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Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955

some stories in this issue:

No Snow, No Problem - Christmas still brings Much Joy!

You Don't Know Me - brilliant new release by Sheri Timsak

Out of the Blue - Episode V: Song Lines the plot thickens

The Art of Dody Bedford; Coast Guard withdraws 2500 sq. mile Live Fire Zone proposal

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News from the Townships

St. James Town Board

Supervisor Don Vyse reported that he and the Peaine supervisor had met with Brian Tort of NG Wireless and two technical experts from his equipment suppliers, to explore the possibility of NG bringing high-speed internet access to Beaver Island.

Jim Wojan stated that the drain heading east between the Kokol and Cushman homes on Main Street in St. James had finally been unplugged, relieving the obstruction that had caused backed-up rainwater to overflow onto Bud Left's lawn.

The audit, done every two years, found everything in order. It was a little more expensive this year because it included the EMS.

The conservation easement was finally completed on the land west of the town hall being bought by the Little

Traverse Conservancy and transferred to CMU. It prohibits "all human-made modifications" except maintenance on the septic system built there to serve the boathouse.

Fire Chief Tim McDonough was delighted with the new tanker.

The snowplowing bid for the Government Center came back from Gordon Heika at \$75/hour, with no gas surcharges.

Bud Martin's bid on fuel oil was 2¢ cheaper than last year, at \$2.88; propane was at \$2.08, 1¢ cheaper.

Jayne Bailey and Harold Lounsberry were reappointed to the Planning Commission for three years; Dave Adams and John Fiegen to the Zoning Board of Appeals; Jayne Bailey and Bill McDonough to the Board of Review; and Rick Speck to the BIRHC.

Coast Guard calls off 'Bullets for the Lakes'

Growing opposition to the Coast Guard's plan to cover the bottom of the Great Lakes with lead has resulted in the reversal of its proposed program.

In mid-December an alliance of 80 mayors from eight Great Lakes' states and Canada came out against the Coast Guard plan to shoot 7,000 tons of lead into the water each year. More than a dozen environmental groups have also asked that the project be put on hold until more research on the long-term

effects of lead can be done. Mayor Kevin Crawford (Manitowoc) chimed in: "The idea that continuous activity over time by the Coast Guard won't have a negative effect has yet to be proved." George Heartwell, mayor of Grand Rapids, added, "There simply have to be other ways and better ways."

On December 18th, the Coast Guard announced it was withdrawing its plan to designate 2,500 square miles of the Great Lakes as live fire zones.

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Of the six applicants for Airport Manager, the job was given to Rachel Teague of *Fresh Air*.

The meeting with the Port St. James was postponed again due to the worsening health of the Association's attorney.

Peaine Town Board

Joan Banville, Jacque LaFreniere, and Arnie Rich were reappointed to the Board of Review.

Supervisor John Works decided that the joint township public meeting with NG Wireless would be held on January 17th, with the 18th being the date if the weather spoils the 17th. He said that NG asked that everyone attending sign a non-disclosure promise because of the technical matters that would be revealed, but John said that would not be legal. NG will ask for a commitment, and present what it feels would

be the next steps to cover the Island.

The snowplowing bid for the Transfer Station came back from Gordon Heika at \$80/hour, with no gas surcharges.

The election for the passing of an extra 1 mil for Peaine's roads will be on the state-mandated date of Feb. 27. A detailed summary of how this money would be used will be presented to the public next month.

In his report on the Planning Commission, Paul Welke stated that the PC could use office space in the expanded Town Hall, which it was given. Krys Lyle suggested a candidate for the year-old 5th-person vacancy, but the supervisor wanted to talk to someone else before making his choice.

Terry Saxton reported that the light at the corner of King's Highway and McCauley's Road was blinking.

The manager of the Beaver Island Boat Co, Margo Marks, was relieved. "I'm pleased that they opened this up to public comment, and reacted to what they learned," she stated. "I give them a lot of credit for their approach."

Our Representative, Bart Stupak, was equally pleased by the decision, saying that this outcome was "good news for the people of northern Michigan, and for all residents of the Great Lakes region." Environmentalists,

such as Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's policy specialist Jennifer McKay, wholeheartedly agreed. Rear Admiral John Crowley said that the Coast Guard appreciated the thousand people who voiced their concerns at the many public meetings held about this matter (which included 3 vocal members of Charlevoix's *Project WATCH*), adding that the Coast Guard would continue to look for "environmentally friendly alternatives to lead ammunition."



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News from the Beaver Island Wildlife Club

It was another busy, productive year for the Beaver Island Wildlife Club. Our biggest and most successful project has been the ongoing work connected with the walleye-rearing pond. This year the harvest was 5,000 fingerlings, down from last year but with bigger and healthier fish. The fishery at Lake Geneserath is in good shape. An independent tribal census was done recently. The final report has not been forwarded to us, but initially it was very encouraging—showing good numbers of legal fish.

Our biggest battle this year has been fought against the double crested cormorant (DCCO). The Beaver Archipelago has finally been noticed and our damage assessed. In May 2006 the Michigan House of Representatives Appropriation's Subcommittee held a hearing on the Island. The subject was DCCO. Pete Butchko, who heads the USDAWS DCCO control project in the Les Cheneaux Islands, gave a presentation. Since that time we have vigorously proceeded to write to our legislators, Governor Grandholm, and the USDAWS so we could be included in funding for control measures around the Beavers in 2007.

Our biggest population is wild turkeys! The census in February 2006 was 500. After supplemental feeding of 5 tons of corn over the winter and a very successful spring nesting, the population has exploded. With help from the Michigan Wild Turkey

Hunters' Association we will be supplementing their feeding again this winter.

Our biggest concern is wildlife habitat. Little by little we are planting and grooming small plots on public land to enhance habitat. We continue to urge private land owners to do the same. Some funds are made available through the club for habitat planting. We have worked through Brian Mastenbrook (DNR) to identify areas we might clear-cut in the future.

Our biggest fundraiser was the rifle raffle held at the Annual Hunters' Dinner at Nina's at the Beaver Island Lodge. An engraved 30.06 rifle was won by John Haggard, and six other prizes went to other lucky winners. Beautiful dinners were served to 93 guests, and it looked like everyone was having a very good time.

Bruce Wildie won the club-sponsored Big Buck Contest with a nine point, scoring 109 5/8. Congratulations, Bruce.

Members, check your address label for expired memberships.

Happy New Year to all of you and may all your hunting dreams come true. —Lois Williams, secretary

Lake Trout on the Rise

News from Grand Haven indicates the lake trout are coming back a half century after the once-plentiful fish were wiped out by lampreys. They are reproducing on their own near a deep water reef in the middle of the Lake.



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Thanks to Dean and the EMS

I'd like to express my gratitude to Joe Moore, Ken Bruland, Jim Stambaugh, and the caregivers and staff at the Health Center, but mostly to Dean Peters, who saved my life. I was out in the Port St. James, at my son's new house past Roy's Hill, cutting up trees by using a stack of construction pallets as a sawbuck. My blade got caught, and in pulling and twisting to free it I yanked too hard, and it sprang back into the back of my leg. It severed a tendon and an artery. Blood was gushing everywhere, and I couldn't stop it; I tried to affix a tourniquet, but couldn't.

Luckily Dean Peters heard my cries—he was installing faucets inside. He came running, tried to tie off the

bleeding with a towel, and, when that didn't work, grabbed a thick rope. Then he got me into a car, elevated my leg, and got me to the Health Center, where the EMS and staff stabilized me and got me to the airport. In Charlevoix the doctor was ready to go to work, and spent over two hours redoing what I had undone in two seconds.

Now my chain saw has become a handy boat anchor—I guess I'm past cutting, because I don't want to be reminded of that incident. Instead I'd rather raise my glass and repeat once again, "Thank God for our concerned caregivers, and the wonderful BIRHC!"

— Ed Eicher

This One Survived

All fall, Beaver Island pet owners have been worried about the healthy status of the Island's predators, the coyotes and birds of prey, and it seems a record number of pets have disappeared.

Some come back, even after a week, leaving their owners to wonder where they had been. Randy Osborne's loyal pet took off in early December, but he wasn't worried; this had happened before. Randy began checking the Graves' Mill three times a day, with no luck. Finally he faced up to the sad fact that too much time had gone by.

But on the 20th day, Mike Sowa was poking around an old cabin and heard a muffled noise. Looking inside, he found that Randy's dog had fallen through the floor, and was still alive!

Laura Gainey

LUNENBURG, Nova Scotia

An aerial search for the daughter of hockey great Bob Gainey was suspended in mid-December by the U. S. Coast Guard, three days after she was washed overboard in the Atlantic during a storm while working on a sailing ship bound for the Caribbean.

Laura Gainey was on the deck of the tall ship *Picton Castle*, which had stopped at Beaver Island last summer and taken everyone's breath away, when a large wave swept her overboard. Petty Officer Larry Chambers said the search about 475 miles off Cape Cod was on hold, but the *Picton Castle* will continue looking for her.

V-6: Island Families

The Historical Society's Publications Committee has started planning the next edition in the ongoing series, *Journal of Beaver Island History*, possibly for release in the summer of 2008.

In reviewing the previous five volumes, it seems there is an important topic that has not been covered: the families who have played a role in shaping the unique Island culture over several generations. The ongoing families contributed a great deal to the consistency of values that identifies Beaver Island.

The Committee hopes to include articles about a dozen or so families whose members have lived here for at least three generations, replete with anecdotes that illustrate the poignant quality of life they achieved.

It's hoped that this book will include accounts of the current members of the selected families, showing how they either persevered on the Island or managed to adjust to the different style of the mainland. Photos of the members of each generation, maps showing their homes on and off Beaver, and even genealogical charts have been suggested for inclusion.

Help is being sought; if you'd like to take part in this project, or nominate your family for inclusion, contact the BIHS at Box 263, BI 49782, or e-mail history@beaverisland.net. Enthusiasm is running high for this, which could lead to the creation of a second series of books. Committee members include John Crouse, Bill Cashman, Ruth Kelly, Peter Plastrik, and Dan Wardlow.

Ron Wojan - General Contractor Inc.

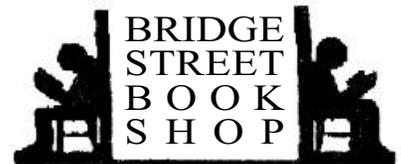


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A Big Step Forward ... for Beaver Island Music

On December 29th the result of nine months of hard work were on display at Donegal Danny's, where Sheri Timsak performed four numbers with Joddy and Stryder Crosswhite, and Patti Cull on base, from their new CD, *You Don't Know Me*. Judging by the audience's enthusiastic reaction, and the volume of early sales, it was time well spent.

That night marked the culmination of a complex evolution, which should benefit Beaver Island for years to come. It began when El and Steve Hagerman (esrecordings.com) had shivers run down their neck from hearing Sheri Timsak sing at a Cantata. They wondered why more people weren't raving about the quality of her voice. After a second equally arresting Cantata appearance, they decided too few people had been given the chance to hear her. So they approached her to ask if she'd ever considered releasing a CD.

Her answer was just what one would expect: "Sure, but how?"

El and Steve are the kind of people who like to have the answer, but this was not one they could supply—until first talking with Joddy. When they went to see him, they learned he was near to completing the recording studio



he'd been dreaming about for ten years, MomBa House, and, although there was much talk in the air, he had not yet committed himself to a first project. So El and Steve popped their question: "How about starting with a CD featuring the Island's great undiscovered voice, Sheri Timsak?"

Joddy knew Sheri's potential, but he had been around the music business all his life so he also knew that potential

alone doesn't put butter on the bread. There had to be backing, and guidance. A CD had to be a work of art. It wasn't just that twelve songs had to be selected, styles considered, arrangements scored, and musicians obtained; to be really good, it had to develop a momentum.

It had to engender the emotion of a symphony, which didn't just happen. It required a lot of work. Did Steve and El really want to get involved?



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Yes, yes, yes. So E & S Recordings was born. And a kind of limited partnership was begun between El and Steve and Sheri, and Joddy and his son Stryder. This penumvirate worked together to select, arrange, practice, modify, and perfect each of the songs for the first album, and to decide on the sequence. The way of proceeding was different for each one, with different principals taking the lead. With every-

one sparking each other, it all came together in the end.

The work began last April, lulled during the hectic summer, and then continued with renewed fall energy as the goal drew ever closer. Keyboard whiz Jon Bonadeo laid down a few licks, and Corey Sowa expertly laid down the drum tracks. A company in New Jersey was selected to press the CDs once the master was done. Licenses for the eight

songs not written by Sheri were purchased. A cover and the disc's inner images were designed, and 2,500 high-quality copies arrived a few days before the release party.

The result of all this work was outstanding. Sheri has never sounded better, not in her Cantata appearances, not in her *Music on the Porch* performances, not in the songs she's contributed during her twenty years of running the spring Talent Show. The arrangements too are stunning, in some cases so fine that these new versions threaten to replace the old standards. And the subtle layering of the five instruments played by Joddy and Stryder is as good as it gets.

This project is good for Sheri, good for Joddy and Stryder, and good (and, hopefully, financially rewarding) for El and Steve, but its greatest good is for Beaver Island, which has always had a strong musical tradition which it has not been able before to present to the rest of the world. E & S is in the process of making these songs available on iTunes and DigStation, and is working on getting both Internet and traditional radio play.

Since anything at all might happen next, we're all waiting breathlessly to see how this unfolds.

Donegal Bay Sunset

Beaver Island, Michigan

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On This Date

Ten Years Ago This 16-page *Beacon* was filled with another telling of the James Pooler's classic, *When Santa missed Beaver Island*.

An article on the BIRHC by Board President Phil Lange noted that, thanks to a generous grant from the MI Dept of Community Health, "the psychologist's office has been soundproofed." Hmm. Jayne Bailey and Marilyn Damstra raised the funds needed to match the grant, which allowed for a new roof, new insulation, and new sid-

ing, plus the installation of sinks and cupboards in every room.

The EMS reported 17 ambulance runs for the previous year.

Thirty Islanders of all ages went caroling on December 13th, winding up at the Convent for cocoa and cookies.

November was harsh: 22 days below freezing.

Gordy Hays proclaimed the deer hunt to have been successful in all areas, and the Shamrock's Game Dinner superb. He said the fall-off in turkeys was being addressed by the arrival of new birds and 3,000# of feed.

The passing of Island tall-tale champ Buzz Anderson was noted. He had retired as a tool-and-die maker in Flint in 1971 and moved to the Island with his wife and daughter, who ran the *Shamrock* for a decade. After his wife Betty passed away, he moved to Cheboygan to be near his daughter. While on the Island he supervised many contractors' jobs to give them the advantage of his greater knowledge, and taught industrial arts for the school in his shop, despite being legally blind.

Twenty Years Ago Karl and Eleanor Felix, builders of the Rustic Villa, moved back to Beaver Island after teaching boat-building on the East Coast for over twenty years. They bought Perry Fortier's bermed home on the Donegal Bay Road.

The St. James Town Board said 'no' to two proposals, one being Jon Bonadeo's application for a second dock, which was considered to impede

traffic in and out of the Municipal Marina, and the Wantys' application for 1/18 acre of bottom land at their gallery. The Board asked the DNR to prepare a timber estimate for the archipelago in order to develop a cutting policy.



The SEV in St. James increased by 3.28% between 1985 and 86, but Peaine's jumped by 10.21%.

The school put on a play, *Christmas in Oz*, directed by Joe Moore and Kathy Speck, with the unforgettable Jennifer Wojan playing the wicked witch.



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The Emerald Isle I at the dock, 1957

Lake levels were rising, thanks in part to an 11% surplus in rainfall. The October level of Lake Michigan was the highest since records began in 1861.

The Historical Society obtained a bronze plaque for the Protar Home-



which wasn't stolen until 2005.

The EMS reported that 7 people became licensed EMTs, but two, Sandy and Perry Fortier, left the Island. A new class had begun. Emergency transports, usually to the Med Center, were done in 13 cases during the past year.



The passing of Francis Ricksgers, the 63-year-old brother of Rita Gillespie, was noted. A native Beaver Islander, he served in the army during WW II, and went to work in Chicago afterward, where he died.

Thirty Years Ago A tough winter was underway, with temps dropping to ten below. A deep snow was holding hunting down by keeping men and dogs out of the woods. The deer were confined to their yarding areas. Even the beaver were in trouble—because of low water. A prime occupation was watching coyotes run from island to island over the thick ice. Few snowmobiles were out; one rider raced up the west face of Mt. Pisgah only to plunge off the nearly vertical east side, forcing a long walk to town for help retrieving the machine.

Bill Wagner was named president of the Civic Association.

Don Burke toppled behind his hot woodstove and suffered 3rd degree burns on his arm and side before he could be freed.

This issue's *Beaver Tale* related the story of Everett Cole, Hugh Rowland, Bruce McDonough, Lloyd McDonough, and Nels LaFreniere forming the Beaver Island Transit Company. They purchased the sleek *Marold II* and began three three-hour runs during the week to Charlevoix, using the boat's previous owners, Ludlow and Leon Hill, as crew. The *Marold* had luxurious leather-padded benches, but nothing for standing pas-

sengers to grasp in rough weather. Because of her narrow design, many passengers simply sat on the floor to prevent sliding from side to side.

The passing of Sophia McDonough was noted. She had married William 'Bill Pat' in 1926, and moved here two years later. They had six children.

Forty Years Ago "Snow, snow, snow. It just keeps coming."

An article about the deer herd revealed that between 1927-28, when

continued on page 12.



BIPOA

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

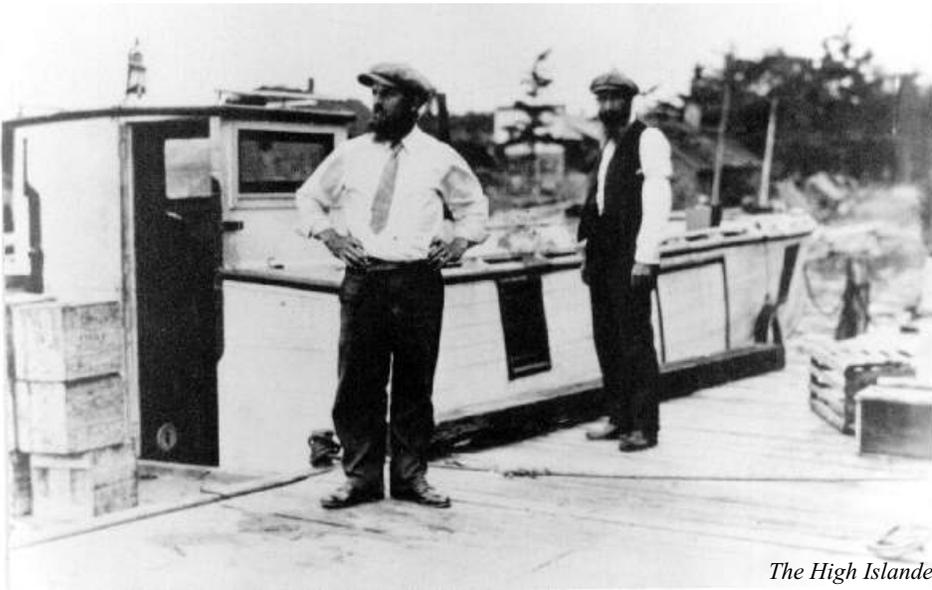
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The High Islander

On This Date, continued from page 11. the first deer were brought in, and 1957, when an antlerless deer season opened, the number of hunters ranged between 100 and 250 per year, and then increased to the 1966 record of 531. Even though only the first three days of the 1966 season had decent hunting weather (5 days

of rain followed by a heavy snowfall made the south half of the Island inaccessible), 147 deer were still taken.

Fighting rough seas in late December, the *Beaver Islander* completed its busiest season yet, and in the spring was headed for the shipyard in Sturgeon Bay for bottom

Clayton A. Kline

Word has been received of the passing of Clayton Kline, 68, a former high school football star and an amateur archaeologist from Montague who traveled to many digs in the Americas to

investigate his theory that Native life was more interconnected than commonly assumed.

Drawn to Beaver Island by the discovery of the 'Stone Circle,' he identi-

painting and minor repairs.

A dinner at the school, followed by a movie, raised another \$137 for the growing Convent Fund.

Tim McDonough was rushed to the Charlevoix Hospital for an emergency appendectomy.

This issue's *Beaver Tale* recounted the story of the House of David colony on High Island. The sect leader, Ben ("King Ben") Purnell, along with his wife Mary, broke away from Detroit's House of Israel when its leader, Prince Michael Mills, had trouble with the police over a morals charge (the same charge would later bring down *King Ben*.) A colorful uneducated Kentuckian with a flaming red beard and shoulder-length hair, he attracted many followers with his fiery oratory. He bought a large tract on High Island, which included an old sawmill his followers proposed to run (but burned down), and commission the building of over a dozen homes. The Israelites who lived there were a friendly, hard-working group who maintained good

fied several other landscape artifacts, such as a rectilinear configuration of stones near the north end of Peshabestown. A large man who had some difficulty walking, he nevertheless trudged through the woods and bogs to personally inspect and reported new discovery—such as the 8'-high stone pile with a 'gambrel-like' shape, which turned up north of the swamp behind the Graves' Mill.

Born in Shelby, he served in the Navy for four years and then went to work for Howmet for 38 years. He would visit the coffee shops and local businesses along with his dog, George, to discuss the previous night's game and world affairs.

He conducted extensive research into Native American prehistoric earth works, specifically the Chaokia Mounds along the Missouri River, and was preparing an archaeological profile, incorporating his findings, of Beaver Island at the time of his passing.

His notes and a draft of his manuscript about the Island are on their way to the Beaver Island Historical Society for possible publication.

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relations with the Indians on High and the Irish on Beaver. They grew crops to be shipped to the main base in St. Joseph, although some found their way to Beaver Island—brought over on the little freight boat, *High Islander*.

Fifty Years Ago The *Beacon* celebrated two years of existence. The regular typist was away, so Bill Pischner took on the duties for this issue.

By popular demand the Christmas pageant from the previous year was repeated: *Angels' Christmas Song*, written by a Michigan Dominican Sister and directed by the Island's teaching Sisters.

Sally Ann Polivka, who summers on the Island with her parents, read the story of the accused cat in the previous issue of the *Beacon* and turned it into a school project in Crown Point, Indiana, earning an *A*.

The last ferry trip of the season for the *Emerald Isle I* was on New Year's Day—later than it closes today.

Doc Luton took Loy Malloy to the

BeaverIslandNews.com goes forward

The *Beaver Island News on the Net* is training a new co-owner, co-editor, and co-writer. Phyllis's husband has decided to participate in the website updates, and wants to give the website another year.

"When Phyllis was thinking about ending this project, I decided to speak up and suggest that I take on some of the work. I'd like to see it continue. I'm willing to put in some effort to keep it going. I'll give it one more year to see if we can continue its success," Joe stated. "I never knew how much time and effort went into getting this information on the web. I hope to be able to continue the quality job that Phyllis and her sports' writer have done in the past. I have a few new ideas that I would like to try as well."

When asked what kind of new features, he responded, "I'd like to try to have some downloadable video clips of some of the sporting events—not the whole game, but some key plays of the games. I'd like to include some more of the events that might go unnoticed. We'll see if any of these ideas are doable. I look forward to making the time



The High Islander

Charlevoix Hospital and performed an appendectomy.

Gail Burchard, who had a cottage at Nomad Corner, sent a large box to the Island schoolkids packed with colorful balloons.

On January 1st there were 210 people living on Beaver.

The passing in Chicago of Willie ("the Woodchopper") O'Donnell was noted. He was born and raised here, and was a commercial fisherman until the death of his wife, Bridget Burns, in 1951 prompted his retirement. Three of his brothers and two of his daughters were living on the Island.

Broadband Meeting

There'll be a joint Township meeting with NG Wireless to discuss plans for providing Island-wide broadband by April '07 and to hear from the public our needs—**January 17th** at Peaine Hall.



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Out of the Blue

Episode 5: "Song Lines"

A s e r i a l s c i e n c e f i c t i o n s t o r y

Previously: Last month Islanders learned that the very contagious virus that was making many of them sick—and seemed to give some of them supernatural powers—was not the bird flu. But scientists did not know what it was. Meanwhile, the quarantine of the Island

St. Valentine's Day, 2007, 8 p.m.

The Shamrock Bar and Restaurant's dark interior has hosted many a legendary Island affair, but it has never seen a party like this one. The place is jammed with people and everyone's drinking—that's nothing new. But the patrons are all sitting down and all are silent. No carousing, no loud babbling, no gossiping. Weirder still, they are all wearing white surgical face masks, as though they are afraid of breathing the musty air of the shadowy bar. Indeed, they are.

At a table cluttered with half-empty beer bottles, Kevin White is getting ready to sing for the crowd, as he often does at the Shamrock. But this won't be a typical performance. Kevin has been writing a song. He wanted to write about what has been happening on the Island—the mysterious illness, the bizarre super-powers certain Islanders have obtained, the endless quarantine enforced by the military, the odd blue stones. A serious song, maybe along the lines of Gordon Lightfoot's relentlessly depressing *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*. But it hadn't worked out

that way. Some little devil kept putting another tune in his head, so he'd finally given up resistance and gone with it.



When Angel Welke saw the headline, she headed to the Shamrock to spread the news.

It's a fluffy melody, close to a song about an ill-fated 'three hour' voyage, but at least everyone knows it.

But Kevin has an even bigger problem. When the federal czar of the Island announced that a party at the Shamrock would be allowed, the first gathering of Islanders since the quarantine began in early December, he'd insisted that everyone wear face masks to prevent a new spread of the virus that had caused the flu-like sickness. Eric Hodgson had agreed to open the bar for Valentine's Day, even though he'd planned to keep it shut until St. Patrick's Day. And he'd announced the first beer would be free. That helped bring out a big crowd. When Kevin looks around, Islanders are lifting their white masks up to allow them to get beer bottles to their waiting lips. But how was he supposed to sing with one of these things on?

At another table, Bill McDonough is mulling over the situation. Like any merchant on the Island he wants the quarantine to end as soon as possible. But scanning the grim scene, he realizes that even if it ends today, the bad publicity about the Island will probably scare away the tourists and part-time residents who pump up the Island economy every summer.

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by Peter and Deb Plastrik

s t a r r i n g p e o p l e a n d p l a c e s o f B e a v e r I s l a n d

that began in December persisted. Military officials took one Islander in custody. A trio of Islanders tried to escape to the mainland on snowmobiles but returned when they found a body—and more strange blue rocks—on the ice.

Who, he wonders, would want to vacation in a place that has just had a highly contagious disease? Nobody—unless you can convince them they will get some sort of supernatural power, as some Islanders have. Problem is, no one knows how that happens. Time for another beer, Bill concludes, motioning to Eric behind the bar.

Nearby, Dick Burris is thinking about Costa Rica: the hot sand beaches, warm, salty ocean water, and leafy rain-forest. The quarantine ended his plans to go there with Amy for a winter break. And now, he can't even enjoy having a drink with friends. It is just too much! Dick stands up and climbs onto his wooden chair.

“Hey!” he shouts through the mask and waves both arms. “Hey!” All eyes turn to him. With a dramatic gesture, Dick reaches to his face and rips off the mask, then throws it to the floor. He shouts something incomprehensible: “*Este es*

demasiado!!! Por eso me quita me visor.” (It's Spanish: “This is too much!! For this I'm taking off my mask.”) Then something in Island-speak: “No more muzzle,” he says, looking right at the federal czar, seated by the window.

songs that tell about life on Beaver,” he says quietly. “I've written one for you about the winter of our quarantine. It may never get recorded and I don't think Neil Diamond will ever sing it, but maybe you'll like it. Anyway, you'll recognize the tune.”



*The Shamrock, closed for winter, would reopen for a Valentine's Day party
— by order of the quarantine czar.*

The crowd goes nuts. As if guided by one mind, hundreds of hands reach to faces, remove masks and drop them to the floor. Kevin White, his lips bared and smiling, heads to the microphone with his guitar.

“There's a great Island tradition of

*We are a freedom-loving folk,
Our women are brave and sure.
Five hundred souls live here all
year,
With thoughts that are pure...
thoughts that are pure.*

Continued on page 16.

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Out of the Blue – continued from page 15.

No answers come to ease our pain.

Germ warfare? No one knows. And so we sit and wait and wait As winter's cold wind blows... as winter's cold wind blows.

After Kevin finishes, the party rages on for hours. Then the door opens again, allowing in a gush of ice-cold air and Angel Welke, looking very worried. She waves a newspaper

around. No one has seen a newspaper in months; it must have been smuggled in somehow. Angel holds up the daily so everyone can see the front page. The headline screams: "Army Denies Beaver Virus is Weapons Experiment."

"You've got to hear this story from today's newspaper," Angel says. She reads out loud:

The Pentagon and White House today denied rumors that a viral infection that led to the quarantine

of a small community in northern Michigan was the result of a military weapon experiment gone wrong.

"We never had experiments with that community," said a military spokesman who asked for anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic. A senior official at the White House backed up the statement. "No Weapons of Mass Infection are being tested

Don't Pull the Plug on the Great Lakes

Any water diversion from the Great Lakes would imperil boating. With marginal lake levels already, removing water from the lakes would tip the balance and make boat access impossible. The consequences would be ruinous for boaters, and for the entire region.

The Great Lakes are a trillion-dollar asset, an irreplaceable environmental habitat and an unparalleled recreational resource. But, they have long been threatened by a variety of forces. Ill-advised diversions of water outside our drainage basin would have a ruinous effect on the Lakes, on the economy, and on boaters, a group that contributes millions of dollars to the region

and makes an untold difference in maintaining the Lakes' sustainability.

It is imperative that we prevent any diversions.

We must not lose sight of the fact the Great Lakes, while expansive in its surface area, is nevertheless a fixed volume of water. These fixed lake volumes, which were set at the end of the last Ice Age, are already under duress from increased water temperatures and evaporation rates due to global warming, ever-increasing consumptive uses and the loss of groundwater recharge within the drainage basin. Diversions would only make a bad situation even worse.

Time and time again, efforts to protect the Lakes have been undermined by a lack of regional consensus. An interstate agreement is absolutely essential to preventing one bad actor from ruining the Lakes for everyone.

This month, Ohio took the lead in implementing such a consensus. The General Assembly's coming endorsement of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact is a landmark move toward securing the irreplaceable resources of the Great Lakes and ensuring the viability of our region's most vital travel and recreation destination. While this is a step in the right direction, Ohio's endorsement

Calendar of Events

Broadband Internet Meeting - Joint Twp. with NG Wireless January 17th (Bad weather date: January 18th)

BIRHC Board meeting - January 20th at 2 pm, Health Center community room

Grand Rapids Party - February 24th

Golden Beaver Bash - June 1st

Museum Week - July 17nd-22nd

Beaver Island Music Festival - July 20th-21st

Celtic Games - Sept 15th

Bite of Beaver Island and the Island

Boodle 5k/Run/Walk - October 7th

Needlers

The First and Third Thursday of the month, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No Rules, No Officers, No Dues – Just bring your UFO's (unfinished objects) All skill levels and types of needlework. We offer techniques and patterns, commiseration and perhaps a solution for problems, and lavish praise on all accomplishments. Christian Church Rectory building. Bring a lunch.

AA Meetings

New Location: Medical Center in the Conference Room, Mondays and Fridays at Noon and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. If you want a drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. Alanon Welcome.

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within the borders of the United States. You could sic a thousand UN inspectors on us and they'd find nothing."

The officials were responding to a report in The Washington Post in which health officials alleged that the virus that has spread mysteriously through the 500 year-round residents on Beaver Island, in Lake Michigan, looks nothing like any known virus and may have

been "planted" by a secret military biological-warfare unit. Officials noted that decades ago the military and Central Intelligence Agency had experimented with radiation and LSD on American citizens.

"The virus isn't bird flu and it isn't anything else we've seen, but it is remarkably contagious," said a senior scientist at the Centers for Disease Control, which has been investigating the outbreak. "It

doesn't kill anybody, but it seems to know how to reform itself to increase its power to jump from one person to another. Maybe it's been weaponized by someone."

"Weaponized viruses!!" Faster than a free round of drinks, the words jump to everyone's lips. Some people reach to the floor to retrieve their face masks. Silence fills the room again.

The federal czar is nowhere to be found. *to be continued ...*

does nothing by itself.

If, however, the other Great Lakes states join Ohio, a regional water board would be established to regulate all water withdrawals from the Lakes. It would ensure that states are protected from actions by their neighbors.

Billions of dollars are at stake, but more than money hangs in the balance. While the Great Lakes sustain much of our economy, they also provide us with an endless and largely unspoiled playground shared by all. Boaters can adapt to the naturally fluctuating lake levels that are the status quo. But anything that would alter that equation would imperil access to many boating marinas and the

Lakes they lead into. Less water would be devastating for everyone and leave 4.3 million boaters with nowhere to go. This would ruin the billion dollar boating industry.

With the current marginal lake levels, any tipping of the scales would compromise what we have. The Army Corps of Engineers dredges the Lakes for commercial shipping, but no such accommodations are made for the millions of recreational boaters who rely on the lakes and contribute millions of dollars to local economies.

Boaters would be seriously impacted by—and are adamantly opposed to—any diversion plans, and

they are not the only ones.

Ohio's endorsement of the Great Lakes Compact is a vital first step toward ensuring an environmentally sustainable lake system for all of us, but it cannot be the last. To put the plug on diversions and over-development, the seven remaining Great Lakes states must act immediately and with one voice. Otherwise, our greatest resource will be drained, and boaters and all citizens will be left with a shallow, despoiled burden.

—F.Ned Dikmen; Chairman, Great Lakes Boating Federation
Another reason to promote CMU's coming Great Lakes Research station.

Nina's Restaurant Winter Event Schedule

Sweethearts Dinner – February 17th
Bring your sweetheart or valentine out for an enjoyable dinner in a cozy atmosphere looking at the moon reflected over the lake

Spring Dinner – April 14th - Come celebrate spring with a special dinner of seasonal foods, made with our unique trademark elan

Kathy Speck's Chinese Dinner –

May 11th - A world-renowned benefit dinner by a Ming princess for the Beaver Island Sports Boosters
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Islander Sports

Jan. 5-6 vs Hannahville

Jan 12-13 at Mackinac

Jan 19-20 at Paradise

Feb. 2-3 vs Mackinac Island

Feb. 9 Basketball and Volleyball at Munising Baptist

Feb. 10 Basketball at Munising Baptist

Feb. 10 Volleyball at Engadine Tourney

Feb. 16-17 at Hannahville

Feb. 23-24 vs Grand Marais

Mar. 3 Volleyball District Tourney

Mar. 5-10 Basketball District Tourney

Islander games start Friday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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Hello Santa

Once again the AmVets teamed up with the *Emerald Isle Hotel* to expose the Island kids to a long-valued American tradition: the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. These fuzzy den-

izens of the North Pole for most of the year were delighted that the next generation of Islanders had put so much thought into composing their wish lists. Taking them upon his ample lap, Santa

patiently explained that he could not guarantee delivery of *Playstation 4* because it had not yet been invented—but anything else would surely appear under the Christmas Tree.



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And in exchange, he only wanted one little favor: "Please sign any and all petitions to control global warming," he pleaded. "The way the ice is melting, I can't tell my bed from my bath."

Each child received a prize of their choice, supplied by the Hotel's owners, Eula and Bill Thomas. The Hotel decorated its halls, conference room, and fireplace lounge—for the 6th consecutive

year. The AmVets, with *chef extraordinaire* Emma Jean Belfy, supplied hotdogs, and her helpers passed out ice cream treats. Each kid also received a picture of himself on The Lap.



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Dody Bedford: fascinated by Beaver



Although Beaver Island's reputation as an Artists' Community isn't as wide-spread yet as that of some more popular — and notorious — enclaves, it's growing by leaps and bounds, and as soon as we think we've completed a list of those artists who've

I'm a summer resident of Beaver, and I paint in oils. I have donated oils to the hospice group, and they even raffled one of the lighthouse, netting them \$900.

I've been painting in oils for 30 years, but just gave my pictures away as presents. I

worked for Sysco Food Services for 18 years, in the office and later in sales, until they closed their local cash-and-carry. That was three years ago.

Since then I've been on my own, taking care of people's kids and the elderly, and

cleaning houses. This winter I'm working in the office at our local ski hill, Nub's Nob. Recently I had a bout with breast cancer, and beat it, but my Blue Cross premiums are killing me.

When I was small I got my first big set of crayolas. Wow! It was like getting a big bag of candy. The array of colors was exciting. I went on to draw lots and lots of horses. My first love. Then mom bought me my first *paint-by-numbers*, and it was love again. I had no formal art training, although my high school humanities teacher introduced me to the great Masters. I love the Impressionists. To this day I can't look at a Monet without having his blues excite something deep in my brain.

When my mother became ill, I had to stay with her. That's when I painted my first REAL picture. It was actually a picture of a painting that

hung above my grandmother's table for years. The feeling of joy and satisfaction when I completed it was life-sustaining.

My significant other, Pat Pierce, bought a place at the King Strang and introduced me to the Island. The nice peo-



ple and the quiet scenery were wonderful—a respite from my hectic days of working at Sysco. Later we bought our cottage on the south end of Lake Genesereth, next to Kingsleys and Genie Vreeland, and feel truly blessed not only by the calls of the loons, but by being part of a close network of friendships that is our rock. Except that darn Ruthie catches all the fish.



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become enamored with the sights and views in and around Paradise Bay, a new one, such as Dody Bedford, steps forward to announce their presence. Much of her work, as seen here, features familiar Island landscapes, such as our lighthouses.

In choosing a painting, I have to be excited by color, or light/dark contrast. Like the brilliant yellow at the center of a sunset, or the steam rising off the lake in the early morning. Or the face of a black cat, on a black background with intense yellow eyes boring a

flat surface, and some gooey paint. When I painted a horse and rider taking a big fence I listened to that Irish group the Chieftans. I felt like I was on that horse. (I love them.)

A raging snowstorm in my backyard was painted to the strains of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. I love all kinds of music, classical, jazz, or country. I'm working on a sailboat race for 1500 boats that took place in Needles England. The colorful spinakers set me off. It's my biggest canvas yet.

My basement is my studio, but I



love to be on Beaver and paint in the summer, maybe have a gallery someday. I also write melodies & lyrics (play piano by ear), write poetry and short stories, and am learning the guitar. I'm too chicken to perform my own music. Maybe someday I can get someone to try. I also love to fish, sail, cook, and garden.

Most of what I've created were thank-yous and encour-

agement to others. I will donate to anyone needing a picture for a fundraiser. I hope to be in the Historical Society's Art Show next July.

People can reach me at 231-526-2614, or at patpierce@racc2000.com. So far I've sold by word of mouth,

but can use a digital camera to show what I have. Prices for my work range from \$100 to, say, \$500. I can paint most anything from a photo if people need a special subject created.

At 55, I'm really in my infancy. I'm in no hurry to grow up. — Dody Bedford



Featuring

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See the Calendar of Winter Events at
Nina's Restaurant on page 17

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Islanders open season with double sweep

by Frank Solle



Brenden skies



Dan flies



Jared passes

Two weeks after their scheduled season-opener at rival Mackinac Island was postponed due to poor weather, the Beaver Island Islanders were more than ready to welcome the Ojibwe Eagles in order to get their winter seasons started here on Dec. 15-16.

The Islanders volleyball and basketball teams wasted little time shaking off any accumulated rust as both easily dispatched the Eagles Friday night, then repeated the feat Saturday morning.

The volleyball team claimed a 25-6, 25-5, 25-12 win Friday, then followed

up the next day with an equally impressive 25-19, 25-9, 25-7 match victory.

The Islanders basketball squad also flew past the Eagles, winning Friday night 61-36, and then again on Saturday morning 67-51.

All four contests against the young

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Heather's hit



Bailey receives



Sam smashes

Eagles teams — Ojibwe is a new charter school at Bay Mills and won't have any seniors until next year — gave the Islanders teams a chance to play everyone in front of a supportive home crowd.

"Everyone did a good job," said Islanders volleyball coach Connie

Boyle. "When the younger kids did get into trouble, the older kids did a good job coming in and organizing them."

One young player who didn't get into trouble was freshman Alex Kuligoski who reeled off a 16-point service run, including five aces, to carry the

Islanders from a tight 9-5 margin to a 25-5 win in Friday's second game.

Fellow freshman Lindsey Kenwabikise also served well in her first varsity action, offering up a five-point run with one ace in her first trip to the line during game three. *Continued page 24.*

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Lindsey digs



Jenna bumps



Caitlin tips

Islanders double sweep, cont. from page 23. Senior Brenna Green came to the team's rescue in Saturday's opener, placing six solid serves over the net in a 19-19 tie to lead the *Islanders* to the win.

Senior Bailey McDonough smacked three kills in the Saturday

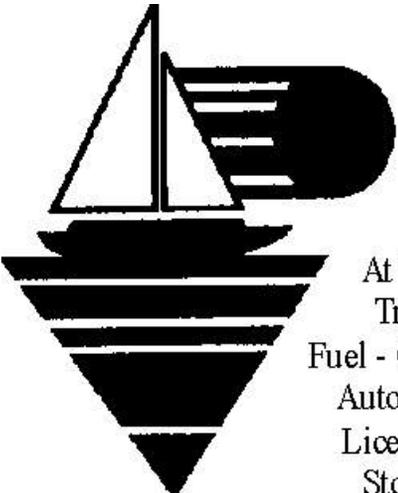
finale, including the game winner.

With the volleyball net down, it was freshman Patrick Cull's turn to tickle the basketball threads, as he led the *Islanders* with 15 points in the Friday win and followed that up with a 16-point effort Saturday.

"Patrick's really coming around," said *Islanders* coach Mike Myers. "He did a good job boxing out and rebounding on defense too."

Joining Cull in double figures Friday were junior Brenden Martin (14 points) and seniors Cory Sowa and Jared

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Photographs by Frank Solle, Melissa Peters, and Hannah Connor



Patrick drives



Cam drives



Cory releases

Wojan with 10 each. Dan Runberg netted six points while Eric Albin, David Schwartzfisher, and Cameron LaVasseur each scored two to cap the Islanders scoring. Albin's weekend playing time was limited to only a few minutes Friday when he went out with a twisted ankle.

Wojan paced the *Islanders* on Saturday with 18 points while Sowa netted a career-high 15. "Cory's been with our program since elementary school," Myers said. "He really did well this weekend."

Rounding out the Islanders scoring

were Runberg with eight points, Martin six, and LaVasseur four.

The *Islanders* next action is another home series set for Jan. 5-6 against the Hannahville *Soaring Eagles*. The original series at Mackinac Island has been rescheduled for Jan. 12-13.



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Twelve Days: our school's Wonderful Christmas program

This year the Beaver Island Community School set a new standard for a K-9 Christmas Program with its rocking and rapping presentation of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Miranda Rooy, our talented music

teacher, had all of the 27 students singing out with rare passion and simultaneously hitting all the notes in each of the sixteen up-tempo songs.

The presentation was greatly aided by Mike and Shelly Scripps, Jackie

LaFreniere, Mike Myers, and Marianne Brown, and by Brenna Green, Jenna Battle, and Rita Palmer. The sets were well-done, thanks to Emma Adams, Sam Kuligowski, Rita Palmer, Melissa Peters, and Dan Runberg.





The action was fast-paced, with most of the students stepping to the mike, either singly or in small groups, to introduce each of the numbers or to give a one-line solo. The music swirled around between songs, offering brief

tastes of other familiar Christmas tunes before alighting on the intended offering.

The audience was asked to join in a sing-along, and was delighted to do so. The number that received the greatest ovation, though, was *Fax the Facts to*

Santa Claus, our first taste of Christmas rap—which required the performers to slip into dark sunglasses in order to act the part. Everyone shone; nothing untoward occurred; and everyone had a wonderful time.



Letters to the Editor: PSJA

Recently, after what appeared to be a concerted three-pronged attack on the Port St. James association's parks and common properties' rights, the PSJA Board took action. We brought the perceived threat to our attorney's attention for defensive guidance and action. The Board, under the PSJA Covenant, manages and protects all aspects of the Association business for our 522 members, who own 1,026

PSJA lots. Please note that all these members are joint owners of the parks and common properties and pay dues for the right of their usage.

It was upon advice of council that the (often hidden by undergrowth) "No Trespassing" signs were exchanged with the "Use by Permission" signs. This, in effect, closed the door to a verbalized threat. We believe that the signs, while a bit vague, will be

observed by nonmembers just like the old signs were.

On a very positive note, a diligent effort is currently underway to greatly improve communications between the township boards and the Association Board. Our Board, due to the lack of sound communication and not having the real facts as we do now, overreacted to the perceived threats. For that I apologize; the Board and I will do our

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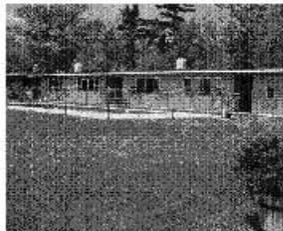
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We also have multiple listings in Port St. James, homes, acreage, and vacant waterfront. Stop in to see us!



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First Snow, Time to Go

On the Fence:

Everyone hates it. Even David Broder got off the fence on this issue. I don't like it either. But I do like the federal dollars showered on our Island. Take the money, take the fence. We should embrace the thing. Irish it up; paint it white with green ties, maybe a few shamrocks.

On High Self-esteem:

Living on Beaver Island makes me feel good about myself. Maybe it's the forced self-reliance. Perhaps the low population density. The smallness of this place helps; even a minnow feels big in this little pond.

On Feeling Young:

Why does living here make me feel young? The rejuvenative power, and beauty of nature, are major factors. This place, reminding me of high school, helps. Sitting at a stoplight on the mainland makes me feel small and old again.

It was a year of hope

It was a year of disillusion

Soon to be back in the land of the living,

Marc ▽ Tenser

Island Firm Merges

Long-time (30 years) Beaver Island real estate firm 'Vacation Properties Network,' which formerly had operated here as 'Ski and Shore,' along with Boyne Realty, has merged with Prudential Preferred Realtors.

The seven northern offices, with over seventy employees, will continue to operate as before, but also as part of an expanded network of 420 agents in nineteen offices.

best to forestall events like this in the future by adhering to sound communication practices.

Our Boards are currently in the process of resolving a matter that, in all likelihood, was created inadvertently by well-meaning people. I sincerely hope and believe that this matter can be cleared up without attorneys, saving everyone money—which in turn can be invested in the Island's infrastructure

for the betterment of the Island community. The Board is hopeful that upon resolution of this minor matter we can all go back to the way things were, being good neighbors. In that event the Board will address softening the current signage, verbiage, and size.

If you have or have had an issue with the way PSJA enforces covenant laws, please feel free to contact me at P.O. BOX 325, Beaver Island, MI

49782. I'm always ready, and eager, to help clear up any questions members or nonmembers may have.

In the spirit of the season when friendship, love, and good feeling are shared among everyone on Beaver Island, I wish for all the Lord's choicest blessing for a wonderful Christmas and the New Year.

– Most sincerely,
Jack R. Spanhak

The Next Big Invasion: Shrimp

Word has arrived from the Muskegon River that the next invasion of exotic species is already here, even before we clean up the *phragmites*.

Half-inch-long 'bloody red' shrimp from the Caspian Sea have ridden their way to the Great Lakes in the ballasts of ships, and could spread quickly, taking a big bite out of the lower end of the food chain that, in its higher reaches, sustains the species with which we're familiar—and which we'd like to see flourish.

These little wigglers now bring the number of species to have invaded the Great Lakes to 180, with a new one discovered every eight months—a period rapidly diminishing.

Invasion to the west

A group of property owners on Washington Island, at the tip of Wisconsin's Door Peninsula, recently assembled to discuss how to handle invasive species. One of the speakers was Door County Invasive Species Team Coordinator Bob Bultman, who focused on two species already gaining a foothold there: *alliaris officinalis* (garlic mustard), and *phragmites australis* ('giant reedgrass.')

Like us, though, no solutions were imminent, and Washington Islanders are awaiting additional reports from Bob Bultman.

Cookie Carnival Crows

On December 14th, Beaver Island's great bakers once again displayed their much-treasured wares at the Christian Church—and sold out quickly!



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Knitting toward a Big Goal: 1, 2, 3, 4 ... 100,000 'Sweaters for Kids'

We have the yarn, patterns are available, so we are knitting for Guideposts' "Knit for Kids" project. This is *Guideposts'* 10th Anniversary Year for giving away sweaters to needy children all around the world. If they can reach 100,000 for this year they will have received 400,000 sweaters from volunteers just like these Beaver Islanders who are knitting.

The average number of sweaters received in the *Guideposts* offices is 4,000 per month—so we have to double it to reach the goal.

Even if the goal is not reached, they will continue giving sweaters to kids who need clothing. Some have inquired about the pattern, or are already knitting. When I had the idea of recruiting for help, I had envisioned maybe one or two helpers. I had asked my friends for yarn because I had been buying the yarn to knit these sweaters, at least 20 in the past two years.

My friends and family came through in a big way. Then I knew that I could live to be nearly 100 and not use up all this yarn.

That's when the idea arrived. Posters went up in the usual Island locations and I started getting phone calls and questions. So the yarn would be available, I used the *Needlers* (which meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Christian Church parsonage) to talk about the project, show the sweaters I had finished, and distribute the patterns.

Many had their own stashes of yarn to be used up – which was even better. I don't want to leave someone out, but I know these people have at least looked at the patterns or are already knitting: Peg Hoogendoorn, Pam Moxham, Lil Gregg, Tova Kopperud, Janet O'Donnell, Donna Stambaugh, Judy Jones, Sally Fogg, Deb Plastrik, Kathy Ruis, Krys Lyle, and Jean Carpenter.

If anyone else wants to be part of this fun and worthy project, or wants to know more about it, they can ask one of the above or call me at 448-3166 - or go to www.knitforkids.org where you can read about how this started, where it's going, and how to get a copy of the patterns. There are four to choose from: the

original Basic Pattern, the 10th Anniversary Pattern (these two are very similar), the Aran pattern for more experienced knitters, or a pattern for crochet if you prefer that over knitting.

Do something for someone else – it always feels great and does so much good. Happy Knitting!

– Kathy Brouard

The Next Big Voice

Many Beaver Islanders know about the deep, rich voice of Jeff Connor—and not from hearing him curse when he drops a transmission on his thumb. Now much of the rest of northern Michigan is aware of his talent as well, thanks to him rising to WKLT's "Sing like Seger" contest, taking a break from his normal work a little after 7:00 a.m., and singing Seger's *Beautiful Loser* to the station's enthralled listeners.

He dedicated the song to Pinky, a long-time Bob Seger fan.

Of course he won—tickets to the next Bob Seger contest, for which all he had to do was promise to be ready to go on if the host turns up hoarse.

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Elsenheimer takes on School Funding Inequalities

Kevin Elsenheimer, our Representative in Lansing, has vowed to do everything he can to reduce the 'spending on students' gap between poor and affluent districts in Michigan—and he's well-known for getting things done. His efforts are heating up now that there's talk of cutting school funding due to shortfalls.

"Not a week goes by where I do not hear from a teacher, concerned parent, or an administrator about the state funding level disparities among schools," he recently stated. "I share these concerns. There is no good reason why a child in southeast Michigan is worth more than a child in northern Michigan." Or on Beaver Island.

"In times of surplus revenues, earlier this year northern Michigan legislators were able to get through the appropriations process a meager \$23 equity payment to all school districts at or near the base foundation grant," he added. "While an extra \$23 to our low-funded schools doesn't seem like much, this equity payment set a very important and valuable precedent for future

school aid budgetary negotiations in Lansing.

"Now, with the current shortfalls in the School Aid Fund, many in Lansing will argue that all schools should 'share the pain' and receive some level of cuts." He strongly disagrees.

"Schools at or near the base foundation should be held harmless from any proration cuts," he maintained. "This will help bridge the gaps between rich and poor districts. Closing the equity gaps must continue even in time of lost revenue not just in good times."

He intends to introduce a constitutional amendment that would go before the voters and require the state to eliminate the funding gaps between rich and poor districts within the next ten years. Passing this amendment would commit future legislators and governors to let policy reflect that all of Michigan's children are valued equally.

The AmVets choose Dave

Dave Ladd, son of Ed and Lorene Ladd from the Back Beach, who worked for Island Airways six years

Letters – a beautiful spot

The people of the Island are great. That is why I come back each summer for as long as I can stay.

The article on Northcut Bay was particularly interesting. Being a boater myself, I know how people are on clean-up of parks and such. In order to keep this place clean, it will take all of the boaters from "near and far" to police this beautiful spot.

I hope they will do so.

– Gary Aniol

Grant for BIYC Arts

The Beaver Island Youth Consortium has received a \$2500 grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. This grant is in support of the BIYC's Arts and Culture Program. The goal of this program is to give all Beaver Island youth the chance to experience at least one arts-and-culture event either on- or off-Island during the course of the school year.

ago, has been appointed AmVets State Commander. He had guided our local veterans into creating Post 46.



WINTER



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On the first and third Wednesdays of January, February, March and April Fresh Air Aviation is the first to offer a wonderful value to the island community! To help keep your mainland appointments through the lean months of winter, Fresh Air Aviation is offering its round trip airfare at an exceptional value of \$75.

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The Cantata Hits Six



On December 2nd and 3rd, Saturday and Sunday, the 34-voice-strong Beaver Island Cantata Choir and several other musicians staged their annual pre-Christmas program, dedicated this year to the memory of Carol Wierenga.

It was hard to believe, but this was already the sixth iteration of this talent collective's annual offering, and possibly the best.

Once again the audience was dazzled, whether by Judi Meister and

Laraine Dawson on the piano and organ, the quartet of Jayne Bailey, Bill Detwiler, Jean Palmer and Mike Scripps singing *O Come All Ye Faithful*, or the harmonies of Jayne Bailey, Bill Detwiler, Joe Moore and Julie Roy (the



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recorderlarios.) Judy also accompanied the duo of Charlene Skinner on the flute and Joe on the violin.

After the Kids' Choir and Deb Plastrik's *Chimes Ensemble*, the Cantata Choir gave the overflow audiences

what they had come for. With Pinky Harmon and John Fiegen narrating, they launched into *Celebrate Emmanuel*, with Judy and Laraine.

For some, the high point of the performance was the two stunning solos by

BICS teacher Miranda Rooy (*Mary's Song*) and, singing a local favorite, *Mary Did You Know*, Mike Scripps.

For two wonderful experiences, hats go off to director Kathy Speck and her bevy of able co-contributors.



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One Hundred Years Ago

by Joyce Bartels

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, January 3, 1907 **Local News:** "The steamer *Beaver* made her Island trip yesterday. She will go again Friday or Saturday, weather permitting, but there is nothing very certain after that."

Beaver Island News: "Mr. Ben Langenhof has gone to Ohio, to spend the winter at his former home."

"Miss Eva Gibson returned to Bay City, to resume her studies."

"Mr. James McCormick has taken the contract to erect A. Booth and Co. Ice house."

"The mill has resumed operations after being closed down for a couple of weeks for repairs."

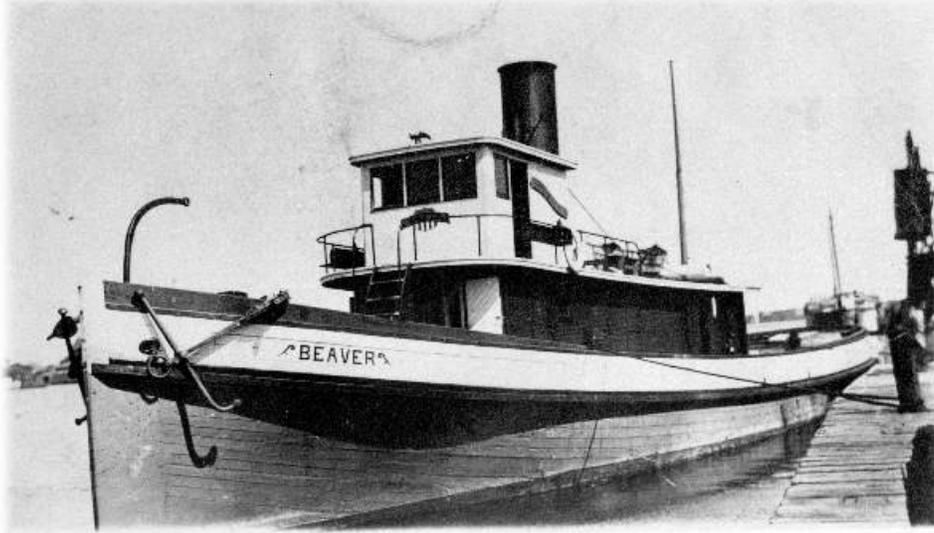
"The tug *C. A. Elliott* has gone into winter quarters."

"The tug *M. McCann* returned from

Charlevoix where she had gone for repairs."

"A fine baby girl made its appearance at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Will Gibson."

"The entertainment given by the



school children for the benefit of the church last week was a success, both financially and socially."

"Ed Raskey, foreman in the shingle mill returned from Manistee with quite a

few men."

"W.E. Stevens made a flying trip to Manistee last week."

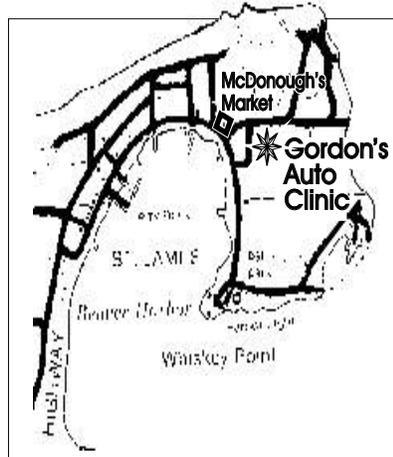
(Note: January 1 - 8 Glaze ice. F. Protar)

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, January 17, 1907 **Local News:** "The steamer *Beaver* made her last trip to B. I. Friday and is laid up. The fishing tug *Little Maeta* will make the mail trips as weather and ice permits until close up; making landing on any part of the Island that can be reached."

"The tug *Little Maeta* started for Beaver Island with the mail Wednesday morning, and got half way across, but the ice forced her to return. She will try it again as soon as a good wind breaks up the ice."

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Notes from F. Protar's diary with the help of Antje Price

“ABOUT THAT ‘MORMON ISLAND’:

“The daily papers are printing a news special from Chicago to the effect that Voliva, Dowie’s successor in Zion, is about to establish a colony ‘on Mormon Island near Boyne City.’

The Chicago reporter who dreamed up that story must have eaten a rare bit. Firstly, there is no ‘Mormon Island’ near Boyne City. Secondly, there is no Island of any sort near Boyne City. There is ‘Holy Island,’ at the mouth of South Arm, but it is nearer to East Jordan than Boyne City, and is about

one acre in area. The Mormons used it fifty years ago as a ‘place of sacrifice,’ roasting an ox there whenever they succeeded in getting hold of the necessary ox.

“Perhaps Voliva has his eye on

Beaver Island, the original kingdom. If so, we can give him a few pointers. ‘Bowery Bill’ Gallagher lives there and if Voliva ever gets there with his colony and bunts up against supervisor Bill, in the manner of temporal sway, God save Voliva.



The special states that Voliva is on a trip north to ‘look out the land.’ If it is Beaver Island, we may look for him any day to take passage on the U. S. mail steamship *Little Maeta*.”

(Note: 22 Last boat - tug: ice, 7 - 10 degrees. F. Protar)

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, January 24, 1907 **Local News:** “Voliva writes from Zion to Boyne City parties that the newspaper talk about colonizing in Northern Michigan is a ‘pipe dream.’

“The wife of Phil Malloy, of Beaver Island died yesterday at Mercy Hospital, Big Rapids, where she had been for some time for treatment. A very pathetic feature of her demise was the fact that her husband was at the Island home and could not reach the bedside of his dying wife. She

was conscious nearly to the last and telegraphed love to husband and friends.”

(Note: 23-29 Heavy snow, 3 - 0 degrees. F. Protar)

(Note: 30 First ice mail F. Protar)

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HARBOR LIGHTS: a unique log cabin looking out over Paradise Bay. Enjoy the boat traffic from the huge deck, or sit around the fire pit on the beach. 3 bedrooms w/ 2 queen sized beds, 2 twins and 2 twin pullouts; 1 large bath. All the amenities. Spectacular views! \$975.00 per week. (630) 834-4181 or (630) 995-0507 cell. E-mail to harborlightsbim@aol.com



THE BIRCH HOUSE ON FONT LAKE/ DONEGAL BAY ROAD: Close to town, beautiful sunrise, fishing, and solitude. 3 bedroom (sleeps 6) and 1 1/2 bath. Phone Mary Rose @ (630) 750-7870 or email mrdoig@hotmail.com \$750.00/wk off season rates available.



DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE: 3 BR, 2 BA, full kitchen, W/D, fireplace, secluded patio & deck surrounded by pines and bluff and overlooking one of Beaver Island's best beaches. \$850 per week June-September; winter rates available. Call (734) 996-3973 or suziqp16@comcast.net

Browse the best Island rental cottages online, anytime, www.beaver-island.com

7 PINES - Weekly Rental Close to town (short walk to Dalwhinnie) Sleeps 6, 1 1/2 bath, washer/dryer, linens furnished, freshly remodeled, PET FRIENDLY, \$750.00/week, Contact Ryan & Gretchen Fogg at (616) 836-1597.

DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE - Nicely furnished 3 BR, 1 bath, washer/dryer. On dune w/ beach access. \$775/ July & August \$600 off-season weekly. Dana Luscombe (248) 549-2701 eve or dpluscombe@msn.com

COTTAGE BETWEEN THE SHORES - Conveniently located 1 block from harbor district, yet tucked away on McDonough Rd. 2 king, 1 double, 1 twin, 2 sleeper sofas. Fully equipped kitchen & laundry facilities. Linens and towels provided. Arbor deck with hammock swings and gas grill. \$750/weekly. Call Beth Anne @ (989) 561-5079 or (989) -330-9528.

SAND BAY - "BAY HAVEN" COTTAGE - WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake Front, Sandy Beach, 3BR, great view, laundry, East Side Dr., brand new home. Only available the first three weeks of June and after September 1st, 2007. Call Laurie Bos at (616) 786-3863 or email lauriesbos@chartermi.net Photographs of Bay Haven can be viewed online at bayhaven.beaverisland.net

WEEKLY RENTAL - Harbor Beach Two-bedroom Condos. \$500/week. Call Satch Wierenga at (231) 448-2808.

DONEGAL BAY - Clean/ Comfortable 3 Bedroom Home. Private Beach, Unforgettable Sunsets. Call Valerie Connors at (810) 487-1028.

LOG CABIN ON SAND BAY - pets allowed. 2 BR, 1 bath: \$500. Call (734) 449-0804 or email delzey@earthlink.net *Continued on page 38.*



The **Convent**
in the Village
Beautiful Harbor View

*Full Housekeeping Home
Sleeps 15 - 7 Bedrooms w/ sinks
Fully-equipped Kitchen
Beach Access
Great for Multi-Family Groups, Family
Reunions, Business Retreats
Open Year Round
Weekly Rental in season
2-night minimum off-season
Call 448-2902*



TWO BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT:

In a beautiful wooded setting near the riding stables. Walk out the back to Sweeney's Pond. See the eagles and deer; let the loons lull you to sleep. Reduced rates for the off-season. Nice touches; everything brand new! Call (231) 448-2397

FOR SALE:



27827 WHITE CEDAR TRAIL

Charming 1,132 sq. ft. home on two Port St. James wooded lots. Two bedrooms—one upstairs plus upstairs hot tub & exercise room. Full bath downstairs, 1/2 bath upstairs. Every room has a combination ceiling-fan light fixture.



Baseboard electric heat throughout the house which is well insulated, but there is also a propane heater downstairs. Kitchen with snack bar open to dining area. Close to Font Lake and the North Shore Park and about half-way between St. James and Donegal bay. **\$139,500.**

Ed Wojan Realty:

Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711

Real Estate, For Rent, continued from page 37.

RENTAL CABIN - for rent - Sand Bay-sleeps 8-amenities-available May-September \$950.00 wk plus security deposit. (231) 582-5057 or email robin@robinleeberry.com

WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake front. "The Last Resort" 2 BR house on Sand Bay, great view, beautiful sunrise, laundry pair, 1 1/2 bath. Phone Bill McDonough at (231) 448-2733 (days).

THE FISHERMAN'S HOUSE - Great 'In-Town' location across the street from St. James Harbor on the harbor road. 4 BR/2 Bath; W/D; Four bedrooms, three rooms with double beds and one room with twin beds, two bathrooms, bed linens and bath towels provided, fully equipped modern kitchen, washer/dryer, TV, enclosed porch, and open deck with grill. For availability, call Bill or Tammy (231) 448-2499 or (231) 448-2733.

Advertise your business or rent your property more with a *Beacon* Ad: effective advertising that reaches 1,225-1,400+ readers *every month*, not to mention 76,912 unique web site visitors

Real Estate, For Sale

10 ACRES ON WEST SIDE DR. - Land contract available. Low down payment. Contact Mike Collins, Island Property Real Estate. (231) 448-2923.

HARBOR-AREA 2-STORY HOUSE FOR SALE - 2,688 ft² plus 2 car attached garage & full basement. 3 large bedrooms—master with private bath and walk-in closet, cathedral ceiling. 2 1/2 baths. 2 decks. Approx. 1-acre corner lot. Peekaboo view of the Harbor. Potential for a bed and breakfast business. Asking: \$245,000. Owner is licensed agent. Call Jackie at (231) 448-2342.

KING'S HIGHWAY LOTS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN - Two beautiful wooded lots right near town, the Brothers' Place, and the harbor. Asking \$40,000 each. Call (773) 646-1424. Odatlo@sbcglobal.net

10 ACRES OF HARDWOODS LAND - adjacent to 80 acres of State land at the Black Hills Clearing off Fox Lake Road. Cotters Trail runs across the parcel at its North line. \$37,000. Call (231) 448-2009.

LAKE GENESERATH - Beautiful lot on Hemlock Point Rd. 111' lake frontage with lovely view across bay into state forest. Entire lot level with large hemlocks & no wetland or restrictions. \$78,000. 616-399-5164 or mfolkening@pol.net

BEAVER ISLAND HARBOR LOT 10.1 ACRES OF HARDWOODS - with 700 feet of frontage on West Side Drive one mile north of Fox Lake. For Sale by Owner. High ground with private road and fully cleared building site. \$45,000. Call Bubba at (989) 821-5344

WOODED HOMESITE IN PORT OF ST. JAMES - Huge lot, surveyed, perked, power available, 3 minutes from Donegal Bay Beach, call (269) 857-6084.

PROTECTED HARBOR SITE: 60' Lake frontage by 250' deep. North of the Toy Museum. Call (231) 448-239

10 ACRES OLD FOX LAKE ROAD Beautiful, wooded, great building site; \$39,000 MUST SELL, please call (231) 409-1214.

EXCELLENT BUILDABLE LOT ON MCDONOUGH ROAD. 139 ft wide, left side 111 ft, right side 291 ft. \$37,500 possibly on land contract. (231) 448-3088.

40 ACRES ON SLOPTOWN ROAD - Call Bud at (231) 448-2397.



HARBOR AREA HOUSE FOR SALE

Furnished 2 bedroom 1 1/2 bath home on large lot with seasonal view of the harbor. Full basement, front and back decks and large pole barn. Asking price \$165,000.

Contact Dave Sweet at (614) 899-9922 or (614) 736-6056 or email for additional photos: DMSweet2@ameritech.net

DONEGAL BAY HOUSE FOR RENT

- Nice wooded location. Two BR. New kitchen. Summer: \$675. Off-season \$425. (269) 668-7892 or email nprawat@yahoo.com

WATERFRONT COTTAGE - On the east side. Available by the week or weekend. One BR, full kitchen and bath. Enjoy the water and the woods, year round. Off-season rates. Complete privacy. (231) 448-2907.

BEAVER SANDS BEACH HOME -

Located on Sand Bay, beautiful Lake Michigan waterfront home: 3 bedrooms, sleeps 8; 2 full baths; w/dry; full kitchen, including dishwasher and micro; wonderful sunrise views with sandy beach & safe swimming, screened porch & large deck, everything included. Prime weeks open. Call Nancy: (810) 227-2366 or nrosso@hotmail.com.

in 2006 – building towards more in the coming year. E-mail the Beacon – beacon@beaverbeacon.com or call **231-448-2476** to place an ad — online at www.beaverbeacon.com and www.beaver-island.com

WESTERN SHORES - Juniper Point Lot #6 - 451' frontage/3 acres on Lake Michigan. Overlooking High Island. Winding Driveway thru Red and White Cedars. \$285,000 FSBO 3% co-broke (269) 598-8042.

TWO LOTS IN THE PORT ST. JAMES near Font Lake. Perked, wooded, buildable. #708 & 709; electric and phone right there. \$14,000 each. Call Peggy at (269) 671-5557.

LAKE GENESERATH Lot For Sale Parcel # 15-012-015-013-10, Hemlock Point Road; 140' lake frontage on the North Arm of beautiful Lake Geneserath; lot approved for building on w/o restrictions. Call (616) 772-9783/(616) 283-7227; or email - cschrotenboer@ghyfc.org



FOR SALE – HARBOR-AREA HOUSE:

Four bedroom, 1 ½ bath house on two lots with garage. Wonderful location near town and the harbor. Asking price is \$225,000.

Call Ed Wojan Realty:
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711

PRIME N. END LOCATION - 120' on water - Three bedroom, 2 bath, garage. Furnished. 26315 Pine St. \$324,900. Lease option. (586) 206-1099.

Looking for different Island real estate?

BEAVER ISLAND REALTY

(231) 448-2577

www.beaverislandrealty.com

ED WOJAN REALTY

(231) 448-2711

www.edwojanrealty.com

ISLAND PROPERTY LLC

(231) 448-3031

VACATION PROPERTIES NETWORK

(231) 448-2433

www.vpnrealty.com

Cars, Boats, & Planes

BOAT FOR SALE - 1991 PURSUIT 1850 (18' 6") CENTER CONSOLE, 115 hp Yamaha, Eagle trailer, full electronics. Great shape, one owner. \$12,400. Call Rick Blaylock at (269) 375-3639.

FOR SALE - 1985 30' SEARAY - Very clean, good electronics and Mercury dinghy and much more. \$28,000. (231) 448-2923.

FOR SALE - 1974 24' BUCANEER SAILBOAT, WITH TRAILER and 9.9 electric start outboard. Good sails, payment plan available. (231) 448-2923.

WANTED: RELIABLE VEHICLE TO RENT - 7/28 to 8/25/07. Reply to (978) 777-4776 or bill16@mac.com

Services

BURRIS MASONRY - Brick, Block, Stone. (231) 448-2213.



BEAUTIFUL SAND BAY BEACH SETTING FOR RENT – THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS:

Why not enjoy the best beach on Beaver Island? This attractive cottage has 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ bath. Sandy beach. Screened Porch Gas Grill. \$1100/week. Call Ruth or Jackie at (231) 448-2342

**FOR SALE: THE HARBOUR MKT**

This grocery and liquor store is located across from the Beaver Island Ferry dock. It features 2,000 sq/ft of potential retail space, with an 800 sq/ft attached garage and loading bay. Above is 2,300 sq/ft of luxury living quarters, plus 770 sq/ft privacy deck & hot tub. This property has a panoramic view of Paradise Bay, and offers a totally unique living experience. The building has undergone extensive renovations and improvements over the past 4 years, including pavers in the front, 3 new Anderson sliding glass doors upstairs, and a complete new store front, to mention only a few. The replacement cost of the building alone would exceed \$700,000. Inquire for further details regarding business or property. \$790,000.

Please contact Mike Collins,
Island Property Real Estate
(231) 448-2923
MKC2923@MWCONNECTIONS.COM





Looks like the fishing is still good on the east side!

photograph by Leonor Jacobson



Mike Collins and Mike Weede take in a Christmas dip.



Extreme Sledding Champ of '06 – the snow before New Year's Eve

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