some stories in this issue:

A look aboard the Picton Castle
Tales from the Beaver Island Music Festival; Homecoming
A Training Exercise with the Coast Guard; Out of the Blue – Episode 1, a serial sci-fi; Lost in the Woods
Beaver Island News and Events, History, People, Places, 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.
News from the Townships

St. James Township
At the August Board meeting, the ‘Crime of the Month’ was described: vandals had broken some of the downtown vinyl fencettes, for a second time.

The Airport Committee worked with an attorney for Fresh Air, the new flying service, to create a contract for the use of the Township Airport. Fresh Air will not have an exclusive operation. The Committee feels it would be of benefit to the Airport and its users to have a regular operation based there, but the original Ordinance governing this will have to be changed because it requires a Flying Service to build a new Terminal.

The Dance Permit for Stoney Acre Grill was reconsidered. Liam Racine explained that they have already added space (by enclosing a patio), but just the Michigan Liquor Control Commission requires a Dance Permit for this additional space, even when there are no plans to expand the dancing.

A letter from a neighbor was read in which objections were taken to granting this permit, because previous conditions and promises (regarding closing time, spill-over parking, and the fence/green belt buffer) had not been met. To set the context for this, supervisor Don Vyse read from the minutes of the meeting at which the Township approved the original request for a Liquor License: Liam had said that drinks would only be served with dinner until 9:00 p.m. As an answer, he said that more and more people have been coming to the restaurant to be fed, and the cut-off time had been pushed back by necessity. Further, he said the buffer was now in place.

The Board decided that the Dance Permit should be issued on the merits of the request, but if the neighbors felt that previous promises were not met they should request that the Board take steps to enforce them. The owners agreed to take action to keep patrons from parking where the neighbors would be disturbed.

Bud Left reiterated his complaint about the water that runs off the sidewalk (which he feels is incorrectly sloped) onto his property. He was told that the matter was the responsibility of the Charlevoix County Road Commission, to which his complaint should be addressed.

Fire Chief Tim McDonough said he has been told the BIFD will receive a sizeable donation from the Fireman’s Association of America.

Sarah McCafferty delivered the BIEMS report.

Peaine Township
The Peaine Town Board held a quick meeting on August 9th, deciding to cash in a $12,786 CD to pay for the extra bathroom ($8,412) in the addition that was decreed by the Building Inspector after construction was underway. This will also pay for file cabinets.
and other needed furnishings.

In delivering her EMS report, Sarah McCafferty said that she had negotiated a bequest from the Emergency Management Authority that had allowed the EMS to buy extra backboards and devices that allowed for up to five people to breathe simultaneously from an oxygen tank.

The Peaine Board decided to put the additional one-mil Roads request, which failed in the primary election, back on the ballot in November. “A lot of work was put into this, but a final plan was not quite finished,” Pete LoDico stated. The Board hopes to complete the road plan and broadcast its specifics before the next election.

**BIEMS**

BIEMS Executive Director Sarah McCafferty reported that procedures for the BIEMS responding to fire calls and the summer on-call policy have been drafted. Now she hopes to work with the Fire Chief to develop a Search-and-rescue policy.

She noted that in July there had been 16 runs—more than one every other day. Three patients were evacuated by NorthFlight, and three by the Coast Guard; eight were successfully treated at the Health Center (and two needed no EMS help.)

In meetings about disaster relief she was able to convince Med Control to contribute over a thousand dollars toward extra equipment to keep here.

**Election Results**

In Peaine, the regular Road Millage passed, 78 - 29, but the additional mill failed, 45 - 60. The BIRHC passed, 83 - 23. The airport passed, 71 - 35, and the Library passed, 87 - 19.

In St. James, the Fire Protection passed, 77 - 12. The BIRHC passed, 68 - 21; the Road millage passed, 71 - 16; and the Library passed, 66 - 23.

**Legal Alert from BIRHC and Hospice**

In these days of much litigation, people are faced with protecting themselves through advance directives such as ‘living wills’ and ‘durable power of attorney for health care’ in case of disablement, or in the event of unexpected death. Using an attorney to draw up these papers can be costly.

We now have a free document available, which is legally recognized in 37 states, including Michigan. It allows a person to record their wishes regarding their funeral and family involvement at the time of their death. The booklet is called Five Wishes, and can be filled out and witnessed here on the Island, without incurring legal fees.

This document will override any previous living will or advance directive you may have written.

Please call Donna (448-2275) or Joyce (448-2387) or Lois (448-2475) in Hospice. We will be happy to meet with you.

— Joyce Runberg
Champion Tree Dedicated

After rain postponed the initial event the previous day, a champion summer day provided the perfect backdrop for the dedication of the Champion Tree in memory of Grace Matela at the Beaver Island Rural Health Center on Sunday, August 20.

A group of nearly 50 family and friends gathered along the west edge of the BIRHC parking lot where just off the lot in the bright sunshine a champion Norway maple had been planted this spring. As BIRHC board member Barbara Murphy explained, “We wanted something permanent, not transient, to represent everything Grace was to the Health Center.”

Health Center board president Connie Wojan opened the dedication ceremony by stating, “We are here to honor the memory and the service of a very exceptional woman. We wanted the whole community and especially her family to know how much Grace did for the Health Center.” She went on to detail the many hours Grace volunteered as a bookkeeper for the Center, pointing out most were completed in less than ideal conditions in the basement of the former Health Center building. “It was not fun work,” Wojan said. “It was often tedious, and the basement was dark, musty, had no windows, and was freezing in the winter.”

Yet as all Grace’s friends knew, she was always ready, available, and willing, and always bringing a smile with her.

Wojan also explained the effort involved in obtaining the Champion Tree. “It took the cooperation of quite a few to get it here,” she said. “Barb Murphy researched the Champion Tree program and found this tree in a nursery in Copemish, Michigan. She and Pete LoDico traveled there to pick it up. The Beaver Island Boat Company donated the freight to get it over, and Dave Schwartzfishe was very kind to pick it up from the boat dock and donate his time, equipment, and some nice topsoil to plant it in.”

And Donna Kubic has been watering it all summer.”

As for the Champion Tree program, Murphy told the gathering it involves, “taking cuttings from the largest and oldest trees in order to preserve them. The mother tree of this maple is in Empire, Michigan.”

The Empire tree is the Michigan champion Norway maple and stands 80’ tall with a girth of 173” and a crown spread of 75’.

Before unveiling the plaque that stands before the tree (and may well have to be moved some day if this tree reaches its growth potential), Wojan said, “It was so hard to condense all Grace did in a few words. So I decided to look up the word champion in the dictionary. I found that a champion is one who defends a cause or a person. As a verb, to champion is to fight for or support. It just struck me that these two definitions perfectly describe Grace and all she did for the Health Center over the years.”

That’s what the plaque states: A dedicated champion of BIRHC.

Father Pat blessed the tree, and then two of Grace’s grandchildren watered it with the remaining Holy Water to close out a simple, yet touching and wonderful ceremony.

– Frank Solle
Buy Truck Raffle Tickets – Help the BIRHC

As of August 24th the Beaver Island Rural Health Center had sold less than the 203 tickets needed to pay for the 2006 Chevy truck it is raffling on Labor Day, September 4th. This is the only summer fund-raiser the Health Center conducts.

If you have not purchased a ticket, please support 24/7 access to local health care by doing so by September 4th. If you have, we thank you for your support, and ask you to remind your friends and family members about the importance of supporting BIRHC operations. Your tickets give you two chances, you know: to win a brand new truck, and to possibly help save a life.

Remember: 28% of the Health Center’s operating budget depends upon donations and fund-raising events such as this.

Bring Back Books

The Library has been the place to be this summer. Records were broken, with circulation at 2,003 for July, and patron visits at 3,624. It’s a happening place. With three public PCs for accessing the internet, and WiFi available around the clock, it’s not surprising to find folks in the parking lot at 2:00 a.m. Working.

Here’s the down side: the overdue books. Please check everywhere—for library books, tapes, and DVDs, and then, when you find that secret trove, please bring them back!

Historical Society Annual Meeting

At the Beaver Island Historical Society’s Annual Meeting, President John Runberg and Volunteer Coordinator Joyce Bartels lauded the efforts of those who had helped throughout the year. Particularly during the summer, when volunteers cleaned the Museums, restocked the flower boxes and borders, staffed the desks for 78 hours a week, created new exhibits, and helped with the Society for Strang Studies’ conference and Museum Week.

The Board and the attending members were most interested to receive the financial report from Treasurer Chuck Schellenberg to learn the results of switching from an admission fee to only a donation jar at the Museums. They were delighted that donations were running 8% higher than admission fees for last year, and that the additional visitors had increased book sales by over 37% as well.

The audience was undaunted by the Director’s prediction that after 50 years, the nature of the Society’s work was about to change from “the easy things that can just be gone out and done” to more complicated tasks that would require “much more thought before being implemented.”

Pictures of the Kahlenberg engine being cleaned and rebuilt in Lansing were circulated; they showed a massive mechanical assembly that looked like a work of art. CMU’s Clarke Historical Library was thanked for organizing Helen Collar’s notes and making her information more accessible. Jim and Ann Sunkes were complimented for upgrading the genealogical files. The Society’s commitment to helping restore the Whiskey Point Light was affirmed, and hope was expressed that George Anthony would turn over his manuscript, History of the Beaver Island Indians, to the Society’s Publication Committee.

Snippets of some of the recordings made by the Oral History team this summer were shown during a treats break—including Doris Larson’s stunning closing song from this summer’s record-setting Music on the Porch.

Island Grandson a Big Hit

Austin Bowersox, the son of Gary and Peggy Cull and the 14-year-old grandson of Claire Cull, saw his Bay City team reach the PONY League World Series. The team split its first two games in the double-elimination format, but was knocked out by losing to Washington. Austin was Claire’s second grandson to make it to the World Series; Kevin Rice was the first.
There are many reasons to look forward to the annual CMU Art Show, and then, in mid-August, to attend. For one, many of the artists are addicted to taking the CMU summer art class at the Bio Station, and they have become our friends, so we go to the Show in the main lobby to say hello and compare notes about the past year. We want to see how they've grown, and to share with them some of our own accomplishments as well. We like to chit-chat with the other patrons: “I like this one because...” “I like it too, but for a different reason.” Another
motive is that the teachers keep shifting their emphasis—one year it’s papermaking and the next it’s photography; so we go to be surprised, and hopefully learn more about the ever-evolving direction being taken by Art. Still another is the result of seeing the artists at work at their easels here and there around town; some of us have stopped to talk (and to offer free criticism), and we’re curious to see how the various projects have been completed.

Another has to do with refreshing our vision of our surroundings, of seeing, from a new perspective, the things
we sometimes treasure highly but also, at other times, can begin to take for granted, all the birds and waterfowl, the inscrutable cows in John Works’ field, the Shamrock and the American Girl tied up at their docks, the sunsets at the stately Whiskey Point Light. It’s as if these talented artists were a team sent out to capture what we most value and

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“Crows in Hay Field” Kate McDonald

they’re saying, “Look. These are the colors, the tones and images, of what brought you here.” Taken all together, they make a grand picture postcard, a multi-frame visionary compendium that explains why we remain.

“Godzilla Eats the Picton Castle” Matt Franzen

“Sherry Drenth”

Joan Pence

Kate Stress

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Thanks

A special thank you to everyone who participated in the 2006 Baroque on Beaver: the local musicians who shared their time and talents; the many full-time and seasonal residents who made generous monetary contributions; the businesses who also made generous contributions and provided additional services; the residents who provided guest housing for visiting musicians; the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, Island Air, and the Beaver Island Boat Co. who each, in their own way, provided exceptional service; and the

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A special thank you to everyone who participated in the 2006 Baroque on Beaver: The Tensions; the businesses who also made generous monetary contributions and provided additional service; and the local musicians who shared their time and talents. A unique mix of nautical and home gift items. Numerous styles of Beaver Island clothing.

As one mainland participant summed it up, “...thank you so much for the wonderful experience on Beaver Island. Our family considers it to be the highlight of our summer!” Bravo to Beaver Island!

“Standing Room Only” audiences, attending both the Saturday and Sunday evening performances!

Join us on the patio for happy hour! From 4:30 to 6:30 enjoy a bucket of beer (4) and a ½ pound of shrimp for $20.00. Or a Bottle of the House Wine plus a ½ pound of shrimp for $20.00.

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Alison Lucas

Sowa Memorial Golf Outing a rousing success
by Frank Solle

A picture-perfect afternoon turned into an even better evening as 52 golfers, divided into 13 4-person teams, did battle on the Beaver Island Golf Course on August 4 in the initial Jerry Sowa Memorial Golf Outing, sponsored by the Port of St. James Association.

Warm temperatures, calm conditions, and a well-groomed course which benefited from recent rains, combined to make this inaugural event as good as it could be; a fitting tribute to honor the memory of Jerry Sowa, a man who always tried to be as good as he could be.

“Jerry was on the Board of Directors of PJSA,” said event coordinator Buck Ridgeway. “But more than that, he was a member of Beaver Island.

“In thinking of a way to honor him, I knew this was the best way to go. And look how great the conditions are. I think Jerry is watching over us.”

Once again it was the team built around former PGA pro Larry Roy that took top honors, carding an impressive five-under-par 30. While all local golfers know Larry’s game is rock-solid, it was his 13-year-old son Patrick who starred this day as his drive on the par-three fourth hole proved to be the closest to the pin of the entire field. In addition to his $25 share of the winners $100 first-place prize, Patrick added $52 for his fourth-hole feat.

Helping the Roys to collect six birdies on their way to first place were Bob Simpson and Elwood Baker. The winning team was presented with a plaque by Jerry’s wife, Shirley. Once their names are engraved, the plaque will be displayed at the BIGC clubhouse.

Claiming the second-place prize of $60 with a respectable three-under 32 were Ron Wojan, Jeff Powers, Bill Detwiler, and Charlie Green.

Two teams tied for third at two-under 33. The crew of Mike and Jeremy Sowa, Joel Meintsma, and John Robert walked away with the $40 third-place winnings after claiming a one-stroke, sudden-victory win against the team of Rob Latimer, Mike Smith, Johnny Runberg, and Frank Solle.

In a great show of support for this event, the varied field included two all-women teams, one split fifty-fifty, and one with three men and one woman, as well as the family team of Jeff Mestelle and his three elementary-aged stepchildren, Gus, McCauley, and Ireland. “It just wasn’t fair,” Jeff complained afterwards in his ever-so-quiet voice. “According to the rules we could only use three of Ireland’s drives.”

Ridgeway, somewhat of a course regular, further acknowledged the support for this event when he stated, “There were people here I’ve never seen on the course.”

Given the great turnout for this year’s Outing, Ridgeway said next year the field would be expanded to include a few more teams.

As the final cars departed the course in the setting summer sun, Ridgeway capped it all by saying, “It was just a fabulous day.”
Island Fairy Doors
Have You Seen one on Beaver?

As many of you know, I have started a ‘campaign’ to see if Beaver Island might entice some wee folks, island fairies, to our Emerald Isle. After all, Ireland is probably home to many of the fairies or elves—and they need another place in Michigan besides Ann Arbor!

I have told some of you about the urban fairy doors of Ann Arbor, but please look at the web site by Jonathan B. Wright, www.urban-fairies.com, which documents the doors of Ann Arbor. There is even a map to the locations, and a poster. On Beaver Island I think these would be a wonderful draw—a poster can be made and a map to local locations. Patrick Boyle, a talented pen and ink artist on the Island, already has started drawing some wonderful wee little Island doors—some with great stonework! As you can see by the articles in the Washington Post, NPR and others, there is a fascination with this subject.

The fairy doors just appear, you know; they are probably built at night when we are all soundasleep.

From the Urban Fairies Website: The Fae or the Fey; The WORLD of the Faerie and the inhabitants which include, but are not limited to: Fairies (regardless of spelling): At one time a ‘fairy’ was a woman with magical powers. Later ‘fairy’ also meant ‘elves.’ Early on ‘fairies’ were much larger (4-5 feet tall...some MUCH larger) than our popular conception. Some say that the notion of little winged Fairies is a literary embellishment from the Victorian period. Regardless, as with most things of the magical-imagined world...they change. If you would like more info please contact me. I will continue my campaign for drawing island fairies to Beaver Island! And please share with others who may be interested!

—Nancy Peterson

Fundraising Workshop
for non-profits, offered by the CCCF

On October 9th the Charlevoix County Community Foundation will offer a workshop on fund-raising at the new Charlevoix Library:

Session I (1:00 to 3:45) for Nonprofit Staff Members: Forming Strategic Alliances, Organizational Planning, and Evaluation Techniques;

Break (3:45) Snacks and Refreshments Served;

Session II (4:00 to 7:00) for Nonprofit Board Members and Staff: Changes in Nonprofit Law, Focus on Board Recruitment and Appointments, Online Tools and Resources for Nonprofits;

7:00 to 7:30 Light Dinner: Q/A with Robin; a networking opportunity.

Space is limited, so preregister by October 2nd. Call Maureen @ the CCCF (231-536-2440) and let us know who’s coming, what sessions you’ll attend, and if you’ll be staying for dinner.

Costs: $10 per person or $25 per agency, no matter how many staff and board members attend (the costs are underwritten by your local community foundations).

—Maureen Radke
**The White House, April 1, 2007...**

The President of the United States is frowning. He reads the brief memo a second time, and then tosses it onto the desk in the Oval Office. He has to think. It is April Fools’ Day, so there is a chance the news of this latest mess is just a prank by his senior staff or that rascally vice president of his. If not, well… more doo-doo is about to hit the floor.

"...the unexplained events on Beaver Island, in Lake Michigan, that started in October 2006.... The US Army and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have maintained a high level of secrecy... It is now necessary, in response to a Congressional inquiry, to disclose publicly what is known about what happened.... Release of this information will create an international uproar.... We cannot recommend that you visit the Island at this time–there are too many unknowns and potential risks.... Bring a delegation of the remaining Islanders to Washington for a meeting (in a bio-secure facility) to personally assure them of your concern...."

The president lets out a bitter sigh. He walks over to a globe that an aide has brought in and turns it slowly. Where in the world is Beaver Island?

**Beaver Island, Six Months Earlier...**

Abby Fogarty found the first one. Her artist’s eye spotted it immediately, the blue thing into a pocket. Returning to the Oval Office, she put it in the tray of collected rocks on her kitchen counter. A few hours later she headed into St. James to attend the “Bite of Beaver” festivities.

**Paradise Bay, A Few Hours Earlier...**

The morning of October 7th dawned clear and warm on Beaver Island, the latest in a string of ‘perfect’ autumn days—a pleasant interlude between summer and winter. The hot, dusty days of summer, when Islanders rushed to keep up with the endless needs of the thousands of busy boaters, bikers, and boozers that washed ashore, had finally passed. Up next: the chilly, windy days of November, during which the Island would wave farewell to the last of its ‘snow birds’ and welcome the first of the camouflaged deer hunters from downstate. The former would reach Florida just in time to salvage what the
A serial science fiction story
remaining Islanders to Washington for you visit the Island at this time–there uproar…. We cannot recommend that information will create an international what happened…. Release of this infor-
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rascally vice president of his. If not,
just a prank by his senior staff or that picked up the small object as Hannah of November, during which the Island ers that washed ashore, had finally playing their customary game of fetch-
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cern….”

The president lets out a bitter sigh. The White House, “O

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the usual stones on the beach. She Florida just in time to salvage what the

returned with the tennis ball. It was

would wave farewell to the last of its

 Abby glimpsed something up with the endless needs of the thou-

It was the first Saturday in October, a day enshrined in the Island’s annual calendar for a robust demonstration of wholesome blend of civic pride and
commercial ambition. At 10 a.m., the 4th annual ‘Boodle,’ a five-kilometer race would commence with Mike Weede’s throaty “go” through a handheld bullhorn. Some 70-80 walkers and runners of all ages would surge onto the thankfully flat course, following the harbor shoreline, in pursuit of glory, prizes donated by local merchants, and mention in the Island’s two monthly newspapers. In the afternoon–long enough after the end of the race for the ‘masters class’ runners (a.k.a., the old farts) to have recovered their wind and appetites–there would be the ‘Bite of Beaver,’ a fantastic smor-
gasbord of delicious morsels prepared by Island chefs and sold at the Parish Hall in small portions at modest prices to flocks of folks, many of whom would cross over from America for the mouth-watering pleasure of wolfling down Pinky Harmon’s sautéed escargots.

Yes, it was a perfect sunrise and a perfect plan for the day–but like any Eden, whether designed by Intelligence divine or the lesser human mind, it didn’t last nearly long enough.

Around 9:30 a.m. a few early-bird runners gathered by the starting line in front of the Mormon Print Shop, stretching their legs, eager to get going. Adam Raycroft was no runner, but he had come to watch the festivities. A pilot for Island Airways and a native of the flat farmland around Alma, he was scanning the skies (an occupational habit) when a small jet caught his eye. He immediately recognized it as a Gulfstream 5, the type used by CEOs and the ultra-rich. Whistling above the Island, it was heading southeast at fairly low altitude, maybe 4,000 feet. Adam judged it was heading for a landing—in Traverse City maybe. He was startled to see something drop from the plane—a large balloon? Seconds later, it burst over the Island. What was that? He’d report it the next day to the air traffic control center in Minneapolis. So riveting was this scene that Adam didn’t notice that the Island was beginning to undergo one of those weather changes that big, windy Lake Michigan delivers with uncanny timing and laser-bomb precision. Low, murderously dark clouds blew in fast from the north. In just moments they covered the entire St. James harbor area and stretched far to the west. The temperature dropped 10 degrees. The daylight was extinguished as if a switch had been flipped off. Birds stopped singing. The water in Paradise Bay turned angry, whipping and dark gray. The runners and Adam headed for shelter.

Then—hiiiiiiiiii!! All hell broke loose. The clouds exploded with sound. In an instant the sky was filled with hailstones a half inch wide, hurtling
down on defenseless St. James, bouncing off roofs and cars—ping! ping!—and the paved streets. The roar of millions of projectiles was deafening. Just as suddenly as it began, the downpour ended. An eerie silence and a faint metallic burning smell filled the air. The black clouds rushed on to the south. Runners re-emerged on the wet street, chattering excitedly about the storm, and stretching their legs again for the Boodle.

The Island Environments

Later that Morning...

At Iron Ore Bay, Connie Wojan was showing an off-Island friend where she used to be ‘buried alive’ in the sand when she was a kid. Her big toe stubbed against something—a little blue object covered by sand.

Phil Gregg stumbled upon a blue object in front of the Whimsy gift shop. He’d been walking and reminiscing—47 years on the Island made for a whole lot of memories—about the days when he’d been a deputy sheriff on the Island, with a gun and, in his wallet, a tiny little badge, and he’d wait at closing time outside the Beachcomber for the ‘serious drinkers’ who needed a little ‘assistance.’

Wendy White was hunting for beach glass at McCauley’s Point. She didn’t find any—there seemed to be less of it around these days—but she did pick up a blue thing—it wasn’t glass or rock—that looked interesting.

Peg, the trumpeter’s wife, found one in the middle of East Side Drive when she halted at the stop sign on McCauley’s Road—the Island’s first, put there years ago to train kids in driver’s education classes to stop at government-regulated intersections, of which there were none on the Island, but more than enough on the mainland.

Adam Wirth found a blue object on Garden Island. He was sailing the Capricorn Pirate, his beloved sailboat, and tacked into Northcut Bay to avoid
the hailstorm. He landed and headed for shelter when he saw it in the sand.

So it was that on this first Saturday in October, without anyone realizing it, a total of six blue ‘dots’ were discovered on the Beaver Archipelago, one by one. As Islanders and their weekend guests filled their bellies with whitefish cakes and jalapeño poppers at the ‘Bite of Beaver,’ no one suspected that an unimaginable crisis had already been set into motion, a crisis that would strain the bonds that hold together the Island’s rugged individuals, resilient families, and resplendent subcultures.

Later in October…

A few days after the Boodle, Abby Fogarty reached into the rock tray in her kitchen to take a look at the odd blue item. But it was gone. The other finders also discovered that the strange objects they had found had vanished. Few of them gave it another thought—until Phil Gregg was flown off the Island to the hospital in Traverse City, 30 miles due south.

Phil had been sick for a few days. At the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, while nurse practitioner Connie Harris was checking his blood pressure and pulse, he’d said he’d been feeling strange ever since Saturday when he found something—an odd blue rock. For three days, he said, he’d felt great—full of energy, strong, really clear of mind, like he was a young man again. “There were even times,” he confided in a near-whisper, “when I thought I could hear other people’s thoughts. You know, like mind-reading.” That was enough information for Connie, along with Phil’s elevated vital signs. She immediately called Island Airways to air-lift him to the hospital ASAP.

Thus did the Strange Sickness come to Beaver Island.

... to be continued
Letters to the Editor: Conflict at Northcut

2. Northcut is a beautiful bay and something about it. Lately, I have been hearing more and more about the community at Northcut Bay and the efforts to keep the building on the property. This year's Gerard Keidel Memorial Golf Tournament was hosted at Northcut Golf Club, a popular spot for outdoor activities.

3. In my kayak business, I must pay a permit fee to the State to be able to explore nature, enjoy peace and quiet, and learn some kayaking skills. This is a great way to spot the building.

4. We must protect the natural beauty of the area. The building and the pet attendees included host Marie Keidel, son-in-law Michael Gulick, with friend Lauryn Humphrey. Participants included long-time followers, such as Dale Duncanson, and granddaughter Erin Bryan Gulick, who won with a positive score of 11 points, with Henry Hill only one point behind.

5. Let's just follow the rules that have been set down by the State. Everyone should be able to enjoy the peace, tranquility, and beauty that we have been blessed with.

6. Thank you.
Letters to the Editor: Conflict at Northcut

I'm sure that most people are aware of the building at Northcut Bay on Garden Island, a small fully-enclosed building complete with sliding glass doors built by some Beaver Islanders. Recently, they were told by the DNR to take it down. In response, they got a petition together to keep the building as a boater's refuge. From what I have been told, there were over 200 signatures and they are trying to solicit help from some senators.

This letter is in response to the building and the petition to try to keep it. There are reasons why keeping that building is a bad idea:

1. It is illegal. The State does not allow people to erect a building on State land. If they allowed this building to stay, some of us might figure we could put up our own little cabana over there. The law states that you can put up a tent for a maximum of 2 weeks.

2. Northcut is a beautiful bay and most people who go there respect that. However, there have been some pretty wild parties over there and on such occasions the rules have definitely been broken. I am not opposed to someone having a good time but we must be responsible about it. The end result can be dangerous, especially when we mix water, alcohol, and boating. I have been told by the people who built this building that this was not their original intention and that at times it is beyond their control over there, but I wonder who would get sued if someone broke their leg around that building or if someone fell through the glass doors.

3. In my kayak business, I must pay a permit fee to the State to be able to take people onto State land. My clients want to explore nature, enjoy peace and quiet, learn some kayaking skills, and observe the natural beauty that originally lured most of us here in the first place. I can no longer take my clients into Northcut because I'm never sure of what I might run into. For the same reason, I certainly cannot camp there with a group. I told the people involved in putting up this building that I could no longer take my clients to Northcut, hoping that they might do something about it. Lately, I have been taking my clients into Indian Harbor, but some people do not have the skill, endurance, or time to go that extra distance. The end result is I lose business.

4. Northcut is a pristine area and the State has set it aside for all of us to enjoy in its untouched splendor. A permanent building, complete with a hand-driven well, electric generators, chain saws, and stored picnic/camping supplies is not what the State had in mind for public use of land. The building just encourages the type of activities we do not want there and the potential dangers that go along with them. I guess they did not plan on a DNR pilot flying to Marquette spotting the building.

Let's just follow the rules that have been set down by the State. Most of them are good and they have been placed there for a good reason. Everyone should be allowed to enjoy the nature that we have been blessed with out here on these beautiful islands. Everyone should be able to go over there knowing they can expect to find and enjoy the peace, tranquility, and beauty that brought most of us out here in the first place. The pristine beauty of these islands is our greatest resource. That is what brings people to the Island. That is what entices people to vacation here or build a home here. We must protect the beauty at all cost or we will all suffer in the long run.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Ken Bruland

“2006 Gerard E. Keidel Memorial Golf Tournament”

This year’s Gerard E. Keidel Memorial Golf Tournament was hosted by Marie Keidel on July 7th at the Keidel’s Ma-Ly-Bu Cabin on Big Sand Bay. The nine hole, PAR forty, putter-only course is laid out on the Keidel driveway between the cabin’s back deck and the mail box on the main road (East Side Drive.) It meanders back and fourth along the driveway, covering a distance of 400 feet. The “greens” are all sand and the fairways host a variety of obstacle—like the BBQ grill, wood boxes, pits, water hazards, and various natural debris.

Participants included long-time Island guests and newcomers. Red carpet attendees included host Marie Keidel and son-in-law Michael Gulick, Henry Hill and daughter Melinda, Dale Boyles and daughter Barbara with friend Sue, Bill and Barbara Fox, Jim and Linda Dunbar with friends John and Rosemary Hovitch, Thelma Johnson and friends Hazel Brown and Marilyn Duncanson, and granddaughter Erin Gulick with friend Lauryn Humphrey and grandson Bryan.

The tournament began with a shotgun start, with play continuing over the next hour. There were many close calls, near misses, and “challenges” on those hard-to-play locations. To aid with any of the tough calls the “game officiator” provided immediate rulings and replacement of ball location for these “challenges,” and of course along with the help of the games neutral party, “cocktails.” We were also lucky this year to have a spectator gallery, which provided great support to the players.

Many players this year earned positive scores. Top finishers were 1st place Bryan Gulick, who won with a positive 11 points, with Henry Hill only one stroke behind and Jim Dunbar in 3rd a mere four strokes back. Henry made some brilliant plays and was well positioned to win until Bryan’s Hole-in-One on the 9th hole dashed Henry’s hopes of a victory. “Wait ‘til next year,” he said.
One Hundred Years Ago
by Joyce Bartels

(Note: August 31 / September 1
Heavy frost. F. P.)

Charlevoix Sentinel September 6, 1906 Local News: “James Donlevy of St. James came over Tuesday and proceeded to Chicago on business.”

**The Beaver Island Cable**

“Chief Robinson of the Weather Bureau Telegraph Division, arrived here Monday evening to investigate the cable trouble. Mr Robinson brought with him instructions from the life saving department officials for the Charlevoix crew to render any assistance called for.

‘Tuesday morning the cable was ‘chased’ from the shore end and found to be entirely severed and badly lacerated. In the afternoon the outside end was picked up and buoyed. From the outer end it was tested to the Island. Today the splice will be made, and it is expected that communication will be restored tomorrow or next day.”

Charlevoix Sentinel September 13, 1906 Local News: “Hon. A. B. Darragh, member of congress from this district, and the Republican nominee for reelection to a fourth term, was here Thursday and attended the farmers’ picnic. Friday morning he boarded the Beaver and went to Beaver Island. On the Island James McCann took him in a carriage and spent the afternoon driving about the north half of the Island. He met the leading citizens that evening and Saturday forenoon, returning in the afternoon. Mr. Darragh was very much pleased with what he saw and the hospitality with which he was received. Notwithstanding the step that Charlevoix County gave him, his majority in the primary was about 1,000.”

“Frank N. Clark, superintendent of the U. S. fish hatcheries, was in town Monday, on business connected with the branch hatchery here and to arrange certain preliminaries for the spawn harvest this fall. Beaver Island will be the headquarters again, and the operation will exceed those of any previous year. Formerly outfits were operated at Manistique and Freeport. These are discontinued, and all work concentrated at St. James. About ten tugs will be operated, embracing most of those at Charlevoix and St. James.”

**Beaver Island News:** “Mrs. James Martin is slowly convalescing from a long and serious illness.”

“Miss Louise Hess of Napoleon, Mich. visited friends on the Island recently.”

“Mrs. Phil Malloy returned to Big Rapids for treatment at the hospital there.”

“Congressman Darragh and Editor Smith spent the latter part of the week on Beaver Island.” (Note: A. B. Darragh and Williard A. Smith registered at the Beaver Hotel)

“Mrs. Sonderegger and two sons of Milwaukee have also bought a lot and will build next year.” (Note: Mrs. C. Sonderegger and Max Sonderegger registered at the Beaver Hotel August 25, and Hugo Sonderegger, September 14, 1906; the house still stands.)

“Our resorters are nearly all gone again after the best resort season B. I. ever had.”

“James Wilkinson spent the past ten days on the Island with his brother, Dr.
Wilkinson.”

“Simon Ance, age 17, died at his home on Garden Island Sunday afternoon of a quick consumption.”

“Cornelius Gallagher Jr. accidentally cut his foot with an axe last week nearly severing the bones forming the instep.”

“Miss Plant of Chicago has bought a nice lot of our real estate agent W. J. Gallagher and will build a cottage on it next year.” (Note: Martha A Plant registered at the Beaver Hotel August 7, 1906)

“Mrs. Emily S. Blodgett returned to Charlevoix Monday after a two weeks visit at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Wilkinson.”

“Mr. and Mrs. Owen D. Gallagher lost their 6 months old baby boy Sunday afternoon, after but 30 hours illness due to cholera infantum.”

“Our farmers are fast shipping their crop of peas to Charlevoix this week. The extreme dry weather materially affected the crop on the Island this year.”

“Mr. Hartz and wife of Rock Island accompanied by their fine family of children spent the summer here and has bought land on Beaver Harbor which he will improve and remodel the house already upon it for occupancy as a summer cottage next year.” (Note: Theodore Hartz & family, of Davenport, Iowa, registered at the Beaver Hotel July 31 - Sept. 21)

Charlevoix Sentinel September 20, 1906 Local News: “S. M. Rose will leave soon for Georgian Bay to gather spawn for the New York fish commission. On the beginning of the close season Capt. Rose will assist the U. S. commission at Beaver Island.”

Charlevoix Sentinel September 27, 1906 Local News: “October 1, the steamer Beaver will resume her old schedule Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.”

“The schooner Rouse Simmons, of St. James, light, ran into the Milwaukee piers Monday and sustained considerable damage.”

(Note: September 26 - 30 Ideal fall days 52 - 72, nights 60 - 32 degrees. F. Protar)

BIFD to Learn Propane
September 7 – public invited

On September 7th the Beaver Island Firemen will take part in a class on Propane Emergency Response put on by Michigan’s Propane Emergency Response Team. There will be two sessions at the St. James Fire Hall, starting at 6:30 p.m. with a classroom period on the properties and principles of propane, followed by a hands-on session, which includes live burn interactive scenarios. The public is invited, and Kevin Elsenheimer, our state representative, will be there.

Thanks to the Hurkmans

Thanks from the Beaver Island Fire Department and Auxiliary to Mike and Sharon Hurkmans, for the Karaoke nights that they had on Wednesday nights all summer. Not only were they a lot of fun, but they raised $500 to benefit the Fire Department.

How nice of them to have it on their own property and for such a good cause.

Thanks

—the Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary
Bill/Paul/Ivan Kind/Selfless/Composed

Bill McDonough, Paul Welke, and Ivan Young deserve a great deal of thanks and gratitude for their efforts on the afternoon of Friday, August 18th. As these men have done so many times before, they demonstrated their kindness and selflessness. We are truly lucky to have such people on Beaver Island!

Starting around 1:30 p.m. on a beautiful August afternoon, I found myself irretrievably lost in the beaver swamps, cedar forests, and overgrown trails that had gripped my curiosity for so long when flying over them. While hiking due east on Hannigan’s Road from Fox Lake Road I had become curious about the scenery on the trail which begins at Oil Well Site #1 and empties out near the new fire station in front of the Bill Wagner campground. It seemed to be a bit of a shortcut to reach East Side Drive.

Although I entered the woods around 12:30 p.m., I didn't lose my trail markers and truly feel “lost” until about 1:30 p.m. at which time I called (on my cell phone) my wife who, was shopping at McDonough’s. I was amazed and thankful that I still had cell service; but, I knew it wouldn't last for long. I began to think about whether I had the right survival tools: water, food, map, compass, matches, etc. Unfortunately, I did not have either a map or compass, so I was left with piecing together clues: Where is the sun in the sky? Which way are the clouds moving? What do the leaves tell me about the direction of the wind? When I throw dried leaves, which way do they blow? However, the sun was so high in the sky that I could not tell in what direction it was moving; and the wind seemed to be swirling deep in the woods. I remained confused.

So, without any definitive clues or a clear plan, I began to get a bit stressed out. The combination of physical exertion caused by trudging through the swamps and overgrown forests and the worry over irresponsibly monopolizing the whole day formy wife, daughter, and friends, made my heart pump like it might come through my chest. Several times I forced myself to sit down, collect my thoughts, create a plan, and gain my composure. By this time Bill McDonough had contacted Ivan Young, who was shooting off shotgun blasts to provide me direction; and Bill had notified Paul Welke that he may be needed for a rescue run in a plane. Despite Ivan's best

2006 BICS Soccer Kickoff

 Cooler evenings and shorter days can only mean one thing - it’s nearly time for school to start again.

And with that comes the beginning of another Beaver Island Community School sporting season, commencing with the soccer season.

The Islanders will kick off this year with a trip to rival Mackinac Island on Friday/Saturday September 8 and 9 before playing the bulk of their season right here at home (schedule on page 48.)

Four consecutive weekends will feature the Islanders doing battle on the pitch which direction it was moving; and the wind seemed to be swirling deep in the woods. I remained confused.

So, without any definitive clues or a clear plan, I began to get a bit stressed out. The combination of physical exertion caused by trudging through the swamps and overgrown forests and the worry over irresponsibly monopolizing the whole day formy wife, daughter, and friends, made my heart pump like it might come through my chest. Several times I forced myself to sit down, collect my thoughts, create a plan, and gain my composure. By this time Bill McDonough had contacted Ivan Young, who was shooting off shotgun blasts to provide me direction; and Bill had notified Paul Welke that he may be needed for a rescue run in a plane. Despite Ivan's best

by Frank Solle

Ed Wojan Realty

Absolutely beautiful, relatively new, 1800 sq. ft. home with extensive decks on 200 feet of sandy beach frontage near the east side of Iron Ore Bay. This house and frontage comes with 12.5 acres of land on the north side of South End Road. This Ron Wojan-built house has many, many special features and very high quality materials and workmanship that makes it one of the nicest lakefront homes on the Island. The house has two private bedrooms, with a full bath and Jacuzzi tub with the master bedroom on the lake side. A guest bedroom and another full bath are on the inland side but with views of the woods in two directions. There is a semi-private bedroom in the loft area. The house has a very expensive special kitchen with a dining area on its lake side. Large living room with a lot of glass on the lake side and an absolutely gorgeous stone fireplace. Screened-in porch on the inland side; walk-in partial basement with a lot of open high crawl space. In addition this Parcel #10 is probably the most private spot of all of the lakefront parcels at Iron Ore Bay with the prettiest view along the beach toward the southwest with Cheyenne Point in the background. You have to see this house to appreciate its quality, its woods and lake views from every room, etc.

Shown by advance appointment only. With the raw land value about $285,000, this house is priced right at $695,000.

This home can be viewed on our NEW WEB SITE: cdwojanrealty.com

Real Estate Office (231) 448-2711 Toll Free Number 1-800-268-2711
As I was losing cell service by 3:00 p.m., I had one last particularly meaningful conversation with Bill McDonough. As he stood outside his store in St. James, and I stood in the beautiful open sky of a beaver swamp in no-man’s-land, Bill gave me a plan. He told me that as we looked directly into the sun, we were looking south (I would have predicted west) — so, I needed to walk directly left of the sun, with the sun constantly over my right shoulder, in a straight line to hit East Side Road. In order to walk in a straight line, I needed to line up three trees in a row in the woods, follow the line to the third tree, then start the process over again … find the sun, turn to the left, line up three trees, and begin walking. Finally, I had a plan, I had focus, and I felt confident again!

While I was lumbering through the swamps and overgrown forests for the next couple of hours, Paul Welke took my wife, Susan, up in a two-seater and began to search for me using a flying grid. However, by that time, I was finding my way out of the woods and onto East Side Road at Martin’s Bluff. And as I began walking south, towards our cottage on Lake Geneserath, my mother-in-law, BJ Wyckoff (along with my daughter and our weekend guests), happened upon me in her Ford Escape, picked me up, notified Bill, Paul, and Ivan of her “discovery,” and took us to our ultimate destination on Lake Geneserath. More than anything, thanks to the men for handling the situation with such confidence and composure; they made my wife, daughter, and guests feel as if it were a routine operation. Also, thanks to them for their selflessness; they were willing to drop everything at a moment's notice and help out a family who was feeling a bit frustrated, confused, and worried at the time. Thanks, men!

Lastly, I think back to a prophetic email I had sent to an English teacher friend on Aug. 17, before we left for the weekend. In it, I’d quoted Henry David Thoreau, saying I would see her on Aug. 21 after going to the woods “to live deliberately” and after a weekend of “taking the road less traveled.” Certainly, I did not know where that road would lead!

Beaver Island, thanks for the memories. Bill/Paul/Ivan, thanks for your kindness, selflessness, and composure.

— Chuck and Susan Froning

Crós white, Jared Wojan, Bailey McDonough, Rita Palmer, and David and Tony Bousquet. Juniors Eric Albin, Brenden Martin, Ryan McDonald, and Melissa Peters also return, as does sophomore Maeve Green. Freshmen Cameron LaVasseur, Dereck McDonough, Kristy Bousquet, Jenna Butler, Alex Kuligoski, and Brianna Maudrie also saw some action last year.

The home games will be played at 5:00 pm on Friday and 9:00 am Saturday. Mark your calendars and come out to see and support the Islanders in action.
A little help from our Friends
A training exercise with the U.S. Coast Guard

Having heard that a Coast Guard helicopter would lift a person from the deck of a boat in the harbor as a training exercise with the new Sheriff’s rescue boat, people gathered around Paradise Bay on the morning of Wednesday, August 9th and stood listening for the sound of a chopper in the air. Not having had a rescue boat for several years, Beaver Island was overjoyed a few weeks prior to receive a new RIB from the Grand Traverse Band, complete with 200 hp outboard and trailer. We’ve grown accustomed to amazingly fast responses in our greatest times of need on the
Island, so a year ago, the tragic drowning accident so close to home and yet so far away at Garden Island was a real shock. The new rescue boat will allow our Island’s Deputies and volunteer lifesavers to offer assistance should a nearby accident occur in the coming years. The Coast Guard has always provided a wonderful sense of security for boaters, and has been priceless in bad weather, when the Island can seem so distant and isolated. Now the new RIB will let us help them help us.

Early that morning, Beaver Island volunteer lifesavers and the Deputies had **continued on page 28.**
Stambaugh, Gerald Coastguardsman proceeded to wind-LaFreniere, and stepped inside, with Ward at some speed, so Nicole Smith, Jim mast. The boat proceeded in and a Galen Bartels set off his limbs within the helicopter could fly and Deputy John hovered less than 10 ft above the boat, which then reeled up, up, and away, to along-the rotors created circles of spray. The 100 mph wash from it was simply a boat broken loose or if people might be in the water. But a few hours later they landed, and the exercises proceeded as planned.

Four Coastguardsmen, plus EMTs Ken Bruland, Dawn Traficante, Cindy Gillespie, Emily Gray, and Nick Spanhak, and myself as an observer, were aboard the 41’ Coast Guard Utility Boat, and Deputy John Heise, Deputy Nicole Smith, Jim Stambaugh, Gerald LaFreniere, and Galen Bartels set off in the new Sheriff’s boat. The helicopter lifted off from Welke’s, and in no time was hovering at a distance.

Everyone gathered around the radio to hear the mission brief. A quick summary of what needed to be done was given, with the course, speed, and conditions, as well as the number of people on board. Then the helicopter came closer, and lower, and closer and lower still—the small sleek chopper becoming a turbine-driven powerhouse as it hovered less than 10’ over the Utility Boat’s mast. The boat proceeded 30-40° to windward at some speed, so the helicopter could fly—it’s easier to make things stand still while the two are in controlled motion. The 100 mph wash from the rotors created circles of spray on the surface of the lake, which moved through the light chop pushing the normal currents aside. The spray hit us in gusts, like horizontal rain. The earplugs we had been given proved useful, as the noise under the wash was impressive, and deafening. But the Coastguardsmen went about the procedure as if it were an everyday matter, without any wasted effort.

The basket was lowered to a foot above the boat, where it was hooked—a thick wire and clamp dissipated the static charge induced by the air movement of the helicopter. Then the basket was brought in and a Coastguardsman stepped inside, with his limbs within the metal caging and his head on the padded float. A few seconds later the basket was raised and then reeled up, up, and away, to alongside the helicopter by the airman.
skillfully operating the lift while peering down from the open door above.

Since the helicopter was short on fuel due to the unplanned search, the next demonstration proceeded quickly: the basket and Coastguardsmen were lowered into the lake as if scooping a person from the water. It was surprising how tiny a person’s head appeared in the lake under the chopper, even surrounded by the ‘crop circle’ whipped by this very real flying object. As quickly as it was lowered, the basket was once again reeled up, and the Coastguard returned to the deck of our boat.

Then the helicopter approached the new Sheriff’s boat to simulate a pickup; since a small boat would be blown around by the wash a lot more than our 15-ton Utility Boat, it was very important to get a feel for what this might be like.

Finally a method of lowering first a line and then the basket guided by the control line from the boat was rehearsed. Then the helicopter had to depart for the mainland, and with a wave from Whiskey Point and from our boat, it was away. It had provided an exciting demonstration, with boat and helicopter in perfect harmony.

With the remaining time, a search pattern exercise was carried out. A buoy was dropped as a datum, and then, at 6 knots and using compass and watch, a search pattern was followed to cover the area.

The day on the water could have seemed like just a lot of fun, until one remembered that in the classroom they had talked about things like how long a victim of a given age and in a given condition could survive and how this would impact a search. Or that the small buoy they dropped was more visible than the head of an actual victim in the water. Or that in a real situation, instead of a nice calm day, it would likely be 5 or 10’ seas, and they would still have to be steadier on deck than I was as an observer on this pleasant afternoon. Then the time and effort put in on their training exercises and the first leg of our water rescue program all came home. Thanks to the Coast Guard and the GTB, the help offered by our Island’s volunteer organizations and our deputies will be better than ever.
On This Date

Ten Years Ago In the Primary election, Peaine had 102 voters and St. James 140. Rich Gillespie trounced Shirley Roloff on the Island but lost his race for reelection to the County Commissioners by 22 votes. In the races for Township Supervisor, Jim Willis beat Neil Boyle in St. James and John Works beat Joan Petrak in Peaine.

The Rita Gillespie Blood Drive produced 79 donors.

The Chamber was raffling a trip to Ireland.

An article titled If You Saw A White Blur described the fiberglass boat (a 12’ ‘pickle fork, tunnel hull’ catamaran) a local resident designed, built in his shop, and was testing in the Harbor during mid to late August.

A reunion was held for the 7-member 1946 graduation class. Larry Malloy hosted Catherine Schmidt, Bertha McDonough, and Katherine Ricksgers. Barbara Nackerman and Mary Margaret Martin were unable to attend, and Mary Margaret LaFreniere was deceased.

The passing was noted of 20-year Island resident Dave Gladish, who had moved to Puget Sound a year before. Letters from friends Phil Gregg, Dick Burris, Curt Petrak, and others were included. His creation of the Island’s first Master Plan was lauded, as was his books, his contributions of poetry to the Beacon, and his inspirational ministry in the Christian Church.

Twenty Years Ago St. James Township held a special meeting to discuss the possibility of selling the Township Hall to Richard Byington, who had offered $35,000 through a Realtor; the sale would be contingent on the Township “correcting the water problem in the basement.” The building received a ‘replacement value’ appraisal of $70,000. Supervisor Ron Wojan reported that most comments favored retaining the building because of its historic value. Gay Works suggested that the building be given to the Civic Association instead, which would make it into a library.

At another meeting the St. James Town Board discussed ways of paying for the planned sidewalk rebuilding, whose cost was estimated at $117,000. The Board accepted the concept of establishing the Beaver Island Library District, and was examining the potential consequences. Garrett Cole, Lil Gregg, Theresa Martin, and Phyllis Townsend were appointed to the Library Board. The Historical Society was excused from paying a fee for its zoning permit to build a storage barn at the Heritage Park.

The Port St. James Association donated the playground equipment from Donegal Bay to the Jewell Gillespie Playground in town.

An arrangement was made for the two townships to lease the former DNR building, and the possibility of housing a Deputy there was discussed.

Kitty McNamara was hired as principal at the school.

Thirty Years Ago The Historical Society held its Annual Meeting, and awarded Island historian Helen Collar an honorary Life Membership. Plans for construction of the ‘Post Office Addition’ were discussed.

The Island school had an enrollment of 57. Sister Dennis Marie Kirt replacing Sister Nancy Malburg as principal. John Murphy was hired for Special Ed and physical education; Shirley Gladish as Librarian (she announced that the Library would be open to the public three afternoons a week); and Joe Moore as music teacher (this would be his practice teaching.) Others on the...
The Civic announced the Annual Fly-in would be held on October 3rd.

Former Beaver Island students enrolled in college included Jody Wagner, Diane Wojan, Audrey Potter, and Tim McDonough at CMU; Patti Wojan, Mike Green, Mary Green, Tom McDonough, Mark LaFreniere, Lori Fleischman, and Pam McDonough at North Central Michigan; Tony Gatliff at Western; Gerald Connnaghan at MSU; Kathy McDonough at Northwestern Michigan; and Bernie Miller at Grand Valley State.

The passing of the Very Reverend Roland McCann was noted.

Forty Years Ago The Beacon opened with a poem by Fran Lechner (a 14-year-old guest of Pat Bonner), Is There a Place, which began, “Is there a place/ Anywhere at all/ where everyone is everybody’s friend/ Winter through fall?” and concluded with the answer, “What is this haven/ This paradise/ This place of peace?/ This, my friend, is/ Beaver Island.”

The partridge season opened strongly on Garden and High Islands, but then tapered off. The Beacon cautioned, “Remember: there’s a daily bag limit on Beaver Island.”

Fishing was still strong on the inland lakes and at Garden and Hog Islands. The brook trout planted in Fox Lake were doing well. Applications for turkey-hunting permits were due by September 23rd; 100 permits would be drawn from the applicants.

Passings noted included Art Taft, who lived on the Island from 1938 until 1951 and then moved back in 1965, and Margaret Turner, the mother of Jack Martin, founder of the Circle M.

The school was getting an addition, and a new principal, Sister Kenneth Marie. Enrollment was a record 75. New residents included Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Fogg, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Early, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Martin, and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Crawford.

Fifty Years Ago Dr. Dudley Vernor, composer of the immortal Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, was vacationing on the Island. A member of the Civic Association, he was the head of the organ department at Albion College. Another new member of the Civic was Sue Smith, a free-lance knitting designer and costumer from Hastings.

Civic president Henry Allen invited a group from the Economic Development Commission to the Island. A meeting at the school was attended by 25 local businessmen. Archie LaFreniere was chosen to maintain a dialogue with them.

Two young women working for the summer at the King Strang Hotel were descended from Henssen Walker, who chose to follow Brigham Young to Utah when James Strang brought his flock to Beaver Island.

A wonderful Homecoming Dinner served was 483. A shoreline lot was raffled, and was won by Eddie O’Donnell of Lincoln Park.

The Historical Society was delighted to receive a membership from Mark Strang in California—one of King Strang’s grandsons.

Inquiries for the position of Island doctor reached 28, of which 6 were invited for personal interviews—which narrowed the field to 4.

The Conservation Department planted partridge on High Island.

A new school building was planned, and bids were to be taken. It would include a kitchen, heating plant, and classroom space.

---

**Stoney Acre Grill**

The Island’s Best and Most Diverse Menu

*Seafood* *Steaks* *Salads* *Mexican* *Sandwiches*

*Asian* *Vegetarian* *MiddleEastern* *Appetizers*

FRESH FOOD, FRESH IDEAS

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Scottish and Irish strongmen from across Michigan will be showing their skills Sept. 16 at the Second Beaver Island Celtic Games.

Spectators will be amazed to watch 16 Celtic strongmen compete against each other in seven traditional strength competitions. “Once again Celtic strongmen will be out in force on Beaver Island. The audience will be amazed at the skills my fellow athletes possess and entertained by our on the field antics,” said athlete Jeremy McBain, of Charlevoix.

During last year’s event, the athletes not only lifted very heavy objects, but also entertained the audience with stories, jokes, banter, and slap-stick comedy. One ‘lucky’ audience member was even pulled onto the field, loaned a kilt, and invited to compete with the athletes. Competitors will be tossing the stone, throwing 28 and 56 pound weights for distance and height, throwing the hammer, tossing the shef, and flipping the famed caber (a 20-foot long, 120-pound pole that competitors must flip end over end). Additionally, the competitors will be inviting the audience to join them in two special events including the Beaver Island Stone of Strength, a 100 pound+ stone tossed for distance. The athletes will explain the history, technique, and skill involved in each of the events during the festival.

This is the second year for this event, now hosted by the BICoC. Many of the competitors from last year’s games will be returning for this year’s event. “The athletes fell in love with the Island during last year’s game and jumped at the chance to return.” Mark your calendar – Sept. 16th.

Mark Your Calendars for the Celtic Games

September 16th, 2006

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Scottish and Irish objects, but also to join them strongmen from across entertained the audience with stories, events including their skills Sept. 16 jokes, banter, and the Beaver Island at the Second Beaver slap-stick comedy. Stone of Strength, a part of the Island Celtic Games. 100 pound+ stone One ‘lucky’ Spectators will be audience member tossed for distance. Amazed to watch 16 was even pulled The athletes will Celtic strongmen compete against each other loaned a kilt, and technique, and skill in seven traditional strength competitions. invited to compete involved in each of the events during the festival.” Once again Celtic strongmen will be out in force on Beaver Island. The audience and will be amazed at the skills my fellow weights for distance and height, throwing the hammer, tossing the shef, and flipping the famed caber (a 20-foot 120-pound pole that competitors in love with the Island during last year’s game and jumped at the chance to return.” Mark your calendar – Sept. 16.
The Mighty Picton Castle Arrives

In recent summers our Paradise Bay has witnessed its share of tall ships—two or three, or even four—but by mid-August this summer we were worried that we might be passed over. Then we awoke on the morning of August 15 to see a fine-looking barque (the aftmost mast fore-and-aft rigged and the other two square-rigged) tucked into our harbor. the 179' steel-hulled Picton Castle, on her way to Port Huron and then her home in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia after completing her fourth round-the-world teaching cruise and making a side junket to Chicago’s Tall Ships Armada for good measure.

Once word went out, smaller boats from Whiskey Point to Luney’s began to leave their moorings to get a closer look at her rigging, with its 12,000 ft³ of sail. With the ship at anchor, the trainees spent the afternoon painting her topsides, while Captain Daniel Moreland and some of the crew came ashore for a closer look at Beaver Island. They visited the restaurants, stores, and museums, and found St. James so much to their liking that they offered to give several locals a tour aboard.

Climbing the rope ladder and setting foot on the deck, a glance back at current St. James through the old-fashioned rigging was both impressive and surreal. Looking up brought the nimble trainees into focus as they moved about in the chain locker, and walked through the working galley and down through the main salon, past sea chests and carvings that had been picked up in Fiji, we found some of the crew sleeping in their berths. We learned that the ship accommodates 40 trainees with her professional crew of twelve. The full 13-month experience costs $36,000, but some sign on for only a leg or two (13 to 14 weeks costs $11,000), and some were only on board for the Great Lakes portion (at $600/week.) Some planned on a Caribbean cruise next winter ($7,250 for 8 weeks.)

We gazed down into the massive chain locker, and walked through the salon into the huge cargo hold, which was built into two levels and had been used to haul items as large as a plow to the Cook Islands. The hull had begun as a motorized Welsh fishing trawler over 75 years ago, a job it performed well until being conscripted into the Royal Navy to work as a minesweeper in WW II. Cruising off the coast of Norway, she was forced into the
nearest port, Bergen, for repairs. The Germans had decided to pull out only a few days before, and the Picton Castle was hailed as “the Liberator of Norway,” an appellation that hangs on her to this day. After the war she began a new life hauling freight around the North Sea, until she wore down.

Captain Moreland found her moored in a fjord in 1993. He’d been searching for a vessel to convert into a square-rigger, and she fit the bill. He got her 690 hp diesel running, and limped her to New York, tying her up at the South Street Seaport Museum. Three years later he moved her to Lunenburg, where a two-million-dollar complete retrofit began. A year later she was ready to set off on her first round-the-worlder.

Teaching his craft to those eager to learn has been giving him great pleasure. “So many of the finer things in life seem about to become lost arts,” he said. “It’s good to know that I’m doing everything I can to keep this from also being forgotten.”

At first we were perplexed by the ship’s long metamorphosis — it’s not the succinct romantic snapshot that one would get from a pristine replica, but that’s just it — the Avatu-registered Picton Castle is very much a present day working adventure ship, tracing a unique line around and around the world and creating more dreams today than when she “liberated” Norway.

“IT’s a way of life,” more than one of the training crew responded when asked why they’d signed on. For many of them, training on the Picton Castle was their way to prepare for becoming professional crewmen. They all really enjoyed Beaver Island. They rented bicycles, met many of the locals, bought smoked fish and antique toys, talked politics, and danced the night away at the Shamrock Bar. When they left on the morning of the third day, under full sail, we Beaver Islanders remained standing on shore. But in our hearts we were holding the rail, scrubbing the oiled pine decks, or clambering in the rigging like the fearless monkeys of our childhood dreams.
Squaw Island Sonnet

After the deep rain it is morning on
the lake again. The gulls and crows all rise
up. You should say something wise here, "the dawn
leaves its mark on someone ... somewhere." Black flies
leave their marks, too. And yes, a dead gull lies
on the beach, body peppered with holes. But
what I love most is the lighthouse, life-size
rubble, rising from the bold forest. What
with its mold-drawn drapes, book shelves a riot
of old, we climb the tower. The lake,
in cold wavelets, spreads out — silver, chocolate,
blue — all colors I love. What wild toothache
drove me here? My life a mild frenzy; rain
spreading out upon the deep lake again.

— Zachary Chartkoff
Hunting on Garden
by Jim McIntyre

Almost thirty years ago, I wrote a short story about a man who my best friend and I became acquainted with over a period of years, while traveling to and from lakes in northern Ontario. It was called “Minnow Al,” a nickname I gave him because he operated a small outpost that sold baitfish. He was a real character, and the story of our relationship had a profound effect on me. The story was also about the Algoma District, where it takes place, and is descriptive, poetic, and had some historical factoids interspersed throughout the narrative.

I gave it to my traveling fishing buddy, Bill, as a gift. Once in awhile, over the years, I would bring it out and read it out loud for people. I enjoy doing that, and, as a professional voice talent, it is easy for me.

Two years ago I was working on a commercial at Brauer Productions in Traverse City. Rich Brauer, a film producer, asked me if I knew anything about Wawa, Ontario, as he was going to drive up there with his wife for the weekend…. Wawa is the backdrop for Minnow Al, so I gave him the manuscript. He loved the story and suggested we produce it, with me narrating, and distribute it on CD…. That’s how we got started.

It had music, and sound effects, and was quite moving, with a “pay-it-forward” message. “If you love somebody fisherman, you go tell ’em,” said Minnow Al.

My latest CD is “Our Secret Garden,” a story of friendship, deer hunting, traditions, and tragic death. It takes place on Garden Island over a period of 26 years.

Here’s an excerpt that gives its flavor: “So each year for 26 years we came to the Northcutt. To Minnis Kittigan, Bomways, Indian Harbor, Pete’s, Ninnegoes. Individually we divorced, changed careers, moved, married, lived through heart attacks, surgeries, plane crashes, and broken hearts. We laughed so hard we cried. Sometimes we just cried.

“Our campfire conversations reflected our circumstances at the time. Sometimes we shared secrets that we brought with us like excess baggage. We unpacked it. Sometimes we left it there. Sometimes we took it back with us.”

The cost for either CD is $20. They contain some adult language, and may not be suitable for all listeners. Both CDs are available from Loon River Productions, 407 Boardman View Drive, Traverse City, MI. 49686, loonr@charter.net, or from Sue Thomson at her Livingstone Studio on Beaver Island.
Carol Ann Wierenga

Carol Ann Wierenga passed away on August 16th at Traverse City’s Munson Medical Center. She’d had more of the heart problems that had been bothering her, and was hoping for a successful valve replacement, when she was in a fatal automobile accident.

She is survived by her loving husband of 47 years, Satch Wierenga of Beaver Island; daughter, Karen (James) Fletcher of Wyoming, Michigan; son, Kevin (Laurie) Wierenga of Grand Rapids, Michigan; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother Bob (Ann) Daly of Gladstone, Michigan; sister-in-law Donna Daly of Grandville; sister-in-law Emily Wierenga of Bend, Oregon; brother-in-law Rodger Wierenga of Spring Lake; many nieces and nephews; and many friends. A Memorial Service was held at the packed Beaver Island Christian Church on August 23rd at 12:30 p.m., with both Father Pat Cawley and Pastor Steve Skinner officiating. A second Memorial Service took place at the Caledonia United Methodist Church in Caledonia with Reverend Bobby Dale Whittlock officiating.

A retired floral designer, she brought a touch of class to Beaver Island in many ways, such as in the offerings of her bright and lively gift shop, Out on a Limb, and her always intelligent comments as a member of Island organizations. She had an amazing ability to recognize a problem, laugh at it, and then start working to find a solution. Everyone she met loved her—and she met everyone. She will be greatly missed.

Help Burn a Mortgage

Come help Laura Reid celebrate the Buff-Kett Mortgage Burning on Sunday, September 17th at 4:30 (rain date is October 1st) at her home, the old Smalley Daniels place at 34715 Buff-Kett Road, but “bring a dish, if you wish.” There’ll be fun games, a campfire, and, hopefully, wonderful Island music. Children will be welcome until 8:00 p.m. “It’s been a long haul, but I made it. Now I’d like to sit back and hear your stories—particularly about Buff-Kett,” Laura said. Questions, call her at 448-2846.
Beaver Island Featured in Michigan BLUE

Beaver Island made the cover of the September-October issue of Michigan BLUE – a magazine dedicated to those who love and live along water.

“I found my stay on Beaver to be one of the most relaxing and enjoyable weekends away I have ever had,” said Editor Lisa Jensen.

To subscribe to Michigan BLUE call (616) 459-4545 or subscribe online at www.michiganbluemag.com

Chefs... start your ovens

... for the Bite of Beaver on October 7th. Stop in the Chamber office, call 448-2505 or email chamber@beaverisland.org for chef registration forms. May the best cheese-dipped shrimp make the show.

Lanier vs. Gallagher

The Laniers took the Gallaghers to court... Donegal Bay volleyball court that is, and won. Again. It was their second win and their second annual family reunion. The loss required the Gallaghers’ “loser” coach Dick (Ace) Prawat to bow in humiliation to the Laniers’ “winner” coach Mark Calvert and surrender a treasured family heirloom of antique “bow wood.” The Prawat “bow” of submission cooled the competitive spirits for now, but they are sure to heat up again for a 2007 grudge match. Fortunately Jack and Judy’s families share lots of love and laughter—ending the evening’s competition with a group swim and later dancing the night away at our local pubs.

Forty-one family members from as far away as San Francisco convened on the Island for the week of sun and fun. Both families offer their sincere thanks to the many Beaver Island residents and businesses that made their stay so enjoyable.

Sunset Picnic Thank You

The Preservation Association (PABI) and I wish to thank all who supported our fifth Sunset Picnic. It truly was a grand event, with wonderful people and great food. Barry and Rich and LD did a great job providing music. The weather was delightful, and the sunset spectacular.

Thanks again—and, have you seen the facade?

Sue Welke

No smoke in Charlevoix

Charlevoix Circuit Judge Richard Pajtas recently ruled that the local Health Department can protect workers and the public from secondhand smoke.

The Public Health Clean Indoor Air Regulation of 2005 was challenged based on a technical interpretation of law. The court agreed with the Health Department’s position that specific sections of the Public Health Code allow local regulations as long as they are at least as stringent as state law. The plaintiffs, from Antrim and Charlevoix Counties, contended that only the State of Michigan could regulate secondhand smoke in the workplace.
Earl Ayers Remembered

(1924-2006)

A big part of Earl’s life was the time he spent deer hunting on Beaver Island, which he did for 47 years. After each season he couldn’t wait till next year. Earl loved being in the woods, but he also looked forward to catching up with the guys on the boat, saying hi to the boys at the store, and dancing with the girls at the bar. The name might not be recognized, but the laugh and cigar can never be mistaken. I will miss my hunting friend. – Jeff Andersen

New EMT Class

You too can take the first step towards becoming a hero: our EMS will offer a Basic EMT class starting September 19 at 6:30 pm at the Island School. If you're interested, call Sarah McCafferty at 448-2238 or Joe Moore at 448-2416.

Rudy Comes Home

In the middle of July a few friends of Ruth ‘Rudy’ and Ray Denny gathered at the unique home she had crafted at Donegal Bay for a solemn ceremony: the scattering of her ashes, mixed with flowers and many warm memories in the little grove northeast of her cabin, the spot where she and Ray had first camped. Family members came from far and wide to talk about her spunkiness, her philosophy of life, her flute mastery, and the bottle windows and furniture she had made (driftwood chairs; a pie-shaped desk.) She and Ray acquired this property 37 years ago and began to spend time here, creating local legends of their unusual style which circulate still.

“The Best Quilt Book in the World!”

A few people missed the book-signing party Mary Rose hosted for Gwen Marston near the quiet “Garden of Sarcasm” behind the Toy Museum, because they thought Gwen’s 23rd book would not be much different from her first 22—but they were wrong, wrong, wrong, because those books were never given the appellation used for this one by the many fans who have bought it: “It’s simply the best quilt book I’ve ever seen!”

Everything about this book is fantastic—which is why she has sold as many as 700 copies in one sitting at other book-signing events: the binding, the paper, the colors, the price (only $20), and, most of all, the elegance of the depicted quilts. If you thought you knew what's going on at the cutting edge of this burgeoning field, unless you can be numbered among Gwen’s many friends you would probably be wrong.

This book is a compilation of projects done by two master quilters, Gwen and her friend, northern California’s Freddy Moran. The 260 pages are divided into six chapters in which the artists first alternate and then combine.

Each of the hundreds of quilts shown makes continuing study pay off, as patterns within patterns emerge, adding subtle meaning behind the first explosive flash of bright color. The book is an ideal gift for anyone interested in the quilting art, even the beginner—because it presents such a high aesthetic goal, together with proof after proof that it can be achieved.

So read it, and then: get quilting!

photographs by Tom Rockwell

As the ceremony began, so did the rain—a great deluge, thirsted for by the arid ground. No one grabbed a ‘brulla,’ no one ran inside; instead, people stood there transfixed, some thanking the skies for camouflaging their unstoppable yet somehow somewhat joyous (at the successful uncompromised completion of a full life) tears.
First Flights from New Airline

On Saturday, August 5th, Rachel and Keith Teague and some of their associates in the new flying service, Fresh Air, met the public at the Municipal Airport to talk about their plans and offer free rides in their planes. People came and went throughout the day, with an average of forty or so present at any one time. The Teagues were bursting with confidence, feeling that the combination of an increase in the building of new homes on Beaver Island and their willingness to provide additional services to the public bode well for their success. They know that the previous attempt at starting a rival airline some fifteen years ago was quickly abandoned, but they stick by the results of their research—asBesides, as Rachel said, “that wasn’t us.”

Another factor that could help their business is that a round trip ticket will cost only $85—and $80 for bookings made at least seven days in advance.

Ten days later, the new flying service began hauling passengers back and forth to Beaver Island, using three pilots (Keith Teague, Derek DeRuiter, and Mark Wilkie, who is also in charge of aircraft maintenance) in their new (a pair of 1983 Partenavias), fast (145 knots, cruising; 12 minute time), and fully IFR-certified 6-passenger planes—as well as doing charter flights. Their Charlevoix office is on Bridge Street across from the airport; they shuttle cars to the Airport’s parking lot and customers to the plane, and then shuttle arrivals directly to their car. On the Island they can arrange for a taxi, or book a rental car for their passengers. They are using the office in the terminal at the Municipal Airport, which is farther from town but closer to the homes on the west side—and the Paradise Bay Coffee Shop, with its new expanded schedule, only a short walk away.

Former Islander wins Several Awards

Signé Thomas, who taught Tap to a quarter of the BICS girl students the last few years she was here, finished her first year with the Robin Dawn Academy of Performing Arts’ Legends Dance Competition Team by bringing home two 1st-place awards from the high-level Showbiz National Dance Competition in Daytona, Florida. This competition lasted 7 days and included dancers from all over the nation competing in various forms of dance. She is the daughter of Bill and Eula Thomas, and the granddaughter of Bill and Ruth Thomas of Traverse City, MI and of Elsie and the late John Ferguson of West Liberty, KY.

Miss Thomas entered two categories: a solo tap routine and a group jazz number. She won a 1st for LOVE, her solo tap, as well as a 1st for HAREM, a large line jazz production number. In getting ready to compete at the Nationals, the Legends entered dance competitions throughout the year, winning many. Signé herself won several top awards: On Stage America (Platinum); On Tour Dance Challenge (Gold); Primetime Dance (Diamond); Hall of Fame (Platinum), plus several others, which included 6 trophies, 15 plaques, several pins, and numerous ribbons.

The Legends also danced in various productions throughout the year, including a well-received ballet version of The Wizard of Oz in Ft. Myers, and performed at the Galaxie Theater in Orlando’s Disney World.

Signé developed a love for theater during her Island time, and represented Southwest Florida District 6 with a monologue in the Thespian Regional Competition, where she received an Excellence Award. She won ‘Best Supporting Actress’ for her role as ‘Laura’ in The Glass Menagerie, and was inducted into the International Thespian Society at the Thespian Awards Banquet in May at Mariner High.

Thanks in part to the high academic standards imposed during her seven years in the Island school, she earned an A+ (4.12 GPA) average in Mariner’s rigorous Honors program, and tied for the top position out of over 600 9th-grade students.
A Few Words about Homecoming

For many people the high point in the busy summer season is Homecoming, and not just because it signifies that fall, with its greater opportunities for relaxing, is close at hand. Since 1932, when the local businesses organized to draw Beaver’s distant sons and daughters back to their home turf, this has been the time to return and compare notes with those who have also had to depart, and see if anything had changed.

For decades the answer was no; a static Beaver Island was the one thing that could be counted on in a world rushing to outgrow itself. In those years it was easy for this place to evoke geysers of memories; after all, the scene was pretty much the same. But less than twenty years ago, the Island was dropped into gear and began to catch up with the outside world, and even, in some cases, pull a nose ahead. Yet the distant Islanders still came, demonstrating that the appeal wasn’t the props, but the people themselves.

At the onset it seemed necessary to provide ample recreational opportunities. So boat races and horse races and shooting contests and parades were put on the schedule, and all the participants had a wonderful time. Plays and concerts were staged. Prizes were won, and splendid trophies awarded. But after awhile the brain trust realized that all the folderol was not progress at all. But the real pleasure of Homecoming wasn’t needed; the people were coming sure, events are still scheduled: the Bud McDonough Softball Tournament comes from the freedom to stand tall and proud as Beaver Islanders. That’s the meaning of all those smiles that light up the once the continuous odds-on favorite, all six by thirteen miles; “hey, I’m a Beaver Islander,” they signal, “and by gosh I can plainly see that you are too.”

A Few Words about Homecoming
Yet as the returnees happily greeted each other, they began to feel that the distance itself they had achieved from their roots was not progress at all.

Sure, events are still scheduled: the Bud McDonough Softball Tournament (in its 31st year, McDonough’s team, once the continuous odds-on favorite, finished 3rd, behind the Flight Deck in 1st and Ryan Smith Construction and the Emerald Isles Gallery’s team in 2nd) and the Homecoming Dinner and Dance. And everyone enjoys them immensely. But the real pleasure of Homecoming comes from the freedom to stand tall and proud as Beaver Islanders. That’s the meaning of all those smiles that light up all six by thirteen miles; “hey, I’m a Beaver Islander,” they signal, “and by gosh I can plainly see that you are too.”
Observations from the advice booth

Looking around at the Beaver Island Music Festival this year, I was struck by the sheer amount of ear-to-ear grins on kids from six to much, much older than sixty.

Has it really been four years since the Burtons first opened their property to a bunch of mirth makers and earth quakers?

Man, has the Beaver Island Music Festival grown up. From one band and a flatbed trailer to fourteen acts on two stages filling the air with sweet music over two days. It's funny what you can get accomplished with 363 days of hard work—hats off to Dan, Carol, and all the volunteers who made this years festival a reality, and a success.

Friday evening kicked off with a little Island flavor, courtesy of What Four, dipping into a sampler platter of pop-rock that had the crowd tapping their feet and singing along with tunes they knew and humming to the ones they didn't.

“Beans” followed along in full swashbuckling fashion, playfully reciting the pirate alphabet as the faithful flock shook their gourds off and answered his calls with hearty arrghs of their own. Simplicity's Friday night set was a Bob Dylan acoustic tribute with all the bells, whistles, and brand-new leopard skin pillbox hats. Dance was the call and dance was the response.

The Ragbirds flat-out stole the festival, and while no charges have been formally pressed, they are being considered at the highest levels. Their world-beat meets Celtic-fused polyrhythms had everyone, and I mean everyone, in a festive spirit.

The night was out when P-a-u-l and the Harper Woods Honeys took the stage for some blistering blues rock, and blister it did: there were calls for lidocaine and beta dyne all over the festival grounds. Back Forty gave everyone who remained a real foot-stomping, hand-clapping, yodel-yelling good time.

The whoops and hollers were put to bed and the stars made a blanket for everyone to sleep under. I myself saw more than one vision of sugarplum fairies but dismissed them as fireflies.

Saturday kicked off with the Sowa Brothers Band making their second appearance on the BIMF stage; what a difference a year makes, these guys have an excellent blend of energy and skill, and the thronging Island kids who came out to support them were

Green Slime Returns

It almost sounds like a science fiction thriller: several of my friends on the Island have been asking what to do about the algae on their beaches and in the shallow water and causing a very unpleasant organic odor. They consider me a probable resource because of my educational background in environmental sciences, specifically, a Master’s Degree in Water Resource Management from the University of Michigan. Initially, I had no specific answers for why we are seeing this current algae bloom so I began reviewing some of the recently published scientific articles on the topic. I will share some information and recommend an action plan. Unfortunately, there appears to be no quick fix, but we have to start somewhere.

What is this awful stuff?
The culprit is algae, which can be green, such as Cladophora, or it can be blue-green. Algae are plants or plantlike organisms that can contribute to degraded water quality. Stimulated to grow rapidly by excess nutrients, such as phosphorus, algae are aesthetically unpleasant, and in large quantities can cause the die-off of fish by consuming oxygen from the water as they die and decay. The ‘death’ of Lake Erie in the 1960s was largely caused by excess nutrients and algae. And what causes a large algae bloom? Basically, an excess amount of phosphorus from fertilizers, human
45.

Photographs by Dick Burris

anything but disappointed.

_Hogan Says_ rollicked through a set of original rock and jazz that heated up an already hot afternoon. Next up was Eric Glatz for some sweet guitar. He tore thru a set of originals and standards like the adopted son of Chet Atkins balancing honey on a wire.

‘Beans’ took the stage for an encore performance joined by old pals Fin and the Whistler; he had everyone eating out of his hook/hand.

The _Ragbirds_ showed their strengths once again filling the stage with music that seemed to flow through everyone in attendance.

Ernie Douglas, who split his time as performer, mighty master of ceremonies, raffle arbiter, and all around nice guy, took the stage for an hour plus of tasty covers and tastier originals, drawing audience members to participate in his tragic/comedic mini opera, the _Coyote Suite._

The evening was met by long-time Island star and native son Ed Palmer as he and his friends rolled through a set of traditional favorites; though impeded by some technical difficulties, he was enjoyed by young and old.

Changing gears, BIMF returnees _L.L.E._ jammed out on its cool form of modern classic rock, referencing the sixties as filtered through the youth of today into an amalgam that blended in like it was there all along.

Things really got going when Joddy Crosswhite and the _Prisoners of Paradise_ took up right where they left off last year. Backed with a tight rhythm section, the _Prisoners_ showed what Island music is all about: “Hey I know that song but I never thought about it that way before, but yes I will always think of it that way now.” Luminescence, promise, glory for the road that took you to where you are right now.

Chops, _Simplicity’s_ got ’em, and these festival originals returned for an electric set of original material that showed intelligence in complete harmony with the absurd. Songs of all night stands and a life on the lam had the crowd demanding more.

So the only question that remained was, “What's up with the _Natives of the New Dawn_?” Everyone who stayed for the end was treated to a show by a band on the brink of something bigger. Hip-hop elements and seventies soul classics jumbled into a tribute to growing up in Michigan. “You will sing along” they shouted from the stage, more as an observation than a demand, and it was summertime. Sum sum summertime.

A success, a blast, a time to say we can do this, together, and together the like-minded souls of the BIMF raised One Thousand Dollars for the Beaver Island Volunteer Fire Department.

Good work folks, see ya next year.

Cheers.

– Bayard Kurth III

Use, as well as animal and human wastes, which can degrade water, deplete oxygen and stimulate the growth of algae.

**History**

Most of us remember the late 1960s and 1970s when Lake Erie was just about ‘dead’ as a result of pollutants and algae growth. Research linked these algae blooms to high phosphorus levels in the water, related to human activities such as fertilizing lawns, poorly maintained septic systems, inadequate sewage treatment, agricultural runoff, and use of laundry detergents containing phosphorus. Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes became cleaned up after phosphorus in laundry detergents was controlled through state laws; the algae blooms were diminished and the Great Lakes became a national success story!

Unfortunately, history seems to be repeating itself, and we are plagued with a soupy, stinky algae bloom on some of Beaver Island’s rocky beaches, as well as elsewhere. Besides the foul smell, the algae may have a negative impact on recreation, which can affect the summer time Island economy. As the algae and trapped organisms decay in the sun, they generate a pungent septic odor that people may confuse with sewage. However, most of the algae that we see here are probably the green Cladophora variety, which does not present a human health risk. _Continued on page 46, see Green Slime_.
What is this Green Slime? from page 45.
There is a potential for increased coliform bacteria from gull fecal material, since the decaying mats of algae may contain crabs and other foodstuffs that attract gulls. Specific reasons for the current algae bloom are unknown but may include increased nutrient inputs (phosphorus), increased water clarity, increased water temperature, and changing lake levels. Research reports on the role of each of these factors are beginning to appear.

Another cause for the increasing algae may be the zebra and quagga mussels invasion. Algae growth may be escalating as the mussels enhance the availability of phosphorus while also increasing water clarity. These mussels filter the water along rocky shorelines, increasing light penetration deeper into the lakes. Cladophora algae attach to the mussels living on the rocks, as well as to the rocks, and are released by wind or storms. Large mats of algae then wash ashore and carry along mussels and other small crustaceans. This food source attracts waterfowl, and as the mat decays, it becomes a large area of foul-smelling material with possible high concentrations of bacteria.

Quagga mussels become more worrisome than zebra mussels

Quagga mussels, a close relative of the zebra mussel, are an even bigger threat to the Great Lakes. They have almost annihilated zebra mussels. Quagga mussels have out-competed the zebras in places where their natural growth range overlaps. They also colonize the cold, deep areas of the lake where the zebras cannot survive, and mega-filter the water, presenting water clarity up to a few hundred feet. This leads to algae blooms in deep water, as well as near shore. “With quaggas becoming established, it’s a different situation,” says Tom Nalepa, a researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory. “The changes occurring to Lake Michigan are going to be more significant because the mussel biomass is much greater.” In 2000, Nalepa says, his survey showed an average of 899 zebra mussels per square meter of lake bottom at 160 sites. Quagga mussels now average 7,790 per square meter of lake bottom. “It’s amazing,” Nalepa says. “It doesn’t matter whether it’s shallow or deep, its pretty much all quaggas.”

Blue-Green Algae

Some algae can produce toxic substances that could kill fish, small animals, or pets. Public health concerns are also a significant factor. The Muskegon Chronicle reported in 2004 that some of the algae blooms in Muskegon Lake contained toxic microcystins. It’s not known whether we have blue-green algae around Beaver Island, but it pays to be cautious if you or your pet are in the water around any algae. Practice good hygiene and wash off because bacteria can be carried in the algae.

Phosphorus is turning our blue lakes green

In the 1970s Michigan was a pioneer in the control of phosphorus from laundry detergents. These controls played a major role in the cleanup of the lakes. But dishwasher detergents have no such control and can contain up to 17 times as much phosphorus as laundry detergents. More of us now have dishwashers, which play a role in the Great Lakes algae blooms. Even shampoos and hand soap contain phosphorus. One pound of phosphorus can stimulate the growth of 500 pounds of algae! This is a huge loophole in our ability to control algae growth.

We need to lobby for amending the law regarding phosphorous content to also include dishwashing detergents. Shampoos and hand soaps should be included. Use low-phosphate detergents and shampoos. Look for products with 2.0% or less phosphates and buy those brands. Tell the store managers where you shop to stock phosphorus-free dishwasher detergents, as well as shampoos and hand soaps.

Other sources of phosphorus

The sources of phosphorus are multi-faceted. We need to reduce the use and runoff of phosphorus fertilizers. Your lawn fertilizer should be phosphorus-free. Our soil has enough natural phosphorus that no more is needed. When you buy lawn fertilizer, look for the phosphate number on the bag.

As the 2006 Beaver Island Master Plan states, “Beaver Island will remain a place that reveres the natural environment and wishes to pass it along to future generations with little alteration.” We want Beaver Island, the State of Michigan, and the Great Lakes to continue to be a water wonderland. We all share a responsibility in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes clean water heritage.

— Nancy Peterson

Needle Notes

The extremely informal groups known as THE NEEDLERS have moved to the Parsonage of the BI Christian Church. Needlers meet the first and third Thursdays of the month from 10 am until 2 pm.

There are no rules, no officers, no formal meeting, no dues... just bring your UFOs (unfinished objects) and a sack lunch.

Come for as little or as long as your schedule allows. We offer help with techniques and patterns, commiseration and perhaps a solution for problems, and lavish praise on all accomplishments. All skill levels and all types of needlework are represented. Everyone is welcome to drop by the Parsonage and join us for some needle time. Next meetings will be September 7th and 21st, October 5th and 19th.

The “Talking Threads” quilt group has been busy this summer selling tickets for the 2006 Raffle Quilt. The raffle quilt and other projects of members have been on display at the BI Library for the past several weeks.

The drawing for the quilt will be held at the Fireman’s Picnic, September 3, 2006 at 7:30 pm.

The quilters have regular meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 pm and on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The meetings are currently being held at the Peaine Township Hall. Dues are $10 per year, and all skill levels are welcome. Several members will be working on Christmas Tree skirts, and plans will soon begin for the next raffle quilt project. Any quilter or wanna-be-quilter is encouraged to attend the meetings.

Be sure to get your raffle ticket!

— Kathy Ruis
ISLAND PROPERTY OFFERS

DISPOSAL OF BROKERS’ PRIVATE COLLECTION OF BEAVER & GARDEN ISLAND PROPERTIES.

Be the first to make an offer. All have surveys, will have owners Title Insurance and ready to build on with your proper permits or just a good investment for future years. Some Lake Michigan, Some Lake Geneserath, Some Garden Island, or Internal acreage --

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<td>St. James</td>
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Some Lots Are Adjacent And Can Be Joined. SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY ON THE ISLANDS. For Remoteness Try Garden Island. If You Qualify Make Your Comparisons, Appraisals.

OFFER NOW AND HAVE IT ALL - MAKE AN OFFER BEFORE IT IS BROKEN UP.

CONTACT -
ISLAND PROPERTY LLC
26260 Main S.  P.O. Box 3
BEAVER ISLAND, MI 49782
(231) 448-3031  FAX -3036
E-mail: biproperty@gtlakes.com

P.S. Read Beaver Beacon November 2005 page 22 "Sojourn On Garden
LAKEFRONT
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1 double and 6 single beds, washer/dryer, wrap-around porch, views of sunset & overlooking Garden & Squaw Islands. $1200/week. (616) 405-8926 Website: www.whatproperties.com/PL48480 E-mail: Info@whatproperties.com

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

FONT VIEW: right on the water. 4 BR – 2 bedrooms on the upper level with queen beds, and 2 bedrooms downstairs with walk-out sliding doors. Sleeps 6. Full Kitchen, screened-in porch and large deck overlooking Font Lake. $850.00 per week. loonsong@biip.net (231) 448-2902

Real Estate, For Rent
COTTAGE BETWEEN THE SHORES – Conveniently located 1 block from harbor district, yet tucked away on McDonough Rd. 2 king, 1 double, 1 twin, 2 sleeper sofas. Fully equipped kitchen & laundry facilities. Linens and towels provided. Arbor deck with hammock swings and gas grill. $750/weekly. Call Beth Anne @ (989) 561-5079 or (989) -330-9528.


HARBOR HOUSE - Weekly Rental Close to town (short walk to Dalwhinnie) Sleeps 6, 1 ½ bath, washer/dryer, linens furnished, freshly remodeled, pet friendly, $800.00/week, Contact Ryan & Gretchen Fogg at (616) 836-1597.

BEAVER SANDS BEACH HOME - Located on Sand Bay, beautiful Lake Michigan waterfront home: 3 bdrms; sleeps 8; 2 full baths; w/dry; full kitchen, including dishwasher and micro; wonderful sunrise views with sandy beach & safe swimming, screened porch & large deck, everything included. Prime weeks open. Call Nancy: (810) 227-2366 or nrosso@hotmail.com

2006 Soccer Schedule
Friday, Sept. 8 @ Mackinac Island
Saturday, Sept. 9 @ Mackinac Island
Friday, Sept. 15 Hannahville
Saturday, Sept. 16 Hannahville
Friday, Sept. 22 Paradise
Saturday, Sept. 23 Paradise
Friday, Sept. 29 Munising Baptist
Saturday, Sept. 30 Munising Baptist
Friday, Oct. 6 Ojibwe Charter
Saturday, Oct. 7 Ojibwe Charter
Friday, Oct. 13 @ Grand Marais
Saturday, Oct. 14 @ Grand Marais
Soccer Districts Oct. 16-21
Home games 5:00 pm Friday & 9:00 am Saturday.

Display Ad Rates
Starter $15 B/W $25 Color
Small $25 B/W $35 Color
Standard $45 B/W $60 Color
Half Page $60 B/W $100 Color
Full Page $100 B/W
(231) 448-2476 or beacon@beaverbeacon.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

DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE: 3 BR, 2 BA, full kitchen, W/D, fireplace, secluded patio & deck surrounded by pines and bluff and overlooking one of Beaver Island’s best beaches. $850 per week June-September; winter rates available. Call (734) 996-3973 or suziqu16@comcast.net

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

SAND BAY – “BAY HAVEN” COTTAGE - WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake Front, Sandy Beach, 3BR, great view, laundry, East Side Dr., brand new home. $1700.00/week, available in September 2006. Call Laurie Bos at (616) 786-3863 or email lauriesbos@chartermi.net Photographs of Bay Haven can be viewed online at bayhaven.beaverisland.net

CLASSIFIED - For Rent - Continued on page 50.

Calendar of Events
Sept. 3rd – Fireman’s Picnic
Sept. 7th BIFD Propane Emergency Response class; public invited. St. James Fire Hall, 6:30 p.m. classroom, live burn scenarios follow.
Sept. 16th – The Second Annual Beaver Island Celtic Games. See page 32.
Sept. 25th-27th – The Karmanos Mammogram Unit: 448-2275
Sept. 26th – Business After Hours Nina’s at the Beaver Island Lodge 6:00 pm. Hors D’Oeuvres provided, open bar. Chamber members and anyone interested in membership is welcome. Ray Cole will give a brief presentation on the use of the internet and the Chamber of Commerce website www.beaverisland.org
Oct. 7th – Bite of Beaver Island & The Island Boodle 5K Run/Walk - Boodle entry forms: 448-2505 or www.beaverisland.org

THE BIRCH HOUSE ON FONT LAKE/DONEGAL BAY ROAD: Close to town, beautiful sunrise, fishing, and solitude. 3 bedroom (sleeps 6) and 1 1/2 bath. Phone Mary Rose @ (630) 750-7870 or email mrdog@hotmail.com $750.00/wk off season rates available.

BEAUTIFUL SAND BAY BEACH SETTING FOR RENT – THE CAPTAIN’S QUARTERS: Why not enjoy the best beach on Beaver Island? This attractive cottage has 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bath. Sandy beach. Screened Porch Gas Grill. $1100/week. Call Ruth or Jackie at (231) 448-2342

The Convent in the Village
Beautiful Harbor View
Full Housekeeping Home
Sleeps 15 - 7 Bedrooms w/ sinks
Fully-equipped Kitchen
Beach Access
Great for Multi-Family Groups, Family Reunions, Business Retreats
Open Year Round
Weekly Rental in season
2-night minimum off-season
Call 448-2902

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/wk; weekends available. (219) 253-6500.

WEEKLY RENTAL - Harbor Beach Two-bedroom Condos. $500/week. Call Satch Wierenga at (231) 448-2808.

DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE - Nicely furnished 3 BR, 1 bath, washer/dryer. On dune w/ beach access. $775/ July & August $600 off-season weekly. Dana Luscombe (248) 549-2701 eve or dpluscombe@msn.com

DONEGAL BAY BEACH FRONT: New ground floor 2 bedroom, 1 bath unfurnished apartment available for yearly rental after Sept. 30 2006. Washer/Dryer/ All Kitchen Appliances are furnished with apartment/Satellite TV and Internet Ready.

Also: First and second floor furnished apartment will be available for weekly rental in 2007. NO Smoking, Pets, upon owners discretion.

Contact Doug Millar (847) 797-9406 or email me at dougmillar@comcast.net

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Contact Doug Millar (847) 797-9406 or email me at dougmillar@comcast.net
Real Estate, For Sale:

HARBOR-LAKE FRONT:
(one block W. of marina)
Sharp 3 bedroom, 3 bath, washer/dryer. Sleeps 8. Awesome view of harbor from living room, kitchen/dining room, and master bedroom. $1,200 weekly. Call Patti Fogg (616) 399-5067 or email mfogg@egl.net.

Beautiful, wooded, great building site; Brothers’ Place, and the harbor. Asking ment. Contact owner Victor Dmitruk at EDGE OF TOWN KING’S HIGHWAY LOTS ON THE 448-3088. 250’ frontage on Greiner’s Bay. Eight ON MCDONOUGH ROAD. EXCELLENT BUILDABLE LOT Connors at (810) 487-1028. robin@robinleeberry.com

Unforgettable Sunsets. Call Valerie deposit. (231) 582-5057 or email for additional photos: delzey@earthlink.net (313) 885-7393, after 4:00 p.m.

LAKE GENESERATH Lot For Sale Parcel # 15-012-015-013-10, Hemlock Point Road; 140’ lake frontage on the North Arm of beautiful Lake Geneserath; lot approved for building on w/o restrictions. Call (616) 772-9783/(616) 283-7227; or email - cschrotenboer@ghycf.org

10 ACRES OF HARDWOODS LAND - adjacent to 80 acres of State land at the Black Hills Clearing off Fox Lake Road. Cotter’s Trail runs across the parcel at its North line. $37,000. Call (231) 448-2009.

Real Estate, For Rent:


HARBOR-AREA HOUSE FOR RENT
Furnished 2 bedroom ½ bath home on large lot with seasonal view of the harbor. Full basement, front and back decks and large pole barn. Asking price $165,000. Contact Dave Sweet at (614) 899-9922 or (614) 736-6056 or email for additional photos: DMSweet2@ameritech.net


TWO BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT:
In a beautiful wooded setting near the riding stables. Walk out the back to Sweeney’s Pond. See the eagles and deer; let the loons lull you to sleep. Reduced rates for the off-season. Nice touches; everything brand new! Call (231) 448-2397.

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).

WOODED HOMESITE IN PORT OF ST. JAMES - Huge lot, surveyed, perked, power available, 3 minutes from Donegal Bay Beach, call (269) 857-6084.

WEST SIDE LAKE MICHIGAN LOT FOR SALE - Lot 24 of the Western Shores Plat: 3.5 wooded acres, with 250’ frontage on Greiner’s Bay. Eight miles from town on Mrs. Redding’s Trail. Very deep and private. Land contract possible with acceptable down payment. Contact owner Victor Dmitruk at (269) 207-2970 or villpsych@aol.com.

PORT ST. JAMES HOME
Charming 1,132 sq. ft. home on two Port St. James wooded lots. Two bedrooms—one upstairs plus an upstairs hot tub & exercise room. Full bath downstairs, ½ bath upstairs. Every room has a combination ceiling-fan light fixture. Baseboard electric heat throughout the house which is well insulated, but there is also a propane heater downstairs. Kitchen with snack bar open to dining area. Close to Font Lake and the North Shore Park and about half-way between St. James and Donegal bay. $139,500.

Ed Wojan Realty:
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711
Real Estate, For Sale

3 Bed room Home. Private Beach, September $950.00 wk plus security deposit.

Log Cabin on Sand Bay - 2 BR, 1 bath: $500. Call (734) 449-0804 or email delzey@earthlink.net

Ads: $1/line or $15 w. photo and www.beaver-island.com (231) 448-2476 beacon@beaverbeacon.com


Western Shores - Juniper Point Lot #6 - 451’ frontage/3 acres on Lake Michigan. Overlooking High Island. Winding Driveway thru Red and White Cedars. $285,000 FSBO 3% co-broke (269) 598-8042.


FOR SALE, BEAUTIFUL LARGE BUILDABLE LOT - on the main part of Lake Geneserath. Call Julie @ (616) 566-3311 for details

ISLAND AERIE: Overlooking harbor next to Nature Preserve, easy walk/bike to town, 3 bathrooms, 4 BR w/ 2 king and 10 twin beds, large 1st floor decks, 2nd floor wet bar and deck, 3rd floor game room, all modern amenities and appliances, great for multiple families and groups. $1600/week, reduced off-season and extended-stay rates. Call John and Jan (989) 866-2159

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.

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.

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

Call Erik Peterson, Owner
(269) 857-6084 or (616) 240-8980

For Sale - Harbor-Area House:

Four bedroom, 1 ½ bath house on two lots with garage. Wonderful location near town and the harbor. Asking price is $225,000.

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

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 or (231) 448-2733.

Log Cabin on Sand Bay - pets allowed. 2 BR, 1 bath: $500. Call (734) 449-0804 or email delzey@earthlink.net

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