Peaks Island Independence Committee : IIC Newsletter, March 2006

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THANKS
The IIC is deeply honored and grateful for the anonymous donation of $200 to defray printing costs for the newsletter, in honor of Sam McCain. A treasured member of IIC's Land Use Committee, Sam embodied the best balance of true grace and independent thought. He is missed.

IS IT TRUE THAT ISLANDERS WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR SEWERS THAT ARE PAID BY THE CITY NOW?
Recently, the Public Services Group proposed that a Town of PI could use a different approach to fund wastewater treatment. Sewer users would share costs associated with operations, but debt would be treated as a town expense since the plant is an asset to our community. As a result, the citizens of Portland would no longer be asked to pay our bills—we'd pay our own way.

While sewer bills may go up for some, the increases will likely not equal those seen in recent tax bills. In a Town of Peaks Island, islanders will decide which programs and services will be funded, allowing us to implement our own priorities.

For more information, to comment, or to submit questions contact Communications committee Chair Howard Pedlikin at 766-0067 or at Howardic@maine.rr.com

UPCOMING IIC INFORMATIONAL FORUMS
Community Center, 10 am:
Governance, Police, Fire- Mar. 11
Public Works, Public Services- Mar. 18
(Includes Library, Social Services)

Peaks Island School, 9 am:
Public Hearing - March 25

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN
There are two versions of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Plan, and it's important to know the difference. First is the large document (63 pgs), developed with input from islanders at numerous community meetings, completed in 2003. After more than two years of work by dozens of islanders, the City requested that the 2003 plan be distilled from 13 topics to 6, narrowed to 3 recommendations per topic, reviewed and sanctioned by PINA, and submitted in a format specified by the City. In July 2005, the abridged version was deemed "acceptable as presented," eligible to be forwarded to the City Planning Committee.

Now, the City is promoting the neighborhood plan as a manifesto of Island issues. The City has indicated that they may enact plan recommendations "on the initiative of islanders," and use as an example the construction of the new public toilet down front.

The IIC believes that the orginal 63-page plan more accurately reflects Island concerns as of 2003. While in need of updating and broader input, that work is a good start for planning purposes.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GOVERNANCE?
The IIC recommends that you read "Local Government in Maine," published by the Maine Municipal Association and downloadable at: http://www.mamuni.org/public/publications/LocalGovtBk/book.htm. Its effect is both liberating and calming, because it demonstrates that self-government for a community the size of Peaks is entirely normal in Maine. (It makes a great boat book!) Hard copies are available at the library.

IIC MEETINGS FOR MARCH: 3/8 (WED.), 3/16, 3/23, 3/30 (THUR.) AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT 7PM. ALL ARE WELCOME!
### A Brilliant Idea to Raise Funds:
The IIC Fund Raising Committee wants your stuff!

Do you have “stuff” too good to throw out, but you’re not going to use it?

Help the Island Independence Committee raise funds by donating your “stuff” to be auctioned off on eBay!

Contact any Fund Raising Committee member with your donation. We’ll give you a receipt and tell you how to follow the auction. If you want to see what your item brings. We are looking for almost any items worth about $5 or more. Collectible items can be worth a lot (or next to nothing!) - recently an unused Zippo lighter sold for $274, but an unopened 1984 Olympics commemorative M&M candy canister sold for $2.

Peaks Island memorabilia may be of interest to other Islanders - we already have Jessie Trefethen prints and Willard Goodman poster prints ready to be auctioned off!

And if your donated item doesn’t sell? We give it back (we have even less room for it than you do!).

To donate an item, contact Judy Plawick 2109 or Bob Stiek 2340.

### Help Us to Save $$$!
Print your own copy of the IIC newsletter.....

1. Send us your email address to receive the newsletter electronically, and/or.
2. Send us a donation! Any amount will help. Send to: IIC, PO Box 154, Peaks Island.

### Who Will Run the Town of Peaks Island?
We All Will!

If Peaks Island secedes from Portland, the voters of Peaks Island will hold a community meeting and choose the form and content of our government.

There are two forms of local government in Maine:

1. direct, with selectmen & other town officials elected or appointed at a Town Meeting, and
2. representational, as in the City of Portland, with councilors elected by voters to represent them and make decisions on their behalf.

The majority of smaller Maine communities have annual town meetings, at which the townspeople determine the annual budget, elect town officials, and address other community concerns.

Islanders may decide to hire, on a short-term basis or longer, a town manager, or to contract with other towns or individuals for certain professional or regulatory duties.

Direct government is an opportunity for meaningful participation and community involvement. Peaks Islanders will have that opportunity with self-governance, to make their own decisions about issues that are of concern to them.

Local papers will publish summaries of Town Meetings starting this month. As you read the articles, you might be surprised at how much we have in common with other communities our size.

### Spotlight on the Public Services Committee

The Public Services Group consists of three sub-groups:

- **Public Safety**—police, fire, and medical emergency
- **Public Works & Transportation**—road and street light maintenance, solid waste disposal, land and water transportation issues, wastewater treatment and disposal, and harbormaster duties
- **Social Services & Library**—health center, children’s workshop, recreation & parks: including Sr. services, after-school care, & the library

Representatives from each group are researching the costs of maintaining current services provided by the City of Portland. Information is provided by the City, and by additional sources, such as other islands and small towns in Maine, representatives of agencies providing services, and the public record.

Forums to present these figures to the residents of Peaks Island will be held over the next few weeks.

While gathering this information, members of the public services group have gained special insight into the needs and desires of Peaks Island residents and have examined alternative solutions to the many exciting challenges we will face should we become the Town of Peaks Island.

Participants in the public services group are: Michele Tranes, Betty Heffer, Pete Mayo, Jeff Robbins, Lynne Richard, Art Astarita, Fred Goguen, Marjorie Phye, Kathy Hanley, George Rosol, and Cevia Rosol.

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**Self-Government Doesn’t Fracture a Community: It Binds It. We’re Coalescing, Organizing, Unionizing, So We Can Speak With One Voice to the City and State. We Aren’t Leaving Portland; We’re Joining Them as an Equal Partner.** (M.R. 1/25/06)