

November 2003 \$2.50

# Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955

*some stories in this issue:*

Photos from the First Annual Island Boodle and the Bite of Beaver; The Winter of '36  
BIRHC Receives Grant; The Future of Evacuation Flights; Blessing of the Pets; A 50th Class Reunion  
Beaver Island News, Events, Young Arrivals, History, People, Art, and lots more...



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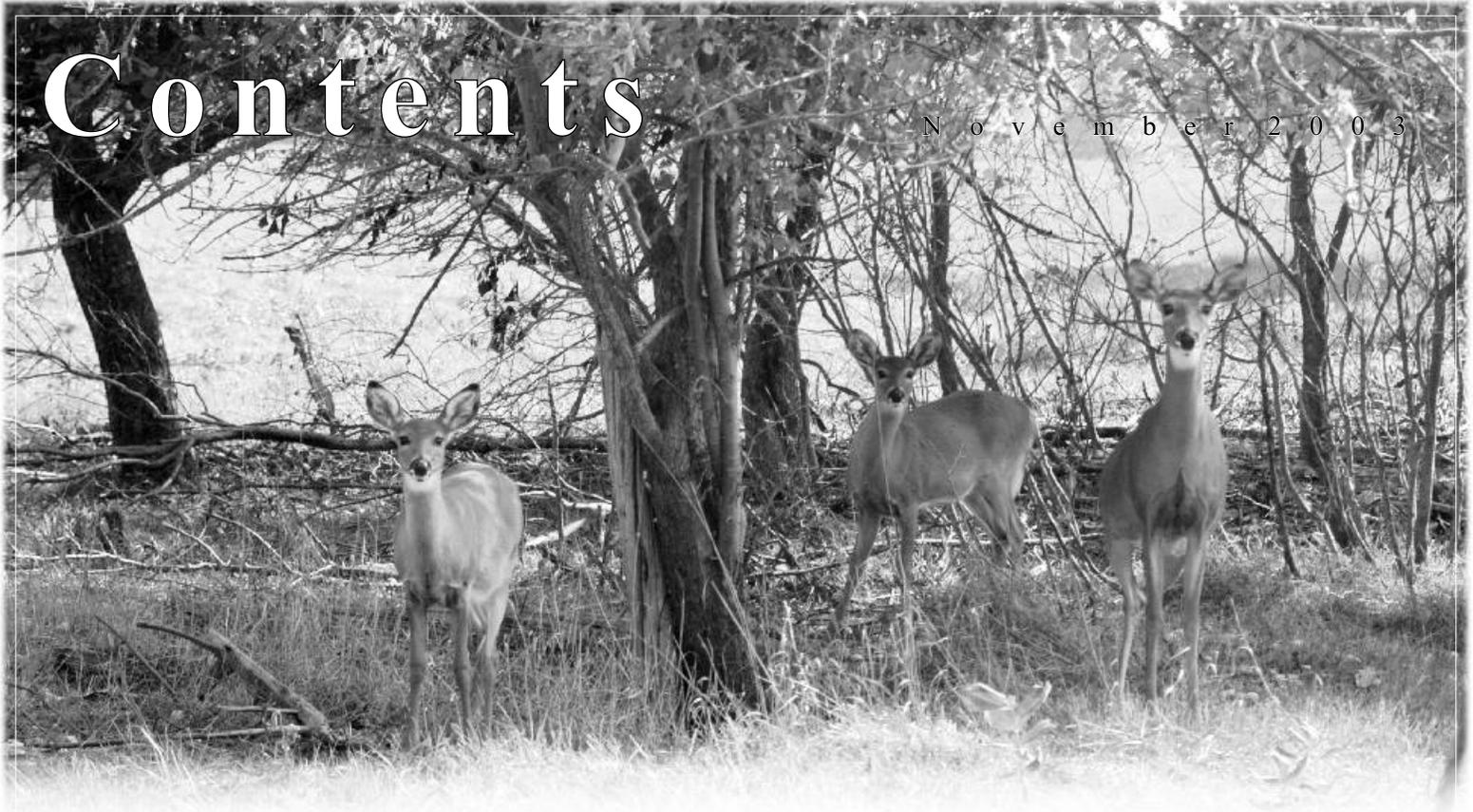
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 phone: (231) 448-2476  
 email: [beacon@beaverisland.net](mailto:beacon@beaverisland.net)  
 web: [www.beaverbeacon.com](http://www.beaverbeacon.com)

### Editors / Owners

Jeff Cashman  
*[jcashman@beaverisland.net](mailto:jcashman@beaverisland.net)*  
 William Cashman  
*[wcashman@beaverisland.net](mailto:wcashman@beaverisland.net)*

### Contributing Writers

Joyce Bartels	Joyce Runberg
Rod Nackerman	Eula Thomas
Johnny Runberg	Lois Williams

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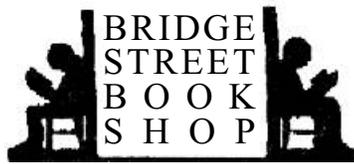
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## News from Beaver Island Hospice

As the busy summer was drawing to a close, we became involved in the Health Fair held at BICS. We put on a dinner Friday night for those setting up their wares for the following day. Saturday was outstanding, with such good health teaching and testing going on throughout the school. At the close of the Fair, Audrey Bielman drew the winning ticket for the painting we raffled – won by Sharon Nix. Many thanks to artist Dody Bedford for donating her work.

We received generous donations from the *Ruth Hirschev Memorial Fund* and from Island descendant Joe O'Donnell. Thanks for all the monetary support!

Our hospice team gave of themselves so willingly and unselfishly this summer. God bless you all!

Since the Rural Health Center

will be moving during the winter, several of our items for loan are stored elsewhere. If you need a medical item, please call Lois Williams (2475) or Sandy LoDico (2004.) The BIRHC has a good supply of Care Notes for your use; feel free to take the ones you need. Remember to check out our shelf of supplies at the BI District Library as well.

Winter contacts: Lois Williams (gone 3/24 – 5/6); Margaret Bass, 2244 (gone for December); Jane Dwyer, 2868; Pinky Harmon, 2461; Sandy LoDico (gone 1/23 – 2/18); Helen Pike (baking and visiting only until 1/1); Di Shoup, 2068; Karen Whitecraft, 2266 (massage therapy, pedicures, shampoo); Penny Young, 2996; and Eula Thomas, 2265.

Have a good winter, one and all!

– Joyce Runberg

## A Free Presentation

Jack Rozdilsky has set November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Peaine Town Hall for a presentation about Beaver Island and Montserrat. “Despite differences, small islands share a cultural uniqueness resulting in a strong island identity,” he said. “Having done research on small islands outside the United States, I can share some of the insights I’ve gleaned.

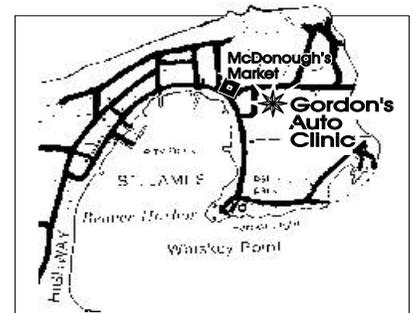
“Montserrat is also known as the *Emerald Island*. It has a rich history, and is known for its black sand beaches and Irish Heritage. The population was about 10,000 before 1995, when a volcano thought to be extinct became

active, forcing much of its population to evacuate. Now rebuilding is taking place. Currently about 5,000 people reside in its northern safe zone.

“While the two islands are different, both struggle to maintain their identity and a viable society. Montserrat is finding creative solutions to adapt to the post-volcano environment, and is encouraging tourism as part of its redevelopment efforts. It could be useful for America's Emerald Isle to observe Montserrat's situation and consider if its resiliency can inform Beaver's consideration of its own future planning and economic development.”

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## Ellen Welke Memorial Toy Drive

It's time to start thinking about Christmas and making a child's holiday a special one!

Connie Boyle will once again be organizing the Toy Drive. (This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year!) The toys go to children who live in Charlevoix County. Any children who qualify for the program through Social Services and live on Beaver Island will also benefit from the program!

Toys need to be new. Please do not gift-wrap them. Social Services will do that after determining for which child the toy is best suited.

You can drop off the toys to Connie at home, leave it in her car (or Neal's), or bring it to the school office or her classroom. There will also be drop boxes at the airport. All toys need to be donated by...

DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>

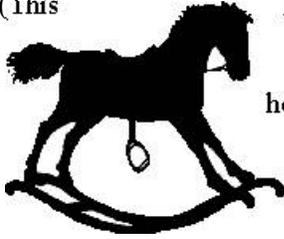
If you can't make this date, don't worry – you can still

donate toys. There will be a second shipment. Social Services just needs the bulk of the toys by the 13<sup>th</sup> so they have time to determine whether they have enough toys or if they need to do some shopping. Questions? Call Connie at home at (231) 448-2491

*A Note from Connie Boyle:* When I started this program, the Marine Headquarters in Traverse City let me use the name,

“Toys for Tots,” since, at that time, they didn't come this far north to collect toys. When Ellen was gone, I decided to name this program in her honor, as a way of recognizing Ellen for all her support over the years and reminding people of all her contributions to the children of our community. If

you knew Ellen, you can imagine how much time and money we put into shopping for toys and treats for all the children - both on and off the Island!



## Births

To Kathleen (K. K.) and Brian Antkoviak: Emmalee Susan, born at 6:32 on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Charlevoix Area Hospital. Emmalee arrived weighing 11 pounds 12 ounces, and was 22 inches long. Grandparents are Emma Jean Belfy of Beaver Island and Jenny and Chuck Antkoviak of Cheboygan.

To Bridget Wearn and Travis Martin: Mackenzie Rose, who weighed in at an even five pounds. Grandparents are Linda (Gatliff) Wearn of Detroit, and Bud and Colleen Martin of Beaver Island. Great grandparents are Madonna McCafferty of Beaver Island, Katherine “Georgie” Gatliff of St. Claire Shores, and Russell Wearn of Redford, Michigan.



## Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar will be held at Holy Cross Parish Hall on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 1:00 until 4:00. There will be many booths for holiday shopping, plus raffles, a cake walk, a white elephant sale ... candy, baked goods, and food. If you are interested in having a table (\$10), contact Sandy LoDico at 448-2004.

## Jerry Volgenau's New Book

Former long-time travel editor at the *Detroit Free Press* Jerry Volgenau recently spent four days on Beaver Island doing research for his proposed new book about “Islands of the Great Lakes.” He was given tours of many of the Island's features, with which he was already familiar through having written several articles, and also was given copies of old photos from the BIHS archives. We look forward to being represented with an interesting chapter.

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## B.I. Historical Society Highlights

Looking over the efforts of this past season, the BIHS Board intends to "stay with the program." The splendid work of the museum staff resulted in progress in several areas. Joyce Bartels wore many hats. She organized and coordinated the volunteers and filled numerous shifts herself. Ruth Kelly ably assisted her with archival work, which is such an important part of the Society's mission. Oral Historian Robert Cole completed a number of interviews with Island-connected seniors. He video-taped numerous events both here and off-Island. Donations earmarked for this work are needed for him to continue. Our Director Bill Cashman was kept very busy managing a multitude of tasks, including that of coordinating *Museum Week*. The various tasks of the "building committee" became his concern as well. He too took a number of museum shifts in addition to his regular duties.

Many requests are made for genealogical information. Due to the efforts of the above mentioned individuals these have been filled. As a result, numerous donations have come our way, including one of \$5000 last year! Kudos to Doris Larson for once

again being the gracious M.C. of *Music on the Porch!* Our past president, Alvin Lafreniere, has been a member of the Board for 22 years, and is due a hearty round of applause for his never-flagging interest. Treasurer Chuck Schellenberg contributed untold hours with his C.P.A. expertise. Offered payment, he once said, "You couldn't afford me!" How very true. Laraine Dawson is his well-qualified backup. Kathy Ruis is now the Board Secretary. Ron Stith is our newest board member. He and vice-president Rod Nackerman unselfishly cover Sunday at both museums.

This year's main effort was expended at *Heritage Park*. The property was cleaned up and a lot was laid out and paved for visitor parking. The next step will be a concrete pad with roof for the next exhibit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Island grader, which is being donated by Jimmy Wojan. We've also accepted other artifacts for future display. As with many projected improvements, there is a dearth of funds.

The D.E.Q. has kept us in limbo at the Marine Museum for a year. We expect to have the long-sought permits in hand soon for building a revetment to protect the building and the *Bob S*



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from the next high water cycle—remember 1986-87?—and to put a roof over the *Bob S*, which has suffered from the weather for over 10 years. To our knowledge, it is the only wooden commercial fish boat of this size being conserved on the Great Lakes! It was built at Manistique in 1935, only 68 years ago. There are still some in service in far off places. This winter the boat might be shrink-wrapped at a cost of about \$350. As a 100-year-old structure (in 2004) the Marine Museum is in the same deteriorating condition as the Print Shop and Protar House. Without major funding we will be destined to struggle in the near future. An immediate hope is to find someone to write grants for our important goals. As we continue to make needed repairs, and handle “do-able” projects, we look forward to better days.

To keep the museums open 7 days a week, volunteers cover 26 three-hour shifts each week from early June until after Labor Day. There is a desperate need for additional help from those with family ties to our Island. Can you spare 3 hours a week to keep Beaver Island history alive? I have served as a Trustee for 20 years toward this work

begun by A.J. Roy nearly 40 years ago. I strongly believe that an effort to reach goals qualifies one to criticize the results if they fall short. Please consider being part of the solution by helping however (in person or financially) you can. Can we count on you to step forward? If so, contact the B.I.H.S. POB 263 Beaver Island, MI 49782

—Johnny Runberg

## B.I.H.S. Meeting

At the Historical Society’s meeting of 10-16, a decision was made to let the public know that what’s inside the Print Shop is more than material about the brief, although famous (or infamous), period of Mormon occupation by putting up a sign proclaiming it to be the Museum of Beaver Island History. This represents a shift in purpose from that envisioned by A. J. Roy.

After other business was conducted, Oral Historian Robert Cole showed parts of four videos he recently made, including 4 of the 5 *Rushin’ Girls* (gathered in Pontiac) and Allie McDonough (in Chicago), a highly-regarded artist who still paints, and paints well, at the age of 99; people still talk about accurate pictures of the Island he painted 40 years after he left.

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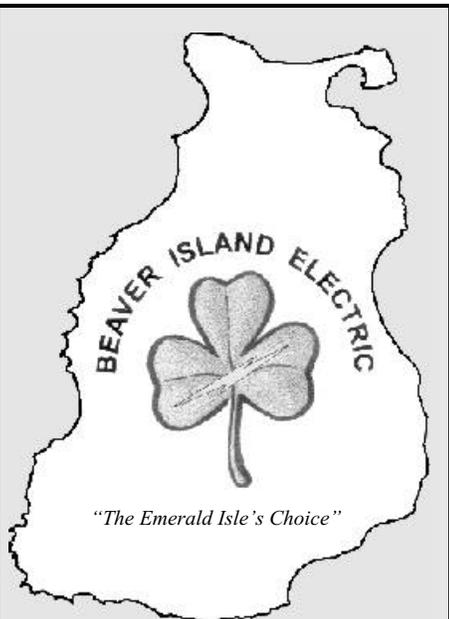




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It seemed everyone on the Island was having a good time at the Bite of Beaver.



Later in the month, a record number of people met at Deerwood Lodge for the Chamber's festive "Business After Season" presentation on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Phyllis Moore, [www.beaverislandtour.com](http://www.beaverislandtour.com), for the "Business After Season" photos.



## An explosion of Delectable Delicacies

This year the Chamber of Commerce truly outdid itself for its 2<sup>nd</sup> Bite of Beaver in assembling a variety of tasty treats. Master Chef Deborah Harwood organized the 10+ tables serving salmon rosettes, grilled shrimp, roasted lamb chops, warm crab dip on bread, chowder, savory gallettes, and deep-fried whitefish, as well as over two dozen mouth-watering desserts. Wine and pop were available, plus free cider made in a press, as the two hundred and fifty participants milled counterclockwise around the beautifully decorated hall.

## Thanks

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Bite Of Beaver Island food festival and the first Island Boodle 5K run/walk. Attendance at Bite was more than double last year and 76 entries in the Boodle is fantastic for a first year event. A special thanks to Deborah Harwood and Gail and Mike Weede. You were the keys to success.

–Steve West

The ambiance was put to a number of rhythms by Brenda LeFevre on keyboard and L. D. Ryan on sax – L. D. also sat down and sang a half-dozen classics (as well as some of the Beaver Island songs he's written.)

Careful observation of new arrivals revealed that two opposite strategies were being used. One was to start chowing down at the first table one came to; the other was to make a careful circumnavigation, full of restraint, planning which tidbits to sample and in which order, before beginning to indulge.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Bite of Beaver Island. It was a great success! Every participant sold out of most of their food, a great indication of the appetite and “good taste” of the Bite attendees. Hopefully we will see everyone (plus some more) again next year! Bon Appétit!

–Deborah Harwood



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## On This Date

**Ten Years Ago:** The November, '93 Beacon opened with a tribute to eight-year-resident Mike McGinnity at a time when he was about to be upgraded from Nurse Practitioner to Physician's Assistant. The story recounted how he and his wife Pat met at a skating rink when he was in his last year in the Navy. Working at an Upper Peninsula clinic before being called here, he began the arduous task of becoming a Deacon, which he finished after his arrival here.

The Beaver Island Community Players announced their plan to stage *A Christmas Carol* by Christmas. Tryouts were underway, with 24 parts to fill.

The *Beacon* bemoaned the bad weather that reduced the number of planes to arrive at the Township Airport for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Fly-in. Organizers Jim Wojan, Bob McGlocklin, and Dennis Clarkson set up 35 tables and 210 chairs in a hangar, and most of the Island turned out for a good meal. The St. James minutes reported the gross as \$840.

A report on the Beaver Island Energy Project mentioned that USDE rep Mark Burger had initiated an economic impact study to focus on the potential consequences of switching to renewable sources of power. Through MSU the BIEP hoped to play a role in the development of the Island's new

Master Plan.

The Townships resolved to place a plaque honoring Dennis "Keech" Cieslak at the Transfer Station. The question of whether or not Clifton Avenue (at the ball diamond) had ever been accepted into the County Roads was raised; if it wasn't, it would be easier to abandon it. The Rescue Boat was raffled, producing \$10,200. The question of public access at Bonner's Landing was not resolved.

**Twenty Years Ago:** The *Beacon* reported on the Civic Association's Halloween events. The costume party had a light turnout, although everyone enjoyed the Island band: Rick De la mater, Joe Moore, Randy Osborne, Jacque LaFreniere, and Dan Peck. First prize for costumes went to Queen Anastasia: Larry Scholl, beating out a witch with a bat, an alien from outer space, and the Tin Man. The kids' hayride saw a full wagon, but the adults' ride was canceled for lack of interest.

The CMU Closing party featured a roast pig, followed by the Island band.

The Fire Department sponsored a Fly-in, and hit it lucky with good weather: 250 planes arrived. A whitefish dinner at the Parish Hall served 636 diners. The oldest pilot was Arnold Schneider (79) from K-zoo; the furthest distance, Frank Fisher from Elkhart; and the oldest plane, Craig

Garrett's, from Grand Rapids.

A recent evaluation of the Island School determined that 7 students would benefit from a special ed teacher, so Jim Shepherd recommended that the school try to find one. A \$9,000 Block Grant was guaranteed, and some materials needed for the teacher could come from Char-M and Traverse City.

A joint meeting of the St. James Board with the CCRC resulted in a request for help solving the Township Park problem at the Donegal Bay Road corner. Ed Wojan and Bill Cashman asked the St. James Board to purchase two lots, with Peaine, at Iron Ore Bay for \$48,000, which it agreed to do.

The passing of Sybil Larsen, 86, was noted. Born as Sybil Tilley in Northport, she came to Beaver Island as an infant; her father, Charles, built houses for the Lumber Company and for many individuals. She married Garden Island fisherman Art Larsen in 1918, and they set up a home on Beaver's harbor.

The Island School celebrated a tough-fought victory over Charlevoix in soccer.

**Thirty Years Ago:** The *Beacon* reported that hunters were finding ample rabbits, partridge, and squirrels. Ducks and geese made stops as well, but the size of the deer herd was worrisome. The Game Club hosted a Hunter's Dinner, feeding 132, with Dick DeRosia acting as head chef.

A doctor with the District Health Department assured the Island that there was no truth to the rumor making the rounds that the Michigan Department of Public Health planned to terminate its support of the Medical Center.

In the classifieds 111 cedar posts were offered by Dennis Wagner in trade for a manure spreader.

A gathering was held at the *Beachcomber* to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Milt Bennett, the Island's "turtle man" – he frequently stopped his green-and-white International jeep to show off the latest huge snapper he'd caught and was taking for its last ride.

Frank Nackerman's resignation as Postmaster led to the appointment of



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Mary Minor, which forced her to resign as Township Clerk, which in turn led to the appointment of Vivian Visscher. Bud McDonough resigned as Supervisor because of his illness, which led to the appointment of *Beachcomber* owner Jim Janda.

Celebrated Island fiddler Patrick Bonner passed away in the Northport hospital where he'd been a patient for ten days. He was born on the Island in 1882. His skill was such that the University of Michigan invited him to come to Ann Arbor to record his version of traditional Irish tunes. He played a violin made in the early 1700s that might have been a Stradivarius. As a young man he became good friends with Dr. Protar, who lived across the street, and became the unofficial custodian of his old log home upon his death, taking visitors on a tour of Protar's home and tomb. He was survived by his wife Rose, a daughter, and two sons.

**Forty Years Ago:** This *Beacon* opened with the story of a shipwreck, of sorts: "On the morning of October 9<sup>th</sup>, Island residents were startled to discover a stone-laden barge half-submerged in the harbor. The *Mackinaw Islander*, owned by Ernie Manthei and piloted by Dick Lyons, was returning from Port Inland with a load of crushed rock. As they passed Whiskey Island they noticed the barge was listing towards its stern, and began to run for St. James. It settled to the bottom just inside the harbor, so the stone was transferred to the tug. After some pumping the barge rose from the bottom and was then towed to Charlevoix."

With the ball diamond empty and inviting, a decision was made to play a football game—with devastating results: two sprained ankles, and Jack Martin broke a bone in his foot.

Karl Erber awoke at his Sand Bay cottage, went outside, and found a tree full of 30 yellow balloons bearing the motto, "Wish Again, Mich; U-M Homecoming." After some research he learned they'd been released the day before at the Michigan-Minnesota game in Minneapolis, and had covered around 500 miles in 24 hours.

Don Cole took a couple of his boys and Rich Gillespie to fish on Lake Geneserath, and Rich got lucky, hauling in a 47" pike that weighed over 21 pounds. It was given to Archie, who mounted it for display.

The Conservation Department restocked Fox Lake with 1,300 legal-size brook trout.

At the Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce, Young James Gallagher regaled the guests by describing Beaver Island's multi-faceted history.

Austin Malloy (the 12<sup>th</sup> child of Buffalo Malloy), living in Grand Rapids, announced his plan to write a book about Beaver Island, and asked anyone with information about our past to send it to him.

Construction was going strong on Beaver Island, with the Erin and an expansion of Harbor View both underway, as well as the Island's first A-frame (for Gil and Kay Lloyd.)

Our DNR officer, Vernon Fitzpatrick, took the school's biology students on an expedition in which they collected frogs, salamanders, ants, and various plants.

The movie *Young Daniel Boone* was shown at the Civic Association's Halloween Party.

A Beaver Tale reprised the story of the first airmail delivery to Beaver Island in 1926. That winter was tough

on Islanders because the phone line had been broken, and the ice was too rough to cross. The Charlevoix postmaster was worried about the glut of undelivered mail, and asked Congress to approve a mail flight. Booth Fisheries' officials, who had interests on the Island, convinced Secretary Herbert Hoover to approve it, which he did. An old RAF pilot, Joe Donnelan, was selected, and he chose his pal Alvin Yelder as his mechanic. They left Chicago in a blizzard at 2:00 a.m. in a two-seated biplane. After using a compass to cross Lake Michigan, they set down in a snow bank in Lawton. It took 3 days to free the plane before they could get back in the air. After stopping at Grand Haven and Cadillac, they finally reached Charlevoix, where they picked up 400 pounds of mail and Captain John McCann as a guide. Evergreens were cut and placed on the frozen harbor to identify a safe place to land. After 45 minutes, the plane came down safely. The 22-year-old mail horse Jackie was hitched to a cutter by Joe M'Fro, but the arrival of the plane was such a strange sight that the poor old horse, seeing what it might have taken as the writing on the wall, keeled over and died.

"The plane," Phil concluded, "well, it was kind of like a kite with a motor in it."



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## Letters to the Editor: Island Planning

In both townships, the process of producing a new "Master Plan" is under way. The townships have chosen somewhat different methods, but the aim is the same. It is to represent the aims, hopes, and even the fears of Island residents about the kind of social, economic, and natural environments we want for Beaver Island. This should be an open and careful process in which there is wide interest and participation. The Plan also becomes an official document that serves as a basis for zoning and other land use and can become one element in legal action. In short, the Master Plan is VERY IMPORTANT.

I have talked to enough neighbors in the past months to be aware that there is some real concern about the process. For some on the Island, the very word "planning" raises emotional responses. At one end, there is the "I don't want anyone, especially government, telling me what I can and can't do with my own land. I bought it and it is mine." Down here on Bonner's Landing, for example, we would strongly resist any attempt to turn our little dead-end driveway into a shoreline drive connecting with Donegal Bay. On the other hand, a plan

that places traffic flow first might well propose condemning private land to remedy a bottleneck that requires going back to King's Highway to get from one area to the other. (This is intended to be a bad example, neighbors, not a proposal.) The point is that we all place limits on intrusions on our land, however logical from one perspective.

Every attempt to survey the attitudes of Beaver Island residents has demonstrated a high level of agreement on a pair of principles. Almost everyone places a high value on preserving the beauty of our natural environment and on restricting development that would seriously change the Island's essentially rural character. At the same time, almost everyone agrees that there needs to be economic development that not only supports a good quality of life for those who live and work here, but provides opportunities for those with initiative, skills, and a willingness to work to raise their economic standard of living to security and comfort.

My point is that planning can help us reach those dual goals. In fact, at this turning point in Island development, good planning is necessary. Let me give

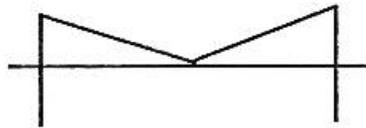
a couple of examples:

Lake Michigan shoreline property has now largely been sold except for a few properties that are not of the highest quality, some very high price resales, and the tracts of public land studied in the draft "Recreation Resources Draft Plan," available for comment in the library. That means that continued mid-price residential development will turn more to locations off water or on the very fragile inland lakes. On an Island in which second homes, retirement homes, and limited tourism are THE economy, such development is necessary to support those jobs and investments that are generally desirable. I would argue that the placement of such development should protect fragile areas, scenic vistas, and recreational opportunities. Planning, then, is necessary for both preservation and development.

Planning also provides a basis for a pro-active program for the townships. In the case of recreation opportunities, some well-used projects such as the new bike/walking path, Gillespie Beach, the tennis courts, Iron Ore Bay, and Kuebler Trail demonstrate the value of public/private partnerships. However, most

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projects have been undertaken without consideration of other priorities and possibilities. They are "reactive." There is no overall plan that balances economic development and protection. For example, the possibility of a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources on a program of trail development will require both developing a plan and local government taking the initiative to secure state funding. Which lands do we want more accessible and which better protected? That is planning. However, more residents building inland will create more demand for access to the big lake and to inland beauty spots. A good trail system will help attract new residents who value the environment. Developing such a system requires a new budgeting/planning process for the townships.

Planning, then, is significant if we are to protect what we all value and also to support desirable development. Individual initiative is fine when resources are unlimited. Now Beaver Island has to recognize limits and plan ahead rather than just react to projects one at a time. This is a good time to drop in on township boards and planning com-

missions and ask questions about the future. Roads are more than dust, trails more than brushing, and development more than contracts. This Island is an incredible place. Let's make it even better for our children and grandchildren. And can we agree that "planning" is not a bad word?  
—Jack Kelly

## Coffee House To Open

The Paradise Bay Coffee Shop, located across from the Township Airport, plans to open for hunting season—early morning to past noon, and then from 6:00 until 8:00 at night.

## Elizabeth Whitney Williams Fest

The Harbor Springs Historical Society held an event to honor Elizabeth Whitney Williams, attended by 350 people. Long after her turbulent life on Beaver Island—as a girl, her family tried to coexist with Strang's Mormons; then, after their exodus, she married the Whiskey Point Lighthouse keeper and succeeded him upon his death—she remarried and moved to Harbor Springs, where her husband became a successful photographer.

## Neal Green awarded Silver Dolphins

Neal Green, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Lucas, was recently awarded his Silver Dolphins for qualifying in submarines by R. P. Burke, his commanding officer on the *USS Hampton*. "This distinguishes him for his pride and accomplishments of day-to-day tasks while serving his country, and exemplifies his superior professionalism, teamwork, and technical excellence," Commander Burke stated. "I have great confidence in his knowledge and ability." Congratulations for completing the rigorous qualification program!

Her book of memoirs, *Child of the Sea*, sells well across the country a hundred years after its first publication. In fact the Beaver Island Historical Society, which owns its copyright thanks to the generosity of Agnes Allen's family, recently announced plans to add either a forward about her life or an afterward explaining her mistakes, or both, plus a color cover, to the next edition, scheduled for release late this winter.



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## The Blessing of The Pets

On October 4<sup>th</sup> Father Pat Cawley conducted a brief service at the Holy Cross Peace Garden in which he blessed fifteen Island dogs – a shi tzu, a terrier, a blue healer, a few retrievers, labs, and shepherds, and the jumbo dane puppy fresh from romping with the ponies at Unfinished Farms.

After a prayer was recited by the group of owners, Father Pat led a reading of a Psalm and then conducted the Blessing of Pets, with a sprinkling of holy water. During the closing song, the Prayer of St. Francis, the gathered dogs remained on their best behavior.





## A 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion on Beaver Island

Fifty years ago, when a schoolgirl was nearing graduation, there weren't many career options available.

Island girls were lucky because the Sisters who were their teachers could recognize a calling for nursing and, when it was found, pave the way for entry to Mercy Central School of Nursing's 3-year program in Grand Rapids. The work there was very tough, and they also had to put in time at St.

Mary's hospital—yet all but a few of the class of 50 made it through.

Fifteen remained good friends with three Island classmates—Joy Green, Lil Cole, and Skip McDonough—and have been getting together every year, and every five years on Beaver. An added bond came from the fact that four more of them married Island boys: Topper, Bud McDonough, Rod Nackerman, and Chicago transplant Owen Boyle.

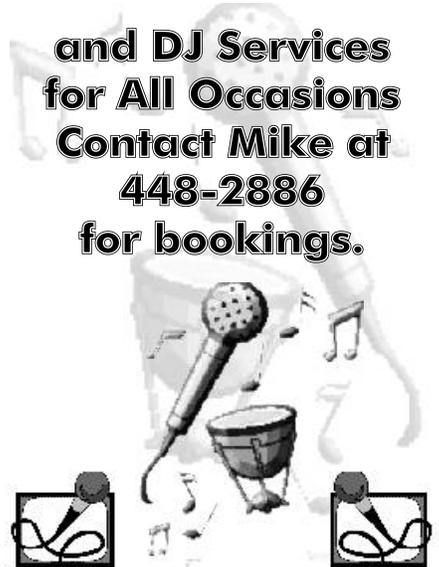




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## News from the Townships

### St. James Township, 10-1-03:

After the minutes were approved and the paying of bills authorized, Joe Moore reported to the Board about an unfortunate turn of events regarding emergency evacuation. It seems Island Airways has been warned by the FAA that except for a life-and-death emergency, it is not properly insured for transporting medical patients to the mainland. Paul Welke is willing to obtain this insurance, if he can. There are only four companies in America willing to issue it, and so far none of them has presented a bid. So right now we're dependent on North Flight in Traverse City – if they can't fly, the Coast Guard is our last resort.

The problem with North Flight is three-fold. Typically 30 minutes elapse between dispatch and departure for an Island Airways emergency flight, whereas for North Flight it's over 100. Then there's the cost: North Flight now charges \$3,200 plus \$27/loaded mile, while Island Airways remains under \$500. And North Flight doesn't like the Charlevoix Airport destination and would prefer taking patients to Traverse City, which has full instrument capabilities.

Various news items were presented.

The Transfer Station received a new glass crusher from the county. Jason Allen's representative was coming to the Island to meet the public. The Road Commission kept its promise to send a mower to the Island. CCRC manager Pat Harmon suggested accepting the Brothers' Road into the county system when abandoning the unbuilt Main Street extension for a parking lot, to keep the county mileage the same. GLLKA's Dick Moehl was coming to the Island the next day to help supervisor Don Vyse prepare the detailed answers about the Whiskey Point Light restoration requested by the National Park Service.

It was noted that salient points of the new Bike Path Ordinance would have to be put on plaques at both ends of the trail. This Ordinance will have to be amended if the trail is extended. The Board agreed it did not have enough information about the Community House's anticipated water use to respond to PABI's request to share a township well.

The new bids for the playground parking lot were opened – there was only one, from Schwartzfisher Stoneworks for \$96,396.50. Jim Wojan asked Township Engineer Gary Vogt why it was so much higher than the original estimate; he answered that the lack of competition produced this situation. Don Vyse interjected that because of the cash part of the land swap with Evan Karnes, all the paving (the Brothers' Road, Carlyle Road, Lake Street, and the Donegal Bay Road extension) plus

this project would still only require about \$16,000 from the Road Fund. The bid was accepted, 4-0-1, with Wojan abstaining.

Regarding the problems with Paradise Bay Park (at the ferry dock), Pam O'Brien informed the Township that as part of her certification as a Master Gardener she would be willing to spend 20 hours now and 20 hours in the spring working at the park for \$15/hour, fertilizing, weeding, thinning, and removing debris. Her proposal was accepted.

The need to appoint an Ordinance Enforcement Officer was mentioned. He, she, or they will be paid, and will have authority for all the Township ordinances, such as the Yacht Dock Ordinance and the Blight Ordinance. A Municipal Ordinance Enforcement Bureau will have to be created, and the officer's duties well defined. Probably 1<sup>st</sup> offences will garner a verbal warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> a letter, and 3<sup>rd</sup> a ticket. There were questions raised about how Peaine plans to proceed with its Master Plan. Don Vyse pointed out that the Master Plan created a decade ago was for both Townships.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy finished his assignment on September 30.

Tom Bailey informed the Board that the possibility of obtaining most of the Petritz property as a Township Park was very promising. He will be on the Island to discuss the CMU boat house acquisition later in the month, and will update the Township then.

Ellen Hill requested, by letter, a per-



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mit to drive her golf cart on the streets. Jim Campbell stated that Sheriff Lasater had said that another community in Charlevoix County allowed this, and he'd be glad to help write an ordinance.

A letter from Cathy Bauman asked that public buildings be marked with information about the maximum number of people allowed and directions for egress in case of emergency. Elaine West said she hoped the Township, the Port of St. James' Property Owners' Association, and BIPOA could sit down together and solve the problem of the Donegal Bay park. A letter from Bill Hirschey suggested the mounting costs for the 9-11 fragment might be paid for from the Ruth Hirschey Memorial Fund. The placement of Larry Malloy's clock is being considered at four sites.

**Peaine Township, 10-8-03:** In the absence of Supervisor John Works, finally taking a well-deserved vacation, long-tenured trustee Paul Nelson ran this short meeting. He departed from local protocol by asking for a resolution to pay the bills, as he had done as a supervisor in Kent County, and then announced that the work done to obtain permits to deepen the throat of Cable's Creek where it meets Lake Geneserath had been in vain because one of the property owners, fearing that in this time of lowering lake levels too much water would be lost from the lake, withdrew his permission.

Paul asked Chuck Schmidt, Transfer Station manager, to talk about the glass crusher. Rising, he said that the old crusher was a mess. It was under-

powered, and kicked out flying glass shards and glass dust that was dangerous to breathe. Plus, parts were unavailable, so when it broke down new ones had to be made by Darrell Butler. He explained this to the County Commissioners when they were here. Shirley Roloff began pushing, and a new crusher was purchased (for \$5,200) and was now being built and would arrive before the boat quits.

Judy Lanier reported that the Planning Commission had voted to use the same professional planner as St. James, although not as extensively; consequently their share of the bill would be lower than St. James'. She said that as soon as the MSU Extension people had obtained a bulk mail permit the questionnaire would be mailed.

Paul mentioned having attended a County meeting at which Charlevoix Planner Larry Sullivan talked about the "build out" analysis, which he asked Doug Tilly to explain. Doug said that an extrapolation from recent census figures projected a growth from today's 266 residents (and 406 homes) to 860 residents by 2020. The "build out" analysis was that if all parcels in Peaine were developed to the fullest extent allowed by current zoning, there would be 14,000 residents in 5,600 homes.

There were cautioning voices about accepting these "straight line" figures, because conditions change. A WW II analysis predicted the Island's population would drop to 50 by 1950 and to 0 ten years later. Judy Lanier thought more accurate projections could be

made by running the numbers generated by a variety of assumptions (employment diversification; seasonal use) and then examining the range of results to establish a high and a low.

Paul pointed out that Larry Sullivan had mentioned that such infrastructure limitations as road capacity could also have an effect on growth. Paul cited Larry's revelation that the A and C zones produced more tax revenue than was paid out in services, but for Residential zones services provided cost \$1.20 for each dollar of tax revenue. Larry also noted that Charlevoix County is aging more quickly than most other counties.

Paul said that a woman from the Lake Charlevoix association informed them of a recent study of the lake bottom done by students, with the assistance of the *Beaver Islander*. Her group checks water clarity and pollution, and has information of interest to other townships. She said that her group was also worried about light pollution: in many parts of Charlevoix County the Milky Way can no longer be seen.

Elain West mentioned that a donation from the Ruth Hirschey Memorial Fund would pay for mounting the World Trade Center fragment on the side of the Fire Hall.



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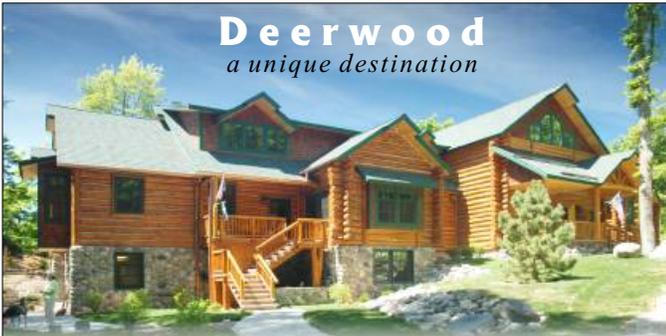
## Running the Boodle

Despite the blustery, chilly weather on the morning of October 4<sup>th</sup>, seventy-six energetic registrants gathered at the Print Shop Museum for a three-fold race organized by Mike and Gail Weede of the Paradise Bay Dive Shop. First the runners departed, sprinting until they were out of sight around the first curve before slowing to a maintainable pace. Then the walkers set off, not trying to win so much as to get a feel for the 5k course.

And a well-defined, scenic course it was: out to Whiskey Point, then past Gull Harbor, and eventually back along Lake Drive to Sorenson's stone-walled corner. Finally the catchalls set off: people with children or dogs, people pushing a



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stroller, and even a skinny older man who proposed running the race carrying a half-cup of green tea. When he was challenged, he drank it down, handed the cup to a bystander, and said, "Didn't say *where* I'd carry it."

Even with the cold wind, some of the more-serious competitors were dripping buckets at the end. The winner, Tim Reaume of Cadillac, sprinted across the line, still accelerating, 23 minutes after the echo of the starting air horn drifted away. Tim's wife Jenny finished first in the Women's category. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-place winner, Mat Hohn III (shown crossing the line on *page 18*), a minute and a half behind, claimed he'd stepped in something sticky that had slowed him down.





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## BIRHC Meeting

The October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, with 52 people in attendance, got underway with a presentation by Joe Moore about the **evacuation flight difficulties**. He said that Island Airways has been providing this service for 15 years – without specific insurance for this task. Now, in the post-9-11 atmosphere, the FAA is cracking down, forcing those not in a life-or-death situation to use the more expensive and far less prompt NorthFlight from Traverse City. But he's been working intensely with Rachel Teague and Paul Welke of Island Airways, and they can see some light at the end of the tunnel. The million dollar insurance policy has been obtained (it will result in an increase in the cost of an evacuation flight, but it'll still be cheaper than NorthFlight), and now the EMS must obtain an FAA-approved module (containing oxygen, electricity, and a pump) and fill out the paperwork to become a licensed Air Ambulance. The module will be removable and installable by two men in under 15 minutes, so if the procedure is begun when the EMS calls to say they'll bring out a patient, it won't cause a delay. But the module will cost \$30,000 – which will deplete the EMS's operating funds.

Many questions followed. New Board member Dr. Brad Grasmick, using a speaker phone, asked for the specs so he could try to get one donated. Anne Glendon thought that if it could be obtained, its presence could improve chances of patients being reimbursed for the flight from their insurance company. Chuck Schmidt pointed out that AFLAC had been argued into covering this cost (as long as a police report is

filed and an EMS is on the plane.) Jerry Sowa, who was instrumental in raising \$10,000 for the Island's first defibrillator, said he strongly felt that the community could raise the money needed to buy the module.

The **financial report** indicated a shortfall of at least \$14,000 is expected for next year. Luckily a \$15,000 grant was obtained by Anne and Arlene from the Michigan Department of Community Health to cover this shortfall. The Capital Campaign was underway, with three significant pledges already received, and the annual letter of appeal was being formulated for an early November mailing.

Arlene announced **the departure of Chris VanLooy**, who is moving to Georgia. The new NP, Sue Solle, is already seeing patients, and Jo Hendrix and Holly Nielson were providing relief. In addition, Connie phoned Mike McGinnity, who also offered to help. Arlene has started calling the applicants to replace Susan to tell them there's another opening. MaryAnne Weaver is also leaving the Island; Pam Nicholas will take over some of her duties.

Don Spenser reported on **construction progress**, saying \$900,000 has been paid so far and the building was 70% done (and on schedule.) Various projections indicate the final cost will most likely be between \$1,285,000 and \$1,300,000 – but lots of additional things will be needed, from waste baskets and towelbars to three new computers.

The decision on **who to buy propane from**, GLE or Island Energies, was hotly debated for 40 minutes. GLE has the higher rate (\$1.799/gallon), but offered to run a 2" pipe from its storage facility down the King's Highway to the Health Center at no charge (and implied it might increase its holding capacity as well by building an additional tank.) This would eliminate the need to check a tank to avoid running out, and eliminate the clutter of a tank farm taking up space on the site (a benefit which might become more tangible as the site is further developed with additional stages in the future.) Island Energies offered three options related to size of tank and purchase versus lease. All of its options were less expensive (if run over sufficient years.) The best price from Island Energies would result from the BIRHC buying a 6,000 gallon tank (the estimated use is 5,500 gallons per year) for \$12,000 (plus a \$1,950 set-up charge); this would take almost 7 years before it became cheaper than GLE, but then could save \$2,000/year (at today's rates.) Many factors entered into the considerations (such as whether or not a meter on the building would be needed), but ultimately the Board voted to accept the GLE offer so long as it was under no more than a one-year obligation; if GLE would not accept this, then IE's 3<sup>rd</sup> option (leasing a 6,000 gallon tank for \$15/month and paying \$1.52/gallon) would be accepted so long as IE would only charge for the propane to pass through the meter.

The next matter to be decided was the means by which to **reach an agreement with Wendy White**. Connie apologized for having reconfigured the negotiating committee to exclude Paul Nelson, who will now sit in on Wendy's discussions with a two-person committee consisting of new Board members Angel Welke and Eula Thomas, to whom Grace



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Matela will provide relevant financial information. The full Board will have to approve whatever arrangement is proposed by the committee.

Barb Murphy reported on the upcoming **mediation**. Kathy Lame from Charlevoix will act as mediator, with Island Airways donating her flight and the BIRHC condo housing her if she has to stay over. The BIRHC Board will supply four members (Barb, Eula, Jerry LaFreniere, and Pete LoDico), but they will not be empowered to make any decisions. The CCG might choose 4 members, or 5 or 6, to present its concerns. This will be an open meeting, although no one in the audience will be allowed to comment. Paul pointed out that this is supposed to produce a win/win result, not a win/lose.

Under New Business the Board discussed four recommended **new policies** concerning confidentiality, conflict of interest, a reduction in the distribution of printed materials (due, they said, to the rising cost of this proliferation), and the prerequisite for audience remarks being included in the minutes. The initial proposal required them to be submitted in writing to the Secretary during the meeting, but this was modified to give the speaker 24 hours.

The **Concerned Citizens Group** had a few things to say through its spokesman Kirk McBride. He complained that its communiqués were being ignored by the BIRHC. To make sure the Board had received the last four he distributed copies to each Board member. The most recent cited three specific requests that had gone unanswered, and “requested an immediate response to the letters noted above.”

Public comments began three hours after the meeting was called to order. Jerry Sowa said that this meeting demonstrated something lacking at previous meetings: the public being allowed to make comments and suggestions about a topic during its discussion by the Board, as had happened during the propane debate. Bud Cruikshank wanted to point out that the Health Center was supposed to be just that, and not simply a Medical Center. A few remarks indicated the propane decision was not well received, and a suggestion was made to use some of the “left over” \$200,000 from construction to buy a large tank so the BIRHC could then buy its propane from whomever offered the best price per gallon. One comment informed the Board that Chris VanLooy might have indeed left to be closer to her grandchildren but they should be aware that many members of the audience had heard that her real reason was a lack of job security; Anne Glendon responded that the Board had told her at length that she was wanted, and she had been given a bonus, but that she wanted to leave anyway. The **next meeting** was set for November 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. James Town Hall—for the next six months the BIRHC meetings will be held at 1:00 p.m. on a Saturday.

## Reception for Our New NP

A reception for Sue Solle, our new Nurse Practitioner, will be held at the Beachcomber from 6:00 until 9:00 on **November 13<sup>th</sup>**. Erik Hodgson has donated two trays of hors d'oeuvres to guarantee the evening's success! Please join us!

## Health Center Receives \$15,000

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Department of Community Health Director William Hart notified the BIRHC that it would be receiving a \$15,000 grant for technical assistance. This notification represents the culmination of a four-month-long team effort which began in May. At the time of the Beaver Island Lansing Reception, transition manager Arlene Brennan, and board members Anne Glendon and Don Spencer met with Director Hart to delineate BIRHC needs. In the months since that meeting Arlene, Anne and Don made repeated follow-up contacts. Considering the current State budget crisis the winning of this grant is a major achievement and a welcome supplement to the BIRHC operating budget.

—Connie Wojan

## PABI's Parking Problem

...may have been solved by a plan presented informally to the St. James Planning Commission on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. To the south of the proposed Community House sits the Beachcomber, with a problem of its own: having to back out the long narrow drive. So an agreement has been reached for both the Beachcomber and the Community House to share an egress drive centered on their lot line. Beachcomber traffic can circle, and the Community House can be sited 6' further south, widened from 40' to 44' and shortened from 120' to 108'. This allows E/W parking on both sides: against the building, on one side, and against the stone wall on the other. Added to the 12 slots angled against the north building wall, this will meet the requirement of 23. On to the next hurdle!

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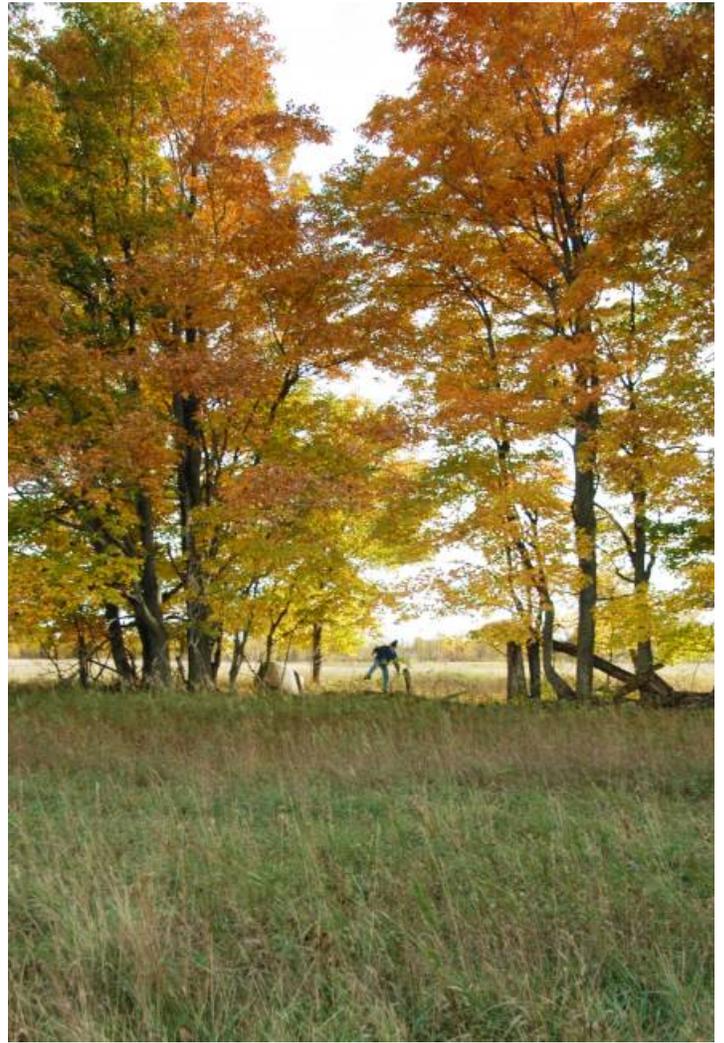


## The Home that Paddy Ruah Built

Out the King's Highway just past the tower, there's a deep but skinny forlorn fifteen-acre field currently for sale. The first thousand-or-so feet is wet in the spring, but at the back either the ground rises up or the clay falls away and the land is dry around an old homestead where Paddy Ruah (Red Pat) Gallagher lived (and planted apples still tasty) upon his arrival from Arranmore.

Red Pat married Brigid Boyle. Their sons married Hannah Malloy and Mary Briggs; daughters married Joe O'Donnell, Jim Schmidt, and Thomas Boyle. In the next generation John Cross, John Martin, Anne Burnell Greene, Willie Schmidt, and Florence Burke entered the family. In more recent times dozens of others (Conn, Eckler, O'Brien Hawks, Sawyer, Sanders, Russell, Rienks, Coy, Reynolds, and Maddox, to name a few) became part of this exploding constellation.

As these pictures show, at some point they all moved away.



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## One Hundred Years Ago

*Charlevoix Sentinel* October 29, 1903: "Born to Captain and Mrs. John McCann a bouncing baby girl on October 21, 1903. You can't touch the captain with a ten foot pole now."

"Mr. Ward, the A. O. H. organizer, is establishing a branch on the Island with prospects good for a large membership to this famous order, as charter members."

"Emmet Coulter, of Charlevoix, is on the Island this week installing the new heating plant which Fr. Zugelder recently purchased for the Parish Priest's house."

"President W. E. Stevens of the Beaver Island Lumber Co. made a trip to the Soo and other points Monday last looking for men to put to work on the company's railroad and in the lumberwoods. He returned on this week's Wednesday trip of the *Beaver* with several men, but not as many as he would like."

"Mr. Jones, the Charlevoix contractor who has been putting up the new school house, will have his contract completed in a few days. Mr. Jones has done a good job and gets many compliments

from our citizens on the faithfulness with which he has executed the contract.

"The probabilities are strong of Mr. Jones forming a partnership with two of our business men and putting in a planing mill sash and door factory. Mr. Jones is away this week looking up machinery for the new enterprise. Such a business is sure to succeed and has long been needed on the Island. Thousands of dollars worth of work in this line has left the Island in the last year or two, which might be kept on the Island. The new company will certainly succeed." —Joyce Bartels

## Charlevoix County Commissioners

**Meeting of 10-8-03**, all Commissioners present. Motion approved the minutes of the September 24, 2003 meeting.

Motion approved putting a spending freeze into effect beginning November 15, 2003.

Joan Balch, County Treasurer, announced her retirement date beginning March 1, 2003.

Motion approved Resolution #03-067, Public Hearing Notice, Setting a public hearing on proposed millage increase for general operational purposes and the

2004 General Fund Budget to be held Wednesday, October 22, 2003.

Motion approved Resolution #03-068, Beaver Island Deputy Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #03-069, Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, and authorizes Chairman to sign said document.

Motion approved Resolution #03-070, Community Foundation Grant, and authorized the Chairman to sign said grant application.

Motion approved Resolution #03-071, Agreement for Auditing Services

with Gaudette & Company CPA firm, and authorized the Chairman to sign said agreement.

Motion was defeated regarding the linking of GIS Department and IT needs.

—Jane E. Brannon, County Clerk

## Barney's Lake on TV

On October 15<sup>th</sup> Jan McKnight's great photo of Barney's Lake appeared on the evening news on Channel 7 & 4, on the "Hot Shots" segment accompanying the weather report.

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## BoatSmart author Visits Island

In early October noted Coast Guard safety authority Tom Rau visited Beaver Island to swap stories about the many quirky and under-recognized dangers on the water. Because of our nautical background, all he had to do was walk down the street to meet someone with an interesting tale. It helped that his newspaper column appears in the Ludington paper (and several others), which arrives here on occasion, and that some Islanders were familiar with his website, boatsmart.net

To cap off his weekend he invited several old salts to a session in the Emerald Isle Hotel's conference room. Phil Gregg recounted the double tragedy of the Potts charter fishing business, in which first the father and then the son brought groups from Petoskey to Hog Island only to sink and die – both times in the same 18' ChrisCraft cruiser. Mike Weede of the Paradise Bay Dive Shop told about fishermen anchoring in a cluster of dive flags, not knowing this was a violation of both the law and common sense. Harbor-master Glenn Felix told stories about his captaining of a 73'

charter schooner, *Malabar 10*, in Chicago, including one about a time he and his mate were taking it up the Wisconsin coast on a wonderful calm sunny day. They began horsing around, and knocked each other into the lake as the empty boat sailed obliviously on. By the time they'd found each other and gained their bearings, it was an eighth of a mile away. Luckily Glenn was a champion swimmer (and swimming teacher), and was able to catch up to her and climb a dangling half-inch cable before his stupendous effort wore him down.

Tom's theory, gleaned from decades of observing and investigating tragedies on Lake Michigan, is that we're heading for a real calamity because its recreational use is exploding and substantially outstripping our efforts to impress on people that there are real dangers. He has gathered the figures, and described how the ballooning of beach use along the west shore has resulted in a spike in drownings.

His ongoing research will help him hone a book he is writing on Lake Michigan.

## Partnership Project

Between a discussion of the Conservation Easement Jim Haveman is placing on his property and a decision to write a letter of support for Jack Kelly's Recreation Plan at the lightly-attended Partnership Project meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>, it was mentioned with alarm that the twenty-year operating agreement for the Lighthouse School would expire in 2005.

Concerns were addressed by John Freeman the following day. He pointed out that the commitment made to this project resulted in restrictions being placed on the property's use; in addition, the Coast Guard placed a permanent easement on an area surrounding the electronic tower and a permanent right to land a helicopter—hence the large helipad which doubles as a basketball court.

As a result of recent grants, the Charlevoix Public Schools have committed to an additional 50 year easement for the waterfront and the 4 historical buildings, plus a substantial “view shed” on both sides of the road. There can be no changes in this approximately 25 acres of historic significant waterfront without the approval of the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office. So other uses are not very likely.

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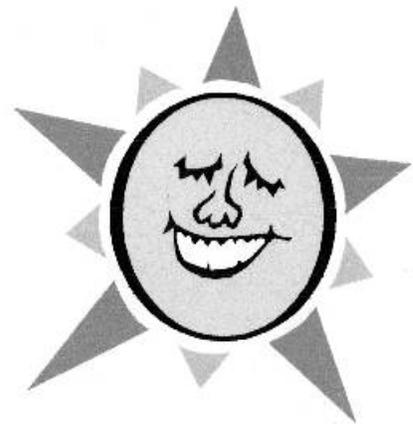
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## Letters to the Editor: On the State of the Island

I have been a seasonal resident of Beaver Island for around a decade. I have often said how going to Beaver was like going back in time, when you did not need to lock your doors, and you knew most everyone in town. I found this one of the attractions which called me back. I still feel that way, but now it seems the effects of the Island have another face. When you don't agree with, or even like, your neighbors, you are still forced to deal with them on a nearly daily basis.

All this squabbling seems unnecessary, when we should all work together to make this the best place for everyone. Hopefully, this is just a way for the community to work out its differences.

I wish to comment on two recent letters.... One letter, "Restrictions impact land values" by Kenneth Taylor, discussed the consequences of increased environmental protections on Donegal Bay. It sounded like a play from the Republican handbook, "You can't make money if you have to protect the environment." In fact, sir, your comments could not be further from the truth. The best way for an area to be protected and regulated is at the local level. How can someone in Lansing or Washington D.C. know what is best for a bay on the west side of Beaver Island?

I would also like to point out environmental protection will not decrease the value of the area, but will in fact increase it. I challenge Mr. Taylor to cite a specific example where a community or group of people enacted a stewardship program and the value of the property went down. As an illustration, let us suppose that I purchase the land next to his. I build a large home, as large as possible. I then rent it out at extremely low rates to any MSU student, since I am an alumni. So now you will have beer parties all summer, and all the noise, trash, and harassment that goes with them. Will this improve the value of your home in your mind? It is what "I" want, and allows me to make money. If you try to sell the house, each time someone comes to look at it, there will be drunken and half-naked students running around. Will this increase the money you can get? What if Donegal Bay has environmental protection and you are surrounded by the current dwellings and natural habitat, as people come to look at your house (if it is for sale) will they be disgusted by all the flowers, and birds? If you do not want

regulation, be careful what you wish for. Any and all environmental regulations should be a compromise between what is in existence and what the community wants the future to be.

Mr. Taylor then concludes by threatening the fact that land owners will sue due to loss of property value. As I mentioned, environmental protection will most likely increase the value, not decrease it. But the fact is that there already are Federal laws which we can use as guidelines. In 1973 the Endangered Species Act was passed into law by the United States Congress. This Act promotes the protection of habitat containing threatened or endangered organisms. This act was upheld by the Supreme Court, when developers tried to sue to build a dam in New York. Donegal Bay has at least two threatened or endangered organisms, Pitcher's Thistle and Lake Huron Tansy. So, perhaps if the township approves development without restraint or thought, someone will sue the township for not following an existing federal law!

In regards to the letter by Mr. Gillespie, I am not personally familiar with what is going on at Egg Lake, but it is difficult to miss the large clearing when flying to the Island. I certainly agree that the Egg Lake 7 should have first and foremost asked what the property owner was doing. But I can not help but notice that in his long letter, he did not reveal the intentions.... So I would like to ask, "What are the intentions for the area?" Mr. Gillespie then went on to discuss how the rights of property owners are trying to be usurped. I would like to point out that Egg Lake is not just another piece of Beaver Island, but is in fact a bog. This type of community is only found in areas where glaciers occurred, and contains many rare and federally protected plant species. There are only a few bogs on Beaver Island or even in all of Michigan, and should not special places like these have special protection? Surely no one is attempting to keep Island residents from making a living, but should they be able to do whatever they want to make said living? I have met a few Island natives who seem to think that because they were born on the Island, or have family which was, they are entitled to do whatever they wish. This is absurd to say the least. For example, I can trace my family heritage,

on my mother's side, to Pennsylvania in 1774. This is not when my ancestors arrived, but simply the earliest written record of them being on this continent. By the above logic, since my ancestors were in this country before it was a county, and their blood was spilled in the Revolutionary War and every war since then, should I not then have a special privilege over immigrants and their descendants who abandoned their country to come to mine? Surely this is unacceptable, and indeed un-American!

In conclusion, Beaver Island continues to grow and we are at a crossroads. We can come together and compromise, meaning no development without regulation, and no environmental protection without merit. What will be in the *Beacon* 100 years from now? How people decided that the almighty dollar ruled this Island, that environmental fundamentalism did, or that all groups worked together to create a sustainable and endearing Island community.... Time will tell.

Remember, the Constitution does not begin "The rights of the individual" nor, "The right to make a profit." It begins "WE the people..."

— Jon I. Thomas

Editor's Note: While we agree that Beaver Island's inland lakes and bogs are very unique places that merit special care and attention, it is important to note that no evidence was found that any endangered or protected species were harmed by the work at Egg Lake.



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## Roofsliding Contest has a Winner

In early October, shoppers at the Corner Store were surprised to look out the window and see a truck coming down the King's Highway from town – on its roof. It came to a stop right in front, and the driver struggled to climb out. Running outside, they asked him if he was hurt, but instead of answering, he took off running back towards St. James – apparently in a state of mobile shock. He disappeared leaving the onlookers to speculate: going to the Medical Center? Going for a winch truck? Going to hop on the *Emerald Isle*? But a few minutes later he reappeared. He arrived before the Deputy, and was able to coherently answer every question but one: how was it you wound up upside down?



## Beaver Island's Irish Tappers

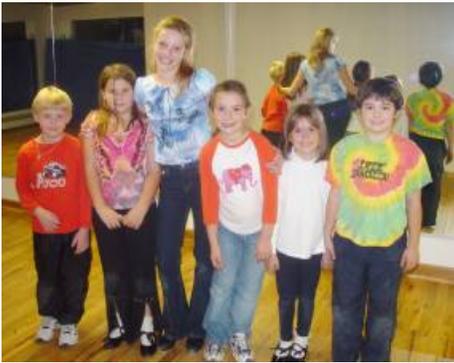
This year the Irish Tap group consists of 20 kids. You read that right, 20 kids! Which I think is just great. 20 kids is 22% of the children in school (this year there are 89 kids in school K-12.) In order to teach that many effectively, Signe's one planned tap class has turned into three different tap classes each week. Signe' does not charge for the lessons. Last year there were nine kids and we just picked up any extra expenses involved. With 20 kids it's a different story.

I really think it's great for their self-esteem and burgeoning social skills. Some kids don't like contact sports, and this is another very active outlet for them. We thought about setting up



booths for food sales, etc., so the kids could try to earn the money this requires, but at any of the events we would want to set up at, we would end up competing with the Sports Boosters, and we don't want to harm their efforts in any way. So we are asking the community to help in the form of donations. All donations would go 100% towards supplies needed for tap classes. To do it right, it is fairly expensive even without charging for lessons. Costumes for performing will be \$45.00 or so each, (if I'm lucky enough to find them for that); otherwise costumes normally run \$80 - \$100 each. Tapshoes are approximately \$20. Awards (trophies for each one who learns the steps) run \$15 each. These

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classes are being taught immediately after school, so I give each kid a snack and milk or water (I don't serve soft drinks in an effort to keep the snacks healthy.) This year we are charging each child \$10 for the semester to try to offset some of the expenses, but we had no idea we would have 20 sign up. Some parents will really have a hard time with the expenses involved, especially the ones with two children in tap. I think with this many children interested, we should be able to get some community support. I just don't know where to begin, which is why I'm asking for your help and advice. Perhaps people and businesses in the community would donate money if they knew this kind of

interest is being shown; if they knew the need was there, and if they knew all the donations will go towards tap supplies. Hopefully the shoes, costumes, and equipment can be recycled if possible, especially the tap shoes which most kids out-grow before wearing them out. Holiday costumes could be recycled (such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July costumes; this year they were American flag type costumes which would always be appropriate for the 4<sup>th</sup>.) Signe' no longer has to teach class in our dining room. This summer Bill and I put a hardwood floor down the length of our basement with 5'-tall mirrors on the sides and both ends so they have an actual little dance studio and can

watch themselves to perfect their technique. She teaches Monday, Tuesday, and Friday after school from 3:30 to 4:30. This is a time consuming project for a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Signe' really does a good job teaching and sharing her tap talent. She makes it look fun and easy. Maybe someday, we'll have a troop of Irish River Dancers to perform on St. Patrick's Day. If anyone can help financially, or offer suggestions, please give me a call (2265.) If you could see the joy in these kids' faces when they master a difficult step, you'd know why this is so important to us. In the meantime we'll keep working, and dreaming as large as we can.

– Eula Thomas

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## News from the Wildlife Club

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club has completed their first deer survey for the DNR. For 2 ½ months member volunteers drove a designated route to count deer at least three nights every week. The survey ended on October 1<sup>st</sup>. 621 does were counted along with 117 bucks. The DNR has cautioned us that we need to tabulate this census for at least three years to determine the ratio of does to bucks.

The Successful Hunter contest has been launched. From October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> you may register any deer of any sex for a chance to win a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun. Check-in points are Powers' Ace Hardware, McDonough's Market, Beaver Island Boat Company, and Welke Airport. Rules are posted at each site. You could be a winner. There will be a drawing on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 at the hardware store. Two additional prizes, hunting knives, will be awarded. This is another phase of compiling whitetail deer information so we have a better idea of the number and health of our herd.

Plan to attend our annual Hunters' Dinner on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. This year we will feature an old fashioned handmade Polish Kielbasa bake with potatoes and

sauerkraut. Also featured will be good bakery bread and butter, and homemade desserts. The price is \$15.00 for all you can eat. Wild game appetizers are free for the taking and there will be a cash bar. This is all to benefit the club. Dinner is served from 6-8, cash bar until 10. The drawing for a Winchester Model 70 will take place at 9 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the hardware store and from club members for \$10.00 a ticket. The rifle is on display at Powers' Ace Hardware.

The Wildlife Club wishes to make a statement regarding the proposed AmVets walleye tournament on Lake Geneserath September 2004. Club members voted 15 to 1 not to support the tournament as planned. A committee was formed to meet with the AmVets and learn about their proposed plan. That committee then researched the issue and made a recommendation to the members. These were our thoughts:

1. At the current time given the information we have and the increased scientific information we need, we think that a tournament of this kind would jeopardize the early development of our walleye fishery. It may be that in the future this would be feasible but it would appear that the timing of this might be premature.

2. We don't know what damage is done to catch and release walleye, but symposiums on other warm water species (e.g. bass) have shown that it is much more than we thought previously. Bass will be damaged along with walleye. Pike can take handling – bass and walleye can't.

3. We cannot ignore the possibility of introducing zebra mussels and other exotics. The maximum risk of introduction is during a tournament. It is impossible to screen the washing of bait wells, bait buckets, trailers, boats and bait itself (e.g. leaches from another lake.) Once introduced, they will affect the sites for walleye reproduction and other minor species. That will forever change the biodiversity of Lake Geneserath.

4. We don't know if there are too many pike in Lake Geneserath. CMU would like to see the DNR do a fish census to see how the walleye are doing and if the pike population is too high.

5. It is diametrically opposed to the spirit of the rearing of walleye to create a fishery for the people of the Island.

6. Community spirit will be compromised if a tournament to encourage off-Island participants is instituted.

7. We feel it's way too much impact on a fishery not yet established on a lake that doesn't usually support more than a few boats. Even though Geneserath looks like a large lake, over 2/3 of the lake would not be in contention for walleye concentration.

8. Our by-laws support preservation of all wildlife, not the promotion of the Island. Biodiversity is at its best when it is the greatest; remember, Lake Geneserath is still a pristine lake.

We offered some compromises such as a smaller prize (the current prize is \$25,000.00) and a smaller contest; work with us on our current rearing project; consider other fund-raising activities; and consider a tournament in Lake Michigan, such as salmon.

We have completed whitetail habitat planting for this year. To date, 11 acres have been limed, fertilized, and seeded. With the assistance of the DNR we hope to identify additional acres on State land for planting in 2004. Our aim is 100 acres of good habitat.

–Lois Williams



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## The Way it Was: The Winter of '36

I knew it was cold when I first stuck my nose out from under the old buffalo robe that covered my bed. There was a small drift of snow on the robe which had seeped through the window of our farmhouse on Darkeytown Road. My Dad was calling me to get up for school, and he had a fire going in the kitchen wood stove and a pot of hot oatmeal simmering for our breakfast. My Mother would get up a little later when the kitchen and dining room warmed, to take care of our two little sisters, Rosemary and Ellen. My older sister Barbara and I huddled up in our home-made coats to walk to Sunnyside School, about two miles away. I was only six that winter of '36, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. At our gate we joined the McCafferty boys, who were older and sometimes had to help us through the snow drifts, which were often fence-post high. Because our road was never plowed we walked through the woods for shelter, and then up across Frank O'Donnel's field.

My grandparents Fred and Molly lived with us in those years, and my dad was not working except on the WPA, building roads in good weather. Lawrence Malloy had come that fall and butchered our pig, and we had a side of beef hanging in the old log house nearby.

Also there were lots of chickens for Sunday dinner, and my Grandpa would often snare a rabbit for a nice stew.

When we reached Sunnyside School, George Ricksgers would have a good fire going in the big wood stove, which had a circular shield around it to prevent anyone getting too close. It was really a two-room school building, but one room was reserved for quilting bees and elections, both welcome adult occasions. It served as the Peaine Town Hall.

The Dominican Sisters walked across the cold windy field from the convent and started classes shortly after daylight. There were eight grades in one room, and we small ones would watch the 8<sup>th</sup>-graders recite up near the blackboard. I remember Peter Doney, Bing McCafferty, and Henry Ricksgers; the rest I have forgotten. Almost all the kids walked to school in those years, some from way up on Sloptown and even from the Fox Lake Road, and we often carried our syrup pails with blackberry jam sandwiches and homemade cookies.

This is just a glimpse of life "up in the country," as it was called then, during the Depression of the 1930s. I believe it toughened us up because quite a few of us are still walking around today.

—Rod Nackerman

## Letters to the Editor:

### Re: The Buggies Return

Enjoyed the story entitled, "The Buggies Return" on your web page tonight.

It resurrected memories of Beaver Island that have remained strong ever since a summer in the late 50's when my parents attempted a small business on the Island for hiring out a horse and buggy. Their concept was ahead of it's time, so we never made it back. Dad rented a pair of draft horses from a logger so that he could add hay rides to his business.

The Island's lighthouses provided me with a career incentive.

I remember a couple of friends from those days, one was a son of the family that owned the store, the other a lad named Melvin.

I hope all on the Island are doing well these 40+ years later.

—CT Seidl

### Moondance to Arrive

We've finished shooting reenactments on Arranmore (the evictions, sailing to the mainland, walking the long trek to Donegal, and boarding the famine ship. We'll be on Beaver soon; what shall we shoot *there*?

—Shane Brennan

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## Letters to the Editor

### My response to Connie Wojan

I regret the need to write another letter to the BIRHC board. I had hoped that progress was being made in resolving issues quickly and efficiently and that this or any future letters would be unnecessary. My last letter was written to point out another example of money that was spent in an extravagant manner. (I do not take issue with the need to resolve the past and present problems with billing etc.) Also pointed out in earlier letters were some of the unnecessary expenses associated with the new building. I realize that reversal of these expenses is not possible, but hope that any future expenditures be considered with the public in mind.

There was a \$40,000 fee paid to Arlene's organization in addition to her \$120,000 salary. I had included that \$40,000 in my computation of Arlene's compensation, a fee which Connie neglected to mention. Money spent on expensive building materials or high-priced consultants does not help keep the costs of medical care down on Beaver Island. There are many here who do not have the insurance and the extra income necessary to pay for expensive medical care. My purpose all along has been to bring to the BIRHC board's attention the fiduciary responsibility which they have to the citizens of Beaver Island.

The appointment of three new members to the BIRHC board should help give the board a greater diversity of ideas, and hopefully it will begin to function as a whole. It is also important that communications from the public sent to the BIRHC board officers be shared with *all* members of the board, thus keeping *every board member* informed and up-to-date. I hope this will be a

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future goal of the BIRHC officers.

It was a disappointment to see at last month's BIRHC public meeting that the board president dissolved the committee that had been formed to work with Dr. White. This committee was responsible for negotiating the new agreement under which Dr. White would operate in the new building. Apparently it was done to the surprise and without the knowledge of several board members, including members of that very committee. Dr. Paul Nelson was on this committee, and he would be, in my view, a very important contributor. He has had a great deal of practical experience in setting up dental practices. *In essence, I do not want to see us lose our dentist.*

Along with many others, I will continue to remind the board that they are a public body supported by tax money and, therefore, *responsible to the citizens of Beaver Island.* Every decision made by the BIRHC board impacts the community, and these decisions must always be made in *full view of the public* and by *the entire board.*

—Kenneth Jay Taylor

## November Calendar of Events

- Nov. 4. Montserrat Presentation, 7:30, Peaine Twp. Hall (free)
- Nov. 5 St. James Township, 8:00 pm, St. James Twp. Hall
- Nov. 12 Peaine Township. Meeting, 8:00 pm, Peaine Twp. Hall
- Nov. 13 Reception for our New Nurse Practitioner, 6:00-9:00 at the Beachcomber
- Nov. 16 Annual Hunters' Dinner, Holy Cross Parish Hall
- Nov. 22 BIRHC Meeting, 1:00 pm, St. James Twp. Hall
- Nov. 23 Christmas Bazaar 1:00-4:00, Holy Cross Parish Hall

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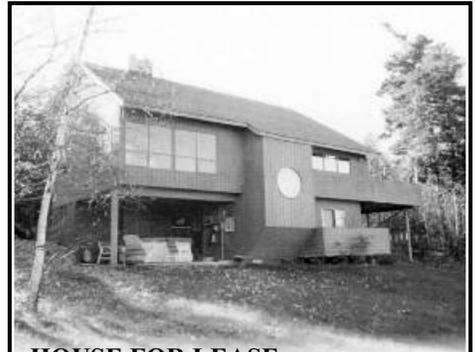


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frontage on Garden Island. One of a kind property. 8 acres. Land Contract Terms. \$195,000. Contact Jayson Welsler, Box 357, Grayling Michigan 49738. (989) 619-2800. [jaysonwelsler@hotmail.com](mailto:jaysonwelsler@hotmail.com)

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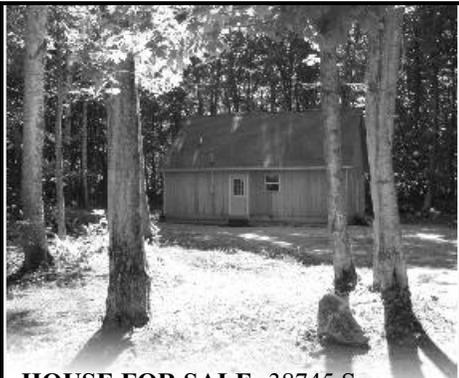
### Real Estate, For Rent:

**CEDAR COTTAGE** - on a bluff with view of harbor and mainland. 1/4 mile south of Catholic Church. 2 BRs, 1dbl. bed, 2 single;. TV/VCR, grill, complete kitchen, washer. No pets. \$580/wk. (734) 769-7565 (day), (734) 475-6178 (evenings).

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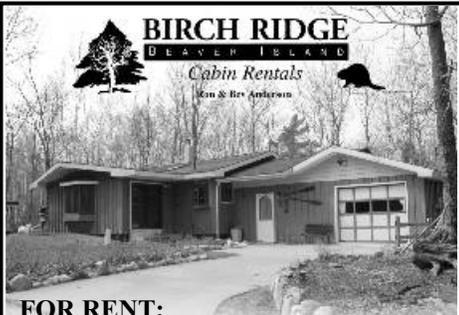
**HOUSE FOR SALE:** 38745 Squaw Island Ct. in the Port St. James. Interior not yet finished so you can finish it exactly how you like. Electrical and plumbing have been run and it is connected to GLE. \$59,000 Call Ed Wojan Realty (231) 448-2711



**RENTAL ATTRACTION ON FONT LAKE:** 3-4 BR, 2 BA home, fully furnished with all the amenities. Sleeps 7. Beautiful view of lake and sunrises. New owners of this high-demand rental are taking reservations now, \$750/week. Off season rates available. Call Helena Webster (734) 730-8918 today; email hwebster18@yahoo.com



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**FOR SALE:** Beautiful New Home located in Port St. James, 1,800 sq. ft. home, planned for efficient living: 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, Cathedral ceilings (T & G Pine), large open loft, master suite with walk-in closet and master bath. Wrap-around covered porches, steep roofline with dormers, cedar siding. Beautiful wooded double lot. Quiet setting. One mile to Port St. James private beach on Lake Michigan. 1.5 miles to St. James village. Call Ed Wojan Realty: (231) 448-2711 or 1-800-268-2711



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