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*some stories in this issue:*

The Artwork of Sue Thomson - Livingstone Studio

Spores Spring Eternal: Confessions of a Novice Shroomer

Connie Wojan named Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year 2004

Kids reward Volunteers; The Way it Was: Man of Aran; A Hemmingway Regatta

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The *Beaver Beacon* welcomes Island Stories, Articles and Letters to the Editor and would like to thank all those who call and e-mail with news and events.

## Beaver Beacon

the Island Monthly since 1955

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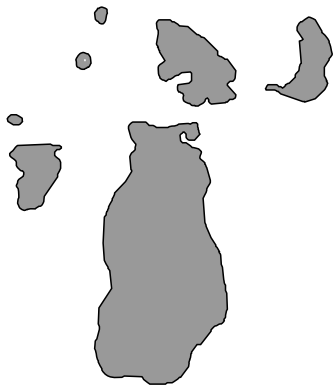
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## News from the Townships

### St. James Town Board

On April 7<sup>th</sup> the Town Board held a brief meeting, with only 3 members attending and 4 in the audience—yet some interesting information was revealed. All but one Township employee will receive a 2% COLA raise, the one being the Harbormaster, whose workload is anticipated to drop because tentative plans are to close the dock around July 1<sup>st</sup> in order for construction to start. \$13,000 has been pegged as the cost to operate the sewer system for a year; “use rates should cover the expense.” As expected, the new Zoning Ordinance was approved and will go into effect 7 days after publication in a newspaper. Another topic on the list for immediate revisions: driveway width and turn-around capabilities (for emergency vehicles.)

The event of the evening was a request by Liam Racine for approval of his attempt to get a seasonal liquor license for the Stoney Acre Grill. He assured the Board he and his wife Marilyn had no intention to make it into a bar, that they only wanted to be able to serve drinks with food, and that they might set aside one table, at most, where people waiting to be seated could have a drink. He said their dream has always been to have a little bistro, and that in the future they may add a formal dining room upstairs.

Joe Moore, Stoney Acre’s neighbor, was there to say he and Phyllis were not in favor of this. He pointed out that when the restaurant opened it was supposed to provide a fence and a

greenbelt. The fence was built, but it fell down, and the greenery was never installed. Liam promised to rebuild the fence immediately and get to work on the greenbelt. The request was consequently approved.

Supervisor Don Vyse brought up three letters. The Road Commission had proposed a county-wide millage to raise funds for roads, but the townships had started squabbling and no agreement was reached. (At present St. James levies 1 mill; 3 townships already levy 2 mills.) Prosecutor Mary Beth Kur had outlined the methods for invoking the Freedom of Information Act and using it to obtain data. And Joe Moore wrote to say that the EMS needed more money—a matter that will be studied.

### Peaine Town Board

The April 14<sup>th</sup> Township Meeting saw a resolution giving the Township the authority for a bond for the East Side Fire Hall. Although this will obligate the Township to payments over the next 30 years, Trustee Paul Nelson said that in his past experience bond issues were frequently paid off early.

The new Zoning Ordinance was approved for publication in a newspaper, after which it will go into effect. Language for proposed millage renewals this summer was approved, as was the annual budget—but only after Trustee Judy Lanier went on record as saying that she wanted the Board to continue to search for ways to improve Beaver Island roads and to expand the miles and applications of dust control. Supervisor Works indicated that he planned to

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work with the Township Engineer to investigate all of the Township's options for improving the roads.

A letter was distributed in which an attorney for the residents of Mike Boyle's Beach suggested Peaine Township orchestrate an abandonment of the extension to the beach of the Mike Boyle's Beach Road, in exchange for funds it could use to upgrade the difficult access to Little Sand Bay. The Board was not receptive to this, thinking that even if it were legal, it still might establish a dangerous precedent.

EMS Chairman Joe Moore read his letter to the Board. He said that the loss of so many paramedics in the past year or so had put him in a situation where he was on call 24/7, and had to handle all of the EMS's functions and obligations (such as arranging for training.) To provide himself a break from the constant stress, he was going to turn over his duties to Vice-chairman Jerry LaFreniere on May 1<sup>st</sup>, help Jerry until June, and then leave the Island for a month for a long-overdue vacation. In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that the EMS and the Fire Department are supposed to be regulated by the Emergency Services Authority, but no one has yet been appointed to that two-man board.

The Planning Commission offered to work on a draft of a Nuisance Ordinance for the Town Board's consideration. It would start with the one enacted in St. James and make changes to reflect Peaine's different issues. It will also look at the sample draft put

together by the Michigan Township Association.

Paul Nelson reported that at a Charlevoix Chapter of Township Officials, many comments were made about the difficulties of the Road Commission, which sounded familiar: "They'll listen to our grievances, but their response is always the same: 'We don't have any money'." Very little gas tax money gets up here, it was said, because an overwhelming preponderance goes to Oakland and Wayne Counties. The County Commissioners feel a motel tax would be self-defeating, and a local gas tax raises legal questions.

On a personal note Nelson said he was tired of having his mailbox knocked down by the snowplow; he thought the plow went too fast, and the goal of keeping 3 lanes open on the East Side Drive was overly ambitious.

Treasurer Tina Morgan has been following the rules by obtaining warrants to collect unpaid personal property taxes from three Island businesses.

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During the winter, Freesoil Avenue resident Gerald Sowa completed an intense technical seminar at the Goldsmith Clubmakers Training Program in Austin, Texas. Begun in 1971, this program was the first of its type in the world. Jerry received a thorough understanding of products, processes and techniques, and shop experience. He worked with the tools and equipment needed in a full-service commercial clubmaking and repair facility.

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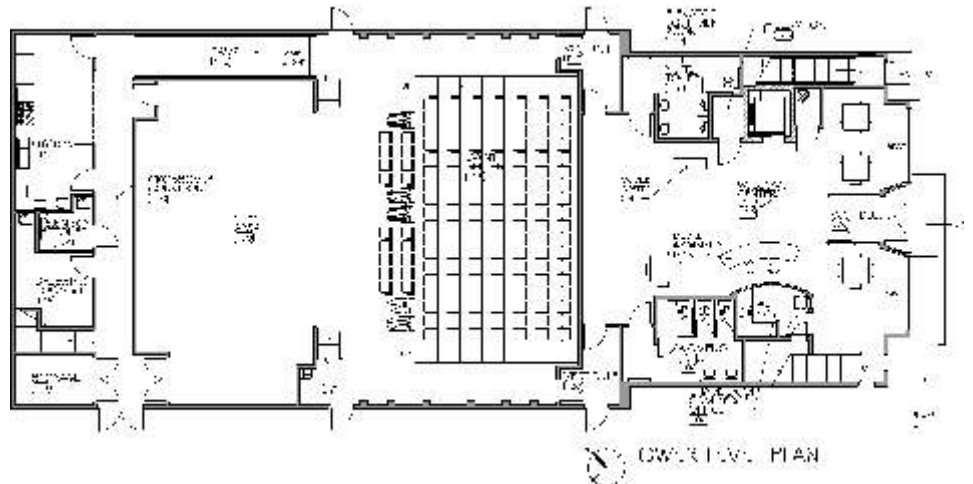
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## Approval Requested for Modified PABI Plan



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April the Preservation Association appeared before the St. James Planning Commission to present a modified plan. A leading theater consulting firm had spent two days on the Island (at Frank Galati's expense) the previous week, and had made some suggestions. The existing plan was okay, they said, but if something exceptional was the goal, then the building should be extended by 23'. The rub was, this would eliminate the five parking places immediately behind.

Before the presentation was made, Don Tritsch, a member of both the PC Board and PABI's Board, was asked if he intended to vote, or would abstain. He stated that this matter had been settled at the previous meeting: he was elected to vote, and felt he could consider this proposal on its merits. But a member of the audience said he thought this would be very difficult—for anyone. When the Board did not agree, he called

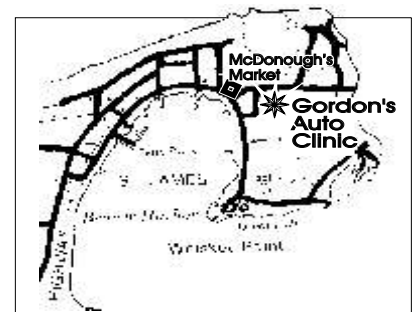
for comment from Township officials, whereupon Don Vyse said that the Town Board did not interfere with the PC.

Judy Lanier made the presentation. She announced that the acquisition of a parking lot next to the Christian Church was proceeding, and that PABI would increase its off-site parking places from 23 to 30 (the lot will hold more, but be shared by other businesses.) The theater consultants felt the stage was too small, the mechanical room was in the way, a back bathroom was needed, the inclusion of an in-ceiling roll-down screen and a projection booth would take additional space, and a dressing room, more storage, and a better spot for utilities were needed. The Welcome Center and Youth/Seniors area could not be made smaller, so the extra 23' would require eliminating 5 on-site parking spots—more than made up for, in her view, by the additional 7 off-site spots.

Much of the discussion centered on

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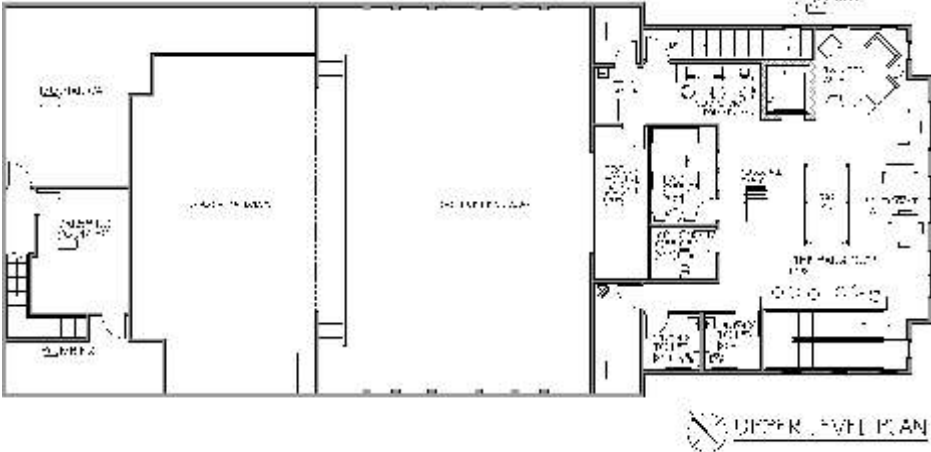
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the means to walk from the proposed new lot to the downtown area. A sidewalk would cost another \$50,000, which the Township could not afford. And it might result in more tree-cutting, depending on the route. Plus there was a concern over who would maintain the sidewalk, especially in the winter.

When the discussion centered on the value of on-site parking, Bill McDonough reported that he had looked into theaters in Charlevoix and Petoskey, both having 500 seats and no on-site parking. Many of the 35 people in attendance spoke out in favor of accepting the modified plan. Kitty McNamara thought we "should do it right," and pointed out that the Island's youth would also benefit from having a professional-quality stage for their musical and dramatic rehearsals and performances. E. B. Lange, Joddy Crosswhite, Donna Stambaugh, Joan and Bob Becker, Pinky Harmon, Lisa

Gillespie, Jon Fogg, and Ed Wojan thought the Island deserved something that was first-rate.

At the beginning of the meeting the PC seemed reluctant to grant this modification. To a certain extent everyone was exhausted from all the changes that had been made over the years to PABI's plans, and the sentiment seemed to be that the PC had gone as far as it could to accommodate these constant modifications. But the overwhelming support offered by the public won over the PC, and it became apparent even before the vote that it would approve. When the vote came, the first three to be cast were for approval, making Don Tritsch's vote unnecessary. Consequently, he voluntarily abstained. The fifth vote was not cast because Chairman John Fiegen was off the Island.

The next step following this approval: soon the project will go out on bids.

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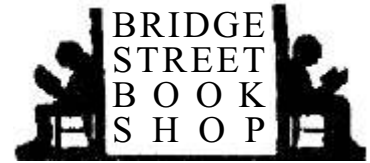


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Beaver Island Hospice & Helping Hands – Organization of the Year

## 2004 Citizen of the Year

On April 24<sup>th</sup> a sell-out, spill-over crowd gathered at the Beaver Island Lodge for an elegant dinner and the presentation of awards for both individual and group Citizen of the Year for 2004. Speculation ran rampant during the meal and the opening remarks afterwards by Chamber Director Steve West, who talked about the Chamber's phenomenal growth in the past few years.

Chamber President Kathy Speck said that this year it was particularly hard to pick a winner from the many individuals and groups nominated. To prove it, she read several of the comments that had been attached to nominations:

For the Rural Health Center Board: "all these individuals dedicate so much of their life to serving the community as volunteers," and "what these wise, far-sighted individuals accomplished and endured has brought us a new Health Center and Staff poised for a bright future."

For the owners and staff of McDonough's Market: "they set their business needs aside regularly to help with many Island boards," and "they have made innumerable contributions and sponsored fund-raisers for Islanders in need."

For Nina's Restaurant and the Beaver Island Lodge: "over the last several years they have raised around \$20,000 for Island organizations, such as the Health Center and the Senior Housing project."

For the Beaver Island Hospice and

Helping Hands (members include Joyce Runberg, Lois Williams, Pat Rowley, Sandy LoDico, Pinky Harmon, Margaret Bass, Penny Young, Sue Welke, Jane Dwyer, Floss Frank, Mary Kay Dorais, Kay McElwain, Di Shoop, Shirley Sowa, Lois Rich, Nancy Cull, Helen Pike, Eula Thomas, Karen Whitecraft, Donna Kubic, and John Fiegen): "they have more care, love, and devotion in their hearts than any other group," and "over the past nine years they have assisted patients and family members in need of respite care, helping as many as 22 patients in a single year."

And for the Fire Department: "they are dedicated to this entire community. We could never thank them enough for their volunteer efforts to keep us safe."

The nominations for individuals were equally glowing:

For Father Pat: "he is a very Christian man who inspires all the people who hear him to be better and to make this a better world."

For Master Sergeant Ron Gregg: "we are all so proud to have him in our Beaver Island family."

For Phil Gregg (some put Phil and Lil together): "besides his fantastic sense of humor, he can play a deadly hand of euchre, and engage the interest of all ages with his stories and slide shows," "Phil and Lil are hard to separate because they've shared their many humanitarian





Chamber of Commerce President Kathy Speck presents Connie Wojan with the 2004 Citizen of the Year Award

contributions as a couple,” “they are eternal optimists, always having something positive to say about anyone.” “Phil epitomizes the adage, *you can get a lot done if you don't care who gets the credit*,” and “their long years of faithful service behind the scenes are remarkable.”

For Grace Matela: “she has put in thousands of hours on the finances of the Health Center and BITA while doing the bookkeeping for a large Chicago company and taking care of her mother, preferring to work out of the spotlight.”

For Bill McDonough: “he has been instrumental in many major civic and private projects, such as the *Emerald Isle*, the two ferry docks, and the land and financing for the Health Center.”

For Kathy Speck: “she has put in so many selfless hours with the Community Choir,” and “she has managed to create an atmosphere of peace in her church and community; when everyone wants to fight, she provides the vehicle (music) to bring them together.”

For Don Spencer: “he is the volunteer most responsible for the new Health Center,” and “he has provided encouragement while persisting in pursuing his mission.”

For Paul Welke: “he is a quiet man with a huge heart,” “if a plane or boat is missing, he's the first in the air, and he doesn't know the word *quit*,” and “all those times he crawled out of a nice warm bed to transport a patient to the mainland,

no matter what.”

For Connie Wojan: “because of all the hard work and long hours she has contributed for over a decade,” “for all her years of service to the School and the Health Center,” “she has endured more hardships this past year than one person should have to bear,” “for all the little things she does, such as her Wednesday morning story hour,” and “she is a soft-spoken, loving, and generous person, and has held strong in her leadership, manifesting courage and compassion.”

And for Jim Wojan: “he has contributed for many, many years,” “starting with being a charter member and assistant chief of the Fire Department, to the work he did for the Ice Rink,” “he has been the St. James Treasurer for many years, and done so much for so many Township projects,” and “he has made Beaver Island a better place to live.”

As the name of each nominee was read, the feeling was, yes, of course, that's who it has to be. In the end, the winners were Connie Wojan as an individual and the 19-member ‘Hospice and Helping Hands’ as a group. Kathy spoke about several of their accomplishments and contributions which were not readily apparent, and everyone present agreed the choices had been well made. Thanks to Steve West and Jason Allen, each received an official Certificate of Tribute signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm.



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## The Way it Was: Man of Aran Submitted by Rod Nackerman

It was a glorious summer day in 1915, with clusters of elderberry blossoms dangling like woolly tassels from the shrubbery lining the estuary of the great Chicago River as it deposited its muddy torrent to sully the crystal-clear waters of the great Lake Michigan in the United States of America. There had been a fierce war raging somewhere in the Western hemisphere but most of the subjects of this 'Land of the Free' went about their normal chores, knowing little about this affair and indeed caring little about it either. It was only when the newspapers carried tidings of some American vessel being scuttled on the high seas that any interest was awakened, as the sinking of the *Lusitania* had aroused in the early part of the year.

So here in the narrow streets of the blustery city the bustle of the grain buggies prevailed as they plied to and fro with their swollen sacks of wheat and corn, heading for the wharves, where steamers from other lands had their hatches open to receive whatever cargo was for export. The only difference this sunny day was that the streets were much clogged by the landaus which overtook the laden buggies with scornful indifference as their affluent owners

hurried out of town to wallow in the sunshine of the countryside.

Peter Boyle, a swarthy seaman, had just arrived from his home on Beaver Island in the far North. His ship being two days on the journey, and him having but little rest, he was feeling bedraggled for the lack of sleep, and being still young, in his late twenties, he was conscious of being smutty as well. All he longed for now was a tub of steamy hot water in some local saloon and a trip to the barber shop to have his beard trimmed and his bushy locks shortened to his taste. Peter had been born three thousand miles to the West on Arranmore Island. Like all island men, he had been a man of the sea all his life, as had his predecessors, and when the time came to fend for himself he had to consider emigrating, as most of his compeers had already done.

This did not worry him because he had already decided where to go, and what career to follow. Many of his friends had already gone abroad and like true island men got positions as crew-men on sea-going vessels plying here and there on the great American Lakes. Most of those he knew had settled on Beaver Island, and it was there he also decided to go. Having 'friends

in court,' it did not take him long to get a job as a trimmer, and he was now all set to make his fortune, with Arranmore just a memory.

The sea was in his blood, and he was not afraid of it. Fourteen years earlier his older brother Dan had drowned on the Wicklow coast when *The Exile*, on which he was a deck-hand, foundered on a reef during a gale. But Aran folk were no strangers to such tragedies and learned to accept them as a 'way of life.' So on this fine morning as he ambled along the wharves he was as happy as any man in Chicago. He selected a barber's saloon on the promenade close to the confluence of the lake and the majestic river that had come in from the country many miles away. The barber was busy, and as Peter had to take his turn he settled for a cozy arm-chair close to a window overlooking the quays. After a brief spell he heard a ship's klaxon sounding close at hand and on looking out beheld a medium-sized pleasure-boat chugging down the river, with a multitude of passengers lined up on her starboard rail waving pennants and cheering while a rag-time orchestra belted out a tune from the forward poop. As Peter sat there taking in this scenario the thought

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struck him that the passengers were on one side and the vessel was off her centre of gravity and listing dangerously.

'She must have no ballast at all,' he thought as the barber nudged him that his chair was now vacant. As he walked across the floor there was a tumult of shouting and screaming coming from the street, and, rushing back to the window, Peter went rigid as he beheld the pleasure-boat's gunwale disappear under the edge of the wharf and her passengers being toppled into the swirling current. There was an outburst of yelling and screaming with street pedestrians running in all directions wondering if what they were seeing was real. A geyser of water belched into the air as the funnels disappeared below the waterline and those passengers who could swim thrashed about with others hanging onto them in their panic.

The ship's life-boat had been dislodged from its davits and was now being carried away down stream. Peter instantly bounded through the open door and without hesitation bounded into the turbulent water as many hands reached out to him, so many that he saw he was in danger of being swamped. He disregarded all pleas for help and being a strong swimmer headed out after the

capsized lifeboat.

He knew the drill in such procedures, and in very little time he was safely aboard and rowing desperately back to where the helpless people were trying to keep afloat. With the energy of a giant he began hauling them aboard one by one, while others clung desperately to the sides. In less than ten minutes the lifeboat was clogged with dripping women and children, and knowing that they at least were safe he began to swim out into the depths again, searching for others. He could see none, and coming to the conclusion that many had already drowned he guided the rescued gang back to the slipway.

Just as the last of them was on dry ground, a piercing cry came from far down the estuary. In that direction he saw what seemed to be a teenage girl being carried out into the lake. Why he did not resort to the boat he had just emptied remains a mystery to this day, but he jumped into the water instead and swam strongly out towards the distressed girl while dozens of spectators watched but offered no other help.

With powerful strokes he closed in fast, and in spite of her exhaustion the girl swam to meet him. He managed to get her turned on her back. Adopting

the same position himself, he grasped her firmly between his thighs and swam towards the shore. With her soaking clothes and inability to offer him any help at all, his legs began to submerge. With mighty strokes he ploughed his course backwards while his torso sank lower and lower. Eventually he shouted for help, and although there was an empty boat lying by the slip-way, no one thought of going to his aid. When the girl seemed to have died, the load on his body became unbearable. His energy was fast drying out, and enhancing his buoyancy was no longer in his power. With one final gasp he flung up his hands and disappeared below the waters of Lake Michigan.... He was far from home.

I have been told that some Friendly Society or another erected a monument to commemorate his heroic feat, and that it can be seen there to this day. Although Peter was my mother's cousin, I have never heard whether his body was ever found, or whether he is buried in the States. He was not married, and of course there are no children who could be contacted.

For those who came from Arranmore, it was not always the good life that they found. – Bernard J. Byrne



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## Spores Spring Eternal: Confessions of a Novice Shroomer

My search began in earnest, if not a bit early. Once most of the snow departed and the mid-April days began to warm, the urge to splurge my time hunting the elusive morel mushroom simply became too great to ignore.

Sure, there were plenty of chores to be done, both inside and out here at our still-new-to-us house and property, but my wife Sue was gone to her annual conference in Florida, and the only one left to convince into going for a ride in the truck and a walk in the woods was Goober, our trusty canine. It was an easy sell.

Armed with a few hints Sue picked up over the winter, along with the first-hand news of one local fellow having found some fresh mushrooms a few days earlier, I was off.

To put things in perspective, there are a number of parallels between mushroom hunting in a "new" location and fishing in unknown waters. Faced with a new lake or river to fish, the piscator must determine possible feeding areas along with depths and currents, all while taking into consideration the time of day, water temperature, and even the play of shadows. Similarly, the

mushroomer has to identify potential habitats by noting tree types, while considering the double effects of daytime and nighttime temperatures as well as moisture content of the soil. Also, in searching for the elusive morel, one must be able to identify the true, tasty black or yellow mushrooms from the false, let's just say icky, ones, remembering the number one rule of mushroom hunters everywhere: If in doubt, throw it out.

Another lesson I've learned along the way is that just as in fishing there is a big difference between casting and catching when it comes to actually locating the too-often well-hidden morel.

Which brings me to the novice part of this story. While Sue and I certainly enjoy fresh, wild mushrooms, we are not, by any means, fanatics. Yes, we did spend some time hunting for morels while living in the Upper Peninsula, but the few tips we received there were either directions toward the proverbial wild goose, or straightforward fish stories. Mostly, the good folks up there would simply laugh whenever the topic came up of where the mushrooms might

be. They would then offer such specific directions as, "In the woods," or "Just out of town." So, we went, we looked, we mostly came home with empty bags.

As a youngster growing up in Leelanau County, I remember some successful family mushroom outings, but that was there, and then, while this is here, and now. Sue, on the other hand, recalls some successful trips here many years ago with her parents and those wonderful naturalists, Bea and Sheldon Parker. Unfortunately, she can't quite recall where those might have been.

But the morels are out there, or soon will be. And even just the search for them is enjoyable. It provides me with a chance to once again explore and discover the wonder of this Island, while at the same time reorienting myself to some of my old haunts. Besides, there really isn't such a thing as a bad day spent in the woods—a point exclamationed the other day as I stumbled upon a nesting pair of red-tailed hawks. Then there is the sage advice someone shared with us: "If you can't find mushrooms on Beaver Island, you're not going to find them anywhere." Encouraging words, provided you do indeed

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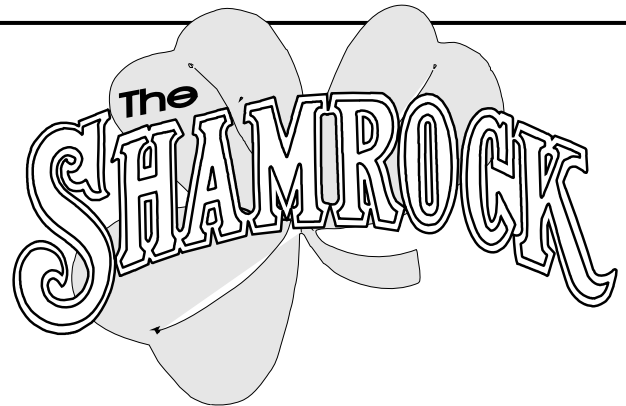
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## Laurain Lodge Beaver Island Morel Contest

find some.

So far this spring I've scouted a number of promising locations, and have a few more to check out as the weather warms and we await some life-giving rain. And, with any luck, I'll not only find those treasured morels, I'll still get some chores done before Sue returns.

In the meantime, while I'm off in the woods, whereabouts untold, I leave you with this ode to the mushroom from my "Merely a Yoooper" collection.

### MORELS

Searching stands of aspen  
hands and knees and nose  
close to damp ground,  
seeking brown against brown  
wrinkled veins of earth fruit.

Spores spread by birds,  
by animals, by wind,  
by others, like me, who seek  
the soft gamy flesh  
once found  
carried home in mesh  
bags, harvesting and sowing  
all at once.

—Frank Solle



The Laurain Lodge, feeling that someone besides Marge Peters (last year's winner, pictured) must have the *magic eye*, is continuing its annual contest for the biggest Island-picked morel by offering a \$100 prize.

Larry Laurain will pick the winter, using a special mushroom caliper to ascertain the circumference and height. In case of identical entrants, the tie will be broken by weight—and if they weigh the same, by taste. The contest will remain open until the day after no more morels are being found. (Note: inflation with an air pump is strictly not allowed.)

For more information, contact Larry and Theresa Laurain at the Laurain Lodge: (231) 448-2099

## Kerrie Gillespie wins TDS Essay Contest

TDS Telecom announced that BICS senior Kerrie Gillespie won its annual Essay Contest, receiving a \$200 scholarship.

She's now in the running for the next round of awards, \$10,000 in scholarship money at the national level. If she wins that, her sponsoring teacher will also receive \$500 in edu-

cational materials. Needless to say, she's receiving plenty of encouragement and advice.

Kerrie was praised for her excellent submission, which demonstrated a high degree of writing talent—only fitting for the daughter of the Island's former (and still undefeated in open competition) poet laureate.

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## AmVets' Sock Hop a Big Success



The AmVets chose a good time to put on their Sock Hop at the Holy Cross Hall on April 24<sup>th</sup> because everyone, it seems, was in need of just such a festivity. Singing-and-dancing DJ Joe Nagabra (who donated his time for the event) kept the party-goers sock-hopping.

## Turkey Season Takes Off

Our spring turkey-hunting season was launched on April 19<sup>th</sup> with a handful of hunters, who paid the \$14 resident fee, making like hens. Sitting in junipers or hunkered down in a stand of pine, camouflaged to the nines, they've been trying to call the gobblers with a variety of sounds. The roosters are rutting, and while they don't mind calling back, they prefer to continue

prancing in circles and showing off for the hens they can see. The male turkey's attitude seems to be, no matter how entrancing are the calls, a bird in the hand is better than one in the bush.

Last year 33,000 turkeys were tagged in Michigan (combined for all seasons) by 89,000 hunters, out of a population estimated to be more than 200,000 birds.

## A Hemmingway Regatta

James Hartwell, owner of Horton Bay's Red Fox Inn, has long cherished the memory of Ernest Hemingway, who stayed in the Inn as a young man and set many of his Nick Adams stories here. Now Hartwell has proposed organizing a Regatta on Hemingway's birthday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, in which both sail and power boats would cruise together from Horton Bay to Beaver Island. Boats from Beaver Island would gather at Horton Bay, and after a ceremony set off in mid-morning—thus some boaters would have to leave Beaver the night before and anchor in Horton Bay's harbor, from which shuttles would bring them ashore. Possibilities being discussed: sequenced readings of the Nick Adams stories from boat to boat, and captains or crew dressed as representative Hemingway characters—with not everyone allowed to be *The Old Man and the Sea*.

## Telehealth Presentations

Two free presentations were made at the Health Center at the end of April. The morning's was "Depression in the Elderly," followed by "Living with Grief: Alzheimer's Disease." More are expected to regularly follow.

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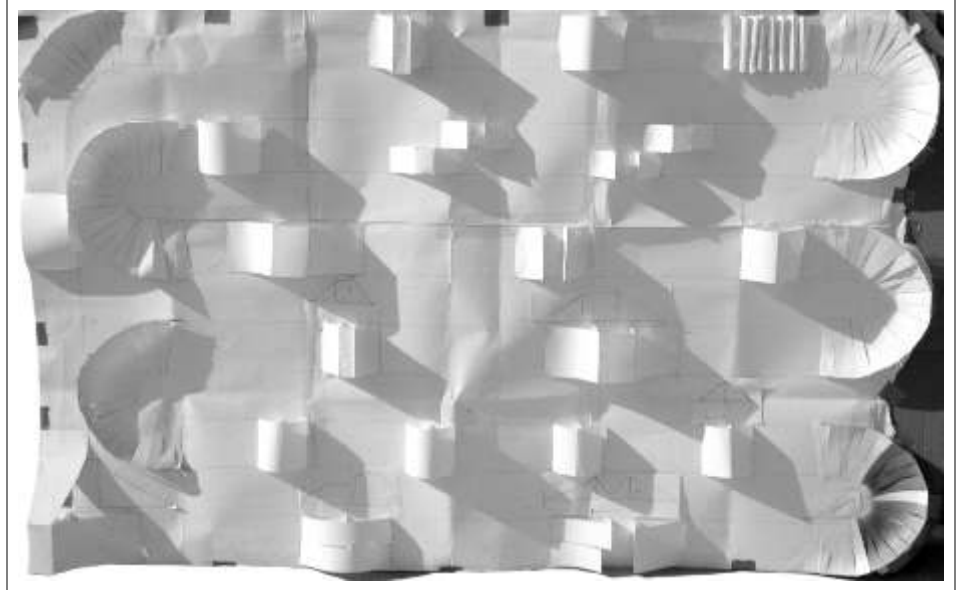


## Plan is Proposed for the BMX Track

On April 14<sup>th</sup> the Township Board received a second presentation for a BMX track from three BICS students Christine Runberg, John Albin, and Dan Runberg, who had made a table-sized paper model to illustrate their ideas. The plan, for which they requested permission, not funding, occupied 111' x 176'; it featured four long runs, banked corners, a 10'-high starting block, a 6' jump, and 26 total 'events.'

They thought it would cost about \$2,000. After reading about their first request, Ralph and Jeanne Graham had offered to pay half, and the balance of the start-up money could come from a series of fund-raisers. Some events (races and stunts) might attract spectators who would make donations as well.

They had 57 signatures from students who would take a turn maintaining it—twice-a-week sprinkling, raking, and repacking would be required during the season, with shifts being two hours. The budget included money to purchase specialized tools. The track would be built from high-clay gravel, requiring between 100 and 120 yards. If the park were coated with concrete its use could be broadened and maintenance regularity might decrease, but the cost of such



an enterprise is prohibitive.

After the presentation, the Board responded. It was impressed with the amount of thought that had gone into planning the track, and believed that BMX stunting was a growing sport with interest and application here. But it was also concerned that the plan was too ambitious. It said that other students had pressed for a skating rink behind the Town Hall, and that had been built, but after the initial fascination subsided it

had fallen into disuse. The Supervisor admired them for acting to bring about their dream, but was afraid maintenance duties would be shirked. Some kind of proof of sustainability was thought to be in order, either a contractor or a bond.

After discussion a next step was formulated: scale the plan back, come back for approval, build it, and operate it to gain experience. If no insurmountable problems are uncovered, expand the track the following year.

**"So I would say those are the three components: basic understanding, passion, and balance."**

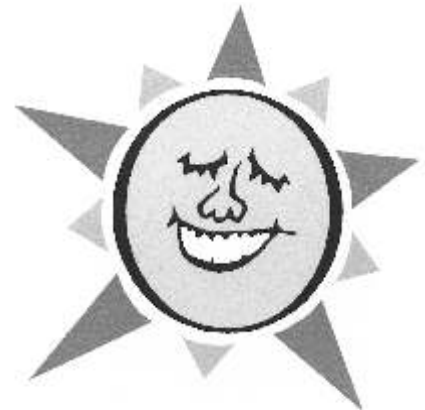
**"On top of it, the one word, again, is passion."**

**-Ferdinand Metz, President Culinary Institute of America**

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## The Historical Society prepares for a New Season



Willy John Gallagher



Captain Winter at Whiskey Point



L.J. Malloy fixing his nets

Even though groups have already started to arrive to see the Mormon Print Shop and the Marine Museum, the official opening is not until June 20<sup>th</sup>. New displays will be in place, and new books available. Volunteer Coordinator Joyce Bartels is struggling to replace three of the 26 helpers required to keep both museums open all summer. So if you know anyone you think might enjoy greeting newcomers and chatting about the Island's past for three hours a week, have them (or you) drop her a line at [ancstrseek@aol.com](mailto:ancstrseek@aol.com) – remember, this is a very rewarding thing to do. She'll conduct an orientation on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Over the winter, much time was spent trying to obtain permits from the

DEQ for needed work at the Marine Museum—for a roof over the *Bob S* and a revetment to protect the net shed's foundation. After much frustration, Township Engineer Gary Voogt stepped in, and shortly thereafter the DEQ offered to compromise. New engineering drawings are needed, and Gary is helping with that as well. Consequently the Historical Society feels this work can be done in the fall.

In the past few months the BIHS scoured its archives for pictures to use in a collage for the opening of the *Moondance Productions* film about Arranmore and Beaver Island, which is just about done. Another project on which much time has been spent is the preparation for reprinting Elizabeth Whit-

ney Williams book, first published in 1905, *Child of the Sea*. The copyright was obtained by Agnes Allen and given to the BIHS. The book was reprinted before, but the plates were lost so the book had to be rescanned, page by page.

Elizabeth's father came to Beaver Island to work as a carpenter on King Strang's home (she says he built a rear addition for Strang and "Charlie," his exuberant, capable, attractive, and young second wife, and that wives 3, 4, and 5 had to stay in the main house.) Mary Scholl finished a wonderful colorful painting for the new cover, showing a young Elizabeth watching her husband trying to save seamen just past the Whiskey Point Light (he lost his life in the pro-

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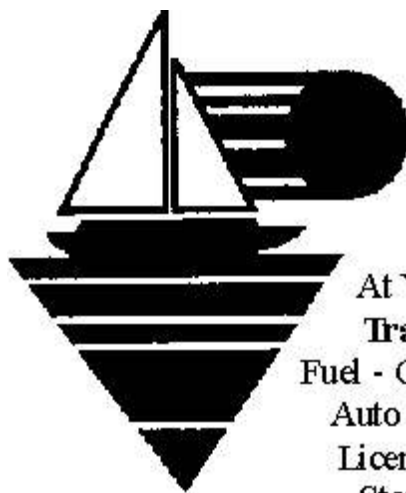
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Gat Cole at Nomad



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Bringing in the sheaves

cess) while the presence of Strang looms over her shoulder. Her father was one of the last non-Mormons to leave, moving to Charlevoix in time for the Battle of Pine River, at which her half-brother Lewis was shot. She cites several specific cases of why Strang was so reviled.

Other projects to be stressed this year include adding more signs at historic locations, increasing the exhibits at the budding Heritage Park (Shaker Hites offered to help create a replica sawmill; his family has spent their life in this trade), and the continuing recording of Oral History. If you know a good story about the Island's past, be sure to stop by the Print Shop so it can be preserved; with every year that goes by and every

step into the globalized modern age, tales of our unique past become increasingly treasured.

The Strang Writers' Group's Conference will take place on May 21- 23, and will include a reading of a new version of John Baldwin's play about King Strang. The drama department at MSU is considering staging this in East Lansing in 2006; if so, their cast may come here, lock stock and barrel, to put it on in the new Community House Theater.

The Spring Newsletter will go out in early May, filling in the details and giving everyone a chance to renew their membership (despite the still uncertain economy, last year's membership total was a healthy 366.) If you're not on the

mailing list, you can add your name by e-mailing [history@beaverisland.net](mailto:history@beaverisland.net) or calling (231) 448-2254.

Despite much offered help, the Historical Society could not accomplish the purchase of the Cull House next door, and it is no longer available. So now the plan is to push ahead with an addition. The next few years will be important for making the right decisions; the way this is done will greatly define how future Beaver Islanders regard their past. So if you've ever thought you might someday like to get involved, now is the time.

Museum Week will be July 12 - 17. The Art Show should be better than ever; the 'GLLKA Ladies' will return; and new presentations have been offered.

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## A Beaver Island Artist

For the past ten years, *Livingstone Studio*, Sue Thomson's gallery, has taken up an increasing amount of space at Karl Felix's old Rustic Villa near Whiskey Point. Many of its customers come back year after year—some even organize special Beaver Island shopping trips before or early in the season. Yet not every person strolling through realizes that some of the most exquisite pieces among work from over thirty artists and craftspeople were done by Sue herself.

Sue knew she was destined to be an artist from kindergarten on. She has honed her talent throughout her life, taking college courses on occasion but not wanting to lock herself into a rigorously narrow field by getting a degree. With a wonderful sense of color and shape, she can create both balance and surprise in a wide variety of media. She takes the intuitive approach: instead of setting out to embed a particular idea, she prefers to start work, let the piece take shape, and then try to pry out the secret of what it wants to be. Sometimes the work pulls her in so deeply, and the act of creation becomes so intense, that she isn't sure when to stop—or doesn't want to.

“Bringing something to life is the best way I know of to relax,” she says. As gallery manager as well as artist, she has to continuously shift to the opposite mode. “The transition used to tear me



apart, but I finally learned not to fight it, to just do what was needed.”

It's been said that her work is like a stream of consciousness. “The whole reason for doing this,” she said. “Is to see someone's face light up.” This is the criteria she uses for selecting other artists to represent as well. “I look for things that delight people and make them feel good. I suppose some of the art from the dark side is legitimate, but that's not what I want to show.” Almost all of the 1,500 pieces she's sold (at prices ranging from a dollar to several hundred) exemplify this view.

At times, life was very tough here, but Mary Scholl took her under her wing early on, mentoring her in the art of survival. Year after year her confidence has grown. A few years ago she expanded into a second cabin (plus she lives in a third, so she's always there), which holds many decorative items for the home.

This year she's beginning to attract some national interest. One of her sculptures is featured this month in *Artella*, for example. She truly enjoys the relationships she's formed through her gallery, with both customers and artists. To facilitate a greater interaction between these groups she's starting a “Meet the Artist” day: each Saturday afternoon in July. She hopes those who come for this will be pleased by an expansion of their knowledge and joy.



## On This Date

**Ten Years Ago** The winning limerick from St. Patrick's Day was published in the *Beacon*, a team effort by Julie Gillespie, Beth Lucas, and Kathleen Green:

*There once was a lass from Kilkeny*

*Who stumbled upon a lost penny*

*She fell in a hole*

*After meeting B Cole*

*And said "Ooh baby I haven't had any."*

Chicago's Thai Temple, in conjunction with the Midwest Buddhist Council, offered a one-day Meditation Retreat on Beaver Island on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Chuen Phangcham planned to offer a full day of "insight meditation" for anyone seeking peace of mind and self-understanding.

Russ Green's Retirement Party was set for May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Peaine Township talked about raising \$750,000 to apply a hard surface to 20 miles of Island roads: the East Side Drive, Sloptown, Darkeytown, McCauley's, and Paid Een Og. The supervisor recommended 2 mills be assessed to begin procuring these funds.

Open positions: manager of Holy Cross convent rental program, and Red Cross certified swimming instructor for the Beaver Island Community School.

The March of Dimes' Mother's March set a record by raising \$1,484

from 53 donors.

The passing of Carl Braden was noted, a frequent visitor who, with his son-in-law Ray Becker, purchased a cottage on Michigan Avenue in 1966.

**Twenty Years Ago** At Peaine Township's Annual Meeting, Bob McGlocklin proposed that any Board member not attending a meeting be docked \$100 from his or her salary.

In discussion of building a new Town Hall, Joe Cunningham suggested that it be built at the Township Airport, and Paul Rolain thought realtors should be approached about selling the property at Four Corners. St. James was to be asked for permission to build at the jointly-owned airport. Paul Rolain also asked for the formation of a "road improvement" committee.

At a special meeting Al Dudzik spoke against building the Town Hall at the Airport, and suggested that the old Peaine Town Hall property (on King's Highway) be improved by digging a north-south drainage ditch.

At the St. James Annual Meeting Gay Cole, representing the Civic Association, announced a Clean-up Day for Main Street, and asked for \$250 to build benches to place around the harbor and \$300 for fireworks. Expanding the Ball

Park and straightening the Donegal Bay Road curve were also discussed. Some members of the audience asked why there were two townships, and appointed themselves as an informal committee to study how to unite them into one.

At the regular meeting following, Cole's requests were approved. Phil Gregg appeared on the behalf of the Historical Society to discuss its planned storage (and possibly display) building at Heritage Park.

The Game Club decided to spend \$1,000 to plant Tiger Muskies in Font Lake and \$600 to plant Brook Trout in beaver ponds around the Island.

The Fire Department Auxiliary asked for volunteers to staff the Resale Shop.

The Sweet Adelines, after much success, announced they were disbanding because of a lack of interest.

The Civic Association announced its Harbor Beautification plan, a property improvement contest, the starting of flower and rock gardens, and a new bulletin board near the boat dock. It also provided an information center, brochures (some of which were placed in various tourist stops around the state), Fourth of July fireworks, and the Winter Games. They asked businesses to join for an annual fee of \$35.

*Oh For the Love of... Skip McDonough*

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual BI Celebrity Roast Honors Skip McDonough

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**Thirty Years Ago** On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May every student boarded the *Beaver Island* for a 7:00 a.m. departure and a series of trips. Fred Annand met the juniors and seniors in a new motor home, and drove them to Lansing. There they acquired two additional vans for a trip, chaperoned by John and Jean Gillespie, to the Air Force Museum in Dayton. That evening they camped on King's Island, a huge amusement park. The next day they sampled the rides and then headed for the Cincinnati Zoo. After six days of hectic traveling they returned to Charlevoix.

In the meantime the 5<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> graders boarded a big school bus: 33 students, plus Sister Nancy, Sister Agatha, Sister Jane, and Sister JoAnn, and Bing and Madonna McCafferty and Lil and Phil Gregg. They too headed for Lansing's Holiday Inn, their home base. They toured the Capital, and then took in a movie. The next day they drove to Greenfield Village. The following day they headed back to Charlevoix.

The youngest group confined their travel to nearby sites. Chaperoned by Lil Cole, Rita Gillespie, Mary Gillespie, Skip McDonough, Joy Green, Sister Emeliana, Lil Left, and Karen Campbell, they set off for Daniels' Dairy Farm. The

next day they visited the Petoskey Fire and Police Stations, the Call of the Wild in Gaylord, the Fish Hatchery in Oden, and several schools and businesses. They met up with the next older group for the ferry back.

The West-Pike nuptials took place on April 13<sup>th</sup>, joining Steve and Elaine, who had met at Nazareth College.

The passing of Sister Alexandra Gallagher at age 89 was noted. Born on Beaver Island as one of Salty Gallagher and Hannah McCauley's 13 children (including Mamie Salty, whose cabin still sits a mile west of the Fox Lake Road), she entered the convent at 19 and served for 70 years.

**Forty Years Ago** The new Fire Officer Bill Wagner reported on April's weather: a high of 80°, and a low of 9°. After a dark winter, the Whiskey Point Light began to shine again during April.

Four children made their first communion at Holy Cross Church: Julie Gillespie, Doris Kenwabakise, Pam McDonough, and Ray Cole.

The first boat to tie up at the after the ice left Yacht Dock was Tom Loeb's *Tim-Tom* from Charlevoix; he was also first the year before.

The Rustic Villa's Ellen Hill produced and directed a synchronized swim-

ming show in New Delhi (after spending a year in an ice show in Chicago.) Among the guests was Ambassador Chester Bowles.

The smelt run was heavy but short-lived, lasting only 3 nights, but the suckers continued to splash into the Island streams. Brook Trout were being taken at Fox Lake, the largest, early in the season, being 16". The Game Club thought the turkeys were doing fine.

Experts Milt Bennett and Karl Kuebler were finding mushrooms by the barrelful.

The new Erin Motel was nearing completion.

The PTA discussed how to raise funds to support an activities program for the students. On Drama Night, the six performances presented included one, *Surrender at Appomattox*, that was written as well as enacted by the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Ed Wojan won the school's essay contest; John Gillespie was the top draftsman; and Pam McDonough, Joan LaFreniere, and Audrey Wojan won special scholastic awards. Entertainment at the High School Banquet was provided by Robert, Edward, and Evelyn Palmer.

Walter Wojan and Rogers Carlisle offered rare 'black beaver' pelts for sale.



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## Prosecutor Mary Beth Kur to Seek Re-Election



Prosecutor Mary Beth Kur has announced her intention to seek her third term of office. Prosecutor Kur, 41, of Charlevoix began her service in the Charlevoix County Prosecutor's office in 1993. She will run as a Republican.

"Our goal in the Prosecutor's Office is to continue providing aggressive, but fair, prosecution of criminals, while staying within the budget set for us by the Board of Commissioners," Kur said. During her tenure as Prosecutor she has turned back \$134,000 in unused funds to the County's general fund. She has received the endorsement of five of the six Charlevoix County Commissioners.

Kur's office was one of only four in Michigan chosen for a pilot project in conjunction with Attorney General Mike Cox. The grant-funded project is aimed at reducing domestic violence. Grant monies have resulted in the hiring of a Special Assistant Attorney General for Charlevoix County, Mike

Findlay, who specializes in domestic violence prosecution.

Prosecutor Kur has recently been recognized for her work in the prosecution of domestic violence by Governor Granholm, who appointed her to the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board. Kur is also a Board member of the Northern Michigan Child Abuse Council. She has been elected by her peers to serve on the Board of Directors of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.

Kur's trial work consists of an array of high-profile, complex felony cases, as well as many cases in the District and Family Courts. In her entire career as a trial lawyer, she has never had a conviction reversed by an appeals court.

"Over the past 11 years, I have been a successful advocate in court for crime victims, for children who have been neglected or abused, and for all the citizens of Charlevoix County," Kur explained. "I want to continue my service to the public, because we make a difference. While we cannot undo the effects of a violent crime, a conviction can give victims some peace of mind and allow them to move ahead with life. Being a part of that process is very gratifying to me."



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## Patching the B-ball Court

The 7<sup>th</sup> - and 8<sup>th</sup> -graders at the BICS have taken on another urgent need: improving the basketball court behind the school. The cement has cracked, and indestructible picnic tables and a garbage can are needed.

The kids knew money was the main obstacle, so they held a bake sale at McDonough's Market on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and then presented a check for the proceeds to the School Board the next day. They hope additional funds might be available from the school's 'Sinking Fund,'

which was set up to pay for school repairs. Michelle LaFreniere hopes to complete the work before Island Clean-Up Day on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Her crew of Caitlin Boyle, Hannah Connor, Patrick Cull, Deven Cook, Maeve Green, Signe' Thomas, Eric Albin, Leah Cary, Brittany Crandall, Kevin Gillespie, Samantha Kuligoski, Brenden Martin, Andrea Moore, Melissa Peters, Jeffery Smith and Daniel Runberg should be congratulated for identifying a problem and vigorously attacking it.

## The Beginning of Summer...



### **SOFTBALL** (2004)

**BEGINNING: MAY 24<sup>th</sup> - JULY 28<sup>th</sup>**

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**TEE-BALL (1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE)**  
(GRADE JUST COMPLETED)

**MON: 6:30 - 7:30**

**LITTLE LEAGUE (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE)**

**TUES: 6:00 - 7:00**

**BIG LEAGUE (9<sup>th</sup> GRADE - ADULTS)**

**TUES: 7:30 - 8:30**

#### **EQUIPMENT:**

**GLOVE, T-SHIRT, TENNIS SHOES OR SOFTBALL CLEATS, PANTS OR SHORTS (NO-OPENED TOE SHOES OR DRESSES)**



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## The Class of 2021



Here they are... the three musketeers: (left to right: Mackenzie Rose Martin, Emmalee Susan Antkoviak, and Skylar Faith Marsh.) As these three Island children prepare to start on the road that will lead them to graduate in only seventeen

years, it looks like they're plotting something big! Right now they're neck and neck, but keep reading the *Beacon* for further updates as they move from kindergarten to elementary to middle school and on to high school.

## Kids reward Volunteers

For National Volunteer Week, Michelle LaFreniere has worked with the 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>- graders to identify the Island's many "official" volunteers (300+, representing 37 organizations), approach Island businesses for the donation of prizes, and then hold a drawing to determine their distribution.

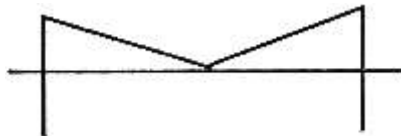
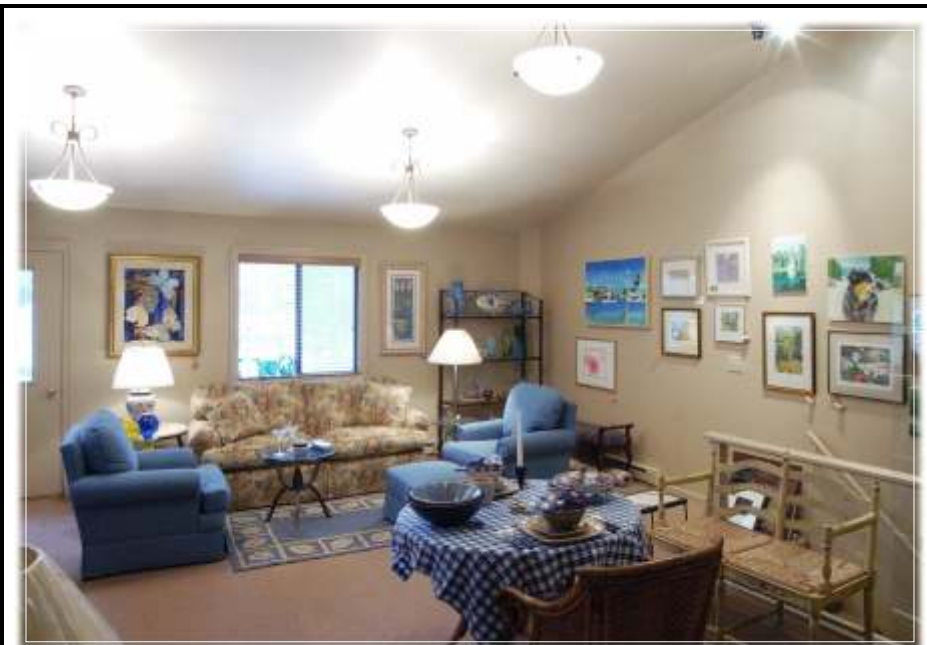
Two posters, done by 'master calligrapher' Kevin Gillespie, were on view at the Citizen of the Year Banquet on April 24<sup>th</sup>, one listing the organizations and the other the prize winners.

Organizations were the Lady AmVets, the Girl Scouts, Holy Cross Catholic Church, the Sports Boosters, Beaver Island Christian Church, the Wildlife Club, the Youth Consortium, the Rural Health Center Board, AmVets, the Preservation Society, and the Historical Society.

Individual winners were Jan Hartle, Barb Kenwabikise, Matthew Cull, the Schwartzfishers, the Carys, Bill McDonough, Angel Welke, Sarah Myers, Joe Reed, Dorothy Willis, Howard Davis, Jeff Powers, Danielle Cary, Laura Gillespie, McDonough's Market, Ray and Nina Cole, Rachel McDonough, Debbie Bousquet, Connie Wojan, Tina Morgan, Lois Williams, Ric Roane, and Phil Gregg.

Prizes included a Year Subscription to the Beaver Beacon donated by the *Beaver Beacon*, a Coffee (the Beaver Island Boat Company), a Ball Cap (the Beaver Island Boat Company), a free Round of Golf (the Beaver Island Golf Course), a Gift Certificate to Nina's Restaurant (Ray and Nina Cole), a Drink Cup (the Beaver Island Marina), a Candle (Islecraft/Beaver Island Realty), a Flag (the Beaver Island Transportation Authority), a Cooler Cup (Cary Concrete), a \$50 Savings Bond (Charlevoix State Bank), Breakfast at Dalwhinnies (Dalwhinnie), Bags of Cookies (Deerwood), Car Washes (Eager Beaver Clean and Store), a Candle (East Wind Spa), a Gift Certificate for Stoney Acre Grill (Ed Wojan Realty), a Soap Dish (Emerald Isle Gallery), and a Half Day Kayaking Trip (Inland Seas - Ken Bruland).

Now we can see how important volunteers are to life on Beaver Island!



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## BIRHC Meeting

At the Health Center meeting of May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board discussed how best to report financial information. The billing firm manager will be here on May 7<sup>th</sup> to look over the operation and install a MediSoft upgrade, which should help with reporting. Since mid-March, bills are going out faster and to more insurance companies than ever.

A second grant will be applied for from the Grand Traverse Bay Tribe, to cover the cost of educational and preventive services. Teleconferencing will be expanded, and testing equipment installed to eliminate the waiting time for blood to be flown across.

Money will be short for a few years, although "the BIRHC is in better financial shape than ever." It's hoped the Capital Campaign will raise the Endowment Fund (now at \$111,021, with the CCCF) to \$250,000 by the Grand Opening (June 25<sup>th</sup>, with Phil Hoffman as MC), to \$1,500,000 within 3 years, and to \$5,000,000 within 5. A fall-back option is to borrow against the new building (up to 20% of its value), making payments from the EF's interest.

The survey will be repeated in June for seasonal residents; 117 replies came from the first 270 sent out, which will be collated by Eula Thomas. Lenore Jacobsen is masterminding the Fashion Show (July 8<sup>th</sup>), which will be held at Deerwood. Three practitioners are interested in joining the team, possibly including Mike McGinnity.

A \$1,000,000 liability policy for the Board was approved. Gerald LaFreniere resigned from the Board because of increased duties with the EMS and at home. The truck for the raffle arrived on the boat; 500 tickets will be sold at \$100 each.

Dr. White mentioned that the Board had allowed Dr. Molter, an optometrist, to move into the new building, set up, and see patients before any contract was signed. The Board apologized, saying its attorney had taken a vacation before the contract was finished. None of the eight Board members present knew permission had been given for this. Dr. White also said she had received a letter blaming her for people complaining about her water lines being left out.



## Seven Sisters opens Early

The Seven Sisters store in the Fred Nackerman home just north of Four Corners opened for the season on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although only two of the sisters are directly involved (Sheila Evans and Cindy Ricksgers), the others have provided guidance and advice.



The store has four criteria for selecting merchandise: primarily, it must be good; beyond that, it must look beautiful on the shelf, it must be affordable, and its creation has to have done as little harm to the environment as possible (including

the use of recyclable packaging.) In addition, some of the products are from women's groups in such countries as Guatemala, so purchasing them will help the artisans move towards achieving something that's only a dream for most of their friends: self-sufficiency.

Besides the helpful lines of kitchen, garden, and bath items, the work of several local artists will be on display; so far Pam O'Brien, Jean Kinsley, Linda McDonough, Lois Stipp, and Ray Matela have joined the cast.






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## Charlevoix County Commissioners

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met at 3:00 p.m. on March 24, 2004 in Charlevoix. Commissioner Snyder was absent. Motion approved the minutes of the March 24, 2004 meeting.

Sheriff Lasater handed out copies of his 2003 Annual Report.

Lt. Ken Mills presented the 2003 Annual Report of Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement.

Motion approved Resolution #04-025, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #04-026, P.A.S.T. Grant, authorizing the Chairman to sign said application.

Motion approved Resolution #04-027, State of Michigan Computer Cabling.

Motion approved Resolution #04-028, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical, Building Fee Increases. Rates to be effective May 1, 2004.

Motion approved Resolution #04-029, Amended Bank Depositories for 2004.

Building Inspection office hours will be changed to 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. effective May 1, 2004.

Motion adjourned the meeting. — Jane E. Brannon

## New TV Options? More Channels?

The staff from BC Satellite will be on Beaver Island from May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup> to install and adjust satellite TV systems. Call them at the Boyne City office (866) 582-3214 to make an appointment, or reach them on Beaver Island at the Emerald Isle Hotel (448-2376) when they're here.

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## Calendar of Events

Photos: Bill Detwiler, Don Meister, and Jayne Bailey rehearsing for *An Evening with Stephen Sondheim*, directed by Brenda LeFevre and Elaine West 6:30 p.m. May 8<sup>th</sup> (tickets required)



### BICS Island Clean-up

May 17<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date - May 24<sup>th</sup>)

Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary **Celebrity Roast of Skip McDonough** 7:30 p.m. May 29<sup>th</sup>

Island Airways **Annual Hangar Party** 1:00 p.m. May 30<sup>th</sup>

BIPOA Nature Lecture - **Piping Plovers** of the Beaver Archipelago - Peaine Twp. Hall 7:30 p.m. June 17<sup>th</sup>

### Conservation Easements

and Land Conservation Tools that can benefit unique ecosystems like Beaver Island - Peaine Hall 7:00 p.m. June 22<sup>nd</sup>



**Museum Week** July 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

**Beaver Island Music Festival**

July 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>

**MAD Camp** July 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

**Beaver Island Property Owners Association Annual Meeting** Peaine Township Hall 7:30 p.m. July 26<sup>th</sup>

BIPOA Nature Lecture - **Water Quality** - Peaine Twp. Hall 7:30 p.m. July 29<sup>th</sup>

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## New Town Public Beach Parking Lot Underway

As soon as the snow was gone, Dave Schwartzfisher's crew got started on the new parking lot, finding an iron

rail and fence tightener during the digging. Once the project is finished, the Parish Hall corner will be much safer for

bathers and kids. Downtown businesses and summer events will likely also benefit from closer, easier parking.



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## The Annual Easter Egg-a-thon

More kudos to the AmVets for hiding dozens and dozens, if not hundreds, of Easter Eggs at the school. All but

three were found, and the missing eggs hatched out a week later: a duck, an emu, and a lizard put the playground off-

limits until a Zoologist could be found. The *Beacon* office was also egged-in a good way—by parties as yet unknown.





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## From the Sheriff

With the advent of spring, and another busy tourist season on its way, some words on traffic safety are appropriate.

The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office would like to remind all residents, both permanent and seasonal, as well as tourists, that Beaver Island is part of the State of Michigan. Although our isolation and sometimes laid-back lifestyle might suggest otherwise, we must all abide by the laws enacted by our State Legislature.

Because of the increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic this season brings to the Island, we should all review our driving habits. Adherence to the posted speed limits and to all traffic control devices will go a long way in promoting safety in the downtown area. Maintaining a reasonable speed and being cautious on the Island's predominately dirt roads is also very important.

During 2003 we had three personal injury accidents here. Two were excess-speed-related accidents. Fortunately there were no serious injuries, but in one case it was necessary to fly off six injured people. This has become terribly expensive, which in itself should be a deterrent to careless or reckless driving.

There have been some complaints expressed to the Sheriff concerning excessive speed, so additional emphasis will be placed on traffic safety this spring and summer to keep Beaver Island a safe, healthy, and pleasant place.

In another related matter, the Sheriff's Office has researched the ORV/golf cart issue that came up during the summer of 2003. Specifically, there is a section in the Michigan Motor Vehicle Laws which allows the operation of an ORV or golf cart along the public roadway. A township or other municipality may adopt this as part of its local ordinance, and may issue permits to 'disabled persons' to operate ORVs or golf carts within township limits. However, the term is very specifically defined, and medical certification of a disability is required.

Until such a law is adopted by the townships, enforcement of ORV/golf cart operation on the public roadways will remain the same. That is, a written warning will be issued on the first violation, and a Uniform Law Citation on subsequent offenses. This issue to make some residents unhappy, but, as stated above, we must live by the same laws that govern all of Michigan.

— J. A. Campbell, Deputy Sheriff

## Republicans' Dinner

The Charlevoix Area Republicans will have Mike Cox, Michigan's Attorney General, as the honored speaker at their Lincoln Day Dinner, which will be held at 6:00 on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at Boyne Mountain. State Senator Jason Allen, as well as candidates for State Court of Appeals and State Judgeships, will also be guests. If you'd like to attend, please call Susan Flanders at (231) 547-4887.

## Mother/Daughter Grads

A rare accomplishment: Jessica McCafferty is receiving her BS (poly sci, and honors) from CMU this spring, and in the same line of cap-and-gowns will be her mother, Gena Cross, who is getting her second MA (education.)

## A Laffin' Good Time

The 5<sup>th</sup>- and 6<sup>th</sup>-graders (Bryan Timsak, Briana Maudrie, Alex Kuligoski, Kristy Bousquet, Cameron LaVasseur, Lindsey Kenwabikise, Jenna Butler, Dereck McDonough, Levi Connor, Clarissa Kenwabikise, Doug Campbell, and Brontae Lemmink) had the perfect vehicle to express themselves: a play in which unruly kids make life tough for a substitute teacher and an observer from the Board of Education. Judging from the constant laughter in the packed house, the audience loved it too!

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## Elwood VanAntwerp

Twenty-three-year Island resident and retired master finish carpenter Elwood VanAntwerp passed away in his fifteen-sided home at Appleby's Point during the night of April 16<sup>th</sup>. Van, as he was called, was known for his life-long interest in alternate energy technology (he built his first wind generator 60 years ago), a dedication to fine craftsmanship, his fondness for lawyer jokes, and for living by the high moral values he learned as a youth.

Raised on a farm near Tustin, he had to walk over five miles to school each day, and then walk back, and then do his chores. His upbringing forbade alcohol and tobacco, and he was not allowed to waste his time playing sports. The one exception: his father let him join the debate team.

Upon graduation he worked in the CCC camps before enlisting in the Army. After the war he and his wife, who grew up near Skip McDonough in Grand Rapids, began to raise a family. He lived and worked in various places around Michigan, including Suttons Bay and Marshall, where Van built an underground home. In 1981 he moved to Beaver Island with a vintage Packard convertible and the tools he'd accumulated over a lifetime, many of which no one but him knew how to use.

Although technically retired, work was his love, so he stayed busy. He built custom cabinets here and there, and took on the taxing project of converting the former Coast Guard Building into a McDonough Avenue home. One of his last projects was the gazebo and deck system at the A-frame on Cable's Bay.

A regular member of the Christian Church, he was a Christian who practiced his beliefs. He was known for his honesty and his helpfulness: if a friend needed a hand, he was always there. He had been taught from McGuffie's Reader at home, and went to school already knowing how to read and write. The poetry he memorized as a child stayed with him, and he was able to recite several poems on request, as he did for Museum Week's *Music on the Porch*. When he helped the Museum prepare for its opening a few years ago, the work went on until 1:30 a.m. He remarked, "That's the latest I've stayed up in sixty-eight years."

He and his wife Betty left the Island on the last boat for her home in Bellaire, which allowed them to travel to Florida during the brunt of winter. He had bought a nearly new Town Car, which they enjoyed pointing towards the back roads, where they could see "the real sights and meet interesting people." He

returned to the Island on one of the first boats only to find his water line had burst; he wound up making new fittings in one of his extensive shops. The day before his death he talked about only 5 of 18 being left from his graduating class, whose reunion he had recently attended. He was looking forward to accomplishing the projects he'd set for himself: "I can't do as much as I used to, so I've got to budget more time." Unfortunately he had no time left.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; children, Howard (Diana) VanAntwerp of Cadillac, Roy (Dawn) VanAntwerp of Traverse City, Jay (Cindy) VanAntwerp of Marshall, Virginia Porteous of Cadillac and Connie VanAntwerp of Traverse City; stepchildren, James (Cindy) Shawl of Florida, Nathan (Kathy) Shawl of Bay City, Jonathan (Debbie) Shawl and Timothy (Tammy) Shawl, all of Bellaire, and Ruth Ann (Don) Nast of Florida; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; brothers, Malcolm (Benita) of Iowa, Stanley (Margaret) of Hudsonville and Alan (Leah) of Tustin; and sisters, Lois Hodgson of Grand Rapids, Ruth (Ken) Cole of Vermontville and Irene (Nels) Nelson of Minnesota.

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## One Hundred Years Ago

Charlevoix Sentinel May 5, 1904 Local News: "Mrs. Dr. Bailey, second daughter of Mrs. Julia Gibson of Beaver Island, died at her home on Mackinaw Island Sunday morning."

"Capt. Martin O'Malley, many years ago a well known Beaver Island resident and brother of Mrs. James Donlevy of St. James, died in Chicago Friday. Mrs. Donlevy went to Chicago Tuesday."

Marine News: "On her Wednesday trip the steamer *Beaver* went to the Beavers by way of Wagochance, to land the keeper and his assistants."

"The fishing tug *L. W. Knapp* arrived here last week from Dunkirk, New York in charge of Capt. John Dahlmer, to do summer fishing at Beaver Island."

May 12, 1904 Local News: "Jas. McCann of St. James, went to Chicago on the *Illinois* yesterday."

"Dr. Wilkinson, of St. James, went to Thompsonville last week. Mrs. M. V. Cook, who has been living there returned with him, and will remain a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett."

"Sylvester McDonough, a former resident of Beaver Island, died at Ashland, Wisconsin last Friday. The remains arrived here Monday in charge of a brother, Patrick McDonough, and were taken to St. James for interment."

"Capt. M. Bonner, of St. James, yesterday bought the schooner *Rouse Simmons*, which wintered here. He will run her in the

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"Jerry Corbett, an old settler of Beaver Island and who lived alone on a farm near the harbor [north of Barney's Lake], died suddenly at St. James last Wednesday night. When the *Beaver* left there Wednesday, Mr. Corbett was loading seed peas on his wagon, and was about to start for home"

"May 26, 1904 Local News: "Census Numerators named For Peaine and St. James - James Gallagher" – Joyce Bartels

## Students to produce Yearbook

Students at BICS are diligently working to produce a 2003-2004 school yearbook. The yearbook staff has been taking photos, learning a new computer program, and working on laying out the pages. The yearbook will be printed on the Island, keeping the entire process here in the community.

The yearbook staff is planning on completing it as soon after this year's graduation as possible. It also is hoped the reduced cost of this home-based project will result in being able to produce an annual yearbook rather than every other year, as in the past.

Those interested in purchasing a new yearbook may contact the school office (448-2744) to place a pre-order. The cost of the yearbook is just \$15.00, with checks to be made out to: Beaver Island Youth Consortium.

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### FOR SALE: Beautiful New Home

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

Call Ed Wojan Realty:

Real Estate Office: **(231) 448-2711**

Toll Free Number: **1-800-268-2711**

### COMMERCIAL BUILDING ON MAIN STREET -

Prime retail or office. References, deposit and lease required. Contact John Johnson at (616) 842-8214 or (231) 448-2533 or e-mail Cloud9@chartermi.net

### LOG CABIN FOR SALE BY OWNERS



Charming, small log home located on 2.1 acres in the quiet, country area of Beaver Island. Cozy and comfortable throughout the seasons, this 1½ story home was built in 1988 with whole Island logs hand-scribed to fit without chinking. Features a covered front porch with gardens, a spacious back deck, many natural views and great wildlife watching. The property also has an insulated, framed barn with room for cars, boats and/or a workshop. Property Value: \$175,000.00

**For Sale by Owners Jon & Suzy Bonadeo**  
**Box 194, Beaver Island, MI**  
**(231) 448-2489**

**27190 Sloptown Road, Beaver Island Michigan**



**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.

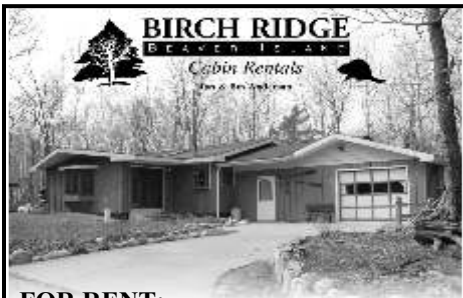
For more information call Robert at (231) 448-2235



**FOR RENT THIS SUMMER:** Booking fast. Secluded Beautiful Chalet on 10 acres with 360 Feet of sandy private Lake Michigan Beach on Sand Bay. 2 bedroom (including loft), one bath, Great Room with two sofa sleepers. Fabulous views of the Lake. Large decks. Sleeps 7. Across from state land and hiking trails. No pets. \$800 per week. Deposit required. Call Ed or Connie Eicher (810) 629-7680

**WATERFRONT COTTAGE FOR RENT:**

Fabulous sunset view. Quiet, wooded location near Indian Point (NW side). One BR and loft. Sleeps four max. Everything you need is there! Sorry, no smoking or pets. \$650/week in season. Off season available. dtn@i2k.com or (616) 396.6468 or (616) 791.8222

**FOR RENT:**

House and cabin in the woods for rent on the East Side Drive. Both 3 BR and sleep six. Both have washer, dryer, and 2 baths. Campfire pits and wood provided. Property connects to major hiking/nature trails. Quiet and secluded, on the east side - one mile from State campground and beautiful beach. Please call (616) 897-8564



**HOUSE FOR SALE:** On 10 Acres of beautiful woods. Custom throughout. \$139,900. Call Mike Collins (231) 448-2433

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

**DONEGAL BAY HOUSE FOR RENT:**

Nice wooded location. Newly built. Two bedrooms. New kitchen. Summer: \$675. Off-season \$425. (734) 449-8711 or nprawat@yahoo.com

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

**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. Please call (706) 268-2022, (219) 874-4676 May to Nov: 448-2001

**Real Estate, For Sale:**

**80 ACRE PARCEL HUNTING PROPERTY FOR SALE** - Available at the South End of the Island. \$1350/acre. Call (231) 448-2167 or (231) 237-0173

**LAKE MICHIGAN LOT** - 175 feet of frontage overlooking Garden Island and Hog Island. Pebble and sand shoreline near Lookout Point. Call (616) 636-5685.

**100 ACRE PARCEL AVAILABLE** - \$1500/acre. Hunting, vacation, or investment property. Call (231) 448-2167 or (231) 237-0173.

**NEARLY 1/4 MILE OF LAKE MICHIGAN FRONTAGE. GARDEN ISLAND** - \$125,000, 8 acres. Serious price reduction. Very motivated seller. Please Contact Jayson Welsch, Po Box 357, Grayling, MI 49738. Phone (989) 348-2800 or email jaysonwelsch@hotmail.com

**GREAT LOTS FOR COTTAGE IN PORT ST. JAMES** - 3 to choose from. Wooded, power, perked, Lake Michigan access nearby. Call (269) 857-6084.

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

**Real Estate Wanted:**

**WANTED - FONT LAKE PROPERTY** - Turning 60 in 2004. I want the impossible: property on Font Lake. Can you make my dream come true? Please call collect (773) 463-5494 evenings or e-mail flanaganl@lightfirst.com

**WANTED - LODGING ON BEAVER ISLAND** - from mid-June through Labor Day, possibly partly in exchange for work. Julie Masek (Jayne Bailey's sister) julmas8@yahoo.com - (214) 302-6299

**Real Estate, 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

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





### BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM HOME FOR SALE: (or 2 BR + den)

On the shores of Lake Michigan. Featuring 115 feet of frontage property, unspoiled panoramic views, and countless upgrades.

See [www.usrnull.com/house](http://www.usrnull.com/house) for many photos and details, or call (231) 448-2219 / cell (231) 409-9442



### BEACHFRONT HOME FOR RENT:

3 bedrooms and loft – total 5 beds, hot tub, gorgeous views, solitude, wood stove, May-Sept. \$1050 / Off-season \$795. Call Perry at (313) 530-9776 or e-mail [pgatliff@hotmail.com](mailto:pgatliff@hotmail.com)

House is also for sale for \$325,000



**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 off-season package. Call (708) 389-0621 (evenings)



### RENTAL ATTRACTION ON FONT LAKE:

3-4 BR, 2 BA home, fully furnished with all the amenities. Sleeps 7. Beautiful view of lake and sunrises. New owners of this high-demand rental are taking reservations now, \$750/week. Off season rates available.

Call Helena Webster (734) 730-8918 today; email [hwebster18@yahoo.com](mailto:hwebster18@yahoo.com)



### HOUSE FOR SALE: 38745 Squaw Island Ct. in the Port St. James.

Interior not yet finished so you can finish it exactly how you like. Electrical and plumbing have been run and it is connected to GLE. \$59,000 Call Ed Wojan Realty (231) 448-2711



### FOR SALE – HARBOR-AREA HOUSE:

Single family, four bedroom, 1 1/2 bath house on two lots with garage. Asking price is \$255,000.

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**DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE** - On dune with private beach access. 3 BR, 1 bath, sleeps 6, washer/dryer. Kayaks and bikes for your use. \$750.00/week. Off season rates on request. Dana Luscombe evenings (248) 549-2701. [dpluscombe@msn.com](mailto:dpluscombe@msn.com)

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

**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).

**CEDAR COTTAGE** - on a bluff with view of harbor and mainland. 1/4 mile south of Catholic Church. 2 BRs, 1 dbl. bed, 2 single; TV/VCR, grill, complete kitchen, washer. No pets. \$580/wk. (734) 769-7565 (day), (734) 475-6178 (evenings). [mschroer@a2mich.com](mailto:mschroer@a2mich.com)

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

**BEACHFRONT HOME FOR RENT** - Beaver Sands, Lake Michigan. Fully furnished. (810) 227-2366

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

**1986 BAYLINER 28'** - New 265 hp engine. Very good shape. Asking \$16,500. (231) 448-2342.



### LAKEFRONT HOME FOR SALE:

210 feet of Lake Geneserath's pristine sandy beach with boat, motor, and new dock. Manicured lawn and flower beds 24x36 garage with heated shop. Beautiful home with a three season room to enjoy the lake. Home is furnished and all appliances stay except freezer. Price is \$325,000 and includes new roof. For more information, please call Bruce and Jean: (231) 448-2856



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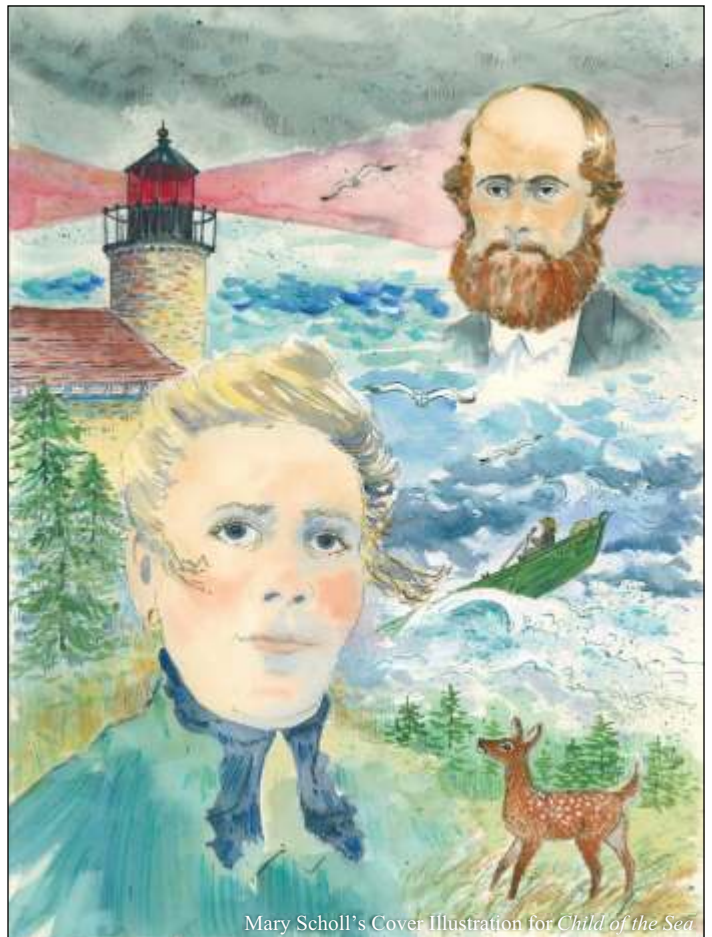


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Mary Scholl's Cover Illustration for *Child of the Sea*