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St. Patrick's Day Festivities at the Shamrock

Contract awarded to build the new Health Center

News from the Townships; Beaver Islanders return from Arranmore

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## Beaver Beacon

the Island Monthly since 1955

Published by  
Paradise Bay Press

Beaver Beacon  
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Above: Hiking out to explore the ice caves, the most spectacular ice formation in 50 years.

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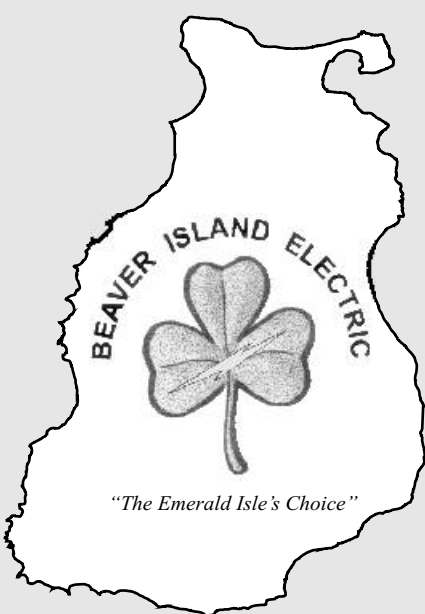


## St. Patrick's Day

In Arranmore the Beaver Island gang was chided by the priest: "You're not going to miss St. Pat's, now are ye?" "No, father, not if we can help it," they replied. For once the weather cooperated, and they were all home in time to dig out their green duds and get down to Main Street for the obstacle race, tug of war, and fish toss. The sun was shining, airplanes flew low overhead, and exuberance was in the air—for that evening the travelers had the chance to show off the tricky steps they were taught by our better dancing Irish twins.







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## News from the Beaver Island Wildlife Club

At our January meeting we discussed concerns about the 2002 whitetail deer harvest, which had dropped off nearly 50% by our best estimate. The consensus was to write to Rebecca Humphries, Chief of the Wildlife Division of the DNR. On February 14, 2003 we received a response. She said we had raised a number of pertinent and important issues, including counting deer, the Island's carrying capacity, habitat management, and assessing the deer harvest. She said Beaver Island has an interesting deer history and is continuing to experience change. Questions had been raised about the rapid increase in deer population and the likely accompanying habitat degradation and diminished deer health. The question she posed is, what is the right number? And since the appropriate number balances both biological and social concerns, our input as a club is appreciated and needed.

As a result of this correspondence we expect a visit from Brian Mastenbrook, Wildlife Habitat Biologist from Gaylord, in May. He will spend the day with us inspecting browse levels, and suggest habitat improvements, possible ways to count deer, and other deer issues. We will discuss coyotes and their impact, and other wildlife concerns such as turkey feeding sites and habitat. In the evening we will invite him to a special club meeting to present his findings

and answer questions. Look for notices about this event.

In keeping with our agreement to keep up our end of the bargain to assist in better record keeping of the deer harvest, we have launched our "Successful Deer Hunting Contest." The purpose is to encourage all hunters to register all deer and be eligible for a substantial prize in a lottery drawing. The grand prize will be a 12 gauge Mossberg shotgun. Second and third prizes will be hunting knives. Rules, regulations, and sign-in sites will be announced closer to October 2003.

If you are interested in establishing a habitat food plot for whitetail deer call one of the following members for assistance: Doug Tilly, 448-2024; Phil Wyckoff, 448-2874; or Alvin LaFreniere, 448-2465. We have a set of guidelines for this project.

We have joined the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the largest statewide conservation organization in the nation with nearly 100,000 members and more than 500 affiliated clubs. The mission is to unite citizens to conserve Michigan's natural resources and protect our outdoor heritage. Under the umbrella of our club membership, any other member of the WLC can join for a \$15.00 annual fee.

Our next meeting will be April 10, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the St. James Fire hall.

—Lois Williams, secretary

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## Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" Banquet

Tickets have been selling quickly for the Chamber of Commerce's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Citizen of the Year" Banquet, to be held April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Shamrock starting at 6:00 p.m. Seating has to be limited to 100, although one rumor had it that for half-price people can stand outside on the stoop and holler support

through the door. After the presentation, Donna Stampfler, Marketing and Media Director for the West Michigan Tourist Association, will present her very popular slide show about Great Lakes haunted lighthouses—this alone is worth the price of admission. Contact the Chamber at (231) 448-2505

## The Chili Cook-off: a big success

The "Sports' Boosters" second annual Chili Cook-off was a whole lot of fun again this year, with about 100 excited tasters crowding into the Hall for the event. Fifteen entries made the final cut, ranging from mild to extremely hot and including chicken chili, venison chili, and one style referred to as "the great unknown." The Lighthouse School entered three recipes representing cartoon characters; Cody Mavis, one of their students, a terrific artist from Elk Rapids, showed off his talent by making posters to accompany their entries.

This year the judges were Kent Hoyt, the Shamrock's chef, Bob Hoogendoorn, Mark LaFreniere, Steve

West, and Kerry Smith. Several of the varieties were so good that the judges had to keep going back for another taste, causing some minor grumbling among the hungry crowd waiting for a chance to make their own evaluation. For awhile it looked like a fight might break out, but then the results were announced. Lynn Ann Cary took 1<sup>st</sup> place; Denise McDonough 2<sup>nd</sup>; and Tim Dwyer, with his famous toad-eye chili, 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thanks to all who attended, especially Beaver Gems, McDonough's Market, and the Shamrock, who provided the prizes.

—Diane McDonough,  
Sports' Boosters' President

## Plans Afoot for Community Walk

With the bike path project going forward, the idea of organizing a Community Walk to show our appreciation for this thin mile-long ribbon of paving between town and the North Shore Campground is picking up steam. Bids are due on April 14<sup>th</sup>; work will start in May; and the project will be done on June 20<sup>th</sup>. So tentative

plans are to include the Walk in the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities--although the notion of directing the entire parade along this route lost its backers when it was pointed out that there was a good chance the first dozen or two floats might be pushed off the North Shore cliff by floats towards the back that were anxious to see the splendid view.



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## Threads that ... Talk

The Talking Threads Quilt Guild is pleased to present its latest raffle quilt—a Beaver Island masterpiece! Over a dozen ladies have spent many, many hours stitching this quilt.

Horizontal blue strips represent the water that surrounds our Island; vertical green strips form the Island itself; even the inland lakes are applied in their proper places.

The quilt measures 88 x 128—queen size with enough quilt so no pillow shams are needed. Or the quilt could become a stunning wall hanging, if you prefer.

Tickets are \$5.00 apiece, 5 for \$20.00. Profits will be divided among BIRHC, the BIFD, and the BI EMS. Contact Connie Wojan or me for tickets.

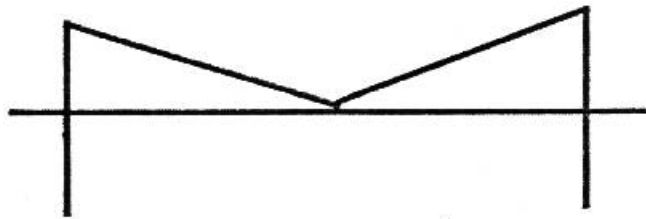
— Judy Meister

## Rural "Arts and Culture Grant" Update

(All programs are provided, in part, by a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs)

Attendance was down for the House Party in March, but everyone present had a wonderful time. Between a raging flu bug, a large number of Islanders travelling to Ireland, a few last-minute changes on our part, and a snow storm, we weren't surprised at the smaller turnout and fully expect April to be back to normal. April's House Party is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, from 2 to 6 PM, and will be held at the home of Adam and Karen Wirth. Kevin White and Joddy Crosswhite have agreed to be our musical hosts. As usual, this is a smoke- and alcohol-free event. Coffee and snacks will be provided; guests should bring their own soft drinks.

Wednesday evening enrichment classes are going well. Cheryl Podgorski's herbal workshop was well attended. Participants went home with a greater knowledge of local plants, as well as home-made cough syrup. Cub Scouts were among the participants in the leather-craft class taught by Kevin Bousquet. Deborah Harwood demonstrated Spanish cooking on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and Cheryl Podgorski offered another herbal workshop on March 26. Because of the good response we've had, we intend to continue the enrichment classes through the Spring and Summer. Although we don't have our entire schedule worked out yet, April 30 promises to be a real treat. The Quilters' Guild will host an educational evening, with many demonstrations and examples. As always, classes are held from 6 to 9 PM at the Peaine Township Hall, three Wednesdays each month. Please watch for postings of other offerings. Call me at 448-2960 to inquire about or register for any classes.



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We have started Studio Art classes on Thursday afternoons for high-school students. Mary Scholl had a good group of enthusiastic students for the first session. A schedule of class offerings is posted in the school lobby, and in Mrs. Boyle's classroom. All sessions are held in the lobby, last hour on Thursdays.

Martha Guth has been introducing students to the history of Western Music, from the Middle Ages to the present. Interested students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are also participating in Choral Training over the next six weeks. The Christian Church has generously lent us their space and piano. Martha teaches these classes, and Brenda LaFavre provides piano accompaniment.

Visiting Artist Programs are still going strong. Recently, Kelly Duhamel helped 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders make life-sized portraits. Braids and "belly shirts" were popular, as were (surprisingly) eye patches and hooks! Their outstanding finished works are on view in the hall outside their classrooms. In fact, the halls are fairly bursting with student work; anyone with a few minutes couldn't do better than to walk through and see the various displays.

—Cindy Ricksgers

## Welcome Birth

Bill and Kendra O'Donnell announce the arrival of Lindsey Danielle on March 1<sup>st</sup>, weighing in at 7 pounds and 4 ounces. She was 19 ½" when stretched, with beautiful light brown hair. Her beaming grandparents are Judy and Ken Wyant of Sherwood, MI, and Janet and Richie O'Donnell of Beaver Island.



## Melvin snags Record Pike

Long-time Island fisherman Melvin Napont recently broke his own record by catching a 20#, 37 inch northern pike on tip-ups off Buddy Martin's dock. "Getting it on the line was the easiest part," he told the crowd of reporters who witnessed his catch. "Getting it out of the lake—that was the problem. The dang thing kept twisting sideways on me as I pulled it towards the hole. So I took my saw and cut the hole in the ice a little bigger, and tried again. I went through three blades before finally getting the dang thing out, and then it tried to bite my toe!" He was glad he fought it to the end, though, because "it sure tasted good."



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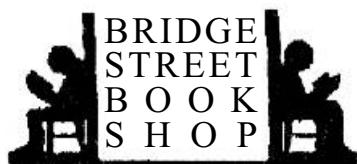
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## Patrick Cull makes the State Name-off

BICS student Patrick Cull—about whom people who know him say, “if he doesn't know where it is, it must be nowhere”—surprised at least one teacher, Donna Stambaugh, by making it to the State Finals for the Geography Bee in Mt. Pleasant on April 4<sup>th</sup>. She had said that if he somehow triumphed

over all his competitors, she would make a sign celebrating his victory and march around the block, holding it high. On March 17<sup>th</sup> she fulfilled her pledge—luckily it was a warm day. Rumor has it he's not so good on locating the world's many imaginary countries.

## Two School Board Seats up for Reelection

Candidates interested in running for trustee positions with the Board of Education at Beaver Island Community School have until 4:00 p.m. on April 7, 2003, to file paperwork for their name to appear on the June 9, 2003, ballot. Two (2) four-year terms are up for election. It is expected that current

incumbents Vice-President John Fiegen and Secretary Linda McDonough, whose terms both expire in June, will run for reelection. Nominating petitions are available through the school office at 37895 King's Highway or by calling 448-2744.



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## Awarding the Bid

On March 19<sup>th</sup> the BIRHC announced that Beaver Gems (Robert Gillespie) had the low bid of \$1,215,465 for the new medical building—\$12,235 under the next lowest bid and would be given the contract. But first some adjustments would be made in the specifications. The contractor suggested eleven reductions, ranging from changing the brand of doors to redesigning the septic system to eliminating the paving. These changes would save \$100,900. But he also suggested that the cedar shakes and other exterior wood surfaces be stained instead of left to the weather, and that concrete slabs be added to both the front and back entry areas. The Board will consider these ideas.

The total cost would include adding "high tech" wiring (~\$10,000), the providing of a power line to the east edge of the property (~\$5,000), and the paying of the architect's fee (\$71,000) and travel and drawings expense (\$15,300.) Plus, a \$40,000 contingency was left in the budget. Finally, there would be other costs that could not yet be determined, such as for window treatments, signage, and a propane line—these might all fall within the contingency amount.

Thus the final cost is expected to be around \$1,255,800—surprisingly, under the architect's predicted \$1,300,000.

The difference between the final cost and the State Grant will be set aside, with the interest it earns available to help with operating costs. The principle could be used for additional construction in a second stage or become the anchor for an endowment fund.

### Letters to the Editor:

## The new BIRH Center

This letter—long overdue—is written to give our heartfelt thanks to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center care-givers, EMS, and the Board of Directors, whose dedication, energy, and professionalism give us the care and comfort needed to enrich our lives on this beautiful Island. Without this assurance, many of us would not be able to remain here. (Although many patients must be moved to the mainland for special services, this same procedure must be followed in many cities.)

The comfort we feel comes from the respect that the Medical Center care-givers have earned through their thoughtfulness, professional knowledge, and dedication to our well-being. As a result, we're proud of our Health Center, and thankful to those who've made it as useful as it is; and we're looking forward to the larger and better facility now in final planning.

Thanks again, most sincerely, to all of you. —JoAnne and Chuck Hooker

## BIRHC News

At the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting Arlene Brennan discussed the progress made straightening out the billing. Over half of the 885 patient ledgers have now been reviewed. Accounts receivable, which had been increasing, was reduced by 16% because of this inspection and rebilling. She also said they are now in agreement about who's in charge when the EMS is called: since the BIRHC is not a licensed health care facility (it's more like a doctor's office), the EMS medical director (an emergency room doctor in Charlevoix) has authority.

There has been an offer to work at the BIRHC by a doctor who has a summer home here. There are several details to work out about billing, staff, hours, and the chain of command before this can move forward. Also a physician doing her residency in emergency medicine has asked about working here.

The Care providers' Report prepared by Chris and Susan was distributed. Chris was there to talk about the progress being made with Tele-health. Using this technology, in some cases X-rays can be shown to a distant doctor with enough clarity for him to determine a course of action without having to wait for the actual X-rays to arrive. Chris and Sue were applauded for contributing their off-days to working on a variety of projects, such as weeding the X-rays of the deceased out of the files.



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## How the BIRHC Board determined the need for a new Facility

The BIRHC Board of Directors is proceeding to build a new health care facility that will provide the space to more efficiently deliver currently available health care and wellness services and to house possible future services. The design is based on the physical inadequacies of the current space, limitations on our ability to offer additional medical services that are cost effective, and input from the entire community.

Long before the BIRHC Board had any inkling that someday funding would be provided to build a new facility, it undertook a strategic planning process. That was driven by the realization that Beaver Island was growing, the population characteristics were changing, and our one care provider was near exhaustion. The Board concluded that the health care strategic plan should be based on the desires of Beaver Island residents. The following is a summary of the planning process which actually occurred and can be documented by reading the *BIRHC Planning Task Force Final Report* (published August 2000) and issues of *The Beaver Beacon* and *The Northern Islander*—April 1999 through the present, which are on file at the Library.

**April 1999: BIRHC Planning Task Force Convened.** The 17 Island-resident members were carefully selected to reflect a true cross section of the community. This membership included businessmen and retired people, new and long-time residents, a township official, and the care provider

at the time, Penny Kiss, and was chaired by B J Wyckoff. "Health Center's Current operations and facility capacity" was one of eight topics of investigation that were identified.

**July 1999 and July 2000: Presentations to Beaver Island Property Owners Association.** Representatives of the Planning Task Force introduced their mission and encouraged members to attend community forums to give their input.

**August 1999: BIRHC Planning Task Force holds Community Forum.** 78 people attended and had an opportunity to give their input on Island health care interests and concerns.

**October 1999: Parent Focus Group Survey at BICS Parent Teacher Conference.** Parents of school age children were surveyed about numerous health-related issues.

**October 1999: Issues on Aging Focus Group.** Panel discussion held to solicit senior citizen health concerns.

**March 2000: Survey.** 1200 copies of the BIRHC Survey were mailed directly to all taxpayers, including full- and part-time residents. In addition, 1100 copies were mailed out with the *Beaver Beacon*. A total of 350 surveys were returned. Its purpose was to gather data about the demographics of Beaver Island residents, current health care needs, and perceived future health care needs. The Task Force felt this kind of background data would enable them to draw an educated conclusion concerning the need for current and future services.

**August 2000: BIRHC Planning Task Force Reports to the Community.** One of the recommendations was that the current facility is inadequate. The Report makes public data from the survey that suggests the strong likelihood of increased patient numbers in the future and thus the need for a larger building. Examples of this data include: age profile—38% respondents identified themselves as age 60 or over; Future Residency—over the next five years 80% of respondents said they planned to be in residence for 6 months or more during the year; Chronic Diseases—significant numbers of respondents reported they suffered from chronic diseases. The need for more space was also supported by individual interviews conducted by the Task Force with BIRHC medical and clerical staff.

**Spring 2001: Assessment.** A "Medical Assessment" prepared by BIRHC Board and staff making the case for the need of a new and expanded center was presented to key state legislators.

**Fall 2001: Funding.** Through intensive lobbying by BIRHC and many individual community members led by Bill McDonough, \$1.5 million was awarded by the State for the new facility.

**December 2001: Limitations of present facility.** Using a \$30,000 anonymous gift, the BIRHC Board commissioned a professional sizing study performed by Community Health Associates to determine the appropriate size of the new facility. The firm interviewed medical center staff,

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Dr. Wendy White, and BIEMS, and compiled the following list of space deficiencies in the current building:

- Inadequate space for two health care providers;
- No space for additional specialist and services;
- No space to expand current dental practice;
- Lack of space to accommodate modern telemedicine, laboratory, radiology, or emergency care equipment;
- Limited space for EMS operations;
- No space and limited equipment to care for emergency patients awaiting evacuation (sometimes up to 24 hours);
- No space for drug storage or dispensary;
- No space for community education;
- Cramped business offices without space for office equipment;
- No private areas for providers to consult with patients;
- Inadequate waiting area to separate sick and well patients;
- Waiting area too small to provide patient confidentiality about purpose of visit;
- Inadequate space for storage of supplies, medical waste, and equipment;
- No adjacent property for expansion;
- Inadequate parking; and
- Inadequate space for patient privacy between dental waiting area and health center exam areas.

**January 2002: First Recommendation.** Community Health Associates presented a report to the BIRHC Board recommending a facility

of 7,855 square feet, which would include EMS and dental space.

**Spring-Summer 2002: A gift of land.** Jeff and Nancy Traudt and Harry Gill donated 5.5 acres of land in a prime location off King's Highway to the BIRHC for the new medical center and adjacent senior housing. Most costs of the land transfer were donated.

**Early Summer 2002: Design Modifications.** It became clear that including dental and EMS space specified in sizing study will put the project over the grant money. Both townships were approached about housing both dental and BIEMS space in the vacated health center building, which is owned jointly by St. James and Peaine Townships. The Townships' response was that they will continue to house one BIEMS vehicle and to provide office space to the organization, and that dental space belongs in the new health center.

**August 2002: Draft of Plans.** First draft of building plan with reduced dental space and no BIEMS space was presented by the architectural firm *Hobbes + Black* at a Joint Township public meeting. Community and staff input resulted in revisions to the plan.

**November 2002: Final Plan.** The fourth and final building plan was presented to the community at a public meeting. Further revisions were made after extensive staff input concerning traffic and workflow.

Looking at the time frame outlined above, one can see that this process included community member involve-

ment, and active research, analysis, and planning over nearly four years. The information gathered through this process has been a major factor in the BIRHC Board's understanding of community health care and wellness needs for the immediate and near term (5 years.)

The medical and related services that are desired and practical to provide on Beaver Island, the additional regulatory requirements we must meet, and the available funding were all key considerations in defining the size, function, and design of the new facility.

It should be noted that some of the Task Force research and publishing required funding. Due to the importance of the objectives, private donors and foundations came forward with one hundred percent of these costs.

The BIRHC Board recognizes the importance of receiving community input and the importance of keeping the community informed. For those who could not attend the numerous meetings noted above, or the regular monthly meetings of the BIRHC Board of Directors, or could not participate in the 2000 survey, numerous articles have appeared in the *Northern Islander* and the *Beaver Beacon* throughout the process. The BIRHC Board of Directors invites those interested to attend our meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at the St. James Township Hall. It is at these meetings that the reasons behind our decisions concerning the Health Center can best be learned.

—Connie Wojan and Don Spencer

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## On This Date

**Ten Years Ago** The *Beacon* announced the traditional breaking of the ice by a Coast Guard cutter, this time the *Biscayne Bay*, which stopped at the dock long enough to let 20 or so Islanders have a quick tour before heading back out to sea. Spring was in the air, as evidenced by Sally Smith trying to organize a women's slow-pitch softball league. A series of Beaver Island Community plays was begun, the first being *Doctor Death*, starring Jennifer Wojan, Mike Myers, Cindy Gillespie, and Jim Stambaugh. Interlochen said it would send up a student quartet led by instructor/violinist Julia Bushkova.

The decimation of our birch trees by the gypsy moth was addressed in an article by E. B. Lange, who included a report from Jim Gillingham in which he stated that the 25 retrieved traps showed more gypsy moth activity than those of the previous year, but the average of 23 moths per trap was considerably below the 100-moth yield which the Department of Agriculture feels marks the beginning of a problem. Land owners were urged to prune, water, and fertilize their birch trees to help them



survive.

The engagement of Debbie LaFreniere and John Robert was announced

A compromise was reached in the rezoning battle over the Pingel property. This began when the developers of this 2600' tract of frontage south of Cable's Bay asked it be rezoned to R-1, a request that was withdrawn when the rules for R-1 were revised. The new requirement of a minimum width of 200' hindered their plan for 20 "site condo" lots, so they then asked for a variance on the grounds that this rule was not in effect when they submitted an application. A March meeting was postponed when neither the ZBA Chairman (Curt Petrak) nor the Township Attorney could attend. This led to a protest by residents who wanted to voice their opinions. Finally a compromise was reached: if the site plan was downsized to 16 parcels, a variance from the minimum width requirement would be issued.

An item in the proposed Peaine Township budget calling for health insurance for its Board was decried, and a vote negated this line item and moved the funds it required into the "contingency" category. A letter from Bud Cruikshank complimented everyone concerned for taking this action. St. James Township sent out a grant application asking for \$80,000 for the tennis courts. The Township Attorney claimed that a charge of conflict of interest brought by Alan Gillespie was without merit.

A DNR biologist was scheduled to visit to help the Wildlife Club determine

where it should best plant clover and rye for the deer.

**Twenty Years Ago** The Civic Association, predecessor of the Chamber, decided to raise money for the events it sponsors on the Fourth of July by once again having a "Spring Fling" at the Shamrock, featuring local musical talent.

A letter from Billy Bennett, who lived here from 1940 until 1957, warned Beaver Islanders to identify and protect what it values most. "When Beaver Island

gets parallel parking lines, a stop light, and its first fudge shop, then it's all over. There'll be no need to go there because it'll be just like everywhere else!"

Sherri Timsak submitted a story about Tatch O'Donnell. "One day he asked his friend Lano McCafferty to find him a ride to Chicago. That evening Lano went to tell Tatch he'd succeeded, but found Tatch sleeping in his bed under a half-dozen quilts and dressed in unwashed clothes. After waking him, Lano asked if he wanted to put on a clean suit. That was a good idea, he thought, proceeding to slip into his only suit, putting it on right over his clothes. He asked Lano to fetch his suitcase from upstairs, which Lano did, but all he wanted to put in it was 3 packs of Plowboy chewing tobacco. He made it to Chicago all right, and immediately went off to a party. When he failed to return, his sister, with whom he was staying, called the police. Knowing where to look, they found Tatch sleeping in an alley. 'Are you Tatch O'Donnell?' an officer asked him, shaking his shoulder. Tatch replied that he was. 'Well, where d'you live?' the officer asked. 'If you know I'm Tatch,' he shot back indignantly, 'You sure as heck oughta know where I live.'

News was received of the passing of Jimmy Floyd, who had been born on Beaver Island in 1892 and worked here as a lumberjack and fisherman before heading off to see the world—or at least Alaska. He had lived in Charlevoix for the preceding 20 years, and could be counted on to be at the dock when the Beaver Island ferry came in.

## Calendar of Events

April 2	St. James Twp, 7 PM, St. James Twp. Hall
April 9	Peaine Twp, 7 PM, Peaine Twp Hall
April 10	Beaver Island Wildlife Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, St. James Fire Hall
April 12	Citizen of the Year Banquet at the Shamrock
April 12	House Party - 2 to 6 PM Adam & Karen Wirth's
April 14	Bike Trail Bids Due
April 26	Leadership Retreat, 9 AM, Peaine Twp. Hall
April 26	Bill Welke Memorial Service, 11 AM, Holy Cross Hall
April 29-30	Lansing Reception
May 4	Road Rally, 2 PM
Museum Week - July 14th - 19th	
Homecoming - August 8th - 10th	



**Thirty Years Ago** March was so mild (a boat, Jackie Cross's fish tug *Jackie II*, docked in the harbor on March 15th, and the *Beaver Islander* made her first trip on March 30th) that the *Beacon* editor worried that April would exact nature's revenge by turning wet and cold. Bill Wagner, the DNR officer, reported the weather, including a high of 63 degrees on March 11th.

Paul Ken (*picture opposite*) reported that on a trip to High Island he saw a black and white dog with a collar and a bell running wild. When he tried to coax it closer it ran into the woods.

Archie LaFreniere sold the Shamrock to Barb Beckers, and Perry Crawford sold the Erin to Terry VanArkel. Grace Cole decided to close her restaurant, the Killarney Inn.

The St. Patrick's Day festivities had to be different than last year's, which featured snowmobile races on the Harbor—because all the ice and snow was gone. Martha Miller organized a Treasure Hunt for the kids and a Scavenger Hunt for everyone else.

The Beaver Island Christian Church celebrated ten years of existence; many of those who attended the first service (organized by Dr.

Haynes) returned for it.

Lydia Lehey lost the handles on a roast she was pulling from her oven and severely burned herself, spilling hot grease over half of her body, but thanked Dr. Christie for helping relieve her pain. Our former physician, Dr. Palmer, who was living in Florida, suffered a stroke and slipped into a coma. Ray Penwitt, who married Frank Skopp's third daughter, Geneva, passed away in Pomona, California.

The Coast Guard revealed a policy change: no longer would it put a boat and six men at the St. James substation. Instead the Island waters will be watched by both Charlevoix and St. Ignace. If necessary, the Coast Guard said, the boat kept on the Island by the DNR could be used. Restrictions of the budget were to blame.

**Forty Years Ago** The Community Calendar listed some events: trout season would open on April 27th; the smelt run would take place in May; and a mushroom hunt was scheduled for June. The Chicago party and Lansing party had already taken place, with a few celebrants (such as Russ and Joy Green) making it to both. Jewell Gillespie played in Chicago with Russell Palmer and Manistee's Ed Boyle.

In medical news, the *Beacon* reported that the Island's two Lillian Isabells were each in the Medical Center at the same time to deliver children: Paul Cole and Ronald Gregg.

The Game Club stated that 15 turkeys had been spotted, and more white ducks would be released in the harbor. The 85 Herfords being raised along the Jordan River ran out of hay, so the *Sundew* had to make an emergency run on April 2nd. It took her 10 hours to smash through all the ice coming here with 5 tons of feed, and 8 hours, after the wind shifted, to smash her way back to Charlevoix.

Several trappers were eagerly awaiting the April 1st opening of the season: Karl Keubler, Rogers Carlisle, and Walt Wojan. One of Walt's first traps snapped shut on a beaver's tail, and it was angry when Walt arrived. Once again butcher Lawrence Malloy was ready to skin any he's brought, and provide ample beaver meat.

Fifteen year Island resident Joe Dillingham, who was the Island's telephone man since the phone arrived, accepted a job in Flint. He was also the assistant manager of the generating plant, Clerk of Peaine Township, Vice President of the Civic, and a member of the school board.

**Sunshine! Sunshine! Sunshine!**

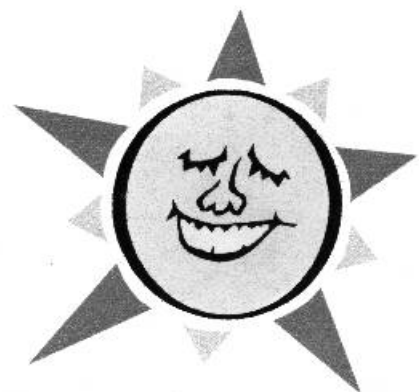
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## Beaver Island Peace Vigil

On Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 25 Beaver Islanders conducted a peace vigil, meeting at the Christian Church for a prayer before walking to the Peace Garden at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Candles were lit and held aloft as another prayer was said, with everyone hoping against hope that the war now upon us could be avoided. Those present wanted it clearly understood that they supported and would continue to support our country and its policies, but thought that after centuries of war not being the answer, there should be a better way. Some of them had children or grandchildren at the front, but were also concerned about the probable loss of life to innocent people on both sides of the conflict. Clearly if we have taken this action because of a perceived failure of resolve on the part of the United Nations, we have to redouble our efforts to upgrade, or create anew, an international monitoring agency capable of taking sufficient action to guarantee our safety and security.

## AmVets Flag Main Street

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> our local AmVets began to put up American Flags on the light poles downtown. They intend to buy however many more flags they will need to continue this patriotic decoration to the Whiskey Point Light.

## Deputy Decides to Leave

At Peaine's Annual Meeting it was announced that Mike and Bev Russell have decided to leave Beaver Island this spring. The general consensus was that they did much more for this community than many realized, and will be hard to replace.

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## Partnership Project holds meeting

On March 18<sup>th</sup> the Beaver Island Partnership Project held another meeting, attended by 11 members including Shirley Roloff (County Commissioner), Don Schneider (undersheriff), Rod Cortright (MSU extension), and Jim Haveman (Conservation Resource Alliance) from off the Island. Much of the meeting was taken up by reports from members, primarily Pete LoDico, who talked about the Housing Commission's narrowing of their focus, and Bill Cashman, who discussed the Historical Society's decision to try to make its Oral History project self-supporting.

The Partners had written a letter to the District Fisheries Biologist to ask that 30 to 50,000 of the State's 300,000 Chinook salmon fingerlings be released in Beaver Island's harbor. Shirley Roloff mentioned that there was a down side to this program, judging from how it went in Charlevoix. "If the conditions aren't right, they'll die," she stated. "We had the banks of the river cluttered with dead fish."

The subcommittee concerned with promoting eco-friendly tourism,

particularly in the off season, presented a rough draft of a list of viable businesses that might be sought and encouraged. Rod Cortright suggested that a team from MSU's Tourism Resources program might be induced to come to Beaver Island in the middle of May, look the Island over during the first day, and then conduct a public meeting in the evening before meeting with the Partners the next day. Another person who might come over at this time is Tom Bailey of the Nature Conservancy, who might hold a seminar on the complexities of creating conservation easements on private land.

Plans are afoot for Charlevoix County to lease space in the Medical Center for a bunk room, office, and holding cell. A question was raised: "If you have this additional space, will we see more of the State Police?" Those who have grown used to our friendly deputies find the State Police to be somewhat arrogant by comparison. The answer: "You'll probably see them less, because of all the budget cut-backs. But they'll be here for Homecoming at least."

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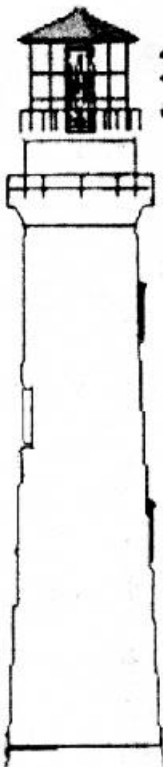
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## A Phenomenon made of Ice

In early March, whispers began to abound about an unusual feature on the ice south of Cable's Bay: from the air, it looked like someone had broken

hundreds of huge blue mirrors. People driving by began to stop and trudge out onto the fractured glacial sheet. At a thousand feet from shore the phenomenon was seen to be the result of a crack-and-surge cycle that had broken

chunks of thick, clear ice and stacked them upon themselves at every conceivable angle. The individual pieces were too big, too askew, and too numerous to navigate, but on a sunny





day they transformed the landscape into a glimmering, magic kaleidoscope.

In their midst two ice caves were found, 12'-tall mounds hollowed out

into workable igloos by a combination of extreme buckling and the churning of the snow-filled wind. By the middle of March the fame of these caves had spread far and wide, and a sunny

Sunday brought the curious out; on the day we stopped, we met fourteen others who made their way out from shore through alternating slush, snow, and slippery-as-glass glare ice.





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## News from the Townships

### Peaine—3-22, 11:00 a.m.

Peaine Township held a well-attended (45 in the audience) two-part Annual Meeting on Saturday morning. The first part was to discuss and vote on the proposed budget, which contained a modest contingency fund of \$3,297 to balance the projected expenses and income at \$241,000. Supervisor John Works Jr. assured the audience that the Town Board is very concerned about taxes and has not proposed any expenditures it did not feel were necessary. After a scattering of brief questions (including one that could not be answered, about the Swamp Tax), the budget was unanimously passed.

At the Annual Meeting proper, which followed, the Supervisor gave his annual report in which he identified the Township's priorities: controlling growth; roads; safety; and recreation. He also announced that in the previous year there have been 13 new homes and 32 miscellaneous remodeling or other construction projects begun. Accomplishments included Jack Kelly's recreation plan, the work done by the Trails Committee and its sister group, Friends of the Trails, the purchase of a tanker for the Fire Department and an ambulance for the EMS, the promising possibility of Island Airways relocating to the Township Airport, and the immanence of ground-breaking for the new mid-Island Fire Hall. He concluded by saying that the Board was doing its best to balance environmental and economic concerns.

The audience was given the opportunity to comment and vote on the proposed salary increases. The proposed amounts could not be adjusted—only approved or denied. After hearing from the audience how far short the raises fall as far as constituting adequate compensation, the Supervisor's, Clerk's, and Trustee's raises were approved with only those directly affected saying nay. The Treasurer's raise, the subject of some earlier heated comments both ways, passed handily, with what seemed to be 20 to 25% opposition.

After a reappointment of the

Township's agents (attorney, engineer, bank, accountant), the floor was opened for general discussion. Most of those who spoke were drawn into a discussion of how to regulate snowmobiles and, more importantly, ATVs. At present ATVs are in use on Beaver Island, yet there are no designated trails; the only legal place for them is on their owner's property.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Supervisor thanked everyone for coming, saying that the Township meetings are the only place left in America where grass-roots democracy is practiced and enjoyed.

### St. James—3-22, 2:00 p.m.

The St. James Township Annual Meeting was technically two. In the first, the proposed budget calling for income and expenditures of \$233,967 was unanimously approved. This total is in addition to a General Fund balance of \$75,665, which will be transferred through to become a Public Improvement Fund.

Immediately following this the actual Annual Meeting was held with 14 in the audience. The minutes, the Board's salary increases (the Supervisor and Treasurer up \$1,000 to \$12,000; the Clerk up the same to \$13,000; and the Trustees up \$500 to \$3,500) and the reappointments of the Township's agents were all unanimously approved.

The Supervisor delivered his annual report. He cited the Township's accomplishments in the past year: the nuisance ordinance was drafted, a five-year recreation plan finished (among other things, the existence of this plan allows the Township to apply for recreation grants), an Emergency Service Authority created, and a second part-time deputy obtained, with plans to make this position full-time.

Some projects are still pending, he continued. The Donegal Bay Bike Trail should get underway after the April 14<sup>th</sup> bid opening. An agreement is being worked out for Arranmore Park at the former generator site. The Yacht Dock upgrade is waiting for the complex permit process to yield results. The



acquisition of the Whiskey Point Light Tower is moving forward; a \$5,000 grant (requiring a \$2,500 match) was received from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program for an engineering study. Beaver Island is working on its portion of the County Emergency Plan.

Some projects have been undertaken in conjunction with Peaine. A grant from the Department of Aeronautics to purchase the hangar (currently being leased, and used in part by the Fire Department and by the maintenance men) seems likely, although it will require a 20% match. A 'task force' has been formed to study possible uses of the former Med Center building. A curfew ordinance and a parking ordinance were explored, as was a public boat ramp, for which it seems unlikely that funding will arise. In the year to come, repairs must be made to the tennis courts, the North Shore Campground needs work, and the Planning Commission should finish its work on a Master Plan.

He mentioned the inequity caused by the two townships having a thirteen million dollar differential in their taxable value. He cited examples: homes worth \$50,000 would pay \$48 in taxes for the Fire Department in St. James but only \$33 in Peaine. He hoped a formula could be arrived at to eliminate this inequality.

His biggest disappointment, he said, was that the conflict between BITA and BIBCo turned personal, which hindered the resolution that everyone wanted and knew was needed.

#### **St. James, regular meeting of 3-5:**

Board approved the renewal Adoption Agreement for the Township Master Plan.

Board approved the Metropolitan Telecommunications Rights-of-way Oversight Authority (METRO Act Resolution), which is a right-of-way for telephone lines only.

Pete LoDico, representing the Beaver Island Housing Committee, presented a request to establish a Housing Authority to the Board. The

Board agreed to explore the possibility of establishing one.

Board reviewed the proposed budget for 2003-2004. All Township employees are to receive a 1.5% pay increase. Also included in the budget are funds to work on the surface of the tennis court (cost to be split with several regular users of the court), work at the Township Campground, and work at the Gull Harbor nature trail. Also funds for the Township portion of the Donegal Bay Bike Path, which will be rebid this spring and hopefully completed in June.

A letter signed by both Township Supervisors invited the new Charlevoix County Commissioners to the Island for a meeting.

The Board approved the appointments of Rich Gillespie and Grace Matella to BITA for another month.

#### **Peaine, regular meeting of 3-12:**

All members present. MOTION Works, second Nelson, to approve the 2-12-02 minutes as amended; motion approved (Martin opposed.)

MOTION Works, second Nelson, to approve the 2-19-02 Special Meeting minutes as amended; motion approved (Martin opposed.)

MOTION Works, second Nelson, to approve the payment of current bills; motion approved.

MOTION Works, second Lanier, to proceed with making the trail signs as requested by the Trails Committee; motion approved.

The proposed budget was reviewed.

Reports: Planning Commission. A summary of summer conversation groups has been completed. The biggest concerns among the 135 residents interviewed were environmental protection, roads, and recreation.

### **Another Record**

By the afternoon of March 22<sup>nd</sup> it was determined that the Beaver Island Transfer Station had set yet another monthly record—the 3rd in a row—for the volume of material handled.

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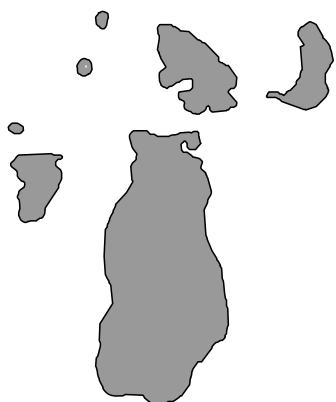


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## Beaver Island Fire Department Acquires New Thermal Imaging Equipment

The Fire Department is delighted to announce the acquisition of a Thermal Imager. Thermal Imaging is the detection of infrared radiation and subsequent translation of the detected energy levels into a viewable image. (Infrared radiation is a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum, and is a form of energy that we perceive as heat.) The Thermal Imager assigns a color or shade to an object based on how it compares with the surrounding background - the hottest objects will be light in color, and the coolest darker.

Our Imager can be used for search and rescue in structure fires as well as in wooded areas, looking for lost children and adults or even wounded deer. It will be used for fire 'overhaul,' finding hot spots in walls and ceilings. This will make it easier to find fire or overheated objects that may be causing the problem, such as electrical outlets or machinery.

In February, 1999, a nationwide study on Thermal Imaging equipment was completed in the U.S. that found:

1. Without a Thermal Imager, 40% of the time firefighters were able to locate the victim; but over 30% of the time couldn't find their way out of the burning structure.

2. With a Thermal Imager, 99% of the time firefighters were able to locate the victim and 100% of the time found their way out of the burning structure; the time required to satisfactorily complete a search within a burning structure dropped by 75%.

We can thank the members of our Fire Department Auxiliary for the purchase of this very important equipment. Their unselfish work in raffles and organizing benefit parties to make money for the betterment of our Fire Department and EMS goes, for the most part, unnoticed. The Fire Department Auxiliary members, past and present, have contributed thousands of hours in fundraisers, Bingo, bake sales, and at the Resale Shop throughout the years to buy a lot of equipment that our Departments could not afford without their help.

Most recently, a new Repeater System - a tower relay station used by

the Fire Department and EMS to communicate with each other and the mainland - was purchased to replace an obsolete repeater. The cost was split between the Fire Department, EMS, and the Auxiliary. The Thermal Imaging System was also purchased by the Auxiliary. These two systems cost over \$17,000. Without their help, we would not have been able to purchase either of these very essential items. We can all be very proud of their accomplishments and we should be very thankful for their time and hard work.

We want to offer a special thanks to our present BIFDA members and our past members who contributed throughout the years.

Present Members - Dawn Marsh, Carolyn Works, Sherry Timsak, Carol LaFreniere, Yvonne Crandall, Donna Stambaugh, and Kristen Russell.

Past Members - Ruth Hallahan, Sally Lounsberry, Emma Jean Belfy, Dorothy Willis, Dorothy Chichester, Barb Cruickshank, and Eleanor Felix.

If I have forgotten anyone, please accept my apology. And please continue to support these fine ladies and their functions. Thank you.

-Tim McDonough, Chief,  
and all the members of the Beaver  
Island Fire Department and the EMS

## Where's the Water?

The unusually low water level in Lake Michigan this winter may lead to, with the help of El Nino conditions, record lows this coming summer. In mid-February all the Great Lakes were lower than last year at this time. The Corps of Engineers is predicting the peak of the annual cycle for Lake Michigan, which usually occurs in July, will be between 2" below and 6" above the 2001 mark, which was its lowest since the 1960s. The all-time low was 576.4' in 1964. The generally dry soils, which will absorb as much water as they can, and the "evaporation effect," produced by a winter in which generally warm weather was punctuated by bursts of severe cold, increase the chance for a record low.



## The world's finest B&B

On March 5<sup>th</sup> Beaver Island's new Deerwood Lodge opened its doors to the press to reveal the exceptional accommodations it will offer to the public starting this July. Everything at this resort is larger than life, and yet it is all comfortably nestled into appropriate nooks. Everything has been done on a grand scale, from the large rooms with balconies, hot tubs, and wood stoves to the technologically advanced kitchen in which master chef Deborah Harwood will prepare the guests' meals to the indoor pool tables, theater, and shooting range, yet the entire package is subtly blended into the natural surroundings.

This will be a hands-on operation for Jon and Sally Fogg, whose

only employee will be their chief cook and bottle-washer. They have spared no expense in making this retreat as fine as possible. It has obviously been a labor of love, with the stress on labor. For example, Jon moved the stones 11 times that were put into the 28'-high fireplace in the Lodge's stunning great room, found some of the trees himself that were used on the custom log interior, and laid out and installed some of the riding and walking trails on the 200+ attached acres.

This enterprise will put Beaver Island on a different map, bringing in people who demand the very best. When one considers that Jon and Sally acquired this property instead of developers who had proposed to subdivide it into many lots, we can all be thankful it came under the control of someone with considerable conscientiousness and wonderful taste.



## Snow Sleuth

Some times I wear cross-country skis, sometimes I wear snowshoes, and sometimes I just wear regular winter boots. But the one thing that is constant is that I am out of doors and in the snow because, you see, I am a winter detective. My job is to identify tracks left by wild animals and birds. You may think this a curious job, but in February in northern Michigan there is not much else to do. Besides, this is a fascinating and thoroughly satisfying task. February 2003 was a cold, snowy month. But it was also a month when the sun shone almost every day, making winter treks a pleasure—if you're dressed warm enough.

One day when it wasn't hovering near zero it warmed enough to do a little cross-country skiing. My choice is usually the Keubler Trail, and this day was no exception. As I skied into the dunes near Barney's Lake I spotted Ruffed Grouse tracks. The bird must have been having a picnic because he had made circles on the dunes, had uncovered sand and weed growth, and had worked quite a large area. He had also left wing marks and scratch type marks as he flew and landed in several

places. Several days later as I snowshoed in a wooded area on the east side of Beaver, I found an area where a grouse had tunneled into the snow, leaving a perfect igloo for me to see. Heavy snow is ideal for grouse that like to dive into the snow to create a burrow for warmth and protection from predation. Look for their little three-toed track about two inches long.

Every day I take a snowshoe walk into our property to check our wild turkey feeder. The feeder was placed in the wild hoping we would attract turkeys in a totally natural setting, luring them away from roads and people. The feeder is designed to prevent deer from reaching the corn. It has attracted plenty of squirrels, blue jays, and starlings, however. It is obvious that the deer must be very curious since their tracks are all around the feeder too. Finally one day I spied a wild turkey track coming out of the swamp, headed for the woods, and maybe the feeder. Sure enough I followed his tracks right to the feeder. Now this was cause for celebration. The turkey leaves a track that measures about four inches. Tracks show four toes. Numbers II to IV point forward

and toe III is very long. Toe I points backward and is not as readily visible in the print unless you look for it. In fresh snow you can't mistake the mark made by one of our largest gamebirds.

It's interesting to walk into an area you have been before following a light dusting of snow. It seems like almost every day there is new snow over old tracks. Sometimes the deer will have crossed over the trail or walked on it. Snowshoe hare tracks cross back and forth. Snowshoe hares have "runs" which are established trails. Their tracks are unmistakable. The well-named "snowshoe" has toes on his hind feet to form a broad snowshoe surface imprint as he runs over the snow. These prints can be 6-7 inches long. Some times he leaps from spot to spot, forming large dents as he moves. Since hares are nocturnal you seldom see them but if you should be lucky enough to spot one he will be like a ghost in his white fur, his winter camouflage.

The tiniest of all tracks I've seen are those left by the shrew. There is a favorite spot between a grove of balsam trees where the shrews cross on a regular basis. I want to erect a "shrew

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crossing" sign here next fall. Their tiny, tiny footprints make a track across the snow, sometimes showing their dragging tail. I've also seen their tracks in the open field, from shrub to shrub. And I've seen the tunnels they sometimes make by diving under the snow and traveling under it. Such a snow tunnel might be detected by the ridging of the snow. Most of the shrew's activity is nocturnal so you seldom see them. You usually don't see shrew tracks except in the snow. It's helpful to carry a small magnifying glass to more closely observe the detail on this teeny track.

On one occasion I saw what I identified as a lone coyote track. A loping coyote leaves a trail that can be distinguished from a domestic dog. Dogs trot and leave tracks side by side but a coyote steps into his foreword track leaving a print that follows in a straight line.

One day in late February, the 24<sup>th</sup> to be exact, I saw a chipmunk track. This was unusual since they store up food for winter and are seldom seen this time of year. It was in a very sunny exposure near a juniper. The poor munk must have been fooled into thinking the

weather was much warmer, to come out of winter hiding only to find the actual temperature in the single digits. But he ventured out to take a look and suspect we will see no more of him until spring. These tracks are much larger than the shrew and much smaller than a squirrel although they do resemble the pattern of the squirrel. He is, in fact, a member of the squirrel family.

One day while walking the Duffy Rush trail behind the Brother's Place I came across the piece de resistance! There, in the snow, was the perfect imprint of the wings of a large bird. Upon closer inspection you could see the shape of individual feather marks and the span suggesting this was a very large bird indeed. I was puzzled by what I was seeing. Only later did I come across the answer to the puzzle. Owls hunt at night, and they locate their prey by sound, not sight. When an owl hears a shrew or vole stirring under the snow he drops to the ground, wings outspread, and snatches the animal with his talons from underneath the snow. Wow! I was impressed. Judging from the span, this must have been one of the larger owls known to be in this habitat, such as the

Barred or Great Horned.

I finished my work on the last day of February. With the temperatures in the thirties, blue skies, and sunshine I donned my cross-country skis for a Keubler trek. Just past the culvert under Eagle Hill Road I came across an owl kill in Technicolor. It was fresh and had everything except sound effects. The imprints of its huge wings were visible in the snow. I gathered some mammal fur for later identification. As I skied toward Protar's tomb I observed more and more grouse activity. The warmth seemed to be drawing wildlife out to forage for food. Squirrels had excavated areas around trees and there was a lot of songbird activity. On my return to the trailhead I was rewarded when I flushed a grouse by a fallen log. As it exploded into the air it startled me and I screamed—not cool for a detective!

March is here now and my thoughts have turned to dreaming of warmer climes. Maybe I'll head south to sandy beaches to collect and identify seashells or do some bird watching. Maybe some day I'll grow up; but on second thought, why would I want to do that?

—Lois Williams



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## A fine time on Arranmore

We have just returned from Arranmore, where we had a most wonderful weekend.

The weather was terrible but it did not and could not dampen the spirits of all the people who participated. All the islanders assembled on the pier to greet the ferry. The school children formed a guard of honor and the pipe band played. That night in Gerry Early's Charlie O Hara gave a short and very moving talk on the evictions. After that we sang and danced into the wee small hours.

The twinning ceremony at the lake was very emotional despite the rain, and again a huge crowd gathered.

The mass on Saturday night was also a great experience culminating in the singing of the American and Irish National anthems. Thomas Phil Ban's was the venue that evening. Another late night!

The departure on Sunday at 1:30 was not without a lot of tears. As the pipe band played "The Shores of Amerikay" there was not a dry eye on the quay.

All in all a memorable occasion. The monument at the lake, an otter and a beaver with a salmon leaping in between, is quite beautiful. We went back to see it on Sunday afternoon—it is so impressive and will soon become a major tourist attraction on. It will of course serve as a permanent reminder of the close links between the two islands.

The gifts presented by your representatives were greatly appreciated and were so appropriate. We hope to meet the group again in Dublin, our home.

—Aidan and Rita Gallagher

*Thanks to Rich Gillespie for these photos. You can see more of his Arranmore photos at [www.beaverislandrealty.com/Ireland](http://www.beaverislandrealty.com/Ireland)*



## One Hundred Years Ago

**From the *Charlevoix Sentinel***

**April 2, 1903 Local News:** "The Ferry Seed Co. are shipping 3000 bushels of seed peas to Beaver Island. With an average yield the island will produce 18,000 bushels of peas. The *Beaver* took over 600 bushels of the seed yesterday."

**Beaver Island News:** "Patrick Early arrived on Monday to take charge of his father's farm after his winter's absence."

Perch fishing is excellent now; one crew in charge of Jos. Left making a raise of 800 pounds one day."

"Capt. Ed Martin left on Friday for Charlevoix where he has a position on one of the Charlevoix tugs."

"Martin Bros. had their tug *Elliott* partly out of the water last week while making repairs about the stern."

"Pres. W. E. Stevens of the B.I. Lumber Co. made a flying business trip to Manistee, leaving here on Monday."

"Mr. John Stevens left by the first boat for a visit to his family in Freesoil and also business for the B. I. L. Co."

"Messrs. Bladdie and Jacobson arrived by the first boat to take their respective positions as lighthouse assistants."



Mr. Walter Nelson and family arrived Monday. They go at once to Squaw Island where Mr. Nelson is 1<sup>st</sup> assistant light keeper."

"Mr. Butler, keeper of the Beaver Head Light, arrived by Monday boat with his wife and daughter to resume the charge of his light."

"The B. I. L. Co. are at work on their rightaway(sic) back of the harbor. The grade is nearly ready for the ties which are being distributed now."

"Father Zugelder has his telephone

poles distributed between the church and the harbor so that by next week 'hello' will be the popular word."

"Peter Peaine, chief of the Garden Island Indians, died at his home on Garden Island March 29, aged 75 years. Old Peter Peaine, his father who was chief before him, signed the treaty in 1853 between the whites and Indians at Detroit. Our redmen are rapidly passing away."

"The town board settled up accounts yesterday and found the town has nearly \$1100.00 on hand, including the school money. Now what's the matter with building a school house? A school house is a crying necessity and St. James tax payers are well aware of the fact; then why not everybody get down to business and plan to help the cause along. We have a good church and good church houses but the school house in St. James is a disgrace. The question is now up to the school officers and should be answered soon."

**Charlevoix Sentinel April 9, 1903 Local News:** "The fish hatchery people

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NEW SEASONAL HOURS



placed 5,000,000 young white fish on the fishing grounds Thursday, and 10,000,000 since."

**Marine News:** "The steamer *Beaver* took the Fox Island light keepers from Northport to their station Saturday."

**Beaver Island News:** "Many loads of ties are being brought to the harbor on wagons since the roads dried up." "Jas. V. McDonough is getting on with the O. C. McCauly house finishing up the carpenter work."

"W. J. Gallagher and son Willy returned from their trip across to the continent last Friday."

"Geo. Richard was over to the Island Monday. He says he will be back again this week to resume his proprietorship over our barber chair."

"John Floyd, Highway Commissioner, is drawing gravel on our business street which makes a much more satisfactory road bed than sawdust."

"Mrs. C. C. Gallagher is renovating the interior of her ice cream parlor,

giving it paper and paint and adding greatly to the attractiveness of her place of business."

"The north end of our town from Floyds to Sendenbergs has been struck by a cleaning up epidemic. We hope every yard in the town will get a good touch of it."

"Jas. Dunlevy is painting and cleaning his store, getting ready for new goods and the spring trade. He has also added to the appearance of the premises by cleaning up the lot and beach."

"St. James Township voted a straight citizens ticket Monday with no opposition. W. J. Gallagher - Supervisor. Ray McDonald - Clerk. Jas. McCann Jr. - Treasurer. John Floyd - Highway Com. Jas. McCann Sr. and Jas. Dunlevy - Bd. of Review."

**Charlevoix Sentinel April 23, 1903**  
**Local News:** "Michael McCann will probably be the postmaster at St. James to fill the vacancy caused by the death of postmaster James Gibson."

"The Charlevoix auxiliary fish hatchery deposited the last of its

30,000,000 trout and whitefish fry last week and has closed up for the season. Thirty million young fish! Think of it! If one half of them mature, which the fish commission has reason to expect, they will put fat on the ribs of the fisherman."

**Charlevoix Sentinel April 30, 1903**  
**Local News:** "Cartier, the tailor was at St. James last week and brought home a big batch of orders."

"The Steamer *Beaver* and the Beaver Hotel of St. James have jointly got out a very neat folder for circulation this season. It is beautifully illustrated, and contains a graphic historical sketch of the famous Island, with a map of the Island and this coast. This is proper. There is no finer steamer trip than the trip to St. James. The boat is fast, clean, and roomy, the Island is very interesting and the Beaver Hotel is a gem of a hostelry. Between Captain Pete Campbell and landlord Bonner and wife, a trip to the Island on a fine summer day is truly an experience to be remembered. We have always marveled that more people did not take it in." -Joyce Bartels

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## BIBCO & BITA Negotiation Nearing Resolution

With the difficulties both sides have been having in the attempt to resolve the ongoing dispute continuing to hamper negotiations, an official from M-DOT offered to come to Beaver Island on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, to sit in on what was billed as a marathon negotiating session. However the weather precluded his arrival: the morning brought a fog that lasted for days, so the negotiators were thrown back upon their own devices. Both sides were optimistic, feeling that they were focusing on specific issues

without recourse to personalities, and as it turned the negotiator was not needed. On Friday morning the following press release was issued:

"The Beaver Island Boat Company and the Beaver Island Transportation Authority negotiating teams have tentatively come to an understanding on the issues of mutual concern contained in their agreement. The proposal will be brought before their respective boards for review, discussion and potential approval."

## Surprising Consensus

Judy Lanier reported to the Peaine Township Board about the results of her work with Barbara Spencer collating the results from 13 meetings at which 135 Peaine Township residents expressed their concerns about its future. Many defined what appealed to them most in similar terms: its peaceful, woodsy character, the simple, nature-driven country atmosphere, and the unique, pristine landscape. They were hopeful the environment could be

protected. They were angry at seeing junk and blight, wanted better access and signage, and hoped to promote diverse land use. Dirt roads were acceptable; the grid does not have to be paved. They would like planning and zoning improved and enforced, and taxes kept down.

The next step is to use this information to create a survey that will further refine the Planning Commission's focus on a new master plan.

*The Fire Department Auxiliary presents...*

### **The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Beaver Island Celebrity Roast Honoring Jerry LaFreniere Sr.**

**Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Holy Cross Hall, 8:00 PM**

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## Mary Minor 1932-2003

Our former postmaster, Red Mary, Mary Minor, passed away on February 27<sup>th</sup> at Munson Hospital.

She was born on Beaver Island on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1932, to Elizabeth and Patrick LaFreniere. She spent almost all of her life here, working at the Shamrock for a few years and then at McDonough's Market for several years before replacing Frank Nackerman at the Post Office, a job she held until retiring in 1992. She was a stickler for rules, and her refusal to bend them were occasionally frustrating; yet she was always friendly and fair to a fault.

Mary married Archie Minor in 1961, who passed away in 1995. She is survived by her sister Jeanne (Harry) Frazier, brothers John, Joseph (Lois), and Patrick (Marcia), and by many loving relatives. Her sisters Isabel and Margaret Ann preceded her in death.

The funeral will be held at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Beaver Island on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00.

## Charles Dunlevy 1915-2003

Charles Francis Dunlevy, grandson of Island shopkeeper Yankee Jim, passed away on January 23<sup>rd</sup> in Elmhurst, Illinois at the age of 88. Although born in Chicago, he treasured his Beaver Island roots. It was on one of his many trips here that he went to an AA meeting in 1964, an experience that changed his life and led to 37 sober years. As a retiree from his job as a maintenance engineer for Loretto Hospital he took up long-distance bicycling and earned a college degree in counseling. He was known as "Grandpa Chuck" to the children he assisted as a crossing guard or when he dressed up as Santa Claus. He was married for 63 years to his wife Marion, whom he met in a dance class.

Over the years he played an important role as a support partner to dozens of AA members. "He was never embarrassed or secretive about his addiction," his granddaughter said. "Rather than hide the fact, he faced his problems head-on and encouraged others to do the same." He always

carried a special coin to remind himself of his struggle. "He was always there for those who needed his help."

He is survived by his wife, by a son, Paul, two daughters, Lydia Waterloo and Catherine Tardy, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## Bill Welke Memorial

The Bill Welke Memorial Service will be held at Holy Cross Church on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. After Internment lunch will be served at Holy Cross Hall.

## Recipes from Our Readers

### LynnAnn Cary's Winning Chili!

2# Tim's Ground Beef

1 - Medium Onion

2 - Large Brooks Hot Chili Mixes

2 - 26 oz. Spartan Tomatoes

1 - 26 oz. Spartan Tomato Soup

1 - Pk. Lysanders Orig. Chili Seasoning  
Brown beef and onion. Put tomatoes in blender until smooth. Drain beef and mix all ingredients together, seasoning last, and simmer.



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## Weather or Not

After having predicted, or is that prognosticated, or rather prestidigitated, a mild winter with little snow, I hate to hazard a guess on the coming season. In all fairness, and in defense, it seemed to all of us soothsayers of atmospheric mayhem, that with El Nino firmly entrenched just west of Baja, that our forecasts would hold true. But then lo and behold, The Kid gets a better offer to play in Asia and within weeks the snow starts falling and the temperatures bottomed out at Twenty Below for three days.

So, Spring. I predict increasing daylight hours, warmer temps, less snow, if any, and cheaper oil. Well, three out of four ain't bad.

—Liam Racine

## The Charlevoix County Commissioners

**A synopsis of the 2-26-03 meeting**, with all Commissioners present.

Motion approved the minutes of the February 12, 2003 meeting as presented.

Judge Richard May presented the annual 2002 budget report for 90th District Court.

Motion approved Resolution #03-013, Software purchase to assist county personnel in accessing information developed by the GIS Department, Planning, Equalization, and the Building Department.

Commissioners reported on various boards they represent and meetings they attended.

Motion adjourned the meeting.

**A Synopsis of the 3-12-03 meeting** (Commissioner Snyder was absent):

Motion approved the minutes of the February 26, 2003 meeting as presented.

Motion authorized Chairman Frykberg to sign the new P.A. 511, Community Corrections Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #03-014, \$2,200.00 for purchase of a new computer server for the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

Motion approved Resolution #03-015, \$6,300.00 for a new phone system for the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

Motion approved Resolution #03-016, amending the Cooperative Extension Budget by adding \$1,000.00, which was inadvertently reduced from the original budget.

Motion approved Resolution #03-017, re-location of Magee Road. Motion approved Resolution #03-018, United Way Funding, a request from the Commission on Aging to apply for funding through the United Way.

Motion approved Resolution #03-019, Vital Records Fees. Fees will increase from \$5.00 to \$8.00 for a vital record and from \$2.00 to \$3.00 for a second copy and for senior citizens. Effective May 1, 2003. Motion confirmed the appointment of Don Smith to the Community Mental Health Board.

Motion authorized the Chairman to sign the Emergency Management Plan and appoint Commissioner Patrick as deputy.

Motion approved the bid of Jess Construction Co. in the amount of \$9,750.00 for a barrier-free bathroom renovation at the Commission on Aging Building.

Motion adjourned the meeting.

—Jane E. Brannon, County Clerk

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Letters to the Editor:

## Beaver Island's Egg Lake Bog: an Island, State and National Treasure

Dragon's Mouth Orchids, Sundews, Tamaracks, Pitcher Plants, Ospreys, Black Spruce, Loons ... these are just a few of the rare jewels discovered by visitors to Egg Lake and its Bog on Beaver Island. Whether you've been there once or one hundred times, are an Islander, tourist, student or scientist, you know what a special place this is.

You don't have to visit Egg Lake Bog to understand the extraordinary significance of a pristine inland lake and bog located on a remote island in the Great Lakes. At the global level, the islands of the Great Lakes are recognized as significant for their bio-diversity. At the state and national level, groups have prioritized the preservation of island ecosystems in the Great Lakes. At the local level, the Beaver Island Natural Areas Program, along with Little Traverse Nature Conservancy and Central Michigan University Biological Station, designate Egg Lake Bog as their highest priority for preservation on Beaver Island.

A few days ago, several hikers made a discovery at the Lake. This winter, approximately two acres of the area surrounding the floating bog's access site, and 300 feet of shoreline, were logged, cleared, and graded. The extent of potential damage remains partially hidden under the snow, but it is clear that these activities on private land have impacted the important habitat along the shoreline of the lake and on the floating mat of the bog itself. Because the lake and bog are home to many fragile and rare species of plants and animals, even a private landowner must take special precautions to avoid damaging the habitat and potentially violating local and state laws designed to protect lake and wetland areas.

Spring Peepers, Wintergreen, Michigan Holly, White-Tail Deer, as well as twelve orchids including Pink Ladyslippers, Rose Pogonias, and Tall Whites...these are the subtle yet exceptional gems we are compelled to protect at the irreplaceable Egg Lake Bog.

—Suzy Bonadeo, Marilyn Damstra,  
JoAnne Hooker and Lois Williams.

## Land Swapped on South Fox

Despite the efforts of several environmental groups, including the Michigan Land Use Institute, to halt a land swap between the DNR and developer David Johnson, a trade of land was finally completed. To consolidate their holdings, almost 220 acres with over 5,000' of shoreline were traded between the two owners of South Fox. Although the MLUI was disappointed, they should be proud of having blocked earlier proposals that would have made development more inevitable and transferred the historic lighthouse into private hands.

## Peaine offered Property

The Michigan State Police have decided that the 4.13-acre parcel they purchased north of the Fox Lake Access Road will not be suitable for constructing a communications tower, and have offered to sell it to Peaine Township for \$16,000. This land lies north of the Fox Lake Road but is connected to it by an easement. It is bordered on its north by a 40-acre piece of State land that is otherwise landlocked, so purchasing the 4+ acres would open this 40 to the public.

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**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 **(248) 676-0816** today; email [mrasch@comcast.net](mailto:mrasch@comcast.net)



**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**  
[mcdonoughsmarket.com/rentals](http://mcdonoughsmarket.com/rentals)

### Parcel on Garden Island Harbor

**FOR SALE:** 1000+ feet of Lake Michigan / Indian Harbor lake frontage on Garden Island. One of a kind property. 8 acres. Land Contract Terms. \$195,000. Contact Jayson Welsler, Box 357, Grayling Michigan 49738. **(989) 619-2800**.  
[jaysonwelsler@hotmail.com](mailto:jaysonwelsler@hotmail.com)

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### Classified Ads

#### Real Estate, For Sale:

**COTTAGE SITE** - Vacant wooded lot in Port St. James. Power, perked, ready for building. Call owner (269) 857-6084.

**GULL HARBOR** - 3 BR split level on two acres. Waterfront. Call (441) 242-9492 or (231) 448-2433 or email [suestampworld@northrock.bm](mailto:suestampworld@northrock.bm)

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

**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.

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

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

**PORT ST. JAMES** - 3 Wooded Lots #727,728,729 A few blocks to Font Lake, 1/2 mile to Lake Mich. \$29,000 for all 3. \$5000 down, will finance bal. Call owner in FL (352) 326-8979

#### Real Estate, For Rent:

**CEDAR COTTAGE** - on a bluff with view of harbor and mainland. 1/4 mile south of Catholic Church. 2 BRs, 1dbl. bed, 2 single;. TV/VCR, grill, complete kitchen, washer. No pets. \$540/wk. (734) 769-7565 (day), (734) 475-6178 (evenings).

**HOME ON BEAUTIFUL FOX LAKE** - Sleeps 6. Great fishing. \$100/day or \$600/week. Call (616) 394-5165 or (231) 448-2286

**ENTIRE SUMMER SEASON CABIN RENTALS** - On North Shore available. Memorial Day thru Labor Day. Formerly rented as weekly housekeeping - fully equipped. Ideal for 1 or 2 working people or for a small family's "cottage". References, lease and damage deposit required. \$2,400 each entire season. John Johnson, (616) 842-8214 evenings or [Cloud9@chartermi.net](mailto:Cloud9@chartermi.net)

**DONEGAL BAY**- 3 BR 2 bath Home; sleeps 6; many amenities. \$830 a week. Reduced rates for off-season. Phone (313) 885-7393, after 4:00p.m.

**BEACHFRONT HOUSE FOR RENT** - Exciting cottage with view of High Island from large deck. Open floor plan, huge windows on extremely private beach. 2 BRs with 2 full beds + loft with 2 twins. 1 1/2 baths, TV/VCR, W/D, microwave, gas grill, all amenities. \$1095/week; spring & fall \$895. Limit 6 people. Call (706) 268-2022, (219) 874-4676. May to Nov: 448-2001.



#### HOUSE FOR LEASE -

Three BRs, two and one half bath house for lease. Located right on the south side of the harbor with a great view. 5 minutes to town but a private location too. For more information call Robert at (231) 448-2235



**FOR RENT:** Beautiful secluded new chalet near Donegal Bay's beach and gorgeous sunsets. 3 BR, 2 Bath. MBR has garden tub. W/DR/TV/VCR/Grill. Upon availability, bikes & auto for your use. Sleeps 6-8. No Pets. \$700/week. Ask about our 3-day package. Call (708) 389-0621 (evenings)



**HOUSE FOR SALE - 38745 Squaw Island Ct. in the Port St. James.** Interior not yet finished so you can finish it exactly how you like. Electrical and plumbing have been run and it is connected to GLE. Asking \$50,000. Call (248) 634-5689



**FOR RENT:** Beachfront Home for rent with 3BR and loft—total 5 beds, hot tub, gorgeous views, solitude, wood stove, May-Sept. \$950 / Off-season \$795. Call Perry at (313) 530-9776 or e-mail [pgatliff@hotmail.com](mailto:pgatliff@hotmail.com).

#### FOR SALE:

Beautiful New Log Home located in Port St. James, 1,800 sq. ft. home, planned for efficient living: 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, Cathedral ceilings (T & G Pine), large open loft, master suite with walk-in closet and master bath. Wrap-around covered porches, steep roofline with dormers, cedar siding. Beautiful wooded double lot. Quiet setting. One mile to Port St. James private beach on Lake Michigan. 1.5 miles to St. James village. Contact John McCafferty Construction at (231) 448-2639



**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).

**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. \$700/week. Off-season rates available. Dana Luscombe eves. (248) 549-2701 days (248) 546-6680.

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

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

**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.

**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.

**WEEKLY RENTAL-Harbor Beach** Two-bedroom Condos. \$475/week. Call Carol Wierenga at (231) 448-2808, (231) 448-2598 or (231) 448-2596.

**HOME FOR RENT -** 2 BRs, 1 bath, sleeps 4-6. On 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 information.

#### Services:

**FOR LEASE: STORAGE UNITS** You lock it, you leave it! Emerald Isle Storage. (231) 448-2577

**CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST-** specializing in therapeutic acupressure, reflexology and relaxation. Relax, enjoy and recharge. Reasonable rates. Call for appointment. Karen (231) 448-2266.

#### Wanted:

**HOME BUILDING -** Anticipated starting May 1, 2003 on Donegal Bay. 1000 sq. ft. Cabin. Looking for a carpenter or labor to help for the summer. Will need bids on well, septic, excavating, plumbing, electrical, drywall, roofing. For plans please contact Pat Noland and Nancy Larson, 804 S. Union St., Traverse City, Michigan 49684. (231) 935-3149 phone, (231) 946-5601 fax.

**TO PLACE AN AD,** call (231) 448-2476 or on the web, [www.beaverbeacon.com](http://www.beaverbeacon.com)



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