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Beaver Beacon

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some stories in this issue:

Class of 2004; Whiskey Point Light Reports Received
CMU Summer Field Trip Schedule; Strang Writers Enjoy Beaver Island
Steinbachs donate new Fire Truck to Beaver Island Volunteer Fire Department
Broadway on Beaver: "An Evening with Stephen Sondheim" Premieres; Walleye Pond Tweaked
Beaver Island News and Events, History, People, Drama, Photography, Art, and more...



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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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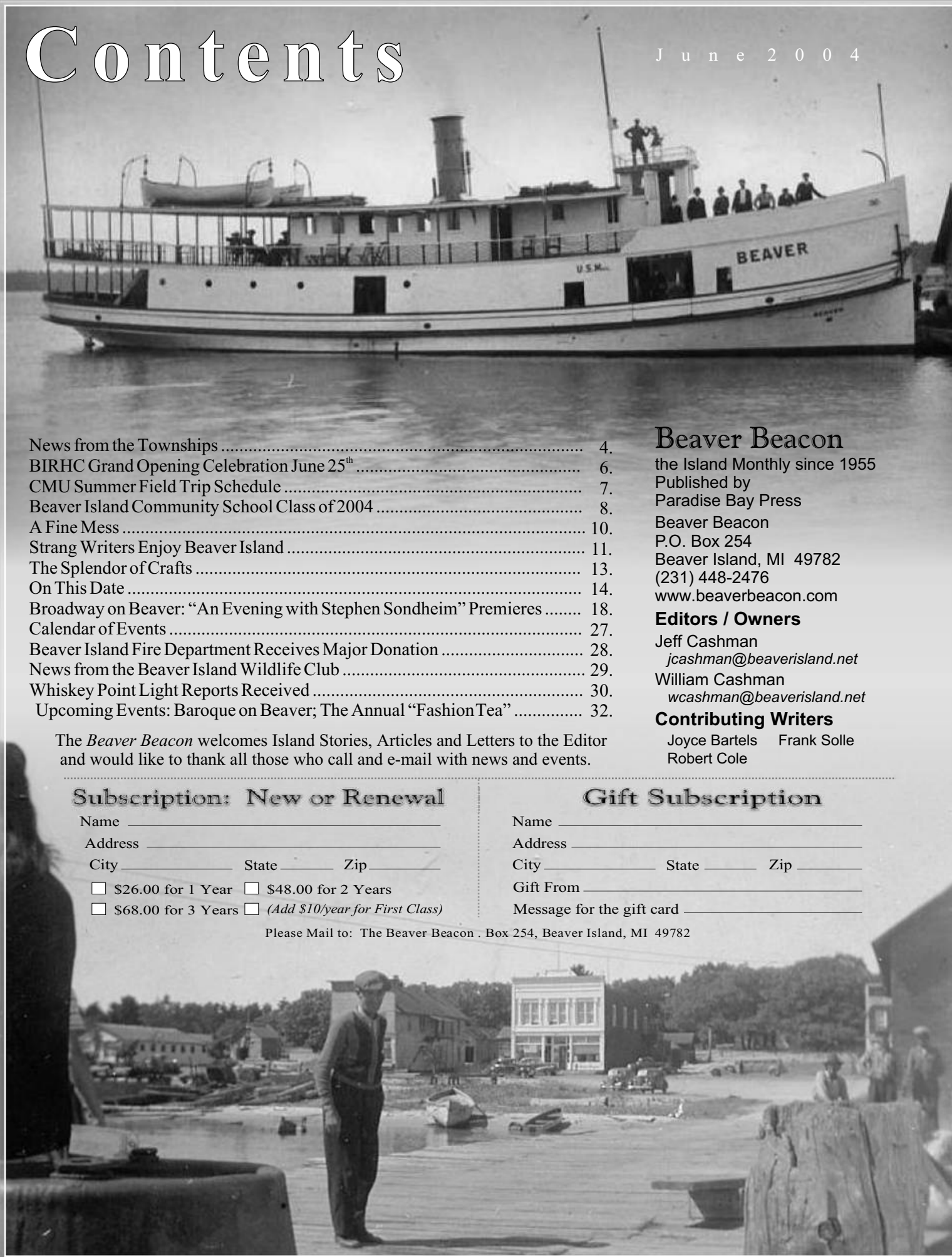
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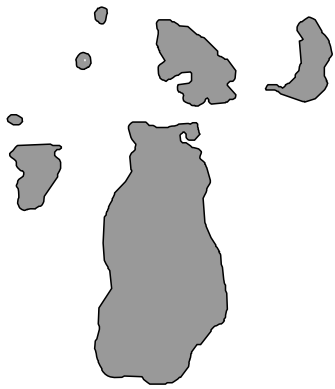
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News from the Townships

St. James Town Board

The St. James Town Board held its monthly meeting on May 5th. Supervisor Don Vyse reported that the hangar acquisition at the Townships' Airport is on track to be bought for \$91,000, most of which will come from a \$166,600 FAA stipend that currently requires a 10% match but which can be rolled over to provide funds for additional Airport improvements (such as a new Terminal.) Our match will let us stop paying the current \$500/month rent on what has been serving as a maintenance building. To expedite this matter the Township agreed to put up the funds needed to match (the \$4,000 appraisal cost already counts as part), recovering the "loan" in a few months.

There was much talk about a perceived inequity between taxes in the two Townships, particularly regarding the rock crusher, which was initially purchased by St. James over 25 years ago. The two townships agreed to share the gravel-making costs equally, but for the last five years Peaine has been using 80% of the created gravel. Consequently while Peaine got its gravel last year for \$5.33/yd, St. James paid \$17.35 (gravel is being sold by Rich Gillespie at \$6/.) The cost-sharing agreement allows for its termination with 60 days notice. The Board felt the agreement should be renegotiated, and voted to tell Peaine it would be terminated if they could not reach a new agreement.

Mention was made of the rapid deterioration of the King's Highway,

which has outlived its expected duration; it was #5 on CCRC engineer Pat Harmon's recent list of the county's 10 worst roads. The CCRC would pay \$2,500/mile towards its refurbishing, a small fraction of the cost.

The Township plans to pave the start of the Beaver Lodge Road to just past the tennis courts.

The Board voted to contribute \$50 towards the school's match for the Presidential Freedom Scholarship fund.

The deputy clerk asked to be removed from the payroll, but will continue to work, as a volunteer.

The matter of funding the EMS was raised. Jerry LaFreniere said the EMS was okay at the moment but would run out of money next year. If Peaine could be convinced to put on the same millage as St. James (instead of matching the amount raised in St. James), it was said, then everyone on the Island would pay the same and the EMS would have sufficient funds.

A letter was read from Debbie Stabenow in which she described a bill she proposed to Congress that would fund Michigan's lighthouse restoration and other nautical attractions.

Harbormaster Glen Felix appealed to the Board to reconsider its decision to close the Yacht Dock in early July, proposing instead that temporary deck reinforcement be applied and the start of construction put off until mid-August. The Board, though, felt a July start was necessary to complete the work before the ice made. This project has been seven years in

A-1 MASONRY TOM MATELA

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the planning, and the Board felt we would have to take a short-term hit for the greater long-term good.

The new Zoning Ordinance has been published in the Petoskey paper and now will soon go into effect.

Peaine Town Board

The monthly Peaine Township Board meeting was attended by 22 students (in addition to 16 adults), who were supporting a revised request for a BMX track behind the Hall. The plan was cut down by 40% to 70' wide (still by 176'), and has four runs. Spokesperson Christine Runberg came very well prepared, showing a sample Mission Statement and By-laws, release forms for parents, release forms for spectators, release forms for participants, and a work-assignment schedule. She said the EMS, Joe Moore, Ralph and Jeanne Graham, and SAD had offered funds. She also said that four contractors had offered to donate time and material to construct the track, which John Albin estimated at requiring 350 yard of a sand and clay mix. Supervisor John Works read a statement from Peaine's insurance company which said BMX tracks posed "a high risk of injury, and a high risk of lawsuits," but would be covered by the existing policy, except for special events (such as competitions.)

Beth Crosswhite and Jacque LaFreniere supported the students' plan, Beth suggesting an entry fee to raise the cost of a binder for special events. Judy Lanier wanted to know

who would be the responsible agent—perhaps the Youth Consortium. John Works wondered how the safety requirements would be enforced, and felt sufficient funds had to be escrowed to remove the track if interest wanes. He also suggested support might initially be made for only a trial period. Judy Lanier moved to support further development of the plan to create the track, and this was unanimously approved.

A letter from St. James about the gravel crusher inequity brought a complaint that the inequity of the Transfer Station goes the other way, with most of the material coming from St. James' many commercial enterprises. It was pointed out that while St. James bought the crusher, Peaine bought a loader, which was needed for the operation. Judy Lanier suggested that each of Peaine's partnership arrangements with St. James should be analyzed in order to be sure it was fair and reasonable. Regarding the immediate issue, she and John Works will meet with Don Vyse for a discussion.

Paul Nelson reported on the Charlevoix Chapter of the Michigan Township Association's recent meeting. There was more talk about the #1 issue in each of the townships: paying for road maintenance. One idea was a county-wide 1-mil increase. Also Jane Brannon warned that if the new voting machine requirement is implemented, as planned for 2006 elections, the cost will be sky-high and voting will take 3 times as long.

Continued on page 6.

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News from the Townships, from page 5.

Paul Nelson said he is resigning and leaving the Island, and hopes Peaine will continue to be represented at these meetings.

Deputy Jim Campbell said that the Rectory had been hit twice, but his extensive cottage checks (375 so far this year) had found no evidence of other break-ins this winter.

Supervisor Works was delighted to announce that bids will now be solicited for building the new Fire Hall.

Jacque LaFreniere asked the Board to contribute \$50 to the match for the Presidential Freedom Scholarship, to which it agreed.

A request to restate the resolution approving a license to sell alcohol at the Corner Store to replace the Albins with the new owners, Bud and Colleen

BIRHC Grand Opening Celebration

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center cordially invite all permanent and seasonal Island residents to the Grand Opening of the new building on June 25th, beginning at 11 a.m. There will be tours for those who have not yet seen the interior, refreshments, and a program honoring all who made the realization of this dream possible.

“Arranmore Links”

Aidan Gallagher has received his book from the printer, and copies are en route to the Print Shop Museum.

Martin, was approved.

Jerry LaFreniere asked that consideration be given to assessing the same millage as St. James for the EMS, but this was not well received. He went on to describe a recent situation in which the EMS responded to a 6:30 p.m. call, and brought the patient to the Health Center, where it was determined that transport to Charlevoix was needed. North Flight got the call at 8:45 and contacted its pilot (who is not at NF's base at night.) After checking the weather he took off for the Island and made three passes before realizing a landing was impossible because of a descending fog. So the Coast Guard was called, but it had to get NF's agreement before it could come. In the end the patient lifted off at 12:45 a.m., clearly too long of a delay.

Thanks from the Beaver Island Hospice

What a wonderful surprise for all of our dedicated volunteers to receive the honor of being named the Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year (group award) for this year. A big thanks to those of you who chose us to be worthy of this award.

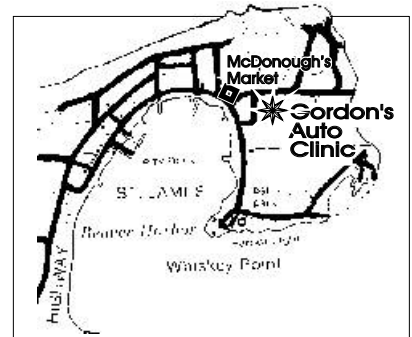
We send another thanks to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center Staff, who give us full cooperation whenever we need their help. We have a first-class working relationship with them.

—In Appreciation, Joyce Runberg, Lois Williams, and all of the other Hospice Volunteers

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CMU Field Trip Schedule

CMU's Jim Gillingham just released the schedule of summer Field Trips, offered by the Biological Station in partnership with the Historical Society. The Field Trip fee is \$20.00. Those interested should sign up at the Mormon Print Shop in advance, or call Pinky (448-2461.) Unless otherwise indicated, all trips will begin at 9:00 a.m. at CMUBS and will include lunch at the conclusion of the trip.

Bird Banding and Beaver Island Birds - Ms. Nancy Seefelt

Thursday June 15, 2004

This trip will begin at 6:00 a.m. and will take participants to a site where birds will be mist-netted and banded. Breakfast will follow at 8:00 a.m., after which participants can once again go into the field for another 90 minutes of bird-watching. Please bring binoculars if you can.

Amphibians and Reptiles of Beaver Island - Dr. Jim Gillingham

Thursday June 24, 2004

Explore the habitats on Beaver Island that are home to our intriguing salamanders, frogs, turtles and snakes. Observe these creatures up close and learn the fascinating details of their natural history.

Beaver Island Summer Flora -

Dr. Ed Leuck

Wednesday June 30, 2004

A trip to a variety of habitats to locate and identify many of Beaver Island's beautiful spring and summer wildflowers and other plant species.

Biology of Beaver Island's Sand

Dunes - Dr. Beth Leuck

Saturday July 10, 2004

This trip to the west side of Beaver will explore the extensive dunes. Their origin, current status, and future will be discussed, and the flora and fauna indigenous to these beautiful ecosystems will be sought after and explained in ecological terms. Some climbing of steep sandy inclines will be required.

The Mammals of Beaver Island -

Mr. Dan Benjamin

Thursday July 22, 2004

Learn about the diversity of indigenous and introduced mammals that today inhabit Beaver Island. Discover the details of their natural history and learn where and how to observe these fascinating animals.

Old Field Flora at Pfeiffer's Orchard - Dr. Dan Wujek

Saturday July 24, 2004

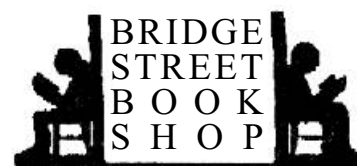
Journey to Pfeiffer's Orchard to search out the diversity of flowering and woody plants indigenous to this habitat, which has been undergoing ecological succession for 50 years. Learn about the importance of this ecosystem and how to identify its plant residents.

Beaver Island's Inland Lakes -

Mr. Dan Benjamin

Thursday August 5, 2004

A trip to most of Beaver Island's inland lakes, with information about their formation, current status, water chemistry, ecological significance and natural history.



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BICS to Graduate Seven

By Frank Solle

On Saturday, June 5, at 1:00 p.m. seven seniors from Beaver Island Community School will march down the aisle at Holy Cross Hall to the lilting melody of "Pomp and Circumstance," as they bring to a close a major chapter of their lives.

A bittersweet time, high school graduation marks the end of one era and the start of another. All seven members of the class of 2004 are excited to have the rest of their lives begin to unfold.

Receiving diplomas this year are:

Laura Bosquet. Laura has new places in her future, following a summer working at the Emerald Isle Hotel. "I'm going to travel with my sister. We're going to the Virgin Islands, just for the experience," she says.

While college plans are uncertain at this time, Laura sees a possible future career in cosmetology.

Laura is the daughter of Kevin and Debbie Bosquet.

Kerrie Gillespie. Kerrie has a busy summer planned with a number of jobs to keep her hopping. "I'll be working at the Beaver Lodge, the Harbor View Hotel, cleaning houses with my mother and cleaning my Uncle Robert's boat," she says.

The fall will see Kerrie moving on to Lansing Community College where she will begin to study psychology. After two years at LCC, Kerrie plans to transfer to Michigan State University.

"I'm going to the community college first because the transition should be easier and I'll be able to adapt

quicker because of the smaller classes than at MSU," she explained.

Looking back on her last four years, Kerrie said, "I had fun in all my high school years. I enjoyed having friends that made you laugh."

In a year in which no student met the school's strict grade point requirement to be named valedictorian, Kerrie's top ranking in the class brings with it the distinction of being the salutatorian of this year's graduating class.

Earlier this spring, at the annual Sports Awards Ceremony, Kerrie was awarded the Bill Burns Sportsmanship Award for her outstanding contributions to the school's sports program this year.

Kerrie is the daughter of Rich and Laura Gillespie.

Barry McDonough. Barry will be spending a good part of the coming summer at the south end of the island working on projects at Ed Wojan's Applewood property.

The completion of those chores will see Barry then moving to Traverse City where he will be attending Northwestern Michigan College. At this time Barry is still unsure of a career path, but is hopeful that his first two years of college will help clarify his choices. "I'm going to do my general studies there and figure out what I want to go into," he says.

This past school year Barry was named the Most Valuable Offensive Player for both the soccer and basketball team this past year and named to



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Photograph by Frank Solle

both the soccer and basketball All-League teams.

Barry is the son of Bill and Tammy McDonough.

Dan McDonough. Dan will be spending the upcoming summer focusing on his drawing and making plans for the future.

"I'm not sure about college yet," he says. "I've been so busy getting through high school. Once I get a chance to decompress from all I've done in high school, I'll look into that."

Dan does have a lofty goal, however. "I want Stan Lee's job," he says with a smile and a laugh. "He's the big guy behind Marvel Comics."

Dan said his school years have been enjoyable. "I've been here a long time. It's been a good experience and I've met a lot of people." Of his teachers he added, "Mr. Stambaugh is one of the more interesting and entertaining-to-be-around teachers I've had."

Dan is the son of Joe and Tarry McDonough.

Mike McDonough. Mike's future plans, following another summer working as a deckhand and dock worker for the Beaver Island Boat Company, include attending Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City this fall where he will begin a study of electrical engineering. Following two years at NMC Mike hopes to transfer to Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

Mike is the son of Joe and Tarry

McDonough.

Rachel McDonough. For the second straight summer Rachel will be working at McDonough's Market.

Rachel plans on attending Mid-Michigan College's Mt. Pleasant campus in the fall. There she will work towards her general requirements for two years before transferring to Central Michigan University where she hopes to major in Elementary Education in order to eventually become an elementary school teacher.

Of her current teachers, Rachel said Mr. Stambaugh was pretty cool, sometimes. "He pushed us like college students," she explained. "I didn't like it at the time, but once I get to college I'll appreciate it."

Rachel is the daughter of Jim and Diane McDonough.

Christine Runberg. Christine has been working at the Shamrock for the past year and will continue in that capacity throughout the summer. Beyond that, Christine says her future is yet to be decided.

"I really don't know," she says of her plans for the fall. "I haven't picked a college yet, but I hope to go." At this time her possibilities include moving to Colorado, Chicago, or Traverse City.

Wherever the future takes her, Christine says of her classmates, "I will miss all these beautiful people around me."

Christine is the daughter of John and Joyce Runberg.



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Email: gilli1jc@cmich.edu

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A Fine Mess

A number of people have recently written letters of support for Marilyn and Liam Racine, proprietors of the *Stoney Acre Grill*, to demonstrate how important this enterprise has become to the Beaver Island community. Consequently some of the customers have become aware of the disputation in which the Racines have become painfully embroiled.

Two and a half years ago the Racines' offer for the *Old Rectory* was rebuffed, so they shifted their focus to the *Stoney Acres*. Marilyn's brother and his wife were running a successful restaurant in Grand Rapids, and wanted to expand their enterprise. So the two couples, friends, went in together to buy *Stoney*. The idea was that Liam and Marilyn would be paid for their day-to-day work, and the two couples would split the profits, when and if they arrived.

Things began to go wrong almost at the start. Credit card receipts automatically sent to the operating fund account failed to arrive, so starting in August of 2002, Liam and Marilyn and the staff were rarely paid on time, and payments for supplies had to go on their burgeoning credit cards. Investi-

gating how this could have happened led to some surprising discoveries that turned the two couples into combatants. Mediation was attempted, but the results were not accepted. A second round of mediation, involving three neutral attorneys to do a "case evaluation," produced an equally unacceptable settlement proposal. So the matter began the time-consuming and expensive uphill climb into court.

A trial set for early May was postponed. New discovery motions were made, and detectives and attorneys hired. On June 14th another trial date will be set, probably for September. Acrimony has peaked, reducing the chances of a settlement.

By keeping their eyes on the goal of turning *Stoney* into a fine, International-style bistro, the Racines have managed to struggle along without reimbursement for their efforts, somehow finding fresh energy each time they seemed about to be overcome by exhaustion.

We all hope for a quick resolution; both couples have better things to do than perpetuate an energy-consuming dispute whose costs are such that neither can really hope to ever win.

Tom Kelso 1940-2004

Thomas Kelso, former resident of Beaver Island (East Side Drive; Eagle Hill; and Gull Harbor) passed away on January 29th in Arizona from cancer at age 64.

Born in Michigan, he went to school in Ohio. After graduation he spent two years in Mexico before joining the Army in 1961. He was stationed in Germany, where he met his wife. He traveled extensively, was an avid bird-watcher, and collected guns. He was one of the first to practice on-line investing, and was known on Beaver Island for doting over Jacque, his mule. In the last few years he became an avid astronomer; he and his wife moved to Lake Linden because of its clear air.

Last May he was diagnosed with cancer, but it was already too late. He suffered much during the past four years, but never gave up hope. Thanks go to Ron Gallagher, who spent every day of the final two weeks with Tom until he died. He is missed by his wife, relatives, and friends.

A Splendid July 17th

The Stephen Sondheim cast has agreed to an expanded performance for Museum Week's culminating event!

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Strang Writers enjoy Beaver Island

The Strang Writers Group's late-May conference on Beaver Island was quite a success, drawing people from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Evergreen Colorado, Illinois, Wisconsin, Denver, Lansing, and Harbor Springs, as well as locals Rod Nackerman, Frank Solle, Phyllis Moore, Phil Becker, Sharon Nix, Robert Cole, and Bill Cashman. Ideas about what made this controversial figure tick flew fast and furiously during several presentations on Friday and Saturday, leading up to a casual round-robin reading of John Baldwin's sweeping play, *Strang!* Perhaps the one most applauded was Robert Cole's description of Strang as a narcissistic exemplar of Borderline Personality Disorder, heavily dependent on feedback from his closed community to sustain his self-imposed identity as prophet and civic leader a judgement that did not diminish his fascination for those who follow characters who live and think large.

Besides having a good time, the "Strang Gang" took care of some business, agreeing to meet next June and again on June 16, 2006, the 150th anniversary of "the shots heard 'round the



Photograph courtesy of William Olson

fishing grounds." The 2006 event will be given national publicity, and could produce an interesting crowd. Other provisional decisions included the adopting of a mission statement, the creation of a web site, and the moving toward a more formal status in order to qualify for potential funding to help with such enterprises as publications and the staging of Strang events and plays.

The Gang congratulated Vickie Speek for having had her scholarly book, 12 years in the making, picked up by Signature Press for publication next spring. She read the conclusion to her book, after SWG founder Bill Olson entertained the group with a selection from his work-in-progress in which residents of Washington Island consider how to protect themselves

from Strang's raiding minions. And the Gang wished SWG-member Connie Cappell good luck when she journeys to Key West next month to once again offer her controversial views on Ernest Hemingway's early love life to the staid, primarily-male attendees at the next biannual Hemingway symposium.

After the Friday discussions, members retreated to the Shamrock, where the Islanders entertained them by staging a vestigial brawl. So naturally they returned on Saturday night, and were invited into a home where they were serenaded with old-time Island songs, such as *We'll Dance on Strang's Bones* and *Let's Sweep the Beavers Clean*.

Those who missed out on the fun should keep their ear tuned to NPR for the radio program being developed by Jennifer Nix from recordings of the various sessions and interviews with the attendees.

Lake Michigan

Thanks to a lot of winter snow, and heavy May rains, the lake is 8" higher than last May, when it was only 8" above its all-time spring low (1964.)



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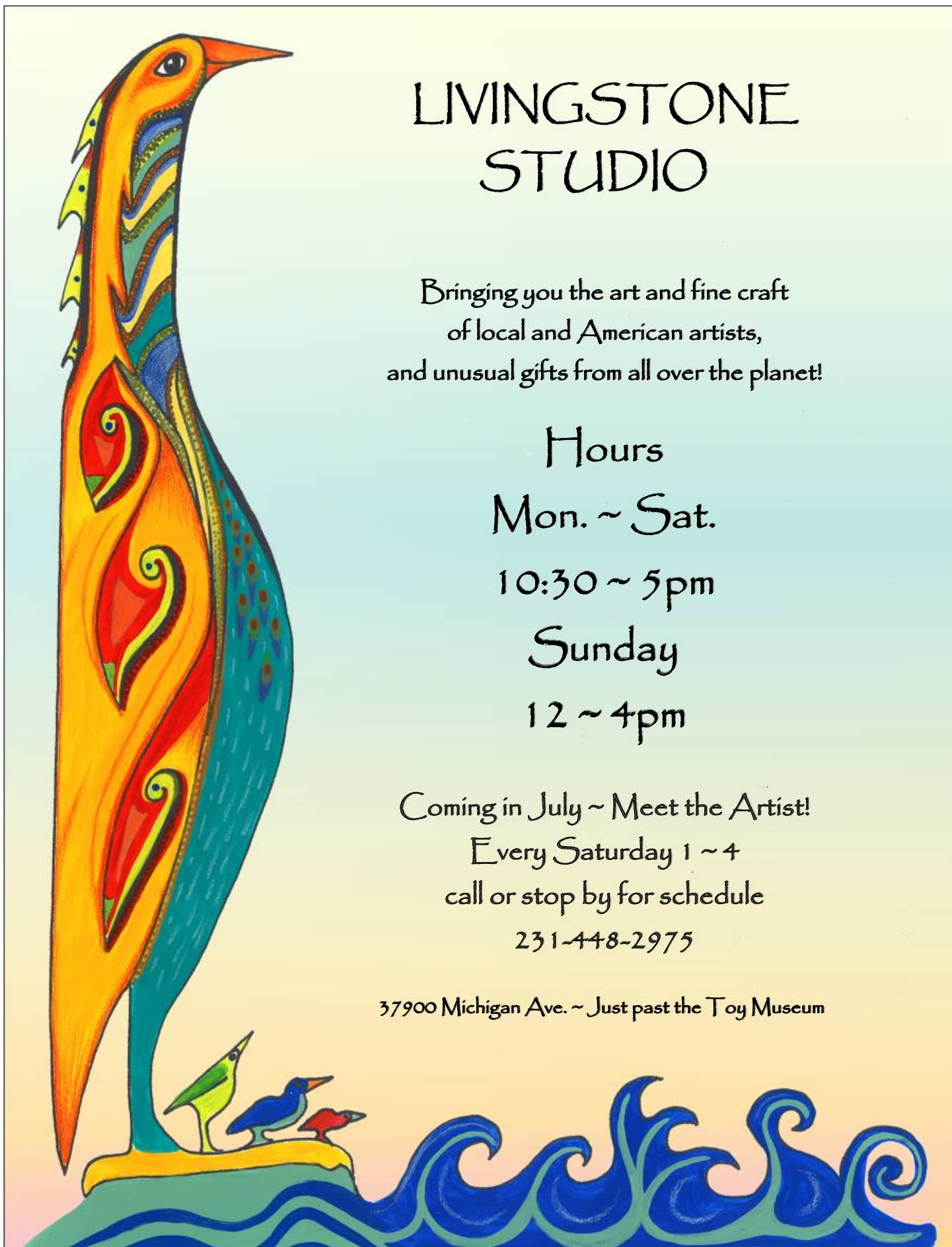
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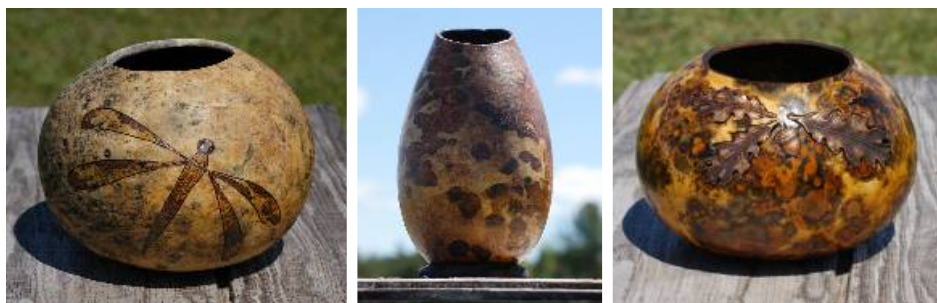
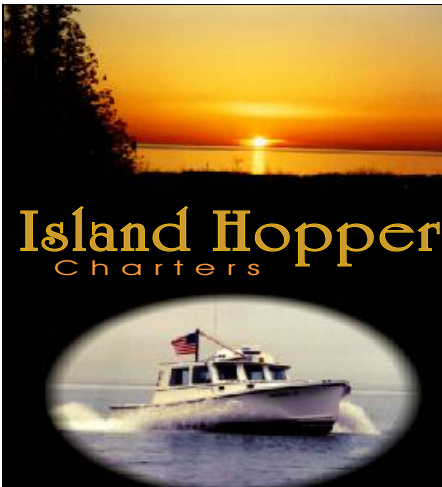
For the 3rd year in a row Cheryl Podgorski has opened her *Stoney Acres Garden and Gifts* behind the Stoney Acres Grill—in part to get the results of her productive winter out of her house. The way her business has grown has cramped the small barn and attached greenhouse, though, so this year she's adding another bay—for Dan Gentle's exquisite cedar furniture, which she'll sell.

Yes, she has plants—150 flats arrived in late May. But her crafts are the crowning glory of her shop, mostly made by her during the isolation of winter. Some are for the garden: birdbaths (some molded from hosta and elephant-plant leaves, and some made from peat concrete), stepping stones, and special bricks. Other areas include jewelry (earrings and necklaces), leather, cloth bags with Beaver Island designs, T-shirts, pillows, baskets, inte-

rior fountains, puppets, masks, spirit catchers, work-glove creatures, painted and coppered gourds, and silk flowers. Speaking of miniature worlds, she has a few 'garden in a bottle' arrangements heavy on moss, natural geode crystals, and Jeremy Barrett's clever 'cut coins.'


She also carries Keewaydinoquay's books on Native American plant, medicinal, and cultural lore. And don't forget her cut-out miniature replicas of Beaver Island's landmark buildings.

Her June workshops (1:00 – 3:00, \$25) are set: June 10, 'learn to plant a moss basket'; June 17, 'learn to make cement lawn sculptures'; and June 24, 'learn to make wind chimes and mobils.' Also, her July 22nd 'Wild Medicines and Herbals' workshop will be at the Peaine Hall from 10:00 until 4:00 (\$50.) Call her (448-3141) to enroll.

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On This Date

Ten Years Ago The *Beacon* announced that the Wildlife Club had received walleye fry for its newly-established Rearing Pond, and was conducting a membership drive to pay for a much-needed shallow-well pump. The Club also contracted with John Works Jr. to plant two fields with clover and rye. And it purchased some Loon-nesting buoys as well.

This was a poetry issue, containing work from Denise Connor, Elizabeth LaFreniere, and the following from Dave Gladish:

*When our days are freed of all
struggle and strife*

*Through the help that computers
are giving,*

*We'll work out a program to simu-
late life*

And save us the trouble of living.

The front-page story concerned Peaine's Road Committee and its dream of 20 miles of asphalt. Chairman Paul Nelson had asked a professional engineer for an appraisal: Gary Voogt. He advised against straightening, flattening, or widening roads to be asphalted, and to remember that the high initial cost would be offset by eliminating the need for regravelling and dust con-

trol—although preparing an adequate base was estimated to require 90,000 tons of gravel. It was hoped some kind of grant might be found to help pay for this work.

The St. James Episcopal Mission became a Parochial Mission and announced that Father Joseph Howell and his wife Jeanne would be in residence all summer. An ambitious upgrade of the building included complete new bathroom facilities, a handicapped ramp, and new flooring.

BICS student Angela Thundercloud won a contest with her essay, "America and Me," and was one of three runners-up in another contest. At the Science Fair, Amanda Steinglass' "Car Seat Tray" took first place in the 7th/8th-grade group, Erin McDonough's "Plant Cloning and Propagation" was first in the 9th/10th-grade group, and Jeff Cashman's "Sandwich-making Machine" was first in the 11th/12th-grade group. Eric Helene conducted a stone-carving class, working with soapstone and alabaster, and was pleased with the students' ability to "find" the forms inside the rock. The school also staged a "Looney Lock-up," raising over \$400.

In Town Board news, Peaine voted

to donate \$5,000 to the tennis courts. In St. James, a millage request for the Historical Society was placed on the ballot. Bids were expected for a new Harbormaster building; the Chamber intended to move into the old Harbormaster building. The Chamber also asked for a noise ordinance for the Harbor, but was told the DNR would not approve it. Supervisor Neal Boyle read four years worth of angry letters written to the Road Commission.

The Deputy's report indicated that the first four months of 1994 saw 24 dog licenses issued, 12 animals impounded, and four animals euthanized.

Twenty Years Ago The *Beacon* reported that the State Legislature had passed an Appropriations Bill that excluded funding for our doctor. Funds from office visits pay for the operation of the Med Center, it was stated, but not the doctor. "The first doctor was hired by the State because Sophia LaFreniere died in childbirth." All the friends of Beaver Island were urged to write letters and send them to the Med Center for proper routing to Lansing.

The school prepared to search for a new principal to replace Barb Rakowski. The fall curriculum included

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replacing sewing class with a course on computer education. Debbie LaFreniere won the contest for an essay on "Why America Needs Me." Kathleen Green was the Valedictorian.

Peaine Township voted to pay half the cost of its Iron Ore Bay acquisition from the General Fund, and to pay the balance of \$12,125 the following April. Joe Cunningham replaced Ed Davis on the Planning Commission, and Matt Hohn was put on the Road Committee. St. James voted to also pay half the cost now for the Iron Ore Bay property and the other half in a year. The Civic Association awarded a barrel planter to Doyle and Phyllis Fitzpatrick for having the best-looking residence in its Harbor Beautification contest.

With the Island firefighters graduating from the first part of their training, the First Annual Fireman's Ball was held on May 5th. Passings noted included long-time Island booster Elaine Smith, Joe Minogue, a grandson of Captain Owen McCauley (of the 'Squaw Island tragedy'), and former Island doctor Harry Vail (1953-56.)

Thirty Years Ago The *Beacon* announced the publication of the 30-page Beaver Island Sketchbook, with

charcoal sketches by Patricia Nelson (Sand Bay) and text by Elaine Smith (IsleAwhile.)

The Historical Society offered a reward for the return of the bronze plaque marking the site of engineer David Chase's death. The Print Shop porch was being built, and a picket fence on the side. A slab was being poured for the old jail. A program of special sunset cruises on the *South Shore* was begun.

It was a sad month for the Island, with the passings of summer visitor Elmer Smith, Rev. Chester Meengs, Norman Gallagher, Maria Gallagher, and Arthur Ryan. Rev. Meengs suffered a stroke while vacationing with his family at their cottage at Cable's Bay. The son of Willie John, Norman Gallagher was born on Beaver Island in 1917, and was married to the poet Eleanor Herington. Hannah Maria Malloy was born on Beaver in 1889 and married Hugh Gallagher in 1913. After trying Chicago for a short time, they moved back to the Island. Arthur Ryan was married to Islander Dorothy Malloy.

Forty Years Ago The *Beacon* welcomed the Michigan Outdoor Writers' Association, 60-strong, being housed at CMU, the Beaver Lodge, and else-

where. The Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce hosted a cocktail party for the writers on June 12th. The next day they were feted by the Civic Association with a banquet.

Several graduations were announced: Donna Jean Ricksgers, granddaughter of Joe M'Fro, from the Detroit Business Institute; John Andy's daughter Mary Elizabeth from Western; Dr. N. Peter Sorenson from the U-M Dental School (his very first patient was Dick LaFreniere); and Sheila Brown, daughter of Stella and Francis Brown, from Chicago's Xavier.

Beaver Island's doctor, Doctor Haynes, was honored with 22 other surviving members of the Wayne State School of Medicine, class of 1914.

The *North Shore* pulled a barge into the Harbor containing two large storage tanks, which were unloaded and put in place at the downtown power station by Jewell Gillespie.

Ed Wojan was honored at a dinner in East Jordan for his essay on "My American Heritage." The Christian Brothers arrived for a 30-day retreat.

Passings noted included Big Art Larsen, who was born on Garden Island
Continued on page 16.

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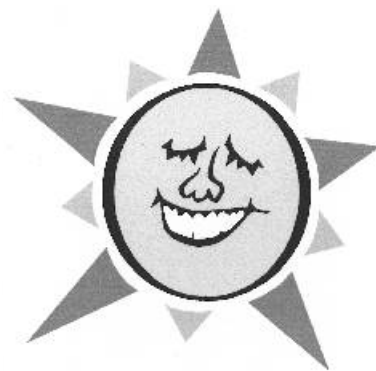
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On This Date, continued from page 15. in 1898; and Mrs Lloyd Howard, the former Rita May Burke, in a car crash in Ohio. "Into the Garden Island home-
stead of Egredius and Christina Larsen a healthy baby boy appeared on January 30, 1898. In those days Garden Island was a busy little community, with its own school, church, Post Office, and store to serve the homes and the commercial fishermen. The closest neighbor was Art's uncle, Pete Jenson, who had several sons. Art's father did very well, hauling in huge loads of trout and whitefish, but nevertheless they moved to Beaver in 1906, building a home on the north side of the harbor. Art began fishing with his father at an early age, learning a little more with each trip about how the boat handled in particular seas or what the clouds told about the coming weather. As the years rolled by Art did not stop

PABI Road Rally

I want to acknowledge the second place winners in PABI's road rally—MaryKay McPherson, Robert Cole, Stryder Crosswhite, and Corey Palmer. This young team played the game in complete fairness with impressive knowledge and absolutely no "hints." Their qualifying time was impressive. It's teams like theirs that make my efforts in writing the rally well worth my time. Great job! —Beth Anne Lucas

growing, and soon towered over his friends, earning him the title *Big Art*.

"His mother died in 1913. He continued to work with his father until his death ten years later; both are still buried on Garden. In 1918 Big Art met and married Sybil Tilley, daughter of Beaver's foremost home-builder. Everything went along fine until the tragic Armistice Day storm of 1940, which took so many lives. Art lost over \$7,000 worth of nets, and his big diesel tug, the Estonia, broke her moorings and wound up on the beach. He had no choice but to take a job as Diesel Engineer on boats plying the northern waters, such as the White Swan and the North Shore. An ingenious mechanic, people said he could make a diesel run on soft coal if he had to.

"After a year's illness this colorful life came to an end on June 3, 1964. He was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery."

Health and Art

Those who have walked through the maze of halls at the Health Center have reported feeling calmer and more relaxed—perhaps because of the beautiful works of art sprouting on the walls, thanks to Frank Solle and other Island artists: Kay Masini, Doris Larsen, and Cindy Ricksgers—and aerial photographer Jim Anderson, whose large, stunning photo of Beaver Island adorns the south side of the waiting room.



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One Hundred Years Ago

By Joyce Bartels

June 2, 1904 Local News: "Rev. Fr. Zugelder of St. James, came over Monday and went to Traverse City."

"Supervisor W. J. Gallagher, of St. James came over Monday on official business. Rev. T. B. Hughes went to Beaver Island Wednesday, preaching at St. James that evening."

"F. O. Butler, for many years keeper of the Beaver Head lighthouse, has been promoted to superintendent of boilers at fog signal stations of this district. His successor at Beaver Head has not yet been appointed. Mr. Butler is long in the service, and richly deserves this promotion, for which he is well qualified."

June 16, 1904 Local News: "James Donlevy, of St. James, came over on the *Beaver* yesterday. Supervisor W. J. Gallagher, of St. James, came over Monday, returning yesterday."

"M. Spencer, 1st assistant lightkeeper at Point Betsy, has been appointed keeper at Beaver Head. Mr.

Spencer will go to his new station on the *Beaver* today."

June 23, 1904 Local News: "Capt. Morton, superintendent, and Lieut. Quinan, inspector, U. S. Life Saving Service, on annual inspection tour were here over Sunday and went to Beaver Island Monday." (Note: Charles Morton, from Grand Haven and J. H. Quinan from Chicago, registered at the Beaver Hotel in June, 1904.)

June 30, 1904: Local News: "The steamer *Beaver* will run an excursion to Beaver Island Monday, July 4th, at one dollar for the round trip. This will be a most enjoyable day's outing if you don't care for brass bands, firecrackers, and circus lemonade. We know of no pleasanter way of spending the 4th."

"James McCann is here today on his way home from Chicago."

"Capt. Weaver has been temporary master of the steamer *Beaver* the past week, Capt. Campbell taking a lay-off."

Sock Hop Results

The AmVets Auxiliary announced the results from their April Sock Hop. Margaret McDonough Vavere of Grand Rapids won \$240 in the 50/50 raffle. Tina Turner Morgan had the best costume, a "total poodle." Phil Becker was the best singer (*Mack the Knife*). And the crew of Rizzo, Peg,

Judy, Sandy, Susie, Lisa, Joanie, and Donna were the best female singers (*It's My Party*). Bob Hoogendorn received a split decision: best hula hooper, but worst Mohawk in Michigan. Singing DJ Joe Nagraba agreed to return next year.

Thanks go out to all who helped!



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Broadway on Beaver: "An Evening with Stephen Sondheim" Premieres

By Robert Cole

Life on a remote island has certain limitations. For instance, mainland residents enjoy the option of seeing dramas, musicals, and comedies when they choose, simply by driving to regional arts venues. But generally speaking, if Islanders want to see such entertainment some must take the time and effort to stage a production themselves. So when local talent takes it upon itself to stage a play—or less often, a musical—it's a spe-

cial opportunity indeed.



The latest such opportunity was given the community on the night of May 8th, in Holy Cross Parish Hall. It came at the end of a long winter that, though certainly brightened by events like the Christmas Cantata, local talent show, and Community School play, seemed to have more than it's share of quietude. All the more welcome then was this great splash of color, cuisine, and




song marking the end of a grey season.

Last fall, Brenda LeFevre and Elaine West applied their combined theatrical experience to directing a local production showcasing the work of renowned Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim. Sondheim's contributions to the American theatre span almost fifty years, from his work as a lyricist on *West Side Story* in 1957 through his Tony Award-winning compositions for *Follies*,


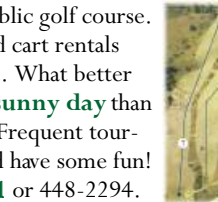






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A Little Night Music, and *Sweeney Todd*. In 1985 he received a Pulitzer Prize for *Sunday In The Park With George*. No other composer has come to define and embody the spirit and breadth of the Broadway musical's last half-century as has Sondheim.

The evening began with cordials, as those assembled mingled with each other, admiring the well-decorated Hall, carefully reconstructed stage area, and

hand-painted characters from Sondheim musicals arrayed near the walls. Students from the Lighthouse School played an integral role in the evening's production, from the creation of the well-drawn caricatures to the assistance of top-hatted ushers, as well as providing backstage support to cast and crew. The dinner followed, with Deborah Harwood and her talented culinary cadre serving up two main courses of savory chicken with

pasta, and rosemary roasted pork loin, accompanied by a variety of fresh salad and vegetable dishes.

Narrator Pinky Harmon opened the performance as the lights drew down, introducing the first full ensemble piece, "The Ballad of Sweeney Todd". This macabre tale of a London barber and baker duo who make pies of people centered on Sweeney himself, rendered

Continued on page 20.



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Sondheim, continued from page 19. convincingly by Bill Detwiler as the 'demon barber of Fleet Street.' The sight of Sweeney's murderous glare on Bill's normally congenial face set the audience back a step or two, and galvanized for them the suspension of disbelief so vital to successful theatre. The intro was followed by two more numbers from the same play: Phil Becker's sensitive solo on "Pretty Women", and Becker and Chris McMullen's hilarious execution of "The Worst Pies in London", wherein the baker Mrs. Lovett boasts of the quality of her "meat pies" to Becker's unwitting customer, delivering some of the best physical comedy of the evening.

Bill Detwiler then returned to the fore with a love song from *Follies*, "Losing My Mind." Detwiler's solo offered an impressively understated and focused interpretation of this journey through the experience of falling in love. This piece revealed at once both the previously untapped level of talent in the singer and the skill of the director's touch in coaxing the emergence of such abilities from her performers.

A trio of performers—who also happen to be old friends—took the stage for "Old Friends" from *Merrily We Roll Along*. Brenda, Elaine, and their friend Kirby Volz from Indiana lit up the room

with this upbeat and humorous tribute to time-tested camaraderie. Their familiarity with each other and their chosen art shone infectiously through every line, gesture, and step they shared. Elaine West in particular stood out here with the unbridled enthusiasm and confident panache of her rendition. The mid-point of the evening seemed to pause around the still point of Suzie Fisher's warmly nuanced and deeply felt treatment of "Anyone Can Whistle" from the musical of the same name. Again we saw a deeper gift and sensitivity show itself to the audience in an offering at turns musing and hopeful, shared by the singer with a sense of vulnerability and empathy that drew the listener in close to the song's message.

Chris McMullen followed with Sondheim's best-known song, "Send in the Clowns". This lyrical masterpiece from *A Little Night Music* captured the audience's rapt attention, as McMullen's poised stage presence and command of her material deftly carried the room through the peaks and valleys of her character's meditation on love and loss.

The last three numbers were from *Into the Woods*, Sondheim's adult re-visioning of classic fairy tales. The emotional tone of the earlier segments was lifted by Jane Bailey's delightful carriage of "Into the Woods", from the eponymous

musical. Dressed brightly as Little Red Riding Hood, Bailey was the image of youthful innocence fronting exaggerated certainty over anxiety, lilting in a sing-song voice as she danced around the trees and fears of childhood, throwing the crowd into peals of laughter.

"Witches Lament" featured the Co-Director as performer. Brenda LaFevre's Wicked Witch gave a masterful rendering of a mother's conflicted heart, both angry and grief-stricken over her daughter Rapunzel's impending adulthood. LaFevre's powerful voice, pierced with sorrow and pleading, soared over the audience like a bird in flight, revealing the hidden and complex personal truths beneath the supposedly simple fairy tales of our past.

The musical extravaganza concluded with the full ensemble's chorus of "No One Is Alone", a message of guidance and support to young and old alike. Both a recognition of the solitary nature of life's journey and an affirmation of a guiding presence, this song spoke for the purpose of art itself, as it seeks to show us the way through the woods of our own lives. Certainly the art given the community that night did the same, lifting us for a time out of the mundane concerns and ongoing struggles of daily life, affirming what is true for all of us, celebrating universal

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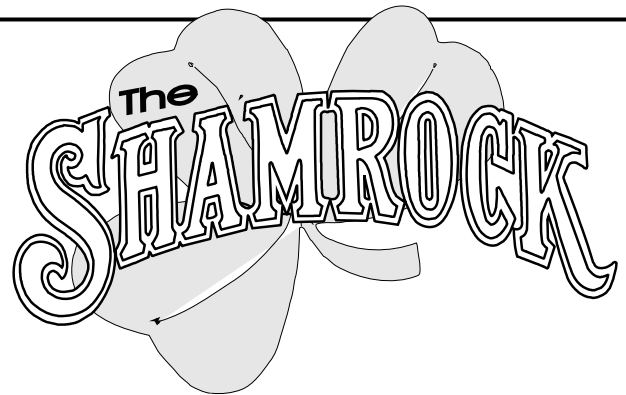
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experiences and feelings, sharing in life's sorrows and triumphs and absurdities. Moreover, what was demonstrated that night was the presence of the possibilities within all of us. As Suzie Fisher sang—"What's hard is simple/What's natural comes hard/Maybe you could show me how to let go/lower my guard/learn to be free..."

The Directors did just that, both for their players and their audience. We are fortunate to have among us those who are willing and eager to take the time and effort necessary to foster the arts, and thereby uplift the community we share.

To the Editor

We would like to express our thanks for the experience of the dinner theater. First, we wish to thank those who attended, and, with their applause, gave their approval of our efforts. As we passed among the tables after the show we were overwhelmed and humbled by the attention we received.

There are many individuals who spent many hours on art work and costumes. I won't try to name you all; I might forget someone. You know who you are. Our thanks to you. Thanks to Bob, who built the flats, and Mike who painted them. Thanks to Linda who made the skirt for the stage. Thanks to

Brenda LaFevre, Elaine West, and the entire cast and crew involved in this production deserve a big hand for all they've done.

Proceeds from the production will benefit the Beaver Island Music Fund, from which future productions will benefit in turn. There is now talk of establishing a repertory company locally to serve as a nexus for the talent that abides within our community. The talent and skill behind *An Evening With Stephen Sondheim* is as follows:

Cast: Jane Bailey, Melissa Bailey, Bill Detwiler, Shirley Detwiler, Susie

Fisher, Chris McMullen, Judi Meister, Florina Smith, Elaine West, Phil Becker, Brenda LaFevre, Don Meister, Allison Racignol, Kirby Volz, Joey Wright, Bob Hamil.

Production Staff: Bob Hamil, Denny Fisher, Krys Lyle, Betty Scoggins, Mike Scripps, Pinky Harmon.

Production Crew, B.I. Lighthouse School: Robert Brown, Craig Boyce, Jon Stogner, Sean Krygier, Florina Smith, Joey Wright, Alison Racignol, Bob Johns.

(Note: Many of the musical accompanists, production staff, and cast carried out multiple tasks.)

Jeff for the wonderful pictures.

Thanks to Deb and her crew for the meal. It received a well deserved standing ovation. We were able to sample some in the kitchen after the performance. And the deserts: Wow!

Thanks to the cast and crew for your commitment throughout the process. The participation of the students from the Lighthouse School was a vital part of the show. Thank you, and thank you to the people at the school who made your presence possible.

Thanks to Mike Scripps who flew down to get Kirby. And thanks to Mike, Judy, and Brenda, who with the key-

boards and piano made the rest of us sound so good.

Thank you Elaine and Brenda for your united effort in producing this wonderful evening.

Brenda, dear friend, what can we say to you? You saw in us something no one else saw, of which we ourselves were unaware, and through your patience and skill and your demand for excellence, you brought it out and showed it to us all. Phil Becker said it best "What an experience! We will never be the same again."

With our most sincere thanks,
Bill and Shirley Detwiler.



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Letters to the Editor:

BIRHC May 1st Meeting

I was in attendance at the May 1st BIRHC board meeting, and was pleasantly surprised at how well it went. There was little rancor among board members, and the board made the public feel that it was a significant part of the meeting. Public comment was solicited many times during the meeting and input from the public seemed welcome. I hope this is the beginning of a new commitment by the board to include the public in the decision-making process.

That said, I do need to chastise the person(s) who moved the optometrist into the new building without a negotiated contract, as was required for the dentist. After months of hand-wringing over concerns that having a private practice in the 501(c)3 Health Center might be illegal, **the board determined there was an absolute need for a signed contract before anyone moves in.** For any board member(s) to authorize or sanction such a move is unacceptable. Equal treatment under the law is a fundamental right in this country. I was pleased to see the board call for a special meeting to remedy this problem.

I also want to thank Jerry

LaFreinere for his great service to the public as the EMS representative on the BIRHC board, and hope the now vacant EMS position will be filled rapidly. Best wishes, Jerry, in your new position with BIEMS. I am confident the BIEMS will continue to provide the excellent first response services that

Beaver Island citizens have been experiencing. —Kenneth Jay Taylor

Optometrist's Contract

The contract was approved (calling for no rent) at a special meeting on May 26th (and an NP preceptor from Saginaw Valley State was accepted.)

Sherry Burris 1956-2004

Sherry Lyn Burris, 48, passed away at her home on Lake Geneserath. Sherry was born on February 16, 1956, in Lapeer, Michigan to Patricia and Bernard King. She worked as a waitress and cook, and enjoyed many arts and crafts, along with gardening. She became a mother and worked hard for her children. In recent years, Sherry's health had started to deteriorate due to illness. God took her home on May 17, 2004.

She is survived by her mother, Patricia Burris; three children, Holly Jade Burris, Derrick Aaron Burris, and



Patrick Morgan Burris; three grandsons, Eli DeLynn, James DeShawn Thomas II, and Skyler Williams; her sister and brother-in-law, Sandra and Perry Fortier; two nieces, Amy and Renee; and nephew Jeremy.

The funeral was held at the Beaver Island Christian Church on May 21st, followed by burial at the Beaver Island Christian Cemetery.

A personal note from Carol LaFreinere that was shared by many others: "Sherry was my friend for many years, and will be greatly missed."

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From the CCG:

As an outcome of last fall's mediation between the BIRHC and the CCG, the CCG agreed to give the BIRHC board an opportunity to make positive changes without being under constant criticism. Criticism has been held and some improvement has been made. However, there continues to be areas of concern that warrant comment.

1) After retaining a \$160,000 consultant as a transition manager, the board redirected her to develop billing procedures. At the end of her contract, the board decided to outsource billing. That decision should have been made early on. The board has now extended her employment. The extra funds could have been spent on other needed equipment or services.

2) Another responsibility of the consultant was to obtain grants. There have been none. A donation of \$25,000 was obtained from the Chippewa and Ottawa Band of Native Americans, and \$15,000 of State funds. Neither required a grant application, but were obtained by requesting them. Any board member could have done this. Both the school and the EMS received

similar contributions without having to hire a high priced consultant.

3) After putting the Island's dentist through a year of contract negotiations, a new optometrist was retained without board approval; the board didn't even have knowledge of it happening. This raises two issues. One, the question of fair and equitable treatment of the dentist. Two, continued violation of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and the public's trust. It should be noted that when challenged on this issue, the acting chair of May's board meeting declared a special meeting would be called to rectify this prior to the next visit of the optometrist.

4) There is a financial concern for the Health Center's future; large personal donations will be critical for continued operation. The board may have to mortgage the new building, which could place it at high risk. The financial reports given out at the monthly meeting are difficult to understand. Some board members find the reports confusing and conflicting. One board member recommended that some financial reports be generated quarterly. Hopefully the board has decided no on this

matter. A board can not make good timely decisions from reports they do not understand and with financial data that is three to four months old.

5) The board recommended no longer holding open monthly meetings but instead going to every other month to allow it to accomplish more between meetings. This would further breakdown communication and direct involvement with a concerned public. In tough times, the board needs to become more transparent and not conduct its business out of view. This is the time to be more proactive as a board and interactive with the public, which it will depend on for its future financing.

We hope the board will learn from its mistakes in order to improve its future conduct. Over 30% of the BIRHC budget comes from local tax dollars. The public expects and deserves better in return for its support. The CCG welcomes board response; however, time and energy would be better spent by the board reevaluating some of the things that continue to minimize public concern and jeopardize the future of *OUR* Health Center.

— Kirk D. McBride, Chair, CCG

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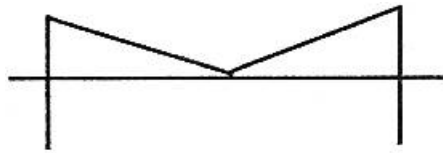
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Henry Ricksgers, Jr.

Henry Ricksgers Junior, 81, of Waterford, passed away on May 4th. He was the loving husband of Betty Jo for 55 years, father of Mary Sitto and the late Paul Ricksgers, father-in-law of Cathy Ricksgers, grandfather of Melissa, Michele, Suzie, Brett, Jessica, and Wesley; great-grandfather of Melanie and Mya (who is on the way); brother of Margaret Evans, Katherine Ricksgers, and Alfred (Mary Lou) Ricksgers and the late Robert and Kenneth Ricksgers.

Henry was a veteran of the U. S. Army and Air Force, W. W. II. He retired from Pontiac Motors after 41 years of service. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Clarkson. A Funeral Mass was held at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church in Waterford.



Photograph by Alan and Kathy Brouard

Morel contest leaders (circumference of height plus circumference of width): Jim McDonough, 24.5; Bob and Sue Welke, 18.5; Tony Rousch, 16.6.

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2004 BIRHC Truck Raffle

The third annual Beaver Island Rural Health Center Truck Raffle will kick off Memorial Day Weekend. This year's vehicle is the classiest ever: a red 2004 Chevy S-10 pickup with crew cab, equipped with 4 wheel drive, V6 engine, automatic transmission, key-less entry, power windows, AM/FM stereo with CD player, double-wall box with bedliner, and many other features.

Tickets will once again be \$100 each, available at the Health Center, McDonough's Market, and from any BIRHC board member. For the first time tickets will also be on sale at both terminals of Island Airways. A maximum of 500 will be sold. The drawing will be held at the Shamrock on Labor Day. As in previous years, the proceeds from the raffle will support on-going operations at the Health Center.



Beaver Island Marine preparing for a busy season (amplified by the Yacht Dock's remodeling) by undoing the lifting perpetuated by last winter's ice.




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Letters to the Editor: Karaoke

I feel compelled to write after reading the wonderful lists of volunteers on the Island put together by the Americorp group. I realize that they could not remember everyone, so I would like to add my grateful thanks to Mike and Sharon Hurkmans for the tremendous time and energy they put into the Talent Show for the past couple of years.

This was the 18th annual show, and before they arrived, all we had to work with for anyone who could not play an instrument was a CD player and you had to sing along with the singer or do as I did, a cappella. The Hurkmans never ask for any kind of payment and also have opened their garage numerous times for practices and for anyone who would want to come out and use their equipment.

At this time on the Island, when many parents are asking for activities for their kids to do, we have to ask ourselves why, when Mike and Sharon offered their services free of charge for a Karaoke Night at Peaine Twp. Hall, the Youth Consortium threw it back in their faces and someone said to them "well, I think kids would rather learn to play an instrument."

One of my questions to that is: who is going to teach or accompany them? And where were they when I needed someone to accompany me all those years ago? My instrument is my voice, as it is with many of these talented kids. And if not for Kevin White, I never would have had the chance to sing with music—at least not until the Hurkmans moved here.

On any given Saturday night, you can find me with my car loaded with 12-15 kids heading out to Hurkmans' garage for a karaoke night. And the wonderful thing is, they don't have to be great or to find someone to accompany them—it's right there; all they have to do is add their voice. So maybe we should let them have a voice and give Mike and Sharon the respect and gratitude they greatly deserve. If you or your child have not had the opportunity to do karaoke, give it a try, but please don't judge it or the Hurkmans until you have.

So thank you Mike and Sharon from me and also the countless number of kids that are grateful that you chose Beaver Island to live and that you let us invade your lives and garage.

— Sheri Timsak

Calendar of Events

Softball - May 24th - July 28th.

Sign-up sheet at the school or call Diane McDonough at 448-2164. Tee-ball (1st - 4th Grade) Monday 6:30 - 7:30. Little League (5th - 8th Grade) Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00. Big League (9th Grade - Adults) Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30.

Wildlife Club meeting with DNR, Dinner. June 10th

BIPOA Nature Lecture - Piping Plovers of the Beaver Archipelago - Peaine Township Hall 7:30 p.m. June 17th

Conservation Easements and Land Conservation Tools that can benefit unique ecosystems like Beaver Island. Peaine Township Hall 7:00 p.m. June 22nd

Annual Fashion Tea, Deerwood, July 8th (see page 33 for details)

Museum Week, July 12th-17th A lively week of interesting events and all the Island favorites.

Beaver Island Music Festival, July 16th - 17th

MAD Camp, July 19th - 24th

Beaver Island Property Owners Association Annual Meeting Peaine Twp. Hall 7:30 p.m. July 26th

BIPOA Nature Lecture: Water Quality Peaine Hall 7:30 p.m. July 29th

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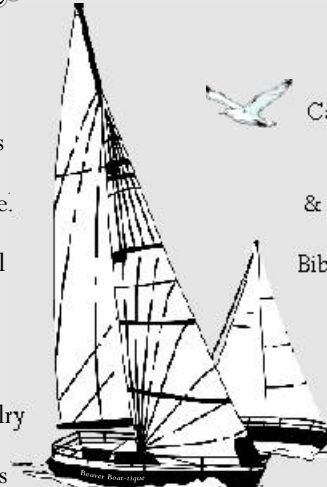
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School Election

Three important issues are on the June 14th ballot. Two concern taxes: renewing our current 15.7908 mills (less than the 18 mills common in much of Michigan), and renewing the Char-Em 1.16 mills used to provide help for Beaver Island kids with special needs. The third is the selection of board members to fill three vacancies. Nominees Dawn Marsh and Nancy Tritsch have their names on the ballot, and Brian Cole has agreed to run as a write-in candidate.

This is a rare chance for us to do something to improve our future, so make sure to vote if you possibly can!

Thanks to the Steinbachs: a new Fire Truck!

On May 18th Anna Steinbach "made the day" for Beaver Island Fire Chief Tim McDonough by presenting him with a check for \$150,000 for a new fire truck. Brought to the Island by Phil and Lil Gregg, Harold and Joyce Bartels, and Max and Irmgard Niels in 1960, Anna and her late husband Fritz camped out on the East Side. Fritz and their two daughters fell in love with Beaver's tranquility. Anna had a few reservations at first, but acquiesced upon being outvoted when the subject of buying a Sand Bay lot and having Walt Wojan build them a cottage came up.

Wanting to do something special for the Island (in addition to their contributions to the Health Center and other Beaver Island projects), they learned that a new fire truck with all the bells and whistles (all those appropriate for Beaver Island) would cost \$150,000 – so she wrote a check. Tim was so flabbergasted that he promised her, once it's finished late next fall, he'll take her around the Island with the siren screaming however many times she wants.

A plaque on the side of the new truck will read, "In Memory of Fritz Steinbach."

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Photographs by Forrest Powers

Wildlife Club News

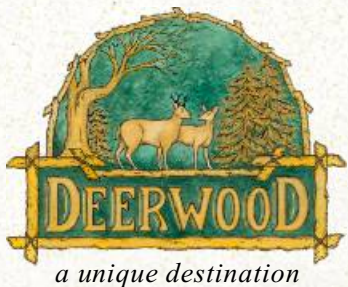
At its May 13th meeting Beaver Island's Wildlife Club vowed to do better than last year's picayune yield of walleye fingerlings. One problem is, the old 'Joe Nuke' windmill no longer towers above the trees. To power a well pump, the Club will install ~1,000' of underground aluminum line, which will also allow it to use an aerator. The pond is in good shape, but a volunteer work crew will patch a few rips in the liner (with clay) and tweak the flashing surround. It might hang reflectors off the net lines to discourage foraging birds. No turtles have yet been seen in the

pond, but they're just starting to stir. The plankton seem adequate. Jeff Powers took an aqua-culture course this winter, and has an air-content testing meter. Last year the state's fingerling production was down 75%. This year's supply of 25,000 fry was expected soon.

Brian Mastenbrook offered to consult about the deer herd. Some of the herd-enhancement methods under discussion are: a greater restriction on minimum antler size; restrictions to one buck; increasing the number of one-day doe permits from 900 to 1,200; and discouraging hunters from using permits

from their relatives and friends. A snow-mobile tour revealed places at the south end where deer had been run onto the ice by coyotes and taken down. Deer were seen standing on snow drifts to browse on cedar trees—10' off the ground!

Because the deer rifle season starts on a Monday, the Hunters' Dinner will be held on the preceding Saturday (11-13) at Nina's, with the first sitting (whitefish and steak) to begin at 5:30, with all profits from the food going to the Wildlife Club. The raffle organizers might offer two guns, so for one ticket, guests will have two chances to win.



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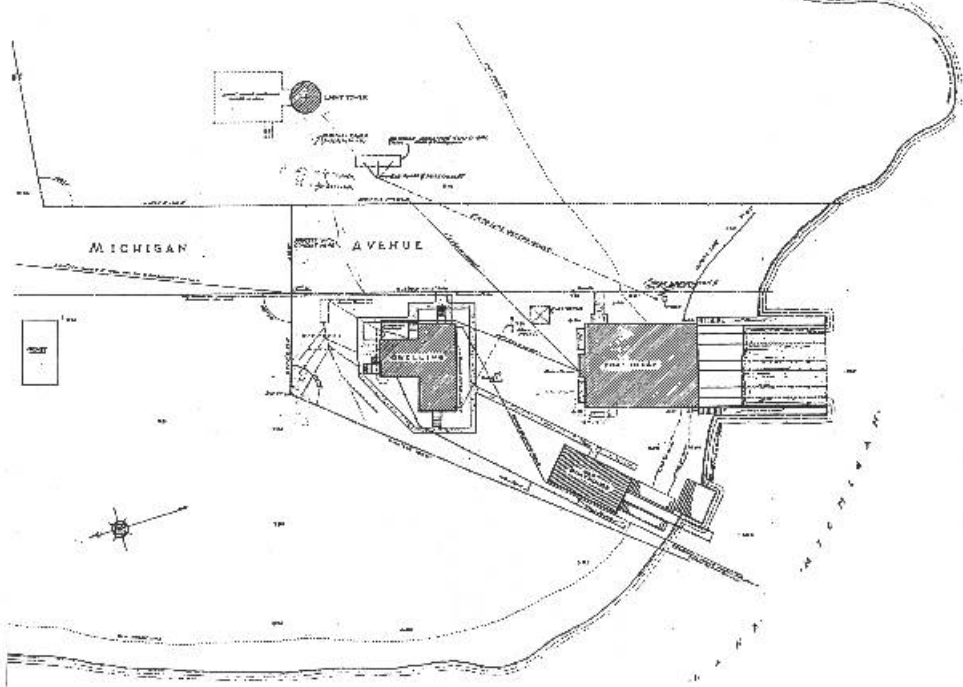
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Whiskey Point Light Reports Received



St. James Township just received two reports about the Whiskey Point Light, one from the archaeological firm assessing the site and the other from the architect who evaluated the structure.

The first, "Environmental Site Assessment," came from Tetra Tech NUS in Pittsburgh. In a preliminary examination in 2001, chips from several layers of lead-based paint that were applied since 1870 were found in the

ground, leading to a more thorough study. But no storage tank leaks, asbestos, or other hazardous chemicals were found. Also, this is not considered to be an area of potential radon infection.

The second report is from John Dziurman Architects Ltd, and includes a note on the Light's history. The first Light built on this site came into existence in 1856, at a time when dozens of boats came into the harbor every day.

Congress authorized spending \$5,000 for the station.

In 1870 the first Light was replaced with a taller (41') double-walled tower: The outer wall was 12" thick covered with soft brick; then there was a 2" air space; then a 4" inner brick wall was coated with plaster. At the top, 5 concentric brick rings encircled the tower. The light had a 12-mile visibility.

In 1885 a major stabilization program filled in the cellar beneath the attached dwelling. The former barn was converted to a summer kitchen, and a kerosene storage building was added. In 1915 the Life-saving Service became the Coast Guard. In the early 1940s the outbuildings were demolished.

The architect proposed a program involving several steps: stabilization of the building; eliminating pests; waterproofing the building; securing the site; venting the building; upgrading the utilities; and developing a use and protection plan. He estimated various restoration costs: \$112,500 for the brick tower; \$12,780 for various external features; \$3,550 for new windows; and \$9,375 for interior work. Including such things as lighting, furnishings, and landscaping, and factoring in the difficulties of working on Beaver Island, his estimate was that the total cost would be almost \$210,000.

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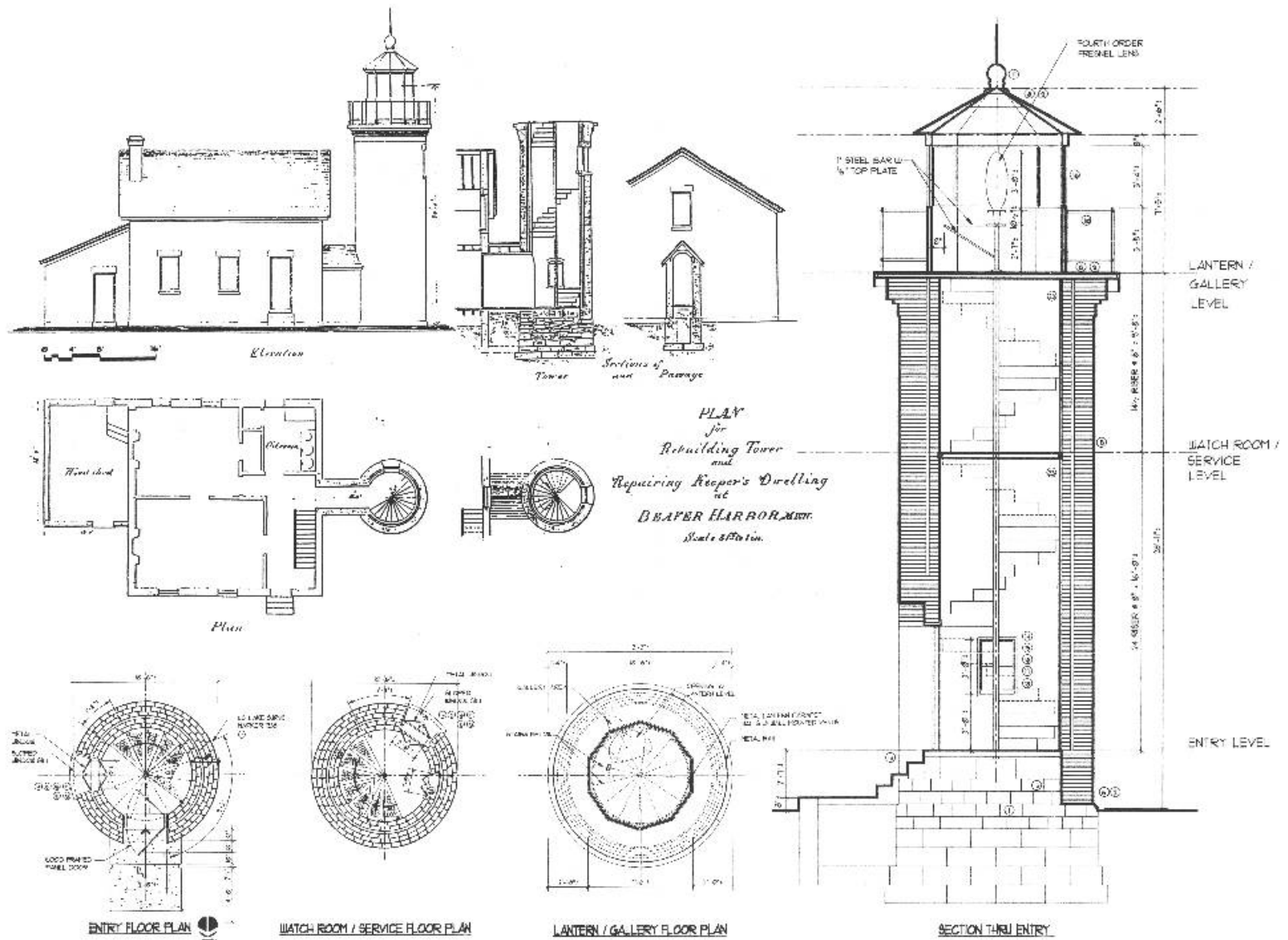
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Graduation

On May 1st, Ryan Wojan graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in English. Proud parents are Ed and Connie Wojan. Now he'll take nine months off to travel and teach English in Europe before making the decision about whether or not to go to graduate school.

Baroque on Beaver

For the 3rd consecutive year, St. James Episcopal Mission will sponsor "Baroque on Beaver," an occasion of classical music, on Sunday, July 25, 2004 at Holy Cross Parish Hall.

This year the small chamber orchestra and choral ensemble, comprised of Beaver Island residents and guests, will present two performances. The evening will feature music by Bach, Purcell, Holst, Handel, and Ralph Vaughn Williams with 15 instrumentalists and 25 choir members, including instrumental and choral soloists. The afternoon program will include students from the Island School and children of seasonal residents and guests.

Jason Economides, concertmaster of both the Midland and Alma Symphonies, and his wife, Patty Baser, Orchestra Director of the Chippewa Hills School District in Remus, will return as co-directors. Charles Krutz will return as an instrumental soloist. Brenda LeFevre will return as a vocal soloist, and Kathy Speck will direct both the children's and the adult choruses.

Excitement about this year's "Baroque on Beaver" is especially high because the project was selected to receive partial funding through a grant award by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Cheboygan Area Arts Council!

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The Annual "Fashion Tea"

Mark Your Calendars! The Beaver Island Rural Health Center Annual Fashion Tea is set to go! *Deerwood* proprietors Sally and Jon Fogg have offered their beautiful setting for an outdoor old-fashioned tea party.

The date is set for July 8th from three until five in the afternoon, with delicious finger sandwiches and tea pastries being served for refreshment. Ticket prices will again be \$30, purchased through our contributing Fashion Boutiques, including the *Beaver Boatique* and the *East Wind Spa*. Other fashionable items such as jewelry and accessories will be shown as well. More mention of the contributors as they confirm.

A Silent Auction will also be taking place, beginning on June 25th at the BIRHC Grand Opening Party. Over 25 items and services have already been donated, including these items to bid on: round trip airline tickets; a night's lodging at three of our fine lodges; dinners for two; U of M football tickets; 1/2 day salmon fishing; round of golf and refreshments for four; kayaking; massage, manicure, and pedicure; jewelry; rental car; and artwork and other décor, as well as some other creative offers!

Be on the lookout for the Pink Bidding sheets posted around town, so you can have your chance to make a bid. All sheets will be collected on the Day of the Fashion Tea, and the winners notified. The funds from this effort will be used by the BIRHC for the Defibrillator expenses and other Wish List items, at the Board's discretion. If anyone has an item or service they would like to donate, please call chair Leonor Jacobson at (810) 220-3096 and leave a message, or email her at bgordonj@sbcglobal.net.

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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**



GULL HARBOR HOME FOR RENT:

3-BR home on the beach. Great view of the lake, the ferry, and beautiful sunrises. Very convenient location. Phone **(231) 448-2650**

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

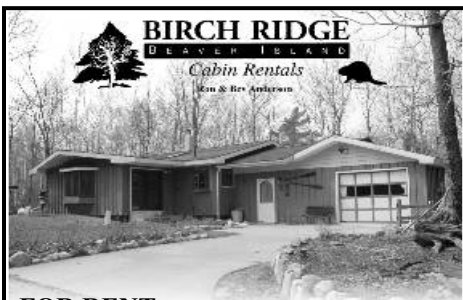


FOR RENT THIS SUMMER: Booking fast. Secluded Beautiful Chalet on 10 acres with 360 Feet of sandy private Lake Michigan Beach on Sand Bay. 2 bedroom (including loft), one bath, Great Room with two sofa sleepers. Fabulous views of the Lake. Large decks. Sleeps 7. Across from state land and hiking trails.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



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

FOR RENT: The Fisherman's House. Great 'In-Town' location. 4 BR/2 Bath; W/D; Beautifully appointed. For availability, call Bill or Tammy (231) 448-2499



FOR 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



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



FOR SALE - HARBOR-AREA HOUSE:

Single family, four bedroom, 1 1/2 bath house on two lots with garage. Asking price is \$255,000. Also available: two lots across the street - asking price is \$40,000 each. Call (773) 646-1424 or email odatlo@aol.com

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



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:

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

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

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

100 ACRE PARCEL AVAILABLE - \$1500/acre. Hunting, vacation, or investment property. 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.

LAKE MICHIGAN LOTS FOR SALE (2)

- Each offers beautiful sunsets, 4-5 wooded acres, and 250' frontage on Greiner's Bay, 8 miles from town. Lots back up to Mrs. Redding's Trail. Very deep and private. Land contract possible. Contact owner Victor Dmitruk at (269) 207-2970 or villpsych@aol.com. For detailed description by autoresponder send blank email to info@villagepsych.com.

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

Real Estate, For Rent:

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

SECLUDED 1940'S LOG CABIN JUST ONE BLOCK FROM LAKE and market on one acre. Sleeps 4-6, pets welcome (\$100 deposit.) Washer, Dryer & linens furnished. Bicycles, canoe, grill available \$600.00/wk; weekends available. (219) 253-6500



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 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

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)



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



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. dtm@i2k.com or (616) 396.6468 or (616) 791.8222



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

WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake front. "The Last Resort" 2 BR house on Sand Bay, great view, beautiful sunrise, laundry pair, 1 ½ bath. Phone Bill McDonough at (231) 448-2733 (days).

SMALL LAKEFRONT COTTAGE FOR RENT - Double Bed, Bathtub, W/D, Deck w/Grill & Picnic Table, TV/VCR. One mile from harbor. North end. Stay at The Refuge - \$550 weekly. Off season rates available. Call (231) 448-2035 or (563) 556-2395 or email dudabi@biip.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 4:00 p.m.

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

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.

CEDAR COTTAGE - on a bluff with view of harbor and mainland. ¼ 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

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

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

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



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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