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Peaks Island Independence Committee
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Members of the Peaks Island Independence Committee walk up Exchange Street to Portland City Hall on Friday. Moderator Michael Richards, right, carries the petition. Behind him is Judy Plawlock, secretary-treasurer.
Peaks delegates draw a new line in the bay

Islanders deliver a petition seeking a City Council hearing on their bid to leave Portland.

By KELLEY BOUCHARD
Staff Writer

A delegation of 15 Peaks Island residents boarded the 10 a.m. ferry Friday morning, landed in Portland 20 minutes later and slogged up the hill through the slushy Old Port to City Hall.

The mission: to deliver a petition for a public hearing on the island's latest call for independence.

Once inside City Hall, the group gathered in the first-floor rotunda to hear its moderator, Michael Richards, read a statement of purpose before handing over 600 signatures to the city clerk on the second floor.

"We, the undersigned registered voters of Peaks Island, Maine, wish to decide whether to secede from the city of Portland in order to achieve financial independence and to determine for ourselves all issues of importance to our community," Richards announced with tone of a town crier. "We are here again, at the doorstep of our independence, and with the help of our friends and our neighbors, and by the grace of God, this time we will prevail."

It has been 11 years since Peaks Island residents lost their last bid to secede from Portland by one vote of the Maine Senate. Once again, prodded by a recent property tax increase and a desire for self-determination, a group

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Martin: North Island Council is rushing to consult as it

plans to create a new city within the boundaries of

Tipu-Tipu, which is expected to have a population of

about 8,000 people. The city, which would be named

Crumblin, is proposed to be located near the

Northland Regional Council.

Councilor Martin, who is also a member of the

Crumblin Planning Committee, said the proposal

was aimed at addressing issues such as

environmental sustainability and economic growth.

"The council recognizes that we need to do more to

address these challenges," he said. "Creating a new

city will allow us to focus on these issues in a

more targeted way."