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Beaver Beacon

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some stories in this issue:

Islanders return from Ireland renewed

A town meeting with Bart Stupak at St. James

EMS training; New Natural Beauty Road; Lady slippers; and Our Golf Course

Beaver Island Christian Church Groundbreaking for new Gregg Fellowship Center

Beaver Island News and Events, History, People, Places, Photography, Art, and more...



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News from the Townships	4.
Bart Stupak Comes to St. James	5.
Beaver Island Boathouse Promises CMU Students New Adventures	6.
Island Paramedics – a glimpse at just one of their thousand hours of training	7.
Jim Wojan named 2005 Beaver Island Citizen of the Year	8.
New Natural Beauty Road	11.
Changes at the Transfer Station	11.
One Hundred Years Ago	12.
A Divine Equine Adventure	14.
Island Grads!	16.
Students receive Community Center update	18.
5 th –6 th graders strike gold	18.
Ireland 2006	20.
Big Man Dead: A Kingdom's End Replayed	24.
Beaver Island Calendar of Events	24.
PABI Mardi Gras on Beaver	25.
Wolves at the Door?	25.
Just give an Artist a Camera - a summer photography show	26.
On This Date	28.
The Lady Slippers are Coming	32.
Christian Church breaks ground on the new Gregg Fellowship Center	33.
The Beaver Island Golf Course – a Short Tour	34.

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the Island Monthly since 1955

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News from the Townships

St James Town Board

St. James Township held a Board meeting on April 5th at which millage rates were set for the Library (1 mil), the Health Center (2 mils), and Streets and Roads (2 mils.) The budget approved at the Annual Meeting was adopted, and inspectors for the school election were set.

The Resale Shop was moving closer to a reality. The Building Inspector looked over the building, and only questioned the way the water run-off would be handled when it's set up behind the Municipal Restroom. The Christmas Tree will not have to move.

The Fire Station in town needs a new roof.

Twelve thousand gallons of liquid chloride has been bought.

Sarah McCafferty, the new executive director of the EMS, presented her credentials and plans. She said that she realized communication with the Town Boards had been spotty, and promised that would improve. She said she would attend all future meetings, and present financial reports as often as she could. As soon as the EMS operating plan was revised she would deliver a copy.

Supervisor Don Vyse revealed that after the proposed St. James Park fell through when money to purchase north-shore frontage from the Petritz family did not appear, the property was sold to someone who intends to preserve it as an undeveloped tract on which day visitors might be allowed.

Peaine Town Board

The Peaine Township Board approved millages for the BIRHC, Roads, and Airport.

Sarah McCafferty introduced herself as the EMS's new Executive Director, and won the hearts of the Board with her sincerity, earnestness, and willingness to take on a difficult and complicated job. John Works will serve as her liaison with the Town Board.

Liquid chloride was purchased at \$0.88/gal, up three cents. Our local crushed gravel passed a recent inspection.

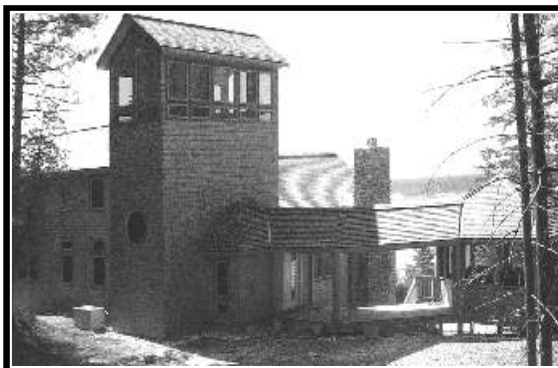
Paul Welke stated that the Planning Commission has created a set of By-laws, which will be in the Board's hands for possible approval before the next meeting.

The new Deputy, Clyde Payton, was present. He's been with the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department for 15 months, and had been assigned here last fall as well—on the day after his wedding.

Who's knocking down Signs?

Towards the end of April a kind of late-night contest has begun to see who can knock down the street and stop signs. According to our new deputy, this is not a contest anyone should try too hard to win—the prize might be a weekend away from Paradise.

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Bart Stupak Comes to Town

A Town Hall style meeting scheduled for 5:30 on April 12th almost didn't happen because of the weather. Flying shut down at 2:00, and even if it cleared, we worried he wouldn't

come because he could wind up stuck. But Representative Stupak's pilot caught a break and was able to land. The sixty-five people waiting at the St. James Hall were not disappointed.

Although we've had politicians come here before, because Bart Stupak was from Washington D.C. we were afraid he'd seem distant, and might even speak a different language. However, he came across like one of us; he could have been an Islander—and a smart one, at that.

He made some preliminary remarks off the top of his head, and then simply spoke to whatever topic the audience suggested—and did not seem to pull his punches. While he did not reveal any secret insight that had eluded the news, he gave everyone a feel for how complex the level of gamesmanship in Washington can be.

Our Representative was asked about matters ranging from the war in Iraq and the immigration problem to the price of gas and what to do about cormorants. He said money for the war



photograph by Frank Solle

was not counted in the budget and would amount to an extra deficit; the House's immigration bill was ridiculous and impossible to enforce; gas company profits were soaring because of the purposeful closing of 176 of our country's refineries; and the best way to reduce cormorants might be with "the twelve-gauge solution."

He also said the FDA was now preempting states' rights for food monitoring, which was why poultry and meat are dosed with CO for greater shelf life. The *Acacia* would be replaced with a smaller icebreaker. Tom DeLay will probably be in prison in November, but the "impeach Bush" movement was not going to succeed. Most of Alaska's oil goes to Japan—because it's closer.

The audience did not keep their gloves on. A few people wished that politicians in general were more accountable. The Representative said it was impossible to get the facts on anything in the Capital; "no wonder people are frustrated and angry."

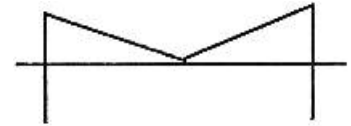
When his hour was up he was cheered and quickly whisked back to his plane and flown to his next Town Hall meeting, which would be his fifth in the current series: "This is how I spend my so-called vacation."

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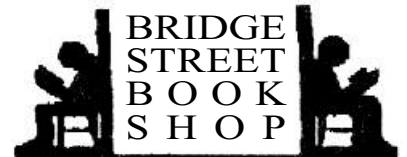
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Beaver Island Boathouse Promises CMU Students New Adventures



New and safer adventures await Central Michigan University students, faculty, and staff with the purchase of the former Coast Guard boathouse.

The boathouse, which was purchased with gifts of more than \$1 million, will enhance teaching and research at the Biological Station. The 2,850-ft² facility includes storage for boats and equipment.

"The boathouse is a safe base of operation for vessels used for instruction and research on northern Lake Michigan," said Jim Gillingham, director of the Biological Station and a professor of biology. "The additional space also will attract more users from other institutions."

CMU students and faculty use boats to visit smaller islands in the Beaver Archipelago for instruction in botany, fish and wildlife management, and biological research.

CMU offers summer classes taken by hundreds of its students annually, as well as high school students from throughout Michigan. Research by students and faculty, as well as visiting scholars, is conducted in the spring, summer, and early fall.

Researchers collaborate with government agencies from the Michigan departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, and Natural Features Inventory, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Buying and improving the boathouse property cost \$1.25 million. The CMU Board of Trustees approved buying the privately owned property last fall, *if* the purchase price could be raised through gifts, and all but \$78,000 *has* been raised through donations. Annual operating expenses, projected to be about \$5,000 for utilities and maintenance, will be paid from an endowment, also funded by gifts.

"Alumni and other supporters met the challenge," said Robert Kohrman, dean of the College of Science and Technology. "We were confident we could reach the goal, and our supporters confirmed that with their generosity. The college is grateful for the support."



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Let's Give Them a Hand



Those who have followed the recent financial woes of Beaver Island's EMS know that one of the biggest problems is the lack of local Paramedics, which has forced us to hire one for the summer. A Paramedic is like a traveling ER; we need them for our health and safety. Well, thanks to the high degree of commitment on the part of our volunteers, help is on the way.

To become a Paramedic is not easy. First, a candidate must become a licensed EMT basic—no easy task, either. Then the hard part begins: 1,000 hours of rigorous training, with clinical, classroom, and lab work, followed by a strenuous national exam. Luckily for Beaver Island, Steve and Lisa Rose

(she's a McCann/Dunleavy who spent summers here as a girl) have pitched in to help. They have been teaching at Kellogg Community College in Kalamazoo, and got KCC to include us in their new satellite program.

The training usually absorbs most of a year, but with Steve and Lisa acting as teachers for locals Sarah McCafferty, Dawn Traficante, and Ken Bruland, plus Brian Patten (who flies over from Boyne City for this), classes last 28 hours over a long weekend so the training will be closer to "only 7 months."

In mid-April some of the training involved hypothetical calls. For example, two students out in the hall would receive a radio call saying someone had

suffered an injury. They would then come into the room to find a manikin in distress. They would have to maintain contact with their base and the BIRHC while diagnosing the situation. Everything they do to the manikin is relayed to a computer, and a log of the event is produced, which can be analyzed later.

This is only possible because KCC is sponsoring it. They give every candidate an intense week of training at their facility, where, for example, Sarah recently spent a day doing nothing but rigging up 15 IVs. If all goes well, by summer's end we may enjoy that rarest of assets: an abundance of trained and licensed Paramedics living here on Beaver Island.

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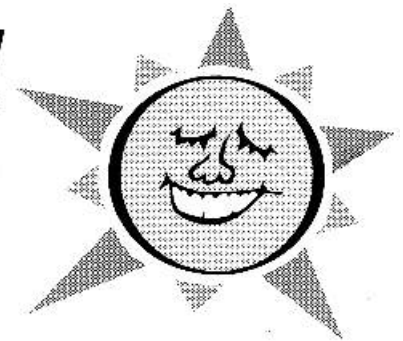
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Jim Wojan proclaimed 2005 Beaver Island Citizen of the Year



The Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2006 Citizen of the Year banquet at the Shamrock on April 22nd, and its president, Kathy Speck, presented numerous laudatory comments about each nominee before naming Jim Wojan as 2005's Citizen of the Year.

Several groups were nominated for helping make Beaver Island a better place to live, work and visit. The *Beaver*

Island Wildlife Club was nominated, Kathy said, because "the individuals who participate seem to want to 'get to the bottom' of issues, such as the lack of sport fishing on the big lake. Not only has Jeff Powers and the group been seriously studying the cormorant issue, but they are also keeping the stock of walleye at Lake Geneserath. Thank you, members of the Wildlife Club, for all

that you do – feedings, stockings, raffles, dinners – but mostly, for really caring about the Island's wildlife."

The *Beaver Beacon* and the *NorthernIslander* were nominated together because "they each do an excellent job of covering what's happening on and what Beaver Island is about in very different ways."

The *Boat Company* and *Island Airways* were also nominated together because of how they cooperated to bring people home for the holidays. "It is just such an act on last Christmas Eve that makes Beaver Island the special place it is for so many people," Kathy quoted from the nominating letter.

Another nomination praised *PABI's Board of Directors*: "PABI's Board has overcome many challenges in their dream of building a Community Center for the people of Beaver Island Yet, these folks have never given up. They doggedly pursued the project in spite of difficulties with design, funding, location, parking concerns – you name it." And now we see the result.

Several individuals were nominated, such as *Father Pat Cawley*: "I have had a few opportunities to spend time with Father and am continually

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amazed at his humor, calming ability, and sincerity. Many people mention Father Pat's appearance at the hospital, nursing home, or home when a loved one is ill or if there is a death in the family. People are not aware of how many miles Father covers to care for his congregation, who are scattered from one end of Michigan to the other."

Jack and Judy Gallagher were also mentioned: "As both citizens and business owners, Jack and Judy give back to the community much more than they take from it. They are very concerned about the environment, and their concerns are factored into every decision – personal and business – they make."

Another suggestion was *Jack Kelly*: "He believes in giving back to the Island, and over the past year has demonstrated this with his efforts in the Beaver Island master plan. Jack volunteered to fly his own plane to aid in its photographic and aerial surveying. He also serves as president of the BIPOA."

According to Kathy, *Helen Pike* received strong support as well: "One young woman wrote that she is truly a gem of our community. Not only does she bake bread for people who are ill or at a hard time in their lives, but she also



goes to visit with them. Helen is a person we can all learn from... it doesn't take something big to make you a nominee for citizen of the year; in a lot of ways life is about the little things."

Jim Wojan was named on several nominations: "He has served on the St James Township Board and various committees for many years. As a business owner he takes time off his regular

employment to donate his time to numerous volunteer projects. Another service Jim provides, which few know about, is his work for Great Lakes Energy; the pay is in no way commensurate with the unpleasantness, inconvenience, and danger of the job. When, in the middle of the night, Beaver Islanders sit comfortably in their homes during

Continued on page 10, Citizen of the Year.



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Citizen of the Year, continued from page 9. the ravages of a wind or ice storm, it is usually Jim Wojan who is at the top of a swaying light pole helping to get their lights back on. He is a charter member of the Beaver Island Fire Department and is the Assistant Fire Chief; when hunters or others are lost in the woods in the night and the Fire Department is called out, Jim is right there helping to take the lead in finding them."

After the hard task of choosing from the nominees, Jim Wojan was named 2005 Citizen of the Year. Blushing as he received the honor, he said "there are many people on the Island far more deserving of this award than me" but all those in attendance

knew he was, as one person said, "the citizen of the years!"

Everyone agreed: "Except for a few years when he was away at college, he has lived on Beaver Island his entire adult life, constantly donating his time and talents." "Don't forget his donated road work to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center." "I did not realize just how much he does out of the limelight to make our Island a better place." "He's done some impossible things for the Historical Society—like placing that grader, which he also donated." "He helps with the fireworks every 4th of July." The consensus was, he was a wonderful choice, a true Beaver Island diamond in the rough.

BIBCO News

Our ferry company released its financial report in early April, in which there was both good news and bad.

The total assets are \$1,326,380, which includes current assets of \$264,881 and property and equipment, minus depreciation, of \$968,654.

Because of the rapid increase in the price of fuel, BIBCO had to ask BITA for a \$105,000 subsidy last year; consequently there is to be no stockholder dividend. But the Board voted to maintain last year's rates. The ferries had a good year. Revenue rose to \$1,771,781, with passengers accounting for almost 40% and vehicles another 30%. Freight was less than 14%. The biggest expenses were wages (40%).

Letters

Bob Hoogendoorn's letter to the editor commenting on an excerpt from an email that I had sent out to many of Jerry Sowa's off-Island friends and acquaintances came as a complete surprise to me. I had relayed the progressing sad news and had kept everyone up to date. When the funeral was behind us I sent out a short description of what had taken place. It was informal and in no way meant to demean anyone.

I mentioned the short service not to say that Father Pat had rushed it; Father Pat as always led an outstanding service for Jerry, his family and everyone in attendance. I was making reference to the fact that no one else but Father Pat spoke. Standing on the hill with the firing squad, I could not see the grave side service and went by what I heard, not saw. I did see Bob play the Marine Corps Hymn; I did not see him play taps, nor did I see the flag ceremony, but was of the understanding that Jerry's cousin would present the flag.

A note to my friends with the unfortunate remark about the Marines "doing their thing," would never have appeared in anything to be written in the public forum. I believe most islanders know how I feel about all Veterans, and the respect and honor I provide them all. May God bless them all and may He watch over our military men and woman now fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. And may he bless us all.

— Jack Spanhah

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New Natural Beauty Road

Thanks to the efforts, over two years, of one Island resident, Barb Spencer, Mrs. Reddings Trail has now been declared a Natural Beauty Road. She began by collecting fifty signatures on a petition (twice as many as were needed), and creating a presentation to demonstrate that the former 'Trail' had significant natural features, curves, woods, flowers, the bluff, to warrant protection. Then it was just a case of keeping the pressure on through the annual public meeting the Charlevoix County Road Commission holds here.

The Natural Beauty portion runs from the intersection with the West Side Road on top of the Angeline's Bluff, to the southern section labeled "Seasonal Road." The state law defining this was updated in 1995, and essentially protects foliage within the right-of-way from destruction or substantial damage; before this could be approved, the CCRC improved two sections of the road that needed work.

The rules governing this can only be relaxed through public hearings.

Better Med Help for Vets

Thanks to the help of Charlevoix Veterans' Affairs Officer Bob Drebenstedt, Beaver Island's veterans are moving closer to being able to have their testing and medication needs met right here at our Rural Health Clinic, at least on a case-by-case basis, thus saving them the time and expense of driving to Saginaw. This was being investigated by BIRHC manager Donna Kubic and Board president Connie Wojan, but without Bob Drebenstedt's contacts and energy might have not come to pass.

Margaret Reibel

Word has been received of the passing of Margaret Reibel, who with her husband Bob have spent summers here for twenty years. They had bought a lot in the Port St. James but decided to sell it in the mid-80s. When they came to the Island to list it, they ran into a builder who convinced them to build instead.

Margaret was known for her compassion, her help with the Historical Society (for which she served as Volunteer Coordinator for several years), and her interest in bird-watching.

Changes at the Transfer Station

At a Waste Management Committee meeting on April 24th, everyone was taken by surprise when Chuck Schmidt resigned, effective immediately. His didactic demeanor had not pleased everybody, but he had done a good job organizing and managing the complex operation. Now Doug and John will move up a notch, and a search is on for a third, part-time employee. Call Jean Palmer if interested (448-2915.)

Many people who only saw Chuck at work at the Transfer Station did not realize how important his contributions were for making this an award-winning facility. He was

the one who thoroughly researched the rules and determined the best and most cost-effective way to proceed. When recycling spread to the mainland, he devoted many hours to walking other communities through the steps to set up their own facility. Because the change to our habits forced by new rules for waste was so radical, he experienced much frustration from our slow adjustment to the new regime. But he brought a lot of talent and dedication to his job, and there's a chance he can be retained to help train whoever becomes the new hire.

The Station also announced its summer hours: 8:00 – 5:00, six days a week, closed on Sundays.

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Date: April 7, 2006

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Peaine Township will be accepting bids for a Construction Contract, including sitework, selective demolition and a one-story, 1,440 SF, wood frame addition to the existing Peaine Township hall building.

The Project name is: Addition to Peaine Township Hall

The Project location is: 35825 Kings Highway, Beaver Island, MI 49782

The Project Owner is: Peaine Township

The Architect is: Architecture Technology, P.C., 1304 Business Park Drive, Traverse City, MI 49686-8640, telephone: (231) 933-4489

Bids shall be on a stipulated sum basis.

The Project is to be started in spring of 2006, and completed by October 1, 2006.

Bids will be received at Peaine Township Hall until 3:00 PM, Friday, May 19, 2006. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in public and read aloud. Bidders will be allowed to attend the bid opening.

Bidding Documents may be examined at Peaine Township Hall.

Copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Peaine Township in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and Supplementary Instructions to Bidders. **A deposit is required in the amount of \$50.00. Submit checks payable to Peaine Township.** Deposits will be returned in full if the Bidding Documents are returned to the Owner, complete and in useable condition, within 14 calendar days of the date for receipt of bids.

No pre-bid meetings will be held.

Bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and Supplementary Instructions to Bidders.

A Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond will be required, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Sum.

The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject Bids.

Please contact the Architect if you have any questions regarding the bidding of this Project.

* * *

One Hundred Years Ago

by Joyce Bartels

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, May 3, 1906 **Local News**: "Rev. J. W. Vickers went to St. James Monday, returning Wednesday."

"Attorneys R. W. Kane and J. M. Harris went to Beaver Island yesterday on professional business." (Note: J. M. Harris of Boyne City registered at the Beaver Hotel)

"Robert Buetel, head of the Bay City fish firm of Robert Buetel Co. and which has a shipping plant here, was in town Wednesday, and went to Beaver Island with the local manager Mr. Frank Berge."

Beaver Island News: "The Hart Line made the first call of the season at this port Sunday morning last."

"M. O'Brien of Grand Rapids, is here buying ties. He expects a schooner soon to take them away." (Note: M. O'Brien of Grand Rapids registered at the Beaver Hotel)

"Schooner *Horace Taber* arrived Monday a. m. and took on a cargo of slabs and edgings."

"The schooner *X10U8* Capt. Allers arrived Sunday night with a cargo of potatoes."

"Rev. Fr. Ewald went to High Island and from there to the Foxes to hold services this week. From Fox Island he will return to his parish at Charlevoix via Northport."

"Our two saloons are closed every Sunday now tight as a drum, both fore and aft. Many men in the same business in much larger places could profit by following the example set on Beaver Island. Needless to say our citizens are pleased with the new conditions."

"Frank Left's gasoline engine arrived this week. He will at once install same in his sail boat which he had remodeled for the purpose."

"Indians from Fox Island were on the Island selling potatoes for \$.50 per bushel last week."

"D. C. Nettleton county surveyor is surveying the point property."

"Surely the lid is on in St. James. Not a 'book' of any kind to be had here all day Sunday and not a drunken man in sight anywhere. Good!"

"Miss Rose Allers and sister, Mrs. Mary Mielke, went to South Haven on a visit Wednesday last."

"The Str. *Wente* loaded with lumber at the B. I. L. Co.'s yard latter part of last week."

"Rev. J. W. Vickers, pastor of the Methodist church at Charlevoix, made a pleasant visit to the Island Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, preaching at the Chapel Monday and Tuesday evenings."

"Peter McCauley left for Escanaba this week for a visit."

"Mrs. Phil Malloy returned from Big Rapids Friday last where she went last fall for surgical treatment. She looks and feels much better than when she went away. Her many friends hope her improvement is permanent."

"Robt. Beutel of the Beutel Fish Co. of Bay City, spent two or three days on the Island last week in the interest of his business. He left Edward Gallagher in charge of their business here. The Co. have leased the C. C. Gallagher dock for several years."

(Note: May 8 Snowstorm!; May 9 - 11 ditto without snow. F. Protar)

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, May 10, 1906 **Local News**: "James McCann of St. James came over yesterday on his way to Chicago." Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, May 17, 1906 **Local News**: "James McCann of St. James, on his way home from Chicago spent Tuesday in town."

"Dr. And Mrs. Wilkinson, of St. James, came over Friday and remained until Monday."

"Capt. Morton, superintendent, and Lieut. Ballinger, inspector, life saving service, were here yesterday and went to Beaver Island." (Note: J. G. Ballinger, Chicago and Chas. Morton, Grand Haven registered at the Beaver Hotel, May 16, 1906)

Beaver Island News: "We are



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

sorry to learn that our old friend Emil Lidke has retired from the furniture business he carried on during the winter."

"The tug *Ryan* brought in three tows of logs from the head of the Island in less than 5 days last week. Mostly cedar and hemlock."

"The big double-blocker shingle machine which is running full time now at the B. I. L. Co.'s plant is turning out over 100 shingles every minute."

"Hooker, the implement man of Charlevoix, sold a gasoline engine last week to Hugh P. Boyle." (Note: M. B. Hooker, Charlevoix registered at the Beaver Hotel)

"Mr. C. Eagleton, who spent the winter on the Island, returned to his home at Torch Lake last week."

"Parties on the Island buying horses the past week were Messrs. Geo. Williams, Vanalisbury, and Morse." (Note: G. Williams, Charlevoix registered at the Beaver Hotel)

"Outside parties have come to the Island and bought twenty-five horses and taken them away so far this spring. Purchases were mostly made from our farmers, a good price being paid. Still there are more for sale."

"Representatives of the Peerless Mfg. Co. of Detroit did business on the Island the past week."

"The Atkins Saw Co. had an agent here last week."

"Mrs. Bourisscan mother of Mrs. John Stafford of this place returned to her home on Fox Island after a 3 weeks visit with her daughter and grandson." (Note: May 17 - 18 Furious storm 79 degrees -63 degrees. F. Protar)

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, May 24th, 1906 **Local News**: "W. F. Gill and wife, of Harbor Springs, went to St. James Friday, remaining there until Monday."

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, May 31st, 1906 **Local News**: "W. F. Gill and his daughter Alice, of Harbor Springs, were in town Saturday, visiting friends."

Beaver Island News: "The Beaver Hotel is receiving a new coat of paint."

"Mrs. James Donlevy arrived home from Chicago last week."

"Mr. Henry Carpenter left the Island Monday for Boyne City."

"It has been reported here that the Gibson House has been sold to Joseph Burke."

"Capt. Jos. Gordon and Jas. Burke have been under the weather the past few days."

"A great many people are suffering from coughs and colds at present caused by the recent inclement weather."

"Our new bowling alley of the Brunswick-Balke Collender pattern has finally arrived and duly installed. It is a first class alley of regulation size."

"Mrs. A. M. Wilkinson, accompanied by her two daughters left on the Monday boat for Grand Rapids and Lansing for a visit with her sisters living at those places."

"At the last meeting of National Protection Legion four new members were initiated. Barely a meeting goes by that new members are not added to the already large membership."

"Mrs. Fred Cooper of Charlevoix spent several days on the Island a week or so ago and while here took some excellent views. Many orders were taken for these to be printed on souvenir post cards and the result is very pleasing."

"The tug *S. M. Fescher* said to be the largest craft of its kind on fresh water made this harbor Friday night with a large suction dredge in tow. They laid here till Sunday afternoon to avoid the northeast gale which was blowing these two days."

"W. J. Gallagher, our own inimitable Bowery, has ever an eye for the future. He firmly believes man can not live without cooks, and although already quite well supplied he engaged another one recently. She arrived Friday night, an eight pound girl."

Our BIBS Contest

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A Divine Equine Adventure

by Nancy Ferguson

Ever since my husband and I purchased wooded property just south of the Township airport, I have dreamed of riding our horses on the Island. Last spring, after seven years of hoping, it finally happened.

It all began when two of our down-state friends, Barb and Agnes, took us up on the offer of splitting the expenses of a Memorial Weekend trip. They arrived in Charlevoix, with horse trailer in tow, on a Thursday night. It rained, and we were fearful that the weather was not going to cooperate. But we woke the next morning to rain-cleansed skies and only a mild breeze. Since we weren't due at the ferry until 4:15

p.m., we took a short ride to a sandy beach on Lake Charlevoix. The horses went along like old chums, and we knew they would ride fine together in the four-horse trailer.

After cramming all of our gear, food, and tack into their camper, we loaded the horses. We had *Cruiser*, a racking horse, *Image*, a rated Arabian endurance horse, my Tennessee Walker, *Crockett*, and John's mule, *Babe*. The horses rode calmly on the two hour trip to the Island. There was only a little

wind with maybe one foot swells. Captain Mike was kind enough to let the ladies take in the view from the pilot's house.

When we reached St. James, we watched as the truck with camper and trailer were carefully unloaded. Then, off to our place. Upon arrival, we made quick work of setting up our portable corrals and unloading the horses. There was lots of grass in the clearing, and they were happy campers.

John and I moved our gear over to our little camper trailer, and we were settled in.

We helped ourselves to a dinner of cold fried chicken and fresh asparagus and sat around a bonfire as we planned the next day's ventures. As we huddled around the bonfire in the dark, watching the sparks floating up toward the stars, an

owl joined us. "Hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoooo," he called. It startled the horses, so I answered him. "Hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoooo." He must have been curious, for his next call was much closer to us. We continued to call back and forth until he had silently located himself nearly overhead—though we never did see him.

Saturday morning dawned cool and a little damp, but not enough to dampen our enthusiasm. Following breakfast, we saddled up and headed for a two-track at the back of our property. It led us

south down the center of the Island. We made photo-op stops at Big Rock and Big Birch and continued on our way to see friends Larry and Laraine Dawson. Larry was busy working on his garden when the four of us ambushed him. Laraine arrived shortly thereafter with a treat for us and for the horses. We checked out our directions and headed for Greene's Lake. I have been coming to the Island for several years, but had

never seen this little beauty. It was an ideal setting for lunch. We carefully balanced hard-boiled eggs, sandwiches, and drinks as an unalarmed male loon swam possessively around the little island in the lake. His mate was prob-

ably nestled there with a clutch of eggs. The horses were content to graze peacefully under the trees. After our break, we headed west toward the sandy beaches of Lake Michigan. The horses enjoyed splashing in the water until we arrived at Mrs. Reading's Trail. Riding up the trail, we came across a gentleman on a four wheeler, carrying a brown bag. "Find any mushrooms?" I queried. "Ain't lookin' for mushrooms. And you sure won't find any riding them critters."

Ooookay. It wasn't too long after



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that conversation that we spied our first mushroom, a dainty morel. We probably found ten more on the way home, enough to inspire us to watch closely.

Not closely enough though because a startled momma turkey suddenly took flight in front of us. Fortunately, the horses held their ground because it wasn't long before twelve fluffy little peepers were dashing under their hoofed feet to get back with their momma and across the road.

Returning to camp, we cleaned and fed the horses, tidied ourselves a bit, and went touring in the multi-hued, flatbed truck. The first stop was Mount Pisgah. We wanted to share the view from the highest dune with our friends. It was at its best that day, blue sky with wispy clouds, azure lake with foam-tipped waves. Easily visible were Hog, Trout, High, Whiskey, and Squaw Islands. Perfect. And, surprise! We found a mushroom up there. It was quickly labeled the dune Oshroom.

After our descent, we drove into St. James for some libations and sustenance at the Shamrock. At the campfire that night, the horses stood nearby and were conversational. We all decided this was a pretty great way to live.

Awakening to bright sunshine on Sunday morning, we decided to explore

northward. We once again headed out the back way for Mrs. Reading's Trail. This road connected us to the old narrow gauge railroad bed that was built to haul logs to the lake before World War I. Many of the Island trails were created by loggers, as this was an important part of the Island economy. This day's ride was on the Kuebler Trail, named after one-armed DNR agent, Karl Kuebler. As we skirted the Township airport, a small

built after his death by his many friends. We met a group of hikers there who were interested in the horses, but mostly interested in John's mule. How old is she? (7) How do you get a mule? (breed a female horse to a donkey jack) How tall is she? (14 hands) As Babe basked in all the attention, I explained to Barb and Agnes that she really is a 100-hand mule. If she has 100 hands petting her, she wants 101!



Continuing on the sun-dappled, canopied trail led us to Barney's Lake. A bald eagle was swooping over the water, eyes sharp, looking for a fish. Soon after, we came to a huge culvert, 7 feet high and forty feet long. We wondered if our steeds would protest at entering this "cave." They just took a good look and hustled on through. Only the echo from their hooves bothered them a little.

plane taxied and took flight

When we reached Bonner's Road, we made a short detour to Protar's cabin. While the girls admired the cabin made of hand-hewn logs, we explained that he had been the unofficial doctor for the Island and that he was held in very high regard.

Retracing our steps back to the old railroad bed, we showed them the monument erected in memory of an engineer who died in a train accident. Then on to Protar's Tomb, a large stone monument

tled on through. Only the echo from their hooves bothered them a little.

When we came out from the woods onto the road, we realized we were not far from friend Karen Whitecraft's home. I knew she had a picnic table and thought that would be a fine place to stop for lunch. We tied the horses, and her horse came over to the side of her corral to nicker and join in as well. Relaxing on the lee side of her home in the sunshine was fine.

Continued on page 16.



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A Divine Equine Adventure, continued from page 15.
Since the trail had been so beautiful, we decided to return the same way. We only detoured a little, filling our plastic lunch bags with a trove of mushrooms. They would be excellent, fried in butter, with a steak dinner that night.

After our five-hour ride, the horses were ready to settle in and eat, but we wanted to go touring while the sun was still up. Off we went again in the faithful old truck, headed for the Lighthouse School and the Beaver Head Lighthouse. This structure is in the process of being restored, but we clambered up the ornate cast iron circular staircase to the top landing. There we could easily see North and South Fox Islands, the Leelanau Peninsula, and the Mainland.

We reconnoitered back at the campfire with a hearty meal of steak with mushrooms, fried potatoes, and more fresh asparagus. Our owl didn't join us this last night on the Island. We turned in early as the horses and truck with camper had to be at the boat dock by 7:30 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. trip.

More Island Grads!

On May 6th Amy Bair, daughter of Russ and Joy Green, will receive her BS in Special Education from Wayne State University. She is graduating with high honors: summa cum laude.

On the same day, Courtney Lynn Moore, daughter of Joe and Phyllis, will be graduating from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Broadcast and Cinematic Arts and a minor in Psychology.



CHINESE DINNER



Get your chopsticks ready!

The Sports Boosters' 2nd Annual Chinese Dinner: May 12th (Friday) once again featuring guest Chef Kathy Speck.

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After dropping us three ladies at Dalwhinnie's and giving us his breakfast order, John took the truck and trailer to the boat dock. We enjoyed French toast, hash browns, sausage, and eggs. Jim and Dorothy Willis came in for breakfast and then gave us a ride back to the Boat Dock.

We, and the horses, had a wonderful time. So wonderful, in fact, that John and I returned over Labor Day weekend with Crockett and Babe.

Here are some things to know if you would like to have this kind of wonderful equine vacation on Beaver Island. Plan ahead, especially for holiday weekends. You need to reserve space for your rig on the boat. Often, horse trailers need to be in the highest place, so space for them can be limited. You can pick up a map of the local trails from the Chamber of Commerce, located next to the Boat Dock. And remember, when sharing trails with hikers and bikers, horse "apples" need to be removed from the trail.

Happy Trails!

Feel Like Singing?

Coming Soon: Karaoke Night Outdoors, every Wednesday night for the month of July, from 7:00 until 10:00 in front of Mike & Sharon Hurkmans' garage at 26880 Paid Een Ogs Rd. The public is invited.; bring your own lawn chairs and come and sing or just come and cheer on your favorite singers. 100% of Good-will Donations will go to benefit the BI Fire Department. You can bring finger food to share with everybody, as there will be a table set up for this purpose. Weather permitting, the dates will be: July 5, 12, 19, and 26.



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Students receive Community Center update

by Frank Solle



Three groups of middle and high school students from Beaver Island Community School were given a personalized tour at the ever-progressing Community Center recently, thanks to Preservation Association of Beaver Island (PABI) board members Judy Lanier and Ken McDonald.

Prior to the students' arrival, Lanier pointed out how PABI had gathered ideas from students during the initial

planning stages. "We've sought input from the kids from the beginning," she said. "Now we want to get their ideas as they see the building come together."

McDonald added, "We want them to feel connected to this building long before it's completed."

Lanier and McDonald provided the students with news on the building's progress while directing them through the facility, beginning with the Welcoming Center in the downstairs' front, then continuing to the large and impressive theatre area in the rear of the downstairs.

The students were duly impressed with the size of the theater, and immediately interested in the possibility of soon viewing movies on the theater's large screen. Lanier and McDonald pointed out the lighting area as well as the movie and digital projection areas high above



on the theater's back wall.

Following the tour of the downstairs, the groups were led to the 'heart' of the project, the upstairs youth center portion of the building, or what is currently being called 'The Hangout.'

"Kids want to be at the heart of things," Lanier said as she gazed out the large windows that provide a magnificent panoramic view of the harbor. "And that's been our motto during this project:



5th-6th graders strike gold

by Frank Solle

The BICS fifth and sixth grades presented their annual play on April 28, keeping the nearly packed Holy Cross Hall crowd in tears and holding their sides in with the rollicking melodrama, *Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder?*

The young cast knew their lines, delivered them like pros, and even

adjusted their pacing to account for laughter from the crowd, which was frequent and boisterous.

Matthew Cull stole the show with his portrayal of evil villain Belvedere Flinch. Yet Cull's performance would not have been possible without the steady Mrs. Murphy (Olivia Schwartzfisher) anchoring the chowder



house, nor without the energetic performances of past-her-prime actress Fluffy Soufflé (Brogan Maudrie), local matchmaker Augusta Booth (Jenna Battle), or the wonderfully vampish swindler Bertha De Blues (Brighid Cushman).

One of the highlights of the play was the strobe-enhanced fight scene

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at the heart of the community.”

The heart of the upstairs Hangout will include both pool and foosball tables, a large, flat-screen television for movies and video games, a reading area, and a computer area with four computers to go with wireless internet connection. There also will be tables for games or studying as well as a kitchen area that may be filled with vending machines.

Part of the reason to include the students at this juncture is to receive more input from them. As Lanier said, “We’re looking for more input now concerning the interior of the building — where things should go, what they should be, or any other ideas the kids may have.”

Looking around at all the possibilities, the students were more than ready to see the project completed.

“It looks even bigger on the inside,”



said junior David Bousquet.

Fellow junior Cory Sowa gave his overall approval. “I like the whole setup,” he said.

Seventh-grader Alec Erickson hit the nail on the head when he stated, “I think it will be awesome.”

McDonald agreed. “It’s going to be a great facility,” he said. “All we have to do is get it done.”

Fielding the often-asked question of

when the project will be completed, Lanier told the students the end of this year was the hoped-for date, but added that progress will be limited to what can be done as finances allow. “There is a lot of competition for funding right now,” Lanier pointed out to the students, not just on Beaver Island, but worldwide as well. “But we are going to get it.”

In wrapping up the day of tours, junior Emma Adams expressed what was most likely on the mind of all the students: “I can’t wait for it to be done. It will be a great place to hang out, do school work, or just with meet friends.”

With more feedback coming from the students, more offers of financial assistance from the public, and more progress being made every day, hopefully the wait for Adams and her friends won’t be too long.



between Flinch and do-gooder lawman Tim Nolan (Michael Myers), complete with an obligatory tea break.

The supporting cast members also played to their roles and personal strengths. Taxman Juneau Quigley (Dylan Left), Clean Collar Sam and Mr. Murphy (double duty from McCauley Connaghan), Nanook (Gus

Connaghan), Yukon Yvonne (Jamie Campbell), Mugs (Danny LaFreniere), Little Persia (Desire Duhamel), along with Judge Leiderkranz (William Lemmink) and his wife Magda (Marissa Crandall), all gave solid performances which added up to a most enjoyable event.

A sound system provided by Mike

Hurkmans worked to perfection and made the young performers’ voices audible to the entire crowd.

And once again teacher/director Donna Stambaugh and her able assistant Sally Lounsbury gave their all in preparation and practice to make this one of the best-ever performances by the Island’s young thespians.



Easter Eggs in the Ground

Once again Beaver Island’s *Magic Bunny* was busy the morning of the day before Easter, hiding a plethora of alluring eggs near the Holy Cross Church and the Beaver Island School. Many very excited kids lined up at three starting lines and waited for the bell; when it rang, they were off in a mad scramble for goodies. Everyone went home happy—including two gate-crashing puppies who were allowed to take part.



Ireland 2006

by Shirley Cole and Marie LaFreniere. Photographs by Paul Cole, Tony Gatliff, Marie LaFreniere, Valerie O'Donnell, and Deborah Robert



On March 30 a group of 63 excited Beaver Islanders and Island-related people flew to Shannon, Ireland. Boarding two buses, the group headed to Feakle to toast the memory of Bucky Vreeland, who passed away last Christmas. Bucky and Genie Vreeland lived in Feakle for 6 months of every year for the past 18 years, and the locals provided a warm welcome. We had a toast to Bucky at Bohan's Pub, where Cindy Gillespie Cushman, along with Edward Palmer on guitar, dedicated



Green, Green Grass of Home to Bucky. Afterwards we headed to lunch at Pepper's Bar; the group was pleasantly surprised when an Irish radio station played some tunes from Edward Palmer's latest CD. Then the group made its way on to Donegal (where debates continued as to who really owns the O'Donnell Castle!) After a fine dinner at the hotel, a large part of the group went to the O'Donnell Pub (you'd think there would have been some

debates over who owns that instead of the castle!), and then onto the Scotsman for



more craic (fun), music and dancing. The owner of the Scotsman was so taken with the group that he loaned his one and only keyboard to Island musician Ed Palmer for the weekend on Arranmore! (It hasn't played the same since!)



Saturday morning was filled with sunshine and shopping (while others toured the castle and other local sites.) Then it was back on the bus for Burtonport to catch the 20-minute ferry ride to Arranmore, where we met up with two of our group who had been delayed in Chicago and had to take



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three different planes to join us! (It took another 4 days for their luggage to catch up!) There was also another group of Islanders which traveled separately and met us on Arranmore, so the total number of travelers was 68.

The ferry ride to Arranmore Island was emotional for most. Those who had been on the 2003 trip were about to see and renew relationships with familiar faces, and the first-time travelers were about to see where they came from. The bagpipes were playing as we disembarked and

were met by family and friends. We were home.

The people of Arranmore had many activities planned for the weekend. There was a band from Dublin having a "session" at the Arranmore House Hotel upon our arrival. The hotel was right on the Atlantic Ocean with gorgeous views. There was time for a "pint" before mass at 7:00 p.m., and then it was back to the hotel for dinner and dancing,

with music provided by the Beaver Island musicians as well as *Erin's Own*

(a popular Irish band). Some of the heartier headed to the "disco" (which doesn't even open until 4 am!) and caught the sunrise. We think a good time was had by all.

On Sunday, we were all transported to Arranmore's Community Center, where we were entertained with Irish music and step dancing, and were served sandwiches and tea. A check was presented to the Center from the Beaver Island community to be put towards playground equipment.

Continued on page 22.



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Ireland 2006, continued from page 21.

Arranmore's local historian, the highly respected Charlie O'Hara, took various groups on tours around the island, giving some history and showing the sites of ancestral homes. Some who had been to Arranmore previously had said, "It's really just a big rock." Well, we found it to be a most beautiful 'rock,' with sweeping scenery and breathtaking cliffs.



Later that night we went to Jerry Early's Pub and were entertained by Jerry Early, Edward Palmer, and a host of others until the wee hours of the next morning. While Beaver Island may be known for its sunsets, Arranmore will be remembered for the sunrises! There was no rest for the wicked!

On Monday evening, a large group of Senior Citizens joined us for a splendid dinner at the hotel. After the meal, there was music and "set danc-

ing." Some of us were even brave enough to get on the dance floor and try the "Siege of Ennis."



On Tuesday morning we said our sad farewells to the people of Arranmore, thanking them for their wonderful hospitality, and then with tears in our eyes boarded the same buses in Burtonport for Galway City. We stopped to pay our respects at Yeats' grave and the Lady of Knock Shrine along the way.



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On Wednesday morning 16 of the group had to head back to the States.

Most of the remaining group took a day trip to Connemara and had lunch at The Shamrock in Roundstone.

Thursday we took off for Tralee, stopping at the Cliffs of Moher. No one told us we had to climb a steep hill with gale force winds coming at us! The day was overcast but the cliffs were beautiful. (Couldn't push anyone

over as Brian Cole had unfortunately already returned to the states!)

On Friday, we did a day trip to the Dingle Peninsula, which was as spectacular as we'd been told.

Saturday some more of the group headed for home, and others rented cars to go off for another week on their own. The remainder of us spent our last night in Ennis, where we went to Durty Nellie's for a drink (or two!).

We will be talking about this trip for a long time, sharing both the memories

as well as the hope to go back again some day soon.

At Jerry Early's John Gallagher sang a song by the Fureys called "May We All Some Day Meet Again." Jerry Early himself said it should be the Arranmore/Beaver Island anthem, and we are all in unanimous agreement! (The song is on the "Home on the Island" DVD.) Now to get to work on our own Arranmore Park.



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Big Man Dead: A Kingdom's End Replayed

The Strang Writers Group has finalized its plans for this summer's conference on June 16th and 17th. On that Friday several papers on historical matters will be presented starting at 1:00 in the afternoon in the Emerald Isle Hotel's Conference Room. There is no charge (although donations will be accepted) for any of these events, and the public is invited.

At 7:00 a Re-enactment of the shooting of King Strang will be staged on the beach across from the Museum—150 years after the actual event, the beginning of the end of Strang's reign. A few volunteer actors (with access to period cos-

tumes) are still needed to walk in these not-exactly-hallowed footsteps, so call 448-2254 if you'd like to take part.

On Saturday afternoon the BIHS will have an Open House in each Museum—the Print Shop, and the Marine Museum. Snacks will be available, and there is no charge.

On Saturday evening noted author (*Hemingway in Michigan*) Connie Cappel will introduce Native American writer and philosopher Simon Otto at 8:00 in the unfinished Community House. Chairs will be brought in, so seating will be limited, but this event no doubt will be talked about for years—so it's one not to miss.



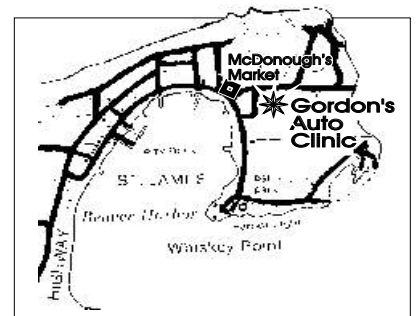
Beaver Island Calendar of Events

May 6th - Beaver Island Community Players Auditions, 3 p.m. at the Hall
May 7th - PABI Road Rally, 1:00 p.m., starting in front of the Shamrock
May 12th - Chinese Dinner at Nina's - Sports Boosters benefit. 448-2396.
May 13th - BIRHC, 2:00, Peaine Hall.
May 20th - BIFDA Celebrity Roast honoring Kathy Speck - 7:30 p.m. at the Holy Cross Hall - call 448-2510 for more information or to take part!
May 26th - PABI Mardi Gras in May 7:30
May 28th - Jack Cull Memorial Concert, 8:00 p.m. at the Holy Cross Hall

May 30th - Master Plan Public Hearing 7:00 p.m., Peaine Twp. Hall.
June 2nd - Golden Beaver Bash featuring amplified acoustic performances. www.bimf.net or (231) 838-2883
June 16th - Strang Reenactment: 7:00 p.m.
June 17th - BIHS Museum Open Houses
June 24th - AmVets USO Dance at the Holy Cross Hall.
July 17th - 22nd Museum Week 2006
July 21st - 22nd Beaver Island Music Festival - www.bimf.net
July 29th - Baroque on Beaver - www.baroqueonbeaver.com

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Mardi Gras on Beaver Wolves At The Door

Did you miss Mardi Gras in New Orleans this year? Well, gather your costumes and join PABI for Mardi Gras in May. The event will include Black Jack and other casino games delivered in a Mardi Gras setting at Holy Cross Hall on May 26. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. A \$20 entry fee will get you \$200 in chips with which to begin playing. Players may purchase more chips if needed. A Costume contest will also be held, so dress up for Mardi Gras and see what you can win! Spend your winnings at the French Quarter Marketplace. The Marketplace will also accept real money as well as "play" money from your winnings. So if you see something you like and haven't won enough to buy, you may still have an opportunity to purchase it with real cash! Join us for the 'fun'raiser for PABI. May 26-7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Hall.

In a famous scene in *Child of the Sea*, the Williams family is hiking on the north shore of Lake Michigan late one December night, and the wolves trailing them through the deep snow get closer and closer. The family finally takes refuge in a little cabin, and in the morning they find several deep claw gouges in the door.

Our reaction has always been, "It can't happen here." Perhaps we were wrong; there is a chance that a huge paw print found by Jeff Powers near an active beaver dam at French Bay, whose photo and plaster cast were examined by the DNR, could have been made by a wolf.

The print measured almost 5" across. Two infrared trail cameras have now been set up with motion detectors at the site, so if there is a wolf on Beaver Island, we may all soon have its image as our favorite screen saver.

Softball 2006 – Beginning May 22nd – July 25th

There's a \$5.00 one-time charge (please pay when you sign-up) – Sign-up sheet at B.I. Community School or call Diane McDonough at 448-2164 (or if you have any questions.)



Big League (9th grade - Adults)
Tues 7:30 - 8:30. (Please form Teams for the 9th - Adults)

Coaches needed for all ages! Please contact Diane at

Tee-Ball (1st - 4th grade) Mon 6:30 - 7:30 (grade just completed – Tee-Ball will be pitched, not off a tee!)

Little League (5th - 8th grade) Tues 6:00 - 7:00

448-2164 if you are interested in coaching a team!

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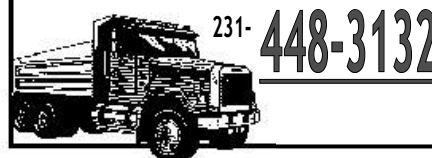
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When Jason Lome gave up his Chicago haunts at the age of ten and moved to Beaver Island to enroll in our unique little school, the unshackled abundance of nature that surrounded him here tended to be somewhat overwhelming. After graduating he lived in Sedona AZ for four years, where he was introduced to photography by mentor Ron Lundy, and then returned to Traverse City to make his home.



Now Jason has moved to a Nikon D50 digital camera, and he's using it to gain some measure of revenge on Michigan's natural surroundings, which had been so overpowering in his youth. One might say his pictures catch the world just before it can throw a punch, and place it in a limbo where it's trapped by its own grace—which would be reduced by any movement in any direction from the posed medita-



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tions he has captured. Once he saw Bill Skau's starkly realistic large-scale ungrained portraits, his path was set.

Like any true artist, he has a penchant for catching the world at its best—not just in a different mode. His goal, he said, is “to create large, striking, monochrome or minimally chromatic images that can be appreciated from a distance as well as in close



scrutiny.” From the look of his work, he’s certainly on his way.

His mother, Mary Stewart Rose, is so delighted (but not surprised) by his quick mastery that she’s holding a show in her gallery in which more of his efforts to stop the world in its tracks can be seen. He’ll be on hand for the show, which will be held on July 7th – 9th, to sign prints and shake hands with newcomers and his many old friends.



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On This Date

Ten Years Ago Dr. Lange announced the results of the Med Center's search for a new care provider: of 30 inquiries received, 15 information packets were sent out, and five videos. Six candidates visited, and one was hired, the RN Penny Kiss.

Gena McCafferty started a kind of 'Summer School' program that was to run for two ten-day periods in June and July—if teachers could be found from among Island residents.

The Beaver Island Players were ready to present *Too Soon for Daisies*, a comedy directed by Sarah Myers and Phil Gregg as the owner of a residence taken possession of by three escapees from a home for destitute women, Lisa Gillespie, Pam O'Brien, and Pat McGinnity.

Updated rules for the Township Cemetery were being drafted. The Jewell F. Gillespie public beach was being improved with a new flag pole and bike rack, the repair of equipment, and the cleaning of the grounds. Permits were obtained for constructing

piers at the Municipal Dock.

Ten years of volleyball coaching by Connie Boyle led to the Islanders' best record yet: 15–4, good enough for second place in the Northern Lights League.

The volunteer Fire Department did it again, saving another home when the Cashmans' fireplace, with a very hot load, burned through its triple-wall chimney at 7:30 a.m. "The firemen acted like a precision drill team. Everyone knew what to do, and did their jobs flawlessly. Thanks to them, another potential disaster was averted."

Because of the dry weather, the Firemen issued a call for no burning for at least two weeks.

The 10th annual Talent Show was stolen by Carrie Podgorski and Kyle Frazier's version of *The Last Unicorn*.

St. Pat's Day was celebrated in typical fashion, with cart races, a tug-o-war, and the *pitch-a-pike*. Beth Green Lucas won the limerick contest, with Bea Boyle finishing second. In an understatement, the *Fish Stomp* was said to be

"not for everyone."

The passing of Bud Chichester was noted. This 'friend to all' lived in the Port St. James during the summer since his retirement. He and his wife Dorothy were ardent bird-watchers and bingo players, and lent their support to the Historical Society for years.

Twenty Years Ago A special St. James Township meeting was held to approve a resolution to purchase additional land adjacent to the Playground, if a grant could also be obtained, with Gay Cole appointed Director of the Playground Expansion Project.

Island deputy Ken Capman resigned after skirmishes in which he suffered a trunking and much ensuing embarrassment.

A jazz band from Western Michigan University gave a concert in the Holy Cross Parish Hall.

Both townships adopted a resolution empowering the Charlevoix County Building Inspector to monitor potential erosion and mud-slides due to the rising water.

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Betty Duckworth wrote a homage to Mary Scholl and the store she ran on Halstead in Chicago's Old Town before coming here, *Homemade Goods*, which had been quite a tourist attraction.

Beaver Island's March of Dimes netted over \$550, surpassing East Jordan and Harbor Springs.

A facetious report claimed that Dave Roop had been appointed "Director of Raccoon Population Control" for this district by the DNR.

With the addition of 6,000 square feet, McDonough's Market was chosen from 300 entries to be at the top of Progressive Grocer's 1985 Honor Roll of supermarkets.

The BIHS prepared to move its newly acquired *Bob S* fish tug from the marina to the Marine Museum, and planned to start construction on a storage/display barn at its Heritage Park. The Smithsonian was to loan its model of the *Margaret McCann* for the summer. *Volume III* of the *Journal of Beaver Island History* was to be delayed because editor Robert Weeks was ill.

Terry Bussey offered to help improve the Native American Room in the Print Shop Museum.

Five Islanders were in the EMT class, requiring 120 hours of instruction. Six examiners arrived from the State Board to oversee the final test.

Thirty Years Ago The room in the Town Hall designated as a lending library planned to open for two hours each of three days a week..

Madonna McCafferty was organizing a Drivers' Ed class.

The entire school body, 70 people, was divided into three groups for the bi-annual School Trip. Weather kept the boat from running, but Joe McPhillips ferried them all across by 11:00 a.m. One group headed for the Upper Peninsula in private cars; they toured the Kinchloe Air Base and Sault Ste. Marie, and visited a zoo across the bridge in Canada. Another group, the middle students, went to Grand Rapids and saw a concert by *The Lettermen*. They stopped at the Blandford Nature Center, and the airport. The older kids headed

for Lansing and then to the huge amusement park in King's Island, Ohio. They managed to swing by the Air Force Museum and the Cincinnati Zoo before returning.

The school boasted six graduates (Gerald Connaghan, Mary Green, Mark LaFreniere, Tom McDonough, Jody Wagner, and Diane Wojan), who all were headed to college. At the ceremony it was mentioned that fifty years before, Island stalwarts James Gallagher, Teresa Boyle, Grace Gillespie, and Lil Green had made up that graduating class.

The joint townships solicited \$27,000 for a bond for improvements to the Townships' Airport, which they got for 10 years at 6.0% from the Charlevoix County State Bank. This went with a previous Michigan Aeronautics Commission loan of \$25,000 and some funds that were on hand to become the local match for a MAC \$80,000 grant. The plans called for paving the 3000' x 50' E/W runway.

Continued on page 30.



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On This Date, continued from page 29.

Several obituaries were noted. Dominic Gallagher passed away in Manitowoc; he had worked on the car ferry after being born on Beaver in 1895. Buddy White passed away in Grand Rapids. He had been born in Chicago but lived on Beaver and in Charlevoix; he was a fisherman who also worked on the Beaver Island ferry. Peter Gallagher passed away in Green Bay, where he had lived since leaving Beaver as a young man; he had worked as a farmer and house painter. And Olin Wanty, owner of a summer home on Beaver and the King Strang Hotel, passed away in Ypsilanti.

Forty Years Ago The townships and the Civic launched a plan, headed by resident Lin Rountree, to acquire an isolated piece of state land to use as a place to put all the junk cars abandoned around the Island.

The trout season opened with a bang at Fox Lake, with up-to-the-limit catches being made by many of those who came here for the occasion. The Canadian Geese the Game Club

planted at Round Lake were causing some grief by wandering away from that area and leaving deposits. The Conservation Department began work on trails and clearings on High and Garden Islands.

The annual Trout Festival was held at the Parish Hall. A hundred people enjoyed a chicken dinner.

Seven children made their First Communion.

A complaint was lodged against a visitor who rented a motel room and used it for: his horse, which was not house-trained.

William Gillespie and 'Ernest F' Martin graduated from the BICS.

The PTA viewed the students' spring projects. Ron Wojan received an award in Michigan History, Judy LaFreniere in Biology; Jeanne Wojan, Phyllis Gregg, and Sara Kenwabikise also received awards. A dental clinic for schoolkids was to be held in the Med Center basement.

The Youth Center closed its year with a Box Social after a successful second season. Feature-length movies

were shown each week.


The Coast Guard station opened on May 9th for the season, with five men.


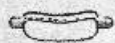
Shroomers were hunting morels and beefsteaks without much luck.


Passings noted included retired Island fisherman William Belfy, who had lived here since 1908. He and his daughter, Mrs. Edna McCann, ran the Beachcomber, which she owned. And Francis Burns, Pat Bonner's nephew, passed away in Taylor.

Phil Gregg paid homage to William Belfy in a *Beaver Tale*. He said his first look at Beaver came as a crewman on his father's two-masted schooner, the *Waleska*, which frequently picked up lumber at the BILCo mill. His father was an expert seaman, able to read the conditions with great accuracy. But in December of 1910 they set out with a load of barrel staves, and got in a bad snow storm that made everything invisible—even the other end of the ship. They thought they were doomed, but his father brought them between the piers at Frankfort—a miracle. Two years later he married Alice Johnston and

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went to work at the mill in St. James, when it was at its busiest; they turned out a quarter million board feet a week, requiring two trips a day of the train. In 1915 he and his brother began a 20-year run on the *Silver Star*. Then he joined Captain Allers on the *Patrol Number 1* Conservation Department boat. Later he fished with Roland McCann on the *Venus II*. During the war he built subchasers in Detroit.

Fifty Years Ago The Coast Guard's Survey Boat visited Beaver to gather information relative to the fate

of the station at Whiskey Point. Two hundred people testified to the vital necessity of keeping it open.

The school held its Junior/Senior Banquet and a Prom. Rosemary McDonough, Thelma Schmidt, Hubert McCauley, and Roland Cull graduated.

A bald eagle with a 6' wingspan was found by Joe and Alvin LaFreniere near Luney's Point; Glen brought it to school for 'show and tell.'

The state nutritionist failed to arrive because she fell down and broke her leg in Charlevoix.

A contract for dredging the harbor was awarded by the Michigan Waterways Commission. The smelt run was very heavy, and big perch (15") were filling the harbor. When they later declined, John Gallagher always laid the blame on the dredging, which he claimed had stirred up too much mud.

Father Joe led the spring clean-up of the harbor.

Father Victor Gallagher came home for the funeral of his mother Kittie. His father passed away eight days later, necessitating a return trip.

Doreen Bloch 1926-2006

Doreen Bloch (nee. Ferguson) died tranquilly at Beaumont Hospital's Cardiac Care Unit surrounded by her family: Alf, her husband of 56 years, son Jim, daughter Barb (Lonnie Gower), and daughter-in-law Rachelle Bonelli on April 4, 2006, Jim's 52nd birthday.

She was born in Peterborough, Ontario on Sept. 16, 1926 and graduated from Pershing High School in Detroit. She resided in Pleasant Ridge

and on Beaver Island, having built the second home at Greenes' Bay. She loved magazines, perfume, especially Joy by Jean Patou, riding the swings at playgrounds, playing bridge with her friends, entertaining at her home, whipping around on the Tilt-a-Whirl and other carnival rides, flying shotgun with Alf in his Cessna, dancing to hard funk, reading—particularly author Victor Canning, her annual excursions to Traverse City with Barb, relaxing on

the beach, taking road trips with Alf, spending 25 summers on Beaver Island, and drinking bourbon old-fashions without sugar.

She was an accomplished cook with a passion for salads, salted nuts on ice cream, and crunchy sliced vegetables accompanying imaginary sandwiches. She made the accomplishments of her family possible. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Salvation Army.

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The Lady Slippers are Coming

by Barbara Rahn

The aptly named Showy Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) astonished me when I first rushed past it on King's Highway. When I went back for a closer look, "voluptuous" was the first word that came to mind. The bowl, made from the two fused lower petals, could hold a magic potion, and the crown of gently twisted upper petals quivers like angel wings. Having never seen this plant before, I was amazed that an orchid could have such tender leaves and yet such strong stalks.

But that's not the only thing amazing about the Showy Lady Slipper. It can take 10 to 15 years after seed dispersion to its first blossom. Germination to first leaf can take several years alone. Add to this the facts that 1) the soil needs to be moist, but well drained (isn't that an oxymoron?), and 2) the soil must host one of a few specific fungi, and you have something so uncommon that instantly it has allure.

Too much allure in some cases. Its beauty and rarity have made it the target of uninformed people all across the 26 states where it grows in the wild. According to the USDA, *Cypripedium reginae* is listed as 'Endangered' or 'Threatened' in 10 of those states. And in New York this orchid is listed as 'Exploitably Vulnerable,' something I



assume New Yorkers know a lot about.

Cypripedium reginae is not endangered in Michigan, but if you want one of your very own, don't even THINK of digging it. It will die. There are, however, some dedicated, knowledgeable and experienced horticulturists who have devised a way to grow it in pots from seed! These plants are available from several sources on the web. Try planteck.com or phytesia.com (in Brussels) or greatplants.com. Some of these sites also have extensive technical information about *Cypripedium reginae*.

Although ephemeral, the flowers of the Showy Lady Slipper are spectacular. But then, many of our most cherished things are ephemeral. Things like laughter, sunsets, and ... life without glasses. For me, it is precisely because they are so fleeting that I cherish these astonishingly beautiful flowers.

(With a BA from Stephens College combining Landscape Design and Business, and an MS from the University of Delaware in Public Horticulture Administration (Botanic Garden Management), Barbara Rahn has over 25 years experience as a landscape designer. She and her husband, Joe, are building a house on Mrs. Redding's Trail.)

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the owners, we are asking only \$439,000.00 for this premiere, one acre, Beaver Island location. For a private viewing, please call Kim or Joanne Hooker at 231/947-3823 or email us at kimhooker58@hotmail.com.

Forty-three Years in the Making!



On April 30th the Beaver Island Christian Church broke ground for its new *Gregg Fellowship Center*. In a well-attended ceremony, Judy Meister, Phil Gregg, and Reverend Steve Skinner took turns speaking about how fortunate the community centered around this church was, to have come so far from their humble beginnings.

The Gregg family, Phil, Lil, Phyllis, Ruth, and Ron, were among the 12 worshipers who met for the Church's very first service, held in a motel room in 1963. After that, a small home was acquired; then the shell of a structure was built and then finished as a Church.

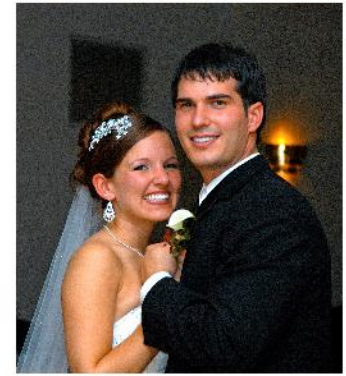
The need for more space became obvious, and the first few committees began to wrestle with the design problems. One design would have engulfed the present Church, but the price tag was \$500,000.



Then the present building committee, chaired by Mike Deur and Drew Owsinski, suggested this, a free-standing 40' x 96' structure connected by a roofed walkway.

Steve Skinner pointed out how this building will assist the Church to fulfill its mission. It will be a place where worship can be experienced, where good witness can be made to the community, and where missions can be planned, dispatched, and received.

The building could be used 2 to 3 days a week, and should impact Beaver Island. Plans are to offer activities for youth as well as adults. Besides bathrooms and a kitchen, it will contain a room capable of seating 144 at tables or 225 in chairs. Ernie Martin Jr. (K&M) supplied the low bid (\$143,000 for the shell and walkway.) The Church has the funds to pay for this first stage, but help is needed for the rest.



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Beaver Island Golf Course – A Short Tour

by Frank Solle

As winter's cold grip gradually releases us towards an ever-greening sense of spring, there comes a primal urge to once again get outside and partake in that annual ritual of frustration — golf. With that in mind, plus a few early rounds already in the bag, local duffer Frank Solle decided to share his take on a round of golf on America's 'wee bit of Scotland' here on Beaver Island. So slip on those spikes, dust off that driver, and let's go golfing.

...

The American writer and humorist Mark Twain was the first to say of golf that it was a great walk spoiled. It's obvious from such a remark that Twain spent too much time on the Mighty Mississippi and not enough, or any, pursuing the great pastime of golf, especially on Beaver Island. For here, the walk is any-

thing but spoiled as you enjoy your round amidst the beauty of America's Emerald Isle with the company of fellow golfers, white-tailed deer, migrating Canada geese, a not-so-fleet flock of turkey, a rabbit or two, and even the occasional stray cow (the course manager raises them with an apparent appreciation of the game).

For those who have yet to experience this experience, allow me to share mine on a quick tour of this amazing little course.

Hole #1 – You would be hard pressed to find a more welcoming first hole in golf than the one that greets you here. The fairway is wide, wider, widest. Of course, you still have to hit it, but it's there, just waiting for you. Years ago I played a course that had a first hole with a slight dog leg right that climbed to an elevated

green sitting atop a rise that dove to the right like a black diamond ski run. There were large majestic maples on the left of the green waiting to stand in front of any errant shot hit to that side. Anything less than a triple bogey was a relief—not the best way to start your walk.

On Beaver Island an opening par is not out of the question; simply avoid the four bunkers guarding the corners of the largest green on the course, and your confidence will rise to the day waiting to unfold before you.

Hole #2 – As a young lad just learning the game, hole number two, with its small, postage stamp tee area set slightly separate and askew from the fairway, presented a mentally stressful challenge. Today, as both my game and I have matured (well, okay, I'm older anyway), I take that challenge in stride and hit away.

The fairway opens slightly along the left side as you approach the green, giving you plenty of room to land a grand tee shot. As is the case with shorter par four holes, a good drive and a wedge shot are all you might need to make the green—provided, as we say in golf, you “stay in the short grass.” Nowhere is that axiom more important than here on Beaver Island, as the knee-

high, links-styled rough separating the fairways is unforgiving at best, and ball-devouring at worst. Throw in the occasional juniper bush, rock pile, or apple tree, and the fun is just beginning.

With wedge in hand, the two deepest bunkers on the course straddle the slightly slanting green, pressing the case for a soft landing on the well-groomed bent grass.

Hole #3 – Augusta has it's Eisenhower tree; Beaver Island has it's %&#@! maple that guards the entrance to this short fairway. Don't miss it too far right or the line of cedars marching down the rough will invite your ball to join them. Miss the tree yet stay left and your view of the green is diminished by an outcrop of thick rough anchored by a ball-eating apple tree. Keep it straight, keep it true, and I've seen players land their drive on the putting surface, and (yikes!) beyond.

The reason there are no bunkers protecting this green is simple: its rolling surface and pin placement offer plenty of protection from an easy par.

Hole #4 – The first of the two par threes on the course. Club selection is at a premium here. Check the distance marker at the tee box against the number on the scorecard. Hmm. I wonder which one is



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closest to reality? The huge beech tree on the left looks inviting. So does the deep hole on the right. The green slants back towards the tee box, so don't over play into the guarding row of cedars behind. And you thought this game was easy. Hey, it is. You're up. Hit away.

Hole #5 – This par four should be as easy as either number one or two. Should be. It's straight. It's not that long. The fairway is fairly wide. Why is it then that the group of trees on the right seems too often to draw my ball into it? Or avoiding that fate, I seem to go left into the rough? And let's not even talk about the classic northern hardwoods forest that lines the entire right side of the fairway. Yet par is doable here.

Of course this green includes a heavy crease on the left side—don't even roll down into it. Whatever you do, don't go long into the rough. And, oh, did I mention the gracious apple tree on the right side of the green? Only in my worst nightmares.

Hole #6 – Our second par three. Short and easy. The tee is over here. The green is over there. Except there's nothing in between but air as the fairway dips gradually into a deep gully, then rises abruptly with a lovely, heart-shaped bunker planted in the side of the hill below the ever-so-small green.

A stand of large maples sits to the left. Another to the right. It's an easy shot, right? After all, it's not the 17th at Sawgrass. How hard can it be? This may be another reason you and I aren't playing the game on T.V. on Sundays.

Hole #7 – At last, the course's lone par five. Grip it and rip it. Just please, please, please, let me land past the pond that flicks its hungry algae-dripping tongue across the fairway. Over the past couple years our trusty course manager has been able to clear away the bottom branches of the large cedars gracing the left rough. He must have been low on used balls. Now if you land over there you can usually find your ball. Hitting it? Well, that's another matter.

If you avoid those pitfalls, plus survive the unknown 'heather' that lies just beyond the pond, you've arrived in the approach area. From here be advised of the four bunkers that surround a long, narrow green. Many a good player has been driven to despair with the back-and-forth hopscotch game that can result from landing anywhere but on the putting surface. So I've been told.

Hole #8 – The numbers say the previous hole is the most difficult on the course. But the regular players give the nod to this par four 'mystery

spot' of weird angles and slopes. The fairway bends to the right, yet the lay of the land slides off to the left. And if you hit the perfect drive, you know the one—straight and down the middle, chances are you'll wind up just behind the mid-fairway lilac bush, cursing your aromatic good fortune.

Then there is the green from hell. If there is a flat spot on this small green, shaded by a dense row of cedars, it has yet to be found and claimed in the name of golf sanity. A par here is cause for celebration, but not too much because there is still one more hole to play.

Hole #9 – What are the chances of a drive hitting the lone large rock that lies in play on this course, then ricocheting back towards you? Very slim indeed. Yet I've seen it done. But that's not the challenge here. While not as severe as #8,

this hole also bends one way while the land tends to fall the other. And don't forget the rock. Or land behind it.

The final green is a dandy, elevated in the rear as it slants back into the fairway. Again, bunkers line the perimeter, but the large, tightly mowed surface offers a truly inviting landing area. And if you're buying that I have a deal for you on some great swamp land off Hannigan's Road.

So there you have it. Another fine round of golf. What other kind is there? And on top of that, you're on Beaver Island, which is to enjoy.

Sure, the fairways could be smoother, the greens could be larger, the grass in the rough could be shorter, and, yes, your score could be lower. But let's review: you're on Beaver Island and you're golfing. It really doesn't get any better.

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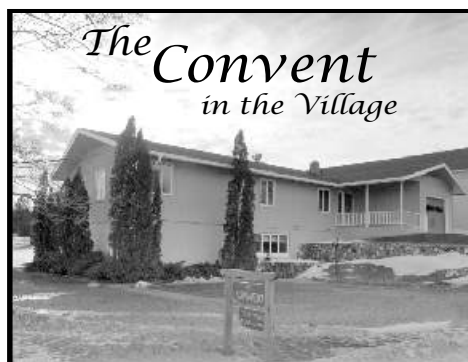
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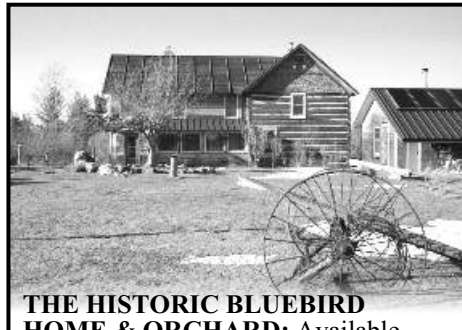
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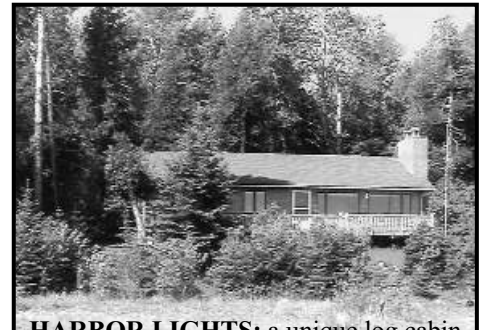
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711 Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711



BEAUTIFUL SECLUDED NEW CHALET: Near Donegal Bay's beach. 3BR, 2Bath. MBR has garden tub. W/DR TV/VCR Grill. Upon availability, bikes & auto for your use. Sleeps 6-8. No Pets. \$790/week. Off season rates available April thru June 15 & Sept 15 thru Oct. Evenings (708) 389-0621



THE HISTORIC BLUEBIRD HOME & ORCHARD: Available again as a rental. Charming and beautifully-renovated log farmhouse with apple orchard. Full housekeeping. 4 bdrms, 4 baths, jacuzzi tub. Fully-equipped kitchen, diningroom, parlor, library, and sunporch. Rates and reservations: (303) 817-2554 or TheBluebirdFarm@gmail.com



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

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

CEDAR COTTAGE - On bluff with view of harbor. Two bedrooms, one dbl. bed, two singles. TV, VCR, grill, full

kitchen, washer/clothesline, 2 bikes; no pets. \$650/week. Call (734) 769-7565. mschroer@a2mich.com

DONEGAL BAY HOUSE FOR RENT - Nice wooded location. Two BR. New kitchen. Summer: \$675. Off-season \$425. (269) 668-7892 nprawat@yahoo.com

TO PLACE AN AD - to be seen in 1,200 *Beacons* every month and online, please call (231) 448-2476 or e-mail the *Beacon*: beacon@beaverbeacon.com - classified ads are \$1/line/month or \$15 with photograph and website listing at www.beaver-island.com

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

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

10.1 ACRES OF HARDWOODS - with 700 feet of frontage on West Side Drive one mile north of Fox Lake. For Sale by Owner. High ground

with private road and fully cleared building site. \$45,000. Call Bubba at (989) 821-5344.

10 ACRES OLD FOX LAKE ROAD Beautiful, wooded, great building site; \$45,000, please call (231) 409-1214.

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

HARBOR-AREA HOUSE FOR SALE - Two-Story 2,688 sq. ft. house plus 2 car attached garage & full basement. 3 large bedrooms-master BR with private bath and walk-in closet, cathedral ceiling. 2 ½ baths. 2 decks. Approximately 1-acre corner lot. Peekaboo view of the Harbor. Potential for a bed and breakfast business. Asking: \$245,000. Owner is licensed agent. Call Jackie at (231) 448-2342.



FABULOUS NEW HOME FOR SALE

Located between Lake Michigan and the Harbor. Two bedrooms plus huge loft, one full bath, living room, w/2-story ceiling, kitchen, utility room, large front & side decks, truly "Turn-Key" with appliances, furniture, bedding, down to dishes and silverware! Easy walking distance to everything in town.

Offered at \$235,000.⁰⁰

CALL ERIK PETERSON, OWNER
(269) 857-6084 or (616) 240-8980



BEAVER ISLAND'S NORTH SHORE: Two 100' x 400' +/- Lake Michigan lots on the North Bluff a mile from town on Indian Point Road. Each have a cute, usable, rustic 1 bedroom/1 bath cabin with enclosed porches, decks and views. Furnished and equipped. Shared drive and well; separate electric and phone. "Bluff" \$170,000, "Woods" \$165,000. Possible land contracts with substantial down payments. Call John Johnson, (231) 448-2533 BI, (305) 294-9909 FL, (305) 304-7188 Cell.



enjoying spring colors of the east side



a perfect Island road... off Hannigan's



new life on the Jordan River



the old Dan Boyle cabin (1886) at French Bay



Islanders return from Ireland - story on page 20.



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