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# Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955



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Eco-Tourism comes to Beaver Island

News from the Townships

August Election Results

Music at the Library

Spinning Yarns

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## Beaver Beacon

the Island Monthly since 1955

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## Eco-tourism comes to Beaver Island

Eric and Carrie Myers, both graduates of CMU's master's program, came to the Island in the middle of August to take the first step towards enacting a plan that came to them when they were on their honeymoon in Australia. On their journey through the Down Under rain forest, many hotels in which they stayed offered tours of the local mysterious places every day—giving their patrons a reason to extend their stay. Both Carrie and Eric had the same idea: "Why can't we do that, on Beaver Island?"

Both astute observers of nature (Eric just received his PhD in Forestry from MSU), they intend to offer two tours of the Island's unique ecology starting next summer: one of two hours, the other of almost four, guided trips to bogs, woodlands, and sand dunes. In addition they might offer trips to other islands in conjunction with Dan Higdon's *Island Hopper Charters*. So they were here to do what anyone starting a business on the Island must do: hire someone to install a driveway and create a clearing on their land off the West Side Road, make arrangements for utilities, and choose a contractor who can get them in a new structure by the end of next May.

In addition, they were charting the driving times between different places of interest in order to create options for

their tour. "It will change, week by week, because nature changes," they explained. "Different flowers come into bloom, and animals modify their foraging patterns." Not that they know everything about the Island's ecology. "We saw something that amazed us camping on our land last night. One of the five most intriguing sights I've ever seen in my life: a fluorescent fungus that glowed in the dark."

Last spring the Leadership Retreat focused on the question of how we

could manage the inevitable growth of tourism in a way that would protect our fragile environment. Encouraging eco-tourism business by responsible operators was one of the recommendations. "We realize we're walking a thin line," they said. "There are some things we've found that are just too delicate to be shown to anyone. And there's another danger. A man was just caught trying to smuggle a hundred orchids back to Germany, where he planned to sell them. Beaver Island has its share of valuable species as well. Maybe to show some of them, we'll have to blindfold our guests and spin them around three times before taking them to the site."

Since some of nature's spectacles occur in the off-season, this enterprise also supports a direction the Chamber is pushing with its year-around draw.



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## Spinning Yarns

by Krysl Lyle

The night of August 3<sup>rd</sup> was balmy and truly the essence of summer on Beaver Island when the Preservation Association hosted a storytelling event at Peaine Township Hall, which was transformed into a stage-like setting, adorned with beautifully arranged containers of wildflowers.

People began arriving and taking their seats, which soon were in short supply ... and in the end, there was standing room only. Jacque LaFreniere emceed the event, introducing storytellers Doris Larson, Tammy Layman, and Amy Wisner, members of the Story Spinners of Grand Rapids. Phil Gregg, our Island curmudgeon, and Pinky Harmon, Beaver's answer to Irma Bombeck, filled out the rest of the cast.

Leone Schellenberg mentioned being a friend and neighbor who had experienced Doris Larson's storytelling at gatherings on the beach during past summers. Whether Doris is producing her beautiful artwork or telling tales, she's known for doing things with a flair.

Donna King expressed how professional all the players were. Her depiction of Tammy Layman in her black dress with hunched arm and craning neck gave strength to her crow-like mannerisms. Annette Dashiell also commented on the immediate willingness of the multi-aged audience to participate in the sound effects for the Crow tale. This was the only encouragement necessary to capture the audience and have them remain engaged and animated throughout the evening.

Many expressed how powerfully they reacted to Amy Wisner's story of the

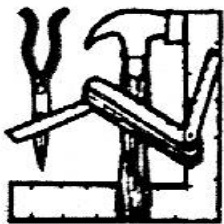
Swedish Christmas with the smorgasbord produced by her father. We were all moved by the beautiful memories she shared about her father, and her ultimate loss in the end. What strength to share, with such poignant, raw intimacy.

That Phil Gregg can tell a story! Imagine putting caps of dynamite and fuel oil in the same sentence, let alone the same boat!! No matter what he says, everyone feels they're right there.

When Pinky was asked about her impressions of the evening, the first thing out of her mouth was, "I'm glad it's over!" She claims any other venue, whether it be calling out Bingo til she's blue in the face, or standing up in front of the congregation at church, would have been easier than this storytelling experience—a root canal being much more pleasant. She did say, "Once the mouth starts going, the audience disappears, and I'm off and running." Jacque thought a hymn sung in the background as a mantra might have alleviated some of Pinky's stage fright!

The storytellers succeeded in carrying the audience away to memories of their own childhood, with tales of Christmas' past, summer camp, family gatherings, and house guests. I think we all had moments of tender recall—a tear, a laugh, and the fondness of the human spirit, ever present. "The best light entertainment," I heard it said. In the end the mosquitoes took leave of their nightly rounds, entering to surf the wind sent up from the applause. I think we got most all of them!

There are stirrings of an encore next summer.



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## Behind the scenes: Duelling Tale-spinners raise money for PABI

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, some highly-regarded Beaver Island story-tellers joined forces with professionals from downstate to entertain a packed house at Peaine Township Hall. Conceived of by Doris Larson as a way to raise funds for PABI, no one knew what degree of attendance to expect, but every seat was taken and several people had to stand. Besides "professional" story-tellers Tammy Layman and Amy Wisner, who each told two tales, local masters Pinky Harmon and Phil Gregg took a turn with Doris on the stage. When the smoke cleared at the end of the evening, they all agreed that this audience had been the best, in terms of response and interest, any of them had ever had.

Some who came were surprised to learn that story-telling has reached the status of an independent Art, an experience Doris too had when she and her husband Lars moved to Grand Rapids eight years ago. Of course as a successful long-time elementary teacher she had picked up these skills without really knowing it, but it was only when she encountered *Story*

*Spinners* that she discovered the world of story-telling contests (including the National in Nashville) and tours. Now her skills have been honed and recognized, and she has been asked to serve as an instructor of story-telling at both Aquinas and Grand Valley State.

This activity, which is so much in tune with our rich local tradition of feted story-tellers, only came to us through a lucky coincidence. Tammy and Amy performed at a Spring Lake concert benefit this spring, which Diane Scripps attended. "This would be perfect for Beaver Island," Diane suggested—and that was all Doris had to hear to put it together. As they left, the enthusiastic audience was heard to remark that it would be nice to incorporate story-telling in the BICS regimen, or to at least establish a few story-telling evenings as an annual event.

And almost as a by-product of this introduction to a burgeoning art, PABI took another step closer to its goal of building the Community House by raising another four hundred and ninety dollars.

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## Hospice News Update

by Joyce Runberg

With the coming of fall, many of our summer volunteers flee to warmer surrounds, but there are still nine year-around helpers who may be called when respite care is needed. If the need arises, please contact Joyce Runberg (2387), Pat Rowley (2514), or Lois Williams (2475.)

Through the generosity of Munson Hospice, and facilitated by Marilyn Achard (an Island Malloy), we have received two new electric hospital beds. We would like to give away the three older electric beds, which are currently at the Med Center; if you'd like one, call Pam at the BIRHC2275.

A special thanks for donations from Jim and Carol Myers of Beaver Island and Eleanor Mosbarger of Phoenix. Anyone who would like to donate to the Hospice can address their query to P.O. Box 191.

Last spring the *Mulchers for Mary* at Holy Cross Church planted two burning bushes at the entrance to the Memorial Garden behind the Church. These plantings are in memory of Diane Hetherington, and came from an anonymous donor. The red blaze they will display each fall will remind us of the colorful and unquenchable spirit of our dear, departed friend.

## At the Library

by Phyllis Moore

It's been a very busy summer at the Island Library. More and more folks are discovering what it has to offer. Besides providing internet access on three computers, it has an extensive collection of videos and recorded books, not to mention the thousands of regular books. And thanks to the inter-library loan system, we can get almost any book you may need.

The Library holds a Story Hour every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. with Connie Wojan, who does a marvelous job introducing youngsters to the joys of reading and doing a simple craft project. Book check-outs have grown every year, but unfortunately we also have the largest amount of over-due books/videos ever. Before you leave for the summer, please check for any of our books. There are no over-due fines, but we'd sure like to have things returned. There is a drop box just outside the office window at the front of the building. If you accidentally take it home, please just drop it in the mail. Thanks!

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## Utilizing Public Land

by Krys Lyle

A special ad hoc committee of volunteers was recently formed to evaluate the recreation potential for available public land along the Lake Michigan shoreline and inland lakes of Beaver Island. The group met three times during July and August, where assessments for improvements were made. Areas for concern have been signs, access roads, parking, walking trails, and facilities (outhouse and trash collection), at 36 locations around the Island.

Ten locations have been earmarked for improvement in 2003. Signs will be completed for these locations by May 15, 2003. The new signs will be routed in wood and painted blue with white lettering. An example of the new signage is at the entrance to the footbridge, south of the Lake Geneserath boat launch.

The following people have given their time to this project: Don Cole, Robert Cole, Bill Hannon, Alice Belfy, Terry Saxton, Ed Connaghan, Krys Lyle, Marilyn Reed, Ann Broder, and Red Rowley. Thank you for your time on this project.

Our next meeting will be, Friday, September 6, 2002, at 1:00 p.m., Peaine Township Hall.

## PABI hosts Sunset Picnic fundraiser

by Sue Welke

The Pavillion at the Port of St. James Association Donegal Bay Park was the sight for a sunset picnic dinner on the evening of Sunday, August 18, to raise funds for the Preservation Association's operations. A sumptuous dinner of marinated shrimp and chicken kebobs, grilled vegetables, and unique summer salads was prepared by chef Debra Harwood. PABI Board members provided a variety of hors d'oeuvres to the 60+ guests, while Chef Harwood's delicious dinner was crowned by a fresh peach shortcake. The picnic-perfect summer evening was made even better by a cooling breeze blowing off the lake, while the musical strains of Barry Pischner, Rich Scripps, and L. D. Ryan provided the diners with Beaver Island-style entertainment.

Promptly at 8:30, as the sun dropped behind Trout Island, PABI Board member and picnic organizer Sue Welke raised her glass and offered a champagne toast to the Preservation Association's many supporters. Mortgage Banker Cathleen Jones, with Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation, together with PABI Board member

Ric Roane and his law firm, Zerrenner & Roane, provided the champagne for the evening. The event was facilitated by the generosity of the Port of St. James Association Board, who made available the use of the picnic pavilion and its facilities.

As the guests dined and sipped champagne and enjoyed the view and the perfect summer evening, Sue Welke proposed a second annual summer picnic be held next summer. A preliminary count showed that approximately \$700 was raised, bringing all of us one more step closer to our goal. The Board extends a heartfelt thanks to all who contributed, the volunteers and supporters of this organization.

## Good Things to Come

Even though the *Beacon* is at 36 pages, there's more going on than we have room for. Articles that were squeezed out and will appear next month include The Historical Society's Annual Meeting; Island quilter and musician Joe Cunningham's return; Peaine Township's 155th Birthday; a celebration of Ralph Witmer; and a new poem from Eleanor LaFreniere. All this and more—in only thirty more days!

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## The Queen of North Manitou visits Beaver Island

On Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, Rita Hadra Rusco made her first visit to Beaver Island, after having spent five decades two islands away down the lake. This colorful and energetic 82-year-old woman is the author of *North Manitou Island*, a subject on which she is probably the world's expert. Coming out of Texas as a young woman, her first husband was called to service during WW II. Shortly afterwards, he met Bob Angell, who owned 95% of North Manitou and was looking for a reliable couple to move there and run his operation. Rita was the first to go in 1942, becoming Postmistress and manager of the general store; her husband came along a week later.



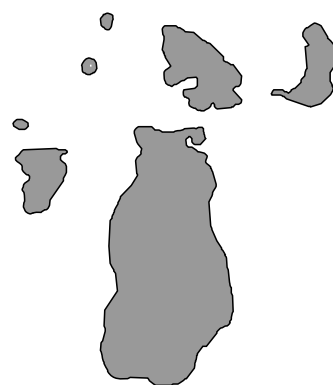
What they found was primitive by any standard: a phone they had to shout into at the top of their lungs (they were *three rings*); ice blocks for refrigeration, cut from the lake and preserved in sawdust; and a gasoline-fired iron that spit soot on a white shirt. The rampant deer herd was planted in 1927; later the island became a hunting club, with men

hired to cart apples around for fodder. It all sounds eerily familiar, like meeting a less substantial cousin whose predicament makes us feel we didn't have it so bad after all.

Over the following years Rita witnessed the play of downsizing forces similar to those that threatened Beaver Island when our population dropped to below two hundred. There, like here, the fishing industry began to collapse. Eventually the freight cost wouldn't support the cherry orchards, so people began to move away. It was hard to attract new people because of the limitations of living on an island. And the danger; not everyone was stimulated by flying

in with skis instead of wheels and landing on a rough 1700' strip. Soon the school closed; then the lighthouse (shut down in 1933) fell into disrepair; then the docks were a risky proposition. Even before everyone was forced out by the expanding Sleeping Bear Dunes, logistical forces put this island community well on the way to becoming a ghost town.

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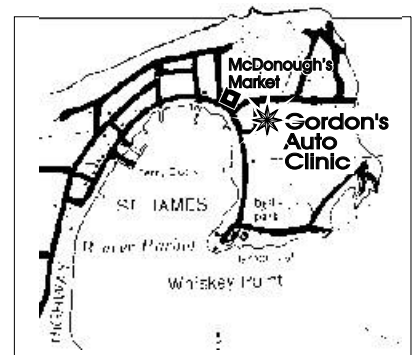
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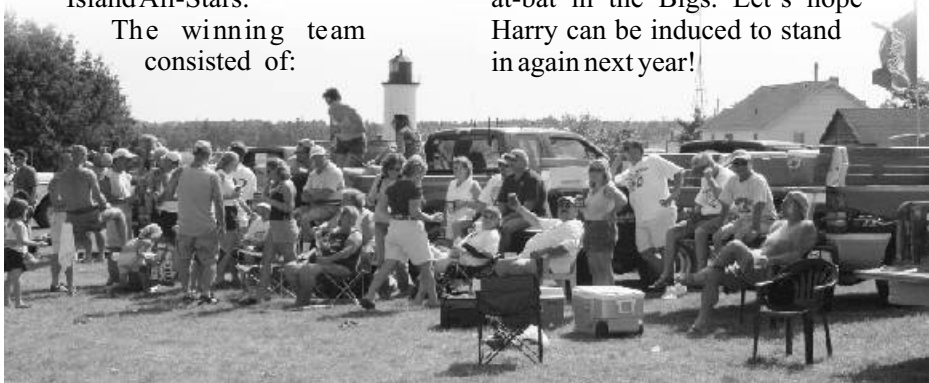
Twenty-seven years ago Jim Willis began talking up the softball prowess of Beaver Island teams, and mentioned to his Charlevoix friends that a few games were played over here during Homecoming. Well, they took the bait and issued a challenge, and ever since the defining aspect of our celebration has been the softball tournament. At times a voice of criticism has been raised over the teams and their fans all climbing in a single pick-up and cruising around with a radio blasting and a few beers being spilled. But all in all, it's little enough to have to put up with for all we get, economically, culturally, and in terms of energy.

This year eight teams vied for the trophy. Coming in third place was La Senorita's from Petoskey, Michigan. Second place for the tournament was Grey Gables of Charlevoix. The winner of the 2002 Bud McDonough Memorial Baseball Tournament was...the Beaver Island All-Stars.

The winning team consisted of:

Todd McDonough, Brad McDonough, Drew McDonough, Tim McDonough, Jim McDonough, Nathan McDonough, Joey McDonough, Kyle Wojan, Tony Rouch, Neal Boyle, Larry Boyle, Denny Weisenberg and Joey Turner. Congratulations team!

The umpires and scorekeepers voted the Most Valuable Player trophy to Brad and Drew McDonough. A fitting honor for these grandsons of Beaver Island's Joe Dimaggio, Joltin' Joe Bud McDonough. But perhaps the most interesting aspect of the tournament was the TDS lead-off batter in their second game: Island slugger Harry Wanty, an obvious ringer. Just as Bill Veeck had done with his St. Louis Browns 51 years earlier, Rich Gillespie wanted an advantage. Veeck's Eddie Gaedel walked on 4 pitches, and Harry took a pass too. His pinch-runner scored the first run, but the pitcher wasn't able to hold the lead. Gaedel only had one at-bat in the Bigs. Let's hope Harry can be induced to stand in again next year!



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## CMU art class immortalizes Beaver Island

For the past thirteen Augusts Beaver Island's scenic places have attracted dedicated and buoyant art students doing their best to take advantage of the plentiful inspiration. Although the art offerings have included ceramics, photography, metalsmithing, jewelry, and, this year, sculptural papermaking, it is the painters hovered behind their easels

and squinting through small cardboard rectangles at a scenic view that most tourists remember.

On Friday, August 16, this year's sixteen students held the art show at CMU that marks the end of their intense two-week session. (Next year's will be on August 15<sup>th</sup>— mark it down now!) The perimeter of the Biological Station's large central lounge was draped with paintings, while the perhaps more daring made-paper sculptures were laid out in the adjacent dining room as seventy-five visitors milled around, oohing and aahing and dropping comments that the artists, who either mingled with the audience or hovered on the edge of an array of couches and chairs in the center, greedily gathered in.

When asked, every one of them praised the program. The teachers, they said, are world-class artists in their own right, at the very top of their field. Beaver Island, they agreed, was a perfect place in which to find subjects for their work—even the

papermakers incorporated feathers and twigs, and sand and shells from the beach. The isolation from normal distractions allowed them to immerse themselves in their work to a greater than previous extent. "For the first time," one of them remarked, "I felt like a real artist. It was a wonderful feeling."

"It was as if we were out here on an expedition," another commented. "To find our inner wellspring. Dr. Swanstrom was affected by the setting, too, and gave us more leeway. As long as he felt we were following a



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legitimate lead, he didn't try to reign us in. He was more like a discreet guide, unobtrusively dropping hints to help us stay on whatever path we were following. We knew we were free to experiment, to try new techniques and materials." A side-effect of this attitude was that everyone felt a great sense of camaraderie. Several of them stated that this would probably turn out, in retrospect, to be a defining moment in their lives.

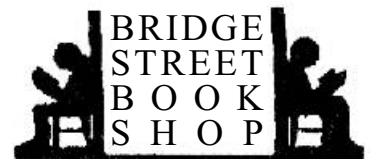
Nothing was marked with a price, but interested potential purchasers were free to negotiate with the willing artists.



Doug Chambers, a teacher who won *Best In Show*, said that the whole experience of the show was "validating. This was an extremely productive two weeks," he added. "Counting what I've done before, I now have 60 completed paintings, 35 of which are framed. When I get back I'll frame the rest, and then some galleries are going to give me one-man shows. If I sell enough, I may just chuck my day job. Coming here has given me the courage to put this long-cherished sentiment into words."

Many of us peek over the artist's shoulder when they first set up around the shore, and are privy to the beginning of the creative act. It's a wonderful experience to take in the transformation in the vision and understanding the artists undergo. The effect of standing in these two large rooms packed with burgeoning art made from the scenes with which we live is quite profound. We might be able to withstand the influence of a

few works of art, but to see so many focused squarely on us as we circle the rooms imparts a sense that, without quite knowing it, we live in a realm of true inspiration. Granted, by attending the show we give the artists some necessary feedback, but they give us much more: a feeling that we are blessed to inhabit a virtual paradise.



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## Island Insights – Music Lifts Our Souls

by Marlyn Clark

Music gives voice to our spirits. Feelings we would never express verbally rise from deep within and find expression. Three recent events on Beaver Island have provided that corporate expression at its best. All have been works of excellence involving local talent in preparation, practices, and final program.

MAD Camp (Music/Art/Drama) comes to Beaver Island the last week of July, thanks to Sue Oole, daughter of Beaver Island resident Art Johnston.

Bach on Beaver came the last Sunday in July this year, thanks to Charles Krutz, lifelong friend and classmate of Beaver Islander Marty Maehr.

The Christmas Cantata last December, under the able direction of Islander Kathy Speck, thrilled participants and spectators alike. Kathy is part of a musical family, daughter of the late Harriet Rafferty, who organized a Sweet Adeline's group on Beaver Island.

Maybe the tie-in for each of these efforts is the circle of interdependence. Local family and friends combining their talents to draw us higher rather than merely performing music for our enjoyment.

J. S. Bach wrote more than 260 cantatas in his body of musical work. Countless other composers have created pieces from which to choose. We await with anticipation the fall practices and December performance of the Christmas Cantata of 2002.

## Jeff Powers throws a Party

A few days before Homecoming, Jeff Powers was overcome by the desire to throw a party. Perhaps it was only a passing thought, but once he'd uttered it his loyal staff went to work ironing out the details, and before he knew it, everything was arranged. Beans had just arrived on the northernmost apogee of his annual world tour, and agreed to play. "Who else?" someone asked—someone who apparently didn't know that when Beans takes the stage, all the music anyone could want soon fills the air. As soon as he began to play, any doubters were won over, for if it can be said of anyone, it can be said of Beans that he has pure energy in his veins.

Soon a conga posse formed and grew from five little kids



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who could keep the beat to a dozen, glad to be up in front of the hundred and fifty guests hunkered at the Ace pole barn parking lot on chairs and several strategically-placed stacks of lumber. Homecoming Dinner had just ended, and the crowd was happy to sip a free beer, pop, or glass of wine and snack on the chips and dip—which included both smoked lake trout and smoked whitefish dip. Dozens of Islanders who had not been seen for awhile were in the crowd, veritable celebrities because of the rarity of their visits. Like who? Well, for example, Lester Connaghan, who at ninety-one had shown everyone the previous night at the Hall that just because he's living out west, he's no way near ready to relinquish his title as Beaver Island's Dancing Man.



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## EMT Classes to Be Offered

by Joe Moore

Beaver Island Emergency Medical Service (BIEMS), in conjunction with Beaver Island Community School (BICS), will be offering two Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes this fall. The one-hundred ninety-two (192) hour program will be offered as part of the BICS regularly scheduled classes from 12:30 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. daily beginning September 4<sup>th</sup>. This daily program will follow the school policy for class cancellation, and will finish with the final exams in June 2003.

The evening program will meet every Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., starting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The evening scheduled class will be completed before school final exams in May 2003.

Both EMT programs, whether during the day or during the night, will require 32 additional hours of clinical time during the second half of the program, where students will experience ambulance operations and emergency room treatments for actual

patients. These clinical hours will have to take place on weekends.

Entry requirements for adults include a 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level and a desire to serve the community. The cost of either program to an interested adult will be the time required to attend, study, and prepare for the classes, and the time to spend on the mainland doing clinical time. All other off-Island expenses of the program for an adult willing to serve the community will be covered by BIEMS.

For further information, contact Joe Moore (448-2416) or Mike Russell (448-2700.)

## Monthly EMS Report

In July of 2002 Beaver Island's Emergency Medical Service had 12 calls, bringing their yearly total to 32. Of the 12, 5 were to the Charlevoix Hospital, 1 to Munson, 3 to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, and 3 required no transport at all.

## Another Life Saved – Hillary Rasch

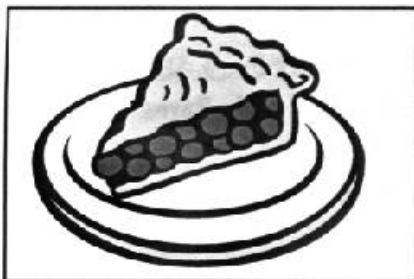
On August 21<sup>st</sup> Jeff Rasch took his daughters to the playground. The two older girls were playing in a swim ring while he held the baby of the family on shore. They got out of the swim ring in the shallows just before a sudden gust of wind sent it skidding over the waves. Hillary, who is three, chased after it but tripped and seemed to take a gulp of water. "When she didn't spring up, I went into the surf but found she was not breathing and had started to turn blue," he said. "I screamed out to call 911 and then began administering CPR." Joe Cunningham, visiting from San Francisco, made the call. Luckily honeymooning State Trooper Mike Morey happened to be there. He rushed up and took over," Jeff said. "She started breathing again, spitting water as she exhaled. When Mike put her over his shoulder, the rest of the water drained out and she came back to life." A moment later the first EMS, Bruce Cull, was on the scene and checked out the young girl. She was okay, much to the relief of the hundred people who had gathered around. Hillary was flown across, where tests showed she was fine.

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# Health Center Board Receives Consulting Report, Signs Contract with Townships

by Anne Glendon

Consultant Arlene Brennan of Health Management Associates presented her analysis and recommendations to the BIRHC Board at its August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. During her 12-week appointment, she has completed all tasks specified in the original contract, including a thorough review of operating systems and procedures. Her report outlined a number of priority recommendations, including:

- Revise the current rate schedule consistent with new fee structures and coding terminology announced by Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medicare, and Medicaid;
- Develop and implement a new patient encounter form and improved billing procedures;
- Recruit a project manager to oversee the integration of current systems and development of new ones during the construction process; and
- Recruit a chief administrative and medical officer to oversee all aspects of clinic operations.

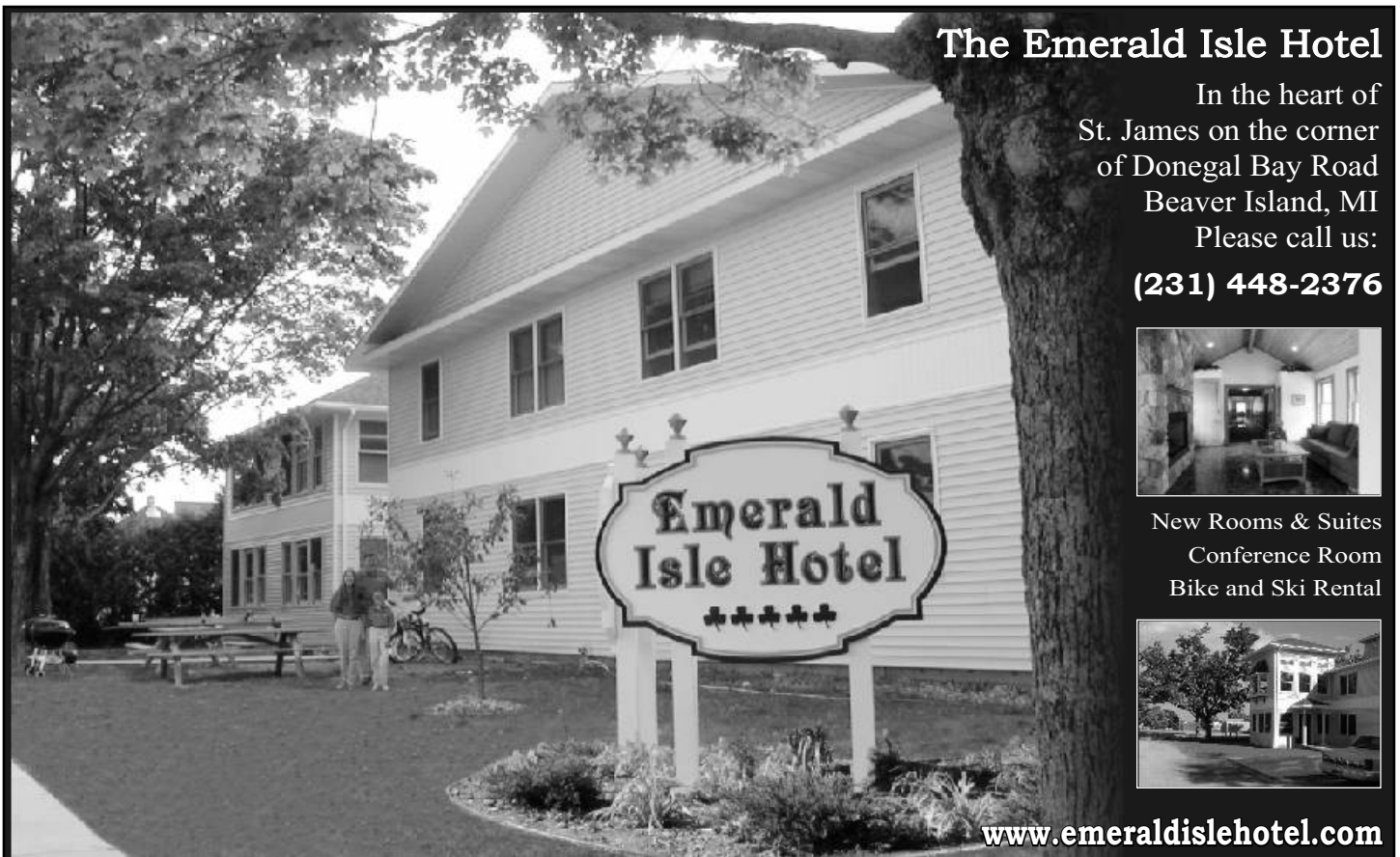
Before concluding her stay on Beaver Island, Arlene has agreed to help finalize the patient encounter form, develop a grievance procedure, help revise the personnel policy, and revamp staff job descriptions. The Board expressed their complete satisfaction with her work and sincere appreciation for her positive attitude and diplomacy in working with the Board of Directors and staff.

BIRHC received the final version of its contract with Peaine and St. James Township. The document was signed by President Gary Damstra and Secretary Anne Glendon. The contract was completed at a public meeting with the two townships on August 21. During the meeting, Arlene Brennan shared her report with the two township boards and responded to questions from the audience. Also on that evening, representatives from Hobbs + Black, an architectural firm from Ann Arbor that is known for health care design and construction, presented a preliminary plan for the new BIRHC

facility. Public input on the new facility will be sought on subsequent occasions during the design process.

## Other developments at the Health Center:


The Port of St. James Property Owners Association contributed \$320 to cover remaining costs for transporting the Karmanos Mobile Mammogram Unit to and from Beaver Island, once in September and again in November. The deed for the Traudt-Gill property has been transferred to BIRHC, so the building process can move ahead. The finance committee confirmed that there will be little if any surplus at the close of the 2002 fiscal year on September 30. They are still forecasting a deficit for FY2003 due to the anticipated cancellation of state funding. The Resource Development Committee is working on strategies to overcome the deficit, including the raffle of a PT Cruiser, which is even more important now that the loss of state funding has been confirmed.




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## Wheatland Music joins the Beaver Island Library's Story Hour

For the past six years fiddle and guitar player Bruce Bauman has contributed his time and talent to the Library's Story Hour, which Connie Wojan conducts every Wednesday, year around, from 10:00 until 12:00 a.m. His professional status was easily recognizable by the audience, which increased from the typical ten or twelve to thirty for each of his two appearances and were on the edge of their seats from his opening number (Oh Susannah) to the end. Connie frequently mixes in craft lessons and treats with her stories, but Bruce worked up too much of a head of steam to be interrupted.

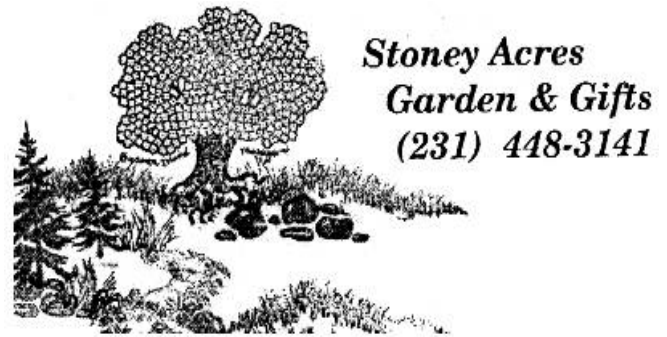
No wonder; as one of the founders of the Wheatland Music Organization, he is experienced at being in the spotlight. Not only does Wheatland hold a festival after Labor Day that brings over twelve thousand fans of traditional music to Remus, but they reach out to those unable to be there by sponsoring concerts and lessons in schools, hospitals, and senior centers in an eight-county area. Despite their limited budget of around \$100,000, they have been able to buy a 160-acre farm as their base and to send musicians, story-tellers, and craftsmen into the outlying



countryside to spread their appreciation for traditional arts.

Wheatland music has frequently aired on the PBS series, *Our Front Porch*. They are a 501(3)c non-profit corporation, which survives on memberships, donations, and a few grants. On their farm they have several stages, including one for dance (which might be a cajun dance, or square or contra dancing—contra features long lines of step dancing), offices, and a bunk house. It was at Wheatland that Bruce met Dick Tarrier, whose expertise inspired him to move from guitar to fiddle and become adept enough at it to become a fiddle teacher.

Bruce has learned a thousand songs since his full-time involvement with Wheatland began six years ago, but he still finds time enough to write a few of his own—such as the *Beaver Island Song* which he sang for our kids. Judging by their reaction, they can't wait until some of the other multi-talented visitors to the Island (this means you if this means you) take a hint and step forward to volunteer themselves for future Story Hours. After all, there are twelve Wednesdays, and Bruce has enough commitments so he can only take on two himself.



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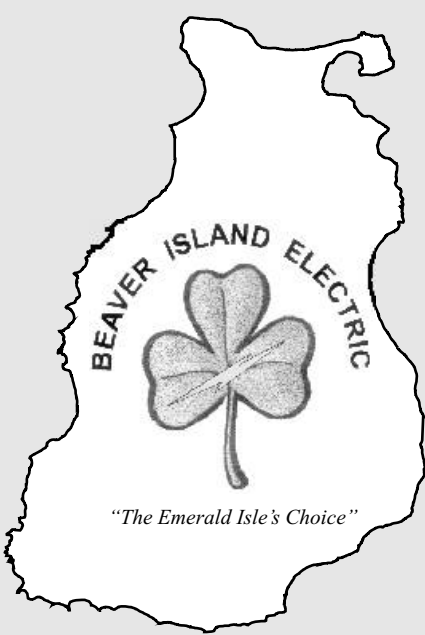
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## The Way it Was

### A Visit to the Beaver Islands – September 19, 1879

from the Petoskey Record

A few days since, in company with six others, we left Petoskey for a trip to St. James on Beaver Island, on the little schooner *Lookout*. After several miles of pitching and plunging, rendering a passage across the deck a rather hazardous undertaking, the night came on pitchy dark and the breeze gradually died away to a dead calm. The Beaver Harbor Light was plainly visible ahead and to our right, while Skilagalee, was up far to the east across the stretch of waters. It was just past midnight when we passed the Lighthouse and tied up at the dock on the west side of the bay--the very dock where King Strang met his fate...at the hands of his own men. His people were scattered so effectively that only one still remains upon the Island.

Beaver Harbor is the second best harbor on the chain of lakes, being excelled only by Little Traverse, and as it is close to the regular track of vessels is well patronized. It is protected from all winds save a southeaster, which is not a prevalent one. The night the *Lookout* made the harbor 13 vessels ran up near the mouth and anchored under the Island's lee.

St. James, the capital of Manitou County, is situated on the harbor. The Lighthouse and Life-saving Station are on the east side, facing the lake, while the larger and ancient Mormon town is on the west side, facing the bay. It has a population of about 350, with the Island's population being between 1,200 and 1,500. On the east side, besides the Lighthouse acceptably managed by Mrs. Daniel Williams since the unfortunate death of her husband, the former keeper, and the Life-saving Station under the charge of Harrison Miller, is a boarding house kept by Joe Left, the store of Edward Smith, and several cooper shops. The manufacture of fish barrels is a leading industry here. On the west side are the stores of Boyle & Dunleavy and C. R. Wright & Son, the county offices located at various points of the village, the court, which is held by Judge

Goodwin of the 11th district at the Boyle & Dunleavy store, and Mrs. Gibson's boarding house, which has the reputation of furnishing the best accommodations on the Island in the building that once housed the Mormon's printshop.

A new saw-mill has also been erected, and though not enclosed is now running. A run of stone for grinding grain is promised to be added for next season. Many of the old Mormon homes are nearly hidden from sight by a profusion of thick vines. King Strang's residence is still standing, but is out of repair. Two log-houses are at the rear, communicating with the main building through a covered way, and were used for his extended household.

Upon the exclusion of the Mormons, who were mostly squatters, the Island was taken possession of by hardy fishermen in the vicinity, a large proportion of whom were Irish. Encouraged by the success of the Mormons, they have put equal attention to the cultivation of the soil and the plying of the net and the boat. They are a rough and abrupt lot, but peaceable and well-disposed, and full of the most genuine and kind-hearted hospitality we have ever encountered. In spite of the isolation of their island home, they are happy and contented and seldom seek a change. They have earned the reputation of constantly being involved in broils and quarrels, but we are assured by a gentleman who is a county officer and has lived there for twenty years that the disgraceful rows which are frequently reported elsewhere are very rare occurrences in point of fact, and theft is virtually unknown. The people are devout Catholics and have been favored for 13 years with the ministrations of Father Peter Gallagher, who besides being a splendid specimen of physical manhood and a highly educated and cultured gentleman is broad and liberal in his religious views and ever ready to extend the right hand of fellowship to whomever he believes



## A piece of the World Trade Center arrives on Beaver Island

worthy of his confidence and friendship. He is devotedly attached to stock raising, and has some fine cattle; his cows are his pets, and permit themselves to be handled freely by him. Among others we noticed a splendid Burham cow who on very indifferent feed gives 30 quarts of milk a day.

The Island is 15 miles long by 6 wide, and has 3 organized townships: Chandler, Peaine, and Galilee. The land is well adapted to farming, and while the cultivation of the soil is far from thorough, the yields are excellent. The Island is well-supplied with water, with the inland lakes stocked with every fish but whitefish. Brook trout are caught in several streams and in the harbor. Cattle, sheep, and poultry are kept in large quantities, there being over 1,000 sheep at present. While money is not very plentiful, eggs, butter, and all varieties of farm produce abound.

Garden Island is but a short distance to the north. It is inhabited principally by Indians, there being about 40 families resident. A government school is maintained on Garden in the charge of Mr. Isaac Wright. The soil of the island is excellent, and the Indians on this and other islands in the group have good, well-tilled farms. High Island, sometimes called Little Beaver, is four miles to the west and also has a fine harbor with deep water up to the very foot of the bluffs which surround it. It is higher than Beaver, and except for Mr. Davlin, who carries on farming extensively and sometimes carries the mail across the ice, and the white men in his employ, is inhabited by Indians. A good threshing machine is located here, which is sure of ample use among these islands, Beaver alone shipping 7,000 bushels of wheat last year.

Beaver is mainly Democratic, although from the scattered condition of the islands and the few polling places a full vote is seldom registered. There is not a lawyer or doctor in the County, and the services of either are fortunately rarely required.



Senator Phil Hoffman has done many favors that show his love for Beaver Island, but his most recent gift is extra special. The Senator became interested in doing something for the city of Jackson to help it express its feeling of solidarity with the victims of the 9-11 terror attack, and phoned New York's Mayor Blomberg to ask for suggestions. The Mayor said that under certain circumstances a piece of the twisted remains of the World Trade Center might be presented to a selected community. Hearing that, the Senator asked for a second "piece of the fabric of America," for "an Island up in northern Lake Michigan that has stolen my heart." He added that we had already held a fundraiser to help the victims, and that there were many ties and connections between Beaver Island and that tragic event.

It took awhile, but in early July an agreement was made, and Senator Hoffman flew to New York for a ceremony of presentation. It took awhile longer to get the 79<sup>th</sup> such commemorative piece up to the Island, but it arrived on August 20<sup>th</sup> and was temporarily placed in front of McDonough's Market. Deciding on its permanent home will be up to the Townships and other infrastructure organizations. One suggestion, made by Barry Pischner, would be to incorporate it in some way with the development of Arran More Park—after all, the World Trade Center was intended to promote international cooperation. That brings up the question of how this Park might be developed. If you have any ideas, address your suggestions and comments to the *Beaver Beacon*.



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## News from the Townships

### St. James Township Regular Meeting – August 3

All members present.

The Board approved the final payments on the 2001 Beaver Island Improvement project. The final payment to H & D was \$155,715.85, and the final payment to Moore & Bruggink, the engineering firm, was \$130,720.28. St. James Township received \$40,000 from Charlevoix County Road Commission, and the balance came from Township savings funds.

Vyse explained the Health Center Building, which is jointly owned by both townships, is being considered for use as a Government Center when the new Health Center Building is completed. Don Vyse, Gary Damstra, John Works, and Don Spencer are working on this.

Approval was given for AmVets to put an Information Board in the downtown area, but exact location is yet to be determined.

Municipal Yacht Dock improvements and paperwork is nearing completion.

Plans for the new Bike Trail are complete. We want to start the project this fall.

The Nuisance Ordinance was tabled for 30 days, with the burning of trash the only unresolved issue.

The Board heard concerns for and against a curfew from many residents. No action was taken at this time, but the Township Attorney will be contacted for samples of other community curfew ordinances.

### Peaine Township Regular Meeting – August 14

Members present: Works, Kubic, Martin, Nelson, Lanier.

MOTION Lanier, second Kubic: to approve the 7-10 minutes; Passed. MOTION Works, second Nelson: to approve the 7-21 minutes; Passed. MOTION Lanier, second Works: to approve the current monthly bills; Passed.

Connie Wojan, representative of the Med Center Board, requested Peaine Township to levy the maximum millage for the Med Center. A joint township meeting with the Med Center Board will be held on Aug. 21. Arlebe Brennan will give a report on the whole operation of the Med Center, and the architects will give a presentation. Fred Haubold questioned the \$48,000 write-off, and Grace Matela said it was written off because they could not determine the origin of the old billings. Haubold feels the billing process is still pathetic. A suggestion was made to have monthly reports showing the billings, receivables, and outstanding balances.

MOTION Works, second Lanier: to adopt the 5-year Recreation Plan; Passed. A 'thank you' letter will be sent to Jack Kelly commending him for the nice job he did putting the Recreation Plan together.

Curfew discussed: the County Curfew Ordinance has a 10:00 p.m. curfew for under-12-year-olds, and a midnight curfew for under 16. The community is very concerned about crime and what is being done about it.

Airport millage discussed: the Airport Renewal millage was defeated by 8 votes. Peaine Township is half-owner of the Beaver Island Airport and responsible for its operation and maintenance. The General Fund will have to support the Airport if the millage is not voted back into effect in November. It was

suggested that the Airport charge landing and tie-down fees. Mike Scripps stated that a federally funded airport couldn't charge landing fees. All our Airport improvements have been funded by grants, and the townships' share is a low 10% of the total cost, an excellent deal. Complaints were made that the Airport Committee doesn't have enough regular meetings. It was suggested that the Airport Committee have a joint meeting with Peaine and St. James Townships to review the budget. MOTION Lanier, second Works: to put the Airport Millage Renewal proposal back on the ballot for the November General Election; Passed.

Reports: Lanier reported that the neighborhood meetings are going well for the Island residents' input on the Master Plan.

Public comments: Bud Martin said it's hard to believe that Peaine Township voters wouldn't support the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mills for the Beaver Island Airport.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

## The Airport at risk; what were we thinking?

The primary election of August 6<sup>th</sup> produced mixed results. St. James Township approved a quarter mill for the Historical Society, for which it is immensely grateful. Hurt by a lack of time in which to campaign, Rich Gillespie lost by ten votes in his bid to return to the Charlevoix County Commission (he virtually swept Beaver Island, though), and Tina Morgan outpolled Donna Kubic to become the Peaine Township Treasurer. And the Township Airport millage failed by eight votes.

Most observers feel this last result reflected a lack of information about why the Township Airport's continued improvement is an important piece of the puzzle in the effort to raise our economic prospects and quality of life. Beyond the direct importance of allowing planes whose pilots don't feel comfortable at the private airport to land, there are other factors supporting the value of this larger and more developed landing field. One is simply protection against the possibility of losing Island Airways; while we all hope this never happens, we shouldn't leave ourselves without an option, just in case.

Another is the safety issue. With its AWAS (automated weather system) and NBD (radio direction finder), the Township Airport provides a reliable beacon to all planes heading to Beaver Island. If one wanting to land at the private airport loses its clarity, it can always be bailed out by the Township Airport. The medical emergency flights requiring Northflight's air ambulance from Traverse City won't land at the private airport, which doesn't meet their requirements. If Island Airways' planes or pilots are unavailable, or if the weather is particularly bad, the public airport must be used. This happens a few times each year.

Thankfully, the airport millage will be back on the ballot in November. Beaver Island has worked hard to position itself for a dramatic leap forward in its economic viability. With all the other pieces gradually falling into place—the new pavement; the improved boat and dock; the new internet provider; the new businesses—it would be a shame if we dropped the ball by failing to support this necessary ingredient to an upgraded big picture.



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## Beaver Island Internet Company pulls back its offering

The Beaver Island Internet Company (BIIC) issued a press release on August 8<sup>th</sup> to say that it will not be able to offer internet service to Beaver Island starting this September, as had been announced. "We wish to thank all of our customers who supported our dream of a locally owned and operated Internet service company," the owners stated. "Our plans have had to be cancelled because of logistical and potential provisioning problems that could have led to a delayed start." BIIC feels it did not receive strong enough support from sections of the local market to succeed with a late start-up. "We want to thank everyone who encouraged and supported us," they said. "We believed that the Island's future technological needs and economic development could best be met through a locally owned and operated company." It's too bad this thesis wasn't more fully put to the test.

## Letters to the Editor Thanks from Bill Hirschey

In the words of a friend, "You cannot change the wind; you have to readjust your sails."

The family of Ruth Hirschey would like to thank everyone who supported us when we "had the wind knocked out of our sails." The outpouring of compassion and support was overwhelming, and makes it plain to see why Ruth thought of Beaver Island as her home and why she so wanted to get back. You showed us the true meaning of community.

Perhaps you provided a dish, attended the service, sent a card, or provided caring words. Perhaps you tended a garden, planted flowers, provided furniture, or helped clean up. Whatever you may have done, your kindness was greatly appreciated.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you from the Hirschey Family: Bill Sr., Bill Jr. and Renee, Larry, Karen, Garrett, and Scott and Michele and Owen.

## Letters to the Editor Blood Drive

Many thanks to the 106 prospective donors who came to the 2002 Rita Gillespie Memorial Blood Drive. The resulting donations were indeed a generous gift of life to those in need. Special thanks also to the many volunteers and to the hard working and efficient Red Cross team who combined their talents to produce an average time for the donation process of less than sixty minutes. Finally, thanks to the Island community for its total support—the transportation companies, the churches, the businesses for publicizing the event, and the Beaver Island Community School for the use of its facilities and support staff. A special thanks also to the *Beaver Beacon* for its support. The effort shows Beaver Island at its best, our entire community going all out to support those in need. On behalf of those people who will receive life as a result of this team effort—thanks! See you next year.

--Jerry Charbeneau, Jeanne Howell, and Fred Habold



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## Letters to the Editor

**Sailing for the Disabled**

At an international conference in Stockholm this past June, I noticed a full-sized sailboat in the exhibit area. Wondering what this had to do with occupational therapy, my field, I took a closer look and found that it represented **Skota Hem** ("trim the sail"), a Swedish organization that promotes sailing for the disabled. Mainly by way of the boat on display, a standard 2.4m one-man keelboat which is unsinkable, can't capsize, and can be managed regardless of the sailor's height, weight, or strength. Now a foundation with public and private support, Skota Hem is developing a network of similar sailing clubs around the world, providing help, advice, and support. It also encourages participation of disabled sailors in competition, which is possible with the 2.4m boat on an equal basis, through the International Federation of Disabled Sailing ([www.ifds.org](http://www.ifds.org)). Skota Hem can be found at [www.skotahem.com](http://www.skotahem.com); a brochure about it can be found at the Beaver Island Library.

--Antje Price

## Letters to the Editor

**Deerwood and Kuebler Trail**

Nearly half of the popular Keubler Trail, from Protar's Tomb to McCauley's Point, runs through the Deerwood Lodge property. The private, exclusive lodge, owned by Jon and Sally Fogg, is slated to open early next year. The Fogs are working to balance the competing interests of current construction site liability and future guest privacy versus their desire to allow continued public use of the Trail. Signs will soon be placed where the Trail crosses Deerwood property that read:

**"Entering Deerwood  
Private Property.  
Please stay on the Trail.  
Thank you."**

During construction, the Deerwood site is closed to all visitors. The crew of Ron Wojan Construction have been advised to admit no one not accompanied by the Fogs. "We are pleased that so many of our Island friends want to see Deerwood, but it's just not possible during construction,"

said Jon Fogg. Prior to opening the five guest suites and large tract of private land to registered guests, the Fogs plan an Open House for Islanders.

--Steve West, Northern Lights  
Advertising and Marketing

## Letters to the Editor

**Fellow Voters,**

Please accept a heartfelt "thanks" for placing your trust in me in the August Primary for Peaine Township Treasurer. Please be assured that I will represent all of Peaine Township and will perform my duties as best as possible. Thank you for your continued support in the November 5, 2002 election.

--Respectfully, Christina M. Morgan

*Please send **Letters to the Editor** to [beacon@beaverisland.net](mailto:beacon@beaverisland.net) or to the **Beaver Beacon**, Box 254, Beaver Island Michigan 49782  
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## Letters to the Editor

## Beaver Island turns it around

My name is Jill Schwartz. I graduated from the Beaver Island school in 1983 as Jill McDiarmid, the daughter of Emmett Martin and Nancy McDiarmid. I spent many years fighting alcohol addiction, and finally turned to Alcoholics Anonymous for help. With their help I quit drinking, and have resumed my education to become a nurse. I hope to work with others who suffer from alcoholism and drug addiction.

So far I'm doing well in my studies, and have earned this award:

*From Parke Davis: Dear Jill*

*Congratulations! After being nominated by Kevin Pollock, Dean of Student Services, you have been selected to receive honorary award recognition for making the Dean's List, and are consequently automatically eligible to compete for a scholarship.*

I feel it is possible for anyone to do this if they call on God and A.A. for help in making a better life. I know; I'm living proof! Thanks to Beaver Island for the great education I received in my youth.

--Jill McDiarmid Schwartz

## Big Growth for Chamber Web Site

by Steve West

Beaverisland.org, the Chamber of Commerce web site created in late 1997, is displaying dramatic visitor growth. The site, developed and maintained by Jeff Cashman of Island Design, received 28,500 hits during the 2001 calendar year, with a little over 5 page views per visitor. So far this year it has been visited more than 25,000 times. Looking at past years' use, it's obvious the Chamber web site will pass 30,000 visits before the end of the year.

More and more people are using the internet to investigate their travel destinations, and the Chamber is keeping up with this shift in habit. Each member is entitled to a page on the site, and most have taken advantage of this benefit. As a result, if the entire site were printed out, it would resemble a fair-sized book. The site also provides links to other sites of interest, such as beaverisland.net and Phyllis Moore's newsy beaverislandtour.com

The number of visitors to the office is also up by 15% over last year. Our new sign has helped, as well as the increased popularity of Beaver Island

and the spread of word-of-mouth that maps are available here. This important aid to visitor orientation is also a source of income to the Chamber, and map sales have doubled from last year.

## Calendar of Events

- Sep 3 Airport Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm, St. James Twp. Hall
- Sep 4 St. James Twp. Meeting, 8 pm
- Sep 6 Trails Committee Meeting 1:00 pm, Peaine Hall
- Sep 7 AMVETS Harbor Clean-up 3:00 pm, St. James Hall
- Sep 9 School Board Meeting, 7:30
- Sep 9 Joint Twp. Meeting with the Airport Committee, 8 pm, Peaine Twp. Hall
- Sep 11 Peaine Twp. Meeting, 8 pm
- Sep 17 Rural Health Center Board Meeting, 7 pm, Library
- Sep 18 EMS Meeting, 7 pm, School
- Sep 21 Port St. James Association Annual Meeting, 9 am, Peaine Twp. Hall
- Sep 26 Historical Society Meeting, 7:30, Fire Hall

Please contact us with events: 448-2476 or email [beacon@beaverisland.net](mailto:beacon@beaverisland.net)

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## Hello, my name is Ted Nicholas.

My mother Wanda Nicholas Wolosuk owns a small cottage on the Island. My wife Pam and I are planning a move to the Island and will be living there year-round, after some improvements to the cottage. We are looking forward to the peace and quiet and small town community again.

I've been browsing your web site "beaverisland.net" and thought I would make pre-contact. Pam and I currently live in Frisco, Colorado, at the 9000' altitude. We are surrounded by ski areas and 14,000' mountain peaks. We love the mountains immensely and have been living here for more than 20 years. We've watched our small mountain community grow from a peaceful little town into a bustling commerce center. The development in this area has skyrocketed, and our peaceful community no longer exists. Since our family already owns a cottage on the Island, and we've loved every visit we've made, we decided to "make the move." We are looking forward to becoming a part of the Beaver Island Community, hopefully in the spring of 2003.

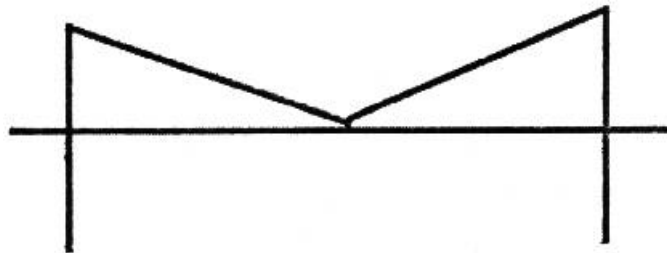
### A brief history of "Us":

Pam and I were born and raised in lower Michigan, Flint area. We attended grade school together and then fell out of touch for more than 10 years. In that time we each went through our own lives, had children, and ended up single again. I moved to the mountains of Colorado in 1981. In 1988 I received a phone call from Pam; she was ready for a major change in her life and I knew where she could find it. She ended up moving west and eventually we were married on the side of a mountain overlooking a lake. We've been living, working, and playing in the Rocky Mountains ever since. We've pretty much lost the peace and quiet and nature that we used to love about this area. Our seasonal tourists are now here year-round. Development has taken over the area and it is just too busy for us. So we've decided to make the move.

Our talents and training are varied, we think we could have a lot to offer to the Island community. Pam is a CNA (Certified Nurses Assistant) and plans to be re-licensed in Michigan. She has gotten a very good name for herself

here in Summit County and specializes in elderly home health care and hospice. She is currently working as a medical records coordinator, but she wishes to return to her CNA career that she loves. She is interested in further training in the medical field as well. Besides being an avid hiker and nature lover, Pam also loves arts and crafts and shopping. By the way, her maiden name is McNally.

I am an artist and musician, and a nature lover as well. I play 12-string guitar (Seventies era) and vocals. I've excelled in art in many forms for much of my life, mostly scenery paintings in acrylics and oils. I've taught oil classes on occasion, in the Bob Ross style. I am also somewhat of a digital specialist, focusing mostly on creation and capture of art and nature into the digital world. I have done multimedia creation, 3D modeling, and advanced beta-testing for an educational software publisher for many years, all through email. I can produce interactive multimedia for web, CD ROMs, and live presentations. I'm also expanding my writing career. I've written books and tutorials in the past,



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mostly focused on technology. I'm also moving into the writing of philosophy and poetry.

We also have a special situation that makes us long for a small community and natural surroundings. I was born with a genetic eye disease that is deteriorating my eyesight. I've been legally blind for more than 25 years. I currently have less than 10 percent of my original vision. I will eventually lose my remaining vision, but I'm learning to live with it. Learning to live without vision can put a person through some major changes in attitude. I've always found refuge in nature, art, music, and friends. Since Pam is a home-grown country girl, she longs for the peaceful community that we once had here in the mountains. We look forward to improving the cottage and yard, and exploring the Island. We both enjoy gardening, hiking, camping, digital photography, good food, and good friends. We are both very much looking forward to restarting our lives on Beaver Island.

If anyone can send helpful information or would just like to contact us to say Hello, we can currently be

reached at PO Box 1619 in Frisco, CO 80443. Sand-dunes and beaches, here we come!

Sincerely,  
Ted and Pam Nicholas  
nicholas@colorado.net

## One Hundred Years Ago

by Joyce Bartels

An ad in the *Charlevoix Sentinel* for August 7, 1902 proclaimed, "Charlevoix and Beaver Island Route. Steamer *BEAVER*, P. D. Campbell, Master, will run during the season of 1902 as follows: Leave Charlevoix 8:00 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Arrive St. James at 10:45 a.m. Leave St. James at 2:00 p.m. Arrive Charlevoix at 5:00 p.m. Open for excursion runs on other days. Electric lights and Excellent Cabin Accomodations."

On August 21<sup>st</sup> the *Sentinel* reported, "The steamer *Beaver* had 100 people on her St. James / Manistique excursion Sunday. The Charlevoix Scottish Club had an outing on the *Beaver* Friday evening up the Lake."



## Bill Thomas wins Medal

Word has just arrived from the Republican Congressional Committee that Beaver Island's Bill Thomas has won the Business Advisory Council's Gold Medal Award for Michigan and will serve on the Council, which is dedicated to making sure that small business has a voice in Washington. "I'm deeply honored to be chosen," Bill said. "Frankly, I didn't realize I was under consideration until I saw in the Wall Street Journal that I was selected." Winners from each state will gather in Washington for the Republican Entrepreneur's Convention in early October, a premier Washington event. Besides meetings and seminars and photo ops with members of Congress, Bill has been invited to attend a dinner with Vice President Dick Cheney. Congratulations, Bill!



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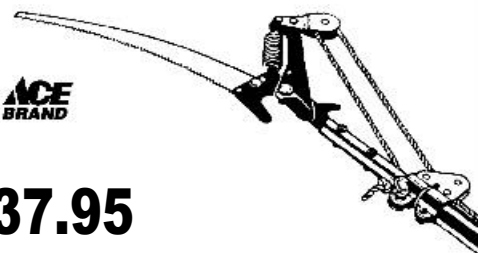
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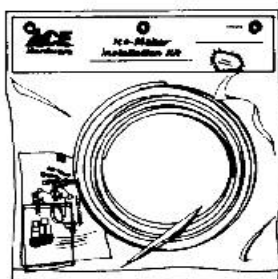
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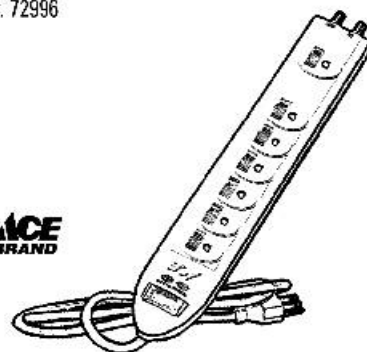
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## On This Date:

### Ten years Ago:

The September issue, the Glendons' first, sported a "new look," going to a justified three-column format with tighter graphics.

The featured story concerned the Medical Center's efforts to obtain federal designation as a Rural Health Clinic, a prerequisite for continued federal funding. The article mentioned that Mike McGinnity was about to begin training to become a Physician's Assistant. Other articles boasted that our school enrollment had improved from 78 to 82, that the co-ed soccer team had won a tournament, and that the YETP was having some degree of success with its Lighthouse School. Bill Freese was profiled in this twelve-page issue.

### Twenty Years Ago:

This old-style *Beacon* contained a calendar as a front page, listing the Sweet Adelines meeting every Monday and Waist Watchers every Tuesday. The CMU Closing Party came early—on September 25th. Inside, the DNR reported the August temperatures, which ranged from 36 to 80 degrees. Ham Gebert supplied a Deputy's Report, in which he cautioned against "Wagging Tongues." "There have been several wagging tongues

lately discussing various topics—some informed, some uninformed, some misinformed. The old adage certainly applies: 'Don't believe anything you hear and only half of what you see'."

This was a sad time for Beaver Island. The *Beacon* reported the deaths of Musette LaFreniere and Perry Gatliff, and told the story of the three Ken boys who were lost at sea. Johnny (17), Denny (13), and Kenny (16) Kenwabikise were in the habit of checking their nets out near the two-mile buoy in the morning before going to school. On September 2nd they rose at 4:30 a.m. and set off in a small boat with a bad reputation in weather that was more like late October. When they failed to return, a search was mounted with boats and planes, but it had no luck and was called off at dark. It was resumed early the next morning, with added help from 9 State Police divers. A net box and chart from their boat were found at Pete Manitou's Bay on Garden Island that afternoon. The next day divers found the bodies of Denny and Kenny near the sunken boat not far from their nets. Johnny's body was found at Grape Island the next day by Bucky Vreeland, who had ridden to Pete Manitou's Bay with Dick Burris. The loss of these fine young men threw

a pall over Beaver Island for some time, and it hangs over us still.

### Thirty Years Ago:

The Island was proud that after several delays, the King's Highway was finally paved. Twenty years later the law suit against the Road Commission was underway; when they tore it up, we had not understood that funds to replace it were not yet guaranteed.

Sixty-six students enrolled for the start of school. Four Sisters served as teachers and staff. In this time of declining population, three new residents were welcomed who would come to play a significant role in shaping the Island's future: Phyllis Townsend, Vivian Visscher, and Dave and Shirley Gladish.

### Forty Years Ago:

In this last issue for Burdene Stromberg before Lil and Phil Gregg took over, an apology was made for prematurely reporting the death of Charles LaBelaunga, which was forced on them by Mr. LaBelaunga arriving from Munising for the Homecoming festivities. It turned out the mistake was not the editor's fault: there were two Charles LaBelaungas, and the one who had lived on Beaver Island was not the one who had died.

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## Weather or Not

by Liam Racine

August came in like the sweltering Lion it usually is, but seems to be leaving more like a pissed-off Alley Cat. The heat, mugginess and summer haze has been replaced with cooler temps, clear blue skies and even a couple of Autumnal rainy days. The crickets came in early, a sure sign of summer's demise. Too bad, it was a truly beautiful summer.

Septembers are always a bit of a mystery: not quite summer, not quite fall. This September should prove to be sunny, but cool, with several long days of rain. The 'sleeping rain' as one scholar puts it. The autumnal equinox is on September 23<sup>rd</sup> this year, a day that proves that balance can actually be achieved. For sportsmen, this fall should be stellar and there is simply no better place to caper than on Beaver Island. So, en garde!

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## A well-traveled Island recipe: Katie Connaghan's Apple Bread

Mix together: ½ cup canola oil, 1 cup sugar, 2 eggs (beaten), 2 tablespoons of sour milk, 2 cups apples, ½ cup walnuts, 2 cups flour, ½ teaspoon salt, and 1 teaspoon soda. For a topping, mix the following together and spread over the bread before baking: 2 tablespoons flour, 1 tablespoon butter, 1 tablespoon sugar, and 1 tablespoon of cinnamon. Bake at 350° for one hour.

--contributed by JoAnne Cashman

## School Receives Grant

The Grand Traverse Band just granted the BICS \$10,000 to help fund a one-year part-time position to implement the school's *21st Century Learning on Beaver Island* plan.

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Paula Barron & John Taylor

## Classified Ads

**PORT ST. JAMES** - Several great cottage sites throughout the subdivision. Power, survey, ready-to-build. Call owner at (616) 448-6084.

**GULL HARBOR** - 3 BR split level on two acres. Waterfront. Call (441) 242-9492 or (231) 448-2433 or email sue-stampworld@northrock.bm

**10-ACRE PARCELS:** Hardwoods, West Side Road, electricity, plowed roads. \$35,000 each, or all 40 acres for \$120,000. Phone (231) 547-4046 days, or (231) 547-6600 nights.

**PORT ST. JAMES** - 2 wooded lots, on Tamarack Trail Road, perked, power, great cottage sites: \$9,500 each. Call owner: (616) 857-6084.

**10 ACRES** - Maple, beech, and white birch forest on gently rolling highlands. Bordered on the south by thousands of acres of State Land. Two-track road, with phone, electricity. Near Green's Lake. Prime hunting area. \$40,000. (231) 448-2614.

**LAKE MICHIGAN LOT** - 100 ft. frontage, 300ft. deep, overlooking Garden Island. Beautiful view; fine building site, close to village. (810) 294-3415.

**BEAVER ISLAND HARBOR** Protected Harbor site: 60' Lake frontage by 250' deep. North of Toy Museum. Call (231) 448-2391.

**10 ACRES** - Beautiful Hardwood forest on gently rolling hills. All high & dry. Bordered by thousands of acres of State land. Perfect for home & hunting. Near Greene's Lake. Phone & elec. (616) 450-4966.

### Real Estate, For Rent:

**HOUSE FOR LEASE** - Three bedrooms, two and one half bath house for lease starting in October. For more information call Robert at (231) 448-2235

**HOUSE FOR RENT NEAR TOWN** - Two bedroom, one bath, furnished, new stove and refrigerator, 1/4 mi. south of town on Kings Highway. \$500 a month. (303) 287-2212 or oldschoollhouse11@aol.com

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

**WESTPORT** - Turn-key home: 3 bedrooms. In town-limits. (231) 448-2513 or (231) 943-7989/ P.O. Box 110, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

**DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE** - On dune with private beach access and the best swimming and sunsets on the Island. 3 BR, sleeps 6, 1 bath, washer/dryer. Kayaks and bikes for your use. \$675/ week. Off-season rates available. Dana Luscombe eves. (248) 549-2701 days (248) 546-6680.

**COTTAGE FOR RENT** - Northwest shore with sunset view. On water. Three miles from town. All appliances and amenities. Best for 2 or 3 people. No smoking, no pets. \$550/week Off-season rates. Call (616) 396-6468.

**FLORIDA HOUSE FOR RENT** Spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in Port Charlotte, FL (just north of Fort Myers). Swimming pool, fruit trees, near golf course. 3 miles to Gulf shoreline. By week or month. Call Laura Gillespie (231) 448-2366.

**RENTAL ATTRACTION** on Font Lake 3-4 BR home, private setting; fully furnished, with all the amenities. Beautiful view of lake and sunrises. New owners of this high-demand rental are offering fantastic rates. Taking reservations now for spring and summer. Off-season rates also available. Call Rasch properties at (248) 676-0816 today or e-mail at mrasch@comcost.net

**YEAR-ROUND HOME** - one block from store and marina. 4 BR, 2 bath, furnished or not, pets OK. Available after Labor Day to responsible party. \$ negotiable. (616) 388-9876.

**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 448-2733 (days).

**CEDAR COTTAGE** - on a bluff with

view of harbor and mainland. 1/4 mile south of Catholic Church. 2 bedrooms, 1dbl. bed, 2 single beds. TV/VCR, grill, complete kitchen, washer w/clothesline. No pets. \$540/wk. (734) 769-7565 (day), (734) 662-6678 (evenings).

**DONEGAL BAY** 3 bedroom, 2 bath Home; sleeps 6; many amenities. \$730 a week. Reduced rates for off-season. Phone (313) 885-7393, after 4:00p.m.

**JOYFUL ROSE FARM COTTAGE** Available for rent by the week or the weekend. The home sleeps up to 6, and is nestled in the woods on 10 private acres near Barney's lake. Call (231) 448-2060.

**2BR, 1 1/2 BATH HOME IN TOWN** - conveniently located on block from Harbor. Sleeps 5-6. All appliances incl. Laundry. \$600 per week. Off season rates available. NO pets. No Smoking. (614) 899-9922..

**BEACHFRONT HOME** for rent 3BR, loft-total 5 beds, hot tub, gorgeous views, solitude, wood stove, May-Sept. \$950/week. Off-season rate \$795/week.

Call Perry at (313) 530-9776 or e-mail pgatliff@hotmail.com.

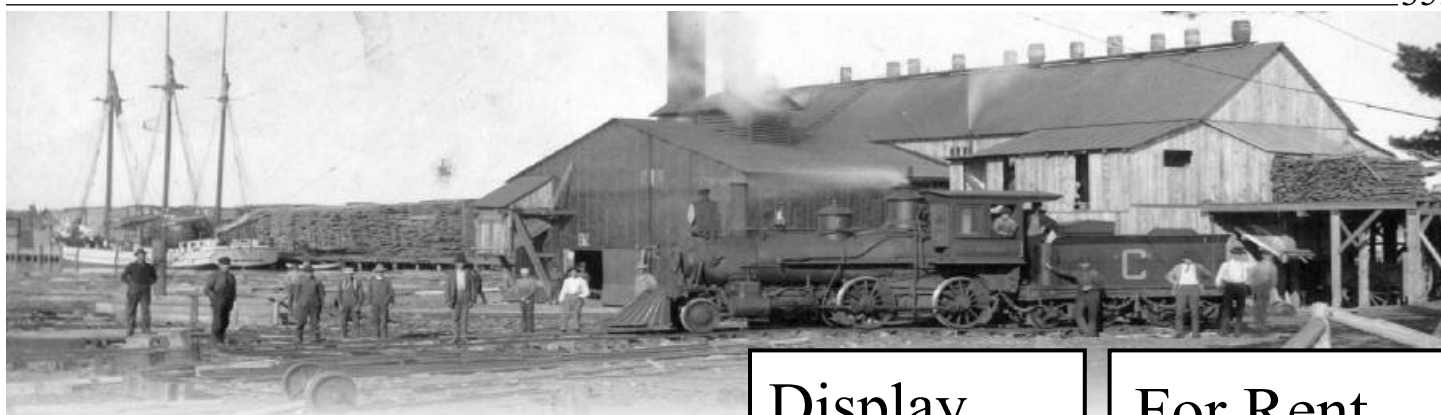
**WEEKLY RENTAL** - Harbor Beach Two-bedroom Condos. \$475/week. Call Carol Wierenga at 448-2808, 448-2598 or 448-2596.

**HOME FOR RENT** - 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, sleeps 4-6. On a large, secluded, wooded lot. Near town and beaches. All new appliances. Comfortable and immaculate. Only \$495/week. Please call (231) 448-2206 for reservations and more information.

### Cars, Boats, Planes, Tractors & Trailers

**TRAVEL TRAILER FOR SALE** - White 22 travel trailer for sale. Good condition. \$500 or best offer. Call Jim at (231) 947-9469

**BEAUTIFUL 36FT. 5TH WHEEL** - Living room, kitchen, and bath. Queen-sized bedroom, stakable W/D. Hardly used. Comfortable for year round living. Can be seen on Island by appt. \$11,900. (616) 450-4966



### Items For Sale

FOR SALE: 14ft. X 22ft. Log Cabin Kit ("PRAIRIE CRAFT") Presently on B.I. Can deliver to site and assemble. Paul Welke 448-2339.

### Services:

FOR LEASE: STORAGE UNITS You lock it, you

leave it! Emerald Isle Storage. 448-2577

CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST- specializing in therapeutic acupressure, reflexology and relaxation. Relax, enjoy and recharge. Reasonable rates. Call for appointment. Karen 448-2266.

## Display Advertising

<u>Size</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Annual</u>
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1/4 p	\$45	\$450
1/2 p	\$60	\$600
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*Color Ads:* Please call or e-mail us for a quote.

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Please Call or e-mail  
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## For Rent The Fisherman's House

Great 'In-Town' location.  
4 BR/2 Bath; W/D;  
Beautifully appointed.  
For availability,  
call Bill or Tammy

(231) 448-2499

## For Sale

### Parcel on Garden Island Harbor

4.2 Acre Parcel, 1000 ft. of front footage on Garden Island Harbor. Land Contract available. Coldwell Banker / Cornell Realty. Jayson Welser (989) 348-7893

## For Rent

Foxview - Newly furnished rental home, 2100 sq. ft. Located on North side of Fox Lake. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, sleeps 7. Key weeks still available. \$800/week.

Call Diane at  
Ed Wojan Realty  
(231) 448-2555

## For Rent

Sarah's Cottage 4-bedroom, 3-bath newly constructed home. Covered, wrap-around-porch on 3 sides. Sites on a bluff overlooking Cable Bay. Appliances, gas, grill, TV, VCR, w/d, etc. Sleeps 8-10. Call Diane at Ed Wojan Realty (231) 448-2555

## Beautiful New Home For Sale



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. Contact John McCafferty Construction at (231) 448-2639





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