of one islander representing the share of the island.

Mayor, said, “The City will take advantage of islands for emergency services, police, public safety”. We anticipate this change in the future there are plans among and between the surrounding towns for shared municipal vehicle maintenance and emergency services, the police crime lab, and emergency dispatch. The ICC applauds the City’s desire to negotiate and hopes that the Town of Peaks Island will be similarly welcomed as an equal partner.

1. Education: Portland accepts Local Island students at the state tuition rate. With a similar agreement, Portland will gain nearly $400,000 in tuition. Portland will also be able to provide $874 per student for education funding. State education funding is set to increase to $1.2 billion next year, to comply with state law 105-G, Hawaii receives $2 million increase to Portland, additional state funding for its islands.

2. Public safety: Peaks Islanders will want their own fire/ emergency boat, berth at Peaks Island, design and building our boat will take time and until then we propose that emergency services be owed on a pie for pie basis. We are looking for a new relationship between Portland and Peaks Island.

The ICC has researched the costs of Cumbria County please see PROPOSAL page 7.

PROPOSAL page 7

The Island Times is a community newspaper covering the islands in Casco Bay. Welcome birds, engagement and wedding announcements, obituaries, notices of community events, and other announcements. We would be happy to help you. Call Mary Lou Wendell to submit letters. The newspaper is available by mail for $20 a year. Address checks to Island Times, 10108, 146 Ledgewood Rd., Peaks Island, Maine. To reach Mary Lou Wendell, call 273-3233. Of course, we print every reasonable point of view.

Published: Mary Lou Wendell/David Tyler

Member of the New England Press Association.

The ICC outlines comprehensive secession proposal.
This Island Life

By George Rosol

Let's put certain rumors to rest. Boycotts are not being built on the shores of Hussey Road and Highland Avenue. Yes, I did see some sp ort fishing parties but they are not being built on the shores of Hussey Road and Highland Avenue potholes. I did following Halloween. It is possible that a se rumness of activity on these "alers.

A lesson in island economics. I found a crumpled ten-dollar bill on the street. Since finding the owner was impossible, I decided to put it back into circulation on the island in a typical Peaks Island way. I bought a Rolling Rock and some lottery tickets and found a pocket- sized spot to sip and scratch. I had about eighteen cents left of the ten. The candy store was closed. I offered the change to a woman and they weren't interested. They took a dollar, one said. That seems to be the island handout minimum. Dropping the coins on the sidewalk wasn't much of an option. I once experimented with how much change someone would snap up for pennies, nickels and dimes. It went for days without a home. That was too much to pass up.

I balanced the beer and rubbered the tickets with the surplus nickel. I was a winner. Ten dollars. Fate decreed that I would not regret myself of that ten by spending it. It would haunt me forever. That same afternoon, I dropped my wrinkled tenner on the street. It had gone full circle.

**O, ho, ho-hum. Less than a month until Xmas or Xannukah or Xuansal. Since I had drummers silenced, these holidays provide me with absolutely no pain or remorse. Of course, family and friends see fit to call me the Grinch or Scrooge or worse. But I'm still the same old me.**

Maybe better than that one gruff old guy who growled at what the guy in the friends, a gnarled crooked tree in a corner of the noted decorated with popcorn garland and strings of scrap paper loops. A little to drink and a lot to say. As for music, Monteverdi, Joplin, and Perry Como do it for me. Just one bothersome side effect fingers from the genetic alteration. I have this monstrous craving for fruitcake.

MICHAEL MCINTYRE

ELECTRICIAN

A call to me equals a call to you

749-4777

---

Why Leave the Island?

Celebrate New Years at The Inn on Peaks Island

December 31st

5-9pm - Buffet Live music begins at 9pm (21+)

(Reservations recommended)

Live Music with DDG

Rock - Reggae - Originals

$25 includes buffet, entertainment, champagne toast, and midnight snack

$15 for kids (5:00 - 9:00 pm)

$10 for just the band (after 9:00 pm)

Winter Special!

An overnight getaway for $109 - including dinner for two!

Two a - day stay included. Offer valid for stays Wednesday - Saturday nights only.

The Inn on Peaks Island

33 Island Avenue (207) 766-5100 www.innonpeaks.com

---

Shipyard Brew Haus

White Cap Lodge

at Sunday River presents:

**TRIBUTE**

**BAND**

**SERIES**

Dec 30 
Fat Angus (AC/DC) 

Jan 5 
Joshua Tree (U2) 

Jan 6 
Dookie (Green Day) 

Feb 17 
Destroyer (KISS) 

Feb 24 
Lez Zeppelin 

Mar 10 
Motor Booty 

Mar 17 
Fat Angus (AC/DC)

Shipyard Brew Haus

White Cap Lodge

21 White Heat Lane, Sunday River

(207) 824-5138

www.shipyardbrewhaus.com

---

BY GEORGE RO SOL

1 swod in the shade of the forest of new signs on Wekh Street and found welcome signs for a forgettable once said, "The grist of the rumor mill is indigestible."
Chebeague Chronicles

BY D.J. COOLEY

On Nov. 4, Chebeague Islanders gathered together to celebrate the life of Gladys Bennett who lived on the island for 95 years.

The pews filled, folding chairs were set up in both the side and back aisles, and then the preacher, Glen Coulson, began the service: greetings, a prayer and then a bit of a glitch as the words to the opening hymn were not included in some programs and there was the wrong hymn in others.

But then Glen knew Gladys and her sense of humor and her love of practical jokes, so he therefore declared that she was, indeed, with us. Smiles spread from one parishioner to the next as each had his memory of being in on one of Gladys jokes or being the recipient of one.

Son-in-law, Roy Jackson, delivered the eulogy that captured the spirit of Gladys and gave us a bit of himself as he sang a few bars of the hymn, “The Old Rugged Cross” just as he had sung it while aboard his tractor one day. “On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross/The emblem of sufferings and pain.”

Upon hearing Roy, Gladys had approached, asked him where he had ever heard anything like that, “It’s shame, not pain she corrected.” Nobody slipped anything past Gladys.

And then the congregation remembered Gladys. Family and friends told their favorite Gladys stories, stories that were legendary: about pecan pies, loose geeze, fried dough, and cran-pie thieves. Not all us told a story but each of us had just one as we all have stories about each other, some of which we tell, some we don’t.

As the memories came to a close, I heard someone whisper, “This is a real island funeral.” And I knew just what they meant. Almost every person present had a shared history with Gladys, her family or the person sitting next to them. We were a community building adieu to one of our elders.

And then the choir sang a choral anthem entitled, “On Eagles Wings.”

And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings.

Bear you on the breadth of dawn.

Make you to shine like the sun.

And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

A perfect closings for an island celebration, a perfect verse to honor the natural beauty of this place we call home.

Young folks weigh in

For days after Gladys’ service, I kept hearing the whisper, “This is a real island funeral.” So often I get caught up in my own opinions about everyone and everything that I lose track of what it is that draws me close to the island. In the end, it is always the “sense of place” that is so unique about an island community.

And then I had the opportunity to ask some of our young folks what makes the island a special place for them. I needed a new perspective and I got one.

To what makes the island special they answered: 1. You know everybody.

2. There are lots of open spaces.

3. You can smell the sea when you get up.

4. You know where everything is.

5. It’s not crowded.

6. You can see the stars.

7. There are lots of animals.

8. You have lots of friends.

9. There’s always something new.

10. Lots of plant life and beautiful scenery.

11. The sunrises.

And to what makes an island, they answered, someone who: 1. Lives on an island.

2. Likes the sea.

3. Loves to walk.

4. Does not mind the salty air.

5. Is friendly and kind, not just to the island people, but to everyone.

6. Goes out of their way to stop and say hello.


8. Gets along with everybody.

9. Is not rude.

Founding words

In 2007, Liv Tyler will lecture on the Town of Chebeague Island and as we approach all the tasks we must accomplish, the Chebeaguerians would do well to work to preserve what we already have as cited in the young folks’ list number 1 and incorporate a code of conduct as suggested in list number 2. Their lists might well be a preamble to our new charter. If not charter making by the kids surely offer good guidance for living well in our extended family of islanders.

And to our neighbors on Cliff, Long, Peaks and the Diamonds: We send our best wishes for the holidays.

~ Hoilday, from page 12 ~

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 Rita Morrill, Tel: 207-761-2440.
Cliff Island News

IN BRIEF

Cliff Island News

Have you started your Christmas shopping? For many that is a sure sign that winter is on its way.

There are other unmistakable signs that winter is approaching. Cliff Island's population is close to the "year-round" sixty, although some workmen are staying above the store during the winter months. The goldfinches have assumed their drab "inter-migration" colors and are stringing colored lights on an evergreen tree near the tennis court.

It is close to the year-round sixty, although areas near the tennis court.

A related event is already planned for December 16 at the community hall. It is the annual Christmas party. This traditional island event involves a dinner, entertainment by the children, a Secret Santa gift exchange, and much more. The evening always ends with a visit from Santa to the great pleasure of the children and the children's parents. The main dish has been provided by islanders, who cook roasts for the event, and PTC (school) mothers, who organize, prepare and serve the meal. The Cliff Island Association sponsors the event.

The Cliff Island Historical Society entered its fourth year of gathering historical information, and creating computer files and paper records for future access to Cliff Island's past. They have treated the island community and many visitors to excellent displays by the island life in displays provided to all from June through Labor Day in their tiny quarters in a small part of the community hall adjacent to the Post Office. Recent members, John Bernard, Alice Carter, Bob Howard and Diane Little met with Parish Consultant Elizabeth Maule from Freeport, and learned some of the intricacies of collecting and organizing historical artifacts and documents. The Historical Society, which is currently headed by John Bernard, continues to accumulate information and memorabilia that would otherwise be lost forever.

Height restrictions dropped

An effort to establish more control over future construction on Cliff Island has been abandoned after a survey of the community showed only lukewarm support for a proposal to seek a city ordinance reducing allowable building heights from the current Portland standard of 36 feet to a new Cliff Island maximum of 27 feet.

Bob Kramer sent a letter to the community that included many of the written responses about the topic. Apparently the year-round population was evenly divided on the proposal while others had a more positive opinion about the restriction.

The ad hoc committee, that pursued this issue, also included Ben Bernard and Bob Howard, and the island community is indebted to all those who gave their time and effort. The skill with which the issue was explored and dropped should serve as a model for future issues.

School children make gifts

Every year the Cliff Island school children, their families and other islanders spend a morning preparing holiday gifts at the community hall. Adults provide the components that the children use to create the presents, which they proudly give during the following holidays.

Usually, one adult guides the younger ones through a specific item. Along the way Cheryl Crowley will help each child produce a "gingerbread house" and everyone will enjoy cookies and juice. The result is a passing of skills from one generation to another, and a sharing of experiences that tie the community together. Karen Griffin tells me that this tradition started after a group from Cliff Island was invited to join in a similar activity on Long Island. It was such a success that the Cliff group decided to do it here. We are always glad to learn from our good neighbors on Long Island!

Need home financing?

Ask Me!

Stuart Dye

Mortgage Broker

$250 donated to the Peaks Island Endowment Fund for every island loan closed

PROPOSAL, from page 2

Sheriff's Department in an option for police coverage on Peaks Island. The Town of Peaks Island will carefully consider all options and costs. Until other arrangements are made, we propose to pay Portland for coverage currently in place.

Public Works

Until Peaks Islanders determine how they'd like to operate the Peaks Island Public Works Department, we propose to continue with the City for the services currently in place. In this way, the City will not have to reduce staffing or lay off personnel due to Peaks' secession.

Debts and assets

The City proposal seeks a fair division of assets and debts. Peaks is entitled to a share of the assets contributed by Peaks since 1874. We are also responsible for a share of the accumulated debt.

Sewer

Peaks Island will remain within the Portland Water District, a separate organization from the City. Since the City owes debt for Peaks' infrastructure, that debt should be included in our asset and debt negotiations.

Social services

Peaks Island will assume responsibility for the Peaks Island Children's Workshop, the Portland Public Library branch, operation of Peaks Island's parks and recreation, and for costs of other public services or assistance to residents of Peaks Island, relieving Portland of any responsibility.

Administration

The City intends to continue good relations with the City of Portland. Peaks Island and Portland should coordinate and regionalize public services with each other as they do with other neighboring communities. Peaks Island looks forward to collaborating with 14 other independent Maine islands.

The Financials

The City is pleased to report that the City will realize a financial gain from Peaks Island's independence.

Portland will gain revenue.

Portland can reduce expenses. Peaks Island's financial analysis does "add up"! Our numbers are from the City and State. Peaks' financial analysis shows that secession will save Portland $1.56 million initially. These savings would be passed on to Portland taxpayers; that is up to the City Council. Peaks is now paying Portland $25 million a year, more than the above $4 million in services. This is hurting the island and changing its special character forever. Peaks Island residents should not shoulder more than their share of the burden for the other one million state residents. Peaks has unique problems, but with independence, residents would have the resources to address them.

Lynne Wieder is a member of the Steering Committee of the Peaks Island Independence Committee.
Company (Airborne), based in Fort Bragg wanted to get rid of him and craved freedom even as the war has become more unpopular. Prisoners of war and found that the average Iraqi did not support Saddam Hussein, wanted to get rid of him and crossed freedom. When this started, Blanchard said he felt it was a good cause, a chance to free an oppressed people from their own despotic ruler and try to get them the opportunity to govern themselves and choose their own path in the world.

His opinion of the war has not changed, even as the war has become more unpopular in the United States. 'It is still a good and noble thing to do,' he said. "During our Revolution from England we had soldiers like the Marquis de Lafayette and (General Friedrich) von Steuben to free us from

Blanchard has lived on Peaks Island since 1994. He discovered the island after his parents, Robert and Lois Blanchard, retired here. His father was a career military officer and retired as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Army Special Forces. Robert Blanchard served in Vietnam and was deployed as part of Desert Shield before his retirement. Beau Blanchard was born at Fort Benning, Georgia and lived all over the country and the world. When he finished his first tour, he came home to Peaks Island. 'It's a great place to raise kids,' said Blanchard. When he went to the island on the 6 p.m. ferry to begin his journey back to Iraq, there were balloons, bunting and friends and neighbors at the ferry landing to send him off. After living on the island for 12 years, his neighbors never cease to amaze me.' Blanchard wrote, in a letter to the Island Times (see "Thanks for warm send-off," Letters to the Editor 4).

When asked what he'd like to say to islanders, Blanchard said: "To remind people that there are men and women who volunteered to join the military not because they had to, but because they wanted to. Some for different reasons than others, but we are all volunteers, and we do it with pride and a sense of duty even when we are in a tough situation. So no matter what people think of the situation, remember these men and women do it in day-in and day-out until the job is done."

Blanchard welcomed letters from home. They can be mailed to:

S.P.C. Blanchard
541st CSS
Po Box 7
Peaks Island, ME 04108

Private Blanchard Beau

Well, Peaks Island Tax Assistance is on the water side of Island Avenue from Welch Street to the entrance to the Lions Club property. The lab is run by a volunteer with a background in business. The lab can help with numbers and dates for the property. These vehicles allowed to go to the sidewalks after getting off the boat and not walk in the road. This area could still use some work, said Blanchard.

S.P.C. Blanchard Beau
541st CSS
Po Box 7
Peaks Island, ME 04108

GIVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE ISLAND TIMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The Island Times is a grassroots community newspaper that gives an important view in island life. To subscribe, please send a check or money order for $25 payable to Island Times, 15 Welch Street, Peaks Island, ME 04108. Ask for 4 issues.

S.P.C. Blanchard Beau
541st CSS
Po Box 7
Peaks Island, ME 04108

PEAKS ISLAND WINTER CARNIVAL 2007
February 18 to 25

You can have fun during Peaks Island Winter Carnival 2007. Did you participate in the Peaks vs Portland basketball game, or the Ice Skating at the Inn, or the Spaghetti Supper Craft Night, or the Dinner at the Legion, or the Dance at Jones Lending, or the Identify your Neighborhood Contest?

Well, Peaks Island Tax Assistance is sponsoring Carnival again and we want it bigger and better for 2007. Join us and give ideas for our own events to us which is your favorite. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!! What would you or your group like to do?

Call, write, e-mail or just tell any member of Peaks Island Tax Assistance. We're a small but energetic group who love new ideas. Cynthia Pedlikin, Beth Childs, Jane Gerard, Carla Robbins, Roy Mottla, Kathy Shaw, Dorothy Monih, Doug Smith, Helene Swartz, Beth Heiler, Ralph Assistance.
Puns & Anagrams

Each Puns and Anagram definition is a self-contained word game in miniature. In most cases, the clue contains an anagram, a pun or a combination of both, of the answer word. (Example: "Mad tune is really wild" = UNTAMED (Mad note is an anagram of UNTAMED); wild is the straight clue). There are also tricks of spelling, hidden word clues, word-building, word-breaking, and an assortment of other devices. Find more directions at www.doublecrosword.com/howPA2.htm or, for directions of a clue, email me at pipzzl@msn.com. (Note underline at "pipzzl" and "it".)

Across
1. Greetings from Shop 'n Save
2. Scab breaks lineup at airport
3. Broken law for making salad
... (clues continue)

Down
1. Friend I wrote made from a black dog, perhaps
2. Brave I'm got confused hiding the exact words
3. Cry, no, you are real. Tell me, how was
4. Italian musician is art
... (clues continue)

Solution to last month's puzzle

---

Repeat the previous sections for the rest of the puzzle:

Across
1. Greetings from Shop 'n Save
2. Scab breaks lineup at airport
3. Broken law for making salad
... (clues continue)

Down
1. Friend I wrote made from a black dog, perhaps
2. Brave I'm got confused hiding the exact words
3. Cry, no, you are real. Tell me, how was
4. Italian musician is art
... (clues continue)

---

ISLAND TIMES

PUNCHLINE PIZZLE

50. Skipper says, "I'm the captain!"
51. Why did the chicken cross the road?
... (clues continue)

---

You can make a difference

Maine Island Land Preserve seeks to preserve and protect open space in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of Mainers and visitors. Contributions and membership dues are used to purchase lands and provide appropriate land management. We also work with the City, State and individuals to preserve open space through conservation easements and gifts of land. Please join us in this important effort.
Star Gazing

BY MIKE RICHARDS

With the winter solstice on the 21st, December is the darkest month and best for seeing our celestial neighbors. Sunrise around 7 a.m. and sunset around 4 p.m. gives us 15 hours of sunlight and lets us stroll during the day while walking and basking in the sun from work (stargazing while biking or driving should be left to us professionals). Amid the winter constellations, the star-cluster Pleiades (pleh-uh-deez) is first up in the east, looking like a mini-dipper. Most people can pick out only five of its stars, the same number as in the Subaru symbol the Japanese carmaker uses.

Pleides is followed closely by the side-ways V-shaped Hyades (hi-uh-deez) cluster, with its red-giant star Aldebaran (al-deh-bah-ray), serving as garnet in the eye of Taurus the Bull, the constellation containing both clusters. A couple of hours later in the evening, Orion the Hunter arises, with his distinctive three shoulder mark by the red-giant star Betelgeuse (bee-tul-juh), and his right foot by the blue-white giant star Rigel (ri-jul).

To the north of Orion, the Gemini twins lie on their sides with their heads (stars Castor and Pollux) on the left. Against this starry backdrop, the planets and moon wander along the ecliptic, the path which arrows from the southeast to southwest horizons. Brightest among the planets is Venus, our closest neighbor, which has swung around the backside of the sun and reappears low in the west sky at dusk, rising higher throughout December. Those on the 4:30 p.m. and 5:35 p.m. boats to Peaks may think it's just the headlights from a plane landing at the jetport, but if you look longer, you'll see that it doesn't move as jets do.

Next in brightness is mighty Jupiter, which rises just before dawn in the eastern sky over the ocean. This month, Jupiter joins tiny Mercury and ruddy Mars in the group hug on December 10, before they split and go their separate ways, with Mercury ducking back down behind the sun, and Jupiter rising higher in the morning sky as Earth's faster orbit catches up with it. Sun rises later in the evening, appearing as a golden pendant around the horizon. For us in the northeast, the moon outcrops Pleiades on Dec. 3, but the moon's brightness may prevent us from seeing the stars near it anyway.

Jirius is a 130-mile-wide asteroid you can see wandering to the lower right of Pleiades this month. It swag around the sun in October and came somewhat close to Earth on August 5, likely giving impetus to international discussions of how best to ward off any cataclysmic meetings in the future.

The Gemidel meteor shower peaks on Dec. 14, as the relatively large cast-offs of the asteroid Phaethon collide with Earth's atmosphere at 33 miles per second. If you're out at midnight, look straight up—you should see a meteor or two. The "10th planet," formerly known as Xena, has been renamed Eris (ee-ruh), and its moon has been named Dysnomia (Di for short). Although Eris is three times further away from the sun than Pluto is, its discovery lead to the decertification of Pluto as an asteroid, though that debate is still simmering.

Dec. 5: At 5 p.m. tonight, the moon reaches perigee, the closest the moon is to the Earth this month. It reaches perigee again on Dec. 27, but it will be 1.600 miles further away.

Dec. 6: A nearly full moon will clip the left side of Pleiades beginning around 10 p.m. tonight.

Dec. 8: Full Long Night Moon sets over Portland at 6:47 this morning and rises over the islands at 3:24 this afternoon. Winter moons rise higher in the sky than summer moons because they are opposite the sun, which is lower in the sky in winter. Highest tides this month are at 10:52 this morning and 1:14 tomorrow morning;

low tide is 4:20 this afternoon, a drop of 12.6 feet from this morning.

Dec. 8: The moon's wobble reaches this month's "maximal libration" today, and Mars Australia, on the lower right side, is on the terminator line and tipped toward us, so this would be a good night to see more of it.

Dec. 10: If you're up before 6:00 this Sunday morning, get your binoculars and look east again. Mercury, Mars and Jupiter are clustered on the horizon over the ocean, the tightest grouping of planets in decades.

Dec. 12: Last quarter moon is high in the sky at dawn. Tides have moderated to barely 6 feet, half of what they were a week ago, in part because of the quarter moon, but mostly because.

Dec. 13: The moon's at apogee today, which means the moon is furthest away from Earth this cycle.

Dec. 14: Out over the ocean this morning before dawn, a small waning crescent moon hangs to the right of Jupiter.

Dec. 20: New moon means no moon to interfere with hunting for galaxies (try the Andromeda at the foot of Pegasus, directly overhead), nebulae (try the Orion in the middle of the sword), and clusters in the double cluster to the left of Cassiopeia, "the big W".

Dec. 27: Winter solstice today. Mark the southernmost points where the sun rises at 7:14 a.m. and where it sets at 6:06 p.m. For those on the 4:30 p.m. boat to Peaks, look back over Portland and see a paper-thin waning crescent moon to the left of Venus, as the Earth's reflected light brightens the dark limb of the moon.

Andromeda at the foot of Pegasus, directly overhead, has been tipped to the right of Jupiter.

Dec. 27: First quarter moon is high in the sky at sunset. We already have 10 minutes more daylight than we had a week ago, but Earth's northern hemisphere is still cool, so we have a few months of snow to endure before spring arrives.
Robin Carr
Licensed Massage Therapist

for an appointment call:
207-766-2062 or 207-712-6307/Cell

Peaks Island Health Center
Nancy L. Wright FNP
97 Central Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04109
phone (207) 766-2929
fax (207) 766-5073
www.peakshealth.org

Photography
Victor Romanysyn
Portraits, Wildlife, Landscapes, Still Life
Tel: 207-766-3807
Fax: 207-766-3146
romanysyn@maine.rr.com
59 Whiting Way
Peaks Island, ME 04109

Portraits, Wildlife, Landscapes, Still Life
Tel: 207-766-3807
Fax: 207-766-3146
romanysyn@maine.rr.com
59 Whiting Way
Peaks Island, ME 04109

Peg's Pots, etc.
Pottery, Gifts, Ceramic classes and parties
Peg Astarita
www.pegaspotsetc.com
51 Woods Road
Peaks Island, ME 04108
Ph/Fax: 207-766-5997
astarita@maine.rr.com

Kamp Masonry
Christopher Kamp
Mason
42 Epps Street
Peaks Island, Maine
04108
207 655 1125
chimneys, brick & stone walls, mantels, rebuilding and remodel.

New Construction
Property Management
John Kiely
Carpenter
591 Island Avenue
Fully Insured
Peaks Island, ME 04108
(207) 766-2026
3kiely1@maine.rr.com

Renovation
Carpenter
Macey Orme
766-2380

Carpenter
FOR HIRE
30 Years in the Trade

HAND Digs
- Patios
- Stone Walls
- Walks
- Lawns
- Patios
- Stone Walls
- Walks
- Lawns
- Landscaping
- Hardscapes

DON GROEGER – 207.766.5525
FULLY INSURED / FREE ESTIMATES

FREE Estimates
Jean Boucher
BOUCHER
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
NEW HOMES • REMODELING • ROOFING • SIDING
(207) 924-0059 FAX
(207) 924-0060 Cell
408 Whitten Road
Lyman, ME 04021

PORTLAND SERVICE DIRECTORY

www.pondcovepaint.com
Free Delivery to the Boat

the Corner
General Store
154 Middle St., Portland, ME 04101
Corner of Middle and River in the Old Port
Open Daily, 8am-8pm
207 235 5280
e-mail: thecornergeneralstore@comcast.net

- Wine
- Groceries
- Beer
- Soda
- Snacks
- Cigarettes
A holiday toast to the spirit of island kindness

For our holiday issue, the Island Times aims to explore the concept of genuine and/or kindness by islanders. We weren't looking specifically for things done during the holidays; the special act could have happened at any time of the year. So many mark the holidays through purchasing gifts, but we wanted to see what makes life on the islands so special, the strong sense of community, to help other islanders and the remarkable way islanders come together to make life better for the entire island.

Extended Peaks family always there

BY RHONDA BERG

Beginning in the middle 80’s when I first lived on Peaks Island I saw a familiar island face at a store by the mall, but I didn’t know his name and he didn’t know mine. But a warm greeting lit up his face as he said, hello Peaks Island! Since then, no matter where I might run into familiar island faces, there is always a warm greeting or a smile of recognition.

If I need a ride or can offer one, or might make a request for a ride it seems only extended Peaks family is there. The “hello Peaks Island” brotherhood. Special thanks to John Long who drive the island taxi. He is now a dispatcher for ABX Taxi. I happen to know because Tim and I were there recently and there was Lloyd’s cheery voice over the taxi radio asking the driver to find out if the rider was Peaks Island’s Tom Bushan.

One man’s influence on an island

BY CYNTHIA COLE

Sam McCain was a retired Episcopal minister who knew Peaks Island in the early 1980’s. During the first ten years he was here, Sam enjoyed living and working on the island with his daughter, Leslie, and her family.

For the first 10 years, Sam Beed alone and directed some of his wisdom and energy to form the community banks and churches. With his help, in the process, he became a wonderful example of community and neighborliness in involvement.

Despite some health concerns, Sam was still riding his bicycle into l983, I recall a presentation near the Transfer Station when Sam zoomed up to the gathered crowd on his bike and pumped off the bike as if he were a teenager.

But during the last five or six years, he used a motorized wheelchair chair not only to get to his Island store and the Post Office, but also to attend nearly public meetings held in his presence. At one of the last meetings, the response of the children. I also recall seeing his motorized chair outside the Inverness Club church on many occasions, and listening to his deep voice saying the blessing at those events and also at the senior luncheons at the Fifth Maine dining hall.

When Sam died early in February 2006, the delayed motorized chair was turned over to the island’s St. Peter’s Catholic Church. Children, older people, even former islanders drive the chair to deeply moving the remarks of family members and the island’s clergy, Sister Claire Condon, executive director of Churches, reflecting the ecumenical approach Sam exemplified to religious and political discussions.

Sam was an inspiration to many people on Peaks Island—and his presence is truly missed today.

Cynthia Cole purchased her house on Elizabeth Street in the early 1980’s, shortly before Sam and Martha built their house on Luther Street and became neighbors and friends.

The non-organization that works

BY GEORGE ROSOL

There are no officers. There is no board of directors. There are no meetings. Yet more than 50 Peaks Islanders, both year-round and summer people, have banded together in a non-organization to make the island a better place. Its chairwoman Rachel marks the fifth anniversary of the Peaks Island Volunteer Taxi.

When Tom Taxi abruptly halted service on Peaks in 2001, Nancy Hall, along with Catherine Erdman, gathered a group of volunteers to help the island’s senior citizens get from anywhere on the island. This was to be a temporary solution until a more permanent solution was found.

Fast-forward to today and the search continues. (Commercial taxi service is full of obstacles. Regulations, high insurance costs, fair fares for an island, and other factors, the temporary solution has taken on a life of its own.)

What was once a four-day service is now Monday through Friday. Drivers are listed in the Island Star and a ride in a geste island vehicle is just a telephone call away. Payment is out of the question. There is no bureaucratic mechanism for handling money.

Drivers do eat, however, and have been known to accept donations of gas, candy and other snacks. Frequent riders become friends. There are shopping trips and visits to the post office, complete with chats with Post Office clerks.

Drivers are asked to comment on island politics, restaurants, shopping and what’s right or wrong with island life from elders. There is always the Peaks Island history lesson.

The Volunteer Taxi is full of people—folks who understand the needs of folks on island. Neighbors with no expectation of reward rather than helping to improve our way of life. Islanders who drive in brackets and brackets into the scheduled jobs held by Catherine Erdman. There are Nancy Hall and Cecilia Ross who share this duty. Too volunteers, past and present, are listed.

We make a special effort to do their jobs better than most island residents. We are not necessarily heroic, but simply doing the ordinary in extraordinary ways. So here’s a toast to the folks who make this a great community.

Peaks Island Health Clinic...to Nancy, Bill, George, and new medics and volunteers all of whom have given warm support and efficient service to our folks over the past many years.

By BILL ZIMMERMAN

The Peaks Island community has much to be grateful for and it’s nice that we pay so much attention to our good fortune, especially during this period between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Among the blessings we count the needs of folks低下, some unusual accomplishments and efforts by volunteers, folks who lend a hand simply because it’s the right thing to do. It takes a special effort to do their jobs better than most island residents. They are not necessarily heroic, but simply doing the ordinary in extraordinary ways. So here’s a toast to the folks who make this a great community.

Peaks Island Health Clinic...to Nancy, Bill, George, and new medics and volunteers all of whom have given warm support and efficient service to our folks over the past many years.

By BILL ZIMMERMAN

The Peaks Island community has much to be grateful for and it’s nice that we pay so much attention to our good fortune, especially during this period between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Among the blessings we count the needs of folks低下, some unusual accomplishments and efforts by volunteers, folks who lend a hand simply because it’s the right thing to do. It takes a special effort to do their jobs better than most island residents. They are not necessarily heroic, but simply doing the ordinary in extraordinary ways. So here’s a toast to the folks who make this a great community.

Peaks Island Health Clinic...to Nancy, Bill, George, and new medics and volunteers all of whom have given warm support and efficient service to our folks over the past many years.

By BILL ZIMMERMAN

The Peaks Island community has much to be grateful for and it’s nice that we pay so much attention to our good fortune, especially during this period between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Among the blessings we count the needs of folks低下, some unusual accomplishments and efforts by volunteers, folks who lend a hand simply because it’s the right thing to do. It takes a special effort to do their jobs better than most island residents. They are not necessarily heroic, but simply doing the ordinary in extraordinary ways. So here’s a toast to the folks who make this a great community.

Peaks Island Health Clinic...to Nancy, Bill, George, and new medics and volunteers all of whom have given warm support and efficient service to our folks over the past many years.

By BILL ZIMMERMAN

The Peaks Island community has much to be grateful for and it’s nice that we pay so much attention to our good fortune, especially during this period between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Among the blessings we count the needs of folks低下, some unusual accomplishments and efforts by volunteers, folks who lend a hand simply because it’s the right thing to do. It takes a special effort to do their jobs better than most island residents. They are not necessarily heroic, but simply doing the ordinary in extraordinary ways. So here’s a toast to the folks who make this a great community.

Peaks Island Health Clinic...to Nancy, Bill, George, and new medics and volunteers all of whom have given warm support and efficient service to our folks over the past many years.