5-2001

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Jenny Ruth Yasi

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Public transportation in Greater Portland has enjoyed a lively history over the past 150 years. As early as the Civil War, horse-drawn trolleys were meeting Casco Bay Islanders at the ferry landing and bringing them uptown to make connections to other parts of Portland.

By 1890, as many as 265 horses were earning their oats, pulling 2.7 million passengers over 13.81 miles of line. Horse barns dotted the landscape from Morrill's corner to the Eastern Promenade and watching where you stepped was always a good idea.

According to METRO historians, Don Cushing and John Tibbetts, the operators of the horse-drawn trolleys were so attached to their horses, and so concerned for their welfare, that on their day off they often rode along with their replacements just to make sure their horses were being taken care of. Could this be the genesis of the term “busman’s holiday?”

Electric trolleys were introduced in 1891, the horses were put out to pasture, and those same Casco Bay Islanders could now travel as far south as Saco, up the coast to Bath and inland to Lewiston. But, by the early 1940’s, with the advent of the automobile and better paved roads, electric lines were no longer profitable and, over the years, public transportation in the Portland area declined in popularity.

Today, 60 years later, Greater Portland Transit District (METRO) can proudly point to increasing ridership, with over 1.3 million people riding the bus annually, including over 6,000 cruise ship passengers. The METRO serves Portland, Westbrook, and the Maine Mall area.

The successful launch of Forest Avenue Smart Travel (FAST), providing service every 15 minutes, has dramatically increased travel along that route. Special bus fares have converted over 18,000 USM students to bus travel. Park ‘n Ride lots on Marginal Way and Prides Corner in Westbrook promote the use of the bus to commuters. And notably, METRO is one of the few transit systems to successfully operate an environmentally friendly electric bus fleet.

All this hard work has paid off. In the April issue of...
In Harbor Voices

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We are distributing 6000 copies this month. Harbor Voices can be found at Portland, South Portland and Falmouth Shaws, Shop N Save, The Whole Grocer, Videoport, Casco Bay Lines, the Portland Public Library, City Hall, local schools, USM, Books Etc., SMVTI, School of Art, Japa Joe’s, Hannigan’s, The Porthole, Becky’s and many other locations around the Portland Harbor. Display ad rates start at $25 dollars per month ($150 per year) for a business directory ad listing (see page 19).
In the ideal - or Utopian - society, I'd like to see our children inherit, people's lives would be better, more centered in a neighborhood community, and more full of fun instead of stuff. With work and local stores close to homes, transportation can be a minor, not a central aspect of life. I envision a convenient, friendly society and a healthy environment.

Gas guzzling SUV's and pollution-spewing buses hopefully will be remembered as aberrations of the late 20th century, and instead, trains, express buses, mini-vans for local errands, car-share programs, small taxis, motorized rickshaws for 2 or 3 people to rent, and golf-carts will be available. I hope in the future we will ski and skate from one place to another, or bike, or walk.

The human body is designed to walk - and we have many attractive places to walk. We enjoy using our bodies and muscle energy to go from one place to another, so in a Utopian future, most people would walk or bike a great deal. Today, many groups are promoting safe bicycle lanes and using bikes for most of their transportation. Already, bikes are so common in Montreal that there are often more bikes than cars waiting for a light to change. In August of this year, an International Do-It-Yourself Bike Festival is being promoted and organized by independent groups to include such activities as Fun Bike Rides, Campouts, Workshops, Bike Art, etc. (www.bikesummer.org and www.critical-mass.org)

Because current cars and trucks create smog and air pollution, and contribute mightily to the greenhouse gases which are changing our climate, we need an energy policy that emphasizes conservation of energy, efficient fuels, and innovative technology. We need community spirit, consumer demand, regulations, and the participation of the car industry.

In Portland, Oregon, a car-sharing project allows members access to cars when public transport is not convenient - but without the costs of full ownership. Boston and Toronto and a few other cities have similar programs. (www.zipcar.com and www.autoshare.com) And some Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV) are already being produced and used. Santa Barbara has had zero-emission electric buses since 1991 and Chicago and San Diego are trying hydrogen fuel-cell buses.

Efficient cars are poised to become more available, such as Toyota's electric vehicle (EV) and the Honda Insight hybrid fuel car. EV's are ideal for short trips. Electric cars, such as Toyota's electric vehicle (EV) and the Honda Insight hybrid fuel car, are already being marketed by Honda and Toyota, and Ford has announced a hybrid SUV by 2003. The San Diego airport has a Budget EV rental program with trip planners which show where stations with compressed natural gas and battery charging are located.

In the future, Peaks Islanders might get to Portland on a high speed ferry or in low-emission (and muscle powered?) small boats. A few lucky people might fly across the water in the kind of individualized super-lite aircraft that we all dreamed of as children.

For more information, contact Cynthia Cole, Orion Afield, Autumn 2000 issue: Getting There.

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Call (207) 766-2390, or e-mail us at voices@maine.rr.com

We distribute 6000 copies around the Portland Harbor
To all Adult Islanders: S.O.S.

I have lived on Peaks Island for almost 52 years and found that when there is a need that need is met. There is a need now that needs your help.

We have an advisory committee for the Skate/Recreation park but do want to add several more caring and conscientious parents or adults who would be willing to give their time, expertise and energy, to help the youth of our community, and show that you really care for their safe recreation. Their safety means a great deal to me.

Can you help by volunteering to be on our advisory board? Please? Due to ongoing health problems I can no longer be involved in this dear to my heart project. If you are interested please call 766-2266 11 am to 7 pm.

Thank you!

Marge Evico
Coordinator for Skate/Recreation Park

In Loving Memory Of
WAFFLES "WEBSTER"
1983-2001
(Killed by an unleashed dog on April 19, Peaks Island)

Waffles was our big yellow Buddha-Boy cat. He had a heart of gold and, though it was weak, it was brimming with passion, bravery, determination, and, yes, maybe forgiveness.

His life was a joyous song and dance filled with many special island buddies: Rene and David Nancy and Clarissa, et. al. Julie and Otto Will, Kathy, and Charles Linda B. David S. Betty Stephanie Susan and Roger Barb and Riley Daisy Kirsten Tim F.

Dawn MacKenize Kitzia Maria Michael and Mary Pablo Flopsie and all the deer

Greetings Peaks Island Residents and Friends!

You may know that I have been teaching yoga on Peaks for seven years, and living on the island for just over two years. I am writing to share with you a vision I have been nurturing for a long time.

Imagine a non-denominational spiritual community center on Peaks Island where all people would be welcome to gather in service of nurturing the soul of this island community.

Imagine a place where you and your children could go to learn yoga, meditation, and martial arts—a place that promotes self-esteem, self-discipline, integrity, non-violence, balance, fitness, and clarity.

Imagine a place of beauty, peace, and spirit where you could go for an hour, day or weekend to replenish the energy you need to support your family, your home, and/or your work.

Imagine a place where people could go in the evening to read, write, talk about life, make music, meet your neighbors, and participate in rituals that mark our seasonal and personal transitions.

We have a unique opportunity to create such a place now. The monastery on Pleasant Ave, which is for sale, provides an ideal space for all these activities. With a little ingenuity and a lot of support, we can continue using it as a sacred community gathering place.

I have heard lots of enthusiasm for this project—please let me know how you can help make it happen. Thank you!

Rebecca Stephens
Peaks Island YOGA
766-3384

Peaks Island School

The Peaks Island School population next year declines to its lowest level in ten years—only 40 students—creating both a problem and an incredible opportunity for families of island school children. Several changes are proposed for next year on Peaks, including the start of all-day kindergarten.

Barbara Hoppin says that the school is excited to be able to offer "individualized learning" for next year's students. The still evolving logistical plans include combining 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classrooms under Mrs. Roberta Dean; Mrs. Gross will have the kindergarten and the returning Wendy Litchfield will have a combined 1st and 2nd grade classroom. Mr. Thorndes and Miss Fair will be leaving. "This will give Wendy and I the opportunity to team teach K-2," says Mrs. Gross.

"Maine's learning results are grouped K-2 and 3-5, so it makes sense for us to break into two learning pods." She emphasized that classroom changes are still in the planning stages, and nothing is set in stone yet.

Together with other school workers and volunteers, the school has also applied for a federal grant to allow it to provide before and after school programs, adult education and other programs that would turn the school into a community center.

Over the past year, teachers at the Peaks Island Elementary School, with the assistance of Lucky Hollander, have rewritten the school's mission statement to incorporate their emerging vision as education professionals. The former mission statement—to "provide a nurturing, challenging environment which will enable each child to become a lifelong learner and a contributing citizen"—was developed by island parents and teachers about ten years ago. The new draft of the mission statement reads as follows: "The Peaks Island School community celebrates the strengths of each individual learner and supports all in reaching their potential in a secure and nurturing environment." Island schools are traditionally the hub and the measure of the health of an island community. Other islands in the Casco Bay area have struggled to keep their schools open with as few as two or three students. Long Island School next year will have about 20 students.

One proposal that was floated in meetings with Principal Barbara Hoppin was the idea of turning the Peaks Island school into a magnet school for the arts. (JY) [come to informational meeting Wednesday May 2, 6:45 p.m., at the PI School]
Island News Bites:

The City of Portland's new rules regarding large item, brush and construction debris disposal are confusing, but what it boils down to is residents are going to have to pay a lot more for the stuff we throw away.

Peaks Island won't be having a heavy item pick-up this year. Now, islanders can dispose of large items for $1 per pick-up truck load (or $5 for an appliance) at the Peaks Island Transfer Station (PITS). These rates will go up, beginning in July when we move to the "punch pass" program. The punch pass allows residents to dispose of a reasonable amount of bulky waste at no fee at the Riverside Transfer Station — but you'll need to get it there, or pay more at the Peaks Island Transfer station. PITS will not accept demolition debris, or large amounts of yard debris. Builders with building permits must hire a private contractor to haul debris. We'll have more details on household waste disposal in our next issue.

Health Care

By Marge Erico

Do you realize that it is not necessary to travel to the mainland for good health care? Yes that's right! You have a facility here on Sterling Street.

Years ago many islanders, Maine Medical Center, and the City of Portland banded together to establish this much needed service. The building was purchased and remodeled into a neat little center. All this was accomplished by the efforts of the islanders who raised the monies needed — and they still do. The center has served many people for all types of problems since 1976. Complete health care for infants, children, women, camp and pre-school physicals; men's health care. Yearly physicals are provided by Mary Libby G.N.P. and Dr. Jeffrey Martin if the men prefer a male health care provider.

The office is open on Monday and Thursday and would open another day if increased patient care is needed. This would be a big plus for all concerned. I for one need this facility and so do many others on the island.

Please take the time to call the center at 706-2129 or stop by and meet the staff. Mary, Kathy and Pam would be glad to welcome you. Oh yes — a podiatrist visits every three months and dental services are also available. And now we have acupuncture by a licensed provider. So save yourself a trip to the city and get your health care here. It does save wear and tear on the body. Thanks so much.

Marge Erico was Peaks Island's first family nurse practitioner, from 1976-1982.

Arts News:

A new exhibit, entitled "Role of Women in African Society" has opened at the African Museum of Tribal Art. The exhibit highlights artifacts that reflect the female deities, spirits, goddesses, princesses, queens, and queen mothers. On display are regalia, shrines, implements, and contributions of women in the development of African society. The artifacts represent over 1000 years of sub-Saharan African history. The exhibit will display from March through September 2001. See www.tribalartmuseum.org for more.

The Portland Museum of Art has been awarded a $600,000 challenge grant from the Krege Foundation to support restoration of the Museum's McLellan-Sweat House. In order to fulfill the terms of the challenge and receive this grant, the museum must raise $2.8 million by July 2002.

"Community groups will have access to handsomely restored spaces, installed with reproduction period furniture, for meetings and other gatherings. The completed project will allow visitors to enjoy a rich experience in architecture, painting, sculpture and decorative objects, spanning more than two centuries of American culture, and will make this complex of buildings unique among American museums." See www.portlandmuseum.org for current exhibit listing.

A near-miss: a serious house fire was narrowly averted when a rag with linseed oil on it spontaneously combusted in a bag of trash, in the island basement of your editor. A friend, Matthew Day, stopped by to check on the house while we were away, and discovered the smoke alarm going, plenty of smoke, and flames on a basement wall. Matthew doused the flames with buckets of water, and the basement sustained only moderate smoke damage. The moral to our story is that linseed oil (and other chemicals), can burst into flame without ever being touched by a spark. Oily rags, brushes, or any leaky container of chemicals or paint should not be stored inside, but should be put outside, and disposed of properly. If you don't know how to dispose of a particular chemical, call the Portland Public Works.

If you love deer, don't worry, you can still see plenty of deer on Peaks Island. Despite the ten deer taken this winter, and the 280 deer taken the year before, we're seeing groups of 5 to 8 deer in several locations around Peaks Island. There is also a huge drop of spruce cones on the ground, which means plenty of food for the animals.

Dog problems: the on-going complaints about loose dogs on Peaks Island — including one which killed an old pet cat — has prompted island police to crack down: owners are being told to keep dogs on leashes, or pay a fine.

Another Food Co-op on Peaks Island wins the award for having the most pregnant members. One baby has already arrived, and at least three more are on the way. Start knitting!

Please e-mail local news, concerns, events, etc. to voices@maine.rr.com, or call us at 766-2390. We are looking for correspondents from other neighborhoods around the harbor. Please contact us if you're interested.

The St. Lawrence Arts & Community Center, a local and national historic landmark on top of Munjoy Hill, overlooking Casco Bay, will open as a professionally equipped theater space in May.

The Friends of the St. Lawrence Church, the non-profit organization which has been restoring the building for over five years, has raised over $700,000 since 1996. Fundraising to finish the construction continues and donations are gratefully accepted. Business sponsorships and charter memberships for the 2001-02 theatre season are also available. For more information, please call 775-5568 or write Friends of the St. Lawrence Church, 76 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

Upcoming Productions:

May 4th - May 20th: Acorn Productions "Much To Do About Nothing" June 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th: Michael Trautman's Production "My Misspent Youth"

June 14th: St Lawrence Grand Opening Celebration, free, including celebration of Flag day in conjunction with the Portland Observatory. St. Lawrence Church tours all day, an Adams School play in the afternoon, reception from 5-8pm, the Munjoy Hill Society 6-8pm. The neighboring Portland Observatory has events all day as well, including a performance by Roll and Go in the afternoon.

June 16th: Quinn Arts Production: "The Seven Valleys"
Awards

The National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Board of Directors has declared Kendra O’Connell a National Board Certified Teacher in Early Childhood/Generalist in November 2000. Also, the National Science Foundation Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Certificate of Honor as one of three finalists in the state of Maine, selected Kendra Mary O’Connell Maine State Award 2000. Kendra is the daughter of Marjorie and Richard Erico, Peaks Island.

The Richard Carbonneau Award to the Stonecoast Writer’s conference has been given this year to the editor of Harbor Voices, Jenny Ruth Yasi, for achievement in writing fiction. She will read from her work at Stonecoast on July 24th, 1:30 p.m. All readings are open to the public.

King Middle School students, Ivy D’Angelo, Erin Costello, Caroline Pierce, and Wil Finley, have just won a national “Panasonic New Vision Award” for their job editing “Earthquake.” Students from King can choose to work with Mr. Grant if they’d like to try writing, filming and editing their own video. Sometimes students create their own projects, sometimes a video is produced as part of a learning expedition. King Middle school offers a nationally recognized program in expeditionary learning. Please send notices of awards, promotions, babies, college acceptances, changes, graduations and other good news to Harbor Voices, Box 10, Peaks Island, Maine 04108

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Our deadline is the fifteenth of each month. Send news to Box 10 Peaks Island, Maine 04108 or e-mail us at voices@maine.rr.com

Casco Bay Lines News
By Pat Christian, General Manager

Re-powering Project

After over two months of work in the shipyard in Rockland, the Machigonne II is now back in service. Two new Caterpillar 3406E engines are powering the boat. Other improvements include new reverse gears, electronic engine controls, larger propellers, and shaft brakes.

These new electronic engines have dramatically reduced smoke, improved fuel economy and provide for enhanced reliability. The Machigonne II, built in 1987 and in continuous duty since then, had older technology engines that smoked considerably. It is a welcome relief to get this job successfully completed.

The re-powering project was made possible by a $300,000 grant from the State of Maine through an appropriation from the State Legislature last year and with help from the Maine Department of Transportation and Commissioner John Melrose.

Many thanks go to CBITD’s project team of Capt. Bill Wanzer, Maintenance Manager Howard Woodside, and Operations Manager Nick Mavodones.

Ocean Gateway Project update

The Operations Committee continues to hold meetings to discuss changes to the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal. The committee’s primary focus is to evaluate the necessary infrastructure changes required to mitigate the pedestrian, vehicle and freight traffic conflicts, enlarged passenger waiting areas and restrooms, inter-modal connections, etc.

Meeting dates are posted in the terminal. The next scheduled meeting is Friday, May 11, at 7:45 a.m. in the CBL Conference Room. [see www.portlandcitizen.org for up-to-date news on OceanGate.]

Summer Rates Increase, and Go Into Effect May 6th

Status of LD 874—An Act to Increase the Operating Subsidy to the CBITD

Many thanks to all of you who wrote to your legislators seeking to increase the operating subsidy to the Transit District. Currently, the District receives $20,000 from the State. We had hoped to increase that by a $125,000 in order to balance this year’s budget. Unfortunately, the Appropriations Committee has tabled our bill. There is virtually no chance of passage given the fiscal constraints that the Legislature is facing.

Therefore, the Board of Directors had to increase Summer rates in order to balance this year’s budget. Summer rates go into effect May 6th. A copy of the rates are below, and you can get them from our website (www.cascobaylines.com) and the ticket office.

Ocean Gateway Project update

Fares apply in either direction between Portland and Islands in Casco Bay (each ticket permits round-trip transportation).

SUMMER 2001 (effective May 6, 2001)

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CARS TO PEAKS ISLAND:

$65.00
$45.00
CARS with handicapped license plates
$65.00
$35.00

BICYCLES:
$5.00 All Islands

ANIMALS (must be leashed):
$3.00 All Islands

- Child fares for children ages 5-8; under 5 no charge.
- Senior fares 65+; Handicap fares include those with Medicardi.
- All tickets are round trip and are collected in Portland only.
- Round trip passage is defined as transportation to an island with return on a different boat.
- Round trip tickets expire 60 days after issue.
- Books of 5 tickets expire 2 weeks after issue and may be shared by family members only.
- Animal and bike books are available.

Please send news to Box 10 Peaks Island, Maine 04108 or e-mail us at voices@maine.rr.com
You can get there from here...  

By Captain Tom Searles

Can't manage to walk on water across our splendid bay? That's the problem with islands. There always seems to be water surrounding them. But you can get there from here. You can walk these rocky and sandy shores, verify the rumors of behemoth herds of deer, and maybe even watch the old BIW dry dock begin its float from Maine to Europe by water.

There are many boats, vessels, ships, or whatever you may choose to call that famous hole in the water where all the money goes, on the Bay that take passengers aboard for hire. And they will take you to Peaks, Diamond, Chebeague, Cliff, or any one of a number of these jewels of our bay, and inexpensively at that.

Of course some of you may prefer to have your own private hole to pour your money into. Now, they need not be expensive. Last summer I saw an object, kind of like an ironing board that someone had stuck a pole onto with part of Mother's bedsheet caught in the wind off the Eastern Prom, and before I could figure how to focus my camera, it had landed on Peaks for a cold beverage on the patio at Jones's Landing. That navigator didn't have to pay for fuel, and aside (probably) from a little body odor, didn't pollute the air. Like kayaks on the bay, they don't pollute and cause little damage to other boats that run them over.

Climbing the financial ladder just a little, people have taken on things they call inflatables. Like a trailer truck inner tube, squeezed so as to be longer rather than round, with a longish raincoat stretched tight for a floor, and a small outboard, and there you have it. Avoid sea glass, sharks' teeth and the like. Rubber, remember?

If you require more comfort, first get a second job. Water power palaces devour college accounts, and of course they have a thirst for these pollutants called petroleum products. Now, I've been told sailboats are cheaper to operate as the wind is free. I've passed on that myth, but I feel obliged to point out that wind is mostly hot air; for sailboaters are at constant risk of the dreaded "ten foot disease" in which a boat owner needs a larger vessel day the "boat of his dreams" has arrived.

Smart folks are the paying passengers. Ferries get you to and from an island for as little as $7.00. The Scotia Prince takes you to Canada and back (including a bed) for about the price of a round trip ticket to Boston from our jet port. But you won't get to the islands that I know from my sailboat. Its not enough to view the islands, you need to experience them.

So I encourage one and all to become passengers on the vessels plying the waters of our bay, while saving most of your hard earned money for the kids' college fund and home purchases. By doing so, you will help us fools with ships cover our asses and keep them dry. By contributing to our expensive hole, we will get you there from here! Captain Tom Searles has a Friendship Sloop, Ophelia's Odyssey that he charters out of South Portland's Sunset Marina, as well as delivering vessels for Yacht Management Services. He is often seen sailing Casco Bay at times when other sailors are safely at home.

The Downeaster  

By Charles Enders

The story of the return of passenger rail service between Portland and Boston is truly a saga of epic proportions, the details of which are too numerous to recount here. The matter is complex and very lengthy. A recent call to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) led me to their website, www.thedowneaster.com.

Patricia Douglas, a NNEPRA representative, returned my call to say that the start-up of passenger rail service remains in the works and currently hinges upon "resolving some outstanding project elements," Although track rehabilitation is nearly complete, platform lease agreements with Guilford Rail Service aren't finalized.

According to Ms. Douglas, once work is complete, NNEPRA will establish a date that is "appropriate and realistic" to begin scheduled passenger train service. The current name for the service is, you guessed it, The Downeaster. The site of the initial train station is Sewell Street, south of Congress Street and west of I-295, near the current Trailways bus terminal. There are plans to build a permanent train station at Marginal Way.

Please refer to the NNEPRA website for a wealth of information on the status of the project and its history.

Support Community Journalism page 7  

May 2001
Metro’s marvelous electric bus!

Metro general manager, Peter Hefler, is in discussion with other transit operators regarding whether some type of bus service would be workable on Peaks Island. Manager Peter Hefler wants to hear from Peaks Island residents as to how they feel before proceeding further. He values very much the input from the islanders and would be pleased to come to the island to further discuss the idea. Hefler can be reached by mail at METRO 114 Valley Street, Portland, ME 04102 or by e-mail at pheller@gpmetrobus.com.

(Continued from page 1)

(tides of Downeast Maine. We’ve been exploring our coast for 15 years and still discovering sublime beaches, secret coves and strong, rocky vistas.

Maine’s native inhabitants relied on canoes to traverse the entire Gulf of Maine ... to seek out the hunt and the tales that enriched their lives. We can relive some of this primitive connection with our world through the 4,000-year-old tradition of ocean kayaking.

Kayakers have circumnavigated Great Britain, Iceland, Japan, even Australia, have traveled the coasts of most continents, even paddled from California to Hawaii. We’ve been lucky enough to explore the wild tide races of the Irish Sea, the inaccessible desert beaches and mountains ringing the Sea of Cortez, the offshore coral reefs of Belize, the magic of Bolivia’s 12,000 ft. Lake Titicaca, the powerful waters of Alaska, even the wilds of the South Shetland Islands off of Antarctica. All it takes is some solid skills and good judgment.

Whether you seek the adventure of journeying for a week along the wild Downeast coast or enjoying the birds and creatures for a few hours in the relative protection of the Scarborough Marsh, try sea kayaking.

MKIO’s boathouse is below Hannigan’s Market, 100 yards North (left) of the ferry terminal. We can be reached at 766-2373 or via email at info@mainelandkayak.com.

Harbor Voices told some of the tale of Tom Berg’s kayak adventure in Antarctica last spring, but we bet if you please, he will tell you more. June and Tom live on Peaks Island.

Independent Transportation Network
By Mel Clarrage

This spring, the Independent Transportation Network (ITN) celebrates six years of driving seniors and the visually impaired. I have been riding with the ITN for the past year, because of a visual impairment, and it allows me to assist my wife with transporting our very active children to their activities, makes my life easier getting back and forth to work, and allows me to shop for myself and family. With the support of the community, the ITN increases the independence of myself, and hundreds of others.

ITN provides a service that fills the gap between regional services and family or friends. When I ride with the ITN, it is like riding with a friend. ITN uses automobiles to provide service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to approximately 1,000 seniors from Kennebunk to South Freeport.

The ITN is not just about helping seniors or the visually impaired, it is also about volunteers giving their time to someone who needs them. Martha Giles has volunteered to drive for the ITN since 1996. She provides members with more than 30 rides a week. “It has meant a lot to me, and my life has broadened in many ways,” said Giles. With the help of more than 100 volunteers, the ITN provides approximately 2000 rides a month for seniors and visually impaired ITN members.

ITN was funded by the Federal Transit Administration as a national demonstration project, with a goal to create a nationally connected and coordinated transportation service for seniors and the visually impaired. Kathy Freund, Executive Director of the ITNS told me that requests for ITN service are pouring in from communities across the country. ITN was recently named one of the top senior transit projects in the country by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, and is one of two senior transit services included in a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Best Practices study on how communities support senior independence.

There are lots of ways the community can help seniors and the visually impaired through the ITN. Volunteers can offer to drive just 2-3 hours a month. Anyone can join the ITN as a member, but only seniors over 65 and the visually impaired can use the service. Family members can join for relatives, or help by purchasing transportation gift certificates. Friends can support friends. The ITN also accepts donated vehicles through “Donate a Car Program.”

While ITN helps elders remain independently in their homes, the nonprofit organization also recognizes that there are many seniors in assisted-living facilities who need transportation. These seniors are able to get out and about through ITN’s Ride Service Program. This program makes it easy for assisted-living facilities to provide safe, reliable transportation for its seniors.

The ITN will be 100% community-supported by July of 2001, and plans to celebrate the 6th anniversary with a number of activities. “Look Who’s Driving Now” will showcase volunteer drivers. The “Community Tea” program is a series of informal gatherings to share information with seniors, elder housing representatives, healthcare providers, and friends or relatives of seniors. The Six Year Anniversary Celebration will culminate with a spectacular fundraising party.

Community Tea Schedule: Time: Place:
May 4th, 2001 2-4 p.m. The Woodford Street Congregational Church
May 25th, 2001 2-4 p.m. The Woods at Canoe
June 15th, 2001 10-12 p.m. The Cape Elizabeth Home
July 19th, 2001 10-12 p.m. The Brehes
August 1st, 2001 2-4 p.m. Bay Square at Yarmouth
August 8th, 2001 2-4 p.m. Atria Kennebunk
September 11, 2001 2-4 p.m. Atria Kennebunk
November 1, 2001 2-4 p.m. The Ennice Frye Home

For information about the ITN call 854-0505. For information about the Community Teas, Ride & Shop, Healthy Miles, or Ride Services, please ask for Liz Bell. To learn about volunteering to drive seniors in your community, please ask for Alison Hall. To donate a vehicle, call: 1-877-GIV-A-CAR.

Subscribe to Harbor Voices

(Continued from page 1)
Money and Transportation
By Andrew Voyer

Car Loans — Should They Be a Good Debt?
At one point, the interest on every debt was tax-deductible. Now only interest on student loans and house mortgages are tax deductible. Why did this change?
The federal government needed more revenue. They also most likely figured that if car loan interest were not tax-deductible then it would discourage buying cars and encourage public transportation. This would, in theory help the environment because of instead of a car per person for going to work people would be grouped in buses, maybe a few more in taxis. Hence, more people transported for fewer dollars and less pollutants in the air, and less resources being used up.
Some money, mostly state budget but some federal funds, goes to public transportation. However government could cut funding of public transportation to could lower taxes, and maybe reinstate deductable interest on car loans someday.

There are cars which consume solar power, water or electricity now. We need to perfect these in the very energy sources. When we can get energy from natural resources in the most economical way then we will solve a lot of our problems as people on Earth, and not just one person or one family, but one big society. Alternative transportation —from bikes, to walking — running, and roller skates — should be used. These all give you exercise, aid in environment preservation by taking up less resources and they don’t polluting the air. They are cheaper, they take less resources to make and to maintain. Maybe the government should give us incentive to buying stuff that will transport us, as well as keep the environment and ourselves in shape.

Andrew Voyer was the 4th of 6 kids. They were raised on Peaks Island, and Andrew went to Thomas College. You can Email him at terrierialslander@ureach.com

Our Spring Vacation
by Jenny Yasi

The connecting flight was canceled, due to mechanical problems, and of course we wouldn’t mind spending the rest of our lives in Tampa if it meant having the rest of our lives. After a round of taxes, the airline finally told Albert that they would pay overnight lodging, and gave us $8.50 each for dinner.

Things got better after that. Travel is about surrender, adaptability, poisonous snakes, and tornadoes. “We’ve never actually had a tornado here,” my mother-in-law told me, as the skies darkened and rain began pelting down. “But wasn’t there a tornado over in Perry?” my mother-in-law asked. “Several weeks ago though,” she added.

We left Albert’s family and took a teensy rental car for a few days on the Gulf Coast. We passed-up places like “Alligator Village,” eager to sleep, read and stop thinking. We called home to make sure everything was okay.

Matthew — holding down the home fort — assured us that everything was okay now that he’d put out the fire we’d left behind in our basement. Doing his best to make the fire sound tiny, he admitted “you’ll smell smoke.” Confident the way travelers must, no matter what, continue to be confident, we made our way to a local raw-bar where a drunk guy leered antagonically at my husband. “Just don’t turn your head to the left, honey,” I suggested. “Can we leave?” pleaded our children. In Apalachicola we finally found the southern oceanfront restaurant of our dreams — smokefree, pleasant music, beautiful views, excellent food, perfect wine, reasonable prices and the very best company. “Wow!” My husband said as we left, “Did you see that snake?”

Back at the beach, I ran down to the water for one last swim. We’d seen pelicans, a falcon, many porpoises and now I saw a strange thing skimming along the surface of the water, three feet away. A big fin! In fact, a big shark, cruising the beach in knee deep water. We took pictures, but all you can see is the fin. Another guy filmed it, and made t.v. news that night.

Traveling is okay, in retrospect. But next year, I think I’d rather just spend my tourist dollars right here.

Building the Future with the Visions of Today
By Capt. Jeff Monroe, City of Portland Department of Transportation

What an exciting time for the City of Portland. We have an opportunity to recreate our waterfront and knit together all means of transportation leading into and out of the city’s heart. But to take full advantage of the opportunity, we have to fight the urge to think only of our own interest, and look to what benefits all of the community that our City’s transportation system and facilities serve.

We aren’t an island but a community. Officials like myself have to find ways to listen to all of the community, and then serve it to the best of our ability. And Ocean Gate has to be planned to work for all of us aesthetically, economically, historically and practically.

Right now, the maritime industry that has been so central to this city’s history, to its very name, has been pushed away from the center, and the sight, of everyday Portland. Bringing big ships back to the center of Portland makes sense and was the traditional use before the last half of the 20th Century. Before most of us were born, Eastern Steamship operated regular ferry service to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Rail passengers would connect to the service from Union Station or the Grand Trunk Station. For Portland, this is not a new concept, but the revival of a traditional use. In our planning, Portland will be once again able to show it’s best face to newcomers and visitors, while returning the vista of ship calls that has been too long gone from downtown.

Economically, there is simply no doubt that having passengers disembark in town provides us many, many more opportunities to have those visitors in our restaurants, our stores, museums and hotels. Tourists won’t just be passing through. People are what make a living city, and we are inviting those people to stroll our waterfront, visit our beautiful City and spend some time with us.

Historically, what else needs to be said? The waterfront is for ships, and Portland still gets its identity from the port. We are fortunate that we have a diverse economic mix on our waterfront and according to a recent study, we remain a viable and active seaport.

As we look to the future, both on the mainland and the islands, we will be looking for ways to improve how our citizens get around locally and throughout the region. Working together, we can plan for a future that avoids what so many others now face because of the shortsightedness of the past. Those plans must include what is best for all of us as a community. Our department continues to look forward to serving the needs of our citizens as that process moves forward.
We've seen the future and it looks like GOLFCARTS!

Peaks Island mother and grandmother to all, Marie Watson, uses a very efficient and low-polluting form of transportation: a golf cart! It has a gas powered engine, and she says it gets lots of miles per gallon, "lots and lots. I don't know how much."

Legal on the islands, we predict someday they will be common in town.

April Stool's Day on Munjoy Hill

Thanks to your participation, April Stools Day 2001 was a great success! Saturday rolled in with sunshine and a warm breeze, as ASD Founder and Duchess of Doody Diane Davidson and I walked the Prom with Lucy and Zip early that morning to hide the fake turds. By 9:30 volunteers were assembled at Coffee By Design on India Street; by 10:45 the banner had been successfully rigged (phew; thanks Jeff) and tables and chairs delivered (thank you Dan and Paul and Amy), along with the lemonade stand and other props. By 10:30 Channel 13 was onsite (couldn't have you guys come when we were READY??) and Dr. Elizabeth Noyes was setting up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving $25 dollar cars that got 1000 miles a gallon."

Bill: At a recent computer expo, Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry, and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving $25 dollar cars that got 1000 miles a gallon." Maybe, but would you want your car to crash twice a day?

Blond Travel Jokes:

There's a blond sitting in the middle of this field, rowing a boat. Another blond comes along, and sees the other blond out in the grassy field, rowing the boat. She shouts to the other blond, "Hey you! It's blonds like you who give blonds like me a bad name. Now if I could swim, I'd come out there and kick your butt!"

A blond is sitting in an airplane when she notices how much better first class looks. So she thinks to herself, "I'm blond, I'm beautiful, I'm going to New York, and I deserve to sit in first class." So she moves to first class. Pretty soon the stewardess comes along and asks for the blond's ticket. The blond takes out her ticket and the stewardess sees that she only paid for a seat in the regular section. So the stewardess says, "Excuse me Miss, I'm afraid you're going to have to move back to the regular section." The blond looks at her and says, "I'm blond, I'm beautiful, I'm going to New York, and I'm staying right here." So the co-pilot comes out and asks the blond to please move back to her normal seat. She says, "I'm blond, beautiful, going to New York, and I'm going to stay right here!" So the co-pilot and the stewardess go to get the pilot. They tell the pilot that there's some blond woman sitting in first class who won't move back to her seat in the regular section. The pilot says, "Well, my wife is blond, so I think I might be able to handle this." The co-pilot takes over for him and he goes up to the blond and whispers something in her ear. Immediately she gets up and moves back to her normal seat. When the pilot goes back to the cockpit, the stewardesses and the co-pilot are amazed. They asked him how he got her to move, and he said, "Oh, I just told her that first class wasn't going to New York!"

Blond Travel Jokes:

Another blond comes along, and sees the other blond out in the grassy field, rowing the boat. She shouts to the other blond, "Hey you! It's blonds like you who give blonds like me a bad name. Now if I could swim, I'd come out there and kick your butt!"

Send your news, jokes, ideas, drawings, poems etc., to "Kids Only" editor, Sophi P., at voices@maine.rr.com
Subscribing members can use bulletin board space any month (25 words) for free. Please contact us each month to confirm your ad.
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(Tax deductible contributions must be made payable to the Maine Citizen Leadership Fund)

For more information, e-mail voices@maine.rr.com, or call 766-2390.


May 2001
### Harbor Business Directory

#### Contractors, builders

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<tr>
<td>Island Bay Services</td>
<td>766-3375 Covey Johnson Earth Work, Building Demolition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Edwards, Creative Landscaping</td>
<td>207-766-5660 fax 207-766-2364 Serving the islands since 1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unisun</td>
<td>solariums, sunrooms, general contracting 766-5780 Keith ~ 223 Island Ave. Peaks</td>
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<td>Expressly Trends</td>
<td>Name brand clothing for less! 10 Exchange Street</td>
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<td>Pet Positive</td>
<td>P.O. Box 6247 Cape Elizabeth CLICKER OBEDIENCE TRAINING <a href="http://www.petpositive.net">www.petpositive.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Island Recreation and Horse Camp</td>
<td>Jeannan Alves-O'Toole P.O. Box 51 Peaks Island, Maine 04108 207-766-2763</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brackett Street Veterinary Clinic</td>
<td>192 Brackett St. Portland (207) 772-3385 The In-Town Veterinary Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Need Advertising?</td>
<td>Contact 766-2390 <a href="mailto:voices@maine.rr.com">voices@maine.rr.com</a> Box 10 Peaks Island</td>
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#### Restaurants, Clubs

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<tr>
<td>Gilbert's Chowder House</td>
<td>92 Commercial Street * 871-5636 GREAT CHOWDAH seafood</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Breakaway Lounge</td>
<td>35 India Street * 541-4804 Music and Dancing Just a Short Walk From The Boat (Thurs. Night Salsa class &amp; dancing from 5pm)</td>
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<td>Bakehouse Café</td>
<td>205 Commercial Street Portland, Maine 207-773-2217</td>
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<td>FETCH</td>
<td><em>We Deliver to the Islands</em> On top of Munjoy Hill (Congress St) with the Best for Pets 773-5450 <a href="mailto:fetch@maine.rr.com">fetch@maine.rr.com</a></td>
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#### Museums

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<tr>
<td>African Museum of Tribal Art</td>
<td>Free admission 10:30-5:00 p.m. Tues.—Sat. Closed Sundays and Mondays Masks representing 1000 years sub-Saharan history</td>
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<tr>
<td>PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART</td>
<td>Seven Congress Square, Portland, Maine (207)775-6148 • <a href="http://www.portlandmuseum.org">www.portlandmuseum.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Casco Bay Lines</td>
<td>For schedule information — <a href="http://www.cascobaylines.com">www.cascobaylines.com</a></td>
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#### Harbor Voices

A weekly column published in the Portland Press Herald and the Portland Gazette.

#### Fifth Maine Needs Volunteers

The Fifth Maine Regiment Museum on Peaks Island needs volunteer docents (museum guides) for the summer season. The museum will be open Saturday and Sunday June through September and Monday - Friday in July and August. This is an opportunity to meet people from around the country and even overseas. Training will be provided. If you can spare a few hours for this enjoyable community service, call Bill Hall at 766-2314.

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by George + Claudia Rosel

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Solutions to April Crossword

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Harbor Voices crossword puzzle by George & Claudia Rosel

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Casco Bay Lines

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